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CURRENT CHANGES IN MORPHOLOGY OF THE CITY CENTER OF KATOWICE

Chmielewska M. **Aktualne przeobrażenia morfologii śródmieścia Katowic.** Artykuł dotyczy przemian morfologiczno-funkcjonalnych zachodzących współcześnie w przestrzeni miejskiej śródmieścia Katowic. Ich główną motywacją jest dążenie do zmiany wizerunku miasta oraz przekształcenia go w nowoczesny ośrodek usługowy i kulturalny, załączek metropolii. Wskazano trzy strategiczne obszary: 1) strefę Rynek – Rondo, okolice ulicy Mariackiej i Dworcowej oraz 3) teren dworca kolejowego, w których zachodzą kompleksowe przemiany, zarówno morfologii jak i funkcji miejsca. Analizując kierunki prowadzonych tam działań, wyszczególniono najważniejsze trendy wpływające aktualnie na morfologię śródmieścia Katowic. Są to: wyburzanie zabudowy postmodernistycznej, wprowadzanie zabudowy niespójnej z dotychczasową, przebudowa symboli miasta, rozwój funkcji metropolitalnych i dążenie do przywrócenia funkcji handlowych.

Хмелевска М. **Современные изменения морфологии центральной части Катовиц.** Статья посвящена вопросам морфолого-функциональных изменений, имеющих место в настоящее время в центральной части городского пространства г. Катовице. Главная причина изменений обусловлена стремлением к изменению облика города и преобразованию его в современный культурный центр, ядро метрополии. Выделены три стратегических участка: 1) зона Рынок – Кольцо, 2) окрестности ул. Мариаккой и Вокзальной (Дворцовой), 3) территория железнодорожного вокзала, в которых, собственно, и происходят комплексные функционально-морфологические преобразования. На основании анализа направлений осуществляемых преобразований детализированы важнейшие тренды, влияющие на морфологию центра Катовиц как-то: ликвидация постмодернистической застройки, новая застройка, нестыкающаяся с существующей, перестройка символов города, развитие метрополитальных функций и стремление к восстановлению торговых функций.

Keywords: Katowice city center, urban morphology, morphological and functional changes

Abstract

The article applies to morphological and functional changes occurring in contemporary urban space of the city center of Katowice. Their main reason is the striving to change the image of the city and to transform it into a modern service center and cultural center, the core of a metropolis. There were identified three strategic areas: 1) area between the market and the roundabout, 2) area of Mariacka street and Dworcowa street, and 3) the area of the train station, which are comprehensively changed in both morphological and functional way. Analysis of directions of actions conducted there led to the specification of the most important trends currently affecting the morphology of the Katowice city center, these are: demolition of post-modern building, placing building inconsistent to the previous, reconstruction of building which are symbols of the city, the development of metropolitan functions and striving for restoration of trade functions.

INTRODUCTION

Morphological changes of urban space refer to the transformation of physical elements of the city (which are buildings and their related open spaces, plots or lots, and streets) and changes in its layout. According to the concept of the Conzenian school of urban morphology, these changes are interdependent from functional changes and should therefore be considered together. It should be noticed that in morphological studies the notion of function usually refers to the land and building utilization (KOTER, 1994; SULIBORSKI, 2010).

Urban space is changed in a dynamic manner throughout the period of its formation, under the influence of variables and various factors. Particularly dynamic morphological and functional changes took place and are taking place in the urban space of Katowice – the capital city of Silesia Voivodship located in the south of Poland (fig. 1). This city is relatively young – it was founded in 1865, but the histo-

ry of its development is tumultuous. It was founded as a small German industrial city and it grew to the capital of the largest industrial region in Poland, but in the meanwhile it changed its state subjection (from Germany to Poland in 1922) and was under the influence of two different political and economical systems (capitalistic until 1945, socialistic until 1989, and again capitalistic until now). Today the city seeks to be a modern simultaneously post-industrial and post-socialist city, moreover with the surrounding region it aspires to become the metropolis.

A special section of the city is its center. In this part of the city the economic and cultural activity is the highest. It is also an area frequently visited by both residents and visitors (SŁODCZYK, 2003). Therefore it is more susceptible to transformations than other parts of the city. The paper aims to indicate trends currently affecting the morphology of the Katowice city center. To achieve this objective it is necessary to find the factors of contemporary changes and to select the areas in which these changes are taking place. Subsequently the directions of actions conducted there should be pointed. Finally the consequences of them for the morphology and function of these places should be analyzed.

MORPHOGENESIS AND PREVIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE CITY CENTER OF KATOWICE

The city center of Katowice is located in the downtown district, which, according to the administrative division of the city, is a part of the group of inner-city districts. It covers an area among the Roździeńskie-go and Chorzowska streets in the north, along the Dudy-Gracza, Graniczna and Sowińskiego streets in the east, the A4 motorway in the south and along the railway line and Goeppert-Mayer and Grundmann streets in the west (fig. 1). This area largely overlaps with the original borders of the city of Katowice, enacted in 1865 (upon receipt of civic rights), which included three historic settlements: village Forge Bogucka, village Katowice and manorial farm Karbowa.

The city center of Katowice is morphologically heterogeneous (fig. 2), and its morphogenetic structure was formed in five stages (tab. 1). In the past, the area repeatedly has undergone changes. Its primary land use (not counting the natural, which the first settlers found here) was associated with the activities carried out by its inhabitants, these are forging and farming. The first transformation took place here during the industrial revolution and as a result of efforts of owners and wealthier residents

of Katowice to create a city here. The next were associated with increasing rank of the city, which became at first the seat of the municipality authorities, then of the poviast authorities, and finally of the voivodship authorities. Following changes were of the politico-ideological nature (removal of the synagogue by the Nazis during World War II, the liquidation of former German traces in Polish People's Republic). All of them were supposed to adapt the space to the current needs of the city and its inhabitants (CHMIELEWSKA, 2011).

Urban space of the city center of Katowice is also varied due to the susceptibility to morphological changes (fig. 3). As the most permanent morphological elements, there might be recognized the transportation routes. The oldest of them refer to the medieval trade routes and are preserved until today in nearly unchanged shape (not counting the modernization). Also the roads, which were marked out in the later stages of the development, are relatively permanent, only the major of them underwent reconstruction – they were usually widened to make them more passable. Whereas, the most commonly changed parts of space of Katowice city center are: the area of the former forge, the train station area and the market area. The way of their development and their functions have changed in the past many times and these sites are also converted nowadays (CHMIELEWSKA, 2011).

FACTORS STIMULATING THE CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN SPACE IN KATOWICE CITY CENTER

Contemporary changes of space of Katowice city center are related to the ambitions of the city authorities that seek to transform it into a modern service center and cultural center, the core of a metropolis. According to The City Development Strategy: "Katowice 2020" (2005), the city center will be filled with objects of a higher order functions and will become also an attractive place for leisure, both for locals and for visitors. Therefore, the following actions are planned (*Strategia...*, 2005):

- reconstruction and change of functions of unattractive objects,
- modernization and revitalization of the buildings from the 60s and 70s and of the depreciated housing resources,
- ordering and improving the attractiveness of the main streets,

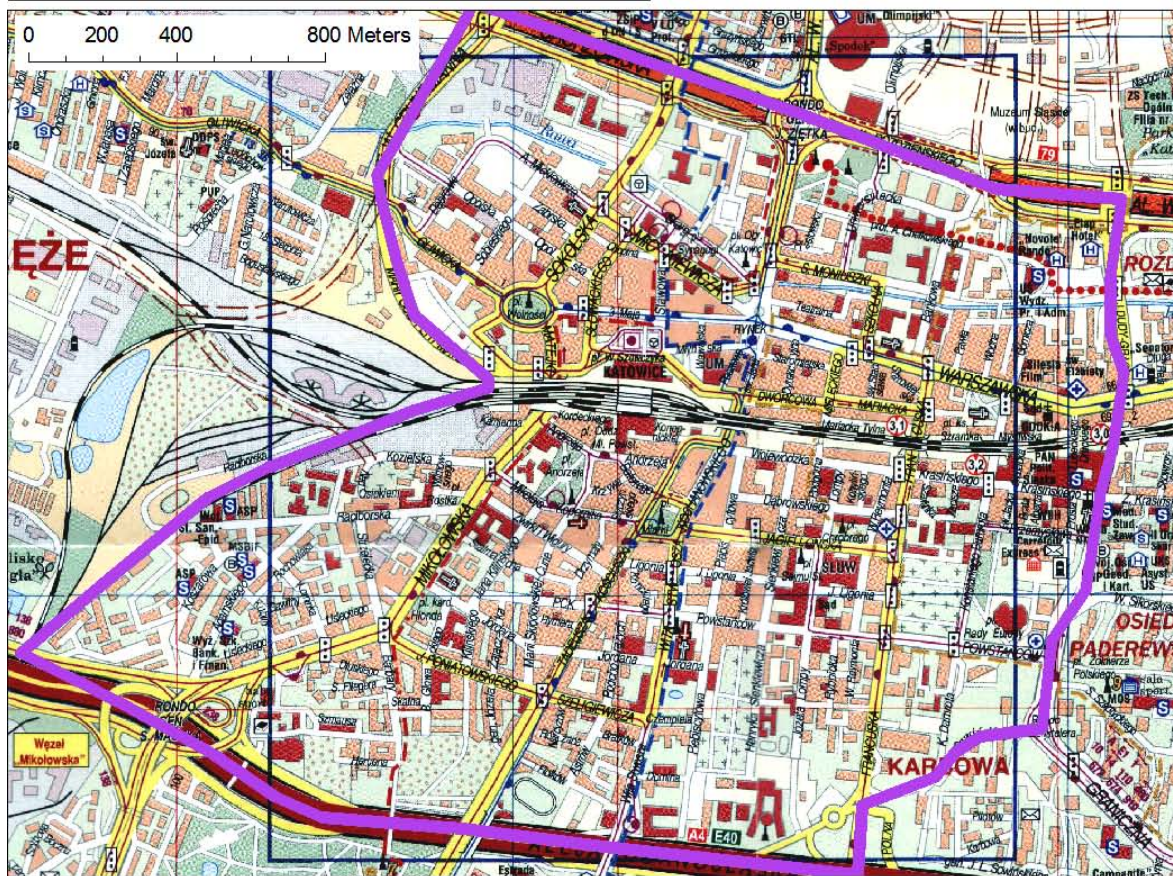
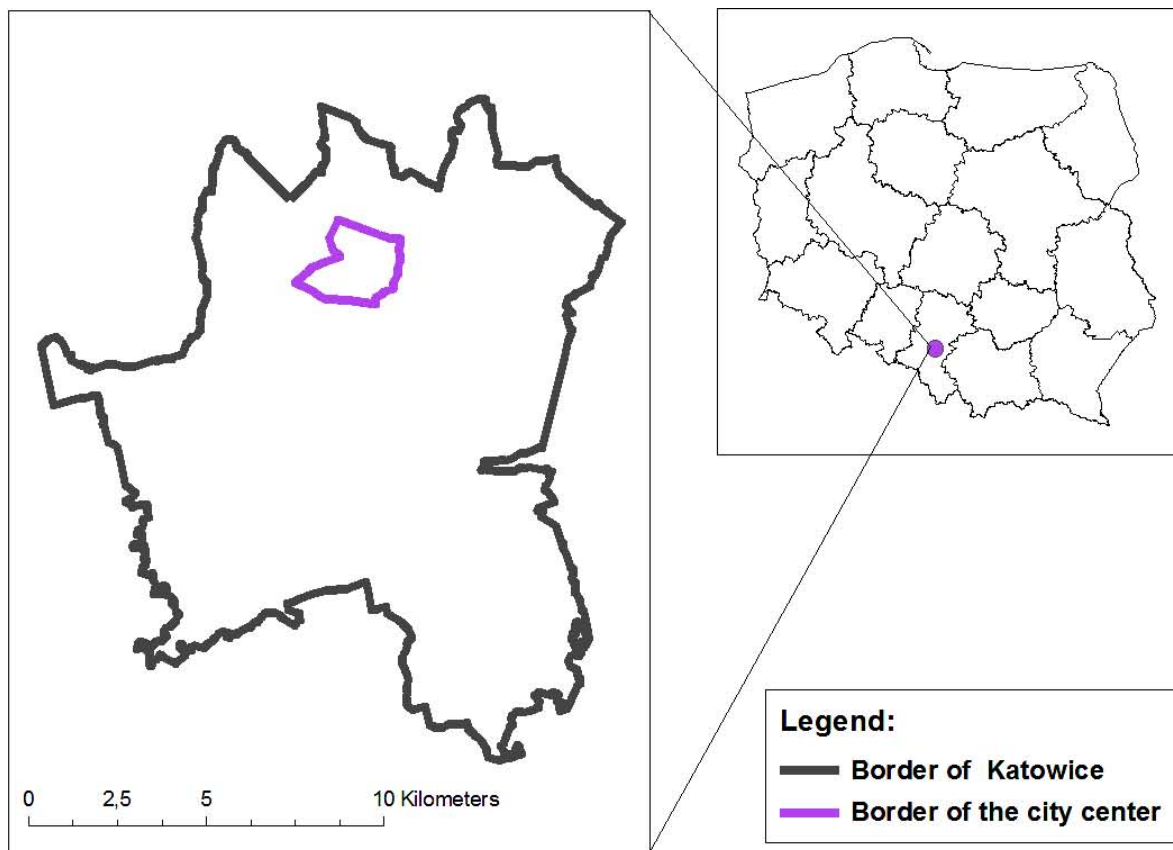


Fig. 1. Location of the city center of Katowice (source: fragment of the Town Plan of Katowice in 2008)

Rys. 1. Lokalizacja śródmieścia Katowic (źródło: fragment Planu Miasta Katowice z 2008 roku)

Table 1. Stages of morphological development of the city center of Katowice
Tabela 1. Etapy rozwoju morfologicznego centrum Katowic

Stage	Years	Characteristics	Forms preserved in morphology
I	1397 (1598)*–1865	The period before gaining of civic rights. The slow development of rural settlement. Agricultural activities and forging, and since the early nineteenth century - the early industrialization.	The course of major transportation routes - roads and railways. Single elements of the building (Protestant Church).
II	1865–1922	Katowice as a young German town. The first planned development of the area: - According to the Notebohn plan, - According to the Nepilly plan. Output of agriculture and industry outside of the town. Reducing the surface of the pond.	The layout and construction of strict center between Rawa river and railroad tracks, with two squares (Wolności and Market). The layout and the partially development of areas located south to the railway line.
III	1922–1945	Katowice as the capital city of a voivodship in the reborn Poland and of a German province during the World War II. Expansion of the city to the south. Overall liquidation of the pond and development of the area located south to it (Skargi street). Ideological demolition during the war (Synagogue, Silesian Museum).	Layout and building in the area located south to the railway track: - The administrative center on the east side of Kosciuszko Street, - Modernist housing development on the west side of Kosciuszko Street. Indoor market at the Skargi street.
IV	1945–1989	Katowice shortly after the war and in the PRL. Demolition of 'Traces of Germanness' in the city (Winckler's mansion, Grundmann's villa). Creation of a new railway station and Szewczyk square. Rebuilding of the market square. Development of the area previously used by ironworks Marta (north to the former pond) and the former manorial area. Further development of the south part of the city center.	Layout and building in the area located north to the Rawa river. Buildings within the market square. Representative buildings along the A4 motorway (buildings of Academy of Physical Education and of the Police Station). Housing developments in the south part of the city center: - near the Academy of Physical Education, - the Paderewskiego Housing Development.
V	After 1989	After the transition. Location of modern buildings (banks, court, office blocks and hotels, academic buildings and libraries) all over the city center. Broadening of the main west – east transportation routes and development of the area along them.	Buildings along Chorzowska street and at the Rada Europy square. Single buildings fit into previously developed sites (e.g. Altus, NBP bank, concert hall).

* – 1397 – the first mention about Kuźnica Bogucka, 1598 – the first mention about Katowice and Karbowa
(source: on the basis of SZARANIEC, 1980; STARNAWSKA, 1990; ADAMCZYK, 1993).

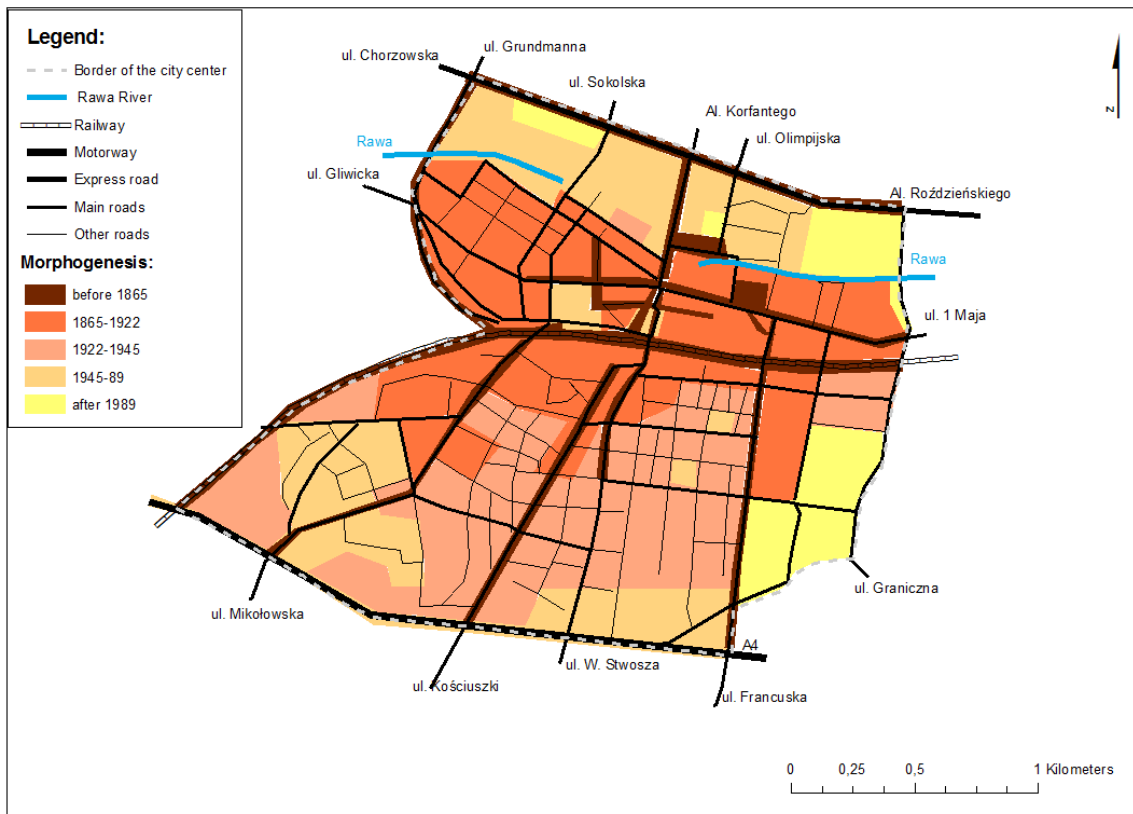


Fig. 2. Morphogenesis of the city center of Katowice
Rys. 2. Morfogeneza śródmieścia Katowic

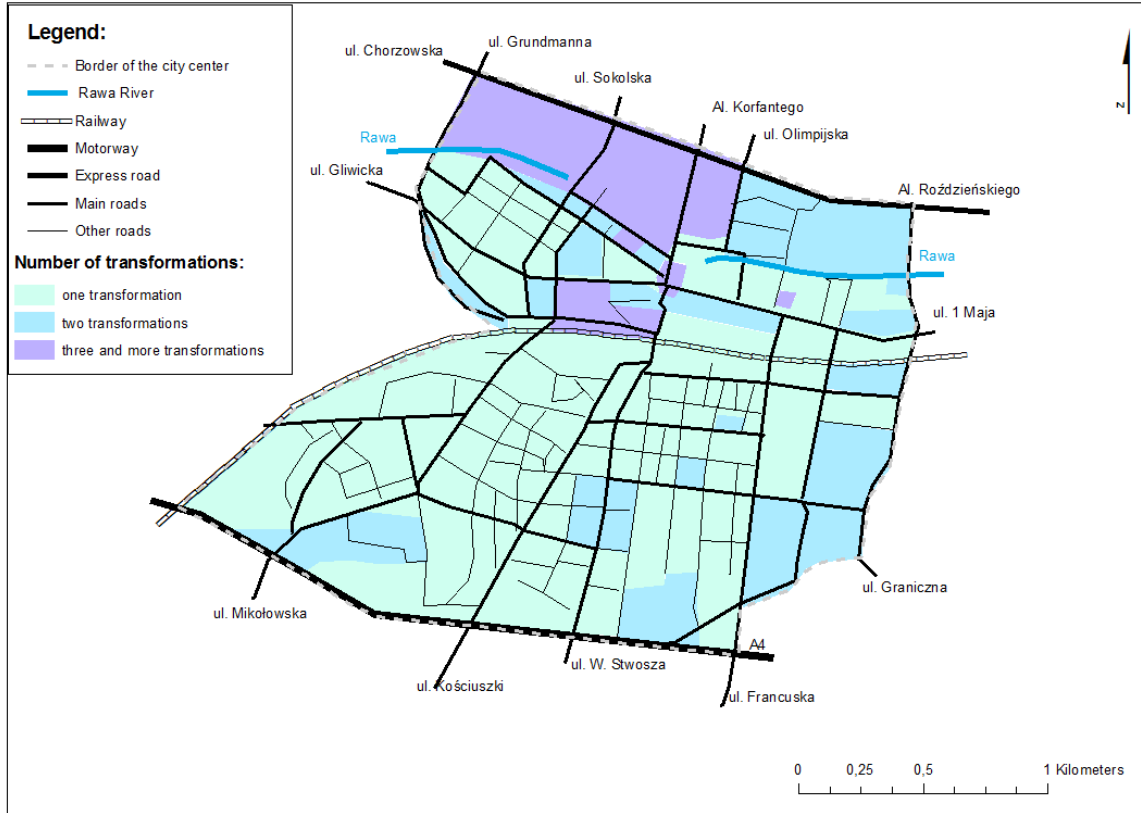


Fig. 3. Frequency of morphological transformations of space in the city center of Katowice
Rys. 3. Częstotliwość przemian morfologicznych w śródmieściu Katowic

- redevelopment of a market area, the area of railway station and the area of Polish Motor Transport station,
- introduction to the urban space some symbolic elements referring to the history of Katowice and Silesia,
- organization of artistic, scientific and entertainment events of nationwide and international importance,
- ordering and modernization of transportation routes,
- creating favorable conditions for foreign investors investing in the city center.

Some of this actions have already been partially implemented.

The Strategy (*Strategia...*, 2005) presented above is consistent with the Local Revitalization Program of Katowice (*Lokalny...*, 2007), which provides for the revitalization of the area of the city center. According to the general assumptions of this program several actions are planned, these are:

- reconstruction of roads and squares (on the one hand, to make transportation routes more passable for cars, on the other hand, in order to create more space for pedestrians),
- modernization of residential buildings together with gentrification,
- modernization of public buildings,
- creation of new public spaces.

In this Program, there were determined over a dozen 'operational sectors' (fig. 4), which can be divided into several types: representative areas in the core of city center, residential blocks, academic sites, city squares, post-industrial, post-military and post-railway brownfields, and allotments.

Crucial for changing the city's image and increasing of its metropolitan functions are actions within the representative areas in the core of city center (sectors 1-3), and in the academic sites. Redevelopment of other selected types of 'operational sectors' is complementary.

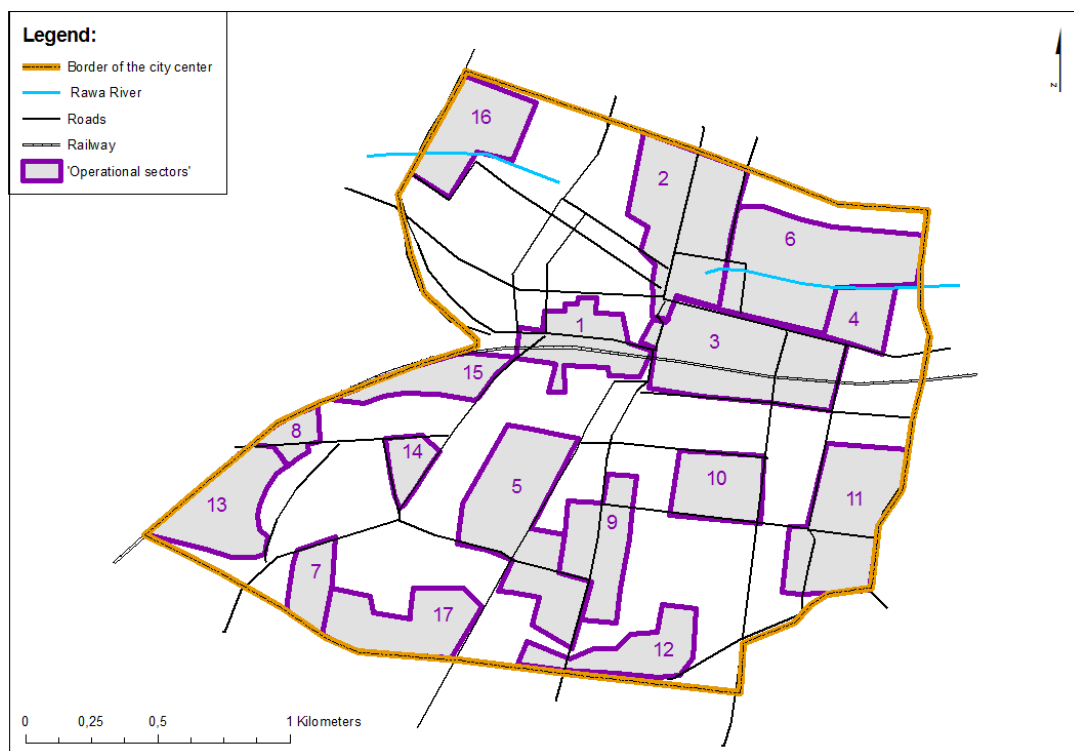


Fig. 4. 'Operational sectors' in the city center of Katowice designated in Local Revitalization Program of Katowice (2007): 1 – area of the railway station, 2 – zone between the market square and the roundabout, 3 – area of Dworcowa street, 4 – quarter of Pawła, Wodna and Górnicza streets, 5 – area of Skłodowska – Curie street, 6 – area of the University of Silesia, 7 – area of the Academy of Physical Education, 8 – the area of the Academy of Art, 9 – area of cathedral, 10 – Sejm Śląski square, 11 – Rada Europy square, 12 – area of Górnośląska street, 13 – area of Koszarowa street, 14 – quarter of Raciborska, Strzelecka and Mikołowska streets, 15 – area of Kozielska street, 17 – area of Dąbrówki and Grundmanna streets, 17 – area of Kościuszki and Barbary streets (source: on the basis of *Lokalny...*, 2007).

Rys. 4. 'Strefy operacyjne' w śródmieściu Katowic wyznaczone w Lokalnym Programie Rewitalizacji Miasta Katowice (2007): 1 – strefa dworca PKP, 2 – strefa Rynek – Rondo, 3 – strefa ul. Dworcowej, 4 – strefa ulic Pawła – Wodna – Górnicza, 5 – strefa ul. Skłodowskiej – Curie, 6 – strefa UŚ, 7 – strefa AWF, 8 – strefa ASP, 9 – strefa Katedry, 10 – strefa Placu Sejmu Śląskiego, 11 – strefa Placu Rady Europy, 12 – strefa al. Górnośląskiej, 13 – rejon ul. Koszarowej, 14 – rejon ul. Raciborska – Strzelecka – Mikołowska, 15 – rejon ul. Kozielskiej, 16 – rejon ul. Dąbrówki – Grundmanna, 17 – rejon ul. Barbary – Kościuszki (źródło: na podstawie: *Lokalny...*, 2007).

MORPHOLOGICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHANGES IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE KATOWICE CITY CENTER

The most important area in transition is the zone between the market and the roundabout (sector 2 in fig. 4) in the core of the city center, thus one of the areas that have been already transformed in the past. Its first transformation took place in the middle of the 19th century. In place of the intersection of rural communication routes, in accordance with a plan created by Notebohn, there was established the market square surrounded from 4 sides with tenement houses and public buildings: the town hall, the theater, hotels and the department store. At the same time the area along the street coming out of the market to the north (nowadays Korfantego street), from the market square to the intersection with the road leading to Chorzów, was developed. On its east side was located the manor house of the owner of Katowice (Franz Winckler) with the manorial park and farm, and on the west side, in place of Katowicka Foundry (formerly Bogucka Forge) the city park was founded.

The second transformation occurred in stages in the second half of the 20th century. At first the market was enlarged to include area remaining after the burning of the southern building block. Then this new square was built from three sides by: the multi-functional building in the south (between Jana street and Pocztowa street), 'Zenit' department store (in the east) and 'Dom Prasy' (in the west). Later around the old part of the market the another department store 'Skarbek' was built, in addition a part of the northern frontage of this square was demolished, in order to widen the Korfantego street. At the same time the area along the Korfantego street was redeveloped: in place of the manorial building the shopping mall 'Delikatesy' and the hotel 'Katowice' were built, while the space previously covered by pond and Marta Foundry was rebuilt towards a complex of public and residential buildings called the 'West Block', finally and at the end of this section of Korfantego street the roundabout was created (ADAMCZYK, 1993).

Nowadays the third transition of the zone between the market and the roundabout is taking place. In general, the concept involves the creation of a representative public space that meets the metropolitan functions and the transformation of this part of the city center into a modern center of metropolis, so into a place, where people will willingly live, work, and spend time (*Lokalny ...*, 2007).

Roundabout was the first rebuilt part of this area (in 2006). Previously existing underground

shopping gallery was liquidated (now under the roundabout leads a road tunnel for cars), and on the surface, next to the tram stop, the representative town square with a fountain was created. In addition, half of the roundabout was covered with a dome, under which is a restaurant, a club ('Eye of the City') and the art gallery ('The Roundabout of Art'). As a result there was created a modern public space, especially attractive to young people.

To find a final plan of redevelopment of other parts of the area between the market square and a roundabout, local authorities announced an architectural competition and carried out public consultation several times. Although the results of these competitions and consultation has been published, the final look of the area is not specified so far (MALKOWSKI, 2006, *Portal Samorządowy*, 2010, JEDLECKI, 2010, 2011). Among the most important issues which should be discussed are:

- the issue of trams in the market square – whether they should be removed, moved, or moved underground?
- the issue of the Rawa – whether to uncover the river or not?
- question, if between 'Zenit' and 'Dom Prasy' should be built a new building?
- issue of Polish People's Republic-era buildings – whether they should be preserved, rebuilt or demolished?

At the beginning of 2012 it is already known that the trams will only be moved to the east side of the market square. The fate of some buildings from the era of Polish People's Republic is also known. 'Skarbek', 'Zenit', 'Dom Prasy' and block of flats 'Superjednostka' were recently renovated. In 2011 began also the demolition of this type of buildings. The first one demolished was the Wedding Palace (temporarily in its place there is a parking), and next in line to liquidation is the adjoining former department store 'Junior'. Other issues are still open.

The second important area of changes are quarters of building along the streets Dworcowa and Mariacka (sector 3 in fig. 4). In contrast to the zone between the market square and the roundabout this area is coherent in respect of morphogenesis, and it was developed at the end of the 19th century, in accordance to the plan of Nepilly. Due to its location near to the train station, in the past these streets were representative, and filled with hotels, restaurants and banks. The area has lost its importance with the emergence of a new train station, at the Szewczyk square. As a consequence, this area progressively underwent degradation.

Revitalization of this part of the city center aims to create there a so-called 'small market' (*Lokalny...*, 2007). The first phase of its transition, involving Staromiejska, Dyrekcyjna, Mielęckiego and Mariacka streets, is completed so far. These streets are excluded from traffic and developed as a pedestrian area suitable for organizing cultural and entertainment outdoor events. The results of this transformation are especially visible on Mariacka street, which used to be neglected and even notorious (because of the prostitutes). By locating here many pubs, clubs and restaurants, it is now the most fashionable place for a night of clubbing in Katowice. Additionally in connection with the closure for cars of Mariacka street (which used to be important west-east route through the city center) the previously closed Mariacka Tylna street was reopened for traffic.

The second phase of the revitalization of this area includes actions at the Dworcowa street. Also this street is planned to be turned into a pedestrian zone, while below it the underground parking is to be built (local authorities have not found an investor who will undertake this action yet). So far, thanks to the location of two representative hotels and an elegant shopping gallery, the street has regained some of its importance. However, still quite problematic is the lack of ideas for revaluation of the old train station.

The third key area of changes in the Katowice city center is the Szewczyk square (sector 1 in fig. 4), at which currently lasts the construction of a new railway station. This place is one of the most susceptible to changes in the study area. Urban development entered here on the rural areas in the second half of the 19th century in accordance to the Notebohn's plan. In those days it was a block of tenement houses located along Młyńska, Stawowa and 3-Maja streets. In the 1970. these buildings were demolished to create a space for a railway station (chronologically the third) and for the bus station. The current transformation provides for the re-building of the quarter. In addition to the new train station (chronologically the fourth) in this place rises a multi-level shopping center with an underground bus station. A modern glass building will, however, strongly contrasted with the existing nineteenth-century buildings.

In an effort to improve the image of the city and to develop the metropolitan functions in the city center, a number of investments related to the higher education schools are carried out. First of all, these are already built new academic buildings: Faculty of Law and Administration (University of Silesia), Center for Science and Music Education

(Academy of Music) and Central Library. Furthermore among them are modernized buildings of the rector's office at the University of Silesia, and of the faculty of the Silesian University of Technology. Finally these are also planned construction of the new seat of Radio and Television Faculty of the University of Silesia with the Movie Center and of new didactic buildings of the Academy of Arts. In addition, in planning the redevelopment of the city center repeatedly returned the problem of the location of the academic campus (currently it is located peripherally in the district Ligota). Only a few years ago, dormitories were planned to be built in the adjacent to the University of Silesia, demanding revitalization quarter among Pawła, Wodna and Górnicza streets (STYRNA, 2010), but in 2011 the new concept for campus localization appeared – it might be built in another demanding revitalization quarter, among the Gliwicka, Dąbrówki and Grundmanna streets (MALINOWSKA, 2011). All of these projects reflect the attention drawn by the city authorities to the need to develop and increase the competitiveness of Academic Schools in Katowice.

NEW TRENDS IN MORPHOLOGY OF KATOWICE CITY CENTER

Contemporary transformations of the city center of Katowice are reflected in its morphology. To a lesser degree changes in morphology are caused by the conversion of existing buildings. The impact of modernization and renovation of existing buildings is minimal, in most cases it only improves their visual appearance.

Liquidation of an object is usually connected with its poor technical condition or with the new development concept of a space, in which it is located. In general, nowadays in Katowice city center only ruined houses of low architectural value have been demolished. Recently it appeared, however, a new trend, according to which post-modern, Polish People's Republic-era buildings are being liquidated. So far, in the city center two of such objects were demolished, these are: the railway station and the 'Wedding Palace'. While the first of them was removed in order to build a new train station, the second was liquidated without the concept of further development of the site. As a result the architectural concept of the so-called 'West Block' quarter was disrupted, and in the future the elimination of other remaining post-modern elements of this block will probably be in progress.

In the city center of Katowice many more buildings are risen than liquidated. Since the beginning of the transition a lot of new objects, usually representative, has been created, these are: banks, hotels, office buildings and cultural sites. Most of them are characterized by original architectural form and large size. For older buildings, glass facades are typical (e.g. banks at Chorzowska street, at Sokolska street and at Powstańców street) but in younger buildings, it is visible moving away from this trend (Central Library, Center for Science and Music Education, District Court, Bank of NBP). The presence of such representative buildings, especially at entry routes into the center, adds this space more metropolitan character. Mostly interfering in morphology are, however, modern buildings located between the buildings from earlier periods (e.g. multi-functional skyscraper Altus among art nouveau housing and post-modern buildings, or the newest railway station with shopping center among tenement houses from the nineteenth-century). Due to the fact, that Katowice even before has been developed as a mosaic of buildings of different ages, his trend should not be received negatively.

Changes in morphology of building in Katowice city center are more often generated by new tendency to rebuild them, especially to rebuild so-called 'symbols of the city'. Spectacular example of such an action is the conversion of the roundabout, which is completely different, since enriched by the dome. Recently also the 'Dom Prasy' was rebuilt, in addition to exchange of elevation it was supposed to be deprived of several floors, which would align it with the neighboring buildings, giving the effect of greater harmony of the market square, but in the end this plan has not been implemented. For the nearest future there are other rebuilding projects planned, among them is the metamorphosis of 'Supersam', an architecturally unique indoor market built in the interwar period, which will turn into a modern shopping gallery (przemiana.katowice.eu).

Transformations in space of Katowice city center are also reflected in changes of functions of sites. Generally, it might be said, that all built and rebuilt objects had or gained a service function. Particular attention is paid to that this functions should be metropolitan and of a higher-order. Therefore, in recent years in the city center of Katowice there were built many office blocks, banks, or high-class hotels, as well as academic sites. In addition, Katowice promotes itself as a city of culture and a young people-friendly city, so there are created public spaces suitable for organization various types of events. Finally, there are made efforts towards

the restoration of trade functions in the city center, the importance of which has declined after the opening of shopping gallery Silesia City Center. For this purpose, there arise two shopping galleries: Katowice Gallery at the train station and the Supersam Gallery.

SUMMARY

The aim of this paper was to indicate trends currently affecting the morphology of the Katowice city center. This trends are strongly connected with morphological and functional changes contemporary occurring in its urban space, main reason of which is the striving to change the image of the city and to transform it into a modern service center and cultural center, the core of a metropolis. There were identified three strategic areas: 1) area between the market and the roundabout, 2) area of Mariacka street and Dworcowa street, and 3) the area of the train station, which are comprehensively changed in both morphological and functional way. Analysis of directions of actions conducted there led to the specification of the most important trends affecting nowadays the morphology of the city center of Katowice, these are:

- demolition of post-modern building,
- construction of buildings, contrasting with the surrounding site,
- reconstruction of buildings, which are symbols of the city,
- creation of public spaces, suitable for events,
- development of metropolitan functions,
- striving for restoration of trade functions.

Although these trends are consistent with the general direction of the transformation of the city center, it seems that they are inconsistent with each other. This is particularly reflected in the activities undertaken within the market square and along the Korfantego street despite the lack of the concept of the redevelopment of these areas. Slightly illogical is also the concept of the location of two shopping centers in such a close proximity as between the future Katowicka Gallery and Supersam Gallery. In addition, it must be said that these and certain other changes (especially demolition or conversion of buildings) are controversial, they provoke protests of some people and get the approval of others. Such a situation confirms the strong interest of the inhabitants in shape of the city and stimulates its further development. In the nearest future this initiated changes are going to be continued as the evolution of urban space lasts.

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