

**Transformations of architecture and spatial planning of spa towns in Lower Silesia and
Kłodzko Land after World War II from the European perspective (1945 – 1989)**

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The end of World War II became the new beginning for spas located in Lower Silesia and the Kłodzko Land. These towns became part of Poland as the Western Borderland of the country, which got new borders. Moreover, Poland became a state dependent on the Soviet Union and until 1989 this situation didn't change. My doctoral thesis focuses on transformations of architecture and spatial planning of spa towns in Lower Silesia and the Kłodzko Land after World War II. The time frame of the dissertation is the period between 1945 and 1989. That was the time of the so-called People's Poland. The main purpose of the thesis is to answer the question: how have postwar changes influenced the cultural landscape of spas in this area?

In general, spa architecture in Lower Silesia and the Kłodzko Land was not demolished during World War II. Unfortunately, the condition of many buildings in 1945 was poor, because of wrong managing and temporal changes of functions during the war. The main challenge for the new Polish administration was to quickly open spas for patients. As the new state ideology said that health resorts should be open to the masses, they tried to adapt pre-war architecture to the increased number of guests. Furthermore, the functions of the buildings often changed during the first years after the war. When the situation in spas became quite stable, more advanced transformations and restorations of architecture were held. Some buildings were redeveloped, to adapt them to the new necessities. We can find good examples of these restorations, but also wrong ones, that changed many buildings' views. One of the popular examples of spa architecture redevelopment practises was building new, modernist wings connected with historical structures.

In the described period in Lower Silesia and the Kłodzko Land were built also new spa architecture. These include sanatoriums, hospitals, hotels and other accommodation facilities. They were built from the 1960s to the 1980s, and the 1970s was the time of the building boom. This modernist architecture, with big cubature, changed the spatial layouts of some spas. In part of towns, postwar buildings were located in their historical centres. However, spatial layouts in most spas in the described area preserved the original form. As the base of spa infrastructure before World War II was well-developed in this area, new constructions were usually only a supplement to the existing landscape. The topic that the thesis includes is also unrealized projects of spa architecture. In the described period, architects made a lot of documentation, that remained on paper due to different reasons. The form of these projected structures was often more up-to-date than realized buildings.

An important part of my research is the perspective of other European countries, located on the western and eastern sides of the Iron Curtain. After 1945 in many states, spa culture became a mass culture, and health resorts started to be more open to people from different social classes. Furthermore, currents in architecture permeated state borders. Thanks to the comparative analysis, I can see differences and similarities between spa transformations in the described area and other European countries. It allows me to answer the question: which ideas, related to spa architecture and spatial layout transformations, were specific for Lower Silesia and the Kłodzko Land?