

Abstract

Building the Attractiveness of Urban Spaces. The word *attractive* has a meaning very close to "appealing." Urban space has kept attracting various types of users for ages by offering them access to a multitude of goods. In the Middle Ages, money, safety, and freedom were the attraction of towns. There was a saying: "city air makes you free."

Nowadays, many people move from Polish cities to live in their outskirts, in the countryside, or migrate to foreign towns. This reduces the productive potential of Polish towns, allocates capital outside city borders, invites degradation of developed areas, and is responsible for many other impacts.

When speaking about the attractiveness of urban space we refer, in the first place, to the external looks – the appearance and clarity of the streets, buildings, and green areas which may be either attractive or repulsive. However, attractive space is something more than just aesthetic harmony because it also includes convenience, security, possibility to meet other people, a sense of community, access to services and labour market, opportunity for investment and exchange of goods.

A discussion of the attractiveness of towns should cover both its cognitive and application aspects. The cognitive aspect is when we seek answers to such questions as: what are the features of attractive urban space, what are the methods for its investigation, what are the evaluation methods, measures and criteria of assessment, and it includes case studies of urban spaces which are commonly known as attractive. The application aspect is when we investigate how such space should be built and managed to maintain or increase its attractiveness. Here we also try to answer questions about the available organisational and administrative tools, funding sources and methods, as well as local community and business involvement in administration, the quality of architecture and urban planning, and the effectiveness of planning regulations. The urban space users: residents, visitors and entrepreneurs are the key factor which differentiates these answers. The answers will also be different depending on whether we study a small town, a residential quarter of a big city, or a city centre in a larger agglomeration. The size of the town and its location strongly define its attractiveness to the particular types of urban space users. These matters are discussed by authors of

the presented book who focus on three categories of space which correspond with the fundamental functions of the town, namely:

- housing – residential space,
- work and production – business space,
- social interaction and exchange of goods – public space.

This volume of *Studies* is a collective work, an aftermath of panel and plenary discussions held at the 3rd Urban Colloquium¹. The main subject of the Colloquium was the *attractiveness of urban space*. The discussants were urban planning professionals: researchers and practitioners, architects and environmentalists, sociologists, economists, geographers and representatives of the public, business, and community spheres. This work is divided into three mutually-related parts. The reflections presented in the first, cognitive part focus on the principles of urban policy (Tadeusz Markowski), the multi-dimensional approach to the attractiveness of towns from the geographic point of view (Jerzy Runge), the economic approach to the attractiveness of public space (Małgorzata Pięta-Kanurska) and the urban-planning and architecture perspective (Rafał Blazy). The second part, dedicated to the practice of shaping the attractiveness of urban spaces, discusses the question of public space in small towns (Katarzyna Mazur-Bezyt), the models of residential quarters (Alina Pancewicz), the residential areas in degraded central areas of cities (Krzysztof Gasidło) and a green certification was presented as a step towards the quality of construction and sustainable development (Agata Twardoch). The third part of the book presents the relations between urban space and business in the process of public management. Chapters in this part are devoted to the business and investment attractiveness of towns (Andrzej Klasik, Krzysztof Wrańa, Marcin Baron and Luk Palmen), the morphological and spatial attractiveness of post-mining urban areas (Monika Janiszek) and the attractiveness of urban space in public management (Adam Bartoszek).

This monograph describes the obtained results of research and analyses in their multi- and inter-disciplinary aspects at the field of architecture, urban planning, social and economic geography, spatial management, economics, finance, the science of management and quality, environmental engineering, and social sciences. It is the result of partnership and collaboration between scientific research groups and local government bodies. This is the first published work of this type as it describes the public, residential, and business spaces of towns being part of large agglomerations with their inter-connections with urban planning policies and public management.

¹ The 3rd Urban Colloquium (Katowice February 2019) was co-organised by a chain of scientific research and academic institutions: the Polish Academy of Sciences PAN (the Committee for Studies on the Future of Upper Silesia of the PAN Branch in Katowice, the Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning), the Silesian University of Technology, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the University of Economics in Katowice, the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas, the Upper Silesian Academy of Entrepreneurship in co-operation with the Silesian Library.

This book is addressed to researchers, academics, local authorities, professionals involved in urban development programmes and urban planning, and to active developers. It may also help to launch and carry out model case studies in the form of education projects at various levels and in various fields of studies related to spatial management.