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## *Conservation of the Renaissance towns of Southern Poland based on selected examples: an introduction to research*

### ***Introduction***

The conservation and revalorization of historical urban layouts appears to be a particularly significant subject. As a result of the dynamic development of big and small cities, as well as their multi-directional transformation, any and all initiatives aimed at the conservation and revalorization of historical urban structures are essential [1], [2]. It should be noted that in the case of cities and towns located in historical Lesser Poland, namely the present-day Lesser Poland, Subcarpathian and Holy Cross voivodeships, they were mostly established in the Middle Ages or during the Renaissance. The establishment period of a given layout determined its urban model in the majority of cases, as each of these historical periods had its own specificity and factors that directly contributed to a city's or town's plan.

### ***Objective, scope, method and state of research***

The objective of this paper is to determine the state of preservation of selected Renaissance urban layouts with outstanding cultural values, along with an analysis of the current state of the layouts' conservation and preparing a set of general guidelines for this purpose.

The analysis presented covered three urban layouts: Zakliczyn, located in the present-day Lesser Poland Vo-

vodeship, Cieszanów, located in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship, and Raków, which is within the administrative borders of the Holy Cross Voivodeship. The genesis of the towns' establishment and their original urban layouts, as delineated during their founding, are presented. The criteria used to select the Renaissance towns for analysis were classification as a commercial settlement founded by a private owner, high historical value of the town's historical urban structure, and its current scale being that of a town with a similar economic potential and location within a different voivodeship.

The study employed an original research procedure developed by Dominika Kuśnierz-Krupa. It had previously been used to analyze and investigate medieval spatial layouts. It consists of five stages, each of which is conducted based on a different selection of research methods. The first stage of the procedure is based on desk research, to be performed at selected archive-keeping institutions. This stage of research is intended to procure the necessary historical materials on the genesis of the establishment and development of a city or town, which can allow for the correct identification of its developmental phases and its original spatial structure. The second stage involves the study of the existing state of the cultural landscape, most importantly the urban layout. This involves field research mostly based on surveying the territory of the town corresponding to its scope during the issue of its town charter and covers its surviving elements, such as a market square, town blocks, settlement plots, as well as overall architectural heritage. The third stage of the procedure is based on using aerial archaeology to analyze a town's urban layout. The fourth stage involves logical analysis and construction, and is based on confronting the findings of previous stages, most importantly comparing archival plans with aerial photos, as well as analyzing them from

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the standpoint of changes to a town's urban layout and its historical monuments. The fifth and final stage of the procedure utilizes synthesis to determine the state of preservation of a historical urban layout and the legibility of the model based on which it had been delineated. For this study, the procedure was enhanced with a sixth stage, which analyzes the current state of statutory conservation of the urban layouts under investigation [3].

Polish Renaissance towns were previously studied by, among others, Wojciech Kalinowski [4], [5], Jerzy Kowalczyk [6], Mieczysław Książek [7], [8], Kazimierz Kuśnierz [9]–[12], Tadeusz Tołwiński [13], Tadeusz Wróbel [14], Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska [15], Teresa Zarębska [16], and Dominika Kuśnierz-Krupa and Michał Krupa [17]. However, these studies were mostly confined to the analysis of the urban structure and architectural heritage of Renaissance towns and cities. The statutory conservation of Renaissance urban layouts has thus far been explored only marginally in academic studies.

### Renaissance urban layouts in Poland

In Polish urban planning history, the Renaissance is considered to have coincided with the period between the mid-16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries [8, p. 7]. Many changes in urban planning took place in this period. They were dictated by, among others, an evolution of conducting warfare, which necessitated change in defensive systems, new planning ideas (*la città ideale*), which came to Poland from Western European countries, and the socio-political situation in the country [13]. This caused Polish cities planned during the Renaissance to be, in most cases, different from cities founded in the Middle Ages in terms of urban construction.

It should be noted that Polish Renaissance urban layouts can be divided into two essential groups: urban and residential settlements and commercial settlements. Irrespective of this, it should be mentioned that, apart from cities and towns that deliberately referenced "ideal" designs by Italian theorists in their urban structure, fortress cities were also built during this period, erected predominantly by wealthy landowners in borderland territories, in addition to spatial plans of so-called new cities that formed annexes to already existing urban structures, such as squares, streets, and engineering and sanitary constructions [12, pp. 99–106, 17].

During the Renaissance, magnate families (e.g., the Lubomirski, Krasicki, Zamoyski, Sieniawski, Czartoryski, Jordan, Sieniński and Cieszanowski families) had a significant influence on urbanization as, due to constantly expanding their estates, they required local administrative and commercial centers that mostly served as markets for the products of their latifundia.

This study analyzed the urban layouts of three Renaissance towns founded in the territory of contemporaneous Lesser Poland and that represented the commercial settlement type and are currently located in three different voivodeships: Zakliczyn (Lesser Poland Voivodeship), Cieszów (Subcarpathian Voivodeship) and Raków (Holy Cross Voivodeship).

### Zakliczyn

Zakliczyn is located in the Roźnów Upland, on the right bank of the Dunajec River. In terms of administration, it is located in the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, in Tarnów County, and is the seat of an urban-rural municipality.

The town was founded in 1558 close to Melsztyn Castle, by Spytko Wawrzyniec Jordan [18, p. 296], [19], based on the Magdeburg law [20, p. 182]. Previously, the town's territory had been occupied by the village of Opatkowice, which belonged to the Benedictine monastery in Tyniec. The Jordan family received this land from the monks by means of property exchange.

The town had a favorable location along a trade route that ran along the Dunajec and along the route that connected Biecz and Cracow, which is why it developed well and relatively quickly. Around 20 years after its founding, the town already featured a bath house, two grain mills and a fulling mill. Shortly afterwards, a town hall was also erected on its market square [20, pp. 180, 181].

Zakliczyn's urban layout was probably delineated based on the short schnur unit of measurement, which was 37 m long. At the center of the town, a rectangular market square was delineated, measuring ca. 170 × 100 m. Singular town blocks were demarcated around the market square. The northern block was markedly deeper than the others, as here the settlement plots transitioned into fields used by the settlers. This clearly indicates an agrarian use, which, apart from commerce and crafts, was significant in Zakliczyn.

Circulation trails in Zakliczyn's urban layout were based on seven streets that extended from the market square, of which three had primary significance, while the others were merely local streets (see Figs. 1–3).

The (originally wooden) parish church of St. Giles was located outside of the urban layout as founded, which was associated with its pre-founding age.

Zakliczyn changed owners several times. After the Jordan family, it belonged to the Zborowski, Sobek, and Tarło families. The latter were the founders of a monastery of the Reformed Congregation of Friars Minor, which was erected in 1622 [19].

The town, considering the previously discussed typology of Renaissance towns established in historical Lesser Poland, represents the commercial type that acted as a market for the region and surrounding villages that belonged to the Jordan family. It should also be noted that Zakliczyn's plan allows us to classify it as a settlement delineated using a traditional, medieval form of urban space organization.

A review of archival maps that feature Zakliczyn (the First Military Survey – Map of Galicia and Lodomeria of 1769–1783, the Galician Cadaster of 1848, the Second Military Survey – Map of Galicia and Bukovina from 1861–1864) and up-to-date survey documentation of the town indicated that its original urban layout, which emerged during the period of its founding in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, has mostly survived into the present. Its inarguable values are evident in the fact that its urban layout is listed in the register of monuments of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship (entry no. A-21) based on a decision issued in 1976 [21].



Fig. 1. Zakliczyn on the First Military Survey  
– the Map of Galicia and Lodomeria in the years 1769–1783  
(source: Archives of the Chair of the History of Architecture  
and Monument Conservation of the FoA CUT  
– Urban Planning Team, map photo)

II. 1. Zakliczyn na I Zdjęciu Wojskowym,  
Mapie Galicji i Lodomerii z lat 1769–1783  
(źródło: Archiwum Katedry Historii Architektury  
i Konserwacji Zabytków, WA PK  
– Zespół Historii Urbanistyki, fot. mapy)

Zakliczyn also has a local spatial development plan (hereinafter: LSDP) in effect, which includes several statutory conservation zones for its cultural heritage assets, including the urban layout (strict conservation zone) [22].

The town was found not to possess an up-to-date historical monument preservation program, which is unfortunate, as such a document, the drafting of which every four years is mandatory for a municipality, as stipulated in the historical monument protection and preservation act [23], supports local communities in revalorizing and preserving



Fig. 2. Zakliczyn on the Galician Cadaster from 1848  
(source: National Archives in Cracow,  
sign. 29/280/0/2.1/310)

II. 2. Zakliczyn na katastrze galicyjskim z 1848 r.  
(źródło: Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie,  
sygn. 29/280/0/2.1/310)

local cultural heritage assets, procuring funding for this purpose, and allows municipal planning and management in the field of monument protection and revalorization.

In summary, it can be concluded that the historical urban structure of Zakliczyn, which has high historical values due to its state of preservation, is under proper conservation. This conservation is ensured by its listing in the register of monuments, and is further enhanced by the LSDP's regulations. In this context, the need to draft a municipal monument preservation program should be noted, so that it can be used to support the local community, including private owners, in the process of protecting and revalorizing Zakliczyn's monuments.

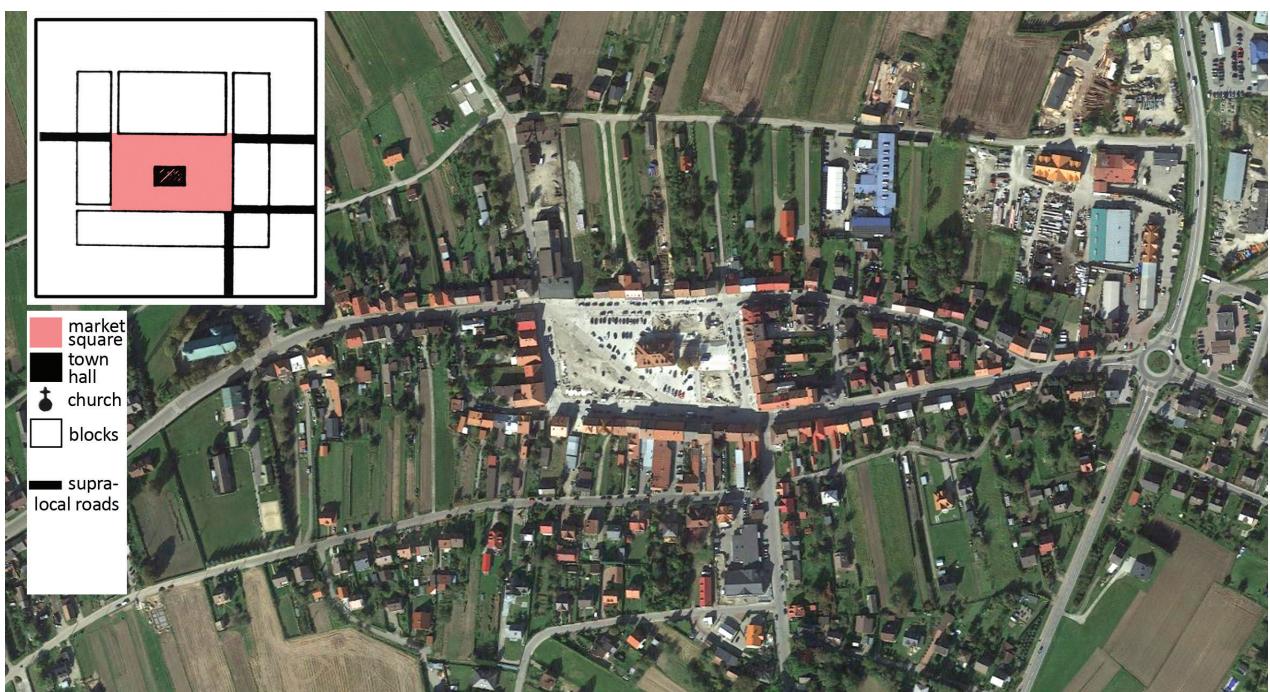


Fig. 3. Zakliczyn on an up-to-date orthophotomap with a diagram of the town's layout as founded  
(map source: Google Earth, accessed: 4.06.2022; elaborated by D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, K. Kuśnierz)

II. 3. Zakliczyn na aktualnej ortofotomapie wraz ze schematem rozplanowania miasta lokacyjnego  
(źródło mapy: Google Earth, data dostępu: 4.06.2022; oprac.: D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, K. Kuśnierz)

### Cieszanów

The second of the Renaissance towns of historical Lesser Poland to be analyzed was Cieszanów – a town founded along the Brusienka River. At present, the town is located in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship, in Lubaczowski County, and is the seat of an urban-rural municipality.

Cieszanów was established towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, probably around 1590, as a private town founded by Stanisław Cieszanowski of the coat of arms of Jelita, starost of Sambor, close to a manorial and garden complex in Nowe Siło, a property of the Cieszanowski family. The town's location was associated with the course of a trade route from Jarosław towards Lublin, and the contemporaneous need to establish a town that, similarly to Zakliczyn, would form a market for a complex of villages that belonged to the magnate family [9, pp. 80–85], [24]–[26].

The town was founded between two pre-existing villages. To the west of it was Wola Nowosielecka (previous-

ly known as Cieszanów and mentioned in sources already in 1496 [27]), while to the west it was Nowe Siło with the estate and previously mentioned manorial and garden complex owned by the Cieszanowski family.

The town of Cieszanów was given a regular, orthogonal urban layout, delineated using the long schnur measurement unit (ca. 45 m), and a square-shaped market square was delineated in its center, measuring 135 × 135 m (3 × 3 schnurs). Around it, singular 1 schnur deep town blocks were planned and divided into settlement plots with a probable width of 13.5 m, which resulted in the original plan featuring 50 settlement plots around the market square [9, p. 73]. The diagonal blocks were probably slated for additional development, acting as reserve land. Over time, the diagonal block from the southeast of the market square came to be occupied by the parish church, which was built only towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Beforehand, the function of the parish church was performed by the church of St. Sophia, located to the west of the Renaissance urban layout (at the site of a later Orthodox church), and later the monastic church of the Order of St. Dominic [26].

Soon after its completion, the town was given the functional program devised by its founders, which included residential and commercial development. North of the regulated urban layout there stretched long farming plots, to the east were urban gardens, while in the south was the Brusienka River, with the "lordly fields" behind it (see archival town plans, Figs. 4–6).

In 1665, Cieszanów was founded again. The town charter was reissued by King Jan Kazimierz. The Renaissance fortifications that used to encircle the town are probably from this period [8, p. 130]. Their remains are visible to this day.

Over time, the town changed owners (in sequence, it was owned by the Wierzbicki family, then Adam Lipski, and later by the Bełzecki family) [24]–[27].

For over 400 years of its history, Cieszanów was affected by numerous disasters like fires or invasions by foreign armies, such as those of the Tartars. However, the town recovered each time and rebuilt at a varying pace. In Cieszanów, the market square sported a town hall, and there were also a mill, a canvas whitening shop, and a paper mill there. Apart from Roman Catholic churches (and a Dominican monastery), the town also featured a synagogue and an Orthodox church.

Cieszanów, concerning the previously discussed typology of Renaissance towns, represents the commercial center type.

An analysis of Cieszanów's historical plans, namely that of the First Military Survey – Map of Galicia and Lodomeria of 1769–1783, the Galician Cadaster of 1848, the Second Military Survey – Map of Galicia and Bukovina from 1861–1864, when confronted with an up-to-date survey map and an orthophotomap (Fig. 6) allows us to state that, essentially, the Renaissance-period historical urban layout of Cieszanów has survived into the present. This observation concerns both the shape and size of the market square and the development blocks around it, especially the western, northern and southern ones. It should be noted that the fact that the town's historical develop-



Fig. 4. Cieszanów on the First Military Survey  
– Map of Galicia and Lodomeria of 1769–1783  
(source: Archives of the Chair of the History of Architecture  
and Monument Conservation of the FoA CUT  
– Urban Planning Team, map photo)

Il. 4. Cieszanów na I Zdjęciu Wojskowym,  
Mapie Galicji i Lodomerii z lat 1769–1783  
(źródło: Archiwum Katedry Historii Architektury  
i Konserwacji Zabytków, WA PK  
– Zespół Historii Urbanistyki, fot. mapy)



Fig. 5. Cieszanów on the Galician Cadaster from 1854  
(source: National Archives in Przemyśl, sign. 56/126/0/0/272M)

Il. 5. Cieszanów na katastrze galicyjskim z 1854 r.  
(źródło: Archiwum Państwowe w Przemyślu, sygn. 56/126/0/0/272M)



Fig. 6. Cieszanów on an up-to-date orthophotomap with a diagram of the town's layout as founded (map source: Google Earth, accessed: 4.06.2022; elaborated by D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, K. Kuśnierz)

II. 6. Cieszanów na aktualnej ortofotomapie wraz ze schematem rozplanowania miasta lokacyjnego (źródło mapy: Google Earth, data dostępu: 4.06.2022; oprac. D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, K. Kuśnierz)

ment (especially around the market square) did not survive does not in itself affect the value of its historical urban layout, which has survived almost unchanged into the present. The fact that the urban layout had not been entered in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship's register of monuments is all the more surprising in the light of this. Cieszanów does not have an LSDP in place either, a measure that could ensure the conservation of the historical urban layout. It is nevertheless worth noting that the municipality has an up-to-date monument preservation program, which includes, among others, an overview of its assets and an analysis of the condition of the municipality's heritage and cultural landscape, information about the assets' statutory conservation, and guidelines in this respect [28].

In summary, it should be highlighted that the historical spatial structure of the town is not under any form of statutory conservation, which can lead to its rapid destruction, for instance due to remodeling the transport grid and the construction or extension of the existing buildings located within historical town blocks. Efforts should be made to enact an LSDP that would place the urban layout in a strict conservation zone as soon as possible, so that the layout can be protected and new projects can be controlled by the proper Voivodeship Monument Conservation Office.

#### Raków

The last of the towns to be studied was Raków. A former urban municipality, it is currently a village located in the Holy Cross Voivodeship, in Kielce County, and is the seat of a municipality.

The town was founded by Jakub Sienieński of Sienna on the Czarna, on a previously uninhabited piece of land that had been rich in forests [29, p. 7]. Nearby there were routes connecting Łagów and Stopnica through Szydłów, and from Kielce to Staszów. They were nevertheless of no significant importance [30, p. 13].

The Sienieński family, as many other Polish magnate families (e.g., the Jordan or the Cieszanowski families), urbanized their estates. The result of this urbanization in historical Lesser Poland was, among others, Raków, for which the aforementioned Jan Sienieński issued a town charter on May 27, 1567, with the approval of Sigismund II Augustus, King of Poland [31].

Raków was founded based on the Magdeburg law. Analysis of archival cartography, namely the First Military Survey – Map of Eastern Galicia of 1801–1804, an up-to-date cadastral map and an orthophotomap enabled the hypothesis that the town had been delineated based on the short schnur, with a length of 37 m, as well as that, in the past – perhaps in search of plots for additional settlers, who had been arriving in the town in droves towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> and in the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries – another town block had been added and delineated within the market square's space (from the west). Originally, the market square had a shape similar to a square and measured ca. 148 × 148 m, namely 4 × 4 short schnurs. The market square was surrounded by town blocks with a depth of 1 schnur, which were then divided into settlement plots. This urban layout would feature diagonal town blocks that would be also visible today, with 2 streets extending from each of the market square's corners (with the exception of



Fig. 7. Raków on the First Military Survey  
– Map of Eastern Galicia of 1801–1804

(source:

Il. 7. Raków na I Zdjęciu Wojskowym,  
na Mapie Galicji Wschodniej z lat 1801–1804  
(źródło:

the southeast corner). The street that extended from the northwest corner would lead northwards to the no-longer-existing Arian prayer house, at the site of which the Holy Trinity Church was built around the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century [32] (see Figs. 7, 8).

The town did not possess Renaissance fortifications, and merely a wooden curtain wall with a system of ponds, artificial reservoirs and the Czarna River, along with two gates and a smaller port. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, due to a second wave of settlers, the town began to increase its territory. The so-called New Market Square, in the shape

of a triangle, was even delineated to the northeast of the original urban layout.

It is worth noting that in 1599 Raków became an official center of the Polish Brothers, a branch of Arians. Two years later, synodal councils began to be hosted in Raków. During this period, a school [33, p. 266], a printing shop [34, p. 26] and slightly later also a town hall were erected there. In addition, the town was a commercial center with well-developed commerce, crafts and agriculture. It featured grain mills, breweries, a malt house and a glass mill [32, pp. 33–44].

In summary of the analyses presented, it should be stated that, in essence, Raków's historical urban layout – with clear characteristics of a commercial center in terms of Polish Renaissance town typology – has survived into the present. The only exception here is the structure of the western block and the associated size of the market square, which is currently a matter for further research.

The historical values of this layout had already been acknowledged, as in 1984 the urban layout and the small-town development of Raków were included in the register of monuments of the Holy Cross Voivodeship (entry no. A-453) [35].

Raków also has an LSDP in effect, in which the historical layout has been covered by a cultural conservation zone and a strict conservation zone [36].

Unfortunately, the municipality does not have a monument preservation program that could contribute to stopping the degradation of monuments and lead to an improvement of their state of preservation, while also defining the conditions of cooperation with monument owners.

In summary, it should be highlighted that the historical urban layout of Raków is sufficiently protected. The terri-



Fig. 8. Raków on an up-to-date orthophotomap with a diagram of the town's plan as founded  
(map source: Google Earth, accessed: 4.06.2022; elaborated by D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, M. Hryniewicz)

Il. 8. Raków na aktualnej ortofotomapie wraz ze schematem rozplanowania miasta lokacyjnego  
(źródło mapy: Google Earth, data dostępu: 4.06.2022; oprac. D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, M. Hryniewicz)

torial entry in the register of monuments is supported by provisions of local law on the need to preserve this valuable historical structure. However, it is an oversight by the municipal authorities that thus far no up-to-date municipal monument preservation program has been drafted, a document that could support and act as a “signpost” for the local community, including the owners of historical buildings or those within the conservation zone, on the matter of procuring funding for renovation and any needs arising from the proper care over cultural heritage assets.

### **Conclusions**

In conclusion, it should be noted that during the Renaissance it was mostly the magnates who took the lead in establishing new cities and towns. The magnates saw in this a means to gain wealth in a period of economic crisis. A newly-founded town would become primarily a market for products produced in a latifundium.

From the standpoint of urban design history and the typology of Renaissance urban layouts, the towns analyzed – Zakliczyn, Cieszanów and Raków – are commercial centers founded by private owners (the Jordan, Cieszanowski and Sienieński families). Their urban layouts are well-defined, orthogonal structures measured using old Polish units of measurement: Zakliczyn and Raków using the short schnur (37 m) and Cieszanów using the long schnur (45 m). Large market squares were delineated in the centers of the towns, which was aligned with their main purposes, i.e. commerce and trade. The market square in Zakliczyn is rectangular, while those of Cieszanów and Raków are roughly square-shaped.

All three towns have urban layouts that have survived until the present in a well-preserved state, and that were delineated during the Renaissance, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the

16<sup>th</sup> century to be exact. Despite this, only two of the spatial structures (those of Zakliczyn and Raków) are listed in the register of monuments. The same towns also have LSDPs in effect, which have the historical centers placed in strict conservation zones. They do not, however, possess up-to-date municipal monument preservation programs, despite the statutory duty to draft such a program every four years. Drafting such a document is thus an essential guideline for reinforcing and popularizing the need for statutory conservation of cultural heritage among the local community, concerning both urban planning and architecture. The historical urban layout of Cieszanów is, in contrast, not protected in any way, as it has been made neither a part of a territorial entry in the register of monuments nor has a strict conservation zone been imposed upon it in an LSDP. The town nevertheless does have an up-to-date municipal monument preservation program. In this case, it is important to make efforts to enter this valuable layout in the register of monuments of the Subcarpathian Voivodeship and to draw up an LSDP with correctly defined and delineated strict conservation zones for the well-defined urban structure of the town as founded.

The cases above indicate that Renaissance urban planning heritage is still present and clearly legible in the cultural space of Lesser Poland's cities. What is more, heritage is, to quote the Historical monument protection and preservation act, a testament to an important period in Poland's history (and contemporaneous tendencies in urban design), and its preservation is in the public interest due to unquestionable historical, artistic and academic values [23], which has been demonstrated above.

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## Abstract

### *Conservation of the Renaissance towns of Southern Poland based on selected examples: an introduction to research*

This paper discusses the conservation of selected historical Renaissance urban layouts located in the Lesser Poland, Subcarpathian and Holy Cross voivodeships. The objective of the study was to analyze previous research on the theory of Renaissance urban design theory in Poland, with a particular emphasis on the areas in question, as well as the typology of the urban layouts founded during this period.

An analysis of urban layouts of selected small towns was performed, which also covered their current forms of statutory conservation. The degree of preservation of the layouts' historical structure was determined, and a proposal of general guidelines for their conservation was formulated.

**Key words:** Renaissance-period urban design, Zakliczyn, Cieszanów, Raków, conservation, revalorization

## Streszczenie

### *Problematyka ochrony małych miast renesansowych południowej Polski na wybranych przykładach. Wstęp do badań*

Artykuł dotyczy problematyki ochrony wybranych zabytkowych renesansowych układów urbanistycznych zlokalizowanych na terenie województw: małopolskiego, podkarpackiego oraz świętokrzyskiego. Celem badań była analiza dotychczasowej wiedzy w zakresie teorii urbanistyki renesansowej w Polsce, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem przedmiotowego obszaru, a także typologii zakładanych w tym okresie układów urbanistycznych.

W pracy dokonano analizy układów urbanistycznych wybranych małych ośrodków miejskich, a także ich bieżącej ochrony konserwatorskiej. Określono stopień zachowania ich historycznej struktury oraz przedstawiono propozycje ogólnych wytycznych w zakresie ochrony.

**Slowa kluczowe:** urbanistyka okresu renesansu, Zakliczyn, Cieszanów, Raków, ochrona, rewitalizacja