



 UrbanMetaMapping



UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2022/23 via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CEST/CET)

Registration via: talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de

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Post World War II recovery of small towns. Past and present challenges of spatial transformation in the Recovered Territories of Poland

Due to WW II and post-war damage of urban tissue, many historic towns and cities in Poland faced drastic changes concerning the destruction of original buildings, spatial layout, urban landscape, and the loss of cultural continuity.

After the war urgent need to rebuild the cities in a new political and economic realities of communism era occurred. The reconstruction of the largest cities of great economic, administrative, population and prestige importance, was undertaken in the first place. The situation was different in the case of small towns lying on the periphery of the mainstream of socio-economic changes in the country. As a result of their marginal location and demographic and economic role, some towns have not been rebuilt at all. In other cases, the historical centres have been replaced by districts of modernist blocks of flats. In others, attempts have been made to rebuild urban tissue in pseudo-historical form. Consequently, incoherent building complexes have emerged in former historical urban centres. As a result of the varied reconstruction processes several models of town's post-war reconstruction after 1945 can be distinguished, emphasising different forms, scope and directions of spatial and functional transformations. These towns will be presented mainly in terms of their morphological changes on the example of the former East Prussia territory.

The starting point of the analysis is the pre-war city spatial structure. The following stages compare the changes after the war destruction, during the communist period, the socio-economic transformation after 1989 and the contemporary context within the frame of 4 stages of urban recovery in Poland. Contemporary processes of spatial transformation, revalorisation, revitalisation and even reconstruction, observed in small post-war Polish towns, raise the question about the shape and scope of the next stage of the recovery of historic town centres.

Keywords: urban morphology, post-war landscape, spatial transformation, urban regeneration, socialist - post-socialist city



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