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The Place and Role of Religious Architecture in the Formation of Urban Space

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Abstract

Religious Architecture in cultural heritage constitutes unique role, because it is good widely available and one of the most important components of cultural heritage material. Places of worship remain visible for a long time and centuries witnessed the historic inter-territorial and events, and also stimulators for the subsequent events.

The aim of this article is to present the impact of historical sacred objects on the development of their surroundings and to changes in the modern urban environment. Determine their impact on the development of the city structure and urban layout.

The basic method of research is the study of cases - including many cases and for different levels of analysis. The issue of the role of religious architecture in the city was not yet often taken. The interplay of architectural objects on the surrounding spatial structure is subject to fluctuations. Therefore, studies of this type should be taken more frequently and periodically repeated. The planned study is based on a little-known material, which is the sacred architecture of Kielce (Poland). Sacred objects together with their associated functional environment, have a significant impact on the composition of the urban city. Sacred objects create the image of public spaces. Constitute an attractive and open to different activities functional structures. architectural value of sacral objects, have a significant effect on the activation of tourist and business districts and regions, and increase the competitiveness of the city and change its meaning on the national or international level.

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The complex functional structure of urban, educated around the sacrum, and the associated attractive public area, promotes the processes of change and can become a catalyst for the revitalization of the neighbouring areas. Independently of the location, latitude, traditions and culture, as well as the styles and trends leading in a fast civilization of consumption and market forms of historical and contemporary sacred works form part of the assets in the context of urban structures and play a significant role in the open landscape of the city.

1. Introduction to background of problem

Old Kielce have a currently more than ten centuries. The resulting X-XI century, as a small, conveniently located a trade settlement, the local people engaged in trade interchangeable. They were located next to the roads to the Radom, Sulejow and Sandomierz.

In the Middle Ages the city of Kielce was already an important center of church administration, at the collegiate church on the rocky hill. The modern city of Kielce, as the capital of the Świętokrzyskie region, impressing bold development of plans, unprecedented rich geological structure and the magnificent monuments of religious architecture that is inherently grown together with the city landscape. These objects shape the new city and various aspects of its history. In fact, these objects are priceless treasures that shape the culture of the whole region Świętokrzyskie from the Middle Ages to the present. The aim of this article is to present the impact of historical sacred objects, the shaping of their environment and changes taking place in the modern urban environment. Determine their impact on development and spatial structure of the city. The basic method of research is the study of cases, including cases from the city of Kielce, and for different levels of analysis.

In the following analysis was used literature on the subject and my own research carried out for many years in this area. The reference to historical examples from the area of Kielce, allows the presentation of special importance and of the impact of religious architecture for the development of urban structures educated for centuries surrounded the sacred – “*sacrum*”.

2. The role of the sacred objects in the shaping of the primary structures of the city

The centuries-old tradition of building temples and ecclesial life in Kielce, its roots date back to the early Middle Ages. The processes of development of historical structures of the city, has always been associated with a particular shaping of public structures with characteristic forms, such as markets, squares and streets - invested with the sacred. Over the centuries these buildings are invaluable in social and cultural life of the city and served as the main center of life. Along with the development city buildings were changed, and the form and nature of the significant influence exerted technological progress [2].

Some of the spatial structures of the city, due to their architectural surroundings, the representative function, we feel as exceptional, particularly important and privileged. Expressly we distinguish between those areas of the city, which are the scope secular and sacred. Squares and streets associated with the sacred architectural objects, determined the identity of the place and gave the characteristics significant for the given space.

2.1. Historical view

The spatial development of Kielce and the formation of public structures in the city, was closely linked to the socio-economic situation and the economic condition of the region of Kielce. Topography, spatial arrangement and urban elements have become a product of both socio-economic and political determining the position and location in the urban network, both locally (towns of the province of Kielce) and in the whole of the Kingdom of Poland. *“Regional conditions, the type of local commodity market and political decisions, gave small towns own dimension, specificity and character, and by the geographic and economic boundaries marked social and economic transformations. Economic potential, natural resources, the degree and type of economic revival, the demographics of the region determined the pace of change and development of the urban network ”*, [5]. In the small towns of the province of Kielce according to these emerged particularly strongly and exerted a significant influence on the urban structure and the later appearance. Agriculture, which is the main branch of the economy, were unable to activate the market mechanisms. Poorly growing industry and exploitation of many natural resources, in the face of sparse developed

communication connections and the lack of investment capital contributed to the enormous backwardness in the process of urbanization. Presented trends had a negative impact on the economic development Kielce, which resulted became the external appearance of the public structures of the city and the character of the development - with the characteristics of a typical rural. The subsequent economic slowdown has affected the prospects of development of the city, whose boundaries in the nineteenth century. Also included the surrounding farms, fields and orchards, [5].

2.2. *The first public centers of religious and social life in Kielce*

The Church of St. Wojciech is the oldest center of church organization in Kielce. It was the first religious building on the south-western slopes Łysogóry at which there early The Piast dynasty XI-century settlement, which is the cradle of the city (at present between the street IX Wieków and the street Bodzentyńska). The object served as a parish church for the district Kielce settlement complex, or the Kielce territory of castle. It was the center of religious and social life, contributing significantly to the development of the city [3]. In the year 1171 when the bishop of Cracow Gedeon founded in Kielce first brick church, the original settlement moved to the southwest, in the center of a rocky hill surrounded by forest. The new collegiate church became a center of religious life and public Kielce parish. At the church established a collegiate chapter and a new administrative center of the church, which in time became a separate ecclesiastical district. At the end of the twelfth century was the most important center around which developed the building episcopal manor, [3].

From the fourteenth century. When the Church took full control over Kielce, village life focussed on the hill at the original bishop's court. Cracow bishops seeking to strengthen its position and authority gradually tapping into their lands. Systematic development of the urbanization process hills contributes to the rise of collegiate center and sacred objects. Construction of the collegiate church, resulted in further processes of urbanization of a small urban center. The church began to operate a public road leading from the original old settlement of Kielce. This is evidenced by today's eastern frontage of the market and the large street that arose after the track. Developed then fork roads (seen today in the shape of the market) has been established by the settlement even before the foundation of the town[†].

Next to the collegiate church on the northern slope of the hill, it was made public square (at present Square MariiPanny) Church buildings demarcating the bourgeois. Along the roads on the eastern side of the collegiate church (at present street John Paul II) and the square in front of the church toward the river (current street Kapitulna) was built headquarters of the canons (demolished in the nineteenth century). The south-western part of the hill occupied barns and outbuildings. Houses canonic along with the collegiate church were closed building complex (including the present John Paul II Square, square Zeromski courtyard of the Diocesan Curia).

From the north the border went along the street CzerwonegoKrzyża the square in front of the collegiate. Then north along street Kapitulna to the street Sienkiewicza and street Leśna, [4].

It should be noted that changes in urban city of Kielce in the first half of the sixteenth century. Mainly concerned quarters next to the market[‡] and derived from the corners of the streets (currently Bodzentyńska, Leonarda, Duża, Mała, Piotrowska, Kozia) and the road running along the back of the property (currently: Wesoła, Orla, Leśna) (Fig. 1)[§].

[†] To regular formation plan, the city contributed only privilege of the thirteenth century.

[‡] In 1540. - Were 84 wooden houses [Wojnowska, 2007].

[§] Before the outside the city gates city was formed the suburbs. From the east - Bożęckie, near the Church of St. Wojciech and from the west in the vicinity of the river - Warszawskie. From the west, the spatial development of the city was limited in the river valley Silnica [Wojnowska, 2007].

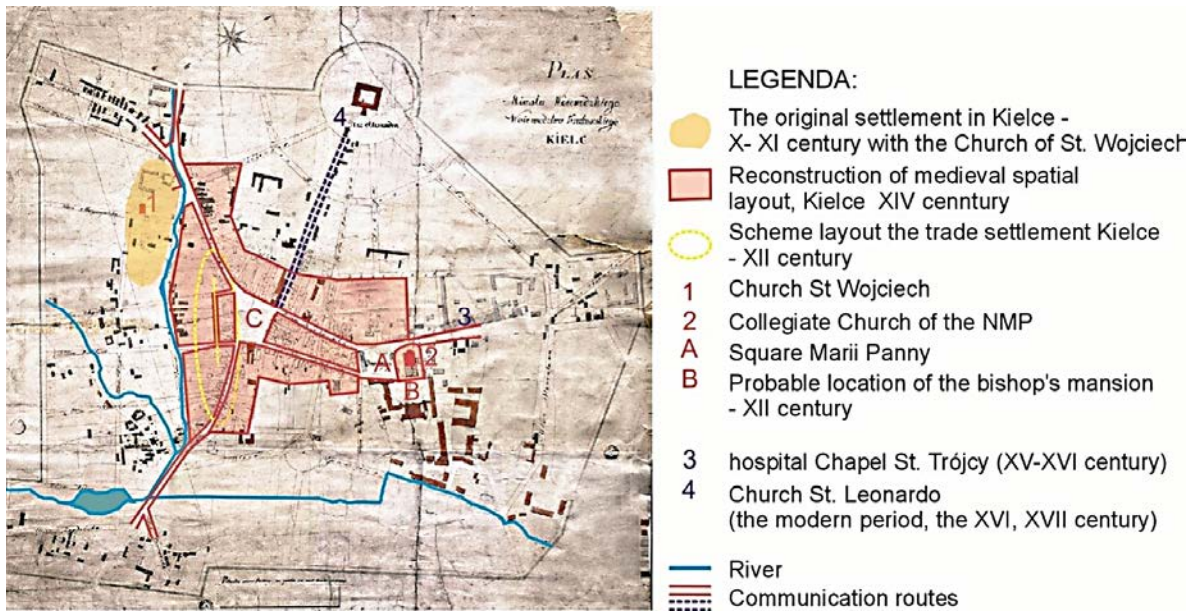


Fig. 1. The reconstruction medieval spatial layout, Kielce –XIV century, description J. Gil-Mastalerczyk, 2015.

In the first half of the seventeenth century, on the western slope of the Castle Hill, was founded preserved to this day, the residence of the Bishops of Krakow. It was accompanied by courtyards, gardens and a complex of farm buildings (along today's street Zamkowa), then reconstructed on prison in the nineteenth century (the object exists today).

The location of the palace strict associated with the main axis of the ancient collegiate church, forming a regular residential complex and a church. The structure of the palace courtyard representative defined, for the purposes of religious ceremonies and visitors, located between the palace and the cemetery at the collegiate.

To major projects the seventeenth century belonged also the construction of a brick church of St. Leonard, located just outside the city limits. Its location influenced the breakdown of transition in the south-east corner of the market, and the extension to the town road to the church (current street St. Leonard).

It should be emphasized that all the major investments of Kielce were carried out with funds bishops and located outside the city limits. In the eighteenth century. At the first wooden church (destroyed in fire) built a stone church St. Wojciech. At the end of the eighteenth century, next to the church of St. Leonard was built monastery (not survived) and hospital**.

In summary, the functioning up to now complex of sacral buildings in Kielce - for a coherent spatial structure (from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century.) Had a decisive influence on the spatial development of the city. It binds primarily to the historic downtown area.

The space constituting the identity of the whole organization town and most valuable urban area in terms of culture, which is related to formation of the original urban structure and urban structure. In unchanged architectural structure, formed under the influence of the sacred, it remains to this day the Kielce market and its immediate surroundings. To this day is also the sixteenth-century Palace of the Bishops of Cracow historic environment of the system.

Garden was transformed into the current urban park. Unchanged remains the Square of the MariiPanny, demarcating buildings church of burgher development.

** 1789 closes the investment activities of the bishops of Krakow to Kielce district. Under the Act of Polish Parliament (Sejm Czterolerni) estates swietokrzyskie become the property of the state. In the nineteenth century there were the most serious changes in the spatial layout of the city resulting from the political, economic and social and economic. Since 1930 the city area increased twice was 4050 ha [Wojnowska, 2007].

In summary, today's picture of the historical center of Kielce - the heart of the city, is the sum of many factors, which arose in the city. It is the sacred objects have become elements of consciously shaping space, solids and interiors affect significantly shape the emerging spatial structure and composition of the environment. In the public space of the city, with accompanying stately squares, places of worship have become an essential factor in a good plan and shape the future structure of the city and surrounds framework crystallization city.

Nowadays, presented religious buildings still remain an integral part of the urban space, functioning within the historical urban. The Church of St. Wojciech with square, is surrounded by old trees silencing the noise of the modern city, it is available for the local community and all those in need of reflection. Block of object is a local dominant and form strong internal structures of the city. With a distinctive form of strongly defines public space in the city. Widely available urban space, located in the neighbourhood Cathedral Basilica of Najświętszej Marii Panny (NMP), together with the surrounding band of green areas (parks, squares), for centuries used the urban community as a meeting place and experiencing important religious ceremonies. The medieval courtyard located between the Basilica and the Palace of Bishops, plays an important role in the urban composition of the city. As a result of the modern remodelling space square regained valuable historical appearance, it accentuates the prestige of the sacred objects and their impact on the historical value of the space. The diversity of the elements of the spatial structure also enhances the value of existing historical and cultural places and shapes the image of the modern city. These structures are a valuable witness of past epochs, showing the changes and transformations systemic and economic. As a "places specific, with specific characteristics and spatial landscapes and expressive physiognomy, enjoying the still growing interest in the era of globalization of culture", [1, 6].

3. Conclusions

Sacral Architecture plays in the cultural heritage unique role, because it is good universally available and one of the most important components of cultural heritage material. Places of worship remain visible for many centuries witnessed the historic interpersonal and territorial events. Becomes also stimulants for subsequent events.

In today's diverse, and often chaotic structure of the city, historical religious buildings, are undoubtedly an important determinant of the quality of public space. Through its architectural composition and urban planning, ensuring readability of urban space. Surroundings "*sacrum*" as a significant place of common cultural heritage, is an important element of the social structure of the city. Possibility to exert significant impact on the activation of tourist and economic - districts and regions, and increase the competitiveness of the city and change its meaning on the national or international level.

Independently of the location, latitude, traditions and culture, as well as the styles and the leading trends in the hasty civilization of consumption and market sacred objects fit for assets in the context of urban structures and play a significant role in the open landscape of the city. Together with the city create a distinctive whole, indicating the presence of important buildings and related structures in urban areas. Create unique quality of urban composition of the contemporary urban environment.

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