
POZNAŃ – CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE HISTORICAL CITY SPACE. ACHIEVEMENTS, CURRENT STATE AND THE PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT: The article, based on the analysis of the situation of the city of Poznań, shows that the status of a Monument of History does not have to halt the development of the city in the historical area, but also allows for its multidirectional and dynamic development. The city naturally undergoes vital transformations and protective measures do not hinder this phenomenon. Poznań, especially in the area which has been the arena of historical events since its earliest history, has had the opportunity to develop a specific spirit of a place whose preservation has been the goal of conservation services since the 1970s. Planning instruments developed since then enable real protection of heritage, however they do not stand in the way of modernization of public space. The article discusses the existing conservation tools, with particular emphasis on the role of local spatial development plans, and highlights the role of management and financing at both local government and private levels.

KEY WORDS: Monument of History, Heritage Protection, Modernisation, Planning Instruments

Poznań – a Monument of History

Poznań, situated halfway between Berlin and Warsaw, for centuries has been an important Polish city and the capital of the historical district of Wielkopolska. It is here that the key problems typical for a city with a rich history, but at the same time experiencing a period of dynamic development are all represented. The value of the spatial complex of the historic city was recognized and honored by the inclusion of the Old Town complex of Poznań in the list of Polish Monuments of History in 2008¹.

¹ Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland of 28 November 2008 on the recognition of "Poznań - the historical complex of the city" as a Monument of History (Journal of Laws of 2008, No. 219, item 1401).

It became the thirty-fifth object on the list of Polish Monuments of History. Its boundaries entail the historical city complex with Ostrów Tumski, Zagórze, Chwaliszew districts and the left-bank Old Town with its medieval suburban settlements and the urban-architectural estate of Joseph Stübben's design from the early 20th century, as well as the area of Fort Winiary (now the Citadel Park)². In the Decree of the President of the Republic of Poland, which is a formal entry on the list of Monuments of History, it was declared that four historical areas: Ostrów Tumski, the Old Town, the Stübben Ring and the Citadel are particularly noteworthy places. In the case of Poznań, it was found that: "The aim of protecting the Monument of History is to preserve, with regard to historical, spatial, architectural and intangible values, the historical part of the city, which in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries was a thriving cultural and commercial centre, and in the nineteenth century was a focus of independence movements and a place where outstanding fortresses of European proportions were created"³.

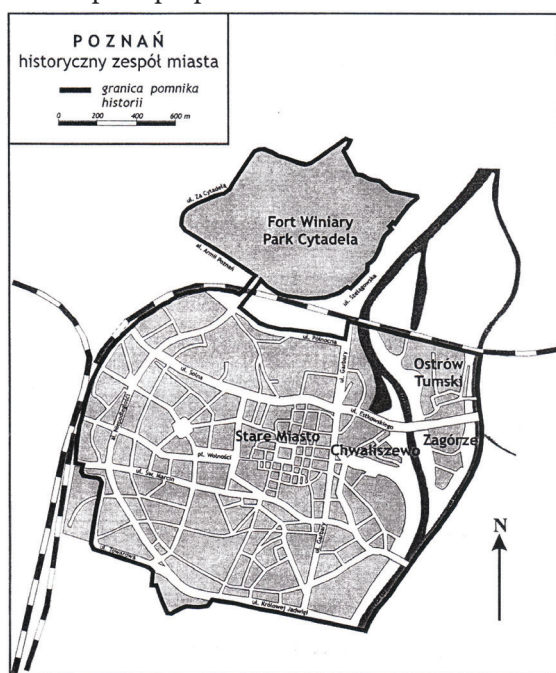


Fig. 1 Poznań - the historical complex of the city, source: Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland of 28 November 2008 on the recognition of "Poznań - the historical complex of the city" as a historical monument (Journal of Laws of 2008, No. 219, item 1401)

² The boundary of the area runs from the railway bridge over the Cybina River along the eastern bank of the river, the relief canal and the Warta River to Queen Jadwiga bridge. Further along the axis of the bridge, along the axis of Królowej Jadwigi Street, Górnej Wildy Str, Niedziałkowskiego Str, Topolowa Str, Wierzbicę Str, Stanisława Matyi Str, Towarowa Str to Skośna Street. Next, it follows the axis of Skośna and Święty Marcin Streets to the Uniwersytecki Bridge, along the eastern side of the railway line to the viaduct over Niepodległości Avenue. It covers the entire area of the Citadel Park (Fort Winiary), and then runs along the axis of Gen. Tadeusza Kutrzeby Str, North Str, Garbary Str to the railway viaduct and further along the railway line on its southern side to the railway bridge over the Cybina River.

³ Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland of 28 November 2008, op. cit.

The main criteria set by the Council for the Preservation of Historic Monuments, which must be met by an object distinguished as a Monument of History, are primarily the preservation of the original spatial composition, possibly a slight transformation and homogeneity in style or a harmonized and legible mixture of different styles. Moreover, it is important that the monument is properly exposed in the urban space or landscape and that its original relations with the environment are preserved. The list includes objects and areas representing the most outstanding group of monuments, reflecting the richness and diversity of our country's cultural heritage. The elite group of historical monuments may be joined by single architectural objects, but also whole old town complexes. Apart from Poznań, the list of historical monuments includes other old-town complexes: Kraków, Warsaw, Toruń, Lublin, Zamość, Wrocław, Łódź, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Sandomierz, Kazimierz nad Wisłą and Chełmno.

Current state – protective measures

It should be admitted that under current law, the status of a Monument of History is only prestigious and does not involve any special forms of protection of historic complexes. This provision, apart from the aforementioned honorary meaning, does not establish any additional administrative tools for conservation services, nor does it involve any access to additional sources of funding. Moreover, "...in the case of historical monuments and cultural parks, the Act does not grant any specific tasks and competencies to the conservation administration"⁴.

Therefore, inclusion on the list of monuments does not guarantee legal protection of the valuable area; it must be supported by the actions of local authorities, equipped with appropriate legal and financial tools for its proper protection.

In the current legal status, in the case of Monuments of History, activities such as the policy of local authorities and "traditional" tools of cultural heritage protection are of particular importance: entries in the register of monuments and forms of protection included in local spatial development plans; financial support of local governments is also of considerable importance. Even before Poznań was entered on the list of Monuments of History, local conservation services, aware of the importance of the spatial heritage of the city, decided to protect the most valuable historic complexes in Poznań. At the turn of the 1970s and 1980s, protective entries were made in the register of monuments not only of individual buildings, but also of the most important and historically valuable urban and architectural complexes of the city. Eight urban layouts were entered at that time, starting with the "Old Town"⁵ through "Old Market Square"⁶, "City

⁴ Kowalski W., Zalańska K., *Prawo ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego w Polsce - próba oceny i wniosek*. [in:] B. Szmygin: *Systemy ochrony zabytków w Polsce - analiza, Diagnoza, propozycje*, Lublin-Warsaw 2011, p. 20.

⁵ No. A225 from 1979.06.04, Old Town within the streets: Garbary, Podgórna, Al. Marcinkowskiego, Solna, Małe Garbary.

⁶ No. A195 from 1972.11.10, Old Market - urban-architectural complex of the Old Market.

Centre"⁷, "Ostrów Tumski z Śródką"⁸, up to "Aleje Niepodległości"⁹ and the remains of Prussian fortifications, from which the "Citadel" has been included in a separate entry¹⁰. In the following years, these preventive measures provided the basis for a consistent policy of protecting the cultural heritage of the central area of the city and strengthening the role of the Municipal Conservator of Monuments in the policy of shaping and transforming the urban space.



Fig. 2 View of the reconstructed Old Town complex, 1963, photo: Janusz Korpala, archive of the City Conservator of Monuments in Poznań source: cyryl.poznan.pl

The wide range of entries was intended primarily to preserve the existing material substance and protect it from further uncontrolled demolitions in the name of "modernity" and "modernisation". The "Report on the condition of the monuments of the city of Poznań", developed in recent years, allowed for a description of the state of their preservation. Their current condition is assessed mostly as "good condition" or "medium, satisfactory condition", and only in the case of the Old

⁷ No. A231 of 1980.03.14, the city center within the streets: Królowej Jadwigi, Towarowa, Most Dworcowego, Roosevelta, Pułaskiego, Armii Poznań, the riverbed of the Warta.

⁸ No. A239 of 1982.10.06, Ostrów Tumski, Śródka, Stare Miasto, Łazarz, Wilda, Jeżyce, Ostroróg, Sołacz covered by the following streets: Hetmańska (from south), Grochowska, Marcelińska, Przybyszewskiego, Żeromskiego, Niestachowska (from west), Pułaskiego, Armii Poznań, the river Warta.), Wojska Polskiego, Nad Wierzbakiem (from the north), the Warta River (from the east) and the area behind the Warta between Św. Wincentego, Podwale and Cybińska Streets.

⁹ No. A274 of 1985.01.03, Niepodległości Avenue - Królowej Jadwigi Street with areas between Kościuszki - Krakowska Street and Niedziałkowskiego Street, Topolowa Street, Towarowa Street, Skośna Street and railway tracks.

¹⁰ No. A 006/559/Wlkp/A from 1966.04.16 and 2007.11.23, Fort Winiary, ob. Citadel Park with parish, military and war cemeteries.

Market Square in part as "very good condition"¹¹.

In the following years, the monuments of the present day were also taken care of; the entry of the former PDT "Okraślak" department store building into the register of monuments¹² was the first tangible action aimed at protecting the legacy of modernism¹³.

In the subsequent period of time, the aforementioned entries became the starting point for further, this time planning activities. The independent self-government authorities established in 1990¹⁴ decided to preserve the historical part of the city. The adoption of the Local Spatial Development Plan for Poznań in 1994 allowed the most valuable fragments of the city, located within the area of the later established historical monument, to be protected, but in a very general way and without detailed guidelines or forms of protection provided for in specific documents¹⁵. The subsequent planning documents, i.e. the "Study of Conditions and Directions for the Spatial Development of the City of Poznań" of 1999 and its amendment of 2003, established a legal framework for special protection of the most valuable areas in the city centre, with particular emphasis on the Old Town complex¹⁶. In the next "Study of conditions and directions of spatial development in Poznań" adopted in 2008, the following provisions were included "Within the framework of the protection of the basic cultural values of the city of Poznań, such as the historical urban arrangements (...), guidelines for the principles of shaping the city space were adopted, which were formulated in detailed arrangements (...). Particular care should be taken in the above areas: preservation of historically shaped spatial arrangements and the surroundings of historical buildings and historic complexes; restoration of the identity of 19th-century districts by emphasizing their individual spatial features, extraction of the elements of the city's architecture and historic complexes; restoration of the identity of 19th-century districts by emphasizing their individual spatial features, extraction of the following elements crystallizing space, values of old spatial development, symbolic elements; modernisation or replacement of low-value, decapitalized or disharmonizing buildings, with the simultaneous obligation to take

¹¹ See "Report on the condition of monuments of the city of Poznań", <http://bip.Poznań.pl> (30.05.2019).

¹² Powszechny Dom Towarowy "Okraślak", entry into the real estate monuments register no. 218/ Wlkp/A of 2007.12.19.

¹³ Poznań as one of the first cities in Poland included the author's list of outstanding, contemporary objects indicated for protection as a joint study by the Poznań University of Technology, the Association of Polish Architects and the Office of the Municipal Conservator of Monuments. The list of objects was included in the Study of Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development of the City of Poznań adopted by Resolution No. LXXII/1137/VI/2014 of 23 September 2014, Annex No. 2, point 4.2.4. 69 http://www.mpu.pl/download/Ys/Studium_zal_zbiorczy_nr_2_Uwarunkowania.pdf See also: Brendel H., Kodym-Kozaczko G., Klause G., Marciniak P., *Prolegomena for the protection of architectural objects and urban complexes of Poznań XX century*, Poznań 2008 and Marciniak P., *Protection of the heritage of post-war modernism on the example of Poznań. Ways of protection and valorization*, [in:] R. Hirsch, J. Sołtysik (ed.), *Modernizm w Europie - modernizm w Gdyni. Architecture of the 20th century and its valorisation in Gdynia and Europe*, Gdynia 2017, pp. 215-220 s. 216.

¹⁴ Act of 8 March 1990 on Municipal Self-Government (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 506).

¹⁵ Resolution No. X/58/II/94 of the City Council of Poznań of 6 December 1994 on the adoption of the local general spatial development plan for the city of Poznań, A.3. Cultural environment, pp. 95-98.

¹⁶ Study of conditions and directions of spatial development of the city of Poznań of 23 November 1999 and its amendment of 10 July 2003.

into account the historical and spatial context during modernisation (...)”¹⁷.

The above mentioned provisions have become a contribution and practical disposition to take protective measures, with a special place for local spatial development plans. These plans should include the protection of immovable monuments entered into the register and other real estate monuments included in the communal register of monuments. These actions concerning the most valuable, historical parts of the city have led to the adoption of local spatial development plans for the areas within the Old Town and Ostrów Tumski quarters in recent years. Unfortunately, these are mostly fragmentary studies, the largest of which are the Local Spatial Development Plan "Old Town Area in Poznań", as well as "Citadel Park in Poznań", "Ostrów Tumski District" in Poznań - the cathedral part and "Ostrów Tumski District - the southern part", and a number of other smaller studies¹⁸.

Transformations and new investment projects

The boundaries of the area of Poznań Monument of History include parts of the city of different origins, narratives and spatial structure. On the one hand, they are a testimony to the complex history of the city, but also a contemporary central area of Poznań urban agglomeration.

"Poznań - the historical complex of the city" as a Monument of History is a rather special place, due to the combination of different, historically shaped urban complexes in one area. There are both the areas of the old town area with Ostrów Tumski and Zagórze, as well as fragments of the nineteenth-century polygonal fortress, the historic Stübben ring and finally the expanded fragments of the city from the 1960s with the main street of Święty Marcin.

It is worth noting that the awarded area is still active in terms of investments and fits in with the dynamics of development in recent years. It seems that one of the most important issues, apart from maintaining the material substance in good condition, is to maintain spatial and architectural cohesion and the scale of new buildings. The dynamics of changes in the area of the historic monument "Poznań - the historical complex of the city" is evidenced by the incredible investment movement which has developed in recent years. Already at the beginning of the 21st century, the most spectacular investments projects of recent years were erected here, including the "Stary Browar" (Old Brewery) Shopping Centre, as well as the complex of two class A skyscrapers in Poznań - Poznań Financial Centre and Andersia Tower. Already after 2008, within the area of the Monument, the following development projects were completed: the "Puro Hotel" built in Stawna Street, which is an example of modern architecture inspired by historical forms, the

¹⁷ Study of conditions and directions of spatial development of the city of Poznań adopted by resolution No. LXXII/1137/VI/2014 of 23 September 2014, point. 4.1 Principles of cultural heritage protection for areas covered by the form of monument protection, p.17, http://www.mpu.pl/download/Ys/Studium_zal_zbiorczy_no_2_Conditions.pdf.

¹⁸ MPZP "Old Town Area in Poznań", Resolution of the Poznań City Council No. XCIII/1055/III/2002 of 09.07.2002; MPZP "Ostrów Tumski District" in Poznań - cathedral part, Resolution of the Poznań City Council No. XL/595/VI/2012 of 06.11.2012; MPZP "Ostrów Tumski District - southern part", Resolution of the Poznań City Council No. XI/105/VI/2011 of 17.05.2011.

"Za Bramką" office building, perfectly fitting into the development of the street, or the Poznań Gateway, modern in its expression, housing Interactive Centre for the History of Ostrów Tumski located in the area of Śródka district.



Fig. 3 View on the complex of buildings of the former Jesuit College (currently the City Hall) and on the background of the PFC, Andersia, Stary Browar, photo: CDN Media, source: CTK TRAKT resources



Fig. 4 Office building at Za Bramką Street, photo: Przemysław Turlej, source: Ultra Architects

Achievements - conservation measures

The area of the Monument of History "Poznań - the historical complex of the city" contains, on the one hand, hundreds of valuable, stylistically diverse historic buildings, and on the other hand it undergoes a natural process of growing new tissue, which must skilfully, with respect, fit into the historical structure. New investments and transformations are probably the greatest difficulty and the most serious challenge facing investors, architects and conservation services. The historical monument is not only a historical spatial arrangement, but also panoramic views, the silhouette of the city, and the elusive climate and unique character, which is often determined by valuable details, such as historical stone surfaces or other elements of street equipment. Despite the enormous pace of modernization and transformation of the whole environment, places that have their own individual, unique character, with which you can identify and be proud of, are beginning to be appreciated. In this context, financial support for the city and the involvement of private investors in the extensive activity of conservation services are of key importance. As a result, changes in the quality of public space and the state of preservation of monuments can be seen. Reconnaissance and conservation activities are carried out. An important element of building historical awareness is the comprehensive archaeological research conducted in the Old Town for several years, which significantly contribute to broadening the knowledge about the history of the city and its inhabitants. More and more buildings are being renovated, not only those monumental and most representative, located in the Castle District, where a complex of university buildings was subjected to exemplary conservation, but also dozens of historic tenement houses, renovated with great effort by housing communities and private owners. This is particularly evident in the area of historical districts, where the entire street frontage is often renovated. As part of a long-term programme of renovation of the most valuable municipal tenement houses in the city centre, comprehensive renovation and conservation works were carried out in two old town houses at Woźna Street, an Art Nouveau tenement house at 45 Ratajczaka Street and a magnificent and richly decorated tenement house at 8/9 Kantaka Street. In the comprehensive project of revitalization of Święty Marcin Street, undertaken in recent years, also included the renovation of the tenement house at number 30, where the cult Muza Cinema is located. Every year, conservation grants are awarded from the city budget, primarily for works on the most valuable buildings, including the prioritised group of Art Nouveau tenement houses in the complex in Roosevelta Street and in the city centre. The grants also go to the oldest and most valuable sacral buildings in the area: St. John of Jerusalem Church with rich painting decoration, the Dominican monastery, the Franciscan church on Bernardyński Square, the parish church, the church of the Holy Saviour in Fredro Street. The subsidies also apply to many residential buildings in the Old Town. The tenement houses at 41 and 55 Old Market Square, the tenement house at 21 Wielka Street, the tenement house at the corner of Fredry and Kościuszki Streets and the villa at Libelta Street have undergone comprehensive renovation. The building of the Museum of Musical Instruments regained its former glory on the Old Market Square. Valuable elements of the hallway and staircase decoration are preserved in richly decorated tenement houses on Działyńskich Street. Many historic schools carry out extensive renovation works, among others in the complex of schools on Cegielskiego Street or in

the primary school on Cegielskiego Street. A very important role in the urban space is played by the historic elements of street equipment, which enrich and enliven them, such as the renovated historical city scales in Marcinkowskiego Avenue. Historic greenery, the most valuable parks and squares are being successively revalued.

Actions are being taken to restore the original shape of valuable buildings, such as the characteristic neo-Renaissance tenement house located at the crossroads of Kryszewicza and Ogrodowa Streets, which has been restored to its original appearance¹⁹. Also the new owner of the historic posthospital complex at Szkolna/Podgórna Street, a complex of great potential and exceptional historical values, started complex modernization and revitalization works. A much bigger problem seems to be the historical pseudo-reconstruction investments, with the Royal Castle in Poznań, which was put into operation in 2016, at the head of the complex. It is also necessary to mention historical objects, which are the subject of special care of conservation services. After many years of neglect, the Mielżyński Palace, in which the new owner began renovation and adaptation works, has been renovated. Soon the renovation of the modernist building at 1 Paderewskiego Street will start. Ostrów Tumski is currently working on the renovation of the historic Psalteria, comprehensive interior conservation of the late Gothic church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Summo, and in the near future its immediate surroundings will be rearranged under the program "It all began here". In the church of St. John of Jerusalem, during laborious conservation research in the interior very valuable layers of original painting decor were discovered. The examples mentioned above testify of the great involvement of investors, but also of a significant increase in the awareness of the value of cultural heritage among the inhabitants and investors²⁰.



Fig.5 A View of Ostrów Tumski, in the foreground of the Poznań Gate - Interactive Centre for the History of Ostrów Tumski, fot: CDN Media, source: CTK TRAKT resources

¹⁹ The so-called "iron" from Poznań, whose name refers to New York's Flatiron Building.

²⁰ The article uses fragments of the study: Bielawska-Palczyńska J., *Monument to History - a stone monument or living urban tissue*, [in:] *Poznań Monument to History - History in Monument*, Poznań 2018, pp.45-48.

Prospects

The practice of Poznań indicates that inclusion in the list of historical monuments does not limit the development possibilities of the city. Further conservation activities are being undertaken, but also modern, "pro-urban" investment activities are being carried out.

The project of revitalization of the Old Town area and the area of the main street of the city - Święty Marcin - is particularly important. Completed in 2019, the works on the comprehensive modernization of the street were aimed, apart from changing the functionality and limiting the car traffic, at changing the image of this main element of the urban space. It is also a symbolic departure from the vision of the main east-west traffic thoroughfare dating back to the [communist] Gomułka times, towards the vision of the city of sustainable development for its residents.

The planned renovation of Collegiate Square, apart from improving its functionality and aesthetics, will bring back the memory not only of the history of this place, but also of the unique temple of St. Mary Magdalene, a dominant feature of this place for centuries. Also, the renovation of the Old Market Square surface, planned for the years 2020-2023, seems to be the biggest contemporary challenge in the area of the Old Town.

Recently resolved urban architectural competitions (always held with the participation of the City Conservator of Monuments) allow us to hope that the new building of the Music Theatre in Poznań will become a new architectural "icon" located in the area of the Poznań History Monument.

An important contribution to practical activities is the discourse on the value and quality of realized projects, which has been going on continuously in recent years. The Monument of History is not a stone monument, but a living urban tissue, which is constantly changing and transforming²¹. At the same time, it is necessary to weigh the various, frequently conflicting interests in such a way as to preserve in the best possible condition the cultural heritage in the most valuable area, which is a finite and non-renewable resource, but also a credible witness to history. A great challenge is to consciously manage this historic area and to reconcile the city's planning and investment policy with the protection of cultural heritage. The available tools of planning and conservation policy provide assistance in this respect. Their conscious use allows for effective protection of the most important spatial and cultural values. In this context, the activities of conservation services, acting on the basis of entries in the register of monuments and precise records of the adopted local spatial development plans, supported by the financial involvement of the city authorities and the activity of private investors, are of particular importance.

Recognition of Monuments of History as national heritage should lead to greater central funding. Perhaps it is worth returning to the idea of dividing the funds from the National Fund for the Protection of Monuments between the cities with such status.

²¹ Por. J. Bielawska-Pałczyńska, *op.cit.*, s.48.

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