

## An innovative model of co-operation between university, local government and business in the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology

Krystyna Paprzyca

Cracow University of Technology  
Kraków, Poland

**ABSTRACT:** The integration of knowledge and practical experience is essential for the development and introduction of changes to improve the quality of centres in the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology in Kraków, Poland. It is crucial to support theoretical knowledge with the skills and practical interaction of local government and the business sector. An interdisciplinary team consisting of representatives of academia, local government and business, is undertaking creative and innovative tasks to elevate the quality of didactic work and to exchange skills among participants. The work in interdisciplinary teams teaches team co-operation, communication and creativity, as well as the addressing of disparate problems. Mutual activities include meetings in towns and the exchange of opinions among the academic, business and municipal communities. This encourages an openness to new knowledge, new tasks, specific information, and a readiness to learn further.

### INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology in Kraków, Poland, is one of the most progressive academic entities in Poland. It has recently increased its efforts to train world-class architects able to function in disparate and often challenging environments. Particular emphasis is being placed on the advancement of highly desirable practical skills and competences. Related to this, there are many activities and ventures that involve co-operation with local government and business enterprises. These endeavours are co-ordinated by the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Professor Jacek Gyurkovich and his team.

The co-operation of the Faculty with local government and business facilitates the realisation of a multitude of projects, and specifically one that is supported by European funds, entitled *Intended for Professional Success - Competences for Architects*. This project is presently carried out by final year students of the Faculty of Architecture.

#### Project Framework with Product Knowledge

The framework for the project includes lectures conducted by firms such as Norlys and Aluprof. These aim to instil the necessary knowledge connected with external lighting of public spaces and residential buildings; the use of glass elevation and knowledge of the firms' products. Students use the firms' products during their projects at grades I, II, III and IV, as well as in their final year theses (Pictures 1, 2, 3 and 4).



Pictures 1 and 2: A lecture conducted by Mr Leszek Kordek, President of Norlys, entitled *Light in Architecture* (November 2016 and March 2017). The team included Ms Adrianna Książek-Gregorczyk, Manager of Sales and Marketing and Ms Joanna Sarata, Assistant to the President (Photography: K. Paprzyca).



Pictures 3 and 4: A lecture by the firm Aluprof in April 2017. The team consisted of Ms Magdalena Kwiecień, Co-ordinator of Marketing; Aluprof's Mr Michał Marcinkowski, Design Specialist; and Aluprof's Mr Andrzej Chwastek, Vice Manager for Object Sales (Photography: K. Paprzyca).

#### Best Study Projects through Contests and Competitions

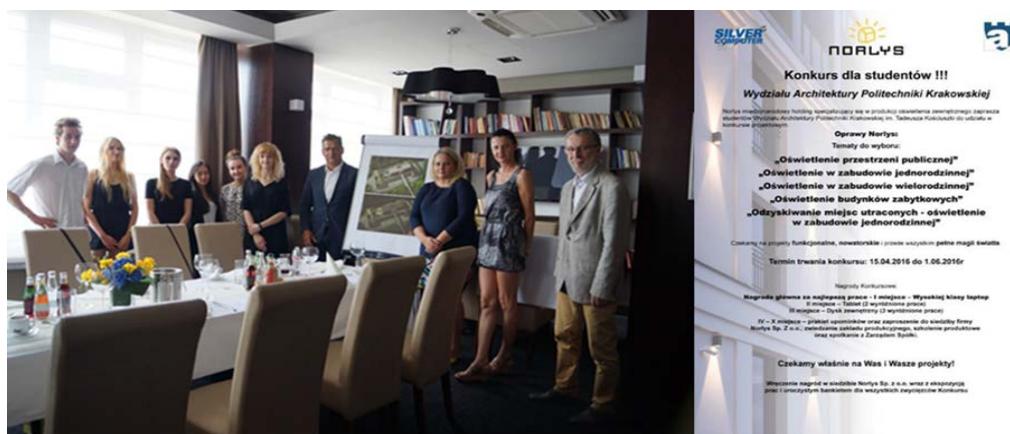
Business and local governments devise and conduct contests to identify the most interesting study project. In the 2016–17 academic year, the firm Wiśniowski organised a competition for students from the final year of architecture, which involved the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Jacek Gyurkovich and Prof. Mateusz Gyurkovich (Pictures 5 and 6 below).

The competition diplomas and prizes from Wiśniowski Ltd were presented at the function. The awardees' topics were site planning for the Różanowskie Lake and the recreational complex at the Różanowski Reservoir. The pictures feature Ms Krystyna Baran, CEO; Mr Wiesław Pióro, Head of Post Sales Support and Mr Jarosław Ptak, Creative Manager of Brand Image, all of Wiśniowski Ltd (Photography: K. Paprzyca).



Pictures 5 and 6: The awards presentations.

The Norlys Company also created a contest for students of architecture connected with the use of their products. Handing out the prizes and diplomas took place at the conclusion of the conference (Pictures 7 and 8).



Pictures 7 and 8: Persons involved in the Norlys competition for students of the Faculty of Architecture (Picture 7). Awards were made by the representatives of Norlys Company: the President of Norlys, Mr Leszek Kordek; and the Team, which included Ms Adrianna Książek-Gregorczyk, Manager of Sales and Marketing and Ms Joanna Sarata, Assistant to the President. Picture 8 shows a diploma (Photography: K. Paprzyca).

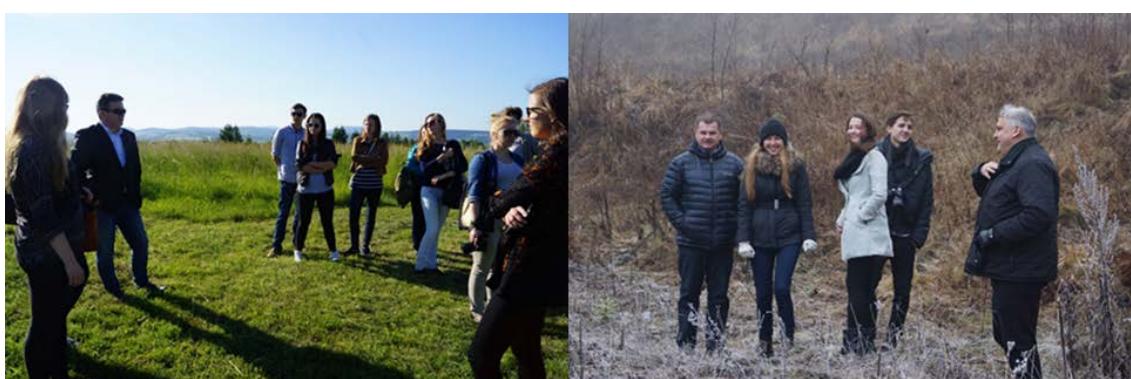
## CO-OPERATION WITH THE OŚWIĘCIM TOWN HALL

Co-operation between key groups at the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology enabled the preparation of the event entitled *Studies of Student's Concepts of Chosen Site Plans*. These include students' projects of site planning at Leszczyńska and Stolarska Streets in Oświęcim, which were the subject of theses. During the classes, which were called *Urban and architecture design of single-family housing*, led by Dr Krystyna Paprzyca and Mr Julian Franta in the academic year 2014–15, second year students prepared project studies connected with the following streets in Oświęcim: Strzelecka, Dabrowski and Nidecki (see Drawings 1, 2, 3 and 4, which are discussed later).

During the first stage, the students went to Oświęcim, met representatives of the Town Hall and saw the locations mentioned above. The students also visited the town and got to know the main buildings. At the Department of Architecture, during the review, the students presented their works to the representatives of the Town Hall, i.e. the President of the town, Mr Janusz Chwierut and the Investment Chief, Ms Magdalena Stapurewicz (Pictures 9 and 10).



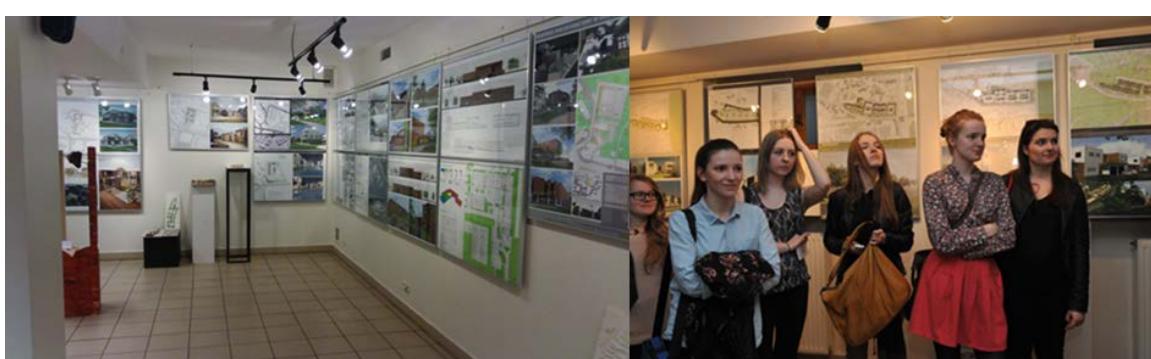
Pictures 9 and 10: A meeting with representatives of the Town Hall of Oświęcim, Mr Janusz Chwierut and Ms Magdalena Stapurewicz (Photography: K. Paprzycy).



Pictures 11 and 12: Meeting the representatives of local government and business of Nowy Sacz and Krynica (Photography: K. Paprzycy).

## Urban-architectural Designs Highlighted

The most interesting studies, urban-architectural creations, also connected with the town of Oświęcim, were presented at the periodic exhibition, *University–Local Government–Business* at Cracow University of Technology, in the Gallery Gil and the Gallery Kotłownia (Kraków, Warszawska Street 24) (Pictures 13, 14, 15 and 16).



Pictures 13 and 14: An exhibition of university, local government and business was held between 16 and 28 May 2017 at the Galley Gil and the Gallery Kotłownia (Photography: K. Paprzycy).



Pictures 15 and 16: An exhibition of university, local government and business was held between 16 and 28 May 2017 at the Galley Gil and the Gallery Kotłownia (Photography: K. Paprzycy).

Similar exhibitions were held in twin towns. Oświęcim held an exhibition in the public library in October 2015 with the projects presented on the town Web site. There was also a competition for town residents.

The town gave prizes for the works, as chosen by Town Hall representatives, bureaus and scholars (Pictures 17 and 18).



Pictures 17 and 18: Students' works exhibition at Oświęcim on October 2015 in the public library (Photography: K. Paprzycy).

#### RESULTS OF STUDENTS' PROJECTS

Students' projects for the town of Oświęcim are relevant to representatives of the town, counties, residents and businesses. They focus on the orderly development of towns and counties, including social activities and the economy. Where town locations were not planned, the students' projects provide an analysis of development potential and possible future investments. This may create the basis for business plans and profitable investments. The students' projects identify positive and negative aspects of particular locations. This can lead to revisions of plans. Drawing 1 provides an example.



Drawing 1: Students' concept for the town planning of Oświęcim, Stare Stawy. The students involved were: Ms Alicja Wąs and Ms Barbara Walas, year II, sem. 4, 2014-15. They were supervised by Dr hab. inż. arch. Krystyna Paprzycy and Mgr inż. arch. Julian Franta.

## Models and Solutions for Town Development

The students' project studies for the town of Oświęcim make it possible to create and analyse different models and architectural solutions for the town's development. In the process students can gain knowledge and experience through practice and interaction with a real world situation. Higher-level skills are developed by considering a variety of new putative situations. Young people with new and fresh outlooks, as well as being full of creative potential and the desire to change the world, can produce innovative concepts for towns, many of which face social and economic challenges.



Drawing (illustration) 2: Students' concept for site planning in Oświęcim, Stare Stawy. Students: Ms Alicja Wąs, Ms Barbara Walas, year II, sem. 4, 2014-15, supervised by Dr hab. inż. arch. Krystyna Paprzyca and Mgr inż. arch. Julian Franta.



Drawing 3: Students' concept for site planning in Oświęcim, Dąbrowskiego St. Student: Marta Salawa, year II sem. 4, 2014-15, led by Dr hab. inż. arch. Krystyna Paprzyca and Mgr inż. arch. Julian Franta.



Drawing 4: Students' concept for site planning in Oświęcim, Dąbrowskiego St. Student: Kinga Zemła, year II, sem. 4, 2014-15, supervised by Dr hab. inż. arch. Krystyna Paprzyca and Mgr inż. arch. Julian Franta.

## CONCLUSIONS

Partner projects in the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology in Kraków that involve local government and business are an important activity since the current educational system lacks a practical, real-world focus. In a competitive world of work, students who participate in the university, local government and business projects have the opportunity to understand the qualities of towns and gain valuable practical knowledge in town planning design and investment. Through these activities students gain theoretical and practical design skills.

Young people make a creative and innovative contribution as they have fresh ideas and new outlooks about town problems, determining how to use town assets in a wise and productive way. Further, the participation of students in an intensive co-operation opens up new possibilities and opportunities for all collaborating parties. Thanks to the students' studies, towns are empowered to change and become more efficient and vibrant environments.

## REFERENCES

1. Kobylarczyk, J. and Paprzyca, K., *Miejsce, Nie-miejsce Marca Augea*. Kraków: Politechnika Krakowska, 11-14 (2016) (in Polish).
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