

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING THE CENTRAL SPACE OF THE JERZMANOWICE VILLAGE LOCATED IN THE BUFFER ZONE OF THE OJCÓW NATIONAL PARK

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Summary

Suburban villages undergo dynamic transformations that significantly affect their spatial and social structure. Particular attention should be paid to those locations situated within an attractive landscape, where investment pressure is gaining momentum. The threat of implementing new functions at the expense of open areas increases with an attractive location in the vicinity of large cities. The situation described herein concerns the Jerzmanowice-Przegonia municipality, which is adjoining the Ojców National Park. The activities on the part of municipal authorities, aimed at protecting the identity of the village, are conducted on two planes: related to land planning, and to architecture. Students from the University of Agriculture were involved in the architectural scope of planning, and they developed concepts for the management of the central area of Jerzmanowice village based on the results of social research carried out by the staff of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Horticulture at the University of Agriculture in Kraków.

Keywords

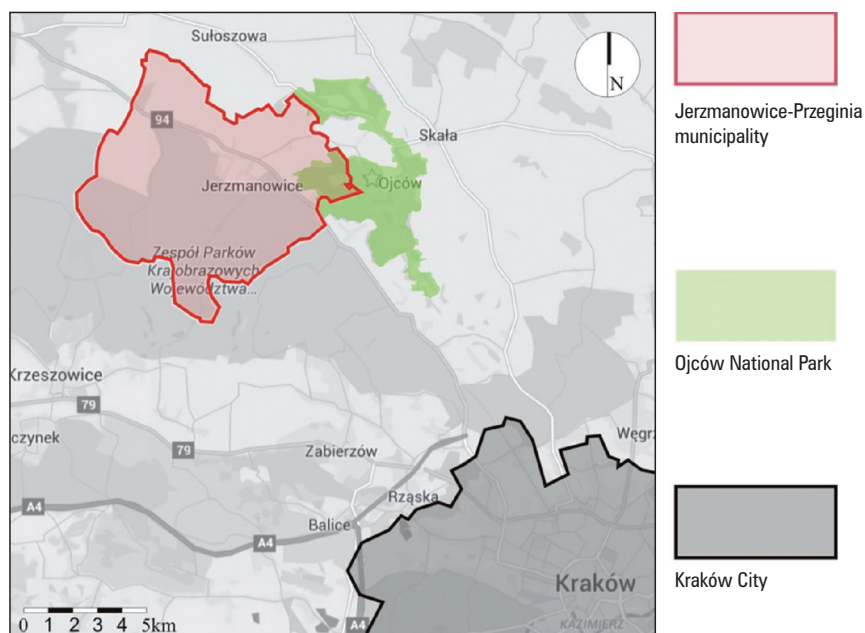
suburban village • suburbanization • investment pressure • quality of space • social participation • landscape design

1. Introduction

The spatial design of rural areas in the areas of impact of major cities requires special attention. Progressing suburbanization processes have a negative impact on spatial planning as well as on social relations in rural municipalities. As a consequence, the quality of space and the quality of life of the residents are reduced. The Jerzmanowice-Przegonia municipality, located at the western border of the Ojców National Park, is located in the access zone of about 40 minutes to the centre of Kraków (Figure 1). These areas, due to the unique attractiveness of the Jurassic landscapes and easy access to the big city are subjected to strong suburbanization pressure.

The municipal authorities conduct a policy of protection of rural areas and native landscapes. They resist the pressure of real estate developers who want to build housing estates on attractive areas belonging to the municipality. The construction of such new

settlements might lead to disturbances in the spatial and social structure of the village [Zimnicka and Czernik 2007]. Actions leading to the protection of the Jerzmanowice-Przebinia municipality from the negative effects of suburbanisation are conducted on two planes. On the planning scale, in cooperation with specialists, the Social and Economic Development Strategy of the Jerzmanowice-Przebinia Municipality for the years 2015–2020 was developed at the end of last year. On an architectural scale, it is planned that projects will be developed for the most important public spaces in individual villages. The objective of the research was to formulate planning and design guidelines for public space in the village of Jerzmanowice.



Source: author's study based on maps.google.com

Fig. 1. The location of Jerzmanowice-Przebinia municipality

2. The subject and methodology of research

The subject of the study refers to the condition of the suburban village of Jerzmanowice-Przebinia, and the possibilities of its development in the context of the issues of the development of a modern city, the processes related thereto, and consequences in relation to the quality of space [Mangin 2004, Lorens 2005]. Particular attention was paid to the central space of the village, so-called “centre”, and the participation of residents in making decisions about the functioning of the public space of their village.

The research objective was to formulate guidelines for the architectural competition for developing a conceptual design for the “Marketplace” in the town of Jerzmanowice, the municipality of Jerzmanowice-Przegonia. The competition addressed to graduate and postgraduate students of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Agriculture was the response to the proposal of cooperation extended by the governor of the Jerzmanowice-Przegonia municipality, Adam Piaśnik, regarding the concept for developing the central area of Jerzmanowice village, which is part of municipal activities conducted in the scope of architecture. In order for the design concepts developed by the students to fit into the main principles of the policy pursued by the municipal authorities, and for those concepts to meet the needs of future users, specific objectives have been formulated:

- conducting talks with representatives of the municipal authorities, in order to determine the content of the survey, and to disseminate it to the residents of Jerzmanowice,
- adaptation of the project scope of the competition to the spatial policy pursued by the municipality, formulated within the framework of the Social and Economic Development Strategy of the Jerzmanowice-Przegonia Municipality for 2015–2020, adopted by Resolution No. XIV/94/2015 of November 23, 2015,
- the inclusion of the cultural landscape of the municipality, the tradition of the place, and the existing tourist infrastructure as a context for the emerging public space.

The first specific objective, that is, the deployment of public debate and social participation at the pre-design stage, facilitates the implementation of the investment and minimizes potential, unnecessarily incurred costs [Pawłowska 2008]. In addition, an extensive pre-design phase, in which future users of a given space actively participate, is a model that works well in action, including actions aimed at the improvement of housing space in developing countries [Turyk 2013]. Establishing dialogue with residents at the stage of creating a revitalization plan or a project often brings positive results. Inhabitants, who are treated as participants (objects rather than subjects), feel responsible for the space in which they live, and they often continue good practices after completing the given action [Turyk 2013]. In the actual practice, we can find numerous positive examples of the use of public debate and social participation, despite the voiced concerns that the style and level of public debate in the context of architecture and spatial economy in Poland is currently not satisfactory [Pawłowska 2008]. Positive examples often refer to smaller communities, such as residents of a given neighbourhood (city district), or a small town.

In order for the projects developed by students to best meet the needs of the residents, at the stage of creating the assumptions of the competition, the dialogue with the residents was proposed and adopted. The inhabitants of Jerzmanowice were invited to discuss the future functioning and appearance of the “Centre”. The invitation took the form of a survey (with a questionnaire), in which the Jerzmanowice community took part. This survey enabled learning the residents’ opinion about the current functions of the space, and the changes needed. In addition, the residents had the opportunity to confront their

visions with representatives of the municipality authorities, employees of the Department of Dendrology and Landscape Architecture and the Department of Ornamental Plant, as well as students who volunteered to participate in the competition.

Table 1. The “Marketplace” in Jerzmanowice – questionnaire for the inhabitants, developed by Barbara Olczak based on Zachariasz [2006]

<p>1. How often do you use the so-called “Centre” in Jerzmanowice village?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> every day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> more than once a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> once a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> once a month</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it</p>
<p>2. What is the purpose of your visits to the “Centre”?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> shopping / visit to the bank</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> using the Municipal Cultural Centre / the Library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> taking children to school / kindergarten</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on the way to church</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to stay in touch with other inhabitants of the village</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to exchange information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, what?</p>
<p>3. In your opinion, what are the advantages of this place?</p>
<p>4. In your opinion, what are the disadvantages of this place?</p>
<p>5. Is the space of the “Centre” a “safe space”?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p>
<p>6. If you answered “no” to question no. 5, then what in your opinion might improve the safety level?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> street lighting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> introducing additional pavements and pedestrian paths</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, what?</p>
<p>7. Do you think that there is a need to change the way the central part of the village is used?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p>
<p>8. If you could influence changes in the village “Centre”, how do you imagine the functioning of this place? (it is possible to select more than one answer):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> meeting place of the local inhabitants, with green space of interesting design</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> village square with a fountain and seating space</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sport and recreation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> convenient location for a new sports facility</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> rest and leisure area for various age groups</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, what?</p>

<p>9. If you could influence changes in the village “Centre”, what elements might impact the functioning and the quality of this space? (it is possible to select more than one answer):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> place for temporary exhibitions of works by local artists, or artisan fairs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> outdoor reading room of the library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> resting place for tourists, including cyclists</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> information boards, showcasing what’s on in the municipality, what attractive sights in the area are worth visiting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> outdoor stairs from the side of Centralna street</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> creating a “trademark” of the village that will attract tourists thereto</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> tourist information point</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> café</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> climbing wall</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> elements of limestone rocks, referring to the natural resources of the municipality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, what?</p>
<p>10. Are you a permanent resident of Jerzmanowice village?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p>
<p>Age of the respondent:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10–15 <input type="checkbox"/> 15–20 <input type="checkbox"/> 20–30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30–40 <input type="checkbox"/> 40–50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50–60</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 60–70 <input type="checkbox"/> 70–80 <input type="checkbox"/> 80–100</p>
<p>Gender of the respondent:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> female</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> male</p>

The second specific objective refers to investment pressure, to which villages in the Jurassic-area are exposed due to the attractive landscape in and around their location. The Jerzmanowice-Przebinia municipality, in order to protect its identity, refuses to approve locations for new investment projects that may have a negative impact on the quality of the existing development. The situation of Jerzmanowice is special – investment pressure threatens the Ojców National Park and its closest neighbourhood. For the purpose of protection, the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the Municipality of Jerzmanowice-Przebinia [Development Strategy] for the years 2015–2020 was prepared, adopted by the Resolution No. XIV/94/2015 of November 23, 2015. In the guidelines, formulated by the municipal authorities, and important for the municipality’s development, the *Jerzmanowice-Przebinia municipality is friendly and attractive to residents and tourists, with well-developed technical, social and tourist infrastructure, promoting eco-friendly development principles in all aspects of life, caring for comprehensive growth of its inhabitants* [Development Strategy]. The strategy defines the main directions for the municipality’s development, and it sets out five main strategic goals. In addition, operational objectives and tasks have been formulated whose implementation will lead to the achievement of the adopted strategic goals [Development Strategy]. The strategic goals were formulated as follows:

1. Developing and improving of tourist attractiveness of the municipality, against the background of the Kraków Metropolitan Area, through the use of the assets of cultural and natural environment, and the geographical location of the municipality for the development of sport and tourism.
2. Supporting activities in the field of environmental protection and eco-friendly development of the municipality.
3. Comprehensive and sustained, ongoing support for economic development, based on the existing potential of the environment and the residents, ensuring adequate number of jobs, and effective functioning of business entities.
4. Improving the technical infrastructure for the development of entrepreneurship.
5. Satisfying the needs of residents in the field of public services, covering the cultural, educational, recreational, sports, health, and social services areas.

In the activities of the municipal administrators, one can observe a holistic approach and care for the quality of space development and management. In addition to the general approach on a planning scale, which protects the town from the negative effects of suburbanisation, the municipal authorities undertake activities regarding the use of important public spaces. One of the operational goals under the fifth strategic objective is the revitalization of village centres [Development Strategy]. The central space of the town of Jerzmanowice was selected as the first centre where project activities were to be undertaken. A student competition has been organized, which was a response to the proposal of cooperation from the governor of the municipality, regarding the concept of developing the centre of Jerzmanowice village. The area indicated by the municipality governor, currently used as a sports field, is surrounded by the most important buildings in the village, and it functions in the minds of residents as “the centre” (Figure 2).



Author: Barbara Olczak

Fig. 2. The central area of the village, present condition

The third detailed objective draws attention to the history of the town and to its natural resources, including rock outcrops (inliers). The municipality belongs to the Association of Jurassic Municipalities, and there is a well-developed tourist infrastructure on its territory. Six hiking trails pass through it, as well as seven cycling routes, including the Eagles’ Nests Trail (Kraków–Częstochowa), the Małopolska Geo-tourism Trail, the Małopolska Wooden Architecture Route, and the “Jaskiniowa Dolina”

(“Valley of Caves”) Educational Trail; also, there is one horse-riding trail. There are also three loop trails for Nordic walking [Development Strategy]. The well-developed tourist infrastructure is linked with a large number of tourists visiting the municipality. Therefore, the public space of the village of Jerzmanowice should be a showcase of the municipality, and it should meet not only the needs of the residents, but also of tourists.

3. Results

One hundred and sixty four permanent residents of Jerzmanowice took part in the survey. 46% of respondents were in the age range of 30–50 years, 29% in the age range of 10–15 years, whilst 64% of respondents are women.

The space of the “Centrum” (“Centre”) is often visited by residents. 67% of respondents visit here daily, 22% more frequently than once a week. The residents use the central space while shopping (30%), on the way to the church (23%), while using the Municipal Cultural Centre (13%), bringing children to school and to kindergarten (13%). 7% of the respondents visit the centre of the village in order to contact and meet other residents. The respondents come to the centre also on their way to school and to work, to play football, or to ride a bicycle (Figure 3).

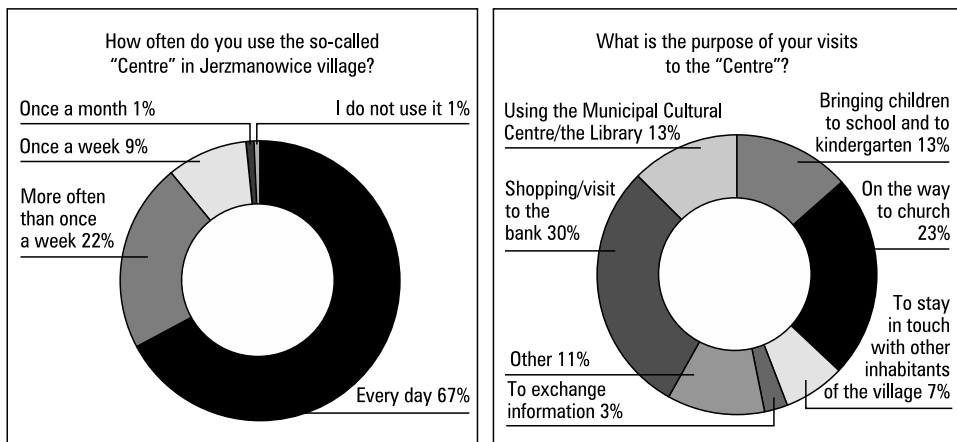


Fig. 3. The percentage distribution of respondents’ answers to the questions: How often do you visit the “Centre” of the village? What is the purpose of your visits to the “Centre”?

As the main advantages of the place, the respondents indicate that there are many objects located herein, important from the point of view of village functioning (44 people). 23 persons paid attention to commercial (retail) buildings. 16 people indicate a multipurpose field as an asset, and 13 people point to the Municipal Cultural Centre. The disadvantage of the place most often indicated by the respondents is that within the space “Centre” there are no seating spaces (26 people). Also, there is no meeting place. Other disadvantages indicated by the respondents include lack of street

lighting, greenery or a café. More than half of the respondents identify the centre of the village as safe. As suggestions for solutions that can improve the safety, the respondents indicated the introduction of street lighting (34%) and the construction of additional pavements and footpaths (24%). 79% of the respondents answered yes to the question whether a change in the use and development of the central space of the village is needed. For most respondents, the new functioning of the “Centre” is associated with a meeting place for residents, with greenery of an interesting design (18%); the “Centre” takes form of a square with a fountain and seats (19%); or it is the space for rest and recreation for various age groups (21%). 16% of the respondents indicate the current sports field as a convenient location for a new sports facility. 22% of the respondents imagine the “Centre” space as an area for sports and recreation. Other functions of this space suggested by the residents included a swimming pool (19%), or a place where it will be possible to organize free time activities for young people (14%). When asked what elements may affect the functioning and quality of the central space, the respondents indicated: a café (16%), a tourist information point (15%), a place of rest for tourists, including cyclists (14%), information boards, showing, for instance what is happening in municipality, and what sights are worth seeing in the area (13%), and a climbing wall (10%). 11% of the respondents were in favour of creating within this space a “showcase” (a “trademark”) of the village that will attract tourists (Figure 4).

The presented research results were passed to the students, together with the regulations and the main assumptions presented by the municipality as guidelines for the development of conceptual designs for the development of Jerzmanowice’s “Marketplace”. Furthermore, the students organised a field visit to Jerzmanowice, where meetings with the municipality’s governor, and village residents took place. The governor postulated that the projects being developed should put special emphasis on the protection of the village’s identity, referencing the tradition of the place, as well as the cultural and natural values of the town.

The main goal of the competition was to receive several design concepts for a representative public space, functioning as a meeting place for residents of all ages. At the same time, the designed space should be a showcase – or a “trademark” – of the village, a place from which many tourists coming to Jerzmanowice will benefit. Thirty-two people applied to participate in the competition, and they presented interesting design visions in eleven works in total. In all works, students referred to the cultural and natural values of the municipality. Inspirations were reflected in the way the Marketplace was developed and paved, and in the elements of street furniture.

We present selected fragments of the work, in which the inspiration with natural values was the main designing premise for the development of the central square in the village. The authors of the work are Izabela Saniawa and Karolina Śmiłowska, the winners of third prize in the competition (Figure 5).

The traditional layout of the fields and the rock outcrops (outliers) of Ostańce Jerzmanowickie became an inspiration for the design of the Marketplace, its pavement, as well as forms of roofing and the bus-stop shelter. The author of the work is Patrycja Mizera, the winner of the first prize in the competition (Figure 6).

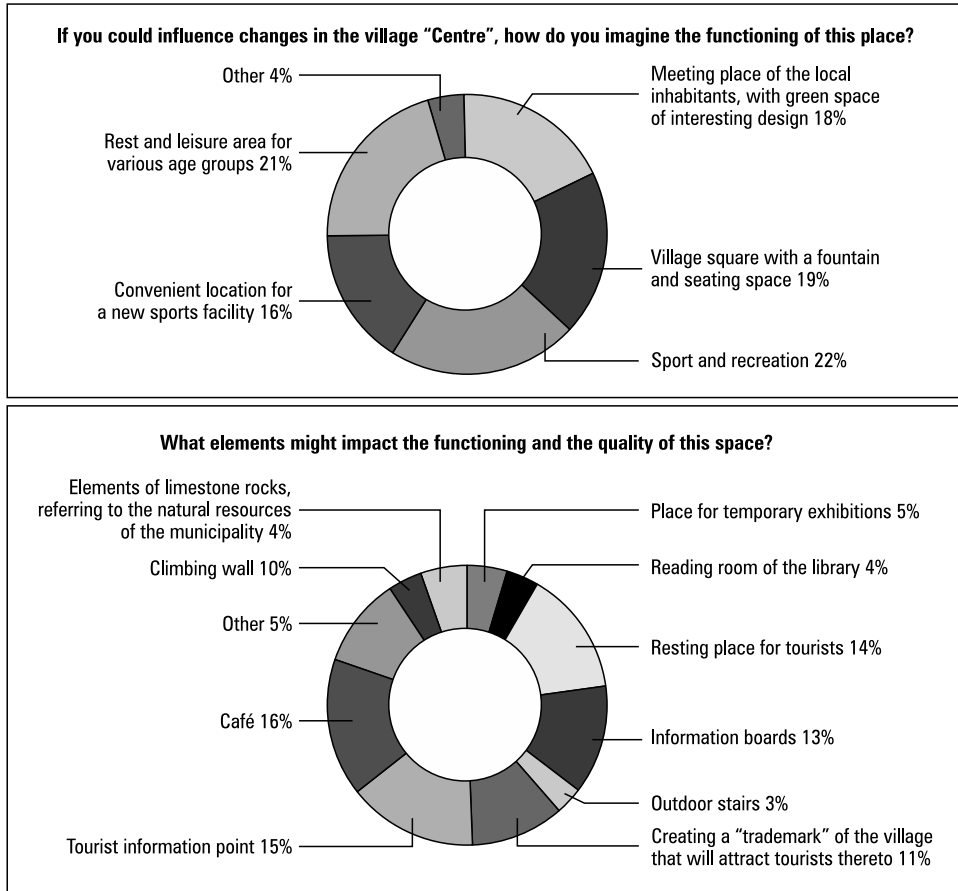


Fig. 4. The percentage distribution of the respondents' answers to the questions: If you could influence the changes in the village centre, how do you imagine the functioning of this space? What elements may impact the functioning and the quality of this space?

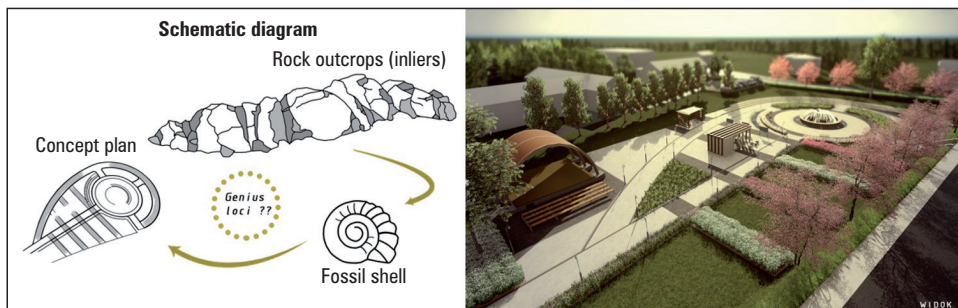


Fig. 5. Competition work by Izabela Saniawa and Karolina Śmiłowska, courtesy of Adam Piaśnik, the governor of the Jerzmanowice-Przegonia municipality

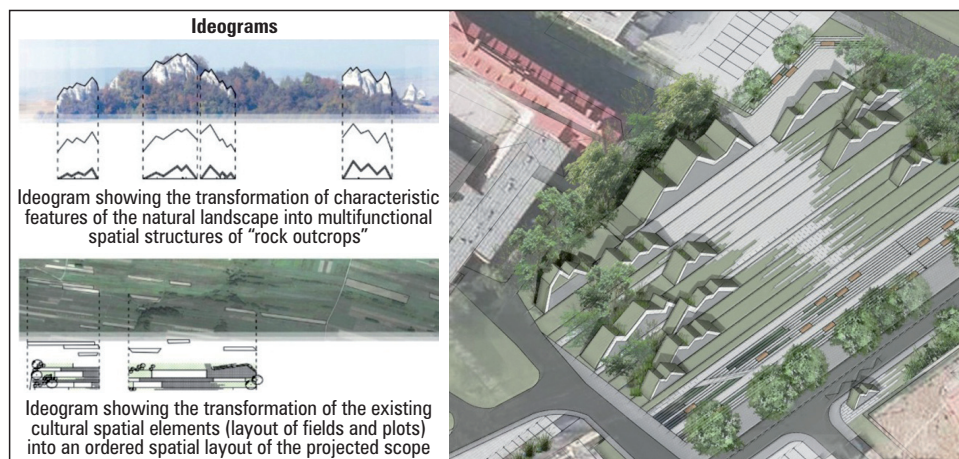


Fig. 6. Competition work by Patrycja Mizera, courtesy of Adam Piaśnik, the governor of Jerzmanowice-Przegonia municipality

4. Conclusions

Suburban villages in Poland, in which agriculture is disappearing, constitute a special case. Its location at a short distance from the city gives the residents of the village access to facilities and conveniences associated with the functioning of the city and the labour market. At the same time, such location poses a very serious threat. Convenient location near the city may cause very sudden changes, under the impact of which suburban villages undergo investment pressure, and thus develop at the expense of building up the open areas. This leads to spatial and social conflicts that have a negative impact on the quality of the housing environment and on the quality of life of both indigenous and migrant residents. It seems that carrying out activities aimed at protecting the municipality's identity, in two aspects – that of planning, and that of architecture – can bring beneficial results.

The selection of the best competition work was determined by the results obtained at the premises of the Municipal Cultural Centre, where all the works were displayed, and also thanks to the Municipality Office website available for that purpose. At the same time, a jury meeting was held, chaired by Professor Stanisław Mazur (PhD Eng.), Dean of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Horticulture at the University of Agriculture. It is worth emphasizing that the work, which the citizens chose in their vote, also received the jury's distinction.

Cooperation, conducted in the architectural scope, which took the form of a student competition, seems to be beneficial to both parties: representatives of the municipality and the residents had the opportunity to see the potential of the area functioning as the village centre. They received eleven different proposals, during the development of which the students faced the practical side of their profession: the actual, existing

public space, in which there are various problems and spatial conflicts and the expectations of the municipal authorities and residents as the future users of the “centre”. The works that were awarded in the competition will form the basis for the development of a detailed design for the Jerzmanowice Marketplace.

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