

## **ABSTRACT OF DOCTORAL THESIS**

*Social spaces in an area with an extremely cold climate on the example of Spitsbergen*

The main topic of the dissertation and the subject of the thesis are social spaces within areas with extremely cold climate located on the largest provincial island of Norway, Spitsbergen, which is included in the Svalbard archipelago.

The dissertation highlights the role and importance of social spaces in the lives of the inhabitants of the Arctic region, the general characteristics of places dedicated to the meetings, positives, and negatives of each space, the way they are used by various social groups, as well as their quality and functional solutions. The harsh climate, extremely low temperatures, and the phenomenon of polar night and polar day decide that the social spaces located on the Spitsbergen island are different from urban interiors, public spaces which are situated outside the buildings. Despite their nontraditional form, they play a very important role in the life of the inhabitants, creating zones for integration and coexistence, giving a sense of belonging to the city and its social structure.

The doctoral dissertation consists of INTRODUCTION, chapters SOCIAL SPACES IN CITIES LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHERN ARCTIC CIRCLE, SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO, SOCIAL SPACES IN THE CITY OF LONGYEARBYEN ON SPITSBERGEN ISLAND AND CONCLUSION. The dissertation is finalized with a list of illustrations, a bibliography, and an abstract in Polish and English.

INTRODUCTION includes the motivations for taking up the topic of the dissertation, the subject of the thesis, the state of research, and the characteristics of source materials. This chapter presents the aims of the dissertation and research methods, as well as the thesis, scope of research, and the structure of the work.

The chapter SOCIAL SPACES IN CITIES NEAR THE NORTHERN ARCTIC CIRCLE presents the concept of social spaces in sociological and architectural terms as well as the characteristics of examples of the social spaces in the cities which are located around the Northern Arctic Circle in the areas of Russia, Canada, Sweden and the autonomous territory of Denmark - Greenland.

The chapter SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO is devoted to the Norwegian archipelago located in the Arctic region. The location of Svalbard, a historical outline, landscape, natural, climatic, and social context were presented in this part of the thesis. The settlements located on the largest island of the archipelago – Spitsbergen were described in this chapter.

The chapter SOCIAL SPACES IN THE CITY OF LONGYEARBYEN ON SPITSBERGEN ISLAND contains a description of the social spaces selected for research, located in the city of Longyearbyen on the Spitsbergen island. Their functional solutions, context, a form of urban or architectural design, scale, materials used, details, and color scheme were analyzed in this part of the dissertation. The chapter also includes the description of each example, results, and analysis of the survey, interviews, and field research. The chapter ended with a discussion of the research results.

The chapter CONCLUSION contains a summary of the dissertation and general and specific conclusions, which confirm the thesis presented at the beginning of the work.

Based on the results of the research and the conducted analyzes, factors were presented, the use of which in the process of shaping social spaces in areas with an extremely cold climate in Spitsbergen, determines the friendly nature of these spaces and promotes their activation.