Dissertation title:

MODERN TRANSFORMATIONS OF HISTORICAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, AND THE PRESERVATION OF SELECTED CULTURAL VALUES. ANALYSIS BASED ON THE EXAMPLE

OF THE CITY OF BYDGOSZCZ

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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Historic industrial complexes, which survived in Poland in significant numbers until the period of political transition in 1989/90, underwent various transformations in subsequent years. Some of

them were demolished, others were adapted to new utilitarian functions, and in a few the production

continues. The changes introduced affected the preservation or loss of their cultural values in various

ways.

The work analyzes the contemporary transformation of historical industrial complexes in Poland,

focusing on changes in cultural values and analyzing what factors led to specific phenomena and their

effects. The main objectives of the work are to expand the knowledge of the transformation

of historical industrial complexes in the realities of the Polish free market economy and to investigate

the existence of relations between:

the characteristics of the historical industrial complex,

the manner of its transformation after 1990,

its preservation of cultural values after 1990.

An original research method was developed specifically for the purposes of the work. The

method is based on comparative statistical studies of a wide range of aspects. It forced an extensive

research work, including, among others, a thorough exploration of 46 industrial complexes, and in the

next step, comparing them with each other. The developed method allowed to obtain objective

research results and conclusions that can be applied in conservation practice.

The realization of the stated goals of the work is presented in eight chapters. The first three

provide an introduction to the research part. Chapter 1.2 discusses the problem of adapting

post-industrial buildings and complexes to new utility functions both in the historical context (section

1.2.1) and the most common problems arising in the implemented investments (section 1.2.2).

Chapter 1.3 illustrates the history of industrial development in Bydgoszcz, which was chosen as the

site for the study. The rationale for this choice is presented in Chapter 2, which details the scope and

objectives of the work. The introductory section closes with Chapter 3, which includes a literature review.

The following chapters formulate the research problem (Chapter 4) and discuss the research method adopted (Chapter 5). The method, created specifically for the research, involves a comparison of all historical industrial complexes in the study area that survived until 1990, and an analysis of their subsequent transformation. The research was carried out in two stages:

- identification of transformations of individual industrial complexes (Chapter 5.2 and Volume II - Appendix)
- comparison of data for all analyzed complexes using quantitative techniques (Chapter 5.3 and 6)

The results of the study are presented in the form of comparative tables, charts and graphs, which, along with a discussion, are included in Chapter 6. The relationship between the way complexes were transformed after 1990 and their preservation of cultural values during the same period was analyzed (Chapter 6.1). The relationship between the external conditions of the complexes (e.g., their location in the city) and their transformation with changes in cultural values after 1990 was examined (Chapter 6.2). And the internal characteristics of the complexes (e.g., their size) were analyzed looking for their relationship with spatial transformations and changes in the level of cultural values after 1990 (Section 6.3). The results of the research, presented in statistical form, were supplemented with descriptions of specific cases, which provide a more complete picture of the analyzed phenomena.

The next chapter attempts to identify the results of research most important from the point of view of conservation practice. Features of complexes subjected to various forms of transformation are summarized (Section 7.1), features predestinating the loss of cultural values are listed (7.2), and other insights that may influence the conduct of adaptation processes in historical industrial complexes are presented (Section 7.3).

The dissertation ends with Chapter 8, which verifies the hypotheses of the work and presents conclusions.

In addition, the dissertation includes Volume II - Appendix, which contains a catalog of valorization cards of historical industrial complexes, which are the first stage of the conducted research. The appendix also includes a detailed explanation of how the valorization cards were filled up.