

## **From cooperative communities to market individualism - the potential of postmodern architecture on the example of Wrocław**

This project aims to explore Wrocław's architectural and urban development of the late 20th century, by focusing on the two models of community architecture: sacral - the churches, and secular - and the infills. Both were born in the exceptional circumstances of the 1980s and whose operating model expired in the late 1990s. They were architectural, social, and economic phenomena, unique to its time and Wrocław. Through their analysis, I would like to explore whether postmodern architecture in Poland was not only linked to economic neoliberal or religious ideals but also deeply embedded in a critical, socialist discourse focused on reform of the system.

The objectives of my proposal are as follows:

1. to present a coherent narrative and outline the phenomena of the architectural and urban development of Wrocław in the 1980s and 1990s.
2. to collect and select the most emblematic examples of Wrocław's architecture for the mentioned processes, as well as their creators (architects, contractors, investors) and other important essential data: archival and current photographs of elevations, surviving designs, architectural drawings, projections, and sections. The results will be presented in the form of an illustrated catalog.
3. to integrate Wrocław's architecture into the broader discourse of architectural and urban development in Poland at the end of the millennium, which is currently shaped mainly by the experiences of the two largest centers, Warsaw (Stępień-Dąbrowska 2019) and Kraków (Leśniak-Rychlak, Wiśniewski, Karpińska 2022). The inclusion of my studies of Wrocław has the potential to nuance and enrich the discourse, presenting new ways to study and explore architecture. Comprehensively reconstructing the interplay between architectural culture and the perspective of Poland's and global history will be essential.
4. to propose new research optics, to study Wrocław's architecture from the perspective of its creators and users and their experiences, with diverse values, aspects, and contexts that determined its architectural and spatial development. Coping with the crisis of the early 1980s, ideas about reforming the socio-economic system as well as housing and architecture, and later attempts to adapt to, or reject the globalized, neoliberal capitalism, will be crucial in the research. Therefore, I could present a functioning research model for other Central and Eastern European, post-communist centers.

Wrocław was chosen for this study due to its unique infill projects in the late 1980s and early 1990s and its diverse political and artistic influences. But no publication notes or emphasizes enough that its postmodern architecture was often designed not with capitalism in mind, but with a serious reform of the socialist system. Its critical potential remains largely unnoticed.

Based on the estimated amount of material that will be studied (more than fifty objects) and the experience in working on the architecture of Wrocław, I estimate that the project should be quietly accomplished in three years. I will create three databases total, one main for architectural objects, and two supporting databases for the press search and interviews with transcription. I also plan for the queries to be both domestic in scope (to Warsaw, Krakow and Gdańsk), and abroad (to Berlin, Prague, Venice). The outcome of this work will be the creation of three articles, one outlying and discussing the main thesis and two additional articles discussing specific issues, e.g. thoroughly analyzing the problem of a particular category of buildings or events having a significant impact.

The research project will result in the preparation of three articles to be published them in international (two) and national (one) scientific journals, all of open-access.