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Greening of Old-Town Market spaces before 1945 in the former Silesia Province in the context of planning green infrastructure and preserving heritage values in Old-Town districts

Abstract

The author discusses the phenomenon of the presence of greenery in the market squares of historical cities. This issue is highly significant due to the conflict between two “parties”: supporters of planting trees in all old-town squares and streets and advocates of protecting the historic values of urban space. The first part of the article presents the results of research on changes in the development of old town market squares in the years 1740–1945 in the former Province of Silesia. The second part contains conclusions from studies on contemporary standards for introducing “green infrastructure” into old town districts with respect for the historic character of the place, both in Poland and in neighbouring countries. The author presents the history of introducing greenery to old-town squares and its typology using examples from Silesia. He also formulates postulates regarding the design of contemporary green infrastructures in accordance with the historic character of old-town spaces.

Key words: urban greenery, history of urban planning, history of Silesia, blue-green infrastructure

Introduction

The last twenty-five years have been a time of far-reaching transformation of the functional structure and landscape of Poland’s historic city centres, and has been particularly evident in the modernisation of market squares. Their redevelopments, which often radically disrupt the previous form of the “salon of the city” and “monument of urban planning”, provoke extreme emotions and are hotly debated. Public opinion is most outraged by cases where greens are demolished and old trees are cut down to be replaced with stone paving, attractions (typically a fountain), decorations (like flowerbeds), and a few freshly planted young trees. Until recently, this manner of modernising market squares, dubbed concretosis in 2019 (“Betonoza” 2023), dominated in Polish cities, even constituting the design standard for such project types. Heritage conservation of-

fices, creative circles and academic communities fully accepted it as a measure to restore market squares to their “original form” and mixed use, a spectacular example of which is the story of the redevelopment of the Kutno market square in the years 2011–2021 (Kępiński 2021).

For several years – under pressure from civil society and from experts who study the effects of climate change – decision-makers have been advocating leaving trees in market squares¹. Postulates for increasing the presence of greenery in old-town squares and streets, for example submitted as a part of a civic budget, are eagerly taken up by local government authorities. At present, as a result of a reversal of the long-standing trend, greenery is being introduced into the space of historic cities in almost every form, including

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¹ Immensely influential here were the letters of Monument Conservator General Magdalena Gawin to Voivodeship monument conservators on greenery in market squares from 2 August 2019 (<https://nid.pl/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Zielen%CC%81-na-rynkach.pdf>, accessed: 15 May 2023) and 21 July 2021 (<https://nid.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Rewitalizacja-zabytkowych-rynkow.pdf>, accessed: 15 May 2023).

such ahistoric forms as large colourful pots with form-cut shrubs (Legnica, Żywiec), decorative flowerbeds with shrubs (Kielce), or trees occupying the middle of a former roadway (Krupnicza Street in Krakow). “Concretosis” is being replaced by “gardenosis”.

It is obvious that every instance of planning changes in historic urban space must be preceded by pre-design research that is to provide insight into conditions that stem from, among others, historical land use and development. Matters of heritage conservation are typically presented in a history and conservation study that includes a record of a place’s history, an assessment of its state of preservation, its heritage values and “conservation conclusions”. Documents like this meet the requirements of heritage conservation authorities. However, in my opinion, this long-practiced research standard is highly insufficient.

The value of diagnosis-oriented research is its comprehensiveness. Therefore, when conducting research for designing a space, it is necessary to take into account the totality of environmental conditions and resources – cultural, natural, functional, spatial, compositional and those related to the landscape (Kwaśniewski 2023). In the case of the cultural environment, research limited to a site’s history will be of little use in designing green infrastructure that would be harmoniously blended into a historic space of a square or street. It is necessary to identify principles and solutions used in the past in the introduction of greenery into old-town districts, both in situ and on the supralocal scale: that of the historical region and of the relevant cultural community’s territory. It is also necessary to study contemporary standards and good practice in the “greening” of historic city centres. Only this type of wide perspective can allow designers and decision-makers to truly see the inappropriateness of pots, flowerbeds and other such “garden design” motifs in historic public spaces (that are not themselves green areas).

Object, scope and goal of the study

This article discusses the abovementioned matter of the principles and solutions used in the past in the greening of old-town streets (areas with historic, charter-period city development, also dubbed “inner cities” or “old towns”, known in German as *Innenstadt* or *Altstadt*). I consider this subject at the regional scale, referencing historical Silesia. This study adopts the years 1740–1945 as its time frame, justified both by the political, social and cultural context (operation of the Silesian region in Berlin’s orbit – within the boundaries of the Kingdom of Prussia, the German Empire, the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich), as well as the fact that greenery was first introduced into cities in a planned manner in the 18th century. The historical context defined this study’s territorial scope. The investigation covered cities and towns in the former Province of Silesia (*Provinz Schlesien*), thus including the Kłodzko area and omitting a large part of Lusatia and so-called Austrian Silesia.

The author’s attention focuses on one type of old-town spaces greened from the 18th to the 20th century – in main market squares (referred to in sources as *Markt*, *Ring*). This study omitted so-called old-town promenades (built in

place of demolished city fortifications) and burgher, marksman, monastic or residential and other similar gardens and layouts that are a completely different research subject due to their patterns, forms and messaging.

This paper presents a proposal for a synthetic perspective on the issues of “greening” cities in the past. It shows the typology of historical solutions and their “applicability” through representative examples. This is why the selection of old and contemporary projects is limited, their descriptions are omitted, contexts merely abridged (without in-depth discussions) and the so-called research apparatus (references, literature sources and studies) has been reduced to a necessary minimum. The aim of the presented synthesis is to:

- identify the periodisation and manifestations of introducing greenery into old-town market squares,
- propose a framework catalogue of historic solutions,
- indicate guidance – for use in the design of contemporary green infrastructures in compliance with the historic nature of old-town spaces.

State of research

The greening of town squares in Silesian cities before 1945 has not yet been the subject of research and synthetic approaches. The presence of greenery in market squares has been noted sporadically in academic publications, usually in the context of changes in the development of specific cities and places (Stein 1935, 211; Szczepańczyk 2014, 26; Ruchniewicz, Wiszewski 2015, caption under Fig. 69). The omission of this element of market square development can be explained by the late origins and secondary significance of greenery in the urban layout of market squares, as well as the marginal role of old-town tree planting in the overall historic urban green space dominated by park, promenade and square arrangements.

Original research overview

Sources and methodology

The initial source base for the findings presented here are iconographic sources, in particular: Friedrich Bernhard Werner’s drawings from the mid-18th century², vista plans from the 16th–18th centuries, prints from the 1st half of the 19th century, lithographic and photographic representations

² A handwritten historical-topographical lexicon by Werner under the working title *Topographie Silesiae* in the collection of the University of Wrocław Library (five volumes in total) has been digitised and is available in the public domain: [https://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/dlibra/metadatasearch?action=AdvancedSearchAction&type=-3&val1=Creator:%22Werner%2C+Friedrich+Bernhard+%5C\(1690%5C-1776%5C\)%22](https://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/dlibra/metadatasearch?action=AdvancedSearchAction&type=-3&val1=Creator:%22Werner%2C+Friedrich+Bernhard+%5C(1690%5C-1776%5C)%22), accessed 14 May 2023. This article adopts the work’s volume and page numbering used by the Library. Four other Werner manuscripts that are in the collection of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz and catalogued as Band 1, 2, 3 and 5 (https://archivdatenbank.gsta.spk-berlin.de/midosasearch-gsta/Midosasearch/xvii_ha_rep_135/index.htm?kid=GStA_xvii_ha_rep_135_2&uid=GS-tA_xvii_ha_rep_135_XVII_HA_Rep_135_Nr_526-1, accessed 14 May 2023) have been treated in this article as Volumes 6, 7, 8 and 9.

on postcards from the late 19th and early 20th century, and aerial photographs from the 1920s to the 1940s³. Regardless of the depictions' degree of accuracy, these accounts provide information about the location of the trees and their relationship to the urban components of each square, and in the case of photographs, they also document the species of tree, its outline, and the formation of its crown.

This study included a query of image sources, which were found to be overwhelmingly digitised and made available in digital libraries, archival databases and online thematic services⁴. The author also carried out a preliminary query of printed written accounts of source value – chronicles, historical monographs of towns and the local press – but the results were not adequate to the time spent on procuring them, and thus were deemed of little significance to the overall image of the phenomenon investigated.

The source material obtained was subjected to a critical evaluation and interpretation in terms of reliability (in the case of non-photographic accounts) and origins, as well as the functional and spatial context of the plantings analysed (the uses of the buildings accompanied by the greenery, the compositional sense of this greenery). On this basis, a chronology of phenomena and a typology of solutions were constructed. These findings were confronted with the results of analogous cross-sectional studies conducted in Germany and the Czech Republic (Hennebo 1979; Novák 2001).

Analysis of the source accounts enabled the framing of the process of market square “greening” in Silesian towns into the following periodisation framework:

– Phase One: from the 13th century to about 1740 (from the beginning of Silesian urbanisation to the beginning of Prussian rule) – the time of the political supremacy of the Polish dukes and, from the 14th century, of the Bohemian kings, during which the settlement network and urban structure of each city were formed; it was also the period of the “trace” presence of greenery in the space of squares and streets. The middle of the 17th century can be considered as the time caesura of this phase – it was probably only after the end of the Thirty Years' War (1648) that trees became a deliberately introduced element in the urban space.

– Phase Two: from ca. 1740 to 1871 (from the beginning of the so-called First Silesian War until the end of the Franco-Prussian War) – a time of administrative and political reforms and radical transformation of cities, their spatial expansion and the gradual “saturation” of the suburban zone and the demilitarised outskirts of old-town districts with greenery. The proposed caesura of Phase Two is 19 November 1808 – the date of the royal edict that reformed the political system of cities in the Kingdom of Prussia. It was one of the acts that initiated the abolition of the feudal sys-

tem in the Hohenzollern monarchy, enabled the capitalist development of cities and accelerated the emancipation of the bourgeoisie.

– Phase Three: from 1871 to 1945 (from the restoration of the German Empire to the collapse of the Third Reich), initiated by the economic boom fuelled by French war contributions – a time of accelerated urbanisation processes, widespread establishment of public city greenery, including planting within market squares, and their treatment as an integral component of urban space. The entire 1910s, which included the years of the First World War (1914–1918) and the regime changes in Germany (1918–1919), can be considered as a caesura here, as it was the time of the so-called park reform in Germany, a paradigm shift in thinking about the functions and forms of public greenery (from around 1910), as well as a period of the implementation of new urban planning standards and legal forms of protection for the historic urban landscape.

Phase One – tree plantings in Silesian cities and towns before 1740

In the medieval and early modern periods, the market square was primarily a space for commerce and a centre of social life – its facilities included “trading features” in established areas of the square (cloth halls, stalls, booths, weighing scales, etc.), structures for the exercise and demonstration of power (town hall with a site for courts of law, a pillory/hanging scaffold, religious monuments) and infrastructure (wells or water reservoirs, pavements, unoccupied squares). The markets also contributed to the ceremonial space of the city. This functional complexity and zoning is perfectly illustrated by the example of the market square in Wrocław (Stein 1935; Eysymontt 2009, 74). Trees only existed in the space of markets when they were part of their use programme: they shaded a well or marked the place where open-air courts were held.

Analysis of pictorial sources (mainly Werner's drawings), supported by analogies from outside Silesia, makes it possible to identify the following forms of greenery within the “inner city” (including the market square):

1. Singular trees in the space of city streets and squares: near private (Wrocław – market square [Fig. 1a]) and municipal buildings (Wrocław – Piaskowa Street near the arsenal), near public wells (Lwówek Śląski – market square). The presence of so-called “court trees” at town halls, noted in German cities (Schild 1980), has not been confirmed in Silesia.

2. Composed group of trees in a square – by a religious monument (Niemodlin, Brzeg Dolny [Fig. 1b]).

3. Trees in cemeteries or churchyards – commonly present because of the specific function of necropolises, serving as a forum, as the main square and promenade, where all the inhabitants of the community could meet, congregate, walk, deal with spiritual and temporal matters, entertain themselves and court (Aries 1989, 75). Tree plantings were postulated in architectural treatises (Furttenbach 1650, Blatt B), shown on vista plans of Silesian towns and graphic representations of buildings. Some drawings by Werner suggest the existence of rows of trees planted along the cemetery wall (Świebodzin, Ziębice).

³ An enormous amount of historical iconographic material from the 19th to 20th century is available on the website Polska na fotografii (<https://polska-org.pl>) and Fotopolska (<https://fotopolska.eu/>), as well as in the digital catalogue of the graphic collections of the Herder-Institut in Marburg (<https://www.herder-institut.de/bildkatalog/>). Due to the ease of access to these accounts, the author has omitted them from the references and kept the illustrative material for the article to a minimum.

⁴ The collections of European digital libraries (including iconographic transfers) are made most widely available through the Europeana Collections website (<https://www.europeana.eu/pl/collections>).

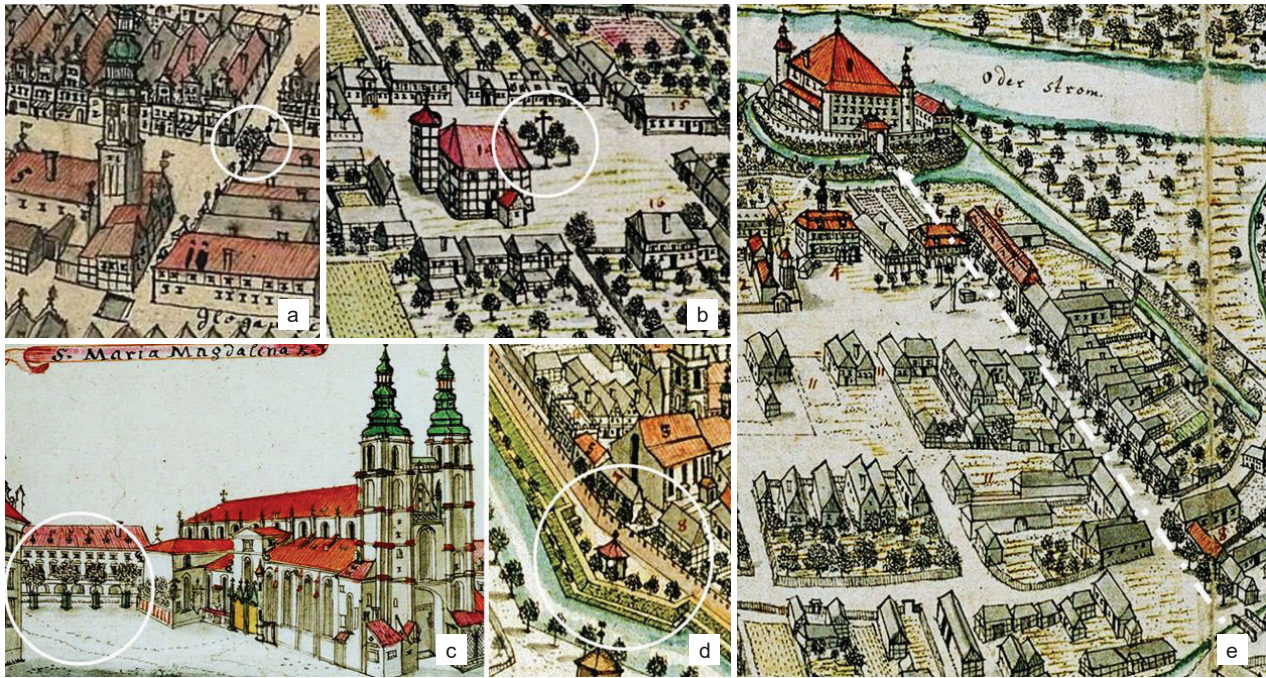


Fig. 1. Examples of using trees in Silesian towns before the mid-18th century, in the drawings of F.B. Werner:

- a) a single tree in the market square in Wołów next to one of the houses (source: Werner-BUWr, vol. 2, 567),
- b) a composed group of trees around the crucifix in the market square in Brzeg Dolny (source: Werner-BUWr, vol. 1, 411),
- c) a row of trees at the St. Mary Magdalene Gymnasium in Wrocław (source: Werner-BUWr, vol. 1, 335),
- d) rows of trees along the city fortifications in Oława (source: Werner-BUWr, vol. 2, 397),
- e) the promenade as part of a ceremonial road in Uraz (source: Werner-BUWr, vol. 2, 397). Interpretation and markings: A. Kwaśniewski

II. 1. Przykłady stosowania zadrzewień w miastach śląskich przed połową XVIII w. na rysunkach F.B. Wernera:

- a) pojedyncze drzewo na rynku przy domu w Wołowie (źródło: Werner-BUWr, t. 2, 567),
- b) komponowany zespół drzew przy krucyfiksie na rynku w Brzegu Dolnym (źródło: Werner-BUWr, t. 1, 411),
- c) drzewa przed fasadą gimnazjum św. Marii Magdaleny we Wrocławiu (źródło: Werner-BUWr, t. 1, 335),
- d) szpalery drzew w linii fortyfikacji miejskich w Oławie (źródło: Werner-BUWr, t. 2, 397),
- e) założenie promenadowe ze szpalerm drzew jako element drogi ceremonialnej w Urazie (źródło: Werner-BUWr, t. 2, 397).

Interpretacja i oznaczenia: A. Kwaśniewski

4. Trees composed next to public buildings – a solution known from Werner's drawing depicting a row of trees in front of the façade of the St Mary Magdalene Gymnasium (Werner-BUWr, vol. 1, 335 [Fig. 1c]), at the same time on the edge of the former church cemetery turned into a town square, probably during the construction of the building in 1710 (Jung 1935).

5. Tree rows on the earthen city ramparts (in the line of the city fortifications) – postulated in architectural treatises as complementing the fortifications because they *not only serve to fortify* [the ramparts], *but also for pleasure* [i.e., strolling] *and give benefit* [during a siege they provide the defenders with firewood and lumber] (Errard 1604, 10). The trees planted on embankments were shown by Werner in Wrocław (in the space between the walls and along the guard road of the bastion fortifications on the south side of the city), in Oława (along the alley and on the bastions in the western part of the city [Fig. 1d]) and in Kąty Wrocławskie (on the ramparts in the southern part of the city).

6. Promenade layouts on a square/street – first introduced in the mid-17th century in newly erected districts of European cities, rarely in the “inner cities”. In Silesia, they appeared in their simplest form: as tree rows lining streets. They were recorded by Werner in Bierutowo (along present-day Kościelna Street, connecting the castle with the

parish (castle) church), in Chobienia (in the market square along the wall separating the castle area), in Uraz (along the road leading through the town to the castle [Fig. 1e]). In each of these cases, the promenade can be interpreted as part of a ceremonial road associated with the residence of a given town's owners⁵.

Phase Two
– *greening of market squares*
in the years 1740–1871:
A time of urban reforms

Prussian royal edicts that regulated detail almost every aspect of a city's functioning had little effect on the landscape of the “inner cities”: they accelerated the process of replacing wooden buildings with brick ones (regulation of 20 March 1756), forced the closure of cemeteries within the city walls (regulation for Wrocław of 13 December 1775),

⁵ The first promenade following a Western model – subordinated to the main town street rather than the residence – was presumably created in Nowa Sól, within the colony of the Moravian Brethren (Herrnhut), founded and elevated to the status of a town in 1743, thus a newly established settlement; see Werner-BUWr, vol. 5, 175; Bronisch 1893, 29–55.



Fig. 2. Examples of using trees in Silesian towns between 1740 and 1871 – composed plantings near guardhouses in market squares:
 a) in Lwówek Śląski (postcard, 1909, source: <https://jbc.jelenia-gora.pl/dlibra/publication/27230/edition/25596/content>),
 b) in Legnica (watercolor, before 1842, source: Liegnitz... 1942, Abb. 14). Interpretation and markings: A. Kwaśniewski, accessed: June 15, 2023

II. 2. Przykłady stosowania zadrzewień w miastach śląskich między 1740 a 1871 r. – komponowane nasadzenia przy odwachach w obrębie rynków:
 a) we Lwówku Śląskim (pocztówka, 1909, źródło: <https://jbc.jelenia-gora.pl/dlibra/publication/27230/edition/25596/content>),
 b) w Legnicy (akwarela, przed 1842, źródło: Liegnitz... 1942, Abb. 14).
 Interpretacja i oznaczenia: A. Kwaśniewski, dostęp do źródeł: 15 czerwca 2023

but had no effect on the presence of greenery in the space of streets and squares. Likewise, the acts of the Napoleonic wars era (1807–1815), which initiated a fundamental change in the functional and spatial structure in urban areas, did not significantly alter old-town public spaces. Market squares remained a space for the conduct of trade and the exercise and demonstration of power. The few representative areas (such as Parade Platz in the western part of the Wrocław market square) were used commercially on market days. Trees were occasionally introduced for utilitarian reasons – to shade selected areas. The need for green recreational space was met by promenades or parks in the suburbs, or a promenade on the site of the decommissioned outer fortifications of the “inner city”.

There were only two recurring types of tree canopy in the market space at the time in question:

1. Composed tree planting at the *Hauptwache*. Iconographic evidence suggests that tree planting in front of the entrance to the military police headquarters – set up in the Prussian period in the market square of each county town (which was the garrison headquarters) – was used frequently. The aim was to shade the area where the sentry officers were on duty. Usually two trees were planted flanking the entrance to the office (Lwówek Śląski [Fig. 2a], Wołów, Głogów, Kłodzko?), in a few cases more trees were used (Brzeg, Legnica [Fig. 2b], Koźle). These plantings were a later addition to the development. The Wrocław guardhouse, erected in the years 1745–1746 and replaced by a new building between 1788 and 1789, was not provided with a tree row in front of the façade until 1793, after the guard square had been separated by barriers (Stein 1935, 215–221), and a second row was added around 1810. If the

tree canopies at the guardhouses did not interfere with modernisation plans, they were maintained for decades to come (e.g., in Wołów, Koźle, Legnica) and became green landmarks of their market squares.

2. Singular trees in market square spaces (not connected with guardhouses) – were noted sporadically, e.g., in Legnica (near the well [Fig. 2b]), Brzeg (near the tenements), Radków (in front of the entrance to the town hall), Głucholazy (in the middle of the square), Bolesławów (*Große Linde* in the northern part of the square) and Wrocław (in front of the eastern façade of the Cloth Hall [Fig. 3]).

Two unprecedented solutions appeared in Wrocław's market square at the time, without analogies in other Silesian cities: a group of trees (a row?) shading the so-called fish market between the guardhouse and the western façade of the town hall (according to iconographic sources, planted around 1810, removed in 1861) and creepers on a fragment of the town hall's southern façade (noted on a graphic by Heinrich Mützel from 1825, removed before 1890).

Phase Three – greening of market squares between 1871 and 1945: A time of the “green revolution” of cities

The new “positivist” standards of civilisation of the late 19th century significantly increased the presence of greenery in the space of cities – which were being intensively expanded and modernised. Avenue streets, squares with green areas and front gardens in tenement buildings became the standard for urban design (Stübgen 1890). The transformation of the old-town districts brought not only the “replacement” of parcel development, the construction of



Fig. 3. The introduction of greenery in Silesian cities between 1740 and 1871 – the case of the market square in Wrocław:

- 1 – a row of trees along the guardhouse, 2 – a group of trees at the Fish Market, 3 – climbing plants on the southern façade of the town hall, 4 – a single tree next to the eastern façade of the Cloth Hall (steel engraving by E.E. Höfer based on a drawing by C. Würbs, source: <https://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/dlibra/publication/39209/edition/40386/content>, accessed: September 18, 2022).

Interpretation and markings: A. Kwaśniewski

II. 3. Wprowadzanie zieleni w miastach śląskich między 1740 a 1871 r. na przykładzie rynku we Wrocławiu:

- 1 – szpaler drzew przy odwachu, 2 – grupa drzew na Targu Rybnym, 3 – pnącza na elewacji ratusza, 4 – pojedyncze drzewo przy wschodniej fasadzie Sukiennic (staloryt E.E. Höfera na podstawie rys. C. Würbsa, źródło: <https://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/dlibra/publication/39209/edition/40386/content>, dostęp: 18 września 2022).

Interpretacja i oznaczenia: A. Kwaśniewski

technical infrastructures (plumbing, gas, electrical, modern paving, tram tracks), but also the introduction of tree planting into the space of squares, and sometimes streets. On the one hand, the limiting of commercial activity in old-town market squares and its relocation to the suburbs and market halls was an essential circumstance, while on the other it was the municipal authorities' and residents' pursuit of the aesthetic enhancement of market-square spaces and converting them into "urban salons". Market squares that had been devoid of trees before 1945 (e.g., in Dzierżoniów, Ząbkowice Śląskie, Bystrzyca Kłodzka, Lubań) were rare. There were also sporadic instances of trees being removed from market squares in the interwar period – perhaps dictated by conservation recommendations. The case of Międzyzlesie, where a cluster of greenery planted probably in the 1880s – consisting of a dozen or so trees surrounded by a fountain and a Marian column, as well as an immense flower-bed – around 1928 gave way to lawns and paths, can be seen as a counterpart to today's "concretosis" (Fig. 4).

The list of solutions applied in the cities and towns of the Province of Silesia is extensive. It includes:

1. Rows of trees:

a) in squares – an element commonly present in the space of market squares, which formed the compositional frame of an urban interior. Trees were planted along the frontage of a square (at the outer edge of the road surrounding the square, e.g., in Niemcza, Oleśnica, Brzeg [Fig. 5a]), at the edge of the central part of a square (e.g., in Chocianów, Żory), along the frontage of the mid-market block (e.g., in Brzeg, Świdnica, Jelenia Góra, Zielona Góra), in the form of an avenue along the road crossing a square and forming an extension of the market street (e.g., in Brzeg Dolny);

b) in old-town streets – used exceptionally (e.g., along the current Katedralna Street in Ostrów Tumski in Wrocław); usually in places where street spaces have been widened (e.g., in Świdnica along the eastern section of the current Puławskiego Street).

2. A composed group of trees near a public or commercial building – an uncommon solution that took the form of two trees that flanked a façade's axis (e.g., near the exposed back façade of the Evangelical church in Brzeg Dolny [Fig. 5b], in front of the entrances to the town halls



Fig. 4. Transformations of the market square in Międzyzlesie:

- a) in the mid-18th century – a market square with a Marian column (1) and a water reservoir (2), without trees (graphic based on a drawing by Werner, source: Pompejus [1862]),
- b) around 1900 the square had: a composed group of trees around the Marian column (1) and the fountain (2), a large flower bed (3) and trees (4) at the entrance to the castle (postcard, source: <https://polska-org.pl/6968619,foto.html?idEntity=592598>),
- c) before 1928 – a square under reconstruction, with single trees near the column (1), a small flower bed (5) and a row of trees (6) at the northern frontage (postcard, source: <https://polska-org.pl/9975676,foto.html?idEntity=592598>),
- d) ca. 1930 – the square after reconstruction, with only a lawn (7) and a row of trees (6) at the northern frontage; in front of the castle at the entrance, a group of spruces (8) (postcard, source: <https://polska-org.pl/3728972,foto.html?idEntity=592598>).

Interpretation and markings: A. Kwaśniewski, accessed: June 17, 2023

II. 4. Przemiany zagospodarowania rynku w Międzyzlesiu:

- a) w połowie XVIII w. – plac targowy z kolumną maryjną (1) i rezerwuarem wody (2), bez drzew (grafika na podstawie rys. Wernera, źródło: Pompejus [1862]),
- b) około 1900 r. – plac z komponowaną grupą drzew przy kolumnie maryjnej (1) i fontannie (2), wielkim klombem na płycie rynku (3) i zadrzewieniami (4) przy wjeździe do zamku (pocztówka, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/6968619,foto.html?idEntity=592598>),
- c) przed 1928 r. – plac w trakcie przebudowy, z pojedynczymi drzewami przy kolumnie (1) oraz niewielkim klombem (5) i szpalerem drzewek (6) przy pierzei północnej (pocztówka, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/9975676,foto.html?idEntity=592598>),
- d) około 1930 r. – plac po przebudowie, z samym trawnikiem (7) i szpalerem drzewek (6) przy północnej pierzei oraz nasadzeniami świerków (8) przy wjeździe do zamku (pocztówka, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/3728972,foto.html?idEntity=592598>). Interpretacja i oznaczenia: A. Kwaśniewski, dostęp do źródeł: 17 czerwca 2023

in Strzelin and Ścinawa) or a row of trees (e.g., along the façades of the Paczków town hall). In Złotniki Lubańskie, the building rising in the middle of the market square (the inn and the magistrate's office) was complemented by trees planted at its corners. In Żory, a row of trees was planted at the façade of the 4 Rynek building, which houses a hostel. Perhaps the planting of the three trees in the square in Żmigród next to the wall of house no. 10 housing a pharmacy was related to the special use and rank of this building.

3. Trees by a religious or secular monument or fountain:

a) a composed group of trees – implemented quite numerous, by planting two trees flanking the monument (Lubomierz, Strzegom, Lubliniec), four – planted at the corners of the pedestal (war monuments in Niemcza [Fig. 5c]

and Głogówek, fountains in Zawidów and Strzelce Opolskie, the monument to St John Nepomucen in Namysłów), rarely six – around the structure (the fountain in Złotoryja, the monument to Emperor William I in Sulików),

b) quasi-garden-square planting with trees as a compositional complement to a monument or fountain – not a very common solution, and unique in each case. For example, at the fountain in the market square in Wałbrzych (later supplemented by a statue of Emperor Frederick III in 1903), a square was enclosed with four trees at each side (Fig. 6a). An analogous layout was created in the 1890s in the surroundings of the fountain in Krapkowice's market square (in the interwar period it was reduced to a flowerbed border, without trees). A regular garden square accompanied



Fig. 5. Examples of using greenery in Silesian towns between 1871 and 1945:

- a) a row of trees on the northern side of the market square in Brzeg (postcard, before 28 May 1908, source: <https://polska-org.pl/3857311,foto.html?idEntity=595428>),
- b) a composed group of trees at the rear façade of the Evangelical church in the market square in Brzeg Dolny (postcard, 1915, source: <https://polska-org.pl/5993271,foto.html?idEntity=524190>),
- c) a composed group of trees at the war memorial in Niemcza (postcard, ca. 1925, source: <https://polska-org.pl/893812,foto.html?idEntity=4767909>),
- d) climbing plants on walls of the town hall in Paczków (photograph, 1930s, source: <https://polska-org.pl/930297,foto.html?idEntity=511552>),
- e) green area with lawn parterres and tree plantings in the market square area in Szlichtyngowa (postcard, before 1903, source: <https://polska-org.pl/4491722,foto.html?idEntity=590604>),
- f) green area in the market square in Kluczbork in the front of the town hall (postcard, 1930s, source: <https://polska-org.pl/4005135,foto.html?idEntity=595839>)

II. 5. Przykłady stosowania zieleni w miastach śląskich między 1871 a 1945 r.:

- a) szpaler drzew na północnej stronie placu rynkowego w Brzegu (pocztówka, przed 28 maja 1908, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/3857311,foto.html?idEntity=595428>),
- b) komponowany zespół drzew przy tylnej fasadzie kościoła ewangelickiego w rynku w Brzegu Dolnym (pocztówka, 1915, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/5993271,foto.html?idEntity=524190>),
- c) komponowany zespół drzew przy pomniku wojennym w Niemczy (pocztówka, ok. 1925, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/893812,foto.html?idEntity=4767909>),
- d) pnącza na elewacji ratusza w Paczkowie (fotografia, lata 30. XX w., źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/930297,foto.html?idEntity=511552>),
- e) zieleniec z parterami trawnikowymi i nasadzeniami drzew w obszarze rynku w Szlichtyngowej (pocztówka, przed 1903, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/4491722,foto.html?idEntity=590604>),
- f) zieleniec w obrębie placu rynkowego przed ratuszem w Kluczborku (pocztówka, lata 30. XX w., źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/4005135,foto.html?idEntity=595839>)

the monument to General Blücher in the middle of the market square in Chojnów (around 1930 it was stripped of its trees and recomposed). In the market square in Zawidów (Fig. 6c), the fountain planted with four trees was supplemented around 1905 by hedge borders – they formed a variation on the theme of the Renaissance garden quarter in a compartmentary arrangement; the war memorial erected in the same market square (from the 1880s) was composed with a mini-greenhouse, whose trees formed the background for the monument. The green area with trees on the Bolków market square compositionally merged the fountain, the war memorial and the façade of the town hall. In Łądek-Zdrój, a string of three trees was planted on the lawn next to the Holy Trinity obelisk on the side of the town hall as a *pendant* to an analogous triad on the opposite side of the town hall.

4. Climbers on façades:

a) town halls (standing in the market square) – a solution that became popular in the end of the 19th century, hitherto overlooked in historico-urban and historico-architectural research, documented in photographs in many Silesian towns: Koźuchów, Lwówek Śląski, Bolesławiec, Trzebnica, Strzelin, Brzeg, Opole, Paczków (Fig. 5d), Otmuchów, Prudnik, Głubczyce, Radków. The genesis of this phenomenon and the potential impact of the previously mentioned creepers from the Wrocław Town Hall have not been determined at this stage of the research,

b) residential buildings in old town districts – a phenomenon documented in numerous photographs, but at this stage of research it is difficult to assess its scale. Façades covered with climbing plants are known, for example, from Brzeg (buildings near the castle church, building on Moniuszki Street), Jawor and Ziębice (building in the mid-market block), Lubin (Hotel Zum grünen Baum in the market square), Złotniki Lubańskie and Sulików (market houses).

5. Greens with lawn parterres and tree planting in market areas – a solution known from several small Silesian towns with relatively large market squares (Szlichtyngowa [Fig. 5e], Chobienia [Fig. 5h], Lewin Kłodzki, Głucholazy [Fig. 6c], Bolesławów, Chełmsko Śląskie – with the use of old trees surrounding a monument, Złotniki Lubańskie – with a grass surface only). This represented the most “radical” expression of the trend to transform a former market square into a recreational and formal zone. Solutions within the formula of the “architectural layout” (*architektonische Grünanlage*) were used, characterised by a geometric approach to the layout of traffic routes, planting and accents. For small-town residents, the market square green was a substitute for a city park. Isolated projects from county towns included a small wooded and fenced-off square within the mid-market block in Jawor and the planting of several dozen trees on the square in Kamienna Góra around the monument to Count Eberhard von Stollberg-Wernigerode (1879). The square-shaped ornamental garden separated by a fence from the market space in Dobromierz (arranged around 1910, reconstructed before 1930 [Fig. 6d]), was an exceptional solution.

6. Flower or lawn parterres in the vicinity of buildings:

a) a green within a market square next to a public building – a sporadically encountered solution, recorded in Kluczbork (Fig. 5f), where an extensive grassy parterre with decorative trees and flowerbeds was arranged. An analogous green space existed in Brzeg in the square in front of St Nicholas’ Church (on the site of the former church cemetery). In both cases, the “park and garden” rather than “promenade” standard was built – coniferous trees were planted, which are not noted in the space of other old town streets and squares in Silesia,

b) a strip of lawn (lawn flowerbed) in the line of a row of trees within the market square – an occasional solution, used, e.g., in Strzelin (on the western side of the mid-market block), Bolesławiec and Pyskowice (on the edge of the town hall), Kąty Wrocławskie (extensive grassy surroundings of the mid-market block as a substitute for a green). An exceptional case is the market square in Wleń, where the lawn edging around the town hall was planted with shrubs – as if by a villa or country manor,

c) Flowerbed composition as a surrounding of a fountain or a monument – used rather rarely, e.g., in Lewin Brzeski (at the war memorial [Fig. 5g]), Grodków and Mirsk (at the monuments to Kaiser Wilhelm I), in Bystrzyca Kłodzka (at the Holy Trinity Column), in Toszek and Olesno (at the monuments to St. John of Nepomuk), in Duszniki (at a fountain – only a lawn).

7. Individual trees:

a) a solitaire tree with monumental function within its square – this is usually a “peace oak” (*Friedenseiche*), one of many planted throughout Germany to commemorate the end of the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871). In Silesia, such oak trees grew in the market squares of Strzelin and Chobienia (Fig. 5h; a tree preserved to this day),

b) next to buildings in the market space. In large cities, they occurred sporadically (e.g., in Nysa – planted by the Triton fountain around 1890). Perhaps they were maintained to cultivate place-based traditions – for example, in Wołów, trees at the corners of the market square are shown on prints from 1661, on Werner’s drawing from the mid-18th century and on photographs from before 1945. In the smallest towns, trees that grew in front of the house façade in an area used as a front garden did not interfere with pedestrian traffic (e.g., in Bolesławów, Złotniki Lubańskie),

c) shading a water reservoir – a solution known from Mirsk (the so-called lion fountain, in the 1930s additionally provided with a flowerbed border). In the market square in Korfantów, three trees planted by the town well had a similar function.

8. Bedding plants or trees in pots within the market place – an occasional solution, probably seasonal or periodic, documented in photographs from the interwar period, e.g., examples include Bystrzyca Kłodzka (a row of containers along the western frontage of the square, in the line of the retaining wall), Kietrz (trees temporarily placed by the Marian column, after the trees growing in the ground had been removed), Lubawka (coniferous trees in pots displayed in the market place by the façade of the town hall and the arcades of the town houses), Bytom Odrzański (flower pots decorating the balustrades of the fountain).

9. Flower decorations in boxes and pots on the façades of houses (on window sills) in an old-town district – in the light of the iconographic accounts in Silesia – occurred



Fig. 6. Greenery in the market squares of Silesian cities between 1871 and 1945 – individual solutions:

- a) Wałbrzych – a quasi-square with trees as a compositional complement to the fountain (as of 1893, before the construction of the monument to Emperor Frederick III, postcard, source: <https://polska-org.pl/5295881,foto.html?idEntity=592427>),
- b) Zawidów – a small neo-Renaissance compartmental garden around the fountain and a mini-green area at the war memorial (postcard, before 1914, source: <https://polska-org.pl/3247402,foto.html?idEntity=596725>),
- c) Głuchołazy – a green area arranged in an architectural style in the 1930s on the market square (inspired by historical garden parterres), with the preservation of a solitary tree from around the mid-19th century (postcard, source: <https://polska-org.pl/5658390,foto.html?idEntity=597649>),
- d) Dobromierz – a formal garden next to the town hall, separated by a fence (postcard, around 1910, source: <https://polska-org.pl/9515203,foto.html?idEntity=513478>), accessed: June 16, 2023

II. 6. Zieleń na rynkach miastach śląskich między 1871 a 1945 r. – rozwiązania jednostkowe:

- a) Wałbrzych – quasi-skwerowe założenie z zadrzewieniami jako kompozycyjne dopełnienie fontanny (stan z 1893 r., sprzed budowy pomnika cesarza Fryderyka III, pocztówka, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/5295881,foto.html?idEntity=592427>),
- b) Zawidów – otoczenie fontanny w formie neorenesansowej kwatery ogrodowej w układzie kompartmentowym oraz minizieleniec przy pomniku wojennym (pocztówka, przed 1914, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/3247402,foto.html?idEntity=596725>),
- c) Głuchołazy – zielonec w typie architektonicznym urządzony w latach 30. XX w. na płycie placu (na wzór parterów ogrodowych z pierwszej połowy XVIII w.), z wykorzystaniem starszego drzewa soliterowego z ok. połowy XIX w. (pocztówka, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/5658390,foto.html?idEntity=597649>),
- d) Dobromierz – kwatrowy ogród ozdobny przy ratuszu wydzielony ogrodzeniem (pocztówka, ok. 1910, źródło: <https://polska-org.pl/9515203,foto.html?idEntity=513478>), dostęp do źródeł: 16 czerwca 2023

sporadically. The placement of the pots required the parapet to be fitted with special railings (as in Legnica, on the bay window of the “Under the Quail Basket” building).

Green infrastructure design in old-town districts – “conservation” conclusions

In Poland, there is no manual or guidance on how to introduce greenery into the space of old-town districts in accordance with the historical character of the place and with respect for its historic values – not even as modest as the standard by Zdeňek Novák published by the main conservation office of the Czech Republic (Novák 2001) or the subsection on greenery in the study by Karel Kuč and Věra Kučová in 2000, which deals with historic urban

settings (Kuča, Kučová 2000, 43–48). A large part of the principles contained therein are universal and can also be applied in Poland. However, the use of standards does not exempt the designer from pre-design studies carried out at least on a local scale:

– It is essential that the study of squares and streets in terms of the greenery that has existed or is planned there is always carried out in the context of the transformation of the functioning of these urban interiors, in both the utilitarian and ideological spheres.

– When interpreting historic tree canopies – with regard to the circumstances of their creation, location, form, composition – it is necessary to establish the previous functions and messages within the surroundings: urban planes, buildings, sculptural components.

– The phenomenon of “temporary” tree planting, i.e., the periodic replacement of plantings or their removal, should be recognised (e.g., at the New Town Hall in Wrocław: planting ca. 1870/1880, removal ca. 1920, restoration before 1930 and ca. 1934; at the Marian Column in the Market Square in Racibórz: planting ca. 1900, removal before 1928).

– As a rule, conifers were not planted in old-town spaces – however, cases of the use of evergreen vegetation in historical settings that implemented the garden square formula (Kluczbork) or provided a bedding/garden square setting for a monument (Grodków, Zawidów) should be recorded.

– It is essential to confront historical iconographic accounts with written accounts obtained from online, library and archive searches.

– When developing iconographic messages, arboricultural content should be investigated: species selection, horticultural procedures.

– It is necessary to respect the historic logic and hierarchy of the urban layout – it should be considered unacceptable, for example, to plant trees over the area of a historic roadway, to obscure a “iconic” monuments, or to interfere with important visual linkages.

– It is advisable to confront the knowledge provided by the case studies with the contents of pre-1945 trade publications that discuss the principles of green space management in historic squares and streets (e.g., Boeck 1913; Brinckmann 1911–1912; Stübgen 1890).

City authorities must be aware that the space of old-town squares and streets has a limited capacity – saturating it with greenery according to the standards practised in contemporary spaces violates the historic values of the area and does not at all solve the problems caused by climate change. There is a need to plan blue-green infrastructure throughout old-town districts with consideration of:



Fig. 7. Home gardens on the Old Town plots:

- a) Wolczyn, Kluczborska Street – a historic zone of kitchen gardens existing after 1945 (without significant changes),
- b) Telč, Křižová Street – contemporary home gardens in place of historical courtyards, rear buildings and kitchen gardens,
- c) Wschowa – a courtyard in the quarter of Powstańców Wielkopolskich, J. Kilińskiego and Rynek streets, currently developed and used as a garden,
- d) Paczków, Wojska Polskiego Street – small gardens arranged by residents in the interior of the street quarter, which was completely deprived of home gardens and rear buildings during urban renewal in the 1950s and 1960s (photo by A. Kwaśniewski)

II. 7. Ogrody przydomowe na tyłach parcel staromiejskich:

- a) Wolczyn, ul. Kluczborska – strefa ogrodów użytkowych zachowana po 1945 r. bez istotnych zmian,
- b) Telč, ul. Křižová – współczesne ogrody przydomowe w miejscu historycznych podwórz, oficyn i ogrodów użytkowych,
- c) Wschowa – podwórze z quasi-ogrodowym zagospodarowaniem w kwartale ulic Powstańców Wielkopolskich, J. Kilińskiego i Rynek,
- d) Paczków, ul. Wojska Polskiego – ogrody urządzone przez mieszkańców we wnętrzu kwartału ulicznego całkowicie „oczyszczonego” z partii ogrodowych i budowli w ramach powojennej rewitalizacji (fot. A. Kwaśniewski)



Fig. 8. Climbing plants on the walls of historical buildings in the Old Town districts:
a) Erfurt, Kreuzsand, b) Telč, Palackého Street, c) Znojmo, Kramářská Street, d) Ústí nad Orlicí, Mírové náměstí (market square),
e), f) Regensburg, Rote-Löwen-Straße (photo by A. Kwaśniewski)

Il. 8. Roślinność pnąca przy elewacjach budynków historycznych w dzielnicach staromiejskich:

a) Erfurt, Kreuzsand, b) Telč, ul. Palackého, c) Znojmo, ul. Kramářská, d) Ústí nad Orlicí, Mírové náměstí (rynek),
e), f) Ratyzbona, Rote-Löwen-Straße (fot. A. Kwaśniewski)

– the necessity to preserve and protect traditional gardens at the back of burgher parcels, regardless of their current “aesthetic value” (Fig. 7),

– the potential of courtyard spaces as places for pavement “permeation”, rainwater retention, tree planting, garden lot landscaping,

– the possibility of planting climbing plants at façades (Fig. 8) and introducing ground cover plants on flat roofs of buildings, as long as the interference does not affect the authentic fabric of the monument or other historic values, based on a comprehensive study (e.g., in Güstrow; “Fassadenbegrünung im Sanierungsgebiet Altstadt Güstrow” 2013).

Introducing greenery into old town districts should be based on a long-term strategy and systemic solutions – e.g.,

involving residents, entrepreneurs and associations and subsidising rational bottom-up initiatives in semi-public and semi-private spaces (such as in Nuremberg; “Förderungen von Privaten Begrünungsmaßnahmen”) – rather than implementing populist slogans and ideas. The presence of contemporary greenery in historic centres should not only be consulted with the public, but also mocked up and tested – following the example of the Czech city of Pilsen, where a line of trees in pots was set up within Náměstí Republiky (Old Town Square) in May 2022 (Prokšová, Vaiz 2022). These trees, almost unanimously accepted by the residents, were re-planted to fit into the space of the market square and one of the market streets (Fig. 9). The example of Pilsen shows that mobile vegetation makes sense when it

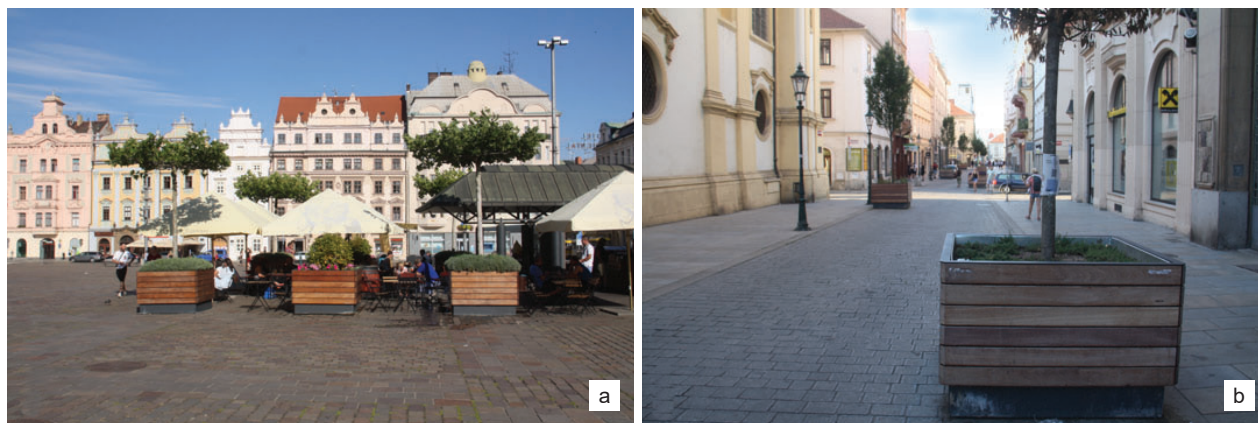


Fig. 9. Pilsen, introduction of potted trees in the Old Town district in May 2022 following public consultations (as of August 2022):

a) Náměstí Republiky, b) Bedřicha Smetany Street (photo by A. Kwaśniewski)

II. 9. Pilzno, wprowadzenie zieleni mobilnej w dzielnicy staromiejskiej w maju 2022

w następstwie konsultacji społecznych (stan z sierpnia 2022 r.):

a) Náměstí Republiky, b) ul. B. Smetany (fot. A. Kwaśniewski)

is used as a stimulus for social discourse and not merely as a decoration, a symptom of the “garden”.

Conclusions

The historical research findings presented in this study provide a starting point for further research. The process of introducing trees, garden parterres and flowerbeds into the space of markets requires in-depth study. They should cover the development changes of the area and their context (in particular trends in urban planning and bourgeois social life in the 18th to 20th centuries). The typology of forms of historic greenery, which could be reconstructed based on case studies and has been presented as a catalogue of solutions,

has at the current state of research been focused on the compositional aspect. Future research would need to focus on the analysis of use and ideative functions. The demands for contemporary greening principles for historic city centres should be made more specific and broader. Standards and good practices in this area should be incorporated into municipal blue-green infrastructure planning standards adopted by individual municipalities. Designers, decision-makers and users of old-town spaces should be supported as soon as possible with a catalogue of activities that do not lead to the devastation of the historic cityscape.

Translated by
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Streszczenie

Zazielnianie staromiejskich przestrzeni rynkowych przed 1945 r. w miastach dawnej prowincji Śląsk w kontekście planowania zielonej infrastruktury i ochrony wartości zabytkowych na terenie dzielnic staromiejskich

Autor podjął temat obecności zieleni w rynkach miast historycznych – szczególnie dziś istotny z uwagi na konflikt interesów dwóch „stronnicstw”: rzeczników obsadzenia drzewami wszelkich placów i ulic oraz rzeczników chronienia zabytkowych wartości przestrzeni miejskiej. W pierwszej części artykułu zaprezentował wyniki badań kwerendowych dotyczących przemian zagospodarowania rynków staromiejskich w latach 1740–1945 na obszarze dawnej prowincji Śląsk. Część druga zawiera konkluzje ze studiów na temat współczesnych standardów wprowadzania „zielonych infrastruktur” do dzielnic staromiejskich z uwzględnieniem zabytkowego charakteru miejsca (w Polsce i krajach ościennych). Zwięźle omówił zjawisko wprowadzania zieleni do rynków staromiejskich, zaproponował typologię historycznych rozwiązań i zilustrował ją przykładami. W końcowej części artykułu sformułował zalecenia na potrzeby projektowania współczesnych zielonych infrastruktur w zgodzie z zabytkowym charakterem przestrzeni staromiejskich.

Słowa kluczowe: zieleń miejska, historia urbanistyki, historia Śląska, błękitno-zielona infrastruktura