The River Side Areas of the City Nysa as the Places of Social Activities Mobilization

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Abstract

Nearly twenty years of dynamic development of civilization, industrialization and a strong human intervention in nature, resulting in current environmental changes, impacting both on humans and the ecosystem.

These changes, often adversely affecting the area, in many societies began to increase pro ecological awareness. The pressure of ecologists led to changes in human expansion strategy by adopting the rules called "sustainable development". According to these rules, any developing of human activities should be conducted in a manner that minimizes the impact of the investment on the environment.

Regulation of rivers, used to improve the navigability, or the protection of human habitats from the effects of flood flow, is one of the areas of engineering, the effects of which were backing the protests of ecologists. They have a similar attitude to any trials improving the possibilities of better quality of space located along the rivers.

Part of the arguments brought by ecologists concerned to the destruction of a unique landscape or affecting the habitat of animals living in the river or areas adjacent to it. Other, completely negated the needs for human intervention in shaping the nature of these regions, which supposedly "... itself can handle".

Finding the right balance that meets the needs of all stakeholders is difficult, but not impossible. It is particularly important to revitalize urban public spaces which are located close to the rivers. Leaving the landscape of the river passing the city limits, as formed in an uncontrolled, wild, natural space seems to be a number of reasons unlikely. We should use civilization and our evolution's tools, and try to use these sites, by increasing their attractiveness. The target is to improve the quality of life of urban residents by developing the riverside associated with the river, often stimulate them to life, with the broadest possible protection of the environment.

Key words: riverside areas of the city, urban greenery, revitalization of the public spaces, social activities.

Introduction

Nysa was founded in flood terrain, on the right side of the Nysa Klodzka river, surrounded by the Wielka Biała River from the south. Location of the city in this area did not provide residents with the healthiest climate, which has always been extremely moist, and generated problems with drainage of the area, that particularly intensified during multiple floods. Paradoxically, these negative factors were "townbuilt" character for the city. With the city's history, we know that the area surrounded by marshes, seemed inaccessible, so easy to defend. That's the nature of Nysa Klodzka in this location was the cause of the crossed almost all the communication routes of southeastern Silesia, with the trail leading from the west under Sudety mountains way to Krakow.

Even today, it is easy to notice that the river and its impact on the city enforces its development.

In the last century, Nysa Klodzka was settled – there are 3 large lakes – Paczkowskie, Otmuchowskie and Nysański, having a huge impact on the development of tourism and the positive changes of the scenic in foothills of Nysa – Bardzie Mountains, and especially of the city of Nysa (Fig. 1.).

In 1997, the city fell victim to flood. During this, almost all the river's settled infrastructure was damaged. Last year there was started the action that lasts to this days, to strengthen flood protection banks of the Nysa Klodzka River, particularly in the section running through the city. Care was taken in the regulation of river in engineering context – now it is a time of implementation of these projects. Architectural development context of coastal zones is constantly overlooked due to lack of money and the missing concepts showing capabilities.
However, this does not mean, that the discussion on the development of riverside urban areas in Nysa should be finished.

Methods of research

My voice in this discussion is related, in some way, to the development of the model of modern European city, and in particular inner-city zones. In my opinion, for many reasons, it should be primarily focused on existing cities, with its own history and not built from the beginning. Nysa is an excellent material for such considerations. Therefore, it is important to reject the deagglomeration doctrine assuming urban sprawl in the surrounding agricultural lands. Do not come into "play" also a model of the historic city (priority for the past, the primacy of the reconstruction), and for obvious reasons would reject the doctrine of the functional city, "city – machinery", in particular its cheap, soc – realistic variety and a modern version, formatted as a product of mass consumption of global capitalism. These models operated in certain parts of the Nysa city in the past, leaving signs of their presence in the space.

So, what would be the essence of a city model, where we want to work and rest, just to live? We are talking about areas already urbanized, even if it is a coastal area or otherwise spatially and socially degraded or simply landscaped not optimally, i.e. not employing inherent in the potential development. First of all, every single piece of space inside the urbanized zone should be used before they reach the outer areas. So, at the beginning there should be developed areas that may be subject to the revitalization and transformation, transformation or adaptation to new, modern useful features with simultaneous densification building up to the optimum level characteristic of the compact city, with a critical mass and the mixing of functions that will foster the positive cooperation of residents and users of the area.

It should be emphasized that it is not about the restoration of individual objects. It would propose action of the area, where urban renewal is combined with a comprehensive and coordinated resolution of technical issues, economic, cultural and social, with a clear emphasis on the development of public spaces. It seems that the lack of any investments to riversides areas is one of the few only, after the post-industrial buildings to be used for this purpose.

Results

In this work, I would like to present examples of activities that do not rub only changes to the engineering facilities, such as levees and dams of any other types. I want to show the actions of young architects aimed at revitalization of the riversides.

The location of areas on the border river-the city of Nysa, covered by the studies is presented in the following figure (Fig. 2.).
Fig. 2. The locations of the developing areas in Nysa. Source: Author

ACADEMIC LIBRARY ON THE NYSA KŁODZKA RIVER IN NYSA (Diploma work. Author Oliwia Maciejewska. Promoter PhD Konrad Dobrowolski, architect, 2006–2007).

The effect of study is the project of the Academic Library in Nysa located between Kornel Ujejski Street and the Nysa Kłodzka river. The scope of this work includes a four-storey library building and land development around it.

The main idea was to create a stand-alone library building, arising from the needs of the fast expanding Nysa's University. Currently academic library in Nysa is located in the main building of college and takes 2 rooms on top floor. Over the years, it is opening more and more departments and specializations, and students in increasing numbers are coming to the town. The size of the current library becomes insufficient, which led to the idea for the design of isolated Academic Library building, which would have extensive reading rooms with free access to volumes, internet café, an exhibition hall, rooms for formal and informal meeting, kitchenette, etc. The object could be located in a short distance from each university's building and dormitory. It should be situated on the left side of the Nysa Kłodzka River (Fig. 3.).
Fig. 3. Analysis, conceptions, and final design – part of the diploma work. Source: Author

Buildings designed on the bank of the Nysa Kłodzka river have to refer to the historical aspects of the fortress in Nysa. A huge amount of the fortifications, located inside and outside of the city, was the inspiration for both: the shape of the building and the name of the complex. Shapes and scale of the proposed facilities are to remind the atmosphere, we can find inside of the fortifications.

The aim was to create buildings that are inscribed in nature, the landscape surrounding them. As the projected area of land adjacent to the City Park and the valley of the Nysa Kłodzka river, the idea was to design organic form object, which had to visualize facades of natural wood and green roofs. At the same time due to the features of the buildings, they have to attract the eye and interest. For this reason, buildings are irregular in plan, with unconventional shape. The elements that return these are also "tunnels" over the main pedestrian trails. Their goal is to select the main pedestrian ways and break blocks of the buildings (Fig. 4.).

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The main point of the discussion how to develop this part of the Nysa city was to design a space that does not exist so far from the city space, where the environment would be contacted with two groups of the artists: on one hand – painters, sculptors and graphics, and on the other hand – jazz musicians. Nysa doesn't have some kind of gallery connected to a jazz club. A place where it is possible to organize exhibitions and other cultural events now, is the Museum of Nysa.
The building would be of a simple form, with the scale referring to the size of deciduous trees growing in the park, with features retained with atypical functions that stand out in their modern shape, while well fitted into the surrounding landscape. The main idea was to incorporate the concept of the existing walking paths and creating environment – friendly nature. Object that raised the aesthetic conditions of the space, increased the attractiveness of the city, as well as by applying the elements of the facades commonly associated with nature – would not ruin existing balance of space. The "colors of the earth", accepted as crucial for the facades in a perfect way would minimize the impact of the new structure on the stability of the place.

Large windows in the two side elevations and "square" cross-section of the building alluded to amplify the section of the river – cross the trough of flowing water in it (Fig. 5.).

**Fig. 5.** Analysis, conceptions, and final design – part of the diploma work. Source: Author

**MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPORT CENTER IN NYSA** (Diploma work. Author Bartłomiej Chruściel. Promoter PhD Konrad Dobrowolski, architect, 2008–2009).

The aim was to create the body of the building, which stands out its modern shape with the surrounding architecture, at the same time associated with unique recreational function. This would be the second, after the Amsterdam features, building with all year snow round half-pipe. The main conceptual thinking was entered in the existing walkways, creating a distinctive form of the object being a counterweight to monotonous urban situation in this part of Nysa. Transparency of the object obscures the border between the building and the exterior. From the outside we can see in what functions it bears and what takes place at a time. Through the use of glass in the facade, the building seems to be blue, and night becomes to the luminescent dominant. Internal functions are covered with an independent glass dome (Fig. 6.).
CENTRE "MARINA" ON THE NYSÁ KŁODZKA RIVER IN NYSÁ (Diploma work. Author Agata Deska. Promoter PhD Konrad Dobrowolski, architect, 2010–2011).

The main objectives of the project was the development of the Nysa Kłodzka riverside. It was possible thanks to the design of the hotel facilities with the center of water sports called city's marina.

It is proposed to develop object that well fit to the area. From the beginning it was a design rather to blend in with the existing landscape, than dominate over it.

The outcome turned out to be two buildings with land development around them, because of their function located almost directly on the river. From all the presented examples, it is the farthest trial to "input" the developing substance to the river, where the costs of this were to design a floating building. This choice gives opportunity to minimize possible damage caused by the flooding. In addition, this move into the river shows some natural opening combined with newly designed object and ecological corridor of the river. Undoubted cost of these activities proved to be
the price of knowledge and application of new possibilities of construction and general engineering (Fig. 7, 8).

**Fig. 7.** Conception – urban context – part of the diploma work. Source: Author

**Fig. 8.** Elevations, and visualization of the design – part of the diploma work. Source: Author
Conclusions

Trying to close into a common frameworks presented examples of the riversides developing, it is clear that from the doctrinal point of view, under promotion there should be designed a compact city model, mainly growing through the compaction revitalization, understood as a set of actions lead to the renewal of the urban areas. These areas are in crisis now or as suboptimally developed land, in accordance with the idea of territorial cohesion and smart growth, resulting in a significant increase of the Habitat (defined as a place to live in all its aspects) primarily within the existing urban areas. Riverside areas are ideal to meet these requirements for maintaining sustainable development and their particular focus on the protection of ecosystems.

As it is shown in both the history of urban planning and voices in the currently ongoing discussion on the development of urban areas along the rivers, the different stakeholders present different views and further variable, not only in substance but also in a time. What several principles are consistent to: these are areas with significant, "town-built" potential, mostly located in the inner-city area, defined for different urban functions, with a rich heritage for the use and even more poorly diagnosed and specified future.

It is worth to use already existing potential, which even in the form of conceptual work of a similar level of implementation, as presented in this work could become a means for the development of these areas.

List of literature