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Doctoral thesis: The architectural work of Zbigniew Abrahamowicz.

Abstract

Zbigniew Abrahamowicz (1938-1990) remains one of the most prominent architects active in Szczecin, in post war period (1945-1989). His projects present a variety of themes (ranging from furniture, interiors, fountains, pavilions, through single-family houses of various types to public buildings such as hotels, churches and amphitheaters, as well as urban public spaces planning) and a rich repertoire of forms, demonstrating his talent and ease of use of architectural language. His professional activity over the years left a strong and lasting mark on built environment of Szczecin, but his work has not received a wider study.

This dissertation presents the figure and architectural work of Zbigniew Abrahamowicz, followed by multi-faceted analysis and interpretation of its elements in the context of selected aspects of history (local and global) and theory of architecture.

Particular emphasis was placed on the study of Abrahamowicz's work in the context of language of architecture (analysis of projects in terms of architectural form including architectural elements and composition with regard to proportions and the identification of characteristic motifs, themes from local and global architecture, which were influential on his architectural language were considered), phenomenology (the presence of elements of the *Pattern Language* of Ch. Alexander in Abrahamowicz's designs and buildings), critical regionalism (the presence of features characteristic of this trend, including adjustment to context and fusing local / traditional elements with global / universal influences). Attention was paid to the important issue of Abrahamowicz's attitude to post-German heritage and local building tradition. In the course of the research undertaken, the architectural elements that make Abrahamowicz's buildings a separate, original and recognizable group were identified, and the timeless values of Abrahamowicz's works were shown - his holistic and humanistic approach to design of built environment at any scale, resulting in architecture that is close to people, resonant with the existing urban fabric and sensitive to surrounding nature. This allowed to place work of this architect in the current of *the other tradition of modern architecture* and to confirm his pioneering, post-modern creative attitude, which was open to dialogue with the context and took into account more than just visual needs of humans.

The dissertation touches on the controversial subject of Abrahamowicz's combining position in building administration with the role of a designer acting on behalf of private investors. Furthermore attention was given to the topic of enriching architecture and public space with art, as an aspect that contributes to the value of architectural work, embedding it in local culture and social consciousness. In the conclusions the significance of Zbigniew Abrahamowicz's work was determined, along with an assessment of its innovativeness. The need to consider the protection of the most representative part of Abrahamowicz's architectural output was signaled. An interesting, additional element of the dissertation are maps of Zbigniew Abrahamowicz projects in Szczecin.

The main objective of the author was to conduct research, which would result in organizing existing and producing new knowledge of work of one of the most prominent architects active in Szczecin in the post-war era, to position it in the theory of architecture, as well as to methodically verify the previously expressed opinions about this architecture.

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