11TH CTV

back to the sense of the city

THE REAL CITY - THE MENTAL CITY

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Abstract

The search for relationships and dependencies between the real city and its **mental image**, may prove to be a key to understanding and reading the needs of the residents, primarily related to safety and comfort of living, as well as the location of places conducive to the development of social bonds. One of the important elements in the structure of a city is the public space. Reproduced on the mental maps, it is the most distinctive and recurring element in its image. Not adapted to new needs and neglected, it disintegrates the local community. Erased from memory, it leaves an empty space in the notional image of the city. Students from three Kraków-based universities have been dealing with the issue of the repair of public spaces (at the stage of creation of conceptual designs) for several years, forming interdisciplinary design teams made up of architects, interior designers, sociologists and aesthetes. Practical sociological studies are employed in order to create an image of the needs of the local inhabitants, which is then translated into design visions of various types of public spaces, conducive to the realization of their needs.

The real city

The real city is an intensely built-up space, which is to ensure safety and convenience for its residents. On the drawings of urban planners it is a colorful patchwork on which residential, industrial, commercial and green areas are marked with appropriate colors. On closer inspection it reveals its fabric, made up of the network of streets and thoroughfares, cutting through more or less densely concentrated urban layouts, depending on the distance from the historical center. An immanent feature of the city are the constantly occurring social processes

which unite or divide its people, forming social groups and their subsequent divisions, affecting the development of social identity. Social relations in cities are to a large extent built through public spaces. People began to recognize their positive effect on the mental health of the inhabitants and their emotional development. The beneficial properties of locations with which we can identify and which create lasting social bonds were noticed. The way in which a city is organized has a very big effect on the formation processes conducive to collectivization. As social beings, people have a natural need for such contacts, which they realize precisely in the social spaces of cities and residential estates. We cannot clearly define what defines sociopetal space, because its beneficial features consist of many elements, i.a. the quality of the surrounding architecture, its scale, furnishing as well as the aura of a place. However, the conscious creation of opportunities for the creation of such space already at the stage of planning and later its implementation, is an indispensable cultural landscape of contemporary cities. Like the streets, squares and buildings, they are one of the elements of the architectural structure on the real map of the city. They are a testament to the residents' community involvement. Since not all cities were designed by Scamozzi, in most of them the public spaces, like architecture and even parts of neighborhoods, constitute solutions which are more or less successful.[1] In extreme cases, they become oppressive spaces. Effectively avoided or taken over by subcultures, they create a negative image of the city.[2] As any other metropolitan area, Kraków is struggling with many problems, which make life more difficult for its inhabitants. Outside of communication problems and life-threatening levels of smog, the city has never devised a program for the repair of the existing public spaces, which are neglected and pushed to the sidelines of public priorities. In spite of their large potential, at present they are not places which are conducive to social activity, which constitute an element of territorial identity, so

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[1]   Vincenzo Scamozzi - a Venetian architect, who designed many completed churches, houses of wealthy families and even squares, but is primarily known for the project of a perfect city Palmanova, which was built in the Renaissance and survived to the present day in non altered form. The city is in a way very democratic, with streets of equal width, equal access to the one common public space - the hexagonal central square. It was fully defined even before its construction, with nothing left to chance, but also without room for development. This may constitute a reference to contemporary cities in Poland. The protection of not necessarily valuable historical heritage frequently leads to the consolidation of the spatial structure and the end of its development. A city has to develop for the good of its inhabitants, frequently giving up on the understandable sentiments in order to improve the quality of life. Perhaps Jacques Derrida was right, when he condemned the process of city planning, which has now been carried out for decades by the urban planners. He rejected their working methods aimed at the creation of a finished, all-encompassing work. He suggested that city planning should be guided by the principle of "incompleteness", which should include leaving unfinished fragments of the urban space, for those who will come after us. To give others the opportunity to build their own relationship with the city from scratch. He emphasized the role of formal aesthetic and cultural dialogue.

[2]   Oppressive spaces were the subject of interdisciplinary student workshops NOWA PRZESTRZEŃ 2014 (New Space 2014). Young people from three Kraków universities (Faculty of Interior Design of the Academy Of Fine Arts, Faculty of Architecture of the Kraków University of Technology and the Institute of Sociology, Department of Aesthetics of the Jagiellonian University) were looking for design solutions for selected places in Kraków, which were deemed 'oppressive spaces' according to their selection criteria as well as the feelings of the local inhabitants (which has been demonstrated in field studies). The designated places were characterized by great diversity, from underground passages, passages under road communication overpasses, all the way to the new and latest projects implemented in Kraków. All the projects executed by students during the workshops provided interesting solutions for the repair of small parts of the urbanized space. The works presented by the students are original and unconventional solutions, surprising with their ingenuity. Some look further into the future, because that is where the designer's imagination went. That is very important, as it is them who will decide the fate of their city in the future.

important especially in this era of increasing alienation of the modern city, resulting from the properties of our postmodern reality. "This does not mean that municipal authorities and the various institutions functioning within their structure aren't taking measures in order to both symbolically "recover" the urban space or create areas of meetings and dialogue, as well as to introduce attractive forms of participation in the processes of social life". [3]The effect of the undertaken actions, however, is too small to constitute a visible improvement. It could be assumed that this state of affairs results from the utilization of proven methods for solving spatial problems by the municipal bodies established for that purpose, whose activities are based on models tested in the past. It looks as if the social and economic developments which had taken place after 1990 and which are still ongoing went unnoticed or were underestimated. "The individual elements of culture are changing: norms, values, beliefs, ways of communicating, symbols, material creations. New artistic currents emerge. All of these phenomena are to a greater or lesser extent reflected in the space ".[4] One example of such changes is the Forum Przestrzenie (Spaces Forum) in Kraków, a modern-day cultural center, as described by the creators of the idea, consisting in the re-adaptation of the interior and the surroundings of the former building of the Forum Hotel, a symbol of the excellent modernist architecture of the second half of the 20th century. The Forum Hotel, along with the Cracovia Hotel and the famous "skeletor" building, are examples of bureaucratic obstructionism, every once in while becoming the pretext for stormy discussions, which end without concrete conclusions and are conducted to the detriment of the local inhabitants. The long-term presence of empty spaces around the Forum has distorted our visual perception, excluding it from our field of vision as a useless place. It would be a normal occurrence if this concerned the post-industrial parts of the city somewhere on the outskirts, but not in the very center of the city. This has been a sad, long-term experience. That is all the more reason why we should appreciate the initiative of young people for the revival of this place with a unique view of the Wawel Castle. For young people, Forum Przestrzenie has become a brand, a place of meeting and dialogue involving various communities. The Forum is not an isolated phenomenon. The club and cafe organized in the former waiting room at the Warszawa Powiśle train station is a similar place. Its building is also an architectural treasure representing the public utility buildings of the 1960s, rescued from total ruin. Similar activities are also visible in Łódź, where such meeting places are emerging in the numerous buildings of the former textile factories. These and similar activities fit in with the Europe-wide trend of young people creating spaces for their own cultural and social activity. The Forum Przestrzenie in Kraków is one of the few examples of social activity, which is a reaction to the long-term inactivity of the municipal authorities. A distinctive point in the social space of the city has emerged, which fulfills the different needs of young people. It is all the more important in the case of Kraków, as the ongoing changes resulting from the natural development of the city, more and more frequently push native inhabitants outside the area of the strict city center, which is one of the major attractions in our country due to its unique

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[3]   Karwińska Anna. *Nowe przestrzenie społeczne w miastach współczesnych. Krakowskie fresh points.* Łódź: Czasopismo Przegląd Socjologiczny, no 2-3. 2011, p. 255. Source: cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.../c/Anna_Karwinska.pdf.

[4]   Ibidem, p.259

architectural value. "The Main Square, one of the most important places, not only in the scale of the city or the cultural areas, remains a phenomenon of Kraków. However today, especially in the opinion of Kraków's inhabitants, it is in danger of excessive commercialization and banalization associated with the subordination of its social functions to the demands of tourism".[5] Hence the urgent need for both architects and urban planners to create new public spaces, conducive to the development of a sense of one's distinctiveness. Forum Przestrzenie is the best example of that. "The structure of the urban space is created by built-up areas as well as undeveloped areas - empty areas, which include public spaces with different characteristics: formal, functional and compositional, but also with different levels and types of constraints: hard - buildings, and soft - green areas. In addition to material values, the spatial and social value of a public space is also determined by its cultural values and meanings which define identity".[6] All these types, properly processed in our imagination, form the important fragments of the mental map, where that which is unnecessary or "unusable" is rejected, and that which constitutes a significant value, leaves a lasting mark in its image. This highly selective image, constructed through cognitive processes, psychosomatic and kinesthetic sensations, is also an image of emotions in contact with space, architecture and another man. Over the last eight years, during annual interdisciplinary workshops NOWA PRZESTRZEŃ, students from three Kraków-based universities (Academy Of Fine Arts, Kraków University of Technology and the Jagiellonian University) have studied Kraków's public spaces in terms of their spatial, architectural and social value. They looked for design solutions for poorly maintained places, which were to restore the degraded space to the residents, thus enabling their use for all sorts of social activity. The designs mainly concerned city squares and little squares, streets and even places which - for a variety of reasons, but most due to neglect - have been deemed oppressive. The selection was diverse, but in many cases obvious, especially for the city's inhabitants who drive by or walk by these places every day. Places deemed oppressive included all sorts of underground passages, walkways and passages under road overpasses, and in one case even a location within contemporary architecture. In several projects the students, somewhat intuitively, sought spatial solutions for the Vistula boulevards, which have for many years waited for ideas for their spatial and cultural development and organization, even though they are located in the center of the city. Kraków is one of the few Polish cities so ostentatiously turned away from the river, thereby squandering the extraordinary potential of the riverside areas. Their strength is best evidenced by the positive changes in the development of parts of the city on both sides of the river, which have occurred after the construction of the Father Bernatek footbridge. This clearly proves, that despite the construction of two new bridges and the aforementioned footbridge, there is still a need for the implementation of additional communication links between the southern and northern parts of the city.

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[5] Ibidem, p.268

[6] Cichy-Pazder Ewa. *Przestrzeń publiczna – wspólna i odnaleziona*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo NOWA PRZESTRZEŃ. Wydawca Wydział Architektury Wnętrz, Akademia Sztuk Pięknych im. J. Matejki w Krakowie, 2016, p.21.

Figure 1. Examples of neglected public spaces and oppressive places

Source: 1. Skeleton of the NOT building (Il. T. Kapecki), 2. Fragment of the Vistula boulevards (Il. T. Kapecki),
3. Cracovia Hotel (Kraków's youngest abandoned building, Il. T. Kapecki)

In spite of an architectural contest, the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, which is one of the most interesting examples of contemporary architecture in Kraków, still does not have a connection with the opposite bank of the Vistula River. Surrounded by heavily congested streets, which hamper pedestrian traffic, it effectively discourages potential clients from visiting, despite the fact that it is located opposite the Wawel Royal Castle. Two student projects were connected to this particular location and presented solutions for the problem described above. And although these are difficult design matters even for experienced architects, the youth participating in the workshops approached them without fear. They demonstrated visions of their city in the future, but with respect to the location, considering that an important element of the project, and referring in this way to the important aspect of continuity of its historical development. They presented visions of a city in which they would like to live, learn, work, meet with friends and spend their free time. In their proposals for the new life of Kraków's famous abandoned buildings they have appreciated the good modernist architecture of the Forum and Cracovia hotels, but also approached the subject in a very ambitious manner, moving beyond stereotypes and transforming both the buildings and their surroundings. In this way they manifested their own point of view. They are not interested in

architectural "corpses", because, as they say, they do not want to live in their shadow for the next twenty years. There may not be any genius loci, or the magic of these places, because, as noted by Professor Wojciech Kosiński from the Kraków University of Technology at an introductory lecture to the subsequent workshops, "the word magic is not fitting for science". However, the sites of both the Forum and Cracovia are important places in the structure of the city, partly because of the emotions and memories from the times when they were still operating.

Figure 2. Architectural transformation of public buildings and their surroundings[7]

Source: 1. Project for the reconstruction of the NOT office building (1), 2.Project for the reconstruction of the NOT office building (2), 3. New image of the Cracovia hotel building and its surroundings

A second group of solutions prepared by the interdisciplinary teams were projects for the creation of new public spaces, conducive to the crystallization of contacts between different social groups, age groups, ethnic groups etc. These designs show an image of a city with which their authors identify. The most apparent, however, is the desire to escape from the clichéd dwelling patterns. "New thinking shows that many people today are looking for architecture which could live up to our biological, sensual and motoric being-in-the-world much more than

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7   Figure no. 1 - prepared by the student design team: K. Potębska, E. Zielonka, P. Zwolak, S. Kulik, M. Jania, N. Fudała, M. Bąkowska Figure no. 2: D. Kurtyka, A. Musiał, K. Wieja, M. Wronka, J. Mleczko, M. Kwiecień, M. Curyło, Figure no. 3: E. Jończyk, A. Przybycin, M. Leśniak, M. Straszak, M. Mańka, I. Pieklus, P. Gurgul.

any rational architecture".[8] „Heidegger warned against an excessively narrow understanding of phenomena. He indicated that dwelling becomes the ordinary occupation of the built-up space and ceases to be experienced as a way of being human. The superficial meaning wins with the deeper meaning and we don't pay attention, because we're used to the excessively scant instrumental understanding of things, devoid of the wealth of references. The reduced perception of the world is not innocent, however, it has its consequences.[9] This idea can be related to the contemporary reading of the city, in which its continuous development is conducive to the creation of new spatial values alongside those already existing, often based on emotions, positively verified by time. This encourages us to discover once more its well-known parts, increasingly comfortable, utilizing all the modern means conducive to that end. "A man always develops his personality and develops physically in some spatial and social reality".[10] Its continuity shapes the individual identity, constructed from events in this space, and local neighborly bonds. A city is a kind of palimpsest. "In order to be able to read space together, we need a community of experiences, that is memory and knowledge - our own, or secondary, passed to us by others. Memory and knowledge are the tools for reading the signs described by Ewa Rewers ".[11] Every time, by reading the city again, we create new entries in its mental image.

The mental city

The mental city, created by its inhabitants from their own thoughts. Full of concepts, associations, symbols and slogans. Made of logical structures conducive to spatial and social identification, and of the elements defined by Kevin Lynch in the mental map.[12] A city which does not constitute an alternative to the real world. It is a collection of notions about the city, constructed from the values assigned to its elements which shape human behavior in space. "Each of us creates a mental map of the spaces where we roam. Everyone has their own, unique map. On this map we distinguish important places based on observation and experience. We usually create our map unwittingly, in the course of daily activities, and we only become aware of our relationship with some place in situations of questions or choices or if we are about to lose the ability to go to that place"[13]. The mental city also includes non-places, which in our mental image are unnecessary, evil and oppressive. They take the form of black spots effectively deprived of their physicality. They are, however, an important information for the real city, indicating places where spatial interference is necessary, creating a new important

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[8] Wolfgang Welsch, *"Przestrzenie dla ludzi? / Spaces for Human?"*, [in:] „Co to jest architektura? / What is Architcture?", edited by Adam Budak. Kraków: Muzeum Sztuki i Techniki Japońskiej „Manggha", Kraków 2008, p. 184

[9] Heidegger Martin. : „…*poetycko mieszka człowiek…"*. in: I d e m : *Odczyty i rozprawy.* translated by J.Mizera. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Baran i Suszczyński, 2002, p. 170.

[10] Ostrowska Maria. *Człowiek a rzeczywistość przestrzenna.* Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Nauka i Życie, 1991, p.140

[11] Rewers Ewa. *Post-polis Wstęp do filozofii ponowoczesnego miasta.* Kraków: Universitas, 2005, p.21

[12] In *"The image of the City"* its author, Kevin Lynch, listed five key elements forming the mental image of the city: **landmarks** - identifiable points in space, **nodes** - strategic places such as squares, roundabouts, etc., **paths** - elements of communication, roads, streets, **edges** - boundaries between areas such as rivers, railways, highways, **districts** - two-dimensional areas, neighbourhoods, residential estates.

[13] Kucharczyk Joanna. *Postrzegać przestrzeń po swojemu – czyli o subiektywnym czytaniu miasta.* Source: http://ethnographerwrites.wordpress.com/2009/03/09/postrzegac-przestrzen-po-swojemu-czyli-o-subiektywnym-czytaniu-miasta/

orientation point in its space. Kraków has many such places, avoided by its inhabitants, erased from memory. They are testimony to the social gridlock, ordinary incompetence or the lack of needs on the part of the residents. This mainly concerns public spaces, transport solutions as well as public utility buildings, which, as was already mentioned, are waiting for their second life, or a bold decision on their demolition. Modern computer technology, supported by interdisciplinary knowledge, allows us to create virtual solutions which should become an element of public consultation and an important element of architectural and urban planning education prior to their implementation.

Figure 3. Mental maps - the graphical image of the sociological analysis of a fragment of a city[14]

Source: 1. Surroundings of the NOT office building, 2. Vistula boulevards near the Wawel Castle, 3. Surroundings of the Cracovia hotel

This is a good and effective method if done properly. Although the real city and the mental city exist in parallel spaces, they form a network of connections. The skillful reading of this network will not lead to the creation of an ideal city, but it could certainly improve the quality of life of its

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[14]   Figure no. 1 - prepared by the student design team: P. Dziedzic, K. Jania, W. Gryszkiewicz, M. Trystuła, M. Godlewski, A. Bartusiak, J. Reka.
Figure no. 2: A. Rusecka, A. Cencora, M. Sobolewska, P. Jaworska, A. Rokicka.
Figure no. 3: E. Jończyk, A. Przybycin, M. Leśniak, M. Straszak, M. Mańka, I. Pieklus, P. Gurgul.

inhabitants, and in the modern world that has a value which cannot be overestimated. A city is a spatial arrangement difficult to define, characterized by a multifaceted structure. The networks of connections are defined by scientists from different fields of knowledge. They all agree that the interpretation of the contemporary city is not the exclusive domain of urban planners and architects. In addition to the tangible constructs such as houses, streets and squares, there are also networks of urban infrastructure, described by Chmielewski as "a system of buildings and their supporting institutions, necessary for the proper functioning of a complex organism, which is the city". He includes within this group both the technical infrastructure (sanitation, energy, telecommunications), as well as the network of service infrastructure and even the municipal green areas. [15] The intangible networks of social relations and dependencies are closer to the considerations about the real and the mental city. "The adequate tool to describe urban communities is the network model, which in sociological terms is defined as any set of social objects (social actors) considered together with a certain system of social connections between them. [16] "The nature of the objects that make up the network can be very diverse. These can be human individuals, but also all sorts of social groups: small groups, families, clans, territorial communities, organizations "[17]. Analyzing in depth, we can also see network structures on the cultural, economic or professional plane. "All of these categories have a role in the transformation of the city from the classical *polis* into a new, difficult to define entity - the *post-polis* [Rewers, 2005]. One of its most characteristic features is the fact that informational social networks take over the role of the public sphere, replacing the classical agora and thus opening new possibilities for the co-government of cities" [Filip, 2015].[18] This negative image of the city covered by an informational web is a consequence of globalization and the pace of modern life. It is a progressing phenomenon whose limits are difficult to predict.

The side effect of the transformation of the urban community through the possibilities of modern information technology are antisocial tendencies and alienation. There is a decreased need for integration and being together and direct interpersonal contacts are being replaced with video content on one's smartphone. Despite the fact that Polish cities are constantly transforming their image, there is still a perceptible deficit of public spaces, which would ensure conditions conducive to meetings and conversation. Their absence is strongly felt especially in new residential estates. The fact that housing developments are designed in such a poor way, in times when so much is said about the need for sustainable urban development, unfortunately shows the strength of the developer lobby at all levels of the local government administration. One sad symbol of the remedial programs created by both sociologists and architects is the bench - because due to its size, it is the only item which can fit in somewhere between the rubbish bin and the only tree still remaining in the area. Another negative phenomenon, distorting the development of social bonds and repeatedly condemned in the public debate, is

[15]   Chmielewski Jan Maciej. *Teoria urbanistyki w projektowaniu i planowaniu miast.* Warszawa: Oficyna Wydawnicza Politechniki Warszawskiej, 2010, p. 179.

[16]   Filip Artur Jerzy. *Miasto jako struktura sieci współzależnych.* Katowice: Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego, no 217. 2015, p. 104.

[17]   Sozański Tadeusz. *Sieć społeczna [in:] Encyklopedia socjologii PWN.* Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, , 2002, p. 28-36.

[18]   Op. cit.p. 105.

the process of appropriation of the common spaces such as sidewalks, roads and places of recreation, which has been going in Polish cities for a long time. One example is the phenomenon of fencing off residential buildings or groups of buildings, under the excuse of improving security. The paradox of such activities is the possibility of negative social behaviors emerging in the long term, wherein the common public space of the city is treated as a private property. While care for one's safety is understandable, the creation of entire parts of the city without the possibility of passing or driving through is not. The ability to move freely around the city is one of the basic advantages of urban areas. The real city is a very complex creation and the effects of any restrictions tear down its intricate structure. The networks of connections succumb to defragmentation, creating empty spaces. We lose the letters from the alphabet of the city's narrative, which enables us to make sense of the city and to understand the logic behind its structure. "The meaning of cities can be impossible to read, imperfect, but this does not mean that it doesn't exist. Maybe we're just dealing with a new type of illiteracy, a new type of blindness.[19] The effectiveness of interventions aiming to fix the errors and excesses in its spatial structure depends on the time of reaction and the expertise. The pace of the activities is dictated by a progressing acceptance of the facts, even the bad ones, or the increasing indifference justified by the low effectiveness of actions of individuals. In turn, the constantly changing social needs require professionalism from the policy makers responsible for meeting them.

Interdisciplinary solutions

Over the past eight years, during the subsequent NOWA PRZESTRZEŃ workshops, students have prepared dozens of conceptual designs, visualizing a substantial part of Kraków. They created a virtual map of "their own" city, filling the empty spaces in its digital representation with elements created in their imagination. The presented solutions can be divided into ones that could be implemented and ones that are not realistic, which enter the space of academic science-fiction. The result is an extensive reference material, which provides a very convenient starting point for discussions among the residents concerning the future of their city. It focuses on the most important problems recognized by the future architects, interior designers, sociologists and aestheticians, which concern the public spaces and, what's important, it contains solutions for their repair. The issue of the selected places and spaces is remarkably well placed for such an interdisciplinary approach.

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[19] Koolhas Rem. *The generic city* [in:]. (eds.), *S, M, L, XL*. New York: Monacelli Press, 1998, p. 1254

Figure 4. Visions of cultural "bridges", linking two river banks, people and events[20]
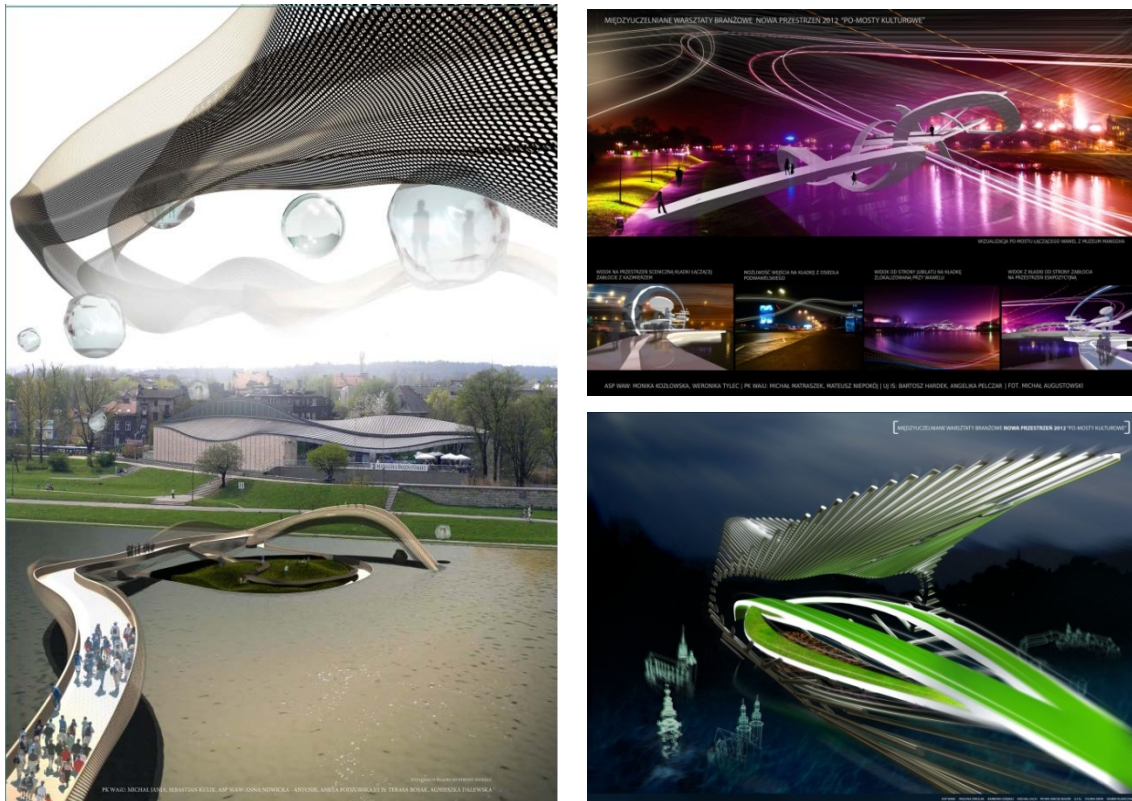
Source: 1. Bridge connecting the Wawel Royal Castle with the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, 2. Space of encounters and dialog between the banks, 3. Bridge of various fields of social activity

"Every time has the right and the responsibility to create its own space. The space of a city is agreed upon by its users here and now. It is agreed upon in the framework and on the basis of the existing state. However, the existing state is transformed, new meanings and a new identity are ascribed to it by a new generation of creators - writers ".[21] It is difficult to discuss space without its users, without an analysis of the context of architecture, urban planning, social relations. Kraków is a sentimental city, strongly connected with the past, cultivating traditions. But it is also a city open to new challenges. Annual discussions with the residents during the organized exhibitions of student works in the city's largest exhibition rooms are the best testimony to that. The ability to freely travel throughout Europe, which is the consequence of entry to the European Union, has resulted in social education. Today everyone can see how western cities look, how they function, and how their residents live. This positive voyeurism results in an increase in the aspirations of the inhabitants of Polish cities, who want to live an equally comfortable, safe and modern life. That's why the design solutions presented by the

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[20] Figure no. 1 - prepared by the student design team: A. Nowicka-Antosik, A. Podżorska, T. Bosak, A. Daleska S. Kulik, M. Jania, Figure no. 2: M. Kozłowska, W. Tylec, M. Matraszek, M. Niepokój, B. Hardek, A. Pelczar, Figure no. 3: P. Zwolak, B. Oziębło, M. Łach, M. Bajor, S. Depa, M. Klemczak,

[21] Kucharczyk Joanna. *Postrzegać przestrzeń po swojemu – czyli o subiektywnym czytaniu miasta.* Ethnographerwrites. Source: https://ethnographerwrites.wordpress.com/category/antropologia-miasta/

students were so keenly approved of by the visitors representing different age groups, as they partly fit in with their notions of their own better city. The positive responses of the elderly were particularly pleasing. This is all the more important, as in the era of the progressive ageing of virtually all European countries the improvement of life in the city becomes an obligatory task for all actors involved in the process of its expansion and development.

Figure. Reconfiguration of the existing public spaces[22]

Source: 1. Wolnica Square, 2. Intersection of Karmelicka Street/Podwale Street, 3. Square at Brzozowa Street

The valorization of public spaces, especially in the ongoing transformation of cities, seems to be a necessary activity. Entered anew onto the mental maps, they will extend their logical schemes and networks of connections. A city is a comprehensive spatial environment where architecture, nature and society create a balanced structure of dependencies and links. "Architecture also fulfills an artistic function, because it provides aesthetic and emotional experiences, satisfies the need for beauty ...".[23]

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[22]   Figure no. 1 - prepared by the student design team: M. Bachula, M. Izdebska, K. Walczak, A. Mikutowicz, J. Szalkowska, Figure no. 2: A. Korzeniowska, H. Albertusiak, J. Sarota, K. Rychter, K. Becelewska, A. Zapała, Figure no. 3: D. Kurek, J. Cocerovscaia, A. Chechelska, K. Mitenkova, A. Stefańska, E. Lekka

[23]   Szatan Małgorzata. *Zanikanie przestrzeni publicznych we współczesnych miastach*. Kraków: Palimpsest. Czasopismo Socjologiczne, no 2, March 2012, p 92.

An exhibition presenting the student projects executed during the NOWA PRZESTRZEŃ interdisciplinary workshops will be organized during the 11th International Congress CTV. The exhibition will present design solutions for the repair of Kraków's public spaces as well as conceptual designs of new locations, prepared in response to the social demand. The works have been executed by design teams consisting of the students of the Faculty of Architecture of the Tadeusz Kościuszko Kraków University of Technology, the Faculty of Interior Design of the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków and the students of the Institute of Sociology and the Department of Aesthetics of the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. The organizers of the workshops are: PhD Beata Gibała-Kapecka Professor of the Academy of Fine Arts and Doctor of Architecture Tomasz Kapecki (Kraków University of Technology).

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