

**Edyta Banachowska M. Sc. Engineer in Architecture**

**ARCHITECTURE OF PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS IN KIELCE  
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1946 TO 1989**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

The subject of this Ph.D. thesis is to elaborate on the issues of modernist architecture in Kielce developed in the period 1946 - 1989. The main aim of this work is to prove the thesis:

*Modernist architecture of public utility developed during the period from 1946 to 1989 in Kielce has original architectural values that should be protected as a testimony of national culture.*

The work was divided into six chapters.

Chapter I, provides an introduction to the dissertation, presents the historical, political and social background of the development of Kielce after the end of World War II. The development of the city influenced many aspects of life, including the emerging architecture. The purpose of this work is to organize and classify knowledge about the modernist architecture of Kielce in order to popularize, protect architectural values and testify to the national culture. The time range was assumed to be 1946-1989, territorial scope covering Kielce and a subjective selection of twelve buildings was made. The buildings have been selected on the basis of their unique architectural values. The literature sources deal with the aspect of modernism in the post-war architecture of Polish cities. These parts which fragmentarily refer to buildings in Kielce were deeply tracked.

Chapter II, which is the theoretical part of the work, begins with the overview of the architecture of Kielce in the time scope adopted in the dissertation. The most important monuments were discussed and the post-war architecture of the city was presented. The work shows low tenement houses in the center, urban, neglected one-story houses, gradually replaced by the

development of the large panel system buildings. Against this background, there is a modern, heavily glazed architecture with unusual shapes, contrasting with impoverished housing and a dozen or so historic buildings. Further part of the chapter deals with the period of changes that took place after 1989. Everything including architecture which was built during the years of communism, was associated with poverty and neglect in society. It was doomed to be non-existent as well. The above modern architecture evokes bad memories and is mistreated. The author divides Polish modernist architecture of the communist time into five categories then selects one of the most outstanding examples and describes their fate from its inception to the present day. Thus, it presents the nationwide trends in treating modernist buildings, which refers to the modernist architecture of Kielce in Chapter III.

Chapter III of the dissertation is an analytical part of the work. The categories of post-war modernist architecture described in the second part of chapter II apply by analogy to the objects analyzed in this work. The objects analyzed in this dissertation were divided into 5 categories:

### **I. Examples of Kielce's lost architecture**

- Biruta cafe, location: Biskupa Kaczmarka / Karczówkowska
- Relax harbor, location: Kielce Reservoir
- CPN petrol station, location: Żytnia/Biskupa Kaczmarka

### **II. Examples of comprehensive modernization of Kielce architecture made with respect for historical values**

- Kielce Cultural Centre, location: Moniuszki Sq.
- Bus station building, location: Czarnowska

### **III. Reconstructed and thermomodernized facilities. Lost authenticity**

- Community school building (formerly a specialist clinic), location: Wesoła
- Voivodeship Office building, location: Aleja IX wieków Kielce
- Sports Hall, location: Żytnia
- „Delfin” Swimming pool, location: Krakowska

#### **IV. Decaying architecture of Kielce**

- Railway station building

#### **V. Examples of preserved architecture**

- Saint Joseph the Worker Church, location: Turystyczna
- Christ the King Church, location: Jana III Sobieskiego

Later in the chapter, according to the adopted criteria the detailed analysis of selected objects was conducted. The history of each building was presented, richly illustrated with archival and contemporary photos.

According to the following criteria, the analysis were carried out:

- architectural and urban analysis
- functional and spatial analysis
- analysis of the possibility of introducing innovative, ecological technical solutions
- analysis of spiritual values.

Chapter IV which is a synthesis of the analytical part, discusses in detail the conclusions of the analysis. The thesis was confirmed in the summary.

Chapter V contains final conclusions along with a suggestion of actions for the protection of objects that are our cultural heritage.

Chapter VI ends the dissertation with a bibliography and a list of illustrations.