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LANCKORONA'S MARKET SQUARE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LANDSCAPE

RYNEK LANCKOROŃSKI W KONTEKŚCIE KRAJOBRAZOWYM

Abstract

2005 saw the completion of a project featuring the restoration of the surface of the Market Square in Lanckorona (the powiat of Wadowice, Lesser Poland Voivodship), funded by European Union funds. The design bound the contemporary needs of residents and tourists with the tradition of the place. It is also characterised by attractive visual linkages with the hills of the Beskidy Mountains seen in the background. The walls of this urban interior are composed of the frontages of timber residential market-side buildings. The construction included all of the design's assumptions and the market square currently enjoys significant popularity, being often used by residents and tourists, with its surface often playing host to occasional open-air events.

Keywords: sacrum, landscape of the city, landscape sacrum, identity of the place

Streszczenie

W 2005 roku z dotacji unijnych zrealizowany został projekt rewaloryzacji płyty rynku w Lanckoronie (pow. Wadowice, woj. małopolskie). W projekcie tym zespolono współczesne potrzeby mieszkańców i turystów z tradycją miejsca. Rynek do dzisiaj zachował układ urbanistyczny właściwy średniowiecznemu XIV-wiecznemu jego kształtowi. Odnacza się on również atrakcyjnymi powiązaniem widokowymi ze wzgórzami beskidzkimi w tle. Ściany tego wnętrza urbanistycznego skonstruowane są z pierzei drewnianej mieszkaniowej zabudowy przyrynkowej. W realizacji uwzględniono wszelkie założenia projektowe i obecnie rynek cieszy się dużą popularnością, jest chętnie użytkowany przez mieszkańców i turystów, a na płycie rynku odbywają się okazjonalne imprezy plenerowe.

Słowa kluczowe: sacrum, krajobraz miasta, sacrum krajobrazu, tożsamość miejsca

1. Introduction – definitions of terms, the goal, state and scope of research

The Market Square in Lanckorona constitutes a valuable example of Polish Medieval urban planning, which manifests creative attitudes characteristic of the period. They manifested themselves in the establishment of a town square (a market square) in the centre of the layout, considered a landscape “interior”, which on the one hand considered the utilitarian needs of residents, while on the other – was integrally bound with the landscape and topographic assets of the place (*genius loci*) [1, 2]. Historically confirmed advanced settlement at the site has been dated to at least the thirteenth century and the perfect urban layout of the town is considered a result of a fourteenth-century town charter grant based on the Magdeburg rights (Casimir the Great, 1362). The residential settlement was accompanied by an early gord located on Góra Lanckorońska, one of the two tallest hills in the area (along with Góra Żar, being over 600 m a.s.l. in height). Expanded during the times of Casimir the Great into a mighty fortress, it later constituted the residence of Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, who initiated the establishment of a landscape Calvary foundation in the immediate vicinity [17]. The successful development of the settlement was halted in the second half of the seventeenth century during the wars with Sweden, and later fires (in the eighteenth and nineteenth century) resulted in further destruction. The exceptional values of Lanckorona were already acknowledged by the intellectual and artistic communities of Krakow in the nineteenth century. During the first half of the twentieth century Lanckorona, possessing very good conditions for health, (water, air, a mild mountain climate) remained a holiday locality, its development based on providing services to seasonal guests, primarily as an exclusive place, eagerly visited by the cultural elite of Krakow [14].

Unfortunately, in the period after the Second World War, both the Market Square and the entirety of Lanckorona gradually fell into neglect and even ruin. At the same time, the peripheral layout of the locality left its original residents without broader employment opportunities, and as such – their livelihoods. Here, off the beaten track, to the benefit of the town's landscape assets, no industrial development or other more intense forms of economic activity took form. The period of post-war stagnation left a tragic mark on the town. Struggling guesthouses, the impoverishment of the local population led the Medieval urban centre to a significant state of crisis [21, 23].

Although the architectural conservation community acknowledged the outstanding value of Lanckorona at the time and modest funding was being obtained for the renovation of some of the houses over the first decades of the People's Republic of Poland, it was not possible to halt the ongoing processes of the place's decay. In the 1960's and 1970's the architectural conservation services of the then-Krakow voivodship, acknowledging the rank of the locality as a heritage site and the outstanding architectural qualities of its residential buildings, took some measures towards saving them. Historical research and building surveying was performed (including, among others, at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology and at the Krakow Branch of the “Pracownie Konserwacji Zabytków” State Company).

In a legal sense, through the already existing entry concerning the urban layout, some residential buildings and the Lanckorona castle in the heritage sites list (1937), an

administrative framework for such protection was established. In parallel, a proposal of comprehensively saving its historical assets, known as the “Lanckorona experiment”, was formulated. According to the assumptions of the proposal, the entire town was to find itself under joint, central governance and be used for tourism-related purposes as a hotel and service complex. However, at the same time, conservation activity – restrictive for the local populace, although mostly performed in good faith – gained in intensity, primarily taking on the form of numerous prohibitions and fines. They led to a deepening of serious neglect in architectural substance, as the owners of buildings were prohibited from performing maintenance work by themselves and funding was not allotted for broader conservation measures [10, 13, 15]. As a result, the residents of Lanckorona adopted a largely negative stance towards thinking and acting in the categories of protecting cultural and environmental heritage.

The political and systemic changes of 1989 that led to a resurgence of economic activity and thus to the crystallisation of positive aspirations in the local population, became a watershed moment for Lanckorona. These tendencies coincided with a general return to the memory of the most essential traditional qualities of the place. The first impulse of the *genius loci* awakening itself in the population was the decision to have the landscape of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List. Tourist traffic started to increase on a yearly basis, providing a foundation for active entrepreneurship. Despite the negligence of the second half of the twentieth century, this charming and quiet township attracts visual artists who find inspiration for their creative work here [23]. Lanckorona is also eagerly visited by groups of intellectuals, primarily from Krakow and Warsaw, who create a unique atmosphere of a specific centre of culture, comparable to Kazimierz nad Wisłą and even surpassing it in terms of its cultural and natural assets. The scientific conference entitled *Ziemia Lanckorońska. Dziedzictwo przyrodniczo-kulturowe wczoraj, dziś i jutro*, organised here on the 22nd of September 2012, became a confirmation of this culture-creating role. It took place on the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Friends of Lanckorona Association and on the 650th anniversary of the issuing of the town’s charter, organised by the TPL with the personal involvement of professor Zbigniew Mirek.

The author of this report, following the research traditions of the scientific community of the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology, initiated study and design work with a broader scope, primarily associated with preparing scientific documentation for the Republic of Poland’s application to have the pilgrimage complex of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List [15]. These efforts led the World Heritage Committee to issue a positive decision concerning having Kalwaria Zebrzydowska placed on the list as an outstanding example of a historical composed religious landscape in the form of a mannerist-type pilgrimage park on the 1st of December 1999. The site’s area included Góra Lanckorońska and the ruins of the Casimirian castle, as the residence of Mikołaj Zebrzydowski (in the sixteenth/seventeenth century), the founder of Kalwaria. The territory of the historical Medieval urban layout of Lanckorona found itself in the “buffer” zone, gaining international fame, which constantly results in increasing tourist traffic, not only on Kalwaria’s “paths”, but in Lanckorona as well (the market square, the castle ruins). It would be good to highlight that, in the author’s initial version of the application



documentation, the urban layout of Medieval Lanckorona was to find itself in the landscape zone of the “paths” of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (Mitkowska 1998, 7.2). However, the town’s state of utter neglect and the lack of a perspective of having broader conservation protection measures extended to it that had pervaded the 1990’s led to the decision to have the entirety of Lanckorona removed from the proposed territory of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List entry proposal. This decision was associated with the criteria set by UNESCO/ICOMOS concerning the candidate site for entry being in good condition and possessing stable site protection mechanisms (Fig. 1).

However, this direct contact that Lanckorona made with the procedure of being listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List led the author to more in-depth study and design work on the town. In the period between 1998 and 2009 around a dozen publications and a similar number of study and design documents and expertises were prepared, ultimately leading to performing regeneration work on Lanckorona’s Market Square. The article’s bibliography thus features a set of the most important of the author’s publications [15–21], featuring full literature on the subject, as well study and design documents and expertises.

2. The cultural and environmental rank of Lanckorona’s Market Square and its specifics

In its present administrative layout, Lanckorona is one of the municipalities of the powiat of Wadowice (the Lesser Poland Voivodship). It is located around 40 km to the south-west of Krakow, in the direct vicinity of the previously mentioned and famous Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. The locality, built in a particularly picturesque landscape on the border of Pogórze Wielickie and Beskid Średni, is placed amidst an expanse of farm fields and the forest complexes of a semi natural character that frame said fields. The territory of the municipality of Lanckorona, along with its settlement centre, constitute an interesting example of a uniform landscape area that possesses a vivid set of high-class natural and cultural values. Apart from the attractive shape of the terrain, these areas are also characterised by a wealth of flora and fauna, whilst its tree stands often feature species compositions that have been maintained in an unchanged form for several hundred years. The area, highly prized by naturalists, features protection zones for highly varied and rare specimens of local plant life (e.g. a site featuring the great horsetail). Its picturesque placement in the smoothly shaped mountainous terrain is enriched with distant views that reach even the mountain chains of Babia Góra and Polica, as well as that of the Tatra Mountains that can be seen in the distance from some areas of the locality. Lanckorona itself developed a distinct type of timber residential architecture in the past, in the form of an original “Lanckorona style”, whose elements have been largely maintained in the current market-square-side buildings and those on the nearby streets.

The market square in Lanckorona, which has remained a compositional, functional and content-related centre, both of the locality itself and of the entire municipality, constitutes an example of a Medieval town square (from the fourteenth century) unique on the European scale. It was delineated in a mountainous area, on a steep incline of the foot of the large massif of Góra

Lanckorońska, with wonderful landscape panoramas visible from it. Despite many unfavourable circumstances in recent decades, it has survived in its original form. Its picturesqueness and distinct compositional climate is highlighted by timber market-side houses from the end of the nineteenth century, which were reconstructed at the time after being destroyed in a fire and given the Medieval form of the previously mentioned “Lanckorona style”. Market-side houses were designed to feature a single storey, with tall roofs and considerably protruding eaves, most often placed on quite tall masonry bases. Largely placed in a layout with gable walls facing the front, with significantly protruding eaves supported by columns, they create a specific variant of arcade sequences that surround the “interior” of the market square [20], and are divided by characteristic paths (called “miedzucha”), i.e. narrow external passages between individual houses, which are accompanied by small backyard plots, primarily used as private gardens.

The following should be highlighted in terms of the characteristic qualities of the market square in its landscape, aesthetic, functional, social and customary dimensions: 1. as integrally linked with the form of the local landscape, it co-creates the outstanding value of this landscape, 2. It is a beautiful (harmonious) landscape in its linking of natural and cultural values; 3. It also remains a region of the occurrence of local flora (the main part of the market square’s surface, front yards, backyard gardens); 4. It constitutes the material heritage of a Medieval urban layout (from the fourteenth century); 5. It operates as a centre of a locality with a Medieval, authentic planning layout; 6. It constitutes a grouping of unique, compact residential development in the form of timber “Lanckorona style” architecture. 7. It currently remains a multifunctional centre of the life of the town (and the municipality); 8. As a heritage site, it teems with life as an “urban salon”, a favourite site amongst both residents and tourists; 9. The area of the market square has also become an attractive motif of the buffer zone of the “paths” of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (a World Heritage Site); 10. It functions as a starting (and ending) point for the local route of the “Góra Lanckorońska Forest Park” (and, further, for the Calvary “paths”).

Spontaneously landscaped front yards of houses that encroach upon the space of the market square’s “interior”, and surround it, play an important part in building the area’s local flavour. Small elements such as planters with colourful flowers (called “kwietynki”), suspended underneath the eaves of facades, planters and packets with flowers on the edges of balconies and on external windowsills appear here. They are predominantly planted with popular plant species that are easily commercially available, or feature local wild plants. It is also common for entrances to houses to be decorated with either single or multiple planters with flowers. All of the houses near the market square are accompanied by front yards. These are typically landscaped to the individual tastes of residents, featuring compositional variety, one that is nevertheless clearly subjected to local tradition, including climate conditions. Restraint and the logic of the modest yet noble plant material used here is their common trait. They formally oscillate between a smoothly trimmed lawn and an amalgam of local plants, including cover plants, creeping plants and small bushes [4, 19].

The group that co-creates the form of the local landscape is constituted by backyard gardens that stretch along the back of residential buildings, in a strict linkage between utilitarian functions and aesthetic values of plant compositions. They meticulously make use of topographic conditions (hillsides, natural earthen terraces, escarpments). An economic



approach based on minimising the costs of landscaping gardens resulted in a far-reaching preservation of compositions utilising local species. For instance, plant material is taken from neighbours and by cultivating self-seeded plants and old garden and forest-type tree stands that have existed for centuries. The planning layout of backyard gardens of Lanckorona constitutes a result of the extant shape of the terrain and current needs (paths to barns, pig pens, storage and tool sheds, firewood storage, wells, etc.) [11].

One distinct characteristic of Lanckorona's small gardens is the spontaneous engagement of expansive visual linkages into their composition. It is a completely self-originating situation, one that results from the locality being placed on the steep slope of Góra Lanckorońska and that causes nearly every backyard garden to have a visual culmination with a "borrowed view". Here it should be underlined that the local population intuitively senses the outstanding value of this situation, trying to maintain the naturally occurring landscape linkages. The broadly implemented low openwork fences (utilising meshes or rods) cause individual gardens to visually expand to include groups of greenery cultivated on other nearby plots. One specific attraction, particularly visible in the frontal gable-type development near the market square, with its accompanying paths, are picturesque observation passages, which provide a view of garden plants behind houses, framed with the width and walls of the "miedzuchy" paths, creating distinct "observation windows" [3].

Depending on the specific locations of individual houses, expansive visual linkages cover landscape areas reaching all the way to the monastery of the Camaldolese monks in Kraków's Bielany, to the hills of Pogórze Wielickie, the area of Babia Góra and Polica, and even the peaks of the Tatra Mountains. Many houses feature linkages with landscapes of the pilgrimage "paths" of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska with their landmark in the form of the architectural complex of the Sanctuary of Holy Mary and the monastery of the Benedictine monks. Thus in each of the panoramas that have been mentioned, private gardens have been expanded with linkages with attractive green landscapes with clearly visible distinct expanses of farm fields and their accompanying forest complexes [5, 6, 8].

3. "Góra Lanckorońska Forest Park" and its spatial linkages with the market square

The uniqueness of Lanckorona's market square among Medieval European towns was decided by its placement within the landscape, integrally bound with the slope of Góra Lanckorońska. Although delineated on the steep slope of the lower part of the tall mountain massif, it expressively stands out as a neatly measured rectangular "interior" of a charter-based urban organism. Its upper (northern) wall, formed through its compact buildings with gable walls facing the market square, is reinforced by the more distant plane of the contour of the forest-covered hill, forming a sophisticated composition of vertical storeys. An upper terrace with a wonderful view of landscape panoramas was built on the market square surface itself.

The area of the market square is the starting (and ending) point of trails that lead through mixed forest tree stands of this mountain chain, intertwined with many forms of cultural values. Góra Lanckorońska naturally became an easily accessible recreational park area, blending with the urban layout of the town centre. However, it still remains one of

Lanckorona's rather underappreciated tourist attractions. The planning basis for the forest park avenues was provided by former farm paths, expressively delineated and climbing in spiral-like patterns up the steep slopes. At times they go through a thick forest, while at others they cross through terrain platforms that provide expansive views ("active exposure"), including those of the Calvary "paths" and other elements of the local landscape. As a broadly accessible park, it is characterised by a considerable variety of function and forms of use. It features purely utilitarian functions, including those associated with commerce (commercial forests), water sources, pedestrian and (to a limited extent) vehicular circulation. Recreational use is the most prominent: associated with holidaymaking, rest, walking, tourism and sports (bicycles, ski running, horsemanship), as well as entertainment. A number of tourist trails link Lanckorona with areas of Beskidy and Pogórze Wielickie [2, 10, 17].

These trails also offer numerous knowledge and learning-related aspects, as well as a wealth of the semantic layer, with numerous testaments to the cultural and environmental tradition of the place. Here we can encounter examples of the microregion's timber architecture. The local parish church, which is largely in the Gothic style, along with the nearby Calvary chapels by Paul Baudarth, allows tourists to come into contact with the values of historical architecture in its official styles (Gothic, Mannerism, Baroque). It features the miraculous painting of Mary the Mother of God of Lanckorona, which has recently become a part of the European Trail of Sanctuaries of Holy Mary. The nearby areas are also located within the borders of the actual home region of Karol Wojtyła – the blessed pope John Paul II, which is highlighted by the "Papal Oak", planted in the lower part of the market square's surface. The ruins of the castle and various memorial sites located all around the area remind us of Polish history, including of the period of Casimir the Great, the legacy of the Zebrzydowski and Czartoryski families in the nearby Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, about the times of the Bar Confederation, the victims of the Second World War and the difficult times of the People's Republic of Poland.

The Calvary complex, which encroaches upon the slope of Góra Lanckorońska in the area of Brody (the chapel of the Ascension, the Gethsemane, the Church of the Grave of the Mother of God), in a spatial and landscape sense, was separated from the broader territorial context with distinct terrain forms, such as: the massif of Góra Żar along with the buildings of the church and monastery of the monks of the Order of St. Bernard, the symbolic Góra Kalwaria (named after Mount Calvary) and the traces of a Medieval castle in Barwałd Górny on the north-western edge and Góra Lanckorońska on the south-eastern edge. It constitutes an area of a "sacrum" of the landscape, a sort of "biblia pauperum" that enables pilgrims and tourists to come into contact with the primary spiritual message of the Catholic Church.

When walking along the trails and paths of Góra Lanckorońska we encounter a wealth of botanical diversity with numerous field and forest plants, noble and often unique. among the forest tree stands there are weasels, hedgehogs, deer—and often boars as well. Bears have also been seen, albeit sporadically, and even grass snakes and vipers at times. Butterflies, moths and dragonflies enrich this image of the natural tradition of the place, in which distinct geological conditions also play a considerable role. In the vicinity of the compact buildings of Lanckorona, near one of the walking trails (near the "Tadeusz" guesthouse), we can encounter the remains of an old stone quarry [22].

The territory of the “Góra Lanckorońska Forest Park” has been saturated with numerous small artefacts, such as information plaques and signs, as well as signposts, while walking trails have been given various names (partially traditional and new ones). Elements of “park and street furniture”: gazebos, drains, lamps, stairs, gates, fences, cellars—sometimes feature references to the tradition of Lanckorona’s timber architecture, and in many cases constitute (usually unsuccessful) attempts at introducing new designs. The entirety of the forest walking routes is made available for pedestrian traffic at around a dozen places – “gates” placed uniformly along the entire lower ring of the site, shaped by car routes. These entrances are delicately marked with formations of trees and bushy plants or characteristic orientation points such as roadside chapels as well as information and tourist signs [12].

The massif of Góra Lanckorońska, as a naturally developed forest park integrated with the layout of the Medieval urban plan and Lanckorona’s market square, plays a key role in the formation of this distinct landscape form. The forested mountainous skyline constitutes an original compositional differentiator, a landscape mark that is so vividly significant in the expansive landscape of the region of the settlement complex of Lanckorona. The effects of “passive exposure” can be marvelled at in a 360° range, while the strongly elevated silhouette of Góra Lanckorońska is visible from roads leading from Wadowice, Sucha Beskidzka, Mysłenice and Krakow – becoming clearly visible from as far as the area of Radziszów and Krzywaczka.

4. Regeneratory renovation of Lanckorona’s Market Square of 2005

Initiatives undertaken towards the regeneration of the market square in 2003 by the Vogt of the Municipality of Lanckorona, Małgorzata Zofia Oszacka, became an essential step towards making Lanckorona more active. Commissioned by the Municipality Office, the study (Z. Myczkowski) and design (A. Mitkowska) documentation became a basis for the obtainment of European Union funding for comprehensive renovation and regeneration work within the area of the market square, restoring the traditional tourism-related functions of the locality in its historical, original and picturesque scenery. The aforementioned study and design document received the Award of the Minister of Infrastructure (group authorship share: Mitkowska 70%, Myczkowski 30%) in the field of urban design and spatial planning in 2004 (Fig. 2, 3).

4.1. Design assumptions

Considering the outstanding assets of the place, as well as legal and economic conditions, architectural conservation experiences and the latest tendencies in terms of conservation doctrines, the following design assumptions were adopted as fundamental for the market square of Lanckorona: 1. The formal and functional highlighting (through spatial composition) of the character of the Medieval market square as a place of commerce and the functional and content-related centre of the town; 2. The maintenance and exposure of the original “colour of the place”, including the aesthetic values of the architectural styles of Lanckorona’s houses (structure, proportions, materials, colour, textures) with particular care for the facades of market-side

buildings, along with highlighting the stylistically uniform market-square frontages; 3. Referring to the tradition of a “Casimirian” Medieval town; 4. exposing existing natural and landscape assets, including visual linkages between the area of the market square with distant mountain chains and the massif of Góra Lanckorońska; 5. Maintaining the rank of the parish church as a panoramic landmark of the market square’s landscape and urban “interior”; 6. in terms of plant selection, the adoption of various domestic species associated with the local habitat, taking into consideration the botanical wealth of the area around Lanckorona; 7. Providing comfort of use to residents and tourists (functional solutions and the necessary sanitary infrastructure); 8. Thriftiness in activities, based on the most meticulous preservation of aesthetically valuable elements of the surface of the market square and its development that is in good technical condition (surface fragments, stairs, retaining walls, etc.); 9. The use of traditional, domestic materials or, in justified cases, good imitations thereof (artificial stone, steel roof cladding patterned as roof tiles or shingles); 10. Considering modest financial capabilities and the bad experiences of restrictive enforcement of material authenticity that had led to the ruination and even demolition of some historical structures, the principle of an “authenticity of form” was proposed (proportions, colour and texture of construction materials), 11. Leaving environmentally valuable tree stands on the surface of the market square while highlighting the character of a place of commerce (pt. 1) and making visual ducts (pt. 4) more visible; 12. The procedural organisation of long-term constant regular maintenance of the market square, primarily concerning the plants located there, by post-completion measures (Fig. 4, 5).

4.2. Conceptual design proposal and achieved effects

As a part of primary design assumptions, the following was featured in terms of the main functions of Lanckorona’s market square: 1. providing suitable conditions for its representative role, of a market as an urban and landscape “salon”; 2. building a public space for the permanent residents of the town, a “forum” for social gatherings and neighbourly contacts; 3. a public space for tourists and holidaymakers in the form of a space of integration, recreation and entertainment. In light of this understanding of the tasks placed before the space of the market square, particular attention was focused on; 4. delineating pedestrian paths and traditional front yards that are so distinct of Lanckorona; 5. forming clearly visible shared circulation belts surrounding the market square; 6. strongly accentuating the northern escarpment along with highlighting the massing of the parish church as the landmark of the urban interior; 7. a strict underscoring of the vertical axis of the market square by forming a main sequence of pedestrian circulation paths featuring external stairs; 8. accentuating the horizontal axis with a symbolic marking in the surface of the market square, delineating the supposed location of Lanckorona’s town hall; 9. adopting a division of the surface of the market square into two parts, with a lower part meant for commerce and circulation and an upper, “amphitheatrical” one in the form of an “architectural” garden; 10. shaping the upper part of the market square utilising escarpments with the maximum possible consideration given to the natural shape of the terrain; 11. preserving existing tree specimens, slightly reducing their number in order to provide better visual linkages with distant landscapes (Fig. 6).



The leading thought behind the composition had been to highlight the motif of the tradition of the place as the factor that dictates compositional principles, which in this specific situation resulted in a proposal of exposing the natural terraced shape of the terrain of the surface of the market square and utilising topographic conditions to make the space of the market square more legible as a sort of “naturally developed amphitheatre“, which combines respect for the traditional functions of a market square with a twentieth-century layer in the form of introducing park-type greenery, along with the broadest possible meeting of the current needs of Lanckorona’s residents and of the tourists that visit it.

A set of guidelines was also prepared concerning detailed solutions for street furniture (posts, street drain framing, litter bins). The introduction of sculptural elements was also proposed to be introduced later. A monument to Casimir the Great in the upper escarpment was proposed, in a cameral, timber form, produced by local craftsmen; as well as of John Paul II in the lower part of the market square – which was introduced in the form of the “Papal Oak” planted (unfortunately, a foreign variety was used) in place of a sick willow tree that had been removed. Guidelines were prepared for colour schemes, details and advertisements for the market square’s frontages, as well as for reparatory efforts referring to modernist buildings within sequences of market-side buildings, infills in places where individual buildings were missing from the compact development of the area.

Construction work was performed in 2005, featuring a significant amount of author supervision by A. Mitkowska, usually carried out in accordance with the adopted design assumptions and construction recommendations [15]. The traditional area of public greenery in the upper (northern) part of the market square, which topographically forms a sort of naturally developed “amphitheatre“, was preserved. It was made more legible by highlighting escarpments in the terrain, formed in reference to pre-design analyses that focused on behaviour during open-air events that have been taking place at the site for many years. This part is currently maintained in the form of a meticulously landscaped lawn, enlivened by groups of dwarf shrubs, made available for all forms of recreational use. It fulfils the role of an audience for cultural events, often organised in the lower (southern) part of the market square). This solution is a reference to the well-rooted tradition of using this public space as a sophisticated landscape “salon“ for residents and tourists that dates back to the nineteenth century. Old tree plantings (primarily linden trees) in the frontages: the northern and eastern ones, have remained a supplementation of garden-type compositions in addition to individual willow trees in the lower part of the surface of the market square (a paved commercial square). They provide an impressive highlight of the course of the main compositional axis of the market square delineated along the north-south direction. In the upper part of the market square this axis was continued as a sequence of external stairs used to climb the escarpments of the “amphitheatre” which significantly highlights the skeleton of the spatial composition of the entire square [7, 9] (Fig. 7–9).

In its post-completion state, Lanckorona’s market square, featuring an “amphitheatrical“ upper part and a commercial and circulatory lower part, presently constitutes an urban framework for the day-to-day life of the town. It forms a legible landscape “interior“ that is friendly to users, foreshadowing a possibility of improving the stand of living of the town’s residents. The vividness

of the spatial designation and planning basis are conducive to more lively use, in which the centrally delineated sequences of walking stairs plays a leading role. Work on replacing elements of the market square's surface was preceded by a comprehensive renovation of the storm drain system. Surface drainage gutters that had been in a state of severe neglect were formed again, generally improving the technical quality of existing technical infrastructure. A clear division into various use zones (functions of the market square) was instituted, highlighting pedestrian, vehicular and shared path sequences, as well as parking lots, places of recreation and play, occasional commerce, tourist information, transit vehicular traffic and accessways to individual buildings near the market square using different materials (Fig. 10).

It should be highlighted that the market square constitutes quite a complicated circulation "node" with its intertwining vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The proposed traffic organisation currently works without additional prohibitive or prescriptive road signs. The selection of pavement surfaces, including the patterns of laying the various different elements, constitute a sufficient, visible and formal message concerning the functional designation of each part of the market square's surface. The area of the market square features considerably sloping terrain, which had previously made unrestricted wheelchair movement impossible and was levelled (where technically possible) utilising individual ramps and driveways. The entirety of the market square is currently accessible to wheelchairs, both around its rim and in the lower, commercial section.

Spaces meant to be safe for small children were established in the upper, "amphitheatrical" section of the market square, and the entirety of this zone constitutes an area of recreation (sequences of seating on low retaining walls, outlined in accordance with the elevation lines of the terrain, areas featuring freely accessible lawns). The full set of works leading to the formation of the varied surfaces was performed using local materials. Sandstone from quarries in Mucharz, Brenna, Palcza, Marwald and Lanckorona was used, interspersed with elements from artificial stone where necessary, with careful selections of texture and colour (Brukbet) along with a small number of large-format pavement tiles from Silesian Długopole (resistance-related considerations). As a part of post-completion changes, a planned planting of shrubs meant to soften the sequences of "amphitheatrical" escarpments in the upper part of the market square was carried out in 2006 and 2007 [19].

It should be highlighted that the shape of a Medieval commercial and circulatory town square, with an amphitheatrical section featuring a garden character, was highlighted in the terrain in complicated topographic conditions combined with often conflicting functions, all of it remaining in accordance with the conditions of the tradition of the place (*genius loci*). The project was carried out to provide comfort and satisfaction to the population of Lanckorona's microregion. The design proposal that has been presented here constituted a culmination of thirty years' worth of studies on the assets of the landscape pilgrimage sanctuary of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and ten years of becoming familiarised with the residents of Lanckorona, their customs, tastes and the hierarchy of values adopted by them. It should be noted that the Lanckorona Gorals are an honourable, proud, intelligent, driven and honest people, devoted to Mary the Mother of God of Kalwaria and Mary the Mother of God of Lanckorona (Fig. 11–13).



5. Threats to the Lanckorona market square, its state in 2012 (the author's reflections)

In the situation of the beauty of Lanckorona's landscape outlined over the course of this text, negative phenomena that appear here should also be noted. They primarily concern individual massings of residential buildings constructed in the final decades of the twentieth century that disregard the characteristic qualities of the "Lanckorona style" in their proportions and detail. Two modernist massings also encroached upon market-side development at the start of the twentieth century, fortunately adhering to the traditional height of residential buildings. Furthermore, there have recently been cases of erroneous interpretations of regional forms among newly arrived plot owners (also a marginal phenomenon, featuring the regional architecture of Podhale and the area around Krakow, etc.). Some gardens started to feature forms belonging to the category of kitsch, such as garden gnomes, stork figurines and "Dutch style" windmills, brightly coloured fence posts – often laid out in "modernist" patterns, colourful glass elements in the facades of houses or poorly performed forming of garden plants into topiatic forms. These are, fortunately, sporadically encountered situations, ones that have started to disappear in recent years. It should be noted that, overall, the microregion of Lanckorona has maintained its distinct qualities of the tradition of the place, and in recent years we can also note a far-reaching care for the continuation of original forms of Lanckorona among both local and newly arrived plot owners, proof of which can be seen in recent renovations of private houses located in the centre of the town, as well as in the arrangement of front and backyard gardens (Mitkowska 2009, 7.1). These positive tendencies have appeared on a broader scale after the regeneration work performed in 2005 on the market square.

The market square itself has been maintained in an overall good condition after its renovation and is being subjected to regular maintenance, primarily in terms of its plant material. At the same time it is sometimes sporadically the target of acts of vandalism and intentional property damage (the tearing away of individual paving elements, damage to lighting fixtures). After performing a more in-depth analysis we can also observe certain worrying and progressively worsening negative phenomena. Some of them have started during the period of performing the main renovation and post-completion work, while others have only recently begun to manifest themselves in the area of the market square. For instance, a number of small errors were not detected during handover and their removal was not enforced as a part of warranty repairs. For instance, in the eastern edge of the main observation platform the surface was not levelled to a sufficient degree causing surface runoff to accumulate there, while insufficient surface levelling led to small cracks appearing in large-format tiles in the lower corner of the pavement on the western side.

Due to financial considerations, the design was not fully executed in some details. These include the frontal yard and entrance to a corner house in the lower part of the western frontage that have not been landscaped to this day. The work slated to be performed on the immediate vicinity of the drain in the upper part of the market square was not performed as well. The theatrical stage was not extended by constructing the proposed eastern annex. These shortcomings can be easily addressed by carrying out the planned work. However, the

full sanitation and binding of all of the market's frontages, which requires considerable financial means, remain a long-term goal (conceptual indications were taken into consideration in the conceptual design of the market square's regeneration).

A more serious threat to a cohesive, formally uniform and well-detailed form of the entirety of the market square are the additional elements that are being introduced on the initiative of the Municipality without consultation with the author of the conceptual design and that cause aesthetic dissonance. And so, in the lower part of the "amphitheatre", a metal sculpture of an angel has been placed, which is formally attractive, although it constitutes a departure from the established character and colour of the place. A flood light has also been added to illuminate this sculpture. It has been placed unfortunately enough that it blinds persons who stand above it after dark, making it impossible to observe the entirety of the market square from its upper section. Sequences of typical metal posts with chains, formally suitable for urban interiors of larger cities, with masonry architecture from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century, have been introduced onto the market square.

They have also become an aggressively monotonous element and have been placed in areas where vehicular traffic is blocked by wooden stalls standing on the surface of the market square in its commercial section, as well as by short stone posts in the lower section of the pavement immediately after the project's completion according to the design. A steel bicycle stand near the main observation platform, although attractive and durable, stands out from the established character of the market square's aesthetic. Wooden litter bins were given pretentious forms (primarily small, gabled roofs). In the lower part of the market square, the space of the greenery masking a water tank for fire protection purposes, planned as an area for spontaneously growing local grasses, is seeing attempts to shape it according to the layout of a cloister garth garden that is alien to this area. A tendency to unlawfully fill in the carefully formed dry gaps between elements of the stone paving with concrete mortar has also appeared (near the corner house in the lower part of the eastern frontage).

Insofar as the area of the market square is currently in good condition, then the entirety of the area of the "Góra Lanckorońska Mountain Park" described in chapter 3 sees numerous signs of neglect, one that has often been ongoing for many years, with erroneously matched artefacts (some lamps, litter bins, signposts) or simply severely damaged elements of technical equipment and information posts. Orderliness is not maintained on the walking trails and acts of vandalism are carried out in the entire walking complex. Users are constantly showing a lack of basic decency, treating the forest as a place for the disposal of waste. The ruins of the Casimirian castle have been waiting for being fully and professionally secured and to have their surroundings landscaped. The actions that are nevertheless sporadically taken here are often amateurish (e.g. a grate securing a preserved window opening or a plaque commemorating the Confederates of Bar being artificially placed on the World Heritage Site information stone).



6. Conclusions

The situation of Lanckorona, seen positively from the point of view of maintaining the continuity of the tradition of the place and remaining stable in the second half of the twentieth and in the beginning of the twenty-first century, has been conditioned by a fortunate combination of a number of essential factors. Paradoxically, the reality of the period of the Polish Republic of Poland, i.e. the political transformation after the Second World War, played a positive role here. On the one hand, the small scale private ownership of Lanckorona's plot owners, who still lived according to the custom of interwar Poland, was preserved. On the other, the worsening poverty of the population, combined with a lack of economic perspectives characteristic of a communist economy, made it impossible to introduce models of post-war architecture – that departed from regional traditions – on a broader scale.

It appears that the carrying out of a comprehensive regeneration of Lanckorona's market square has been met with a general approval of the local population. The material and formal solutions implemented in the market square, strongly accentuating traditional local conditions, have directed the thinking of the local population towards appreciating their original historical architectural forms. The simultaneous observable increase in affluence increases the capacity to perform regular maintenance work and the Office of the Municipality promotes the traditional assets of the microregion. It should be highlighted that a particularly positive role in terms of maintaining and popularising the *genius loci* of Lanckorona is being played by the personal involvement of the current Vogt of the Municipality, Madam Zofia Oszacka. One interesting detail that can be mentioned is that in an online poll, entitled „the seven miracles of Poland,, and organised by “National Geographic“ in September 2012, Lanckorona's market square came 12th, competing on the scale of the entire country.

However, the popularity of Lanckorona has reached such a high level in recent years that during summer weekends the amount of occasional motorised tourists leads to an excessive density of cars being parked there. The several dozen parking spots that have been safely arranged in the surface of the square are insufficient. Vehicles, parked for the better part of a day, block circulation routes around the market square and its adjacent streets. A new task thus presents itself, concerning the control of this increased traffic and the organisational redirection of cars to a parking lot established between the parish church and the parsonage buildings. According to the author of this report, the conceptual proposals of occasional (often exceedingly noisy) open-air events (which compete with the traditional August ministries along the paths of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, which the local populace still identifies with), including the artificial and pretentious search for “new traditions“, require particular thought, seeing as Lanckorona's historical traditions are very rich and filled with patriotic and religious content of the highest order.

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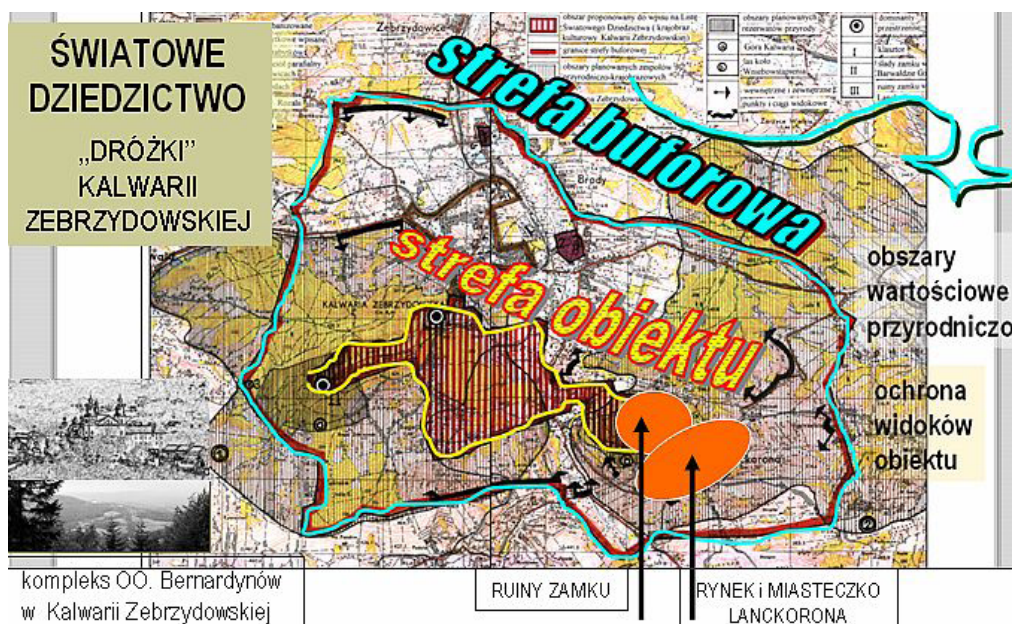


Fig. 1. Lanckorona in the landscape context of the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska World Heritage Site zone (by A. Mitkowska)

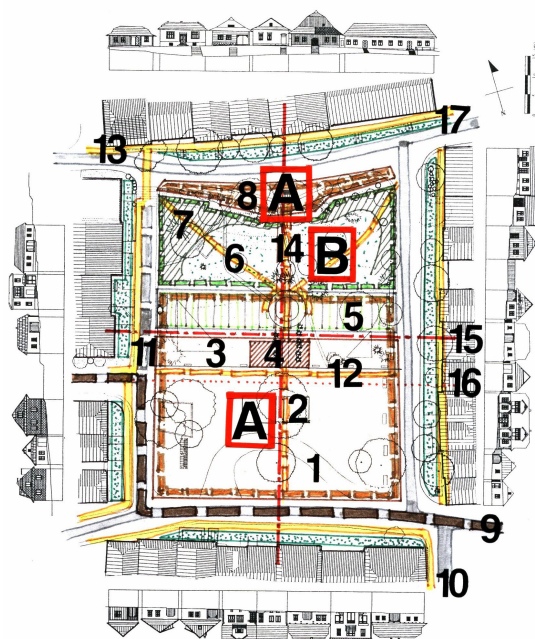


Fig. 2. Functional and compositional scheme of the conceptual proposal of the regeneration of Lanckorona's market square, A – circulation and commercial zones, B – park zone (“amphitheatre”) (by A. Mitkowska)

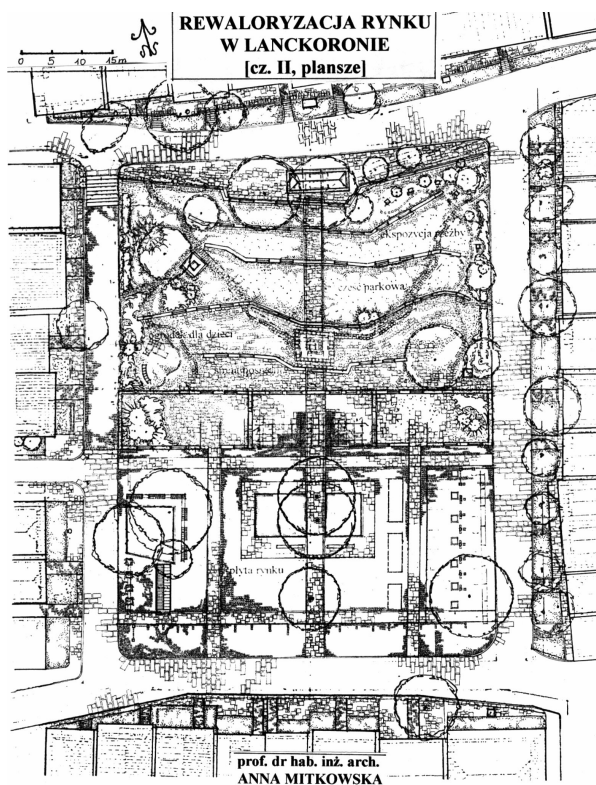


Fig. 3. Design of the regeneration of the surface of the market square in Lanckorona (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 4. The upper (northern) frontage of Lanckorona's market square with its landmark in the form of a parish church and its storey-like composition, according to nineteenth-century iconography (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 5. Condition of the surface of the market square prior to the renovation:
1 – lower part; 2. upper part, 2003 (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 6. Renovation work performed on the Lanckorona market square, July–August 2005
(by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 7. Main walking path sequence of the "amphitheatrical" part of Lanckorona's market square, after completion 2005 (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 8. Upper part of the surface of Lanckorona's market square, after completion, 2006 (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 9. Upper observation platform of Lanckorona's market square, after completion 2005
(by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 10. Celebrations of the 125th anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Department in Lanckorona, 2007
(by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 11. Landscape contexts of Lanckorońska, view from Góra Lanckorońska on the complex of the monks of the Order of St. Bernard in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska in the centre, 2006, 2012
(by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 12a. Information plaque for the World Heritage Site zone (ruins of Lanckorońska castle), 2006
(by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 12b. Information plaque for the World Heritage Site zone with the addition of an artifact dedicated to the Confederators of Bar that was not approved by the author, 2012 (by A. Mitkowska)



Fig. 13. Vehicular traffic blockades (posts in the southern part, stalls in the eastern part), 2006
(by A. Mitkowska)

