The structure of the presentation

- Do we need public spaces?
- Organizations and awards for public spaces
- Definition
- Classifications of public spaces
- Planning and evaluating the public spaces
- Greenery in cities
  - a short look at history
  - present forms of green areas on Kraków’s examples
- Green public spaces in Kraków and world cities
- Results of a survey on green spaces
- How to start a planning process

Photos if not stated are taken by the author or are private photographs

Kraków’s Main Square

Do we need public spaces?

Kraków’s Main Square in the thirties

Galeria Krakowska

...once a necessity
...today an option

Do we need public spaces?

Tra Vinh

Lyon

Melbourne

Kraków

Well planned public spaces provide the balance to the need for privacy and isolation. Public spaces should attract and accumulate varied social groups, develop tolerance but also build the identity.

World organizations

http://www.pps.org/

Starting in 1975 the organization Project for Public Spaces became the advisory institution dealing with public spaces, initially in the USA. However, its activity is now expanded also to Europe.

From the beginning there have been over 3 thousand projects in all USA states and 45 countries abroad. The mission of the organisation is to help to create and sustain vital public places highlighting local assets and serve common needs.
The concept of development of public spaces was formulated in Barcelona in 1980 and later included in the city development policy. In 1999 the exhibition on different public spaces was prepared by the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona and the Institute Français d’Architecture.

World organizations

Krakow

Association of Landscape Architecture

In 2000 the prize for the best public space in Europe was established by the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona.

Awards for public spaces

Marseille

Elche

The contemporary rules of the European city planning refer to The New Charter of Athens and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (2007). Not only the international documents refer to the city public space but also many international city movements (such as Cittaslow for example).

To understand what a public space is ...

Coming from these two words:

- space: public – common, open for everybody, not private, social, official, for all
- The word “public” implies that a space is owned by the community or the government and is used by the public, the people. That is to say, everyone has the right to access a public space no matter their age, gender and social status. In a public space, people can meet other people and debate issues.
- There are two basic attributes of the public space and these are:
  - in contrast to private space, public space is an open place within a city, open for a public and used commonly
  - these are places belonging to everybody, to a city society

Awards for public spaces

Busko Zdrój was the winner in the Polish award for the best public space in 2013.

Awards for public spaces

Szczecinek was the winner of the Polish award for the best public green space in 2013.

To understand what a public space is ...

The contemporary rules of the European city planning refer to The New Charter of Athens and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (2007). Not only the international documents refer to the city public space but also many international city movements (such as Cittaslow for example).
To understand what a public space is ...

Polish planners confirmed The Charter of Public Space in 2009. The Charter states that a public space is:

Public space is defined in terms of socio-economic conditions. It is understood as a good/property used commonly, available to everyone on an equal rules, deliberately shaped in accordance with the social principles and values to satisfy the needs of the local and regional community, this is the place of direct contacts, meetings, it is the common good of cultural value. Public spaces determine the identity of the city.

The public nature of space is determined by a common way it is used.

Classification

St Peter’s Square
Bangkok
Ceremonial model by Iveson, 1998

Classification

Wrocław
Melbourne
Community model by Iveson, 1998

Classification

Lyon
London
Liberal model by Iveson, 1998

Classification

Toulouse
London
Multi-public model by Iveson, 1998

Classification

Some classifications tend to pay attention to the ownership. Other classification gives two types of spaces: with the tendency to be closed (e.g. administration space) and open spaces (e.g. streets, parks).

Another one similarly distinguish inside and outside buildings areas.

There is also the classification showing the location of public spaces within the city: in the city center (such as the former agora, forum or Polish rynek) and the peripheral ones (such as parks, recreation centres or a stadium).

Other classifications define old spaces, revitalised historical places and newly created public spaces.

On the basis of Barcelona, Gehl notes interesting types of public spaces: “stone rooms” places of meetings, small green spaces, recreational areas, new parks, promenades, streets for pedestrians and „where the city meets water”.
A Polish architect Katarzyna Pluta in her book on Public Spaces of European cities, Urban Planning (Pluta, 2012) defines five types of public spaces:

1. Regions and areas including city centres, areas inside housing estates, green areas, public spaces created on former industrial areas
2. Borders and edges along former railway lines or associated with water
3. Roads and passages with the priority for pedestrians
4. Central places and junctions – places associated with transport
5. Characteristic places and dominants such as sacred spaces and memorials

In evaluating public space, we need to answer to what extent it is of a high quality, if it is innovative, to what extent it is public and whether it solves current city’s and society’s problems.
How should public spaces be planned

The Polish Charter for public spaces gives eight rules for organizing and using them:
1. Maximization of the city value and city real estate by creating public spaces of high value
2. Complex local planning is based on results of architecture and urbanism competitions
3. Social participation in planning
4. Protection of cultural heritage
5. Balance between creation of new public spaces and revitalisation of old historical areas
6. Equitable access to the public space and minimization of conflicts
7. Shaping public spaces that integrate social groups with respect for their different needs and value systems
8. Active usage of public spaces also during local events

Greenery in cities

In ancient Rome and Greece, the greenery was of the symbolic value (sacred groves) as well as usable (Latin Peristilium) and ornamental in public spaces. In medieval cities the greenery was limited to areas inside monasteries, castles and residents, or to open areas for elites. They could also be used for herbs, vegetable growing or decoration. The example can be the small garden dating back to 16th century at Wawel Castle in Kraków. The other type of gardens dating back to Renaissance are botanic gardens, which were to help natural science development.
Baroque ideas of cities were strongly related to greenery. The most important types of gardens of that time were public gardens including botanic gardens, cities’ squares, private gardens opened to public and monasteries’ gardens. Greenery was added to existing markets, roads and avenues. Kings’ gardens were of extraordinary beauty.

The 19th and 20th centuries are very dynamic in terms of technical, economic and social changes. As far as greenery is concerned, new concepts of Howard’s garden city emerged; visionary ideas of the green areas are clearly visible at the beginning of the 21st century.

In 18th and 19th centuries public parks were characteristic for all bigger cities and became the planned element in the city planning.

Social parks were popular (with concert halls, coffee bars etc.)

Green belts arose in place of former city walls or a moat.

Suburban parks often using natural forest resources have been constructed.

River banks/boulevards

Wzola River

Squares

Cemeteries

Swoszowice health resort

Lem Garden

Spa parks

Didactic parks (botanic and zoological gardens, ethnographic parks, exhibition gardens)
Parks in the neighbourhood of industrial plants as a recreational buffer zone

Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples

Nowa Huta

Greenery inside industry workers' housing estates

Gardens inside blocks of houses

Osiedle Widok

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Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples

Playgrounds with different attractions planned for different age children

Small gardens for cities' inhabitants

Family gardens

Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples

Roof gardens

Former city mill

Gardens in front of villas

Land use structure in Kraków in 2012

Source: Author’s based on Raport o stanie miasta, 2012

Green public spaces in Kraków and world cities

Percentage of public green space (parks and gardens)

Source: Author’s based on Raport o stanie miasta, Kraków, 2012
Results of a survey on green spaces

People’s contact with green spaces is decreasing, for many of us the contact with nature is more of a luxury than a necessity. Having that in mind, together with the fact that the majority of people are living in the city, increasing number of research projects suggest that people need more green in everyday life. There was a survey of 4676 respondents in 2013 in 9 countries: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden and USA. The survey is conducted annually by the Husqvarna Group. The results show that:

89% consider access to green spaces a human right
2/3 believe that visiting and interacting with green contributes to the quality of life;
   - nature contributes to the person’s happiness according to 61%,
   - plants and green for 44%
   - the contribution to family life is 84%
   - work makes 33% of respondents happy

The very detailed answers to the survey show how important green space is.

How to start a planning process

The Power of 10 is a concept PPS uses to start off a placemaking process. At the core of the Power of 10 is the idea that any great place needs to offer at least 10 things to do or 10 reasons to be there. These could include a place to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet etc.

The question remains open; how do we improve Kraków’s public spaces so they can serve both inhabitants and tourists?

Importance of green spaces

Demonstration in support of maintaining green area of Zakrzównek

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