

Postmodern Architecture and Political Change (Warsaw, 12–14 Sep 19)

German Historical Institute Warsaw, Sep 12–14, 2019

Registration deadline: Sep 9, 2019

Annika Wienert

Postmodern Architecture and Political Change – Poland and Beyond

Organizers: Błażej Brzostek, Florian Urban, Annika Wienert

The conference is open to the public. There is no conference fee. Please register by sending an e-mail to: dhi@dhi.waw.pl

Conference Venue: GHI Warsaw, Aleje Ujazdowskie 39, 00-540 Warsaw

The conference language will be English; select contributions and the Round Table discussion will take place in Polish.

How is postmodern architecture related to political and economic transformation? In Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries postmodernism developed during the last decades of state socialism and remained influential after the end of the socialist regimes in 1989. It emerged along with the disintegration of authoritarian rule and the gradual introduction of market capitalism.

In Poland and its neighbour countries the period of 1970s and 1980s was not only characterised by economic shortages and anti-communist protest. It was also at time of great architectural innovation and systemic changes related to the gradual introduction of private practices and, by Eastern bloc standards, of comparatively intense international exchange.

At the time architects attempted to overcome the limitations of functionalist modernism and pre-fabricated design, and developed international postmodernism in a particular local context. Their output ranged from conservation and restoration projects to innovative residential and public buildings to a wave of church architecture that was unprecedented not only in the socialist neighbour countries but also in the West. They also engaged in a discourse on the value of urban architecture, historic precedents, and individual expression that resonated similar debates abroad.

Recent scholarship has increasingly moved away from interpreting postmodern architecture as an exclusively Western European and North American phenomenon. Postmodernism is no longer first and foremost linked to capitalist exuberance and images of villas and office buildings with opulent façades and playful, often ironic neo-classical references.

This conference seeks to shed light on the significance of postmodern architecture in the context of political and economic transformation in Eastern and Central Europe since 1980. It will put Pol-

ish postmodern architecture into an international perspective that straddles the Iron Curtain, and at the same time relating it to broader questions of economic and social history.

Was postmodernism an agent of transformation? An architecture of resistance? A signifier of market capitalism? A national style? Or an expression of unpolitical nostalgia and aestheticism? And how is the Polish experience related to the architectural innovations in other Central and Eastern European countries? We will discuss these and other questions related to the related to the architecture of the late socialist and early post-socialist era in Poland and beyond.

Thursday 12 September

17.00-18.00: Registration

18.00–18.10: Welcome: Ruth Leiserowitz, Deputy Director, GHI Warsaw

18.10–18.30: Introduction: Błażej Brzostek, Florian Urban, Annika Wienert

18.30-19.30: Keynote Lecture

Léa-Catherine Szacka, Manchester: The Presence of the Past: From Centres to Peripheries

followed by a Reception

Friday 13 September

09:00-10:30: Session I – Poland

Chair: Marcin Zaremba, Warsaw

Marcin Zaremba, Warsaw: Introduction

Emilia Kiecko, Wrocław: The Meaning of Postmodernism in Light of the International Exhibitions of Intentional Architecture 'Terra'

Marek Budzyński, Warsaw: Niezrealizowane projekty z lat 80-ych: Osiedle Górników Miedziowych w Lubinie i Osiedle Młodych w Nowym Dworze Mazowieckim [Unrealized projects from the 1980s: the Górników Miedziowych Estate in Lubin and the Młodych Estate in Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki]

10:30-11:00: Break

11.00-13:00: Session II – East Germany, Romania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia

Chair: Arnold Bartetzky, Leipzig

Tobias Zervosen, Munich: Building History. The GDR's Postmodernism

Gruia Badescu, Konstanz: Golden Era, Iron Gates: Postmodern Architecture and Political Transformation in 1980s Romania and Yugoslavia

Maroš Krivý, Tallinn: Boom, Boom, Boom

13:00-14:00: Break

14:00-17:00: Session III – The Soviet West

Chair: Felix Ackermann, Warsaw

Andres Kurg, Tallinn: Estonians on the Scaffoldings: Ethnicity, Class and Single-Family Housing in Late-Socialism

Marija Drėmaitė, Vilnius: The Desire to Look Postmodern: Lithuanian Architecture of the Final Soviet Decade, 1979-1989

Oxana Gourinovitch, Berlin: National Theatre. The State Theatre of Musical Comedy in Minsk

levgeniia Gubkina, Charkiv: The Architecture of Socialist Postmodernism in Ukraine

17:00-18:30: Break

18.30-20:00: Public Round Table Discussion: Architektura postmodernistyczna i zmiana polityczna [Postmodern Architecture and Political Change]

Welcome Note: Miloš Řežník, Director, GHI Warsaw

Chair: Anna Cymer, Warsaw

Panelists:

Konrad Kucza-Kuczyński, Politechnika Warszawska, Warsaw

Maria Lubocka-Hoffmann, former General Conservator of Elbląg

Maciej Miłobędzki, JEMS Architects, Warsaw

Ewa Porębska, Architektura Murator, Warsaw

Saturday 14 September

09.15-10.15: Keynote Lecture

Andrzej Leder, Warsaw: Unconscious Design of the City Space. The Case of Warsaw

10.15-10:45: Break

10.45–12.45: Session IV – Postmodern Architecture and the City

Chair: Léa-Catherine Szacka, Manchester

Piotr Winskowski, Kraków: The Postmodernisation of Polish Architecture

Piotr Marciniak, Poznań: Postmodernism and New Urban Concepts in Poland

Błażej Ciarkowski, Łódź: Art Nouveau and Large Panel System-Building? Postmodern Architecture and Prefabrication in Łódź

12.45-13.30: Break

13.30-15.00: Session V – Postmodern Architecture before and after 1989

Chair: Annika Wienert, Warsaw

Michał Wiśniewski, Kraków: Tomasz Mańkowski and Brutalist Influences on Postmodern Architecture in Kraków

Ania England, Poznań: The Other Postmodernism of the Basilica of Our Lady of Licheń

15.15–16.00: Closing Remarks and Wrap-up Discussion

Chairs: Błażej Brzostek, Florian Urban, Annika Wienert

Reference:

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