

WOODEN ARCHITECTURE IN SMALL TOWN PLANNING IN LUBLIN REGION – STATE OF PRESERVATION

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Abstract. The changes taking place in recent years are particularly evident in small towns. This is due to the scale of development. Any change in the proportion interfere the composition. The traditional wooden architecture in eastern regions of Poland disappears completely. In their place there are created houses that can be found in many other regions. This way, the identity of the small towns this part of the Poland is lost. In accordance with European Union directives concerning the revitalization we should care about the quality and aesthetics of public spaces. Regeneration processes should be in accordance with art conservation, including the purposes of preservation of historic landscapes. Unfortunately, in many cases, renewal processes carried out in small towns have completely lost their architecture as well as distinctive characteristic of public spaces and native greenery. Currently, the historic wooden architecture is a relic of the *in situ* and, paradoxically, we have come to the stage of exploring the open-air museum in which it is possible to see typical architecture and structure of Polish towns (e.g. in Lublin).

Key words: wooden architecture, Lublin region, small towns

INTRODUCTION

Small towns are distinct urban issue, they are a large group of cities in Poland. They were shaping under the influence of various factors such as: urban, natural, economic, etc. The dominant factors in the choice of localization were the natural conditions of place. An important factor in the development of the city was a trade that has influenced inter alia on shape of plots, how they were built, zoning. Currently, the determining factor decisive about the development of the city is transportation.

Feature of the small town is the market together with the adjacent residential buildings, mostly in urban canyons. Lines of buildings of low building intensity and agricultural buildings marked the boundary of the city separating them from the agricultural lands. Agricultural Buildings historically mostly wooden were placed on the outskirts for the sake of the fire safety. Each town had a peculiar

urban structure and identical for its own architecture. City Center was a market, sometimes partially built. Sometimes, in the city there was more than one market for the different types of trading (for example, in Łęczna there were three markets) [Przesmycka 2001].

MARKETS

In the Lublin region there was predominantly rectangular shape of the market (e.g. Szczebrzeszyn, Bychawa, Józefów), square (e.g. Izbica) and trapeze (e.g. Frampol, Chelm). Markets of small towns have a compact single-storey building, while on the markets of major cities this building reached the size of two or three storeys. Frontage of outer block of market place length ranges from 50 to over 200 m. [Przesmycka 2008]. Most of the buildings were the mid-nineteenth century wooden buildings, in later times they were replaced by brick buildings. Houses located in frontages of inner block of market place were for the most part of the arcade construction (the example can be the market in Goraj, Wojsławice) set facing the frontage.



Fig. 1. Historical wooden buildings in Goraj in the 1930s. (Archive Teatr NN, Lublin)

Ryc. 1. Historyczna zabudowa drewniana w Goraju w latach 30. XX w. (Zbiory Teatru NN, Lublin)

An important element in the inner block development of market place is also the town hall, which was located in the center or in one of frontage of outer block of market place. By the end of the nineteenth century there were several towns with wooden storeyed with arcades town halls [Gloger 1903], until today

there is no preserved wooden town hall, they were replaced in later years by brick buildings. In most cities of Lublin Region markets did not have town halls, because most of the city belonged to private owners. Because of that it was unnecessary to put administrative buildings. [Przesmycka 2009].

The market served primarily commercial function. From medieval market focused commercial life of the city. The original location of permanent trade stalls, which, together with the improvement of material life bourgeoisie turned into halls. The Lublin Region stalls took the form of inexpensive wooden structures called "huts" [Przesmycka 2009]. One of the few surviving examples of wooden buildings serving commercial purposes is a building located in the south-east side of the square Markuszów city (fig. 1). It was erected by the heir of the city for propination goals, called the "ratuszek" (this name existed in the census of 1864) [Przesmycka 2001]. Markets are not only a place of trade, but they were an important part of the social life of the village.

THE MULTICULTURAL CITY OF LUBLIN REGION

City of Lublin is characterized by multiculturalism, related to the intermingling of cultures. It is ideally is illustrated by inner block development of market place which is characterized by a form of the common culture of building involving the penetration of styles and ornamentation of different regions. This situation contributed to wandering merchants, tradesmen, but also artisans who followed in search of jobs. In the place where they settled they transferred their patterns while enriching the local architecture [Przesmycka 2011]. In the center of the city in the late nineteenth century, they lived mostly wealthy merchants (most of them were Jews), as well as representatives of profitable trades. A small Polish intelligentsia stood on the outskirts of villas making reference to manor houses. Less wealthy officials lived in tenements. However, average and less wealthy people lived in the periphery of the city. In the eastern part of the Republic there began to settle the Ruthenian population, occupying areas in the suburbs [Przesmycka 2008].

The Jews occupied district which had the specific nature. The largest influx of this ethnic group in the eastern part of the Polish Kingdom was in the years 1849 to 1865. These people settled in the rural areas, changing the original structure by introducing a secondary division of plots. Moreover they implemented foreign elements to buildings, such as porches, exterior stairs, numerous extensions and open galleries. All these elements create a different character, specific for this ethnic group.

The post-war years bring disrespect for the legacy that is the historical architecture there are being destroyed all traces of multiculturalism of the cities. In this way they were trying to rub the story out. Only for the 90s of the last century we are going back to the history of the place, presenting its multidimen-

sional character. The first decade of the twenty-first century is a period in which there was a significant transformation in the appearance and structure of the former historic towns.

EVOLUTION OF BUILDING A SMALL CITY

Spatial changes in the structure of the small town were taking place quite often, but in recent years they have gained significant place. In the past, the city has repeatedly been destroyed by the fires, by the war and later rebuilt in accordance with contemporary technologies and trends. Most of them, despite the enormous damages kept their original plan. Another important element affecting the shape of the city has become law regulations. The first changes in the structure of the city were made by creating a regulatory plan, which took effect before the First World War. They assumed the outskirts of the city as a place to create new markets for the onerous trade. However, the primary markets were supposed to play only the representative function. Frequently in the middle of the square there was a tree-lined square with a monument that reflected the era, and together with the political transformations monuments were exchanged for other-current [Przesmycka 2009].

The interwar period brings fashion for modernism. The regional buildings were being transformed. Traditional forms of roof building were replaced often by flat roofs. A proportion and a form of the building were also changed. Traditional divisions of the carpentry were disappearing for the freedom of arrangements.

The years after World War II involve a change in the structure of the city, followed by subdivision of outer block developments of market place. Destroyed original wooden buildings were rebuilt in a new form of rejecting the original design of the composition. Wooden architecture survived to this day in some cities just on the outskirts. Most of them are one-storey houses, smaller houses are with mansard and bungalows with loft and smoke hole. Today they are rare two-storey houses (home in Hrubieszów Zamojska Street 32 can be an example) (fig. 2) [Przesmycka 2008]. Forms of wooden houses repeatedly underwent transformation, losing its original appearance. Today they are in the vast majority of thermalisolation processes, resulting in changes in the proportions of the building. Also, the form and roofing are changed for the currently fashionable. Often, wooden houses are demolished and in their place there are created a new brick building.

The seventies bring urban chaos caused by unauthorized construction. Lack of any regulations caused irreversible changes in the landscape of a small town. At this time there appeared buildings, which were alien in the landscape. It was time when the attention was not paid to the tradition of the place.



Fig. 2. Two-storey wooden house in Hrubieszów Zamojska Street 32 (E. Przesmycka, 2013)

Ryc. 2. Dwukondygcyjny dom drewniany w Hrubieszowie przy ulicy Zamojskiej 32 (E. Przesmycka, 2013)

At the end of the twentieth century the attention began to be paid to the poor state of Polish towns that had been neglected over the years. This behaviour was due to, inter alia, Polish accession in 2004 to the European Union. Thanks to the various EU programs, Poland was receiving financial support for the improvement of social life and the revitalization of urban space.

Beginning of the XXI century has drawn attention to people in their closest environment. This is particularly evident in the landscape of small towns. The new phenomenon of social transformation in the structure of agriculture will reduce the number of farms, and thus eliminating this building as a usage space. The old systems of habitat change their character and the construction of new residential.

CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN POLITICS IN THE FORMATION OF SMALL TOWNS

Polish accession to the European Union associated with compliance with EU directives concerning, inter alia, the strategy of sustainable development and intercultural dialogue, social policies. Sustainable Development Strategy presents the city as a unique value [Przesmycka 2007b].

One of the major concerns of the European Council Resolution architectural quality in urban and rural environments (14399/08 CULT 118 ENV 697 24 October 2008), stating that "architecture is one of the fundamental elements of culture and quality of life in each of our countries" [Bruksela 2008].



Fig. 3. Preserved market square of small town: a – Grabowiec, b – Międzyrzec, (E. Przesmycka, 2008)

Ryc. 3. Odnowione rynki miasteczek: a – Grabowiec, b – Międzyrzec, (E. Przesmycka, 2008)

The precised documents concerning the method of planning the cities indicate how it should shape the future of the city's image. Second Athens Charter approved in 2003 presupposes the consistency of the modern city and its historical continuity while improving the quality of life. The processes taking place in the cities should retain the so-called "genius loci" of the city, which creates a unique cultural landscape (fig. 3). This card also draws attention to the durability and aesthetic quality of the area. Unfortunately, in Polish conditions this is only a theory.

Small town today

Transformations of small towns are particularly noticeable today. Although the awareness of the local community who came to appreciate the value of space and monuments that surround them increased. Also, availability and ease of obtaining EU funds aimed at improving the built environment changes the appearance of many cities. We were taught to use the city's history and its monuments as tourist potential.

These changes are not always carried out properly. This is due to, inter alia, the ideas of local communities, which do not always carry out the regeneration process according to the so-called "culture of architecture" [Przesmycka 2007a]. Another cause can be discerned in the lack of control carried out conservation actions (conservation protection covers only urban objects or areas of high historical value that have been entered in to the register of monuments) (fig. 4).

Regeneration processes affect not only the same building, but also its surroundings. Improving the quality of space understood by local decision-makers no now consists only in exchanging the surface and elements of street furniture. Largely of small cities a block paving is dominating in colour grey, ore grey, yellow and granite paving. Unfortunately, the quality of the material is poor, in

addition to the lack of good experts affects negatively the subsequent appearance of the pavement. During these activities no attention is paid to traditional materials, which roads were previously built of but we follow fashions that do not always look favourably.

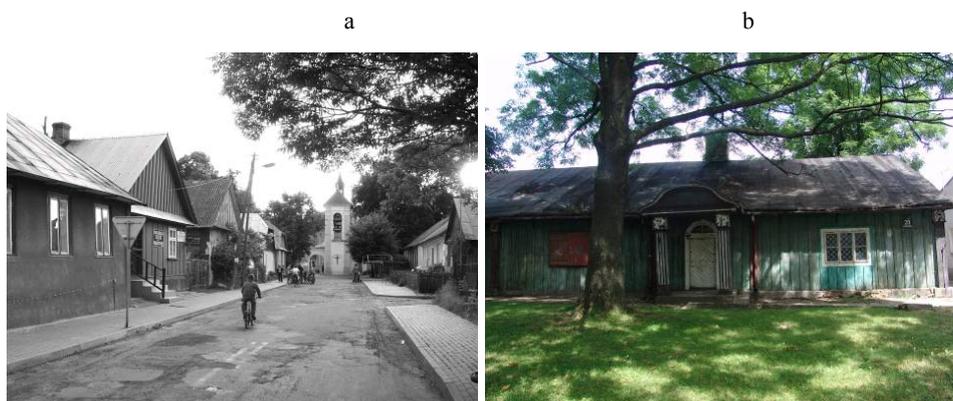


Fig. 4. Wooden buildings in small town: a – Kamionka, b – Kraśnik (E. Przesmycka, 2008)

Ryc. 4. Zabudowa drewniana miasteczka: a – Kamionka, b – Kraśnik (E. Przesmycka, 2008)

With the replacement of the exchange of a surface there is also greenery replaced. In many places there take place historical cutting of the tree stand and in this place there are planted conifers most often from the family of the cupressaceae and other exotic plants. The native species of trees, shrubs and plants are almost completely forgotten. In this way, small-town character is lost. One of the few positive examples of behaviour stands, among other things there are Kock, Bychawa, Krasnystaw [Przesmycka 2009].

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ZABUDOWA DREWNIANA W URBANISTYCE MAŁYCH MIAST LUBELSZCZYZNY – STAN ZACHOWANIA

Streszczenie. Zmiany zachodzące w ostatnich latach są szczególnie widoczne w małych miastach. Wynika to ze skali rozwoju. Wszelkie zmiany proporcji wpływają na kompozycję. Tradycyjna drewniana architektura we wschodnich regionach Polski zniknęła prawie całkowicie. W ich miejsce powstają domy, które można znaleźć w wielu innych regionach. W ten sposób zanika tożsamość miasteczek tej części Polski. Zgodnie z dyrektywami Unii Europejskiej dotyczącymi rewitalizacji powinniśmy dbać o jakość i estetykę przestrzeni publicznych. Procesy rewitalizacyjne powinny być przeprowadzane zgodnie z zasadami konserwacji zabytków, również powinny zwracać uwagę na ochronę zabytkowych krajobrazów. Niestety, w wielu przypadkach procesy rewitalizacji przeprowadzone w małych miastach całkowicie zatracają wygląd rodzimej architektury, charakter przestrzeni publicznych oraz rodzimej roślinności. Obecnie zabytkowa drewniana architektura jest reliktem *in situ* i paradoksalnie, doszliśmy do etapu zwiedzania skansenów, w którym można zobaczyć typową architekturę i strukturę polskich miastach (np. w Lublinie).

Słowa kluczowe: drewniana architektura, Lubelszczyzna, małe miasta