

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IN ARCHITECTURE
& URBAN PLANNING
WARSAW, MARCH 25TH 2019

SUMMARY



ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY
Warsaw



ODDZIAŁ WARSZAWSKI
STOWARZYSZENIA ARCHITEKTÓW POLSKICH



MAZOWIECKA OKRĘGOWA
IZBA ARCHITEKTÓW
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING

MARCH 25TH 2019, 09:00 – 16:00 AT ZODIAK THE WARSAW PAVILION OF ARCHITECTURE

The Royal Danish Embassy in Warsaw in association with the City of Warsaw, the Warsaw Branch of the Association of Polish Architects (OW SARP) and the Masovian District Chamber of Polish Architects (MaOIA RP) were the organizers of the Conference entitled Sustainable Development Goals in Architecture & Urban Planning that took place on March 25th 2019 in Warsaw Pavilion of Architecture ZODIAK.

About:

The UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (17 UN SDGs) reflect the community’s commitment to creating a more sustainable future. The goals are hereby defined by the challenges that our society is facing, including those related to climate and environmental degradation. Architecture, urban space planning and the natural environment are all associated with each of these goals for sustainable development. Architectural solutions may take into account current environmental challenges, such as energy consumption, climate change, increased waste and health of residents.

Purpose:

The purpose of the event was to present how architecture and architects can contribute to meet the 17 UN SDGs by 2030, by presenting specific examples from Denmark and Poland, keeping in mind that local urban planning and architecture should be adjusted to the local climate, culture and special conditions. To move towards achieving the 17 UN SDGs, new solutions and new inspirations are needed, for which the Danish examples might fulfil that role.

PROGRAM

08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Coffee
PART 1	PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION – architects, cities representatives, developers, representatives of urban movements, etc.;
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome by: H.E. Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark – Ole Egberg MIKKELSEN; Director of Infrastructure Department at the City Hall Office of Warsaw – Leszek DROGOSZ; President of Warsaw Branch of SARP (OW SARP) – arch. MaOIA RP Maria SALONI-SADOWSKA;
09:20 – 09:40	UN 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTRIBUTION An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals Danish perspective; <i>by Sofie STILLING – Institute of Architecture and Technology, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (KADK) in Copenhagen;</i>
09:40 – 09:55	Green cities – our future City of Warsaw perspective; <i>by Justyna GLUSMAN – Director Coordinator for Sustainable Development and Greenery at The City Hall Office of Warsaw;</i>
09:55 – 10:10	Sustainable City Global perspective; <i>by Kamil WYSZKOWSKI – President of the Board at Global Compact Network Poland;</i>
10:10 – 10:30	How can we save the Indoor Generation? Healthy Homes Barometer report. <i>by Jacek SIWIŃSKI – President of the Board at VELUX Polska Sp. z o.o.;</i>
10:30 – 10:40	Coffee break
10:40 – 10:55	ARCHITECTURE SOLUTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE; Bridging the gap – the Holmene project – case study presentation; <i>architect Arne CERMAK NIELSEN – URBAN POWER ApS – Copenhagen;</i>
10:55 – 11:10	Nature based design – projects pursuing SDGs – cases studies presentation; <i>landscape arch. Natalia BUDNIK – SLA A/S – Copenhagen;</i>
11:10 – 11:25	In Search of Livable City – case studies presentation; <i>arch. arch. Maciej LEWANDOWSKI / Rafał ZELENT – Grupa5 Architekci Sp. z o.o. – Warsaw;</i>
11:25 – 11:40	Upgrading Public Green Spaces – the Mokotów Field project – case study presentation; <i>arch. arch. Paweł GRODZICKI / Szczepan WRONSKI – WXCA Sp. z o.o. – Warsaw;</i>
11:40 – 12:20	Debate: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN 17 SDGs ON THE CITY LEVEL; <i>Sofie STILLING – Landscape Architect, lecturer at Institute of Architecture and Technology, KADK, Copenhagen;</i> <i>Justyna BIERNACKA – Architect MaOIA RP, leader of Sustainable Architecture Group at OW SARP;</i> <i>Leszek DROGOSZ – Director of Infrastructure Department of The City Hall Office of Warsaw;</i> <i>Monika KUPSKA-KUPIS – Architect, VELUX Polska Sp. z o.o.;</i> <i>Konrad WITCZAK – Sustainability Manager, ROCKWOOL Polska Sp. z o.o.;</i> <i>Tymon NOWOSIELSKI – President of the Board at EIFFAGE Immobilier Polska Sp. z o.o.;</i> <i>Bogna ŚWIĄTKOWSKA – President of the Board at “Bęc Zmiana” Foundation;</i>
<i>Moderator</i>	
12:20 – 13:10	Lunch break
PART 2	WORKSHOPS
13:10 – 15:10	SUSTAINABLE CITY – HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?
15:25 – 15:55	SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOPS
15:55 – 16:00	Closing speech – Dariusz ŚMIECHOWSKI – Sustainable Architecture Group at OW SARP, ASP

How it happened

Author: Architect Jurij Sadowski

The initiator of the event was the Embassy of Denmark in Warsaw, and the originator and main organizer the Warsaw Branch of the Association of Polish Architects (OW SARP).

The conference was divided into two main parts - an introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals, combined with the presentation of examples of Danish and Polish projects contributing to the implementation of the Goals, and workshops. Presentations and workshops were separated by a debate, in which representatives of all stakeholders of the investment process participated.

The conference was opened by H.E. the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, Ole Egberg Mikkelsen, the director of the Infrastructure Department at the City Hall Office of Warsaw, Leszek Drogosz, and on behalf of OW SARP and MaOIARP the president of OW SARP architect Maria Saloni-Sadowska.

Sofie Stilling from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation (KADK) introduced the participants to the theme of the conference by presenting an architectural guide to the implementation of the 17 UN SDGs. Director for Sustainable Development and Greenery at the City Hall Office of Warsaw, Justyna Glusman, discussed the idea of green cities and presented Warsaw in this context. Kamil Wyszowski from Global Compact Network Poland highlighted the idea of sustainable cities from a global perspective. At the end of this part of the conference, the President of Velux Polska, Jacek Siwiński discussed the issue of the so-called „Indoor Generation” and presented the results of research conducted by Velux as part of the „Healthy Home Barometer” program.

Examples of architectural projects were presented by the Copenhagen architects from Urban Power and SLA, as well as Warsaw architects from Grupa 5 Architekci and WXCA.

The debate was attended by: architect Justyna Biernacka from OW SARP as moderator, Sofie Stilling, Leszek Drogosz, Monika Kupska-Kupis from Velux Polska, Konrad Witecki from Rockwool Polska and Bogna Świątkowska from the Bęc Zmiana Foundation.

In the workshop part, the representatives of all the stakeholders of the investment process took part: architects from Denmark and Poland, administration officers at the City Hall Office of Warsaw and local suburban municipalities (Izabelin, Milanówek, Piaseczno), developers, manufacturers of building materials and urban movements activists.

The conference was held thanks to the support of the Danish Ministries of Culture and of Foreign Affairs (Embassy of Denmark in Warsaw). Also the Polish subsidiaries of Danish companies - Rockwool Polska, Velux Polska and H+H Polska, as well as the developers – Eiffage Polska, Cordia Polska and Yareal Polska – had significant substantive and financial contributions.



Conference coordinator
Jurij SADOWSKI, OW SARP



WORKSHOPS

Author: Architect Magdalena Pios

“The Sustainable City – how to make it happen” workshops were part of the Conference Sustainable Development Goals in Architecture & Urban Planning, which took place on March 25th in the Warsaw Pavilion of Architecture ZODIAK.

The aim of the workshops was to start a discussion on how to achieve sustainable development goals in the built-up environment of Warsaw and the towns of Warsaw agglomeration.

Both Warsaw and its satellite towns already have numerous documents which address issues related to sustainable development. However, the principles of sustainable development are very rarely visible in buildings that are already realized or even in buildings and developments that are currently being designed. The workshops’ participants tried to understand various reasons for this fact and discussed how to enable the implementation of sustainable strategies.

Participants of the workshops worked in three groups, each one focusing on one of three topics: Housing, Public Space and the Urban Ecosystem. The members of each group were representatives of the stakeholders who take part in the process of city development: public entities, private investors, non-governmental organizations, manufacturers of building materials, architects, landscape architects, and urban planners.

We plan that the analyses and conclusions from the Workshops, as presented further, will be forwarded to the City Authorities and the City Council of Warsaw, and they will become a basis for further research and discussion on the sustainable development of the City.



SUMMARY

Since each group worked on a specific topic – Housing, Public Space and the Urban Ecosystem, there were different findings and proposals characteristic for each of the themes. However, several common issues were mentioned by all the teams. The main common solutions included education, understood as the spreading of the idea of sustainable development, the understanding of the Goals (SDGs) and presenting good practice to the general public. One of the proposals was the creation of a rating system and a body of attractive visual information to provide the users of buildings (and anybody else interested) with adequate information about the environmental impact.

In the context of education, the importance of tangible examples was emphasized. The roles of the municipal and the state administration as investors were stressed as critical. Cities and towns as investors in the public realm eg. schools, kindergartens, housing should promote sustainable solutions. All workshop groups stressed the role of both civil servants and citizens as responsible for “the common good”. According to various stakeholders representing the public entities as well as the private sector, the municipalities are not currently involved enough in putting this goal into practice. This situation is due to deficiencies in planning procedures, the domination of planning permissions based on the so-called “WZ” (“Building Conditions” – a special document issued by local building authorities) and very limited possibilities for municipalities to participate in the design process.



Workshops coordinator
Magdalena Pios, OW SARP



WORKSHOP I: HOUSING

Author: Architect Piotr Jurkiewicz

The opportunities and barriers in creating a sustainable city through housing development were discussed on the example of Miasteczko Wilanów - a new part of the Warsaw’s Wilanów district established in 1997 on the basis of a project that won a SARP competition.

The shortcomings of Miasteczko Wilanów were identified by the representative of “The City is Ours” urban movement. These concerned, inter alia, the order of implementation of the program’s elements, the school and kindergarten network, the public transportation, the quality of public spaces and the functional mix. These shortcomings are the result of the City authorities’ withdrawal from employing the spatial planning policy. The role of the City had to be taken over by the private investors, but their actions were effective mainly in terms of elements of the design that were key for the commercial aspect of the project. Nevertheless, from the point of view of the “common good”, the control of the whole process is the responsibility of the City.

The presence of the principles of sustainable development in design practice means that the requirements for the participation of biologically active areas and energy saving regulations must be met. In a situation where the quality of formal requirements is low, the opportunity for developing sustainable housing may come in the form of the designer’s initiative, but even if it is in fact present, it is usually forfeited in the face of the commercial investor’s goals.

According to developers, apartment buyers today are not interested in such issues as energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, the carbon footprint of materials and technologies etc.

YAREAL Polska- the developer that obtains BREEAM environmental certificates for its housing projects (including those in Miasteczko Wilanów) looks at such activity and related costs as a type of investment. It is made in anticipation of the changing expectations of clients and the upcoming requirements of financial institutions related to the EU regulation on the financing of environmentally sustainable investments, addressed to banks, stock investors and insurers, which will take effect from mid 2020.

MODERATOR


Piotr JURKIEWICZ
Architect, OW SARP,
MaOIARP, Warsaw

MODERATOR


Mateusz PŁOSZAJ-MAZUREK
Architect, OW SARP, Warsaw




Arne CERMAK NIELSEN
Architect, URBAN POWER,
Copenhagen




Piotr SAWICKI
Economic Development
Department
City of Warsaw




Melania ŁUCZAK
Mokotów District Councilor
„Miasto Jest Nasze” („City
is Ours”) Warsaw urban
movement




Maciej LEWANDOWSKI
Architect, Grupa5 Architekci,
Warsaw



Rafał ZELENT
Architect, Grupa5 Architekci,
Warsaw



Jacek ZENGTELER
Member of the Board at
YAREAL Polska



Konrad WITCZAK
Sustainability Manager at
ROCKWOOL Polska



The conclusion stemming from the presentation in the seminar part of the Conference was taken as the introductory point to the discussion – the issues of sustainable development seem to be the rule in Danish practice and still the exception in investments carried out in Poland.

This visible difference is related to the awareness of the problem of sustainable development - above all, on the level of practical, everyday reflexes and behaviors. In the case of architects and urban planners, this applies to design decisions at all scales and their consequences for the environment.

How it should be – an ideal scenario.

Overcoming barriers in achieving sustainable development goals:

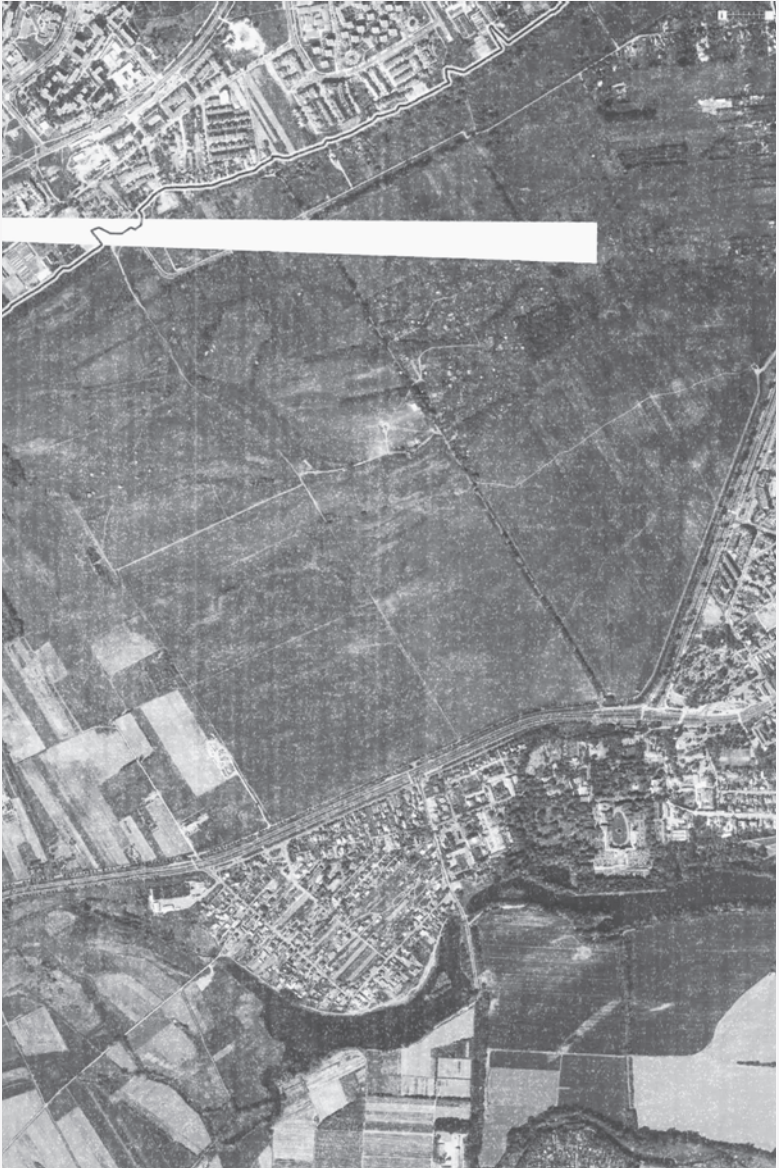
- education – raising environmental awareness of users;
- designers’ technical knowledge regarding solutions and their effects;
- technical and construction regulations that take into account sustainable development;
- clear policy set on the City level, setting and implementing ambitious goals, shaping patterns, building models and standards;
- urban plans – new planning tools, today an archaic planning tool – the biologically active area indicator – is practically the only regulation affecting environmental issues;
- breaking the dominance of development investments with flats for sale for the benefit of flats for long-term rental.

Miasteczko Wilanów versus Ørestad

An interesting theme was the comparison of the new Ørestad district in Copenhagen with Miasteczko Wilanów in Warsaw, introduced by the architect from Urban Power, Arne Cermak Nielsen.

Analogies:

- investment in an uninvested area;
 - master plan as a result of a mid 90s competition;
 - scale of the project – over 300 ha and approx. 20 thousand residents;
 - district heating network as a heating source, transit communication routes running through the area;
- and numerous differences, including:
- structure of functions – in Ørestad, 20% housing, 20% public buildings, schools, universities, 60% offices & industry, with 80,000 employees – in Miasteczko Wilanów, housing accounts for 80%;
 - in the case of Copenhagen, the active role of the City pursuing a consistent policy that takes into account the objectives of sustainable development.



PUBLIC SPACE

WORKSHOP II: PUBLIC SPACE

Authors: Landscape Architect Krzysztof Herman / Architect Jan Dowgiałło

Group 2 discussed sustainability through the prism of urban public spaces. As the world's population gradually moves into cities, it is becoming more and more important to design them in a sustainable way. The way public spaces are designed and built has a huge impact on the city's population, local climate conditions, biodiversity and resilience.



MODERATOR



Jan DOWGIAŁŁO
Architect, OW SARP, SGH,
Warsaw

MODERATOR



Krzysztof HERMAN
Landscape Architect,
OW SARP, SGGW, Warsaw



Natalia BUDNIK
Landscape Architect at SLA,
Copenhagen



Łukasz WĘCŁAWSKI
Architect, Design Manager
at CORDIA Polska



Monika KUPSKA-KUPIS
Architect at VELUX Polska



Marta TRAKUL
Fundacja „Na miejscu”
 („On Site” Foundation),
Warsaw urban movement



Jacek GRUNT-MEJER
Architect, Department of
Architecture and Spatial
Planning – City of Warsaw



Anna TOMASZEWSKA
„Porozumienie dla Pragi”
 („Agreement for Prague”)
Warsaw urban movement



Andrzej JAWORSKI
Architect, JAZ+ Architekci
Żmijewski Jaworski Massé,
Warsaw



Dorota ZMARZŁAK
Mayor of Izabelin



The way we worked:

We wanted the discussion to be grounded in specific physical spaces. Three such spaces – squares and streets that have been developed in recent years or were designed through competitions were the perfect case studies (Defilad Square, square by the ZODIAK building and “Wiecha” Passage). All are located in the vicinity of where our workshop was held, even some visible from the windows of the room we worked in.

Group A

First, we prepared a list of pre-selected points and sub-points from the 17 SDGs. Then, we divided ourselves into 2 smaller groups – A and B. Each was to choose two of points from the list for further discussion in the context of public spaces.

Group A discussed points: 15.5. - Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species; 15.9.- By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts and 13.1.- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

Even a brief discussion showed that we can agree on several actions and areas that need to be considered in public space design. These include the need for abundant and biodiverse greenery, urban sprawl control, and resilience to climate change.

Group B

Group B came to the conclusion that all the necessary tools needed to reach all of the Goals are already well defined. The problem lies within the will to implement them. Ecology and sustainability must be seen as primary goals and have to start being put before other needs, such as economic growth, material wealth, aesthetics or convenience. This can only be achieved through education and a dialogue between the society, business and politics. We agreed that perhaps the quickest way to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is to directly educate our leaders and pressure them into creating laws that would guide the economy in the right direction.

In the second part of the workshop, both sub-groups discussed the possible solutions:

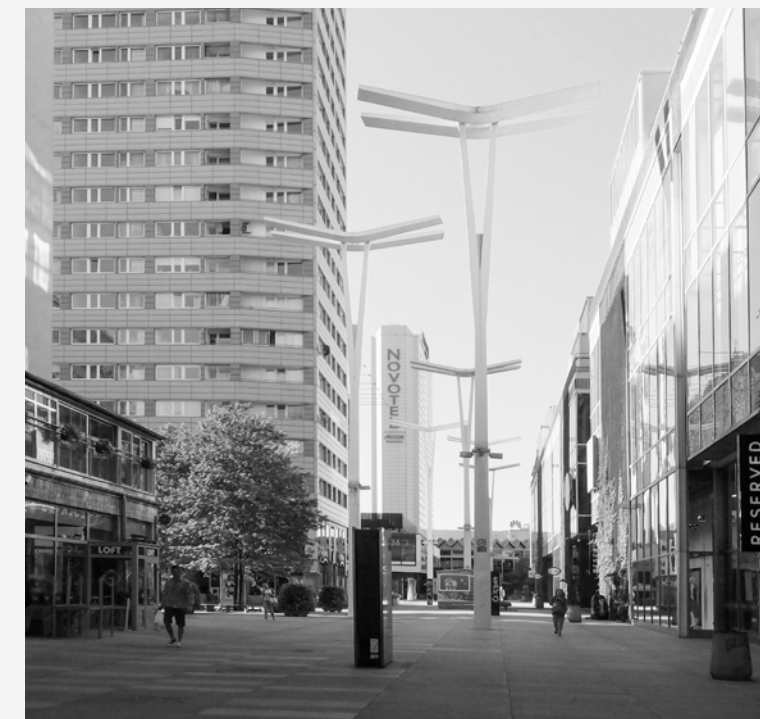
1. Radical education focused on giving positive examples of sustainable architecture and design solutions contrasted with the knowledge of an approaching ecological disaster;
2. Urban planning processes have to become more elastic in order to be able to keep up with the speeding environmental and social changes;
3. So far sustainable and resilient designs in the public space in Poland are seen as individual “examples/experiments/interventions”. We need to scale up and make systematic changes;
4. Public spaces need to be really inclusive and allow citizen participation. In order for the participatory process to be effective, standards and mechanisms of action are required, as well as qualified moderators, who will be able to negotiate with the participants of the project;
5. We must develop a system of incentives for building companies, developers, housing communities and cooperatives that makes caring for the common good (biodiversity, resilience, sustainability in public spaces) profitable or economically justified.

REVITALIZATION OF THE WIECHA PASSAGE

BEFOR



AFTER



WORKSHOP III: URBAN ECOSYSTEM

Authors: Architect Dariusz Śmiechowski / Landscape Architect Kinga Zinowiec-Cieplik

The group’s work concentrated on elementary ecosystemic solutions for contemporary urban agglomerations, with the aim to analyze present policies and to propose possible solutions, especially in regard to Warsaw and its surroundings. As an introduction, some basic aspects of the workshop’s theme were put up for discussion, namely the ecosystemic approach to built environment, green infrastructure, and adaptation to climate change. They related to the conference presentations (e.g. Sofie Stilling showing some examples that illustrate the implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals). The group debated shortly on the chosen SDGs that were most relevant to possible strategies for Warsaw.

The Copenhagen Regional Plan (the “Finger Plan” - a sketch from 1947) was compared to the pre-war ideas for Warsaw’s development, in which green aeration corridors divided the housing areas and the role of forests and nature reserves was strongly stated. The climate maps of Warsaw were shown, in relation to the actual climate adaptation strategy developed for the City. The actual map of the natural environment of Warsaw, an element of the Study of Land Use Conditions and Directions, was discussed, with a clear mention of the “scattered” present character of Warsaw’s nature, and the discontinuity of green corridors.

The group concluded on the deficiencies of planning ie. lack and discontinuity of plans, problems with procedures, low quality of urban planning. Then the group divided into three sub-groups which worked on infographics (sketches with descriptions) to show chosen aspects of planning and design for which the discussed problems and solutions might be visualized and potentially solved:

- 1. Urban ecosystems (small and large scales);
- 2. Eco-housing (how to promote it);
- 3. Schools (the environmental and educative quality).

URBAN ECOSYSTEM

MODERATOR



Dariusz ŚMIECHOWSKI
Architect OW SARP, ASP,
Warsaw

MODERATOR



Kinga ZINOWIEC-CIEPLIK
Landscape Architect,
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Sofie STILLING
Architectural Editor, Land-
scape Architect and Film-
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Zofia PRZETAKIEWICZ
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Milanówek



Helena WAWRZYNIOUK



Sławomir SENDZIELSKI
Landscape Architect
(zamienić) Warsaw Green
Space Authority

1. Urban ecosystems (small and large scale);

Piotr Dauksza, Zofia Przetakiewicz, Sofie Stilling

Small scale urban ecosystems present great potential – especially green roofs and facades, parks, but also private and allotment gardens. Care for green areas is often coupled with community building and developing local identity (the Copenhagen’s example can be Christiania, developed out of citizen’s initiative). It is important that both the grassroots and municipality-led activities the betterment of the environmental conditions – wildlife, biodiversity, water retention, etc. Transition is needed from paved to semi-paved areas. On a large scale, contemporary urban ecosystem means a new approach to zoning, strengthening green structures, promoting public transport (especially rail), but also “super biking lanes”. Streets and parking areas can become more green, with corridors and “islands of life”. The greening the streets would be possible thanks to shifting transport modes. Long term and master planning, as well as legal enforcement of plans are necessary. Financial incentives are needed (green economy, responsible production and consumption).

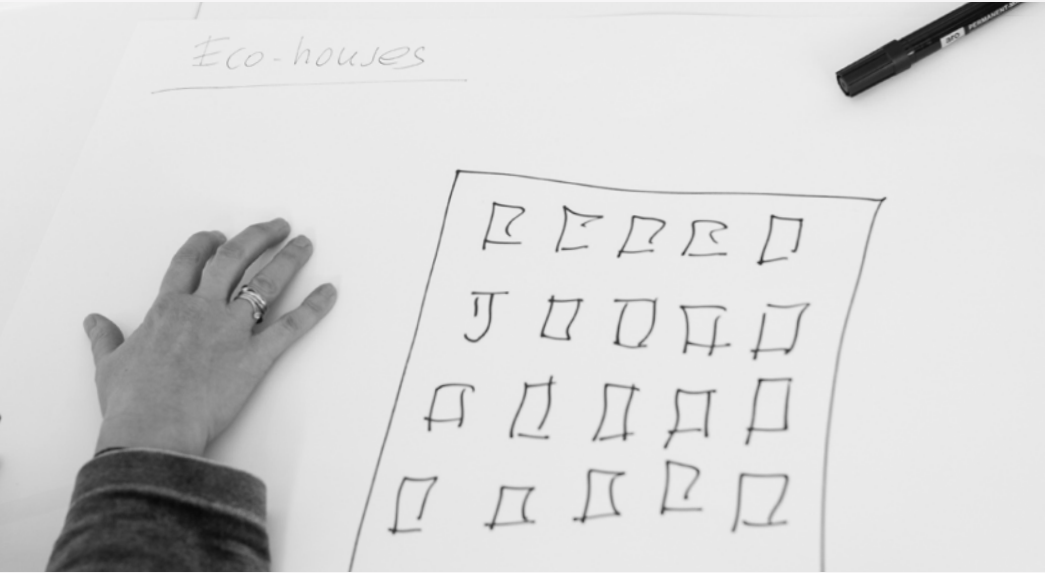


2. Eco-housing (how to introduce and promote eco-development)

Kinga Zinowiec-Cieplik, Paweł Grodzicki, Tymon Nowosielski

Systemic resolution for eco-housing development should be focused on. It is necessary to answer the key question: what conditions should be met for pro-environmental communal housing construction that respects the SDGs?

The initiative belongs to the municipal, as well as state administration. Firstly, building and supporting public awareness of the need for sustainable development should be prioritized. It can be done by spreading in-depth information about climate threats and environmental aspects of our common wellbeing. Only the conscious society is able to enforce its requirements for sustainable architecture on designers and developers. The indispensable link in the possible eco-development, understood as the future goal for developers, should be to enforce the principles (of legislative character) of sustainable construction. This necessitates the need for both building supervision and green economy. The forming of this foundation for eco-housing is an essential condition for it to become the element of a complex, resilient urban ecosystem.



3. Schools (environmental and educative quality)

Sławomir Sendzielski, Dariusz Śmiechowski, Helena Wawrzeńiuk

Education needs a new holistic paradigm and so the educational facilities need transformations and new ideas. Architecture, as well as art of education, should be responsive to contemporary needs, even dreams, and represent a dialogue with the surroundings, a democratic approach, and ecological responsibility. From a social point of view, a quality school (or kindergarten) depends on the commonly understood rights of students, teachers, parents and municipalities, and the cooperation between them. From a spatial point of view, the quality of a school should mean that buildings and their surroundings organically connect. Their design should guarantee the highest environmental quality which will serve educational purposes.

Education for sustainability would become a reality if all the elements of nature were present in the surroundings. The local environment may serve schools and kindergartens with its capacity (parks, gardens, forests, city-farming) and vice-versa: the school can become a living center of care for its neighborhood.





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Warsaw Branch of the Association of Polish Architects

Author: Architect Jurij Sadowski

From the SARP Statute's Preamble:

(...) Truth, trust, community, beauty - these are the basic values that the Association of Polish Architects (SARP) respects and perpetuates as a law in its statute. The aim of the Association of Polish Architects is to contribute to the creation of the modern face of the country, its culture, civilization and civil society, with the basic assumption - respect for over a thousand years of our history. (...)

Association of Polish Architects is a nation-wide organization of architects interested in active promotion of architecture, high standards of performing the profession, as well as activity for the space that surrounds us. SARP has over 140 years of tradition, and among its members were the most prominent creators of modern architecture. Among the main goals of the Association are care for the development of architectural creativity and its protection. The way to achieve these goals is to carry out various activities and events, as well as active participation in architectural education at all levels.

The Warsaw Branch of SARP (OW SARP) with its over 1000 members, is by far the largest among 25 regional SARP branches. We closely cooperate with the Mazovian District Chamber of Polish Architects, other industry organizations, as well as with the City of Warsaw, the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology and many cultural institutions. The headquarters of OW SARP are located in the historic Palace of Konstanty Zamoyski at 2 Foksal Street in Warsaw.

OW SARP is the organizer and co-organizer of many events, to which we invite architects, planners, artists, as well as a wide group of Warsaw residents – people interested in architecture and the development of our City. Many of these events are cyclical.

Since the end of 2018, OW SARP has been organizing its events also at the Warsaw Pavilion of Architecture ZODIAK located by the downtown Wiecha Passage. WPA ZODIAK is a joint undertaking of OW SARP and the City of Warsaw – envisaged and conceived about 10 years ago by the then-residing OW SARP's President and the Management Board. This brilliant idea was consistently pursued by the next Presidents and Management Boards until the creation of the facility in 2018.

A beautiful, contemporary building, located in the heart of the City, was created primarily thanks to the City of Warsaw, which supported the initiative of OW SARP, allocating appropriate funds for it.

This way, the City Hall Office gained, on the first floor of the Pavilion, representative spaces for the needs of its Department of Economic Development, and the general public obtained an institution of significant cultural and social importance.

Thanks to OW SARP, which is consistently introducing there, together with the City, a program of exhibitions, conferences, trainings and educational classes, Warsaw has gained a place of fundamental importance for popularizing knowledge about architecture.

WPA ZODIAK is to serve as a center of information, education, and both architectural and urban documentation, with particular emphasis on how these issues relate to Warsaw.

It is to be a place, as its originators intended, in which the ideas concerning the City's development and architectural designs are presented in a transparent and attractive way.



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