

Spatial Structure of Supraśl from 19th Century in its Contemporary Resort Landscape

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Abstract

Supraśl is a small town in north-eastern part of Poland. Manufacturing Suprasl was set up on the idea of Wilhelm Zachetr in the first part of the 19th century. The manufacturer gave it organized, classical urban character with public spaces and green ones. In this article we describe modernizations and supplements done in the spaces and the buildings in the context of historical structure of Suprasl. Also show the characteristics of this historical and manufacturing town which are its touristic and spa parts.

Key words: *Supraśl, factory town, public spaces, public greenery, resort, SPA.*

Аннотация

Супрасль-город, расположенный в северо-восточной части Польши. Он является заводским поселением, который был основан в соответствии с градостроительной концепцией Вильгельма Зачетры в первой половине XIX века. Автор придал ему упорядоченный, классический городской характер с интегрированными общественными пространствами и зелеными зонами. В статье рассматриваются современные предложения по модернизации градостроительной структуры с включением общественных пространств и объектов, а также зеленых зон в контекст исторической застройки Супрасля. Показаны территориально-пространственные особенности исторического города-фабрики, которые сегодня составляют его значительную туристическую привлекательность и курортную ценность.

Ключевые слова: *Супрасль, заводской городок, общественные пространства, городское озеленение, курорт, туристическая привлекательность.*

Introduction

Europe. The 18th century brought negative experience in the changes in the city space as the result of the factories localization. Degradation was the result of basing the city development on the economic factor. It influenced the low standard of living conditions, pollution and very intensive and boring building without any esthetical elements. In the first part of the 19th century in Western Europe the first projects on utopian working class estate were written (New Lanark in Scotland, New Harmony in India and USA 1826 Familister in Guise in France 1859–1879) were supposed to improve the situation (Bohm, 2016; Ostrowski, 2001; Słodczyk, 2012). They were only ideas because of economic issues. They couldn't face the ideas of rich and esthetical social programme of those models.

The best example was Saltaire built by Tytus Salt in 50–70s of the 19th century next to Bradford in England. It was the factory together with the urban structure of the district and the living space for the workers. It also had a school, green spaces, a hospital, a nursing house, a chapel and a park (Ostrowski, 2001; Bohm, 2016) Proposed standard of living was supposed to influence the workers efficiency. It also gave the prestige to the creator.

Region. The process of industrialization was started in Rzeczpospolita in the beginning of 19th century. It was based on bringing the qualified specialists from Western Europe. In the 20s of the 19th century the idea of economic activation of Polish Kingdom guided to the setting of a new textile industry in Mazowieckie. It was composed of both private and public cities (Lodz, Gabin, Konstantynow, Zgierz, Lowicz, Wloclawek, Piotrkow) (Ostrowski, 2001). They could trade with

Prussia and Russia, taking an advantage of the fiscal conditions. This economic development was linked to their space development which in many cases linked the progress in crafts and industry with classical urban composition. (Ostrowski, 2001; Przylecki, 2004). The economic aspect was linked to the space organization, bringing the esthetical value to the landscape and the prestige to the place.

After the November Rising in 1830, Russia introduced new taxes on the textile industry. The result of those political and fiscal changes was the change of localization of those factories from Polish territory to Russian one where the taxes didn't exist. In Grodno district the factories and the workshops were located in Bialystok, Choroszcz, Suprasl, Ciechanowiec, Knyszyn, Krynki, Wasilkow and Zabłudow (Dobronski 2003a). In this group the special functional and compositional values of the town space had Suprasl.

Supraśl. Supraśl is located in north-eastern part of Poland now, in Podlaskie voivodship. Its history dates back to the 16th century. The industrial history of the city deserves attention.

In 1837 Wilhelm Zachert leased from the Russian authorities the territories of Suprasl (Dobrowolski 2003a; Dobrowolski, Popławska 2003b). The manufacturer had the initiative to build a town on the basis of the old setting dated to the 16th century, functioning next to the orthodox monastery. The idea of setting this town was very pragmatic: the need of building the textile factories next to the rivers. Moreover, he used the experience from Nowa Osada from Zgierz (Ostrowski, 2001; Przylecki, 2004) which in the 20s of the 19th century had the textile industry.

Zachert was the initiator of the idea of “new” Suprasl with a varied functional programme (manufactures, factories, an evangelic school, textile houses, residential areas, green and trade spaces) and very representative in the space character. Geometric and closed form of the plan focused on a regular inner organization of the town and axial exposition of the buildings (the catholic and evangelical church) and public spaces (market square) (Fig. 1). The structure of the city was the part of the communication through the roads and the cluster, didn't include any landscape elements that united the valley landscape with the Knyszynska Forest.

Organized urban character was a part of the shape of the space in Suprasl. The main streets were closed by the towers of the sacral buildings and there was also a regular building of the textile workers' houses (Lodzinski, 2002). In the 19th century in Suprasl the system of green spaces was created which was supposed to improve the workers' lives. Its basis was the Town Park linked with the monastery in the north, in the south with a big private garden of Buchholtz family. We can also set a thesis that Suprasl from the 19th century, was a town based on standards of English living in Saltaire. Here the landscape degradation of the textile towns was omitted.

Aim of the research

Manufacturing Suprasl is the town where urban ideas started in the 19th century. It developed during the following years. The most valued are public spaces and incorporation of the green spaces as parks, alleys and squares.

The aim of this research is to show the continuation of the ideas of the textile town started by Zachert in the modern attempts of the revalorization and renovation of the public spaces and green ones in Suprasl.



Fig. 1. Map of Suprasl in 1892 – part of map (Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek; Lodzinski)

State of research

The researches on Suprasl were based on the analysis of the historical aspects (Dobrowolski 2003a; Dobrowolski, Popławska 2003b), its building and urban structure (Lodzinski, 2002; Lodzinski, 2010), its water system (Dobrowolski 2009), its monuments (Dolistowska, Lodzinski), and its green spaces (Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek; Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek, Kucharczyk, 2000) so far. In those studies Suprasl was presented as a regional town (Dobronski, 2014).

The really valuable material describing the space and landscape analysis of Suprasl are recompiled in many proposals in form of the projects. They were designed to the chosen buildings and spaces in the town in the last years as parts of the design competitions or orders organized by the town council and also the ones done by the university students with the professional help of their professors from Landscape Architecture (Suprasl, strona..., 2017) and Urban of Bialystok University of Technology and other universities.

The 19th century urban structure in the modernization of the public spaces hasn't been analyzed so far.

Results of research

In this research first the spatial structures of Suprasl landscape from the 19th century were described, using the historical maps (1892) (Fig. 1) and the old photographs. Also the form and the continuation of the industrial city from Zacherts times were analyzed through the projects proposals aiming into the main public spaces and the green areas in Suprasl.

The system of the public spaces and green areas in Suprasl nowadays are composed and communicated to make a Town Park (Saski Park) together with the stadium next to Ogrodowa Street, a square next to folk house, Koscielna street that prolonged the main space composition to 3 Maja street, a town market Plac Kosciuszki, the garden next to the palace of Buchholtz, Bulwary in the river valley and the complex of the Monastery of Bazilians. In this research those buildings and spaces were presented because of the compositional and communicational linking neither their chronology nor its construction.

The **Town Park** (Ogrod Saski) in Suprasl is one of the oldest parks in the region (Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek; Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek, Kucharczyk, 2000). It was set up as a free space although paid by the private person: Wilhelm Zachert. In the 20s of the 20th century the Zachert family gave the part to the town.

During those years both the size and the shape of the park were changed. There wasn't change in its meaning to the urban-landscape composition into the town and landscape vision of Suprasl. The most important factor was the garden function available to everyone. Today it is difficult to talk about historical composition of this Town Park. The system from Zachert's times based on the Italian garden linked with the other parts of the monastery gardens, in the 20s of the 19th century was reduced and recomposed. After the Second World War the green spaces were denser due to lack of care and influenced the degradation of this park (Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek; Bończak-Kucharczyk, Maroszek, Kucharczyk, 2000).

In May of 2016, Suprasl suffered a hurricane which destroyed the Town Park. Many trees were thorn and that destruction was the beginning of the idea of the revalorization of this park (Januskiewicz, 2017b). In 2016 the City Council and Bialystok Polytechnic organized a project based on the contest and researches made by the professors and students from Architecture of the Landscape with the aim of the revalorization of this park (Supraśl, strona..., 2017; Gawryluk, Baum, Kucinskiene, 2017).

The next step was the competition to make a concept of the revalorization of the part of Ogrod Saski in Suprasl made by the City Council in 2017. Those projects shown that there are

compositional possibilities to introduce a wide program of a functional town park (public, historical, spa, didactical, therapeutic and jordanowski) and its attractive linking to the historical structure of the town landscape (Konkurs na opracowanie..., 2017). In order to revalorize the park we have to take into account the historical and compositional issues of this space (Januszkiewicz 2017a) (Fig. 2. a, b). Promoted by the town idea of the revalorization of Ogród Saski based on its historical value of this park and the whole town, it will influence positively on its historical value, its development and also the spa space.



Fig. 2. Projekty konkursowe Ogrodu Saskiego:

- a) integration of new program with historical structure of town (Jarmołowska, Samełko, Lewsza);
 b) architectural and landscape view connections (A.Tekiń, A.Michalis, S.Piszczatowski)

The Square next to Dom Ludowy (after World War II – the cinema Jutrzenka) was renewed in 2010. Its project was designed by Białystok architects of the landscape Olaf Gawryluk and Justyna Krzeminska and made in 2009 (Skwer przy..., 2009). The modern realization with the roundabout dates back to the idea of the 19th century. Today composition, very dynamic one, archery alleys don't continue a classical original style. The modern design of the square was adapted to communicate Dom Ludowy built in the 20s of the 20th century. The main accent of the square is the fountain in the form of the solar watch done by the sculptor Grzegorz Los (Suprasl). Also the square is decorated by the green space. This place became very important for the cultural life in Suprasl. Because of the activities in Dom Ludowy, this space is used to develop all cultural events and the art expositions (e.g. the building where "Podlasie SlowFeast art, cooking, nature" was made in Suprasl in July-September 2017).

The 3rd May Street is the main axis of urban composition of Suprasl. It links the dominant church of St. Trinity with the main square (Kosciuszko Square). The street from the very beginning of the textile town had a representative character. It was achieved by the organized structure of the weavers' houses on both sides of the street. At the beginning of the 20th century it was lighted. The axis character is achieved due to the trees planted on both sides of the street, elements of the plants in the pots located next to the trees. The nature together with the historical character of the street gives a walking character attractive to the town citizens of this spa place.

The Book Institute and Warsaw department of Polish Architectures Association (SARP) in 2012 organized a contest to design the library's concept in Suprasl. The winner's project was made by the Białystok architects Ana and Maciej Zukowscy because of functional part of this building, which perfectly was adapted into the landscape of the historical weavers' houses on that street. The project hasn't been put into practice yet although the idea works perfectly in this historical character of Suprasl landscape (Biblioteka w..., 2012).

The **Church Street** in the town composition is a continuation of the 3rd May Street behind the St. Trinity Church (Fig. 3. a). The revitalization activities were done to organize the esthetical character of that street which is the important element of that part of Suprasl (Przebudowa ul.

Kościelnej..., 2015). The authors of that idea made in 2015 were the architects Piotr Lodzinski and Zbigniew Baum. Maintaining the unique character of that street was achieved by choosing the appropriate materials to cover the surface of that street and the pavements, adding the green spaces and planting the trees, and finally, adding the light elements (Fig. 3. b).



Fig. 3. Church Street: a) view with church of St Trinity;
b) view of Church Street (both drawings by P. Lodzinski)

The *Kościuszko Square* (town's main square) is the main space in this urban composition. A square is located on the high hill in the Suprasl river valley. According to the XIXth century classical project, the main streets enter into the center of the square. It is also surrounded on the three sides by brick buildings. The exceptional element shown on the map from 1892 is the fourth side closing the main compositional axis with the church. Probably the buildings were lower wooden ones, limiting the view on the valley. Throughout the years this representative square with its historical trading function was degraded to the intersection Konarskiego Street and the 3rd May Street with a bus stop and a parking lot.

In 2010, the first attempt to design a concept of revalorization of that place was done. The authors were the architects Piotr Lodzinski and Zbigniew Baum. The idea was based on an open space and organizing the buildings the most uniform as possible. The limited traffic was supposed to give the square its representative character of that space where a lot of events could have been organized (feasts, concerts, markets) and along the frontage were supposed to be occupied by the restaurant gardens. In this space, green areas and trees planted after the Second World War were included (Fig. 4. a).

There was the idea of the view terrace on the hill looking into the valley, which was the prolonged part of composed axis of the 3rd May Street. This space was supposed to be a touristic attraction. Under the terrace, on the other level, the souvenir shops were designed to offer regional products. This idea also included the functional offer for the citizens, tourists and bathers (Fig. 4. a). Moreover, it also included ideas from Zachert times. This concept hasn't been done because the theatre next to Kosciuszko Square was built.

The answer to the new space conditions was another square project made in 2017 on the council order by two architects Piotr Lodzinski and Zbigniew Baum. It contained the answers to functional needs of the town (organization of the communication, giving this space the function of the representative place, the possibilities to trade and give services connected to the touristic development in Suprasl) based on the esthetical idea inspired by historical values of the landscape and Zachert urban concept (Fig. 4. b).

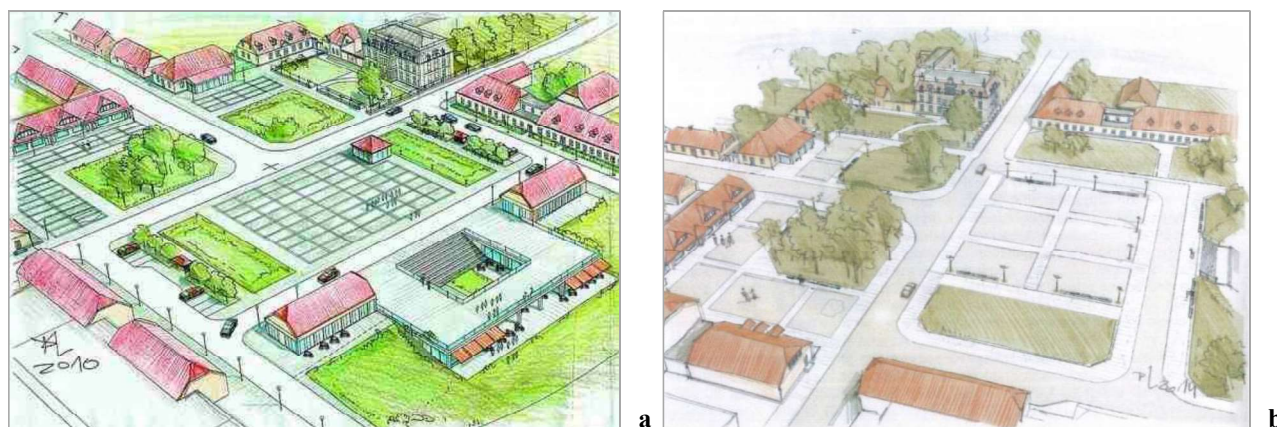


Fig. 4. Kościuszko Square: a) design of Kościuszko Square in 2010; b) design of Kościuszko Square in 2017 (both drawings by P. Lodzinski)

This modern concept underlines the need to restore the readability of this space. It takes into consideration organizing the construction of the frontage and symmetrical closing one of the parts of the square looking into the valley. It opens the axis connection of the square with the theatre, which results in the opening the view towards the valley. The vertical accent, linking the axis of the 3rd May Street, is a proposed classical obelisk. Symmetrically on both sides of the main compositional axis there are the green spaces and trees planted after the Second World War, which influences the character of that square.

The limited traffic in that place allows organizing events such as feasts and fairs. Also there are projects of those events in order to give them esthetical form, too. This project which will be executed in 2018, is inspired by Zachert's idea. The architects value the historical structure of Suprasl space. With their proposals they continue and develop the historical values adding the new view values and landscape, too.

The continuation of the green spaces in Suprasl complements manufacture residential idea – Buchholtz palace with its gardens localized next to the main square (Dolistowska, 2003). Nowadays there is an art school. In the last years this building was revalorized, but the garden needs more works.

In 2014 and 2016, the amphitheatre was built next to Kosciuszko Square. This space with hybrid character links the everyday communication functions (the bus stops, the parking lots) with a view place over the valley where different cultural events take place (feasts, concerts, fairs). The spectators place is located on the green and stone steps of this theatre while the central part is the stage. It is worth mentioning the usage of green spaces as the lawns for both the stands and the parking lots. The final effect is very attractive combination of green spaces with the spa character of Suprasl.

The original project of this theatre had a way character and was the answer for the communicational needs of the town but it didn't take into consideration the historical values of Suprasl. The architect Piotr Lodzinski introduced his own correction aiming to include this amphitheatre in the urban system and the town landscape. This idea allowed to combine the practical character of the project (the parking lots and the bus stops) with the attractive function of the theatre together with the esthetical form closing the main compositional axis and opening towards the view over the river Suprasl valley.

The project executed according the idea of those architects is a valuable continuation of the historical urban system. New added value is linking it to the valley landscape. Moreover, it shows the need to integrate the architects into multi-designer groups into investments that in the very beginning are not linked to the space order and maintaining the historical values of the landscape of the town.

In 2010, the new **boulevards** were created in the river Suprasl valley (Bulwary..., 2010). In 2013, they were named after Suprasl famous photographer and artist Wiktor Wolkow. Apart from a walking space, rich in views over the valley and the town, those boulevards have a recreation and sport programme (the town's beach, the cycle lane, the open air gym, the playground, the chess, the sensory walk path etc.) and the cultural one (the place to arrange modern art expositions, ecological and technological buildings). This wide offer sometimes leads to some conflicts (e.g. the collision of the walking path with the cycle lane, the beach, etc.). It is planned that the boulevards will continue to Kodeks Suraski Steet where a health resort is planned to be built. This investment will be used both by the tourists and the bathers in order to increase the offer of this place.

The boulevards are prolonged until the opening from Kosciuszko Square. In the valley that historically was reserved to the textile industry, nowadays there is a building site with a great offer for spending free time. Those boulevards are now communication and view linkers among the public space, green places and main buildings in Suprasl from the valley side. In that sense they continue the 19th century space ideas, where linking the building, spaces and green areas were the representational picture and the healthy living space.

Conclusions

The analysis that have been carried out, allowed us to establish then nowadays modernization and filling in the public and green spaces in Suprasl are based on the continuation of the historical and landscape values of the town from the 19th century. The development of the closed classical structure of the urban system took place and is linked to the landscape values of the river Suprasl valley and Knyszynska Forest. The modernizations executed and the planned ones underline the historical character of the town space, at the same time they adapt them to the modern needs of this place such as the development of its touristic and healing functions. The changes in the public space and the green areas are done according to the historical and landscape values of the town. The composed urban structure given to the industrial city became the perfect basis for the modern healing Suprasl.

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Сохранение пространственной структуры фабричного Супрасля 19 века в его современном курортном ландшафте

(Получено в январе 2018 г.; отдано в печать в апреле 2018 г.; доступ в интернете с 8 мая 2018 г.)

Резюме

Супрасль – заводской городок, основанный в 19 веке в северо-восточной части Польши. На протяжении многих лет он застраивался и дополнялся. Основной ценностью его градостроительной структуры в настоящее время являются общественные пространства и озеленение в виде парков, аллей, площадей и бульваров.

Цель работы – показать историческое развитие по созданной Захертом идеи формирования пространства индустриального города в условиях современной ревалоризации застройки и показать дополнительные мероприятия по организации общественных пространств и озеленения благоустроенного Супрасля.

Проведенный анализ показал, что современная модернизация территории и включение общественных пространств и зеленых зон в г. Супрасль основаны на сохранении и развитии исторических и ландшафтных ценностей города 19-го века. Разработана закрытая структура классической городской планировки, которая связана с ландшафтными и природными особенностями долины реки Супрасль и лесного массива Книшиньска. Проводимые и планируемые модернизации общественных пространств подчеркивают исторический характер городских территорий и в то же время адаптируют их к современным потребностям центра, который направлен на развитие туристических и курортных функций. Реконструкция общественных зон и районов с декоративным озеленением предусматривает сохранение исторически сложившегося наследия города и его ландшафтной организации. Сложная городская структура, свойственная промышленному городу, стала в настоящее время прекрасной пространственной основой современного города-курорта и приобрела туристическую привлекательность.