

About couple of months ago, back in 2018, we started initiative called pawilony_pavilions. Together we make catalogue of commercial and service pavilions built as parts of Wroclaw's prefabricated housing estates from 60s. We make photos, we draw, we visualize how those fascinating objects could look after the renovation.

We were all born in 90s, so as the youngest generation of architects we are deprived of memories from polish cities before 1989. We observe architecture from that period from a distance –we can focus on architecture quality and how it can serve to community. We can pull out good things like and apply to nowadays.

Pavilions touch two important topics in polish current debate about architecture. Postwar modernism heritage...

...and local services. Both seems to be disappearing from polish city landscapes.

We can give here a lot of example how they were and are treated for past couple of years. Some of them are already gone, some of them was meant to be demolished but due to increasing awareness of inhabitants the process was stopped. Postwar modern buildings have bad connotations. They bring back memories from living under communist regime.

Shortly on the example of university building – Auditorium of Chemistry it is very visible how hard is to: obtain a monument status in Poland for postwar buildings and how period of 5, 8, 10 years can make a big difference in perception of the building.

Auditorium was built in late 60s and designed by Marian and Krystyna Barscy. It is two storeys building linked with higher one in the background. It used to serve as lecture rooms for students now it stands empty.

Auditorium has a very attractive location.



It stands by the river and next to the one of the longest walking paths through the city center.

Adjacent areas are occupied by other university buildings: library from 2010 and others buildings from 70s and 90s.

Location is getting more and more valuable especially when neighboring plots were built-up by office buildings. It makes Auditorium's plot more easy to commercialize. Probably it was one of the motives that made the university authorities want to demolish the building.



Since this decision Auditorium with the consent of the university authorities became the main place of the biggest national architectural workshops OSSA. It happened in 2013 and in 2015 local art festival SURVIVAL chose this building for its main topic.



At a small expense, the building was cleaned so does the area around.



Details were used again as in old good times, for example a plant pot



Works of art filled the interior: lecture rooms, facilities as well as ramps.

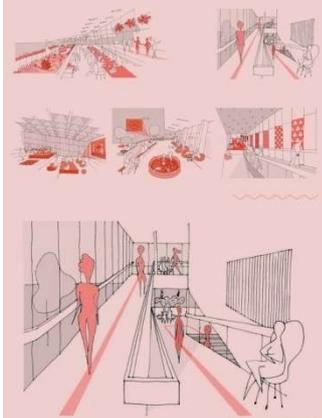


Festival showed that: building is easily accessible for everyone...

...that lectures can still have place inside...



...the space is easily adaptable to various events. It could serve as workspace for students.



Back then during workshops I was also taking part in a competition for a new building adaptation with a group of my friends. We showed a bunch of scenarios showing how various events and activities can take place in Auditorium. We wanted to make proof that University can actually earn money by using uniqueness of its architecture.

We showed also how ramps can be used as catwalks during fashion show.



And it kind of happened two years ago when Polish Young designer Natalia Siebula used its space as background for her look book. After big Polish brand Reserved used it once again in its campaign. This shows how small ideas can turn into reality.



Actions and events led to monument status for Auditorium of Chemistry. It was one of the first postwar buildings in Wrocław that have received it after such a long campaign and what is more important with involvement of residents. If this is so hard to get monument status for such buildings with well-known designers, prestigious function, how hard it is for small pavilions to get one?

local services

Another thread that stands behind the pavilions are services at the local level.



Their presence may not seem so obvious when we look at the architecture of the 1960s - monumental and devoid of human scale. It did not build a street, certainly not in the way it was done during industrial cities era.



Modernist buildings, freestanding, tower-blocks were deprived of ground floor dedicated to services. Often the front is not facing the street, and between buildings arose vast, sometimes not sufficiently designed areas.



Designed as a complement to housing estates, service and commercial pavilions were a substitute for the street and guarantor of local identity. All pavilions were located within walking distance from each flat. All errands could be settled within the estate dealt, no one needed a car for it.



Shopping malls era which reached Poland in the 90's caused, that apart from some districts in the city, the only way to do shopping is to drive a car. Some stores are located outside the city.



Some of them are built in the heart of the estates: as here in the center of the historical site built in 1930s.



Unfortunately, local plans sometimes do not regulate such developments in a thoughtful way.



Here is an example of one of the chain stores. I was always surprised by why a moving staircase was built in such a building - they take up a lot of space that could have been used for sales.



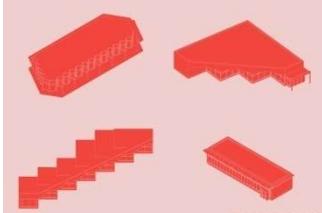
Until recently, I had no idea that there had once been a department store Odra in this place.



This is why we felt the project is worth working. Because this is the image that we would prefer to keep.



So far we collected 15 still existing pavilions around city of Wrocław. Some of them located near city center, some in very prestigious districts but a little bit far from the old city.



Today we chose to tell stories of 4.



First located in the prewar villa quarter in the south of Wrocław.



Sudety Pavilion is located within the housing estate Pod Jaworami on the south of Wrocław. The housing complex was completed by the Wrocławska Spółdzielnia Mieszkaniowa in 1958-1961.



The estate consisted of six-storey tower blocks.



and 4 storey buildings.



It would seem that the buildings from the 60s break with the previously developed urban rules



The pre-war villa, withdrawn from the intersection formed a small green foreground.

And set the tone for other buildings. In addition to the architectural qualities, the pavilion's potential lies in this case also in the green area.



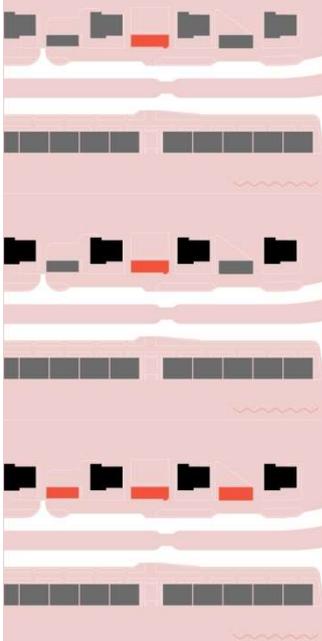
The roof is supported on the inside and outside pillars. The floor contour coincides with the outline of the roof. Both of these elements forms another buffer before going inside. The object has always been associated with shop function. There used to be a clothes shop, and mostly grocery shop till three years ago.



Pavilion is about to be demolished. Cooperative's authorities state that it is due to a bad technical condition but they have already announced a competition for a new facility in 2017. The object that won was two-storey. So is it really not about the money?



In our vision before sealed windows are clear, visual identification refers to the previously used graphics. We limited the green square with a low wall - a bench.



Second pavilion on Piłsudskiego Street is located along one of the busiest streets in the city center..

Street was part of the Plac Complex from the Polish National Liberation Committee (Polski Komitet Wyzwolenia Narodowego - PKWN). Part of the housing estate behind the pavilions is a 4 tower blocks unit, also called czworaki (fours), designed by Konrad Jarodzki.

Pavillion was one out of four planned and two completed pavilions in the 1960s.



One is already gone – post office.



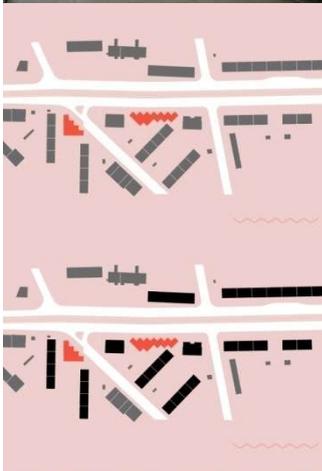
And the second one still stands and still serves as shop. The other two were built in the 1990s maintaining the originally planned cubic capacity and height.



The simple shape of the pavilion is distinguished by a gently extended roof with a zigzag line.



The number of advertisements makes the materials from which the object is built and also its form is less readable.



Last but definitely not least example is two building complex on Grabiszyńska Street.

Both were designed by Maria Molicka from Municipal Architecture Office as part of a small complex of residential buildings. Both built in 1961. Both are one-storey and their characteristic element is the zigzag line of the glass façade.



In this complex, you can clearly distinguish the difference between services and shop function. Pavilion located along the street was divided into smaller premises. Originally program consisted of:



Some of the services are still operating.



Like hairdresser present here from the beginning. The interior still resembles kind of PRL atmosphere with old fashioned hair dryers and lots of plants.



The second building is a single-space, large food store. Over the years only tenants and store logos have been changing, not the function.



Last owner painted it white – it looks neat and close to the original image – simple but with visible shapes. Only windows are still covered.

let people know /
make them more aware

 pavilions_pavilions

let people know /
make them more aware
heritage preservation

To sum up: our goals are first of all let people know and make them more aware of what heritage we have as inhabitants.

We would like to preserve objects in their current state. Uncontrolled repairs, destruction or demolition must be stopped. Any changes should be consulted with the city conservator.



let people know /
make them more aware
heritage preservation
consistent visual identification
program redefinition

Wrocław had a rich history of applied graphics. Each pavilion had its name and graphic representation, neon, etc. The development of a coherent visual identification with the help of graphic designers will restore the designers' original idea.

As you have seen many of services inside pavilions are still operating. Some of original functions were kept others have no future in XXI century. Some are empty and waiting for new program that fits to nowadays standards.

let people know /
make them more aware
heritage preservation
consistent visual identification
program redefinition
visualisation

And above all we are trying to visualize pavilions after renovation. As image generation it is easy to convince us with pictures.