

SUMMARY

Rybnik was founded in the middle ages as a small, peripherally located town and was growing very slowly till XIX century, when this process has accelerated. Until the beginning of 20th century the development of town was chaotic. In order to organize it, more urban planes were made. Their significant number resulted mainly from changes in nationality which each time transformed social and, above all, economic conditions. Noteworthy is the plan from 1913, which after only nine years replaced the typical technical layout of the city for the needs of the construction of the plumbing system. This change, considering only a partial implementation of the 1904 plan, can be seen as a manifestation of the city authorities' desire to create a wonderful space adequate to the ambitions of the upper and middle class *la belle époque*. Rational, functional, although perhaps a bit Rybnik, which stayed almost only on interwar paper, turned out to be repulsive to the new Nazi rulers. They imagined the city as sinking in greenery, filled with simple traditional buildings, with relatively few edifices on the main streets and squares intended for uniparty manifestations. The doubling of the population planned at that time resulted from the assumed development of mining and heavy industry and was still valid after the takeover of the area by Poland; but also communists in 1945. Almost the same economic model and similar totalitarian ideology resulted in similar urban solutions. However, such monumental spatial assumptions did not appear. Three years after „Thaw“ the General Plan was created in 1959, which maintaining a strong population growth, implemented it by joining neighbouring settlement units and intensifying downtown buildings. It obtained forms of socmodernism and due to relatively longest duration and enormous outlays on the construction of ROW (Rybnik's Coal Region), it changed the city's character the most. Based on this Plan, the big „West“ district was drawn and implemented (present „Nowiny“ district). The next General Plan was a work from 1975, the Detailed Plan of Downtown was made on its basis in next year, however, due to the economic collapse, their implementation can be assessed as partly, and the political transformations of 1989 ended this period in the history of Rybnik urban planning. The significant symbolic layer of architecture, each time reflecting the then policy, was discussed.

The process of creating a local urban environment is also noteworthy. The first plans were the work of designers from Halle and Berlin. In the 1930s, The Municipal Construction Office carried out a Partial Regulatory Plan, but Overall Plan was ordered in Katowice, where designers educated in Warsaw and Lviv worked. The occupier reached for a Viennese professor, and few years later (socialistic period) specialists from the fortified Katowice District were employed. Only the plans from 1975 and 1976 were created on the spot, and they were made mainly by architects born here, educated in Cracow and Gliwice. Since then, Rybnik has its own staff carrying out further orders.

Key worlds: city planning, architecture, cultural heritage, symbolic layer of architecture