

CULTURE FOR ALL – IN POLAND

Blazy Rafal, Brozek Pawel, Lisiński Marek, Lasocha Marceli – Faculty of Architecture, Cracow University of Technology, Poland

Krakow the old capital of Poland has a lot of extraordinary examples of cultural buildings such as churches, museums, theatres, operas, etc. Krakow is also known as a student city so the aspect of mixed aged society is also very interesting. This fact gave us the idea of the presentation. The phrase 'Culture for all' can also be considered here as culture for people of all ages.

The presentation is divided into four parts. After the introduction about our origins – it is the first part, we will present three steps through the culture journey. The first one is called 'Culture for children'. The second 'Culture for the handicapped' and the last one 'Culture for the elderly'. Each part will be presented by a different member of the group.

The first part – 'Culture for the children' explains us the rules and some basic events (children orientated) which happen regularly in Krakow. Starting with the libraries, we show how they try to involve children into the world of books. They organise reading evenings especially for children who cannot

read. They often invite famous film or theater stars to read books.

Cinemas also welcome kids with open hands. The cinema interiors are painted in a nice way which is attractive for the kids, films are always with dubbing and the prices for families are much lower than normal tickets. Moreover, each child can go to the theatre. We have a special theatre called Groteska where almost only children oriented plays are performed. The theatre has also an open spaced part and each sunny evening during the summer time they perform on the market square for free.

The closing part of the 'Culture for children' are the workshops. They are usually organised by cultural institution. They always attract a lot of people, topics are different and they ranged from for example 'smell maps of your city' to 'Modern use of old folks' homes'.

The second part – Culture for the disabled.

In August 2007 Krakow joined the nationwide scheme "Poland without barriers", whose aim is to improve the access to buildings and public areas for the disabled. We hope that

Krakow's all tourist attractions will soon become fully accessible for tourists with disabilities.

Following museums and galleries

The main building of the National Museum has been completely adapted for disabled people. Another building that meets those standards is The Center of Japanese Art and Technique "Mangha". Other buildings of The National Museum are still inaccessible for the people using wheelchairs. The same problem is with galleries - The Palace of Art has been only partially adjusted - only the lower level is barrier - free and the 2nd level is accessible only via the special stair elevator. Also, very few churches offer ramps or handrails by the stairs for the disabled.)

Relaxing in Kazimierz

For ages Cracow has been a place where different cultures met. A Jewish town, Kazimierz, was established in XV. century right by the Vistula river. There are many well preserved buildings from that period. To enter Tempel and Izaak synagogues you can easily get on a wheelchair without any problems. Local pubs, mostly located on the ground floors are also becoming more and more accessible for the disabled people. It's worth mentioning that there is also a Jewish festival every year which mostly takes place in the open air.

Cultural evenings

Mostly, it is not a problem to enter the buildings of the theatres, which are disabled-friendly.

In the places which are not as well prepared, the disabled can expect kind staff, always willing to help.

In Cracow there are three barrier- free cinemas which also have suitable sanitary conditions. Many musical events are organised in the barrier - free interior of Cracow's Concert Hall.

Symbolic places

Due to the numerous stairs and the location on several floors, the Wawel Castle is not fully accessible for disabled tourists. However, off the summer season, from October to March, the disabled can visit the upper floors with the help of the staff. Another unique venue is the Salt Mine in Wieliczka. Level 3 of the mine has been adopted for the people on wheelchairs.

The museum has even bought special wheelchairs for using below the ground. The staff will help with moving from one wheelchair to another so that the disabled people can start the tour as soon as possible.

The third part - Culture for the elderly.

We will show how the public transport and the whole infrastructure around it, makes it

easier for the elderly to get round in the city.

Cracow public transport has put into use low floor buses and trams. The elderly and handicapped can use public transport for free.

The bus stops are getting more and more friendly and they are without architectural barriers such as high kerbs, narrow pavements or stairs.

All new crossroads and roundabouts are equipped with elevators, ramps and suitable hand rails.

Recreation venues such as swimming pools, stadiums and sports halls are in general well adjusted for the elderly and the disabled. One of the best prepared venues is the swimming pool of The University of Science and Technology in Cracow. The elderly are entitled to half-price tickets.

Except for swimming pools in Cracow there are also such attractions as for example diving schools which enable the disabled to swim under water.

There are also tennis classes organised by professional and experienced instructors. The University of Science and Technology in Cracow runs basketballs trainings for the people on wheelchairs there is also fencing club and special Paralympics games are organised as well.



1



3

1. Open Air Presentation - Groteska Theater
2. Libraries- Reading of a Book by Famous Movie Star
3. Improvement for Older People and Disabled
4. Sport for Everyone
5. Swimmingpool Elevator



4



2



5



8

6. Workshop - the Foot Path

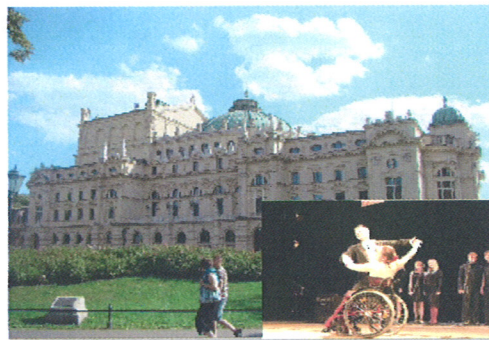
7. Low-floor Bus

8. Swimming for Everyone

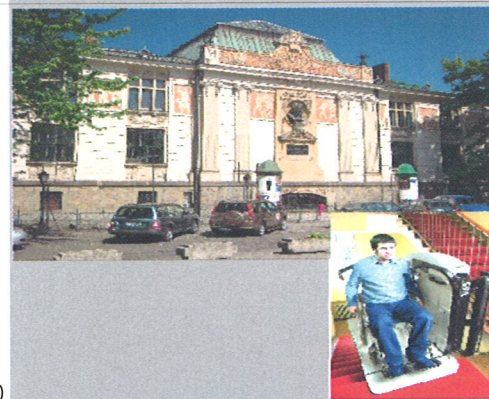
9. Juliusz Slowacki Theater

10. Palace of Art - the Stair Elevator

11. Wawel



9



10



6,7



11



12



13



14

12. Disabled Community on University

13. Main Market place in Cracow

14. Sport for Everyone