

Abstract of the PhD Thesis: „Architecture of floating buildings: conditions and directions of development in Poland after 2000”

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The dissertation discusses the architectural design of floating buildings in the context of shaping the built environment at the interface of land and water. A floating building was defined as a floating structure with permanently enclosed interior and the arrangement designated only for stationary use, without propulsion, equipment or other characteristics used for navigation. The aim of the work is to analyze the phenomenon of floating buildings in Poland at the beginning of the 21st century, by determining their number as well as their aesthetic, functional and technical features, their spatial impact on the surroundings and conditions of their design, construction and use.

The first part of the work includes quantitative research consisting of counting and measuring the parameters of floating buildings based on literature, administration registers, market data, field studies, orthophotomaps and other sources. The second part covers a case study of the largest year-round floating buildings based on the local visions of the objects and review of their documentation as well as the interviews with the investors, designers and contractors.

In the course of the study 49 floating buildings completed between 2001 and 2017 was identified. This number constitutes 37% of all stationary floating enclosed structures in Poland. Almost all of the floating buildings have features specific to the land-based architecture in every aspect considered, with one exception: the spatial impact on their surroundings is weak due to their small size and the relatively frequent relocation of some of them. The present conditions for the design, construction and use of floating buildings have been found unfavorable as they require exceptional involvement from the investors, designers, contractors and local authorities. The lack of suitable sites has been recognized as the main limitation to the development of floating architecture.

Key words: floating building, floating home, houseboat, contemporary Polish architecture;

