Shaping the Cultural Space of a City on the Example of History of the Lock IV Theatre in Bydgoszcz

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Abstract. The search for ways to develop a separate identity of a city has always involved providing a significant character to urban spaces. Nowadays, in the process of accelerated change and excessive growth, cities lose their individual character and become similar to each other. The elements that create an image of a city are public spaces and cultural and natural heritage. The indicated features of spatial forms and the manifestations of life associated with them allow the recognition of the sequence of city areas and identification with specific places. According to Kevin Lynch, elements of urban composition create cultural identity and symbols of collective memory. The aim of the article is to take up current research issues in the field of urban studies, on the example of history and creation of surroundings of the IV Lock Theatre in Bydgoszcz, in the area of the Old Canal. Assuming that this space creates identity of the place, an analysis was made concerning the architectural and compositional connections of public spaces with greenery in the theatre's surroundings. In the last 200 years, until the outbreak of World War II in Poland, the process of individualizing this area was subject to conscious, comprehensive planning activities, which affected the image of the entire city. In the area surrounding the IV Lock Theater, which is the main object of research studies, numerous entertainment venues were created, including restaurants and garden cafes, playgrounds for children and adults, and sports fields. Process of degradation of this part of quays began after World War II, and its almost complete destruction took place after the decision to backfill a fragment of the Old Canal in the 1970s. Demolitions included historic locks and a stone bridge of Władysław IV, connecting the Trinity street with Grunwaldzka street, and boulevard layout was broken by removing over 100 historic trees. Currently, attempts to restore the significance and importance of this space are closely related to an initiative to reactivate the IV Lock Theatre in Bydgoszcz. Analyzing the architectural and compositional connections of public spaces around the theater in the context of this historical object as well as the revitalized space will show the directions of further shaping the cultural space of this part of Bydgoszcz, which is important for restoring an image of a city by the water.

1. Introduction
The search for ways to develop a separate identity of a city has always involved providing a significant character to urban spaces. Nowadays, in the process of accelerated change and excessive growth, cities lose their individual character and become similar to each other. The indicated features of spatial forms and the manifestations of life associated with them allow the recognition of the sequence of city areas and identification with specific places. According to Kevin Lynch, elements of urban composition create cultural identity and symbols of collective memory.
The aim of the article is to take up current research issues in the field of urban studies, on the example of history and creation of surroundings of the Lock IV Theatre in Bydgoszcz, in the area of the Old Canal. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

According to Deborah Stevenson, all cities were founded on material layers, the remains of cultures, structures and memories that have taken root in it and constitutes a "repository of memory of past times, as well as what is contemporary and currently lived " [16], thus it was assumed that the space of the Old Canal is subject to the same conditions. On this basis, an analysis of the architectural and compositional connections of public spaces and the greenery in the theater environment was carried out. The obtained results are an attempt to prove that the elements forming the image of cities are invariably public spaces and the values of cultural and natural heritage.

2. Transformations of the cultural landscape of the analyzed part of the city

The architectural and urban development of the city and its central zone should be associated with the construction of the Bydgoszcz Canal, which connected three rivers: Vistula, Noteć and Odra and shaped the spatial structure of the region. The first formal plan for setting out the canal was created under the direction of Franciszek Florian Czaki in the years 1766 - 1768 during the reign of King Stanisław August Poniatowski. Following the partition of Poland, Bydgoszcz was incorporated into the Kingdom of Prussia, and Prussian officials took over plans to connect the Vistula and the Odra. In 1773, construction works began in the Noteć valley between Bydgoszcz and Nakło. Within the city of Bydgoszcz, a canal was set out as a straight watercourse running from the west along the contemporary streets: Nakieliska, Marszałka Focha (southern bank), Grunwaldzka, Garbary (northern bank). The mouth to Brda was in downtown area, at Artur Grottger street near the City Lock. The total length of the canal was 26.77 km, and the water level differences were leveled by nine locks. The Bydgoszcz Canal has changed the face of a small city and has significantly contributed to its economic and spatial development. Bydgoszcz has become a trade center of national importance. Its

![Figure 1](image-url)

*Figure 1. Location of the Theater in Bydgoszcz according to the plan from 1908, along with the interior of the restaurant and entertainment complex (source: own study based on the immovable monument’s record card: access date 12.02.2020)*
architectural and urban development followed, connected with main communication routes: water, road and rail, running in the north-south and east-west directions. Along with the spatial development of the city, the inhabitants expected new forms of entertainment and leisure, combined with direct contact with nature. Boulevards, parks and squares were built in the city. From 1802, rows of trees were planted along the sandy banks of the new waterway. A selection of plant species was used to meet the requirements necessary to strengthen the banks, and to correspond with the site's habitat conditions. Linden and poplar alleys were supplemented with black alder trees, chestnuts, elms, beeches, hornbeams, willows and numerous shrubs. Boulevards were created along the Bydgoszcz Canal, where three functional zones were created. From the west, the park area was adapted to a sport function, in the central part to a leisure function, and in the downtown area to the representative green public space. Particularly beautiful rows of trees were created in the period 1804 - 1808, between the Lock IV and Lock V at Wrocławska Street. In the years 1833 - 1835 the area of green boulevards was expanded by planting several hundred trees from Artura Grottgera street in the direction of Bronikowskiego street. The whole composition was connected by tree-lined avenues and walking paths. The area of waterfront boulevards in the nineteenth and early twentieth century was 74 ha and became a representative and leisure space for citizens of Bydgoszcz. From the 1840s, under the guidance of the City Beautification Society, the canal area was systematically enriched with new plantings. From Lock II to Grunwaldzka Street, a linden alley was created, with which another boulevard consisting of chestnut trees planted in Bielany was connected.

A development of green public spaces in the city initiated creation of garden restaurants, entertainment and theater complexes, referred to as établissement. The French term means a company, a private entertainment and recreational establishment, consisting of a catering part and a garden. Depending on the size, they included theatre facilities enriched with elements of small garden entertainment facilities. Theater performances, music and sport events were held there. They would also include bowling alleys, hippodromes, shooting ranges, billiard rooms, card rooms. [17] This type of leisure facilities came to Bydgoszcz via Poznań and Berlin. In the 19th century, there were at least 20 such establishments in Bydgoszcz. Some of them were located in the city centre, and the others on its outskirts. They were connected with green areas of outstanding values (Bydgoszcz Forest, Brda River Valley). Their form and architectural function, combined with greenery, was varied and adapted to the expectations of citizens. The most important buildings with theater halls were located as

![Figure 2. Park on the Old Canal with a dominant in the immediate vicinity of the theater - Artistic Craft School, early 20th century. (source: https://audiovis.nac.gov.pl/search/, access: 09/09/2019)](image-url)
follows: at the Trinity street - "Natanel Patzer's Garden", at Toruńska street - "Schützenhaus", at Gdańska street - "Elysium" and "Kasino - Gesellschaft Erholung", at Jagiellońska street - "Concordia", Grodzka street - "Wichert Hall" and "Swiss House - Schweizerhaus" at 7 Wrocławska street, under analysis. 

Along the boulevards of Bydgoszcz there were also garden restaurants and cafes, playgrounds for children and adults, and sports fields. In the public spaces of the boulevards, green areas were assigned for weekly concerts, dance meetings and various shows. Elegant banquet and concert halls were also located on the banks of the canal. Venues of the établissement type were located near Lock IV - Krüger's Hall at 3 Wrocławska Street, Swiss House at 7 Wrocławska St., further at the "Kwiatowa" Lock V there was the Rasmus garden, and on the Nakielska street the "Wrońskich" complex.

The most representative place in that part of the city and at the same time one of the earliest of this type, was the etablishement at 7 Wrocławska St. This établissement was located in the western, downtown district of Okole, on the banks of the Old Canal, along the boulevards, directly connected to the historic city centre. The first wooden buildings date back to 1876, and brick buildings similar to present houses to around 1882. At the beginning, the development area was limited to buildings at Wrocławska St., surrounded by a garden. In the years 1890-1891, it was rebuilt by erecting a large "Hohenzollern" restaurant and theater room as well as smaller rooms in the eastern building. At the turn of the centuries, the facilities were further expanded by connecting neighboring plots of land. Finally, the whole complex consisted of two buildings and northern facilities, commonly known as the "Swiss House". These buildings stood out stylistically, eclectic - Art Nouveau, combined blocks - housing a large banquet-restaurant-theater room "Hall of Hohenzollerns" and the so-called "small" and "lateral" – rooms located on the east side with elements of detail and stucco. The large hall was adapted to the needs of 550 spectators. On the west side of the stage there were wardrobes, and on the east - auxiliary rooms, including kitchens and offices. Outside the complex was preceded by a veranda from which guests went out into a small garden with a series of gazebos and smaller rooms, annexes, including bowling alleys and rooms for various types of games. The venue served its intended function for decades until the end of World War II. In 1962, the buildings were taken over by a local company ZTTP Pasamon and a production plant was placed there. To adapt the facilities to new needs, in the following years, many transformations and adaptations were made. The buildings were rebuilt, annexes were added from the front and west side, the garden and its equipment were closed down, the whole was fenced with a wall. After the liquidation of the industrial plant in the former "Swiss House", service outlets still operated. As a result of these activities, the entire establishment lost its individual character and function, and the dismantling of the canal in 1971 meant that this representative part of the city was deprived of its identity and value. It was not until 2013 that the entire devastated complex was bought out by a private investor - enthusiast, with the intention of restoring its original artistic and cultural function.

3. Revitalization
The Old Canal, boulevards and the space of the rebuilt theatre were subject to planning studies undertaken by, among others, the City Council of Bydgoszcz and the City Planning Studio. The documents emphasized that spatial development of these areas should take place in relation to existing natural conditions. The primary importance was assigned to the routes of watercourses, which give the
architectural and urban developments of the city an individual character and determine the composition of its space. Planning and investment activities were undertaken for the areas adjacent to the Old Canal area.

In 2004, the City Urban Planning Studio developed "Proposals for assumptions for spatial development of the city center of Bydgoszcz", where the Old Canal together with its surroundings and buildings was identified as a valuable urban development, which should be revitalized due to its historical and landscape values. [18] The document emphasized that due to functional connections with the city center, it is important to renovate representative public facilities that will raise the significance of this place. It was also postulated to maintain and develop the areas on the canal for the purposes of leisure, without interrupting functional and spatial compactness, by means of developing boulevards and walking routes along the water banks, building bicycle paths, viewpoints, and elements of landscape architecture. [19]

In 2006, the City Urban Planning Studio adopted the "Program for the renovation and development of the Bydgoszcz water intersection". [20] In 2009, the Bydgoszcz City Council approved the Local Revitalization Program [21], in which it was indicated that the analyzed area is in a degraded zone, and subject to a necessary revitalization.

Figure 3. IV Lock Theater in the contemporary urban structure of the city of Bydgoszcz (source: author's own study)
The condition of buildings on the Old Canal and related infrastructure was described as poor or merely sufficient, which qualified the area for the revitalization program. An urban development was indicated between the following streets: Grottgera, Focha, Grunwaldzka, Czarna Droga and Brda, where the majority of residential buildings date from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, and remained largely unchanged in terms of architecture and urban planning. Streets of Królowej Jadwigi, Łokietka, Śląska, Jackowskiego with compact multi-storey buildings are still rich with valuable architecture. The condition of the facilities during the development of the Local Revitalization Program was varied, however, buildings in a poor condition prevailed. It was pointed out that the condition of historic building complex was threatened by the lack of renovation of residential and post-industrial buildings, including the former "Schweizerhaus", which caused their accelerated devastation. The guidelines developed in the program also indicate that wider range of public spaces also need to be revitalized. These spaces, in relation to the structure of the whole city, shape the esthetic quality of the urban system and perform a function conducive to social integration. The historic area of the canal and park, which borders the before mentioned theatre, has been included in the local spatial development plan and has been included in zone "A" - strict urban protection. [22] In 2015, the entire development was entered in the register of monuments.

In subsequent years, plans for the revitalization of water routes of Bydgoszcz and the Old Canal were developed as part of international programs. These plans covered areas in the immediate vicinity of the theatre and restored the significance, value and spatial values of this area. In 2006, the program "Use of Inland Waterways for Regional Development" - In Water and in the years 2009-2012 Revitalisation of Urban River Spaces (REURIS). In the In Water program, in the space of the Old Canal, revitalization assumed the reconstruction of pre-war boulevards on both sides of the watercourse. In terms of composition of greenery, it was planned to introduce low vegetation, shrubs, as well as short walls of greenery, which were to be the background for the exhibition of works of art in public space.

The water section between Lock IV and Lock V, compositionally connected with the theatre, was to have the character of a garden salon. In the extension of the boulevards west of the analyzed area, with high trees spaces, less dense areas were intended, and new species were proposed to enrich the existing plantings of common pine. The whole was to be supplemented with elements of small architecture, especially water fountain complexes, lighting of varying intensity, new benches. The design, with reference to historical times, envisaged the construction of small catering points, playgrounds for children, places for active leisure, rental outlets with water equipment and bicycles. The document „In Water” suggested buying the building at Wrocławska Street for cultural and administrative purposes related to the Old Canal - a museum, the seat of the park management and various associations.

In 2009, the City Urban Planning Studio presented another concept of green public space - the "Reuris” Central Park on the Old Canal. An analysis of revitalization conditions was carried out for the entire Park area on the Old Canal, as well as the areas surrounding it, especially on its west side. In the years 2009–2011 a fragment of the park was redeveloped from the Grunwaldzkie roundabout to the theatre at Wrocławska St., work carried out according to the developed project. [23] Actions taken were aimed at improving the quality of selected urban public space connected with water and restoring its lost significance. The boulevards were included in the spatial development plan, designated
playgrounds adapted to the age of users, areas for active and passive leisure, as well as places for catering facilities were created.

In 2011 the area was revitalized according to the design of the IN & OUT Landscape Architects Dorota Nitecka-Frączyk studio. The compositional and functional reconstruction covered the first section of the boulevards from the intersection of Grunwaldzka and Nakielska Streets to Lock IV, creating a "park gate" connected with the theatre building. The area covered by the works amounted to 2.4 ha (less than 4% of the area covered by the Reuris program). New pedestrian paths with mineral surface have been laid along concrete banks, separated from the water by a narrow band of low plantings. The steep banks of the canal were cut by new roads and footbridges located at different heights so as to provide interesting viewpoints and connect this area with the surrounding housing and service buildings. Gentle cascading descents have been introduced, allowing contemplation of greenery and peaceful leisure for the users of this area. Glass panels of varying height across the water course were installed. Fountains and new lighting were introduced, bicycle routes connecting this area with the rest of the park were set out. From the side of Nakielska Street surrounded by greenery, a playground for children was created. Trying to preserve as much old greenery as possible, a number of new plantings were made, especially trees, shrubs and perennials.

Figure 4. Condition of the Theater before 2013, general view from Wroclawska Street, preserved architectural detail of the show hall (source: own study based on the immovable monument's record card: access date 12.02.2020)
In 2013, a full scope of architectural and construction works of the Lock IV Theater began, as part of recreating the original character of this downtown part of the city. The revitalization plan involved renovation of the building and giving it a theatrical function, extended by an additional cultural program. A vaudeville theater was planned for the viewers, as well as a painting school, a ballet school and a club for actors. During long-term building works in the facilities, a layout of the rooms from before World War II, an auditorium for 600 spectators and technical facilities for the theatre were expanded and restored. Plaster and Art Nouveau decorations and frescos were recreated with care. Thanks to the acquisition of eighteenth-century bricks, façade defects were replaced, and both buildings, stylistically different, were functionally connected. Thanks to the work carried out, the revitalized "Swiss House" reflects its former beauty. It consists of a series of stepped, dimensionally sized cuboid bodies. From the west, there is a massive, single-space main building with a high attic.
gable. From the east, a slightly lower two-story block is set off. Facades of buildings are diverse and multi-axis. It was clearly emphasized that the établissement consists of two stylistically separate buildings connected by their function. The external space of the theater and the former garden that combined établissements with the Old Canal awaited the restoration of its former character and complemented the spatial values of the area.

4. Summary and conclusions

Referring to a concept of urban-architectural order according to Bogdan Jałowiecki and Marek Szczepański [24], an urban harmony depends on: functional, esthetic, social and ecological order. These factors, while shaping the cultural space of the city in combination with historical layers, create its identity. Respect for the esthetic surroundings of the Old Canal area, expressed in a number of revitalization activities, together with the initiative of a developer involved in the reconstruction of a historic facility, created an opportunity to improve quality of the selected urban public space connected with water. Despite decades of degradation of the original role and function of the space of the Old Canal and accompanying facilities, after carrying out research based on the method indicated above, it was found that:

- the revitalized place identifies the historical space, restores the significance, value and spatial values of this area,
- rebuilds the sense of spatial order and esthetic quality of urban composition,
- recreates compositional connections with the public space of the Old Canal and the city's downtown area,
- the historical building materials emphasize the stylistic form of the theater,
- the architecture of the building adapts in scale to this part of the city, without affecting the nineteenth-century urban layouts, axes and views,
- enriches the cultural offer in the city with various functions of the facility,
- promotes social integration,
- creates a sense of security among residents and users of this area,
- due to the revitalization plan, the historic representative garden layout, combined with the greenery of the Old Canal, pavement and water management and water retention system, has not yet been restored, and there are no elements of small architecture,
- a new residential development, arising and dominating on the other side of the canal, poses an urban and architectural risk.

At the same time, planning and investment activities take into account the principles of:

- development of the riverside space in a way that increases its landscape and recreational values,
- restoring functional connections of areas adjacent to the Canal,
- development of buildings that ensure views of the canal,
- functional connection with other areas of the city center, recreating green public spaces along the banks of the canal and parallel streets, and give hope for the future in shaping the cultural space of the city in the vicinity of the Lock IV Theater in Bydgoszcz.

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