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Wooden regional architecture in Podkarpackie. The example of Lubatowa village

Introduction

For many decades, the trend of disappearing of traditional regional architecture can be noticed from the landscapes of towns and villages. In spatial planning, effective forms of protection of the regional construction value are not applied, neither in terms of shape nor architectural detail, which has not been used for a long time at all in the classic form. The canons of architecture shaped by the millennia of the formation of European culture in the twentieth century were abandoned in favor of the minimalist style, which in Western Europe still uses decorative elements, and in our country boils down to the removal of buildings from all “unnecessary” ornaments [Zin 1956]. The spatial layout of the modern town is becoming more and more well-ordered, but lacks the spirit of the former urban composition that takes into account not only the practical divisions of the plots and communication networks, but also immeasurable landscape and cultural values. The architecture of the village is stylistically unified throughout the country. The same houses that we meet in Podkarpacie are built in Podhale as well and in Pomerania.

Is the state of affairs consisting in the exchange of a structure on a new, connected one with the passing of the individual expression of building complexes in small-town and rural architecture should be considered positive? [Ciołek 1984]. In the article, I analyze the phenomenon of disappearance and the possibilities of using the architectural heritage on the example of the regional construction of Lubatowa in the Podkarpackie province. The article presents the implications arising from the concept of revitalization of the heritage of traditional construction for Lubatowa on the background of the nearest neighborhood.

History in a nutshell

Lubatowa's story is lost in the darkness of history, which was not described by the chronicler's pen. On the basis of an analogy with the nearby Jaśliska, we can assume that the location date recorded in the archives at the beginning of the 14th century is not synonymous with the creation of a village [Bata 2014]. The location deed probably organizes the rules of functioning and ownership of an indefinite settlement center. When was it created and what was it before? This question should be answered on the basis of thorough and meticulous research, which so far nobody he did not lead bibliography materials in the form of a professional query, nor expensive and labor-intensive archaeological research.

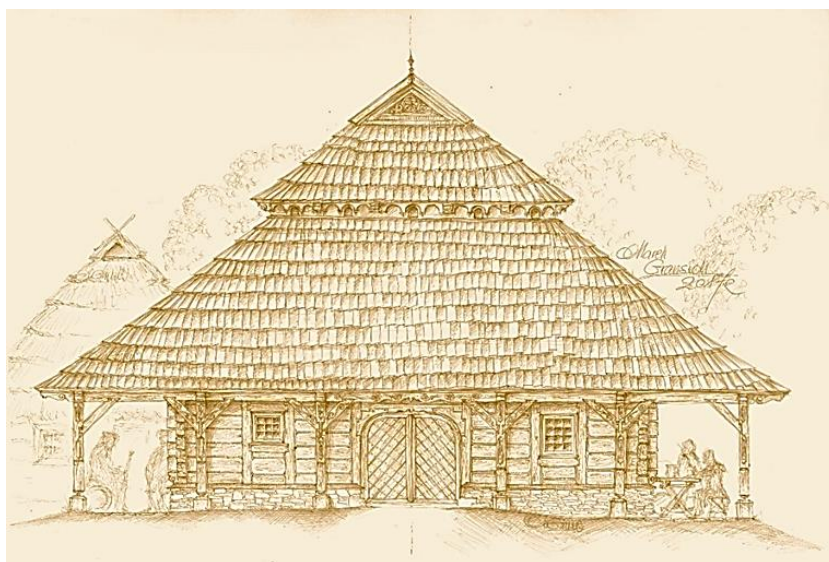


Fig. 1. Artistic vision of the first Customs Chamber in Dukla from the 17th century.

Fig. M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 1. Wizja artystyczna pierwszej Komory Celnej w Dukli z XVII wieku.

Rys. M. Gransicki 2017

Available historical facts combine the flourishing of the village with belonging to the property of the Przemyśl bishops from the center in Jaśliska. A lot of materials have been preserved confirming the ownership and structural changes of the village from the fourteenth to the fifteenth century [Gajdek, Patoczka & Wójcik 2015]. It is not known whether the village was plundered by the tragic consequences of the Hungarian invasion of the late fifteenth century.



Fig. 2. Artistic vision of the wooden church in Lubatowa from 1529, demolished in 1921. Fig. M. Gransicki based on photographic documentation 2017

Ryc. 2. Wizja artystyczna drewnianego kościoła w Lubatowej z 1529 r., rozebranego w 1921 r. Rys. M. Gransicki na podstawie dokumentacji fotograficznej 2017

This invasion changed the face of such local towns as Jaśliska, Dukla and Jasło. The scale of destruction forced decisions on the reconstruction of the building layout [Gransicki 2018] in a modern urban form, which has survived to this day. The existing historic cellars are today a direct testimony to the former splendor of the region from the period of stabilization and prosperity associated with the operation of trade routes to Hungary [Gransicki 2017].

We cannot talk about the same in Lubatowa, which as a village did not have a precise urban layout. You can identify its type with a chain system described by prof. Jerzy Czajkowski in the book “Folk Construction of Podkarpacie” [Czajkowski 1977]. Visible on the Mieg Map from the second half of the eighteenth century, the village is scattered along the communication routes. Unfortunately, the map does not provide information about the earlier development, from the period when Lubatowa was part of the bishop's estate. Few stone cellars do not give an answer to the question how far back in time the foundations of the buildings are.

The same cellars in the architectural form and construction were built from identical materials centuries ago and nowadays [Tłoczek 1980]. Without professional archaeological research, it is difficult to determine the true age of the preserved cellar chambers. It should be noted that today's regress of old construction is progressing faster and there is very little time for activities documenting the preserved and used monuments of regional construction in Lubatowa.

Lubatowa has a long history. It can tell you about the last outbreak of Polish-Lituania Commonwealth – the Bar Confederation, which certainly left a mark on its architectural landscape. The fights that took place within the village and its

surroundings had to change its landscape. Both great wars of the twentieth century also did not spare Lubatowa.

Little is known about the devastation left in the village by the winter offensive of Russian troops during the Great War, but one can guess that it could have brought similar destruction that was recorded in the nearby Jaśliska. The second war's turmoil was clearly marked. For the participation of residents in the resistance movement and supporting the surrounding partisan units, the occupant made several pacification of the town. The village was honored with the Cross of Valor built at the road from Lubatówka, granted for active participation in the fighting and sacrifices incurred by the inhabitants during the Second World War [Domaradzka, Parylak, Pernal & Zająć 2017].



Fig. 3. Artistic vision of the “Old School” in Lubatowa. Fig. M. Gransicki based on photographic documentation and local vision in the field of 2017

Ryc. 3. Wizja artystyczna Starej Szkoły w Lubatowej. Rys. M. Gransicki na podstawie dokumentacji fotograficznej i wizji lokalnej w terenie 2017

Natural formation and urban layout

In addition to historical values Lubatowa located in the Lubatówka river valley has an interesting geographical shape. A winding river and steep slopes of high mountains that surround the village make its landscape unique and more suited to Podhale than the Beskid Niski.

Closed in the mountain valley, the village has preserved its unusual character, dividing into a series of hamlets hidden behind the forests located on the slopes, much higher than the village center lying in the valley [Domaradzka, Parylak, Pernal & Zająć 2017]. It is in these hamlets that the most architecturally valuable examples of the regional development of this area have survived, including the unique, still inhabited thatched cottage. In addition to the center of the village, multi-market pits,

rarely found in these areas, have also been preserved, referred to by the residents as “Ruthenian cottages” [Tłoczek 1958].

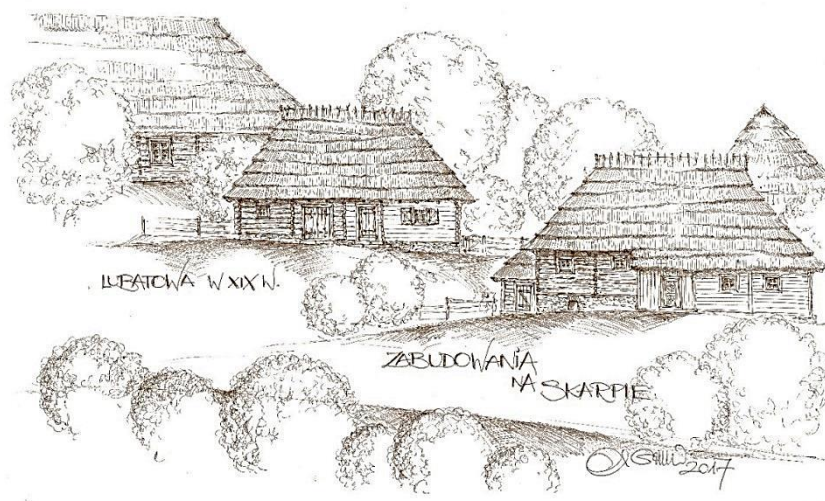


Fig. 4. Artistic vision of the reconstruction of the old Lubatowa rural building adapted to the terrain. Fig. M. Gransicki based on photographic documentation and cadastral map from 1851, 2017

Ryc. 4. Wizja artystyczna rekonstrukcji dawnej zabudowy wiejskiej Lubatowej dopasowanej do ukształtowanie terenu. Rys. M. Gransicki na podstawie dokumentacji fotograficznej i mapy katastralnej z 1851 r., 2017

Significant differences between the housing construction of the village center and hamlets began to appear in the second half of the nineteenth century, when more and more residents of Lubatowa found work in the production of crude oil. Some of them reached countries even on other continents, expanding their worldview and bringing new trends in construction [Zin 195].

The center of the village changed under the influence of new opportunities quite quickly, but in the hamlets time has stopped for many decades, retaining in the building layout the prevailing share of agricultural wooden buildings. It is these few surviving farmsteads that can turn into agritourism farms based on drying natural agricultural production and the value of the views from the slopes of the mountains of Lubatowa.

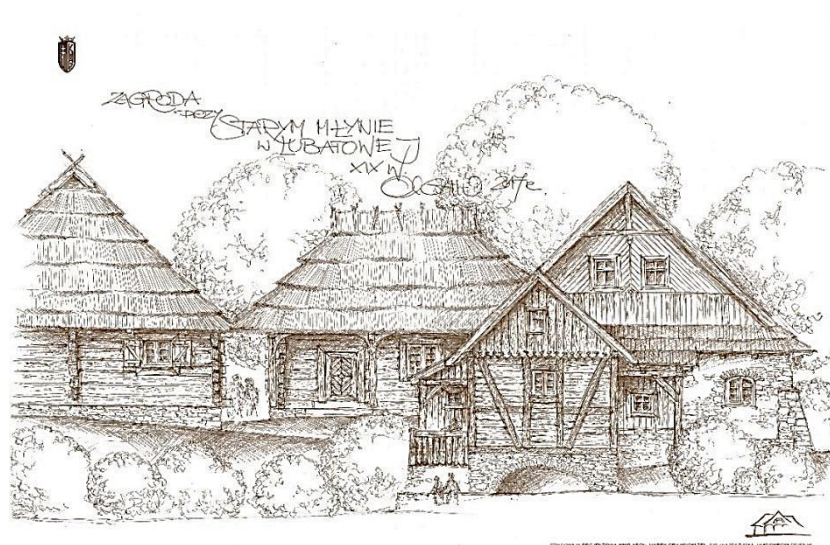


Fig. 5. Artistic vision of the mill in Lubatowa in Dolna Wieś according to the local vision and the rudimentary photographic documentation. Fig. M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 5. Wizja artystyczna młyna w Lubatowej w Dolnej Wsi wg wizji lokalnej w terenie i szczątkowej dokumentacji fotograficznej. Rys. M. Gransicki 2017

The hamlets are organized in a rather random manner, in compliance to natural relief, not the contemporary urban composition, therefore this arrangement should be preserved as an example of organic urban planning. Buildings in terms of architecture are poorer from those from the center of the village. Based on the interview with the inhabitants it can be argued that some of the buildings have been moved after the second war, from the abandoned and decaying “Russian” villages.

This is why the details and details of the construction typical of the Lemko construction are not surprising. In the few age-old buildings, decorative ends of extruded ceiling beams and rafters, as well as traces of decorated window envelopes, have survived to our times.

Ideas for the future

Today, it seems reasonable to claim that it's time to try to preserve this unique cultural landscape of one of the Subcarpathian villages and give new meaning to the few original certificates of the former construction school. You can try to organize a competition for architectural designs that can maintain the proportions and detail of the outgoing Carpathian architecture, perfectly matched to the climatic conditions.

If the character of the hamlets of Lubatowa could be maintained, the local community could use natural resources to develop a new branch of the rural economy, activating the few active tourist centers in the immediate area.

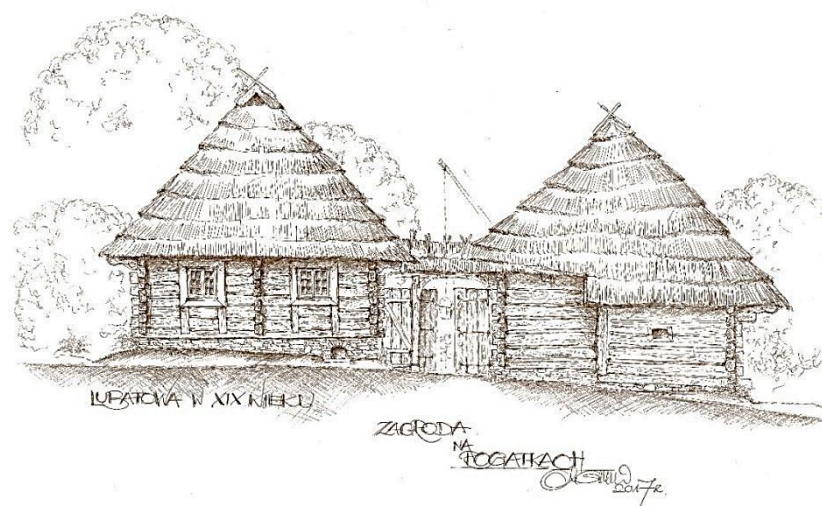


Fig. 6. Artistic vision of the original homestead in Lubatowa based on the analysis of a cadastral map from the mid-nineteenth century. Fig. M. Gransicki 2017, based on Drożdż-Szczybura 2000

Ryc. 6. Wizja artystyczna pierwotnej zagrody wielobudynkowej w Lubatowej oparta na analizie mapy katastralnej z połowy XIX wieku. Rys. M. Gransicki 2017, na podst. Drożdż-Szczybura 2000

Favorable natural and cultural conditions allow you to combine Lubatowa with picturesque mountain trails with such towns as Iwonicz Zdrój, Dukla and Rogi. We can find there many monuments and tourist attractions that can contribute along with the natural functioning agriculture in the town and its surroundings to develop tourism set in the beautiful countryside of the hamlets [Pawlicki 1998]. It is also possible to expand the offer of tourist attractions in the valley which is the center of the village and in the close sister-sister village of Lubatówka.

In contrast to the larger towns Lubatowa, Lubatówka and the village of Równe still have a sufficient amount of wooden regional architecture, that with a proper economy they can become a living “open-air” architectural museum comparable to towns such as the Podhale Chochołów, where the resources of traditional architecture are not bigger than in the Carpathian countryside, but its location on the Tatra trail made it an important point on the tourist and cultural map of the country.

At present, the popularity of Podkarpackie health resorts for the development of the tourism economy in Lubatowa can be used. However, it is not possible to allow uncontrolled development of this industry, because it can be expected that for regional architecture it may accelerate its disappearance or replace it with caricatures.

As already mentioned, this is the last moment to preserve the heritage of Beskid Niski architecture in the original habitats [Pawlicki 1998], preventing the progressive at an alarming rate of natural degradation still in the parts of the Podkarpackie countryside landscape. Preserving the original color of architecture can

be an important factor increasing attractiveness this area for tourists – equally as a mountainous, seemingly wild natural landscape.



Fig. 7. A photo of one of the oldest rural cottages in Lubatowa covered with a thatched roof. Photo by M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 7. Fotografia jednej z najstarszych chałup wiejskich w Lubatowej pokrytej dachem ze strzechy. Fot. M. Gransicki 2017

An example of activities aimed at preserving the historical heritage of the village of Lubatowa in architectural matter is an attempt to analyze the formal and functional last preserved in Lubatowa thatched cottage (this is not the oldest wooden house in this town, but the last one, which has retained its original form without major changes).

The analysis consisted of an attempt to read its original appearance, and reconstruct the original functional system and adapt the basic forms to the technical and functional requirements set for contemporary single-family housing. Due to the old age of the inhabitants, it was impossible to enter it, but the analysis of the construction visible outside the walls and a comparison with a large group of similar objects known to the author was not necessary to describe the interior of the building.

It seems that the preservation of the basic dimensions and the proportions of the solid is neither a functional nor aesthetic problem. Maintenance of a wooden structure with the use of modern thermal insulation materials with the use of elements of the intelligent building system may result in an unusual, conservative architectural form and unattainable for the so-called traditional brick construction economic and climatic functional values.

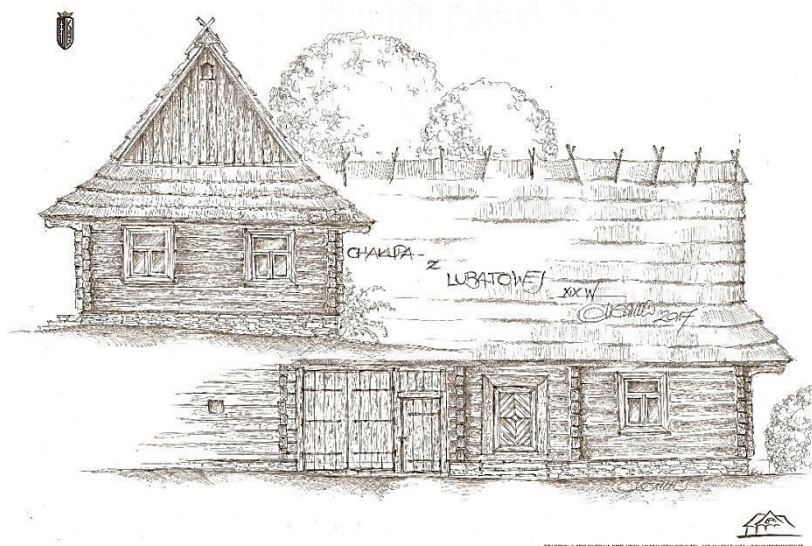


Fig. 8. Artistic vision of the possible original appearance of a cottage from Lubatowa in the late nineteenth century. Fig. M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 8. Wizja artystyczna możliwego pierwotnego wyglądu chałupy wiejskiej z Lubatowej w okresie końca XIX wieku. Rys. M. Gransicki 2017

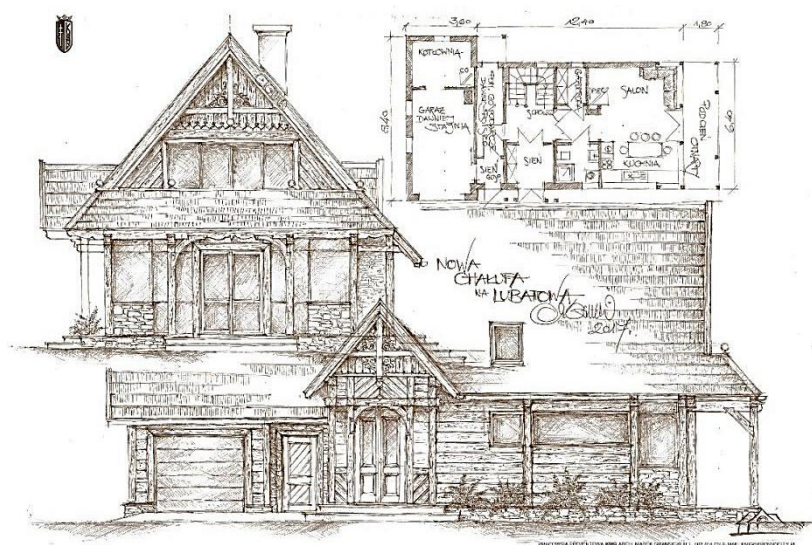


Fig. 9. The concept of contemporary architecture modeled on the earlier construction in Lubatowa. Fig. M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 9. Koncepcja współczesnej architektury wzorowanej na wcześniejszym budownictwie Lubatowej. Rys. M. Gransicki 2017

As a result, we can argue that the traditional regional form is not contradictive to contemporary architectural trends, and its economically achievable beauty can enhance the landscape not only of the village, but also its economic attractiveness and ensure its development in the future.



Fig. 10. A photo of one of the forgotten, hidden in the thickets of regional houses in Lubatowa. Photo by M. Gransicki 2017

Ryc. 10. Fotografia jednego z zapomnianych, ukrytych w zaroślach domów regionalnych w Lubatowej. Fot. M. Gransicki 2017

Summary of considerations

Summing up the considerations, it should be assumed that it is high time to undertake efforts to document the inherited traditional construction of the Podkarpackie villages. What's more, the introduction of traditional forms in modern single-family and tourist buildings into the current architectural landscape is very necessary and purposeful for economic reasons.

The stylistic variation of the image of the Podkarpackie village can significantly increase the tourist values of these regions and contribute to the activation of local communities. The policy of self-government should strive to preserve local cultural values resulting not only from history, but also should ensure that the technical and stylistic heritage of the regional architecture that is inscribed in a natural way in the landscape of mountains and forests of the Beskid Niski is preserved.

In contrast to congested and degraded modern shanty towns, Lubatowa, Lubatówka and Równe may in the future become a mainstay of natural and healthy recreation in the clean mountain area with a landscape unpolluted by human interference.

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