



 UrbanMetaMapping



UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Summer Term 2024 via zoom, 11.00 - 12.00 (CEST)

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

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Urban Planning and Architecture in German-occupied Poland (1939-1945): Creating Spaces of Totalitarian Colonization as Exemplified by the City of Radom

During the Second World War, the spatial policy imposed by totalitarian forces threatened the local identity of many European cities and towns. In particular, such processes could be observed in German-occupied Poland, where National Socialist planning and architectural patterns were widely introduced to redefine the cultural landscape of the entire regions under occupation. In central Poland (where the so-called "General Government for the Occupied Polish Territories" was established in 1939), a representative example of such actions is the (re)development of the city of Radom, which was intended and partially implemented by the German occupation authorities due to the so-called "Master Plan for the East". The model of both spatial and architectural transformations adopted within this particular city resulted from several factors. Its location and the satisfactory condition of existing urban structure and substance were in the foreground for practical reasons. However, ideological conditions were also crucial - above all, the unique role of Radom, which as the seat of the authorities of the "most German" of the General Government districts, was to be one of the leading centres of colonization of conquered Poland. The proposed paper aims to present both the preserved urban and architectural designs, as well as the erected or remodelled edifices, and show their connections with similar projects within the area of the pre-war Reich. All such plans and implementations not only give an idea of the nature of the buildings and spatial ensembles planned by the Nazi occupation authorities but are also a material testimony to the rapid colonization of the cultural landscape of Poland during World War II. Finally, as part of the so-called "heritage of hatred", these are examples of post-traumatic displacement of unwanted elements of space, the origin of which the local community obliterated and tamed in the course of post-war adaptations and normalization



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