Park's Moat Revitalization in Brzeg

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(Received in January, 2017; Accepted in April, 2017; Available Online from 8th of May, 2017)

Abstract
During the cultural revolution, in late 90th of XX century, in post-communist Poland the development of cultural facilities stopped. The degradation process of large spatial objects began. Failed privatizations showed that participants of the investment processes repeatedly did not have time to react to the work of nature in degradation context. The scale of biodegradable large spatial outdoor objects, remaining in constant contact with nature, brings the inevitability of vanishing.

In the case of Brzeg's city amphitheater, to collapse of this region famous cultural area, influenced democratic change of the XX century end.
The after Millenium effect, changes in the economy and market, style of lives, easiness of access to the multichannel TV and Internet media made, that residents of the Brzeg not found the energy and time to visit this culture-built place. The consequence of this situation was the complete degradation of the existing city's amphitheater.
The keynote of the presented in this work project was to break with this awareness and introduce the solution. Putting land into the hands of greenery, the idea is to create complex of the buildings staying in compliance with the nature laws and throwing new light on objects with this function in new Polish reality.

Key words: transformation, revitalization of the cultural object, city of Brzeg, city amphitheater, nature biodegradation.

Anotacija

Reikšminiai žodžiai: transformavimas, kultūrinio objekto atgaivinimas, Brzeg'o miestas, miesto amfiteatras, biodegradacija.

Introduction
Since 1935 started first works on the reconstruction of the city moat, to build in this place an amphitheater. This work was interrupted by the World War II and after its end, the Polish authorities tried to make the place more attractive and bring back to life. Brzeg's scene of the amphitheater was very active in the period 60-80 XX. There were held mass events organized by the city council. Using a natural decline of the terrain amphitheater provides the opportunity to watch everything on the stage for about 3,000 people and is one of the largest open-air facilities in Lower Silesia.

Amphitheatre experienced its ups and downs, here occurred the biggest stars of the PRL visiting Brzeg. Unfortunately, in the 90s of last century, forgotten and neglected slowly falling into ruin.

In 2007–2013, the city received from the almost 7 million zł EU grant for the revitalization of public spaces. To this money was added almost 5 million zł, and with this money were made repairs among all squares and streets in the old city center. Revitalization of the amphitheater is one of the main objectives to implement EU funds. Municipal authorities are trying to create guidelines and the design concepts.

The aim of this study is to create conception of amphitheater revitalization to new one combined with art gallery in Brzeg, preparing the foundation to talks about raising money for the potential realization.

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For the easy understanding of the research method, description has been attached by graphic material, whose job is to bring shown assumptions.

In the final section was drawn up a description of the architectural-urban solutions adopted and summary of the basic parameters of the object.

Development completed the presentation of its conclusions.

**Methods of research**

The main objective of the study is to give new thought-out and prosperous functions. Presentation moves both functional aspects as well as the form and construction. Connection of the three factors and makes them the symphony of the good solutions is the main goal of the study. Study was to:

- creating a coherent interior of the park's moat, a combination of the service buildings, amphitheater, art gallery and park in spite of separating their ways,
- attractive and revive both the development area and surrounding tissue,
- break with the old image of the area, while respect for existing buildings,
- remind to the Brzeg citizens about the aesthetic and cultural qualities of well known in the past scene of the amphitheater,
- continuation of the garden city ideas, which once had to be Brzeg,
- to add the areas of the city's moat to the post cultural zone, make full use of its attractiveness.

These activities are to make that a site will be attractive, to increase its value and importance in the scale of the city. This will also changes the quality of resident’s lives.

**Results**

In a sense the legal aspect to the limitation of the revitalization of the activities is lack of money for their adaptation to the new features, and, perhaps above all, a lack of vision. The size and location of the objects are often limitation in the actions of future investors or developers. Trying to make interested potential investors in the capabilities of these type areas and encourage them to similar initiatives arose from my participation in some interesting suggestions for revitalizing objects in this category. Here is presented a short presentation of these studies.

**Location. General characteristics of the Brzeg.** City Brzeg is located in the south – western part of Poland. Surface of the Brzeg’s municipalities is 14.6 km² and lies on the river Oder (Fig. 1).
Favorable geographical location, natural conditions and unique richness of the culture heritage and history of the region constitute a huge opportunity to the development of tourism in the city and surrounding area. It is the fourth largest city in the Opole region. A well-developed network of municipal roads within the administrative city's borders has a significant impact on its development. Attractiveness of the city and the surrounding area for visitors is owed to objects of high class monuments and wealth of natural areas (Fig. 2).

![Fig. 2. General view of the Brzeg – satellite photo with location of the amphitheater (red mark) (Source: googlemaps)](image)

The concept. Characteristics of the design solutions. The task is a combination of two zones, "open" park and "closed" theater. The combination will give a simple and interesting effect. The proposed concept of remodeling the amphitheater and park assumes ordering for the functions, increases the comfort for the users and creates new representative location within the main part of downtown.

The project waive from stereotypical architectural solutions used in the design of amphitheaters. General shape of the stage and the audience parts will be quite dynamic. Current view of the site is shown on the Fig. 3. Also, over the whole complex it will be installed roof, partly fixed and movable.

![Fig. 3. Current view of the amphitheatre. Summer 2016 (Source: Author)](image)

Part of the representative zone will be art gallery building, which will give specific possibilities of using this zone as recording studios or workshops, in and out of season. At the same time it will be the main communication hub leading to the amphitheater.
Revitalization of the green section will consist of a combination of art gallery building, amphitheater structure and the park space. For this purpose it will be designed foot and bicycle path, which will connect one of the main entrances to the park with the area of the amphitheater. In addition, arrangement of greenery and renewal of old water lake will give the whole a positive character. The project aims to create open space for all users, regardless of age groups. Inclusion in itself will be a relaxation, sports and cultural zone.

The area covered by the development of this part is a part of the city park containing the moat with water reservoir inside and area belonging to an amphitheatre. The parcel dedicated to art gallery building, parking and access road, are located in the northeast of the amphitheater. The whole area is located in the old city fortifications zone.

Fundamental importance of the project is the location, which embraces the area completely natural and at the same time because its location cutting the town for two partitions and identifies town relaxation and rest zone (Fig. 2).

Park is characterized by unclear division of functions and communication which limits the full use of its potential. Few alleys serve only possibilities to move the inhabitants, whereas the entire frame space is ignored by them.

After taking into account all analyzes, the history of the site and the technical data in project has indicated significant assumptions:

- adjustment of the form of the building to the environment - combined structure of the amphitheater complex to the park,
- use of natural conditions (decline of the area),
- use of new architectural solutions, technology,
- a design of the complex with a large number of functions, working not only in the seasons of spring and summer (Fig. 4),
- creating a new representative and user-friendly point around the main body of the downtown.

The idea. Inspirations. Solution design. General information and argumentation.

The idea is to create an urban – architectural foundation connected to the existing urban tissue (Fig. 5).

The characteristic elements of the greenery of the city are three parks: Park Nadodrzański, Park over the Moat and Central Park, which are located at the past fortifications site, surrounding the old town. Trying to enter the amphitheatre complex combined with an art gallery into the park's moat it was impossible without research of inspirations – objects maybe similar located and the same function leading.
The most obvious example for investigation was located nearby, in Opole (distance of 45 km between the cities) Millennium Amphitheatre. Amphitheatre was designed by Florian Jasieniowskiego (Fig. 6). It is one of the most important symbols of the Opole city. Since 1963, in the Opole Amphitheatre stage took place The National Polish Song Festival. In 2011 completed ground work of the reconstruction of the whole facility, which now has 3653 seats. The main foundation of the reconstruction was the best possible use of natural physiography and shaping the body of the building such a manner that it is the best fit to the environment. The architectural scale – the art gallery building. The functional program of the gallery is dominated by a single function – exposition. Moreover the art gallery is to create the "exit" to the entire complex, too – to merge it (Fig. 7).

Art gallery building is the link between the amphitheater and the city from the Bolesława Chrobrego Street side. Its form refers to the proposed shape of the auditorium (Fig. 8). The interior of the building, forming an open space in a very minimalist way. It has a large open exhibition spaces, zones of communication and technical rooms. Spaces such as toilets, storage, facilities, changing rooms were hidden inside designed tissue. An important element of the art gallery building design was a large difference of land (approximately 3 m), between the place of the
location of the amphitheater and the level of the road. Therefore, to maintain continuity of communication (steps unlimited) applied over the entire length building ramps (down 5 degrees), which is the place to presenting different kinds simultaneously exhibits a lead to the main exit of the building directly to the inside of the amphitheater.

The user is not limited of one communications line (via ramps). The project also provides the possibility of using space at level "0", where among other things, like cafeteria, exhibition hall, through which users of this space can get to the main exit (vertical communication – stairs). This allows visitors to move freely around the object.

Appearance of the building has been adapted to amphitheater object, despite the lack of connection between them, to create a compatible whole. Eastern elevation has been fully glazed to the statement of concrete columns to give the nature and thus ideally blend with the adjacent object.

**Fig. 8.** Visualization of the art gallery building (Designed by: arch. E. Chrząszcz)

**The urban scale – amphitheatre complex.** Urban and historical analysis and action on urban interior of the park's moat in some way imposed a form of the amphitheatre.

Amphitheater was divided into three zones, auditorium, stage and storage, connected to the access road (Fig. 9). The project provides 2,034 seats and its total area is 3242 m².

The building was protected by steel frames, which are also construction of the solid roof extending sectors of the auditorium. Moving part of the roof is designed over the entire length of the object, covering all sectors (Fig. 10).

Due to the current state of the object, it was decided about complete redesign of it as well as a deviation from the stereotypical architectural solutions. It was shared object into three zones: audience, stage and storage – servicing area.

Stage zone with storage area were separated structurally from the audience. It was on both sides roofed with steel frames, ranging all sectors. The whole of the roof was wrapped by steel reinforcements between framework, which was founded became translucent membrane. Steel ropes were suspended from the over the scene roof through the entire length of the complex. They were supported by steel beams (nodes) further reinforced. At the top of roof were designed the hydraulic cylinders to sliding the movable part of the roof (the membrane) to the stage. Thanks it gives the possibility of operation of the facility, regardless of the type of weather. In addition, shielding the audience with roofing system, it is possible to extend the work of the object all long year (protection against unfavorable conditions of the weather: rain, wind, etc.).
Fig. 9. Conceptual draft of the amphitheatre. Designed by: arch. E. Chrząszcz
Fig. 10. The development view of the roof over the auditorium (Design by arch. E. Chrząszcz)

Conclusions

Presented concept project gives new value to the post cultural zone development in Brzeg.

As it is shown in the functional diagrams, whole complex creates a common cell with the nature. It was possible to design form, which cannot exist without the surrounding park. As depicted it Fig. 1 it was separated to different functions, but each one is dependent on the other.

Its main purpose is to add spatial values by introducing new forms and functions staying in connection to the nature, which over time can become a symbolic place. The proposed infrastructure will also contribute to increase the number of visitors to this biologically and cultural active surfaces. Multi-functional part of this conception has been adapted so it's possible at any time to alter their functions and adapt to the needs of customers – especially zones of the art gallery.

Project of the art gallery with the city's amphitheatre could be a part of the built harmony in the Brzeg town, and is a very interesting solution for citizens, and tourist's development the town in the future.

List of literature