



## The INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD

### Cities' public spaces

Introduction to fieldwork



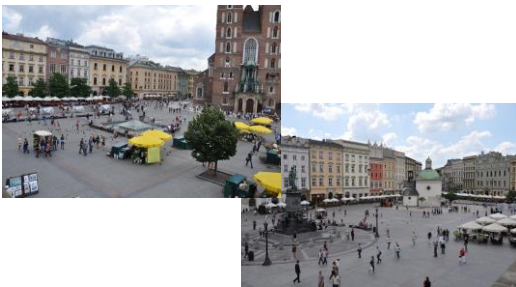
### The structure of the presentation

- Do we need public spaces?
- Organizations and awards for public spaces
- Definition
- Classifications of public spaces
- Planning and evaluating the public spaces
- Greenery in cities
  - a short look at history
  - present forms of green areas on Kraków's examples
- Green public spaces in Kraków and world cities
- Results of a survey on green spaces
- How to start a planning process

Photos if not stated are taken by the author or are private photographs



### Kraków's Main Square



### Do we need public spaces?



Kraków's Main Square in the thirties

[www.andovis.nac.gov.pl/obraz/91632:1](http://www.andovis.nac.gov.pl/obraz/91632:1)



Galeria Krakowska

....once a necessity

.... today an option



### Do we need public spaces?



Melbourne

Tra Vinh

Lyon

Kraków

Well planned public spaces provide the balance to the need for privacy and isolation. Public spaces should attract and accumulate varied social groups, develop tolerance but also build the identity.



### World organizations



<http://www.pps.org/>

Starting in 1975 the organization Project for Public Spaces became the advisory institution dealing with public spaces, initially in the USA. However, its activity is now expanded also to Europe.

From the beginning there have been over 3 thousand projects in all USA states and 45 countries abroad. The mission of the organisation is to help to create and sustain vital public places highlighting local assets and serve common needs.



## World organizations



Photo by P.Murda

The concept of development of public spaces was formulated in Barcelona in 1980 and later included in the city development policy. In 1999 the exhibition on different public spaces was prepared by the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona and the Institute Français d'Architecture.

**Kraków**  
STOWARZYSZENIE  
ARCHITEKTURY  
KRAJOBRAZU  
10 lat  
Association of Landscape Architecture



## Awards for public spaces



Photo: Michel Desvigne Paysagiste MDP

Elche

<http://www.publicspace.org/en/prize/rules/2014>

Photo: Jesús Granada

In 2000 the prize for the best public space in Europe was established by the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona



## Awards for public spaces



[www.umig.busko.pl](http://www.umig.busko.pl)  
[www.a-ronet.pl](http://www.a-ronet.pl)

Project: Nova studio

**Busko Zdrój**



Busko Zdrój was the winner in the Polish award for the best public space in 2013.



## Awards for public spaces



**Szczecinek**

Photo by M.Wik  
<http://www.szczecinek.pl>

Szczecinek was the winner of the Polish award for the best public green space in 2013.



## To understand what a public space is ...

Coming from those two words :

space

public – common, open for everybody, not private, social, official, for all

The word "public" implies that a space is owned by the community or the government and is used by the public, the people. That is to say, everyone has the right to access a public space no matter their age, gender and social status. In a public space, people can meet other people and debate issues.

There are two basic attributes of the public space and these are:

- in contrast to private space, public space is an open place within a city, open for a public and used commonly
- these are places belonging to everybody, to a city society



## To understand what a public space is ...



The contemporary rules of the European city planning refer to *The New Charter of Athens* and the *Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities* (2007).

Not only the international documents refer to the city public space but also many international city movements (such as *Cittaslow* for example).



### To understand what a public space is ...

Polish planners confirmed *The Charter of Public Space* in 2009. *The Charter* states that a public space is:

Public space is defined in terms of socio-economic conditions. It is understood as a good/property used commonly, available to everyone on an equal rules, deliberately shaped in accordance with the social principles and values to satisfy the needs of the local and regional community, this is the place of direct contacts, meetings, it is the common good of cultural value. Public spaces determine the identity of the city. The public nature of space is determined by a common way it is used.



### Classification



Ceremonial model by Iveson, 1998



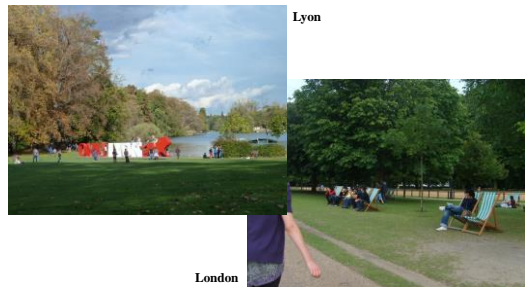
### Classification



Community model by Iveson, 1998



### Classification



Liberal model by Iveson, 1998



### Classification



Multi-public model by Iveson, 1998



### Classification

Some classifications tend to pay attention to the ownership  
Other classification gives two types of spaces: with the tendency to be closed (e.g. administration space) and open spaces (e.g. streets, parks).  
Another one similarly distinguish inside and outside buildings areas.

There is also the classification showing the location of public spaces within the city: in the city centre (such as the former agora, forum or Polish rynek) and the peripheral ones (such as parks, recreation centres or a stadium).  
Other classifications define old spaces, revitalised historical places and newly created public spaces.

On the basis of Barcelona, Gehl notes interesting types of public spaces: "stone rooms" places of meetings, small green spaces, recreational areas, new parks, promenades, streets for pedestrians and „where the city meets water”.



### Classification

A Polish architect Katarzyna Pluta in her book on *Public Spaces of European cities, urban planning* (Pluta, 2012) defines five types of public spaces:

1. Regions and areas including city centres, areas inside housing estates, green areas, public spaces created on former industrial areas
2. Borders and edges along former railway lines or associated with water
3. Roads and passages with the priority for pedestrians
4. Central places and junctions – places associated with transport
5. Characteristic places and dominants such as sacred spaces and memorials



### Classification



Prague

The web page of Project for Public Spaces Organization presents simple types of public spaces. These are: **public markets** .....



### Classification



Bordeaux

... streets and transits

waterfronts

Dresden



### Classification



Tokyo

public buildings

campuses

Çanakkale



### Classification



New York

downtowns

squares and parks

Ho Chi Minh



### Classification

### Semi-public space



Warsaw

[www.mieszkam.gratka.pl](http://www.mieszkam.gratka.pl)

Kyoto

In evaluating public space, we need to answer to what extent it is of a high quality, if it is innovative, **to what extent it is public** and whether it solves current city's and society's problems.





## Classification Public Spaces Users

In urban areas public spaces are declared as public spaces for a purpose. A few have limits on their use, but many (like the Stare Miasto in Kraków) are used differently by different people at various times of the day, week or year. We can find children feeding pigeons, adults shopping, tourists enjoying the sights, students clubbing until the early hours or even elderly people resting.

The users of the public space can be than classified by:  
 - the purpose of their visit (e.g. shopping, education, recreation, meetings, sightseeing)  
 - socio-demographic characteristics (sex and age, occupation etc.)

Such classification would require detailed survey and observation.

When 'planners' look at plans for new or re-developed public spaces, they often have a 'purpose' concept and a user profile in mind. The more multiple purposes the proposal offers and the more users it can attract the more successful it will be.



## How should public spaces be planned

The Polish Charter for public spaces gives eight rules for organizing and using them:

1. Maximization of the city value and city real estate by creating public spaces of high value
2. Complex local planning is based on results of architecture and urbanism competitions
3. Social participation in planning
4. Protection of cultural heritage
5. Balance between creation of new public spaces and revitalised old historical areas
6. Equitable access to the public space and minimization of conflicts
7. Shaping public spaces that integrate social groups with respect for their different needs and value systems
8. Active usage of public spaces also during local events



## How to evaluate



Source: PPS

When evaluating public places, geographers deal with understanding human behaviour, capacities that are possible for creating spaces and the prospects for future use. The diagram will help us to check to what extent the place we have in mind is well planned.



## Greenery in cities

## Glance at history



Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Martin van Heemsk

The role of the green spaces in a city has been evaluated in history. Starting with the ancient city, the example of the legendary gardens of Babylon in the Mesopotamia could be given (Hodor, 2012). Residential gardens in Mesopotamia and Egypt were located inside the richest houses, greenery was also associated with the temples. In ancient Egypt next to palaces and residential greenery the open parks and city bamboo gardens were established.



## Greenery in cities

## Glance at history



Toulouse



Siena

In ancient Rome and Greece the greenery was of the symbolic value (sacred groves) as well as usable (Latin Peristilium) and ornamental in public spaces. In medieval cities the greenery was limited to areas inside monasteries, castles and residents or to open area located behind the city walls dedicated to inhabitants.



## Greenery in cities

## Glance at history



Wawel Castle

wawel.krakow.pl/pl/op/160/Trasa-Ogrodek-Krolewski  
 Photo by K. Zolciak

Renaissance gives the development of residential gardens next to the kings, princes', bishops palaces. The gardens became places for elites. They could also be used for herbs, vegetable growing or decoration. The example can be the small garden dating back to 16<sup>th</sup> century at Wawel Castle in Krakow. The other type of gardens dating back to Renaissance are botanic gardens, which were to help natural science development.



**Greenery in cities**

**Glance at history**



Jagiellonian University Botanic Garden

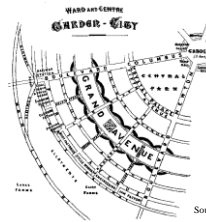


Baroque ideas of cities were strongly related to greenery. The most important types of gardens of that time were public gardens including botanic gardens, cities' squares, private gardens opened to public and monasteries' gardens. Greenery was added to existing markets, roads and avenues. Kings' gardens were of extraordinary beauty.



**Greenery in cities**

**Glance at history**



Source: <http://scodpub.wordpress.com/2011/03/01/garden-cities-by-ebenezer-howard>

The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are very dynamic in terms of technical, economic and social changes. As far as greenery is concerned, new concepts of Howard's garden city emerged; visionary ideas of the green areas are clearly visible at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



**Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples**



**Park Krakowski**  
In 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries **public parks** were characteristic for all bigger cities and became the planned element in the city planning.

**Social parks** were popular (with concert halls, coffee bars etc.)



Planty

**Green belts** arose in place of former city walls or a moat.



**Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples**



**Cmentarz Rakowicki**  
**Cemeteries**



Lasek Wolski

[www.zoo-krakow.pl](http://www.zoo-krakow.pl)

**Suburban parks** often using natural forest resources have been constructed.

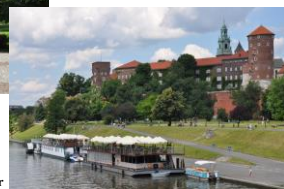


**Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples**



**Park św. Wincentego**

**Squares**



**River banks/ boulevards**

Wisla River



**Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples**



**Swoszowice health resort**

**Spa parks**



Lem Garden

**Didactic parks** (botanic and zoological gardens, ethnographic parks, exhibition gardens)



Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples



Nowa Huta

Parks in the neighbourhood of industrial plants as a **recreational buffer zone**



Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples



Nowa Huta  
**Greenery inside industry workers' housing estates**

**Gardens inside blocks of houses**

Osiedle Widok



Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples



**Playgrounds** with different attractions planned for different age children

Small gardens for cities/ inhabitants  
**Family gardens**



Greenery in cities The modern epoch Kraków examples



**Roof gardens**

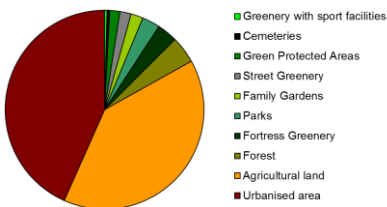
[www.kofykrakow.pl/wp/roof-gardens/](http://www.kofykrakow.pl/wp/roof-gardens/)

Former city mill

**Gardens in front of villas**



Land use structure in Kraków in 2012

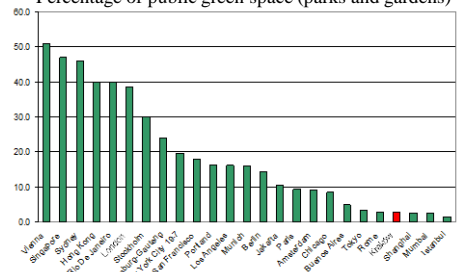


Source: author's based on *Raport o stanie miasta*, 2012



Green public spaces in Kraków and world cities

Percentage of public green space (parks and gardens)



Source: Author's based on: [www.worldcitiescultureforum.com](http://www.worldcitiescultureforum.com)  
*Raport o stanie miasta*, Kraków, 2012



## Results of a survey on green spaces

People's contact with green spaces is decreasing, for many of us the contact with nature is more of a luxury than a necessity.

Having that in mind, together with the fact that the majority of people are living in the city, increasing number of research projects suggest that people need more green in everyday life.

There was a survey of 4676 respondents in 2013 in 9 countries: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden and USA. The survey is conducted annually by the Husgvarna Group.

The results show that:

- 89% consider access to green spaces a human right
- 2/3 believe that visiting and interacting with green contributes to the quality of life,
  - nature contributes to the person's happiness according to 61%,
  - plants and green for 44%
  - the contribution to family life is 84%
  - work makes 33% of respondents happy

The very detailed answers to the survey show how important green space is.



## Importance of green spaces



Demonstration in support of maintaining green area of Zakrzówek

Photo by Marcin Szczadło  
<http://krk.fm/protest-przed-magistram-w-obronie-zielonego-zakrzowka>



## How to start a planning process

The Power of 10 is a concept PPS uses to start off a placemaking process.

At the core of the Power of 10 is the idea that any great place needs to offer at least 10 things to do or 10 reasons to be there.

These could include a place to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet etc.

**The question remains open; how do we improve Kraków's public spaces so they can serve both inhabitants and tourists?**



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Thank you for your attention

Good luck!

