Revitalization of Small Towns and The Adaptive Reuse of its Cultural Heritage

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Abstract. Cultural heritage presently holds an enormous potential for the development of not only large cities, but above all, small towns and townlets. The value of cultural heritage is used as a development factor, which, owing to conservation activities, is to serve both the city and the society. Revitalisation and adaptation, along with protection and conservation of heritage objects, have recently become the most popular conservation activities throughout Europe and Poland. Revitalisation works are performed on a large scale with a view to improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of the revitalized area, raising both the city's standards and its aesthetic appearance, and consequently encouraging people to live in it as well as attracting tourists. In recent years, numerous revitalisation projects have been carried out in Poland. The analysis focuses on the issue of real possibilities of determining the scope and scale of such projects. In big urban centres, there is an enormous substantive potential and financial resources for conducting the indispensable analyses for revitalisation programs. However, small towns lack both the substantive support and the necessary resources to prepare appropriate analyses for revitalisation works. Therefore, in small towns, the most urgent and essential revitalisation works are carried out, related to infrastructure, such as bicycle paths, and public spaces, like the market square, a local museum, the greenery as well as sport and recreation areas. At the next stage, more complex revitalisation projects, such as works within a historical complex, including ruins, requiring more detailed analyses, reflections and design solutions, are developed and introduced. In order to solve these problems and develop specific projects, specialized teams and designers should be consulted. Unfortunately, the regulations of public procurement, where the lowest price is a priority, are not a helpful instrument for an appropriate determining of the concept and the scope of the future revitalisation solutions. An alternative solution is to develop revitalisation concepts as part of student projects, where the city councils can be presented with a variety of ideas that can be used in the future revitalisation project after the analysis. The subject matter of the article will be presented using the example of Polish towns whose local authorities are trying to restore their former splendour through revitalisation activities. For this purpose, the preserved cultural heritage is used, along with the ruins of old historical buildings.

1. Introduction
The amount of towns and small towns in Poland, endowed with town privileges, is relatively significant. Some small towns, which “urbanity” results solely from the restoration of town rights granted in the middle ages, are de facto rural habitats [1, p. 10]. Unfortunately, the majority of these towns, often significant in the middle ages, as well as, in the following ages of their development, in time, lost their rank to other, dynamically expanding centres. Their cultural property stands as a
testament to the times of their glory. In regard to the difficult situation of Polish small towns, since the end of the 20th century, and, particularly, from the beginning of the new century, a wide array of revitalisation operations has been initiated. The aforementioned contributed to the improvement of the situation of polish towns, particularly visible in small towns.

The abundance of preserved material and intangible assets used in revitalisation programmes, became the solution to the problems. The history of a city, as well as, the material cultural heritage, when properly employed for commercial use, including tourism and cultural education, constitute a potential of values, that may grant the revitalisation operation a chance of success. While developing such programmes, local authorities establish investment projects regarding key points, that would contribute to the improvement of the quality of life and of the comfort of the residents, as well as, to the stimulation of the economy, and, therefore, to the growth of small towns. The issue regarding the actual possibilities, is the range and the scope of such projects and their solutions. Regarding small towns, contrary to large cities, a lack of substantive support, as well as, of the means to prepare appropriate analyses for revitalisation work, proportionally to the scope of the problem and to the preserved cultural heritage, is apparent. Prior to initiating operations, revitalisation projects should consider each phase of the project works, including studies and analyses, in order to avoid undesirable effects and hazards that would compromise of the revitalisation process.

2. Cultural heritage and revitalisation

Cultural heritage is an important factor regarding the life and the activity of every human. Nature’s creations and the works of human creative activity, along with the civilisation and social development, have followed the humankind since its beginnings. The material and spiritual heritage constitutes the greatest value that the human could leave behind over the centuries, and we are obligated to protect them so that they could be preserved for future generations.

Currently, due to the increasing social awareness regarding the value of material heritage, cultural heritage stands as an enormous potential and a local development factor regarding not only major, but primarily, small cities and small towns. Therefore, the protection and care of the monuments legally protected in Poland by the Act of 23 July 2003 On the Protection of Monuments and the Care of Historical Monuments [2], is not just a passive phenomenon of preserving the cultural heritage for the benefit of the society and its identity. Primarily, active protection of the preserved cultural heritage is necessary, as an important factor regarding spatial, social and economical development. Revitalisation and adaptive reuse of monuments are among such conservation activities.

2.1. Revitalisation

Revitalisation is an integrated process pertaining activities in three areas: social, economical and spatial. Each area is subject to mutual changes, however, spatial metamorphosis influences the social and economic changes to the highest degree. In general, the purpose of revitalising the urban and architectural space of the city, is to revitalise areas, that, for various reasons, lost their initial function along the years, and the technical condition of their infrastructure deteriorated, therefore, their aesthetic qualities were diminished. The aforementioned factors affect spatial quality and the way it is perceived by the residents and the tourists. Therefore, revitalisation activities must consist of broad-scope restoration works such as the renewal of monument urban compounds, as well as, the restoration and adaptive reuse of monuments.

2.2. Adaptive reuse

Adaptive reuse is an element of the active conservation works regarding a particular object, in compliance with the recommendations of conservation protection, adjusting the monuments to new requirements and a modern function, breathing new “life” in them. Due to adaptive reuse, the architectural objects that were deprived of their usefulness, firmness and beauty, are given a chance to regain the worth of the Vitruvian triad: Utilitas, Firmitas, Venustas, in order to serve contemporaries
and future generations. The monuments that are to be subject to adaptive reuse, are often unused, fall in ruin, or are in a state of ruin, but their due to their historical value, it is imperative to save and protect them. Objects for adaptive reuse that are particularly vulnerable, are ruins. Most importantly, castle ruins, that, deprived of their original function for ages, and left without care, fell into ruin [3, p. 14].

2.3. Permanent ruin
The permanent ruin, as the eminent Polish Professor J. Bogdanowski rightly said, “is probably the oldest dilemma in the history of heritage care” [4, p. 22]. Therefore, for years, the issue regarding historical ruins, has remained as one of the essential themes regarding conservation gatherings, i.a. gatherings resulting from the activities of the ICOMOS Polish National Committee [5, 6, 7]. Currently, historical ruins, as an element of composition inscribed in the landscape, are subject to different conservation activities including the reconstruction of buildings or introducing new forms. However, such activities must be supported by scientific knowledge, so that their historical, authentic form and substance would remain unharmed. The lack of an unequivocal determination of the direction of these activities, impedes the objectives of the project of conservation and of the form of reusing the ruins for current purposes. The main objectives are, to preserve the ruins, as well as, to initiate conservation and adaptive activities, that would allow for an active use of these ruins, instead of solely - for their passive reception.

3. Revitalisation programmes and revitalisation activities
In countries of western and central Europe, a number of government revitalisation programmes are being introduced, while in Poland such programmes are established on municipal and town levels. Despite the programmes being designed and revitalisation being conducted since the end of the 20th century, in Poland, revitalisation activities were legally described only in 2015 - in the Revitalisation Act of 9 October 2015 [8]. The general legal act indicates when and whether such activities should be conducted and implemented by administrative authorities. Over the course of recent years, revitalisation has increased in significance and intensity. It is treated increasingly commonly, as a determining factor for development and life improvement. The vast significance and the visible positive effects of such activities, resulted in noticing “the necessity of an even more common multi-sector and a more integrated effort for saving the degraded areas from critical situations”. Therefore, an idea and a vision emerged, to establish an all-encompassing Polish National Revitalisation Plan for the year 2022 [9, p. 2].

Until now, the task of revitalisation was executed on a municipal level, with the aim of addressing local issues [10]. Concerning public interest, revitalisation activities are managed by local administration agencies, involving stakeholders and social participants. The involvement of residents plays an enormous role in matters important to the municipality. Particularly in towns, local authorities, drawing upon consultation with the residents, as well as, upon the analysis of local problems and determinants, select the areas intended for revitalisation. The works most urgent and necessary for the city, are prioritised for selection and execution. In the first instance, the areas encompassing the neglected sites of historical centres and urban buildings under conservation protection, are subject to revitalisation - i.e. the Main Market Square along with its adjoining streets, and then, the City Centre. These areas are characterised by low development dynamics, with low levels of local economic activity, unemployment, and criminal activity. Primarily, the motor vehicle and pedestrian-bicycle road infrastructure is improved, green areas, sports and recreation areas are vitalised, etc. The public space aesthetics are improved by the renovation of public utility buildings, and adaptive reuse for new educational-cultural functions. In the following phase of revitalisation, each small town employs its unique historical-cultural potential, the local values that constitute the identity of the place with which the residents identify as well. In this phase, the most complex revitalisation projects are being conducted, regarding the original monuments, e.g. revitalisation and adaptive reuse of ruins.
Revitalisation and adaptive reuse of ruins require designing a project of a much broader substantive scope - an architectural-landscape project. Firstly, based on the conducted studies and indicators, one should not draw solely upon urban planning materials, but also macro- and often micro-interior panoramas related to the object landscape [4, p. 26]. In this case, apart from the discussion and the decisions made by the authorities, as well as, by the local communities, a substantive support by specialists and experts in the aforementioned field is imperative, in order to carry out professional studies and analyses of the cultural landscape environment for the project. The complex works regarding designing such a project, require an appropriate project team and a careful examination of the initial materials and concepts. Therefore, universities and young adepts of architecture, may play a key role, as their fresh view on the issue, while being supervised by experts - project leaders, may bring about interesting ideas and worthwhile project concepts providing inspiration for future solutions within revitalisation projects.

4. A presentation of the revitalisation and the adaptive reuse of the cultural property activities

The author wishes to present the subject of the article, drawing upon the example of selected small towns in the Świętokrzyskie region, where local authorities intend to return them to their former glory by means of revitalisation activities. To achieve that aim, the most valuable preserved assets of the towns are employed: the urban arrangement, the city’s medieval history, and the historical ruins as architectural relics.

The Świętokrzyskie region is located in the south-central part of Poland, and, among other Voivodeships, stands out as an area of valuable landscape and cultural assets. The history of the region and its towns is related to the founding history of Poland. A number of 34 cities, including one major city (Kielce), five medium-sized cities, 13 towns and 15 small towns (including Chęciny and Bodzentyn). A majority of these towns is of medieval provenance, as they received town privileges during the process of medieval or early modern urbanisation. In the Świętokrzyskie region, one of the smallest in the country (more than 11 710,50 km²) and one of the least urbanised (44,6%) [11], exists a relatively high amount of 1545 historical monuments including 34 urban arrangements i.e. c. 520 sacral monuments, and more than a hundred palaces and manors. However, the data does not properly reflect the exceptional nature of the monuments, as they are unique nationwide [12, p. 79].

Currently, as in other regions, history and cultural property present the greatest value of cities and towns, the situation of which turned out to be difficult in comparison to the increasingly expanding major urban centres. The revitalisation and the adaptive use of the existing cultural heritage, appeared as the means to improve life conditions perspectives. Practically, every city of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship is developing Municipal Local Programmes devoted to the revitalisation of the city and the municipality, and afterwards, these cities implement the aforementioned projects, achieving desired revitalisation results - the improvement of their investment and tourism attractiveness. The same applies to cities and towns in the Świętokrzyskie region, e.g. Kielce, Chęciny and Bodzentyn.

4.1. Kielce

Kielce is the capital of the Świętokrzyskie region and an example of a Polish city of medieval provenance and of a centuries-old cultural heritage. The oldest trading settlement existed here at the turn of the 10th and the 11th centuries; c. 1171 the bishop of Kraków, Gideon founded the cathedral and built the city of Kielce, chartering of which took place in 1364 [13, p. 13], [14, p. 53]. In contemporary conditions, this historical area and its monuments are employed by the authorities to expand and promote the city, as well as, the entire Świętokrzyskie region. The revitalisation of Kielce was initiated in the 1990s. The first accomplishment within the Kielce Centre Revitalisation project [14, p. 55] was the reconstruction of the main promenade of the city - the Sienkiewicz street. The main city street was delineated in the 1820, as a composition axis of the urban arrangement of the Kielce centre. By the end of the 20th century, the calling card of the city required adjustments regarding the contemporary social needs of the residents, as well as, of the visiting tourists. At the beginning of the new century, activities were introduced to improve the functionality and the aesthetics of the street’s
space, so that it was given a proper appearance by means of new pavement, lighting and street furniture (years 2001-2006) [15, pp. 11-12]. The Sienkiewicz case was followed by the revitalisation of historical urban and architectural spaces, i.e. the Kielce Market Square and the st. Tekla Square along with the fragments of outgoing streets and adjoining centre streets. During the works, in the years 2010-2011, a number of changes were made, both functional, as well as, regarding the shaping of the Market Square space, and re-establishing its free space. By limiting vehicle traffic, a so-called urban lounge was created, that would properly reflect the historical form and address the contemporary needs of the society. Due to revitalisation, the square serves as a place for meetings and walks, for residents and visiting tourists [15, p. 12]. Another important investment, was the revitalisation of the St. Mary square, and the surrounding streets of the Castle Hill, also referred to as the Cathedral Hill (2010-2011). The origins of the settlement and the architecture, along with the cathedral and the courtyard later reconstructed into a palace, can be traced back to medieval times. The current Palace of the Kraków Bishops in Kielce, is one of the best preserved residences left behind by the bishops of Kraków. Apart from Kraków itself, the Palace was one of the most important residences of bishops in the Kraków diocese, during the 1st decade of the 16th century [16, pp. 42-43]. In the place of the manor existing in 1637-1642/4, a preserved baroque object was erected (figure 1). In 1799 the object was taken over by the Austrian government, followed by the Kielce diocese, launching a time of changes regarding the owners and functions of the entire palace as well as its particular parts [17, p. 21]. Only in 1971, the National Museum of Kielce was opened there. The meaning of the object, its representative form and spacious interiors were found adequate for a museum function. In spacious halls adapted for the exhibition space, works of art present outstandingly. In 2017 the former Palace of the Kraków Bishops, the entire complex along with the cathedral, was placed on the prestigious List of Historical Monuments. The object, not renovated for a long time, was subject to conservation works in 2017, additionally, works have started regarding the renovation of the ell, as well as the modernisation of the paintings gallery. Therefore, the palace will present itself as a “modern monument” for the 21st century.

4.2. Chęciny

Chęciny is a small town c. 15 km west from Kielce located at the northern side of the broad hill, with its history traceable back to the half of the 12th century. In the middle of the 14th century the rank of the town, which received its town privileges in 1325, was quite significant. The public space was built around two market squares and a parochial church of st. Bartholomew, but most of all, around the fortress built on the hill. The medieval Royal Castle was erected from stone, on the rocky hilltop (367 m. a.s.l), at the turn of the 13th and the 14th centuries. It was designed within an irregular polygon plane, utilising the defensive advantage of the hill. During its glory days, the fortress served as a high-ranked royal residence, a centre of political life and the concentration of the Polish military. Unfortunately, in the 16th century, the fortress began to fall into decline, and at the beginning of the 17th century, following yet another occupation, the completely destroyed object was abandoned by its residents. Despite losing its initial function, the ruined remains were preserved as a legible form left by the former, exquisite object.

Generally speaking, Chęciny are best known for the castle ruins drawing most of the tourist attention. Poor technical infrastructure discouraged visiting the Chęciny centre, and the lack of tourist services, prevented longer stays. Therefore, to create equal opportunities and attract interest, here too, at the turn of 2013 and 2014, a complex revitalisation was conducted, regarding Chęciny market squares, along with adjoining streets, in order to rebuild and promote the unique historical and cultural assets of the town. Emphasis was placed on improving the spatial quality of this small town, as well as, on improving tourist services, the so-called small catering and accommodation, etc. [15, p. 15]. Despite the enormous interest regarding the Chęciny castle ruins, the object was also subjected to revitalisation and adaptive adjustment for tourist purposes. The project tasks appropriate to the contemporary technical conditions and standards, were accomplished with respect to the historical value of the monument. Firstly, detailed archaeological research preceded the works regarding the
castle, under the supervision of the archaeologist Waldemar Gliński [19]. Excavation works revealed new, unknown architectural artefacts of the castle, dated at the turn of the 13th and the 14th centuries [20]. After securing the findings research, revitalisation of the castle ruins began in Spring 2013, according to revitalisation plans that had already been prepared in 2005 (figure 2). Simultaneously, complex repairs and area development were conducted in order to increase the tourist appeal of the monument. The revitalisation consisted of restoring the chapel and the former treasury in the Upper Castle, and adapting the basements to serve as a seasonal mini-café. A vantage point encompassing the entire city panorama and the Świętokrzyskie Mountains surroundings, was established in the tower. The well in the Lower Castle was restored and secured, an amphitheatre was introduced, as well as, a number of former-style stalls. In this part of the castle, the second western tower was made available to tourists, as a place to hold exhibitions and private viewings. The castle surroundings were also subjected to revitalisation, lighting along the alley leading to the castle was improved, as well as, the road to the castle and the parking next to the castle hill. Following the revitalisation, the interest regarding the castle increased, rising by 60% in comparison to the pre-works period [21].

Figure 1. The Palace of the Kraków Bishops in Kielce from the side of the city park [photos of the author]  
Figure 2. View of the ruins in Chęciny after revitalization [20]

4.3. Bodzentyn

Bodzentyn is another small town in the Świętokrzyskie region, endowed with a rich history. The town is located c. 30 km to the north-east of Kielce, in a beautiful landscape of the adjacent Świętokrzyski National Park and the Łysogóry area located to the south-west. The grounds are a protected area, rich in landscape value, and filled with preserved cultural heritage. Therefore, there is a substantial number of tourist trails in the vicinity that intersect in Bodzentyn. Here, tourists intend to see the preserved ruins of the former Palace of the Kraków Bishops (figure 3-4), a 15th century gothic church, a market square, and the 1809 wooden Czerniekiewicz farm.

4.3.1. A historical outline of the city and of the Palace of the Kraków Bishops

The founding location of Bodzentyn “since times immemorial” belonged to the bishops of Kraków [22, p. 274]. At the end of the middle ages, Jan Długosz noted that the Kraków bishop Bodżeta founded Bodzentyn [23, p. 461]. The city received its municipal charter c. 1355 [24, p. 25] within the

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1 The first archaeological research conducted in 1959-1960, the next in the years 1961, 1968, 1974, in the years 1996-1999 rescue archaeological research, 2007 – archaeological intervention. See: [18, pp. 54-70]

2 Wooden Architecture Tract, Defensive Architecture Tract, Archaeological-Geological Tract, Literary Tract.
The medieval castle in Bodzentyn was founded already in the second half of the 14th century by bishop Florian of Mokrsko. The location of the episcopal residence in the western part of the town, at the rocky point above the Psarka river valley was decided on during the delineation of the town while the it was receiving its municipal charter. Sources speak nothing of the appearance and the size of the castle during its earliest phase, and its traces were effaced by subsequent transformations. In the 16th century, reconstruction works started along with the extension of the object. Activities resulting from the general historical changes, as well as, from the changes regarding aesthetic taste and the needs of the residents, led to erecting an impressive Renaissance episcopal palace (A-C), followed by a mannerist-baroque one (D) (figure 3), [25, pp. 69-71]. With the beginning of the 17th century, the palace experienced its time of glory, as a summer residence for the bishops of Kraków, bustling with life [22, s. 274]. Moreover, following the Bodzentyn palace, the bishops of Kraków founded a vast outer ward on the southern side, containing a coach house, a mill, warehouses, stables and other outbuildings. In the eastern part of the compound a Renaissance Italian garden including a preserve, would spread over the area, and ponds were located in the Psarka river valley. Unfortunately, after its former glory days during Renaissance, since the half of the 17th century Bodzentyn had begun to deteriorate. After the end of the rule of the Kraków Bishops, in 1789, the episcopal estates were nationalised for military purposes. Under the rule of Austrian annexationists, the palace served as a granary and a field hospital. Following 1815, it was acquired by the government of Congress Poland, and abandoned since then, it had slowly started to fall in ruin. Only in 1921, the government took the palace under care, when it was secured and placed under protection. Since then, it had also become available to all, which did not serve the protection and the state of preservation of the palace compound placed in the register of objects of cultural heritage. Following 1965, a decision was made to secure the ruins definitely, according to the project by Prof. Brykowska. The project, considering the archaeological research results, was not accomplished. The works were re-initiated in the 1980s, resulting in securing the most vulnerable, eastern palace wing. During the following decade, no works regarding the palace were noted, apart from conservation repairs of the wall of the former Italian garden. The palace appearance is known from few iconography sources. The available inventory pictures of the palace already in a ruined state, painted by Kazimierz Stronczyński, come only from the half of the 19th century (figure 4).
The picturesque fragments of the building wings survived to this day, with the best preserved being the southern wing with its external walls, however, without the ceiling and the roof. In this part of the palace a gate portal remains, carved out of red sandstone. Other details such as stone framing of the windows with coats of arms, stand as a testament to the glorious architecture of the palace. The ruin, apart from its poor state is a place for walks for the residents and the main point of tourist trips. Unfortunately, it has also been inhabited by the local youth and social outcasts, who contribute to the degradation of this place. Therefore, the city authorities urge to revitalise this place and use the chance of breathing a new “life” in the palace, for the benefit of Bodzentyn town.

4.3.2. Town centre revitalisation and the future of the former palace ruins.

Bodzentyn wishes to regain its former rank and significance in the Świętokrzyskie region by means of revitalisation, employing the preserved cultural heritage. Within the framework of the town’s Local Revitalisation Programme between 2012 and 2013, a new concept of public space development was established. Based on that concept, a project of rebuilding the Main Market Square and the nearby streets, was prepared. Similar to the examples presented above, the revitalisation of the market square consisted of the restoration of its initial function, and of creating a town centre that would be inviting and appealing to city residents as well as tourists [15, s. 15]. At the same time, plans were made to revitalise the ruins of the palace compound. Despite the fact, that the project regarding the development of the described grounds, was prepared, no construction works were initiated. However, the subject was not discarded. At the beginning of 2017, the municipality initiated activities regarding the revitalisation of ruins and its surrounding areas. In this case, considering the unusual object and the non-standard terrain structure, the municipal authorities, received the support of the Kielce University of Technology. A contest addressing the architecture students at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture was held, with defined conditions regarding revitalisation and the adaptive reuse premises. The task was to develop a concept of revitalisation of the monument area encompassing the Palace of the Kraków Bishops along with its natural surroundings. According to the assumed premises, the concept was to take into account the existing ruins, green areas, and the topography, as well as, to be consistent with the conservation guidelines.

Students expressed their interest in the contest. The project was executed during the Conservation and Monument Protection classes, including consulting with the academics. Due to the profound historical, functional, compositional and green areas research, the students managed to create an interesting project proposal, consistent with the contest conditions. 17 works were submitted, and the Committee awarded three best projects with monetary awards and two other projects with honourable mentions.

The generally proposed concepts postulate the execution of the archaeological works, as well as, securing the excavated architectural artefacts in such manner, so that they would be adapted for introducing safe tourist traffic. It is necessary to reinforce the ruins wall substance, to fill gaps in the wall, as well as, to reconstruct the its indicated fragments. A number of proposals were presented, regarding the ruins sightseeing tour paths, the potential for adaptive reuse of the existing structures and space, as well as, separated and canopied exhibition areas. The main entrance was designed by a representational portal, which leads to the inner courtyard, where the outline of the former palace walls is variously brought out, as well as, to an observation deck overlooking the Psarka river. The conentional projects, additionally, took into consideration the development of the Psarka river valley, where the old-growth forest and the old pond system were exposed, as well as, the elevated education-tourist tour path was designed, that would highlight the historical-natural value of the area. On the east side of the palace ruins, reconstruction was designed, regarding the geometric Italian garden known from source material.

Within the framework of the first concept, the authors proposed incorporating a glass pavilion in the walls of the best preserved southern wing of the ruins (figure 5). The pavilion would serve exhibition-museum and education purposes. In the western part, a staircase was designed, to move between the exhibition piece storeys. For the second floor, due to the reconstruction of wooden ceilings, an exhibition room and a lapidarium were designed. In the southern part of the ruins, as an addition to the
building, a glass wall was proposed, with a picture imitating the appearance of the original elevation of the palace. For courtyard-side visitors, an entrance was proposed, leading to the wooden ceiling with a guard rail, reconstructed along the two wings, allowing visitors to be closer to the walls. In the courtyard, in place of the former palace wing walls, creating a stone pavement was proposed, and the space between the palace wing walls was paved with wooden blocks. Therefore, tourists would be able to imagine the shape of the original palace complex, and the functional arrangement of the interiors. From the western side, between the wings, a spacious green courtyard was left accessible to tourists, as well as, an observation deck extended over the bank.

The author of the second concept proposed the creation of a cultural, archaeological and architectural reserve with the presentation of in situ artefacts [27] (figure 6). In order to present the exposed relics, the author designed an underground tourist path and introduced a glass ceiling, allowing for a view of the underground exposition. The glass ceiling would also serve as a floor of the courtyard in the place of the former palace. Here in the overground part, a 1m tall outline of the former palace walls would be reconstructed, so that one could pass between them for sightseeing purposes. On the castle hill, the green inner courtyard would remain open to the Psarka valley and connected with it by means of a designed descending path.

In the third concept, the authors postulate resuming archaeological research, followed by cleansing the walls in order to expose them in an underground exposition. The tourist path starts at the main portal, secured by a modern glass-like form of a vestibule (figure 7). Further, the authors take the sightseeing path above ground. A chain of exhibition halls, as well as, the communication routes are composed in a form of a wide glass corridor mounted on posts. The corridor runs inside along the wings, connecting all parts in a letter “U” shape, as originally designed. Stairwells leading to the storey with the exposition space, and then, to the observation deck, were designed for the west tract of the south and the north wing. Introducing observation towers aims at not only improving the attractiveness of the site, but would also reinforce and stiffen the structure of the ruins.

The competition projects, after consulting with the residents and entities involved, would serve the Bodzentyn Town and Municipality to prepare the project-executive documentation regarding the revitalised areas of Bodzentyn in regard to the intention to apply for EU funds within the 2014-2020 Regional Operational Programme for Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship [28].

Figure 5. Development of the Ruins the Palace of the Kraków Bishops in Bodzentyn: plan and visualization from the bird's eye view [ed. author's eng. arch. A. Kisiel, eng. arch. M. Leszkowicz]
5. Conclusion

In summary, the local revitalisation programmes and projects aid the improvement of life quality in towns and small towns. The examples show, how their historical, material and spiritual heritage contributes to the aforementioned. The history and the charm of cultural heritage constitute an enormous potential, and the spatial changes prove to be the driving force for the economic and social development of towns. Kielce or Chęciny are towns, where, due to the protection and conservation activities, as well as, to the recently conducted revitalisations, the cultural property and the historical-spatial advantages are well preserved and employed for current needs. Bodzentyn wishes to join that circle, and has a great chance of doing so. Following the revitalisation of the market square, it is time for the preserved ruins of the former Palace of the Kraków Bishops and its surrounding areas. Decisions and actions must be swift in regard to this particular object, due to the valuable authentic fabric that is subject to continuous destruction and decay. The potential of the object and the possibilities of its use, were made clear by the contest results, in the form of the revitalisation and adaptive reuse of the former grounds of the palace compound.

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