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***Monastic architecture in culture – monastic design  
as a specific type of ecclesiastical architecture exemplified by  
the monasteries of the order of the Canons Regular  
of St. Augustine in Silesia***

*Specific spiritual ideal and the aim of perfection as a way of life<sup>1</sup>*

Order is a special environment whose character and form of life is also connected with special architecture exclusively typical of order. In the Middle Ages, however, in Europe and of course in Poland too, monks and monasteries, despite their specific character, were rather common in social life. Today they still exist but what is left of their everyday activities is only an imposing memory in the form of old abbey churches taken over and redefined by new celebrants and huge convents which were liquidated by revolutionary laws and adapted for other purposes [1, p. 53]. Apart from their use and function, their architecture also changed over the centuries; usually there are no remains of the original form or what is preserved is only its fragments in the fabric which was added later. Despite the passage of time and changes in monastic architecture, its significance in culture is still great.

Research conducted in the years 2003–2007 by the author on monastic architecture of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine in Silesia and its findings enabled the formulation of a few conclusions. One of them regards the location of Silesian canonry, the other regards architectural form – layout and construction of the church and the monastery, third regards architectural elements.

As regards the location of the canonry, the shortest monastic rule providing principles of the monastic life did not directly indicate the place of location of the abbey of that order. We know, however, that while writing the canonical rule St. Augustine prepared it for clerics living in towns close to bishop who had to somehow combine their community life with ministry, preaching and organiza-

tion outside the walls of the monastery. Such activities to a large extent determine the way of its functioning as well as the scope of activities of the monks and the frequency of contacts with the world outside [See 6, p. 50].

The selection of the place for construction of monasteries of the Canons Regular was quite important. The analyzed abbeys of the Canons Regular in Silesia were at first founded away from larger settlements. Then, however, they were moved to bigger towns which later became city centers. The reason of that translocation could be both low rate of settlements and the lack of prospects for growth of the order as well as the scope of activities carried out by the canons, including not only canonical but also liturgical and ministerial tasks and later even charity. This kind of operations made sense in larger populations. After moving to Wrocław the monks were located close to bishop, duke and the trading center. This provided better conditions for the order to function and grow. In Żagań, they settled to the south-east close to the market square, in the place of original stronghold.

The order started to operate in Silesia when an abbey was founded. At first the monks lived rather austere life; it was the case with the canonry on Ślęza Mt. and in Wrocław as well as with already existing parish churches in Nowogród Bobrzański (St. Bartholomew parish church) and in Żagań (Holy Virgin Mary church). The reasons behind the selection of the location of the order of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine on top of Ślęza Mt. were ideological. They wanted to develop an important cultural center

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<sup>1</sup> This is how the Belgian researcher Ludo Millis defines monasticism, especially of the Canons Regular [6].

## Parts

Ecclesiastical	Monastic community
9 – tower of St. Gabriel	20 – storage of vine and ale, pantry first floor
10 – porch	21 – kitchen
11 – tower of St. Michael	22 – monastic kitchen, bakery, brewery
14 – western altar of St. Peter, ambulatory with gallery first floor	27 – cloister with arcades
19 – reception room for monastery guests	28 – dining hall - refectory, wardrobe above
26 – church	30 – abbot's house
33 – stairs above crypt	31 – dining hall, cellar, kitchen
34 – tomb of St. Gall	38 – dormitory
35 – chancel above crypt with high altar of the Virgin Mary	39 – bathroom
32 – sacristy, library, scriptorium	40 – privy
36 – sacristy, vestriary first floor	
37 – preparation of the Holy Bread and Oil	
Farming	
1 – main entrance, coach house	29 – workrooms for craftsmen, stores
2 – servants' lodging	41 – granaries
3 – pigsty	42 – house for blood-letting
4 – stable for horses	43 – kitchen and lavatorium, lavabo
5 – sheep pen and shepherds' lodging	44 – novitiate kitchen and bathroom
6 – goat pen	45 – gardener's house
7 – stable for cows	46 – poultry yard
8 – bakery and brewery for visitors	47 – medical quarters and chemist
12 – stable for horses and cattle	48 – hospital with cloister
13 – house for visitors, servants' quarters, boxes for horses	49 – patients' chapel, hospital chapel
15 – house for pilgrims, bedrooms, bathrooms, servants, brewery, kitchen, bakery	50 – novitiate church
16 – coopery, joinery, malt granary	51 – novitiate with cloister
17 – lime kiln	52 – cemetery and orchard
18 – lodging for visiting monks, lodging of day school masters, lodging of guest masters	53 – monks' vegetable garden
	54 – poultryman's lodging
	55 – medical herbs
	56 – geese and pigeons

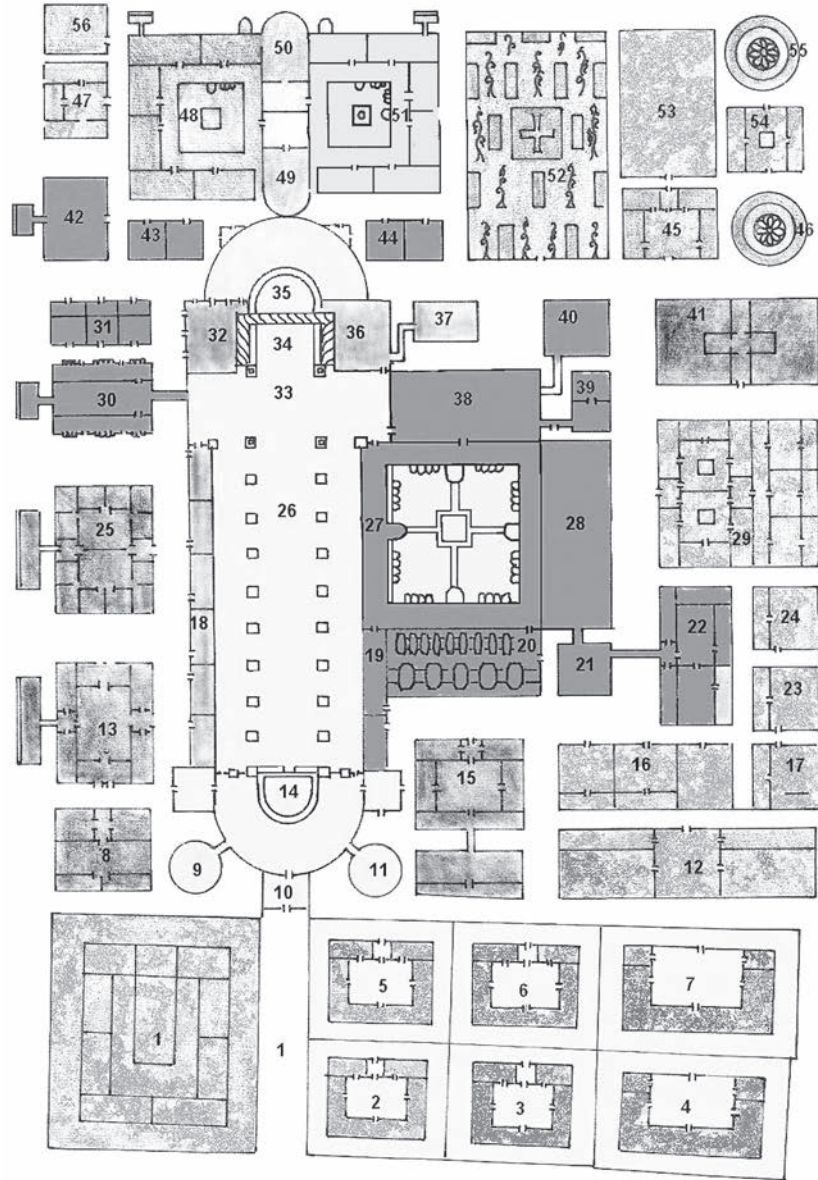


Fig. 1. Diagram of the Abbey of Saint Gall

in the place of former pagan center whose traditions in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century must have been still very strong in Silesia [15, pp. 12–13]. In regards of the foundation of the canonry in Nowogród Bobrzański, it was connected with colonization conducted in this area by Henryk the Bearded. The canons were supposed to fulfill specific tasks in developing new areas [14, p. 45].

Little is known about the pattern of architecture followed by the Canons Regular of St. Augustine because, unlike the Benedictine Rule, the Augustinian Rule does

not provide any guidelines as to how the architecture of the canonical monastic abbey should be organized and look like; more can be learned from such normative sources as principles regulating monastic life in specific abbeys and monastic traditions collected in chronicles. Due to the lack of such guidelines in its rule the order of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine probably followed the generally known plan of the Abbey of Saint Gall (Fig. 1), which was used as a template for the abbeys which were created; the plan did not, however, determine but only indicated what

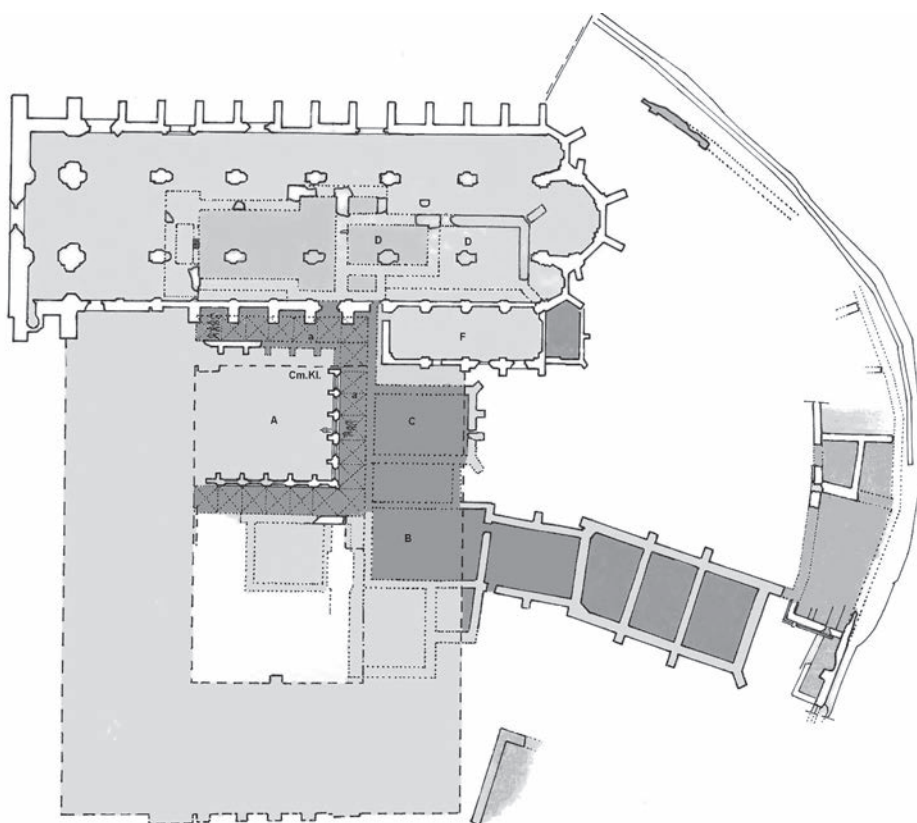


Fig. 2. Plan of the Abbey in Wrocław on Sand Island: ecclesiastical part – D (church, choir) and F (sacristy), residential part – A (garth, cloister), B (refectory) and C (chapter-house) and farming part

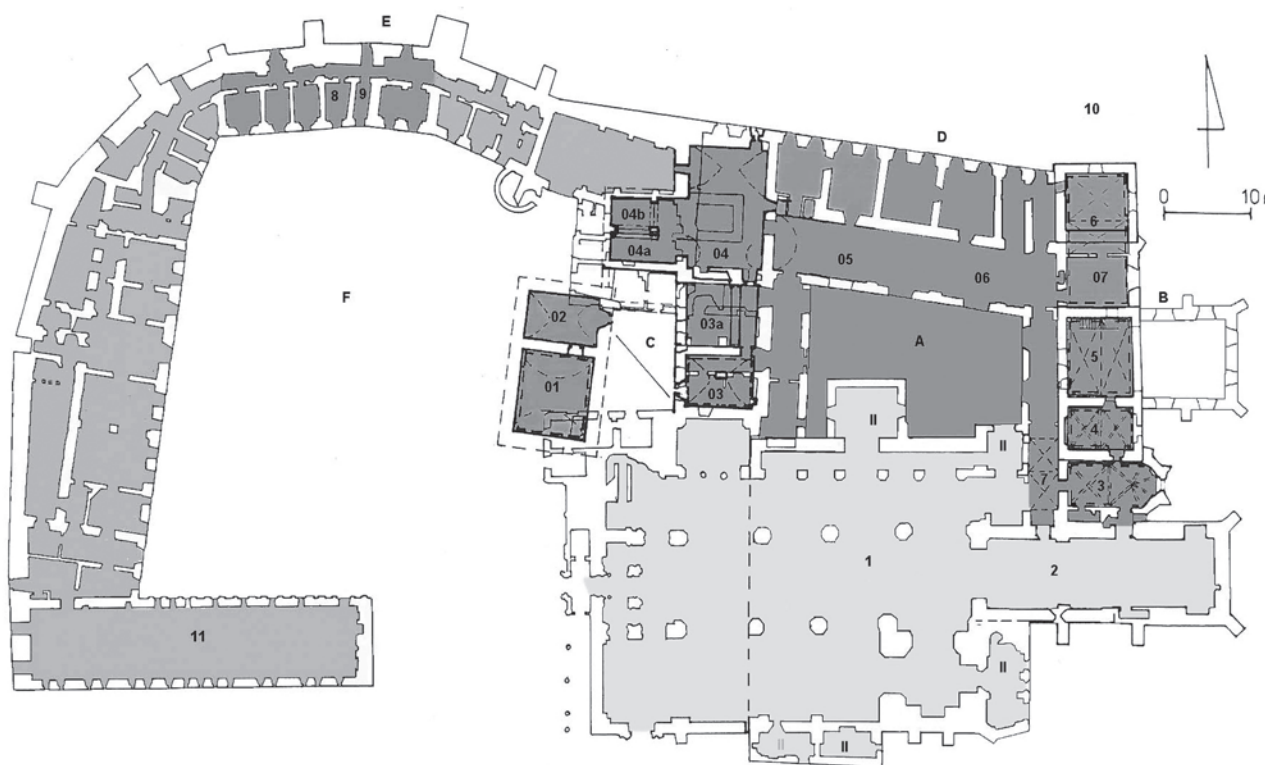


Fig. 3. Plan of the Abbey in Żagań: ecclesiastical part – 1, 2 (church, chancel) and II (chapels), residential part – A (garth), B (east wing: 7 – cloister, 3 – chapel with dormitory upstairs, 4 – sacristy, 5 – chapter-house; 07 – workshops (brethren chamber 10 – privy-bathroom)), C (west wing: 01 and 02 – house and later palace of the abbot, 03 – not defined function (?), 03a – summer refectory, 04 – winter refectory) and D (north wing: 05 and 06 – cellarium), E – monastery school: 8 – cells, 9 – solitary, F – internal courtyard and farming. Clausura: 04 – kitchen with hearth and stove: 04a – hearth, 04b – kitchen. Within the walls: 11 – granary

an ideal monastic design should look like. The order followed the model plan in respect of the general layout of the design development and – with the exception of the basic spaces – it adapted the layout for its needs. So, just like the plan of the Abbey of Saint Gall, the monastery of the canons was supposed to respect the provisions of the monastic rule, liturgical order and management of the

monastic holdings. A few zones (at least three) can be distinguished within the whole monastic layout on the basis of their symbolic and subjective significance, Figs. 1–3.

The most exquisite examples of the analyzed monastic buildings included churches, which have been preserved in the best condition, and clausura buildings of which only remains have survived.

### *Layout and construction*

The church with the organization of its interior was an important place for the Order of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine that, as a community, devoted themselves to spiritual life. Soon, in order to develop the proper monastic community, monks began to build their temples which in the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries were exclusively monastic. It seems that they intended to build huge structures. An extraordinary program was approved to build an abbey of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine on Ślęza Mt. It is believed on the basis of numerous sculptures of lions that it was planned to build either a few separate chapels or a large-size temple with a different form; for unknown reason this plan was not executed.

The surveyed churches were built in different ways. The least is known about the original buildings which we know only from remnants which were replaced with other elements which have survived until today. Around the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, first a small temple, but with rich functional program, was built on Sand Island in Wrocław for the monks who were moved from Ślęza. The Romanesque church, built from stone slabs, had a chancel with a couple of chapels or aisle annexes, a transept, a three-aisled main body of the building and two towers from the west, Fig. 4. Unfortunately, the building has not survived until our times, however, the fragments of stonework and sculptures which have been preserved testify to the great scale and artistic skills of

these designs [2, pp. 195–198]; [4, pp. 360–376]; [8, pp. 34, 277]. In regards of the monastery, no original monastic buildings, which must have been constructed mainly of wood, have been preserved until today [11], [12], [7, pp. 81–84].

In the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, stone Romanesque buildings were also erected in Górką. A small-size structure built from granite slabs from Sobótka had a square choir, adjoining an elongated rectangular, residential section from the east, Fig. 4; the material used can testify not so much of the time when the structure was built as of the same construction workshop as in the case of Wrocław. In the following century, the structure was completely adapted for ecclesiastical purposes, its residential section was converted into the main body of the building which was connected through a rood arch opening with choir. It was possible as a residential section with a tower and a porch was added from the west. At that time in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the church was also extended by adding a sacristy, and north aisle in the following medieval stage, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Fig. 5 [7, pp. 171–179].

In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, in connection with the change of the function of the church and the role of liturgy, the necessity of opening of the temple of the Order of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine to the city and laymen, and consequently in connection with the need

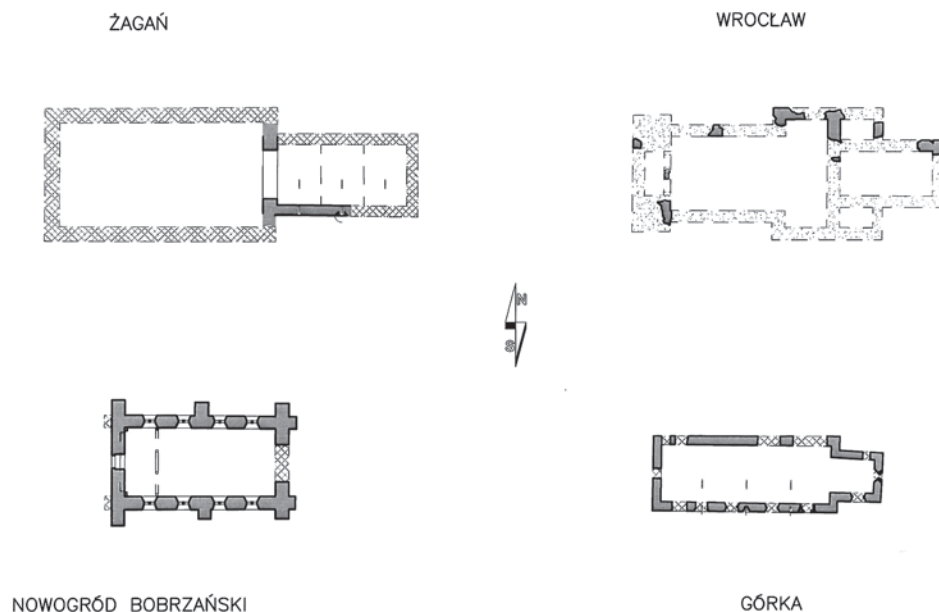


Fig. 4. Original form of monastic churches (by the author on the basis of research)

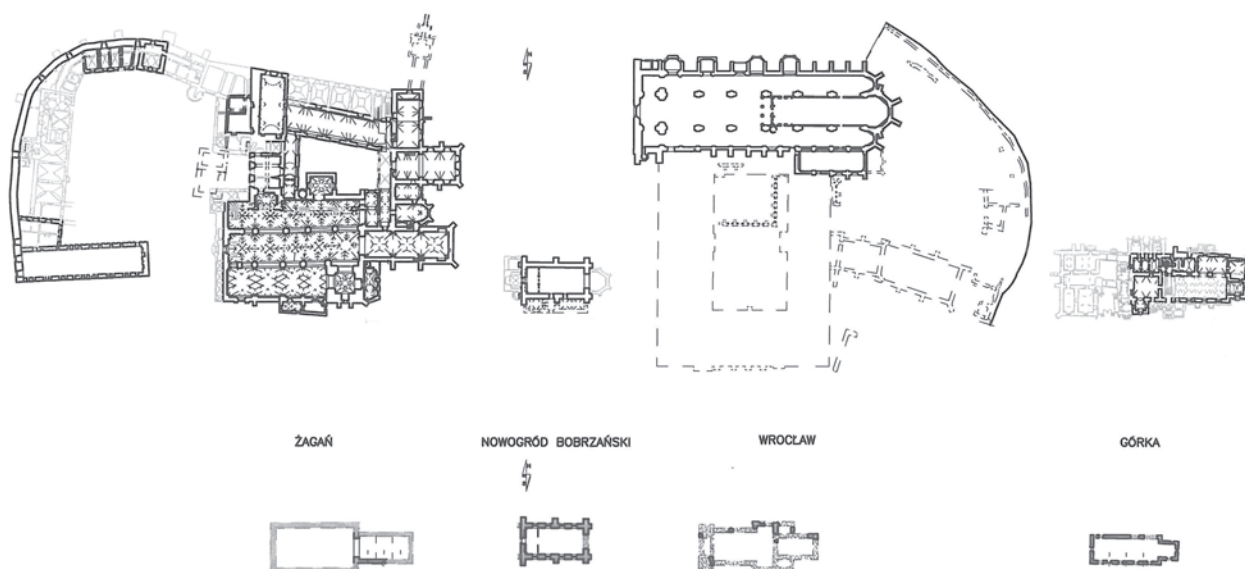


Fig. 5. Developments of medieval architecture of monastic buildings: reconstruction and preserved elements (by the author on the basis of research)

for more space, around the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, at the latest in its second quarter, an extension of the monastic church in Wrocław began. It was an early Gothic extension built with bricks which were already used at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in Silesia. The bricks of unified size were laid in the same characteristic Flemish double stretcher bond (monk bond). The rectangular chancel with a diagonal buttress was added then from the east; its remnants suggest that the chancel of the original church was extended to the east by about 10 m in the clear of the wall, Fig. 5 [7, pp. 76, 85–86], [4, pp. 360–376], [2, pp. 195–198, Fig. 3]; [1, p. 274].

In the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the monastic church in Nowogród Bobrzański was built also from bricks laid in Flemish double stretcher bond. This building could originally be a single-aisled church or a bigger monastic church was planned. Probably, out of the planned three-aisled basilica with chancel, only the choir was built on an elongated rectangular plan, which since the Middle Ages was used as a nave. Its interior had vertical windows with slightly pointed arches, Fig. 4 [7, pp. 241–244].

In the 1330s, in the place of the original church in Wrocław, the construction of a new ecclesiastical structure began, however, its main body was not completed. The building was also supposed to be a three-aisled structure but originally there was an idea to erect piers between aisles exclusively with circular cross sections, spaced from one another half the distance between existing pillars. The works began from the west, from the porch, next from the north-west side wall of north elevation and pillars between aisles with at least five bays, with the idea of connecting them with the remains of the Romanesque church [1, pp. 276–278], [7, pp. 89–90].

The works continued. However, around the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the plans to build a Gothic temple changed a little. The spatial layout was changed by removing every second pier, changing the remaining ones from columns to pillars on an elongated octagon plan in

the direction of the east-west and by introducing a three support vault with nine cells in the aisles, and stellar vault in the nave. This is how the Gothic ecclesiastical structure, which is twice bigger than the Romanesque one and with richer functional program, was constructed. This is a three-aisled brick hall basilica – both the main body of the church and the chancel. Its east part comprises three apses, and the facade from the west has two towers, Fig. 5 [7, pp. 90–94].

At the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, during the construction of the new temple in Wrocław or after construction of the church, the sacristy was built by the two east bays of the south aisle. Probably a structure with five bays on an elongated rectangular plan was built from bricks laid in Flemish bond. In the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, inside the 14<sup>th</sup>-century temple, the choir was built from the middle of the hall of the Gothic church. A rood screen could have been built in the place of earlier east choir from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Most probably the parapets additionally separating the monastic choir and the nave from the aisles come from that time too; surely there were Gothic stalls along them. Since the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century chapels were added to the church between buttresses from the north.

In the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the extension of the parish church in Żagań began. Like in Wrocław the original church in Żagań was replaced with a bigger ecclesiastical structure. The construction of the temple continued over a few stages in the Middle Ages. Works began from the east, extending first the stone chancel, partly adapting the walls of the original choir or extending the original stone design. A bigger main body of the building, already made from bricks, originally with a hall structure, was added to the chancel from the west. The construction of the nave, in the place of former one, began from the north. As a result an aisle and a nave with pointed arch windows and buttresses with offsets were built. A tower, whose original height is unknown, was built in the south-

east corner. Construction work connected with the chancel, the main body of the building and the tower continued still in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Fig. 5 [7, pp. 294–296].

At the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, the construction of the church stopped; at that time three Gothic chapels were added to the ecclesiastical structure, two from the north side of the church and one – porch from the south to the tower at ground level.

After 1439, the tower, which had collapsed, was rebuilt – at least from the level of the aisles of the main body of the building upwards, in its present form of Gothic style.

The construction of the main body of the building continued over the following medieval stage. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the main body of the building was extended and the hall structure of basilica was replaced in two stages. During the first stage two bays of south aisle were built, in the second stage – the construction continued with building west facade and then two bays of the three-aisled main body of the building from the east adding them to the part which was already constructed. The new part was built with a taller nave, and the nave in the existing main body of the building was lifted, creating a pseudo-basilica interior [7, pp. 296–301].

The constructions of the surveyed ecclesiastical structures were completed at different times. The Gothic temple in Wrocław was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and its construction was completed already at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, whereas the temple in Żagań was built in stages – from the 14<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

After construction of the temple, which is the axis and the main element of Silesian monasteries, the monastic space assigned for the members of the order was developed.

The Canons who were at first located in temporary residential buildings e.g. rectory, like other orders, in order to create a monastic community began the construction of proper monastery. The construction of monastic buildings would begin after or during the construction of the temple. Adjoining one of the longer sides of the temple, the buildings, enclosed in a tetragon on a plan resembling a rectangle, were constructed gradually. First, the east wing, connected with the chancel of the church, was built to the south (Wrocław) or to the north (Żagań), then, parallel to the temple's axis – north or south and west wing, closing the sides of the garth.

As a rule, the basic monastic buildings were built first – such as chapter-house and dormitory, comprising the east wing and refectory – in the south (Wrocław) or west wing (Żagań). The chapter-house was built close to the chancel, right behind the chapel – both in the original monastery in Wrocław and in Żagań. The dormitory was located upstairs in the east wing, a.o. above the chapter-house. In time the abbot would move to separate quarters or a separate building; such an abbot house was surely constructed in Żagań, in the west wing. Later the monks were also assigned separate cells which were located in the annexed monastic buildings. In Wrocław, around the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery was extended to include a part where dormitory was located, whereas in Żagań the

extension took place first at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and then in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Another important room was refectory which was usually located in the south or north wing, depending on the location of the monastic buildings in relation to the church; in Wrocław the refectory was located in from south-east and it was extended; in Żagań Abbey, at first there was only a winter refectory from north-west, later also winter refectory – in west wing, in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Important rooms shared by the Canons in the monastery also include the places where the monks worked such as scriptorium and the library located near it. Both functions had their rooms both in Wrocław Abbey and in Żagań, in east wings. They were built in the first stages of construction of the monasteries and extended in the following ones.

Furthermore, on the area of the clausura there was a little monastic hospital – infirmary and internal school connected with the activities conducted by the order; other rooms included parlatory - locutory, workshops, treasury, solitary, etc.

In Wrocław, most probably during the construction of the church in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, some monastic buildings were built from the south. However, their specific form or layout is unknown; most probably, they were made of wood.

The masonry part of the monastery was most probably constructed in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, in early Gothic stage. A cloister with buttresses was built from bricks – first laid in Flemish double stretcher bond – most probably together with other buildings comprising the wings around the garth; thus that brick bond was in the lower sections of the cloister walls. At that time the south wing building was constructed, which is evident by the remnant of the wall – a section of north wall of the structure located there whose function has not been determined.

It is believed that the destroyed monastic buildings were rebuilt in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and in the first half of the following century. The rebuilding included the cloisters of the monastic garth; the walls of the cloister in their upper section were rebuilt with bricks laid in Flemish bond.

The rebuilding was connected with extension of the monastic buildings which was conducted during the construction of the Gothic temple as well as after its completion, in the following stages of that medieval stage. At that time probably two structures comprising east wing were built from bricks laid in Flemish bond. The preserved part of that structure has a diagonal buttress in its north-east corner and two straight buttresses by east wall. As regards the function of that structure, its location in the monastery layout and its architecture, most probably it was a chapter-house.

South of the chapter-house another huge structure was constructed; its west segment had basements and its east single space segment which was the basements, whose side walls have single straight buttresses and east wall has diagonal buttresses in the corners; the structures were built from bricks laid in Flemish bond. The function of

the building, due to its prominent location and rich details, including traceries, is believed to be the monastic refectory.

At the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the monastic complex was extended east to include facilities accommodating the needs of the order. These building activities were connected with the construction of a structure that most probably housed a dormitory; that building was constructed at the latest right after construction of the church. During the same Gothic stage, a curtain-wall was built to the north from the north-east buttress and the Gothic river bank wall. The space between the curtain-wall and the river bank wall is believed to have been developed in the following Gothic stage: this included construction of transverse walls with arches filled with Gothic bricks with a frog made with fingers laid in Flemish bond. It appears that these could have been utility rooms necessary for the monastery to function.

It is believed that the structure housing bakeries and the monastic brewery was built during the extension of the monastery in the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The structure, located at the south-east corner of the Baroque monastery, was built from Gothic bricks with a frog made with fingers laid in Flemish bond. The brick headers in the external face of the structure are glazed.

In Żagań, the following were built by the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century: chapel, sacristy, chapter-house and dormitory above these rooms, comprising east wing and the abbot house from the west as well as winter and summer refectories. Sacristy and chapter-house were located in the structure of the preserved original stone stronghold, whereas the new ones were built from bricks. It is also known that around the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century a monastery school and library with scriptorium operated by the monastery. Their locations are, however, unknown; most probably they were located, like later ones, in the east wing.

In the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, at the end of east wing, a structure was built for workshops, with basement underneath used as a utility room, and upstairs bedrooms for the monks which were connected with the existing ones. Privy was located to the north of the monastic complex by the moat. That structure, located in some distance, was connected with east wing. At this construction stage a kitchen with hearth was built in west wing of the monastery; a brick granary was also built to the west of the church. A little later, most probably at the end of the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, north wing, enclosing the four-sided garth in the form of a narrow south passage of

present north wing was constructed. In the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the complex also had an operating physician room, bathroom and vestiary that might have been located by the granary, in the place of present monastery school wing.

In the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the room in east wing where chapter-house was previously located was enlarged by addition from the east of a structure on a square-like plan. A larger ground level room assumed the function of St. Ann Chapel that still exists today. Above St. Ann Chapel, upstairs a library was organized.

Most probably at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century or later at the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the area west of the complex was leveled. After the area was leveled a new structure was erected there or building with chapter-house was adapted for the Canons. The brick structure could have at least two or three stories and rich architecture, which is indicated by the preserved Gothic gable wall.

In the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the rebuilding of the destroyed monastery continued. The vaults in St. Ann Chapel and in the library were repaired and during the rebuilding of the destroyed south part of east wing its upstairs was rebuilt as taller in the form of a gallery open to the chancel.

The structure which is preserved in the walls of earlier monastery school, where probably the dormitory for the monks was moved, is dated from the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century: made of brick, annexed to the stone defensive wall. Maybe that structure was built in two stages during the medieval construction stage. At the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the interiors of common bedrooms were divided into smaller separate cells. A school for novices was built and the old bathroom was converted into a new palace of bishop or a new structure was built in the place of former bathroom; its location was most probably in the middle section of the monastery school. Most probably at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, another leveling of the area was conducted to the west of the complex. Consequently, previous ground level became basements. The summer refectory, located by the chapter-house, was probably moved to today's ground level. Between the two refectories there was a corridor with a deep well. Furthermore, the leveling of the area enabled the consolidation of all earlier structures with new ones to create west wing connected at the level of today's ground level of the cloister. An enclosed internal monastic courtyard was designed then too from the west.

### *Elements of architecture*

From the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, ribbed vaults were used in the monastic buildings of the Canons Regular. Probably such a vault was introduced in the 13<sup>th</sup>-century cloisters in Wrocław monastery and it was used in the cloister of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century monastery in Żagań. In Żagań, the 14<sup>th</sup>-century vault has pointed arches and its ribs have a single scotia molding. They were supported

on corbels with geometric or even organic form (heads). The vault had bosses (Żagań). It is unknown what kind of roofing material was used in the Romanesque church on Sand Island or in the original structure in Górká.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, along with the change in form of churches to Gothic style, new vaults were introduced. In the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, vaults which

were used included asymmetric vaults with three piers (Wrocław) which comprised three bays with three ribs in each bay, stellar vaults with diagonal ribs (Wrocław) as well as, at the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, net ribbed vaults with three sections divided by ribs (Żagań). A little later – stellar and net vaults based on a dome and lunette construction was also used (Żagań).

The ribs in vaults with three piers are made of brick segments going from stone bases, supported on sculptured bosses (Wrocław).

The stellar vault has stone ribs supported on floral and figural (Wrocław) or geometric corbels (Żagań). The bosses on the vaults were circular: church (Wrocław) and monastery (Żagań).

The ribs used in the analyzed examples of vaults in the 14<sup>th</sup> century had double ogee molds (Wrocław), in the following centuries and single or double scotia mold (Żagań).

Basically two materials were used to build monastic complexes: stone and brick, depending on the region and time of construction. However, in regards of architectural details, they were usually made of stone; in the 12<sup>th</sup> XII century, granite – lions from Ślęza Mt. (Górka), sandstone – Romanesque tympanum or granite – twin base (Wrocław). Also in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, all architectural elements of decoration on elevations were made of stone, like inside church (Wrocław), e.g. molded cornice of the pedestal or buttress gablets.

The walls of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century churches were divided by windows: one window on the axis of east wall of the chancel and windows on side elevations of the main body of the building (Górka, Nowogród Bobrzański). Later churches had a much more extensive division of the walls. Both inside and outside in the 14<sup>th</sup>, and later in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the plane of the walls was divided by vertical windows; outside this vertical articulation of the solid was emphasized by buttresses. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the buttresses braced around the main body of the structures, were rectangular (Nowogród Bobrzański) but already in the second half of that century diagonal buttresses appeared (Wrocław, Żagań). The buttresses had one or two offsets and they terminated above half of the height of the elevations, below the roof line (Nowogród Bobrzański) as well as with three offsets (Żagań). In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the buttresses had four offsets and shaped stone caps and triangular gablets (Wrocław). The buttresses from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century were also crowned with triangular gablets but their form was already simple band projection of the wall of the same thickness (Żagań). They had some architectural detail in the form of horizontal division by a small offset, made of bricks arranged as headers. Furthermore, two of the buttresses feature blanks with pointed arches, framed with shaped ceramic sections; one of the buttresses – first from the west – does not have those details.

The composition of the temple interior can be described only on the basis of those Gothic structures which have survived until today. The nave of the church opens to the aisles with molded pointed arches by arcades on pillars (Wrocław, Żagań), in Wrocław with flat lesenes with

concave edges from the aisles. The ‘archaic’ division (into two) of side bays by lesenes can be seen in south aisle, whereas in north aisle, where there are no lesenes, the division was made by repetition of colors and texture of bricks. Apart from the vertical division there is also a horizontal division into two sections introduced by geometric corbels (Żagań – chancel), or figural and floral with full figural sculptures of apostles and prophets (Wrocław); these sculptures were placed in the upper half of the pillars from the side of the nave; from the side of the aisles they are placed on consoles.

The most exquisite elements of the buildings include church portals. The oldest portals in Silesian temples of the Canons, these from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, had simple forms (Górka), but the main entrance portal with simple closure was crowned with the foundation tympanum (Wrocław). Later portals from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries have pointed arches with richly molded jambs and sculptural decorations (Wrocław, Żagań). The elongated openings have jambs with roll moldings, double ogees and scotias (Wrocław). The main portal is crowned with a tall Gothic ornate gable with crockets and filials; the field of the Gothic ornate gable is filled with a bland tracery with motifs of mouchettes and quatrefoils; the portal also features sculptural decorations.

The south portal, framing former passage from the church to the monastic cloisters from south aisle is a little less exquisite. The roll moldings, double ogees and scotias, going from the offset pedestal, have a section of figural and floral low reliefs on the impost frieze, between which there are small figures of prophets with long robes and banderols, two on each side.

The side, north entrance, Gothic portal is simpler than the main and south portals. Like west and south portals, this portal has no sculptured decorations. Two portals crowned with pointed arches connected with the construction of sacristy are a little younger; one of them connects south aisle with sacristy, the other connects sacristy with east wing of the monastery. First of them is framed with a molded jamb made of stone slabs placed on low rectangular pedestal. The mold consists of a double ogee, scotias and cuts emerging from an interesting ‘organic’ form.

Few original windows have survived until today. The 12<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque windows include two remnants, both with stone framing made of granite slabs and crowned with a semicircular arch, splayed on both sides (Górka) and a remnant of a semicircularly crowned brick window, (Żagań).

The only original fragments of Gothic windows include the shape of pointed arches in Nowogród Bobrzański and traces of windows crowned with pointed arches on the wall in Żagań. There is only one small window crowned with pointed arch and tracery in the passage between chancel and chapel in the monastery and a rich Gothic brick detail in the gable wall, in the attic space of west wing (Żagań).

Most medieval windows with the 14<sup>th</sup> century mostly original tracery decorations have survived in Wrocław. The two and three light windows with pointed arches, splayed on both sides have rich tracery decorations made



of stone. The traceries have four forms: quarterfoil, trefoil, mouchettes and a combination of trefoils and mouchettes. The tracery mullions divide the window vertically into three lights or two lights in the chancel.

In general very few architectural details have been preserved in the monastic complexes, but their existing remains demonstrate that their form was elaborate. Apart from the above-mentioned portal, connecting the church with original cloisters, the portal connecting sacristy with the rooms in east wing of the monastery was connected with the monastery in Wrocław. The portal is crowned with a pointed arch, has more elaborate jambs placed on pedestals, interwoven in corners and a keystone. Furthermore, the details included a fragment of the column uncovered in the south-east corner of the garth, that is the wall column base and shaft drum made of sandstone; the detail is believed to have been made in the early-Gothic stage. The column with hexagonal sandstone base and green serpentine shaft, which was found in the modern excavation made during research within east cloister, probably comes

from the same time or the following Gothic period. Between the buttresses in the garth walls there are cavities below windows splayed from the side of the cloister, also from the side of the garth. Furthermore, one of the monastic buildings, whose remains were discovered on the island, features double walled-up window openings with splayed reveals on both sides and low parapets, with some remains of sandstone traceries.

In Żagań, a portal with pointed arch, or actually its remnant, has been preserved in the passage between the chancel and the chapel. Above the door opening, an old walled-up passage with pointed arch was uncovered. A well preserved detail of exceptionally rich Gothic gable in the attic space comes most probably from medieval times. The Flemish brick bond wall is crowned with a triangular gable with numerous window openings, molded brick framing and decorated traceries. In the same place, in north-east corner, a decorated brick chimney has been preserved in the form of a rounded shaft with pilasters crowned with volutes with a molded cap.

### *General notes*

The preserved monastic buildings are the creation of humankind and they develop the cultural landscape that preserves the achievements of people who lived there in the past. The monastic complexes that have survived for centuries, as material legacy of the society, are the landmarks of a given region and have been listed in the register of monuments and are protected by the City or Province Conservator of Listed Monuments in order to assure their proper protection. On the commission of the Conservator of Listed Monuments, or within the scope of the authors own research, the monastic complexes and their fragments are surveyed and their drawings are made in order to document the various condition of the buildings of their remains. The detailed measurements and drawings made during research of the history of monastic complexes e.g. of architectural details and their dating are the basis of analyses of other buildings. Furthermore, the measurement documentation is sometimes the only trace of the construction elements which are discovered after many years and, unlike reconstructions which sometimes change original designs, is permanent scientific research. The surveys which have been conducted can also in the future become basis of conservation projects and any renovation work conducted on the area of monasteries.

On the basis of research conducted by the author of monastic complexes of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine in Silesia, described in the doctoral dissertation [7], a few polemical comments to the publications by researchers of the complexes covered in the dissertation can be presented; the comments regard primarily the dating of the structures.

In regards to the monastic complex in Górká, researchers distinguish only one medieval construction stage, the following activities supposedly took place in modern times [14, p. 62], [16, pp. 694–695], [9].

Research conducted by the author indicates that between the first Romanesque stage and the next one, which is described in the literature on the subject [7, pp. 161–168] to have taken place only in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, there were at least two, or possibly three, more medieval construction stages. Dated back to the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the complex could be built already in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, sacristy was annexed to the chancel; in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, an aisle was annexed to the main body of the building. Still in late Gothic, at the latest at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the complex was extended to include basements, also under the former porch.

In regards to the monastic complex in Wrocław, there are no common construction stages of the church and the monastery. Olgierd Czerner researching the complex [4, p. 360–366]; [2, pp. 195–198, Fig. 3]; [1, p. 274] dates the church separately, whereas Jerzy Romanow on the basis of this research dates the monastery separately [11], [12]. Research conducted by the author enabled the formulation of a hypothesis that the monastic complex was built in three medieval construction stages, further divided into separate stages. Apart from the original, Romanesque stage of the church construction, Czerner put forward a hypothesis of an early-Gothic stage and two Gothic stages of the construction of that temple. It was possible then to distinguish, after the Romanesque stage, an early Gothic, and after that a Gothic stage, further divided into three stages of the extension of the monastic complex.

In regards to the monastic complex in Nowogród Bobrzański, the literature on the subject presents contradictory hypotheses as to the original shape and changes in the architecture of the complex. The author distinguished two medieval construction stages. It is possible that in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century a small, single space monas-

tic church was build on a rectangular plan from bricks laid in monk bond but it is also possible, as suggested by Stanisław Kowalski, that originally only part of its three-aisled design was executed, namely the chancel which is located within the walls of present main body of the building [10, pp. 11–19]. There is, however, no research or hypotheses regarding the monastery. The author supposes that in the Middle Ages an addition, which is known from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century survey drawings, was annexed from the south. Apart from that other monastic buildings must have been constructed then too. It is possible that the structure adjoining the temple in the Middle Ages was built in the place of present rectory. Archival sources indicate that at the turn of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries an abbot house was built in Nowogród Bobrzański.

Researchers date the construction of the Gothic church in Żagań back to three Gothic stages, taking into account the construction of the main body of the building only in two stages. North aisle and south aisle with its east part and the tower which greatly differ are believed to have been built in the same stage. The chapels, which were built in different periods, were supposedly built in those stages too. Research conducted *in situ* demonstrated that the church was built in at least four Gothic construction stages, its main body in three. The medieval monastic structures were built along with the church. Individual parts, whose number, as demonstrated in research, was greater than that presented in the literature on the subject, were added in the following construction stages, over a few centuries – 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Architektura monastyczna w kulturze – zespół klasztorny jako specyficzny typ architektury sakralnej na przykładzie klasztorów zakonu kanoników regularnych św. Augustyna na Śląsku**

W artykule przedstawiono znaczenie architektury monastycznej w kulturze na podstawie części zamykającej pracę doktorską pt. *Średniowieczna architektura klasztorna kanoników regularnych św. Augustyna na Śląsku*, napisanej na Wydziale Architektury Politechniki Wrocławskiej (pod kierunkiem prof. Ewy Łużyńskiej). Świadczenie dorobku kulturowego ukazano na tle zespołów klasztornych kanoników regularnych św. Augustyna na Śląsku i wyników badań architektonicznych spisanych w oparciu o wyniki prac badawczych w latach 2003–2008 na czterech założeniach.

Zachowane założenia klasztorne są wytworem ludzkim składającym się na krajobraz kulturowy, który **przechowuje świadectwo działalności jego dawnych mieszkańców**. Obiekty klasztorne które przetrwały wieki, jako materialny dorobek społeczeństwa będący znakiem tożsamości danego regionu, zostały wpisane do rejestru zabytków i są pod opieką

Miejskiego albo Wojewódzkiego konserwatora zabytków w celu zapewnienia im odpowiedniej ochrony. Na zlecenie konserwatora zabytków bądź w ramach autorskich prac są wykonywane badania wraz z inwentaryzacyjnymi rysunkami budowli i ich fragmentów, mające na celu udokumentowanie znajdujących się w różnej kondycji obiektów czy pozostałości po nich. Wykonywane podczas badania historii założeń architektonicznych, drobiazgowo pomiary i rysunki, np. detali architektonicznych i ich datowanie są podstawą do analiz innych obiektów. Oprócz tego dokumentacja pomiarowa jest czasami po wielu latach jedyną pozostałością odkrywanych elementów i w odróżnieniu od zmienianych niekiedy rekonstrukcji jest elementem stałym opracowania naukowego. Wykonane inwentaryzacje mogą być także w przyszłości podstawą projektów konserwatorskich oraz wszelkich prac rewaloryzacyjnych prowadzonych na terenie klasztorów.

**Key words:** Silesia, monastic architecture, order of the Canon Regular of St. Augustine

**Słowa kluczowe:** Śląsk, architektura monastyczna, kanonicy regularni św. Augustyna