



Exhibition Title:

„Gustav Oelsner – light, air, colour”

Date: 1st April – 31st May 2011

Conference title:

Living at a harbour
Ideals of Early Modernity and the Contemporary City

First part: „Gustav Oelsner - Architect of Altona/Hamburg and his times”

Second part: „Gdynia and Hamburg – housing issues in current urban planning of harbour cities”

Date: 1st -2nd April 2011

Exhibition&Conference Venue: Museum of Gdynia (www.muzeumgdynia.pl)

Conference Language: English/Polish (simultaneous translation will be provided)

Organisers:

WAPG Faculty of Architecture Gdansk University of Technology, HCU Hafencity University Hamburg, Gustav-Oelsner-Gesellschaft Hamburg, TUP Towarzystwo Urbanistów Polskich o/Gdansk (Society of Polish Town Planners, Gdansk Branch), City of Gdynia in cooperation with POIA Pomorska Okregowa Izba Architektow (Polish Chamber of Architects)

Scientific Committee:

Prof. dr hab. Romana Cielatkowska (WAPG)
Prof. dr hab. Sławomir Gzell (WAPW, KAiU PAN)
Prof. dr hab. Nina Juzwa (WAPSI, KAiU PAN)
Prof. dr hab. Mieczysław Kochanowski (WAPG, TUP o/Gdańsk)
Dr hab. Piotr Lorens (WAPG, TUP o/Gdańsk)
Prof. Dr Peter Michelis (HCU Hamburg, Gustav-Oelsner-Gesellschaft Hamburg)
Dr hab. Lucyna Nyka (WAPG)
Prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Paszkowski (ZUT, KAiU PAN)
Prof. dr hab. Jadwiga Roguska (WAPW)
Dr Gabriela Rembarz (WAPG, TUP o/Gdansk)

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Exhibition Curators: dr Bartosz Macikowski, dr Małgorzata Kostrzewska, Yordanos Asghedom

Under auspices of:

PAN Polish Academy of Science, Committee of Architecture and Urban Planning
PAN Polish Academy of Science, Committee of Spatial Development
PAN Commission of Spatial Planning of the Northern Poland
ICOMOS – International Council of Monuments and Sites (Polish Committee)

Co-financing:

Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S Hamburg, Körber Stiftung/Hamburg,
Polish – German Cooperation Foundation (Fundacja Wspolpracy Polsko-Niemieckiej),

Strategic sponsor: Petersen-Tegl/Denmark

Technical Secretary:

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Description of the event:

Exhibition concept:

Gustav Oelsner – German with Jewish roots, born in 1879 in Poznan (Poland). Graduate of the Berlin school of architecture, at the same time representing the reformers associated with the “Neues Bauens” movement and remaining under the strong influence of the Dutch movement “De Stijl”. Within the years 1904 and 1923 was practicing in Wroclaw (Low Silesia, Poland) and Katowice (Upper Silesia). His activities in Altona (Hamburg/Germany) were stopped in 1933 as he was expelled by Nazis. During his emigration in Istanbul (Turkey) Oelsner started to work as the university professor, at the same time being – until year 1949 – advisor of the local municipality in regard to issues of housing and planning. After the World War II Oelsner returned to Hamburg where he undertook the architectural assignments associated with the rebuilding and reshaping of Hamburg.

The exhibition presenting the works of Gustav Oelsner was created in Hamburg as the effect of cooperation between Hafencity Universität, Gustav Oelsner Gesellschaft and the Municipality of Altona (Hamburg). It presents the works of this Altona’s Architect in form of models, plans (copies of the original drawings) as well as historical and contemporary photographs. Presentation of this exhibition in Gdynia contributes to the on-going in the city discussion on the interwar modernistic architecture and its role in shaping the current city’s development strategy. Therefore, presentation of this exhibition can interestingly combine historical and present issues associated with the rules of housing development within the harbor cities.

Gustav Oelsner in-between the years 1924 and 1933 was holding the post of city architect (Stadtbaurat) of the independent municipality of Altona. This city, historically associated with the Kingdom of Denmark, has become a part of Hamburg in 1937. During the period of holding this office, the first joint urban development plan for both Hamburg and Altona was created. This was possible thanks to the friendship and cooperation between Oelsner and city architect of Hamburg, Fritz Schumacher, who was holding this post in-between the years 1909 and 1933.

Oelsner’s main goal was to improve the quality of housing conditions in the city of Altona, which at that time was perceived as dominated by industrial functions and – at the same time – of secondary importance in relation to the large harbor. Supporting the municipal housing, Oelsner was also working on the new architectural program for this type of development as well as on the improvement of the public space quality. After year 1923, during the period of the great inflation, despite the deep economic problems Oelsner managed to initiate creation of the first municipal housing company SAGA, which exist until today and at present administrates the management of more than 130.000 housing units within the area of entire city of Hamburg. Within the same period Oelsner – working together with the Mayor of Altona (Oberbürgermeister) Max Bauer – concluded the process of purchase by the municipality of 7 large park areas. These areas constituted the basis for development of the vast, public green areas, which provide many excellent view points allowing the visitors to see the magnificent vistas of the Hamburg harbor. Both of these project are still important for the further development of Hamburg and Altona.

Concept of the conference:

The conference has been proposed as the event associated with the opening of the exhibition devoted to the Gustav Oelsner’s achievements. The historical session focusing on ideals of Oelsner representative for the whole generation of architects active in period of Modernity beginnings, will be confronted with the contemporary city and today priorities which are influencing the urban planning decisions.

The main goal of the conference is to present and compare the development tendencies of two urban agglomerations: Altona – Hamburg and Gdansk – Gdynia. Both can be regarded as developing maritime metropolitan centers. In this context the key part of the discussion will be devoted to housing issues, as it has to be regarded the most important aspect of urban development of both agglomerations. In order to deepen the understanding of the characteristics of today on-going spatial changes in Gdynia and Hamburg a few case studies presenting other harbor cities, like Gdansk and Szczecin (Poland), Istanbul and Izmir (Turkey) and Lisbon (Portugal), will be included within the conference program. In all of these cases the special attention will be given to the waterfront areas, being currently abandoned by previous harbor and industrial functions, as one of the key challenges for development and implementation of the strategies of “compact cities” and the image of the modern economic development. “Living in the harbor”, which once was perceived as the worst possible address, now

becomes the symbol of the social prestige. Therefore, this phenomenon requires deeper reflection as well as proper scientific analysis.

The questions that should be asked include:

- What is the present quality of housing environment within the harbor cities?
- Are the presently developed housing projects – including the ones having the harbor view – reserved only for the financial elite?
- What are the chances for regeneration of the historic, located within the close vicinity to the harbor areas, social housing estates?
- What role within the process of improving the housing environment of the harbor areas plays the issue of the waterfront public space quality?
- To what extent the ideas of Oelsner and city officials of His times are still valid and important for contemporary city dwellers?
- What is the contemporary perception in Poland and Germany of the civilization achievements from before the century – namely open for all public space, development of the city green areas systems, long-lasting values of the social housing and infrastructure? What elements shall be added to this list and why?

The first day of the conference – the historic session – will be devoted to the Gustav Oelsner and presentation of the actions undertaken during times of his activity. The intention of this part of the conference program is to constitute the framework and introduction to the present development problems. It should help in answering the question to what extent Oelsner's ideas and his municipal employers are still on the agenda of present municipal leaders.

The program of the second day of the conference should help in answering the question how the architectural and urban development achievements from before the century – including development of the available to everyone public spaces, municipal green areas and new architectural qualities of the social housing and public infrastructure – are at present perceived in Poland and Germany. At the same time it should help in identifying new issues and ideas that should be added to the described above set as a part of the contemporary urban planning and development agenda. All of these questions and topics shall be considered as the starting point for the conference discussion and for formulating the conclusions applicable for many contemporary cities, not only for Hamburg and Gdynia.

Media Patronage:



Organizational matters:

Conference fee: 500 PLN

(preconference bus tour, conference participation, conference materials, lunch and coffee breaks during the conference sessions)

Accommodation:

Hotel recommendation: a number of the rooms for the conference participants were pre-booked at the Hotel Gdynia, which is within the walking distance from the conference venue.

www.accorhotels.com/pl/hotel-3417-hotel-orbis-gdynia/index.shtml#

Arrival to Gdynia: a number of the international connections, including numerous services to Munich, Frankfurt, Copenhagen and Warsaw, is offered at the Gdansk Lech Walesa Airport (GDN), from which the bus and taxi transfers to Gdynia are possible. Estimated taxi cost: approx. 10 Euro from the airport to Gdynia centre.

Paper Publication:

Conference papers (all presented) will be published in a special post-conference book

In the same time some of chosen presented papers will be published within the "Architecture and Urbanism Quarterly"

Formal expectations regarding text and illustrations for the publication:

- **text** - font Times New Roman 12 points. Line spacing - 1.5; margins 2.5 cm on each side (30 lines of approximately 60 characters), in A4 format, quotations in text in non-italic quotation marks.
- **text** - without inserted illustrations, references to illustrations in the text, separated paragraphs
- **notes** - in the following form:
 - initial of the name, surname of the author (non-italic) and title of the work (italics) mentioned for the first time, place of publishing in the original language, year of publishing, page (p.)
 - when referring to articles in magazines - title of the article in italics, title of the magazine non-italic and in quotation, volume, year, number, page (p.)
 - when referring again to the work (article) - initial of the name, surname and op. cit.
 - when referring to several works (articles) of the same author - the surname followed by the beginning of the title ..., page (p.)
 - when referring to archival sources - giving the name of the archive (and abbreviations), name of the team (and abbreviation), catalogue numbers, card numbers; when referring again to the same source - abbreviations of names and the catalogue numbers
 - Russian surnames and titles should be given in transliteration
- **list of illustrations** with the source of these illustrations according to the same rules as to notes (in Polish and English languages)
- **summary**
- **information about the author** - name and surname, title/scientific degree, name and address of the scientific unit.

ILLUSTRATIONS

photography (own or with copyright) described (consecutive number and description), name and surname of the author, digital version (format *.jpg, resolution - required 300 dpi) together with printout. Visuals with inserted text

drawings, prepared in the same manner, required to provide with line scale and north direction if not in line with the illustration layout

In reference to illustration it is necessary to provide the name of the author or permit of a publishing house, if the illustration is a copy of a publication "younger" than 70 years.

Conference Programme:

Introductory Day (31st of March 2010 – Thursday) – side event:

9.00 – 16.00

Bus tour around Tri –City Agglomeration with presentation of key problems areas and prestige project build in last five years.

17.30 -19.30

Meeting at POIA Polish Chamber of Architects (presentations):

„Brick in contemporary architecture of North Europe”

1. Tradition of brick architecture in northern part of Europe and its contemporary continuation - Dr Bartosz Macikowski
2. Colour and Texture - Oelsner's frontages – Prof. dr Peter Michelis
3. Clinker and Brick in Hafencity - presentation of Design Studio Sprengler&Wiescholek/Hamburg
4. Brick from Denmark in new architecture of Copenhagen – presentation of Petersen-Tegl Firm

(Common dinner for speakers in Gdansk Old City)

First Day (01st of April 2010 - Friday)

„Gustav Oelsner - Architect of Altona and his times”

9.00 – 10.00 participants registration, coffee and tea

10.00 – 11.00 official conference opening - dr Gabriela Rembarz

- Words of welcome – President of Gdynia Wojciech Szczurek (15 min)
- Heritage and contemporary city - Dr Zigfried Enders ICOMOS (20 min)
- Forward harbour city metropolis: Gdansk/Gdynia i Hamburg/Altona - dr hab. Piotr Lorens WAPG (20 min)

11.00 – 13.00 first session – Chairman: Prof. Jadwiga Roguska WAPW

„Altona's Architect - Gustav Oelsner life and work”

- Gustav Oelsner social aware City Architect”
Prof. Dr Peter Michelis Gustav-Oelsner-Gesellschaft (40min)
- Altona's Architect - Gustav Oelsner at the background of his times
Dr Jan Lubitz Gustav-Oelsner-Gesellschaft (20min)
- Oelsners' Houses: brick, colour and texture,
Dr Bartosz Macikowski , Dr Małgorzata Kostrzewska WAPG, Yordanos Asghedom HCU– Exhibition Curator

Official opening of the exhibition (20 min)

Dr.-Ing. Walter Pelka, President of Hafencity University Hamburg

Prof. dr hab. Henryk Krawczyk, President of Gdansk University of Technology

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 18.30 second session – Chairman: Prof. dr P. Michelis HCU/Hamburg

„Far from Altona”

- City of Poznan in early Modernism times - Adam Nadolny WAPP (15 min)
- Gustav Oelsner and Modernism in Wrocław / Lower Silesia
Dr Agnieszka Gryglewska Wrocław University of Technology (20min)
- Architecture of Katowice/Upper Silesia in times of Gustav Oelsner
Dr Ryszard Nakonieczny Silesian University of Technology (20min)
- Transfer of European modernism – Gustav Oelsner's activity in Istanbul/Turkey (will be confirmed) (20min)

Coffee break

- “Modernisations” culture of interwar times - Dr Andrzej Szczerski Jagiellonian University Cracow (20 min)
- Modernism of the interwar period in Gdynia at the background of achievements in Central-East Europe
Prof. Dr hab. Romana Cielatkowska WAPG (20min)
- Modernism in Warszawa - Prof. Jadwiga Roguska WAPW (20 min)

• Modernism in Szczecin - Ryszard Dobrowolski WAPG (15 min)

Discussion

Glass of wine and evening reception

Second Day (2nd April 2010 – Saturday):

Gdynia and Hamburg – housing issues in current urban planning of harbour cities

9.30 conference session opening – words of welcome – dr Gabriela Rembarz

- Gdynia – modern city born “from sea water and dreams” Dr Marek Stepa, Vice President City of Gdynia (20min)

10.00 -11.30 third session: – Chairman: Prof. Dirk Schubert HCU/Hamburg

Modern city centres at the waterfront

- Modern heart of harbour’s metropolis - Hamburg Hafencity Dr Jörn Walter, Bausenator Hamburg (30 min)
- Gdynia modern development of the city centre on post harbour areas
Dr Marek Karzyński, Director of BPP Gdynia City Urban Planning Office (20min)
- „Line of Pearls” waterfront along Elbe River (20min) – Architects Sprengler&Wiescholek/Hamburg (20min)

Discussion

Coffee break

12.00 - 13.45 fourth session - Chairman: Prof. dr. Aykut Karaman TR Mimar Sinan Istanbul

Co-existence of housing and harbour active zones

- Revitalisation or/and reurbanisation of existing housing districts – dr Gabriela Rembarz WAPG (15 min)
- „Spring over the Elbe River” and “with 80 gardens around the world”- Hamburg Wilhelmsburg IBA and IGS 2013 (international building exhibition&international garden exhibition) - Dr Jörn Walter, Bausenator Hamburg (30min)
- Ressourcen Effectiveness in Architecture and Planning on example from Hamburg - prof. dr Wolfgang Willkomm HCU (20 min)
- On the other side of Vistula River – developments in Harbour of Praga in Warsaw
Prof. dr hab. Slawomir Gzell WAPW (20 min)

Discussion

Lunch

15.00 -17.00 fifth session - Chairman: Prof. dr Wolfgang Willkomm HCU

Actually trends in creation of harbour city waterfronts

- Development of post-harbour areas in Szczecin,
Prof. dr. hab. Zbigniew Paszkowski (WAPSz, KUiA PAN), (20 min)
- New housing areas at Motława River in the context of the waterfront redevelopment process in Gdansk
Dr hab. Piotr Lorens (20 min)

Coffee break

- Housing projects at the Lisbon waterfront – Prof. dr Sofia Morgado University of Technology Lisbon (20 min)
- Istanbul/ Turkey waterfront transformation strategy in a context of European research results
Prof. dr. Aykut Karaman TR Mimar Sinan Istanbul (20 min)
- Housing in new waterfront development projects of Izmir/Turkey – Dr. Sebnem Gokcen Dunder DEU Izmir (20 min)

17.00 Discussion and closing of the conference