Water Issues in Urban Space on the Example of the City of Częstochowa

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Abstract. Searching for and creating new "places" in a narrow urban space has become a need to compensate for the space deficit. The attempt to redefine place often involves renewal and revitalization of cultural spaces. The author presents three elements of urban space, the common feature of which is the water factor. The example of park areas, riverside areas and the city square presents a different scale, function and approach to the use of water in creating space. Water element occurring in the discussed areas may be a direct result of local and natural conditions. It can also be the result of human activity and technologies used by them. The city of Częstochowa has so far used the potential of the river and water as an element of industrial infrastructure. The presence of water in the city was associated with its servile role in industry. When discussing selected areas, the author presents changes that have occurred over the years. It presents the evolution in the approach to the use of the water element when creating a recreational space. The current revitalization activities carried out within the city focus on the use of the potential of water, regardless of the scale of activities. An example may be the renovation of the area around the lagoon, the restoration of riverside areas near to the city or the modernization of city squares with enrichment by a water element. Urban spaces in the form of small squares, squares, riverside boulevards, riverside baths accumulate and unload the pace of life in the city, becoming its integral element. The urban planning activities in the inner city areas force the architects to develop innovative solutions in the way of managing tight intermingling spaces.

1. Introduction

Creating park complexes and recreation squares is a way to improve the quality of urban space. Finding or creating optimal conditions that offer a place of rest, recreation, meeting place is a task that requires proper interpretation of the place itself and the community that uses it. The project activities carried out within the city regarding recreational spaces focus on using the potential of water. Urban spaces in the form of small squares, riverside boulevards cumulate and unload the pace of life in the city becoming its integral element. In Częstochowa, the issue of green areas is an important factor taken into account in urban planning in both the public, semi-private and private sectors. This is particularly evident in the context of maintaining and modernizing existing complexes as well as creating new public spaces.

2. Park recreational zones
In Częstochowa, due to the flooding of clay excavations in the Lisiniec district, an attractive recreation space was created with three water reservoirs located in green areas. The place quickly became popular with the city's residents by offering access to water activities within the city zone. Since the 1970s, space functions as the Lisiniec City Park. On the other hand, intensive activities aimed at increasing the quality of a given space and increasing the number of activities that this space has to offer have been undertaken in recent years. Since 2014, the park has been intensively revitalized [1]. As part of the modernization, a 2.5 km cycle path, a water volunteer rescue shelter, a sandy beach with a bathing area, a new skate park and two tennis courts were created [1]. The whole park complex covers an area of 41.23 hectares, including three water reservoirs occupy 11 hectares.

Park Lisiniec is an example of the use of post-industrial areas and transform them into an attractive place of recreation and green areas. The water factor in the form of flooded clay excavations led residents to visit this place. It quickly gained popularity among school students, anglers and enthusiasts of spending time outdoors. The popularity of this place prompted the city authorities to organize this space and create a city park on it. The example of the Lisiniec Park illustrates the process in which the appearance of the water factor has given the space a new quality and led directly to the introduction of large recreational areas into the urban tissue. (Figure 1, 2)

Figure 1. Adriatic - a water reservoir with a beach (on the left)  
Figure 2. Baltic - water reservoir (on the right). Area of the Lisiniec Municipal Park

3. The river Warta in the city area
The history of the riverside areas of Częstochowa is closely related to the history of the city, from its foundation (XIV century) to modern times. In the Middle Ages, the river was a source of drinking water and fed the mills. In the 15th and 17th centuries, the river gained economic significance. It began to be used in the tanning and tiling industry, etc. During the emergence and development of the industrial city (XIX -XX century), river development took place in terms of their service role in the industry. The production and technological processes caused excessive exploitation of water resources. There was a significant deterioration of the water quality and degrading the coastal zone of the river [2].

The 1980s and 1990s were the time of a free market economy. Many industrial plants fell during this period. The degraded river zone was enlarged with post-industrial areas. The new conditions required the concept of spatial development of the city and river areas, taking into account contemporary environmental, social and cultural realities [3].
Due to the significant surface of the Warta River and its tributaries within the city zone, the development of this zone requires a coherent vision and a holistic approach in order to create an operational network of recreational spaces. The purposefulness of activities aimed at the revitalization and restoration of riverside areas to the city confirms the residents' interest. Riverside banks are becoming popular and municipal authorities' investments in their area restore the river in the minds of the inhabitants. Walking alleys, cycle paths, organized green areas have increased the attractiveness of riverside recreation areas. At the moment, however, these are point actions that do not cover the entire area of the Warta River [4].

Green spaces along river banks are a natural consequence of local conditions in Częstochowa. In the Zawodzie district, an attractive recreation space was created in the form of a boulevard and a cycle path along the Warta River. The new boulevard zone is an example of using river areas and transforming them into an attractive place for recreation and green areas. This place began to be popular among the city's residents. Offers access to a green recreation area within the city zone [5] (Figure 3).

![Figure 3. The river Warta in the city area](image)

4. Small Squares
Arrangement of small urban squares and small squares stand out due to the perfect use of available space. The green trees, bushes, hedges, lawns or flower beds are often complemented by a water theme in the form of a fountain, a pond, a waterfall. The materials used to finish the surface, as well as so-called city furniture, have an elegant appearance, are resistant to external and safe conditions. On the one hand, they are to be as practical and resistant as possible. On the other hand, they have to have an attractive sculptural form. The same applies to materials used to finish the surface of the square. Such places are an example of a combination of elements on the border of architecture and urban planning.

The subjective approach of the author to the subject is presented by the design of the square separated in a subtle way from the urban space. The detail of greenery, the surface of the square, the benches, balancing sculptures in the space create a subjective border around the space. The arrangement of space and the detail of the square allow the inhabitants hurrying in various directions y to take a breath. The area of the square has a small space and uses the entire available space in the best...
possible way. The optimal configuration of the elements offers a place of rest, contemplation and meetings in the city's hustle and bustle. Small urban spaces in the form of small squares accumulate and unload the pace of life in the city becoming its integral element. Urban activities in the inner city areas force architects to innovative solutions in the way of managing tight intermingling spaces. They are to meet the needs and preferences of the community using this space (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Small square with a fountain at the city hall

5. Conclusions
An important element of the development of a contemporary city are the characteristic places that give you the opportunity to use them creatively. The element of water in the minds of residents is associated with relaxation and recreation. Revitalization activities carried out in the city area take into account the element of water. Water reservoirs, Lisiniec Park watering places and urban fountains are
regularly subjected to modernization and adapted to contemporary requirements, both formal and functional. However, Częstochowa - a city located on the river, is not seen as such. The degradation of riverside areas dating back to the 19th century and lasting until the end of the 20th century contributed to the separation of the river from the city. The attempt to restore the river areas to the city in order to fulfill the currently desired recreational function requires a holistic approach to the problem. Undertaken revitalization activities cannot be limited only to the social and cultural issues, but must first of all take into account the ecological and environmental ones.

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