

Abstract of the doctoral dissertation

Architecture of higher education in Poland after 2004.

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Science plays a fundamental role in the creation of civilization, where "striving to discover the truth and transferring knowledge from generation to generation is a particularly noble human activity"¹. Buildings and campuses form the spatial framework for science and they are important elements of cities. The author discusses changes in architecture and urban planning of Polish public universities in the early 21st century, after Poland joining the EU. The aim of the research is to collect and systematize knowledge about contemporary Polish university investments in order to draw conclusions from the research and propose solutions solving the observed problems. The author tries to answer the questions of „what is” (and „why”) and „what should be” the architecture of higher schools.

The work discusses the conditions for contemporary Polish architecture of higher education (chapter I). Then (chapter II) the author discusses and sets the assessment criteria to examine the architectural and urban quality of higher education investments. Chapter III analyzes selected European campuses - as a background and a reference point whereas chapter IV analyzes selected Polish campuses. A list of all Polish higher education investments presented in Chapter V allows to determine the scale of transformations in this type of architecture and to answer research questions. The research allows to estimate how (according to quality criteria in competition or non-quality criteria in tender) universities choose their architects. The next sixth chapter, presents on the conclusions regarding the effects of investment in higher education and confirm the theses of the doctoral dissertation based on results from the three preceding chapters.

The dissertation closes with a summary (VII) and postulates (chapter VIII). The implementation of the postulates should help achieve the underlying goal of the doctoral thesis: that Polish universities, in the wake of European universities, promote high-quality architecture, in accordance with the ideas of sustainable development. Sustainable development should be an important element of the university's mission and the expression of social responsibility of its authorities. Thanks to this, campuses of universities may become "ideal towns" and a model for wider urban planning, with their architecture giving the identity to the surrounding space.

Keywords: university campuses, architecture of higher schools, determinants of architectural solutions, architectural assessment criteria, sustainable development

Warsaw, 16.11.2018



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¹ Preamble of the Act of 20 July 2018 - The Law on Higher Education and Science.