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Areas Adjacent to Jasna Gora and their Architectural and Landscape Value for Contemporary Pilgrimages

Malwina Tubielewicz-Michalczuk [1]

[1] Technical University of Częstochowa, 69 Dąbrowskiego Street, 42-200 Częstochowa, Poland

m.tubielewicz@onet.eu

Abstract. Subject of the paper is architecture and landscape architecture space of areas located in the vicinity of the Jasna Góra sanctuary. The research study spans the first seventeen years of the 21st century. The author in the study carries out analysis of the Błonia Park – a tract of greenery directly adjusted to Jasna Góra, a public space situated underneath the hill with the monastery. This place is the destination of pilgrims, tourists and residents of Częstochowa, whose ways are directed to Jasna Góra. The analysis also covers the revitalized areas of the Fr. Stanislaw Staszic Park and 3. Maja Park. In the study are presented historic objects located within the area with descriptions of their revitalization, small architecture and vegetation. Tabular summaries indicate the size of the current pilgrimage movement to the sanctuary being registered from the beginning of the twenty-first century to the present. The work contains planimetric and topographic maps of the analyzed areas, photographs, pilgrimage traffic tables and references.

1. Introduction

Due to the historical, artistic and original value of the complex, as well as, because of its social and cultural attributes, the Jasna Góra Monastery, together with Błonia and Jasna Góra Parks were in 1994 considered as a historic monument [1]. In the 21st century, the monuments situated in Błonia were renovated, the park areas were revitalized and museum objects were renovated. The study work discusses the issues concerning the design of landscaped area, composition, building materials used and elements of small architecture. The descriptions presented in the work cover vegetation of the areas of Jasna Góra parks, specimens of various trees and shrubs, present their impact on the microclimate and aesthetics of the surroundings. The Błonia and Jasna Góra parks provide for visitors, pilgrims and tourists a possibility of getting acquainted with the culture and evoke respect for the past, broaden historical knowledge and influence on cultivation of religious, cultural and natural values.

2. Materials and methods

The fundamental basis for preparing the study paper were references connected thematically with the topics being subject of this paper, including web pages and articles in scientific journals. Statistical summaries concerning the issue of pilgrimages coming to the monastery were elaborated based on the data presented by the Press Office of the Jasna Góra Monastery. They allow to illustrate the volume of pilgrimage traffic in the years 2001-2017.

3. Błonia of Jasna Góra Called as Underhill Square

The green areas located near the Jasna Góra Monastery, the most popular Marian Sanctuary in Poland, surrounded by the following streets: Wieluńska, 7 Kamienic, Klasztorna, the Stanisław Staszic Park, the 3rd of May Park and H. Sienkiewicza Avenue crossing between the parks (Figure 1). This is the

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last section of the path that needs to pass by faithful, tourists, pilgrims to get to the Jasna Góra Monastery (Figure 2). After passing circa 300 meters, in front of the pilgrims appears a few-hectare area of greenery, above which emerges the Jasna Góra Monastery [2], a destination for all pilgrims. Błonia of the Jasna Góra Monastery is an area covered with grass, which is a place of prayer and rest for numerous faithful arriving here after their long pilgrimage. In the middle of the square is placed a column with a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (Figure 3).

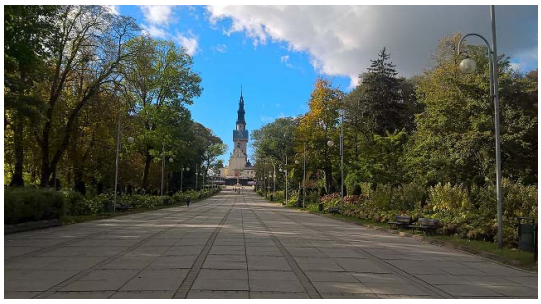


Figure 1. H. Sienkiewicz Avenue



Figure 2. Jasna Góra Błonia



Figure 3. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Statute

In the year 2009, the statue was replaced with a new on created in the neo-baroque style of limestone Carrara marble sculptured by Kamil Drapikowski from Gdańsk. Around the Błonia of the Jasna Góra Monastery, serving as a square of prayer, are situated twenty stations of the Rosary Route (Figure 4). Bronze figures surrounded by shrubs, namely Eastern ninebarks having intensive greenish-purple and purple red color of leaves, were designed in years 1989-2005 by architect Wiktor Zin (1925-2007) and by sculptor – artist-caster Tomasz Ross [3]. From Błonia of the Jasna Góra Monastery can be observed the areas of both parks and the growing perennial trees, namely such species as clones, chestnut trees, oaks and ash trees. The H. Sienkiewicz Avenue running between the parks, which is a walking path connecting the Avenue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the so-called underhill square are planted with, inter alien, bouquet hydrangea, barberry, mountain pine and hulls.



Figure 4. The Stations of the Cross

In the south-western part of Błonia is situated a monument named after the Cardinal Primate Stefan Wyszyński (Figure 5). The statue was made in 1997 according to the design of Jan Kucz, with the height of 3.5 meters, founded on a pedestal weighting six tons, depicting the figure of the cardinal with a leaning and kneeling posture. At the beginning of the year 2017, the statue was renovated by the conservator-artist-founder Marek Żebrowski and placed in the close vicinity to the previous place. As a result of the renovation, there were, among others, the entire surface of the monument was prepared to be covered with a new patina, many elements of the statue were joint together, its surface was unicolored by applying a homogenized gray-brown color on the patina [4]. Next to the monument, in the vicinity to the Klasztorna Street, a square was despatcher from the entire square and surrounded with boxwood hedge, on which junipers, spiraea, thujas, cotoneasters, catalpa bignonioides and firs with silver-blue needles were planted. There i salso situated a commemorative plaque with a replica of a colubrine, namely a four-toned cannon, founded in 2008 by postal workers to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the Polish Post (Figure 6).



Figure 5. Cardinal Primate Stefan Wyszyński Monument



Figure 6. Commemorative Plaque

In the vicinity to Błonia along the 7 Kamienic, Barbary and Klasztorna streets are located commercial pavilions with souvenirs, bookstores, as well as, hotels and gastronomy. Błonia of the

Jasna Góra Monastery – is an area, which annually welcomes about four million people, among them: inhabitants ot the city and residents of the surroundings, tourists and pilgrims, both from Poland (Table 1) and from abroad (Table 2). The biggest number of faithful participate, among others, in masses celebrated on the occasion of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th) and the Fest of Our Lady of Czestochowa (August 26th). In July 2016, during the meeting with Pope Francis, almost 400,000 people were gathered together at this place; and on the occasion of the World Youth Days, the Sanctuary was visited by round 300,000 people from around the world. The celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the Coronation of the Mother of God, which took place in August 2017, almost 100,000 people were present at the Jasna Góra Monastery [5].

Table 1. Pilgrimages that came to Jasna Góra within the years 2001-2017

No.	Year	Number of pedestrians / pilgrims	Number of participants
1.	2001	216	175.000
2.	2002	211	171.578
3.	2003	256	168.377
4.	2004	239	165.874
5.	2005	253	165.000
6.	2006	261	146.753
7.	2007	226	138.220
8.	2008	250	141.871
9.	2009	252	142.316
10.	2010	260	141.035
11.	2011	285	143.983
12.	2012	278	140.956
13.	2013	260	133.287
14.	2014	266	128.780
15.	2015	267	122.000
16.	2016	246	122.000
17.	2017	263	123.000

Table 2. Pilgrimages from abroad, who came to Jasna Góra within the years 2001-2017

No.	Year	Number of countries	Number of participants
1.	2001	80	83.472
2.	2002	75	78.220
3.	2003	80	83.472
4.	2004	66	92.102
5.	2005	74	113.430
6.	2006	73	108.860
7.	2007	81	108.322
8.	2008	81	142.701
9.	2009	83	65.741
10.	2010	74	73.538
11.	2011	80	82.053
12.	2012	74	80.877
13.	2013	77	135.178
14.	2014	78	94.978
15.	2015	74	90.838
16.	2016	82	146.774
17.	2017	76	139.257

Statistics provided by the Press Office of Jasna Góra Monastery (Source: http://www.jasnagora.com/)

4. Urban parks known as Jasna Góra Parks

To Błonia of the Jasna Góra are leading two parks, namely the 3rd of May Park and the Stanislaw Staszic Park with a total area of approx. 12 ha, commonly called Jasna Góra parks. They are separated by H. Sienkiewicza Avenue (Figure 7).

The parks together with their objects were revitalized in the years 2006-2008, on the occasion of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Great Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition [6]. In the Stanislaw Staszic park was renovated the former building of the Hygienic Museum raised in 1909, which nowadays is the Exhibition Pavilion of the Częstochowa Museum (Figure 8).

In 2007, the renovation of the Ethnographic Pavilion designed by the Warsaw architect Konstantin Jakimowicz (1879-1960) was completed. Between the objects is a small green area with benches allowing visitors and pilgrims to rest. Undergrounds, between the Ethnographic Pavilion and the Exhibition Pavilion, the Iron Ore Mine Museum (Figure 9) is located, which is one of the attraction of the Industrial Monuments Route of the Silesian Voivodeship [7].

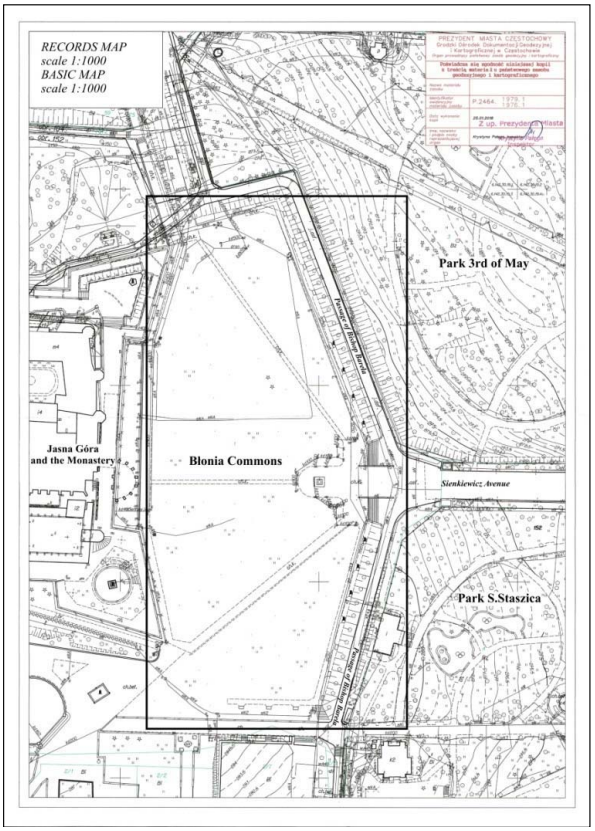


Figure 7. Plan sytuacyjno – wysokościowy terenu Błonia of the Jasna Góra Monastry
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Figure 8. Exhibition Pavilion of the Częstochowa Museum



Figure 9. The Museum of Iron Ore Mining

A building of Peasant Farm from 1909, built according to a project by well-known architects, graduates of the Warsaw University of Technology - Zdzisław Kalinowski (1877-1926) and Czesław Przybylski (1880-1936), has undergone similar renovation (Figure 10). All of the objects received new elevations, roofs, gained appropriate colors and their interior renovation was carried out. In 2008 a sculpture located in the Stanislaw Staszica park, made by Władysław Rudnicki was renovated. It presents a young woman in a reclining position. A fine-grained sedimentary rock called a light-colored sandstone was used for conservation works.



Figure 10. Peasant Farm

In 2007-2009, the Astronomical Observatory building dating from 1934 was renovated. Foundation of this building was demanded by the precursor of Polish astronomy, Bonaventura Metler (1866-1936). After elevation, roof, and windows were replaced, and interior changes in the object were carried out, it changed the functionality into a *Zodiak* Multimedia Center, which has an educational function with a rich offer of actions for children, young people, as well as, visiting tourists and pilgrims (Figure 11). Near the former observatory is a marble base offered by the city in 1933, made of black granite. It was used by Bonaventura Metler to construct and construct a sundial with a Latin inscription made by him on it: *"How much the Virgin loved this city, that she appeals it to the stars, wishing the better future"* [8].



Figure 11. 'Zodiak' Multicenter

In the central part of the park, on the square shaped as a circle and on hill surrounded by junipers and trees, there is a wooden summer house from 1908, designed by architect Józef Kon (Figure 12). As a part of the renovation works, a new larch foundation was made and roof shingles were replaced. For 70 years, various concerts have taken place there, which till today gather the city's inhabitants, tourists and numerous pilgrims at every Sunday in July and August. In September 2017, crowds of participants of the National Reading of "Wedding" (Polish "Wesele") by Stanisław Wyspiański are being gathered around here.



Figure 12. Wooden Summer House for Summer Concerts

In the central part of each park, surrounded by well-kept, colorful vegetation, monuments of famous Poles were placed, namely: a monument of Stanisław Moniuszko (1819-1872) an outstanding Polish composer of the Romantic Era, sculptured by Stefan Policiński (1898-1978); and a monument of Stanisław Staszic (1755-1826) a great scholar, philosopher and political writer of the Polish Enlightenment, authored by Paweł Maliński (1790-1853) and Kazimierz Pułaski (1745-1779) a hero of the struggle for the freedom of the Polish and American nation, created by the Częstochowa sculptor Jerzy Kędziora. Placing monuments in places frequently visited by tourists and pilgrims is a reminder of the beautiful pages of our history, referring to their actions.

During the revitalization, efforts were made to establish reference with the project of Jasna Góra Parks from the period of their foundation, implemented under the direction of the well-known gardener Franciszek Szanior (1853-1945), by restoring the initial assumptions for the park [9]. Therefore, the selection of species of trees and shrubs is similar to those that were populated at the beginning of the 20th century. By making changes to the existing stand, about 2,500 trees, shrubs and perennials have been cut and replaced with new multicolored bushes and flowers. After the revitalization of the parks, in the first one can be seen: 68 species of deciduous trees, 17 species of conifers, 141 species of shrubs and 34 species of perennials. In the parks were placed information boards specifying tree species that have been classified as natural monuments. Among them are seven trees: European larch (circa 140 years old, with a trunk circumference of 311 cm, 23.5cm height, 19.5x16m crown spread), red oak (150 years old, 338cm circumference, 22.5m height, 26x20 crown spread), sycamore maple (130 years old, 250cm circumference, 26m height, 23x20 crown spread), common pear (100 years, 235cm trunk circumference, 17.5m height, 14x14 crown spread), chestnut white (about 140 years old, height 22m, 393cm circumference, crown spread: 18x22m), Norway maple (140 years old, 297cm trunk circumference, 23m height, 10.7x23m crown spread), European ash (140 years old, height of 25.5m, circumference of 353cm) [10]. Apart from nature monument trees there can be also find chestnuts, maples, limes, pines, spruces, poplars and willows. Exotic tree species from South America and Asia can be also discovered there. On the hilly landscape, there is a distinctive selection of vegetation forms, original spatial arrangements, designed according to the principle of contrasting colors, tones, textures and flowering periods. Such a large amount of greenery allows for keeping the charm of this place through the whole year long (Figs. 13 and 14).



Figure 13. The Stanislaw Staszic Park



Figure 14. The 3rd May Park

Trees and shrubs serve for the rest area as a protection shield against the negative impact of harmful pollutants, lowering their inflow and movement, as well as, reducing the impact of noise. Due to the rich forest stand occurring in the parks, they resemble a forest, where almost 40 species of birds can be observed in this area [11]. Walking along the winding paths, one can see a bird feeder with an information board specifying what kind of food should be given to numerous birds (Great tit, Eurasian blue tit, European greenfinch, Chaffinch, Hawfinch and Eurasian nuthatch).

A method for diversification of the landscape space is a modernized, minor park pond with an area of 1600m² with two fountains, terraces and stairs, which also serves as a watering-place and at the same time bathing zone for numerous species of birds. In addition, it enlivens the surroundings, brings dynamics and reflections, as well as, it is a source of various sounds. An attraction for children visiting the parks are frogs swimming in the duck pond, as well as, hedgehogs and squirrels. In the parks are two main paths made of granite cubes and gravel with numerous smaller paths and a radiating network of ways dividing the whole area. Along the paths and ways are arranged wooden benches and seats. The new lighting of the walking paths influences safety in the parks, luminescents and accents museum objects, and elements of small architecture, the surrounding nature and the area around the pond by introducing the play of lights and adequate atmosphere. Proper fitting of the designed public space to the expectations of residents, tourists and pilgrims is provided by adequately designed places for rest, play and integration. There can be found: chess tables, tennis courts with small stands and facilities, ice rink available in winter season, two playgrounds for children, as well as, greenery and well-kept grass surrounding the parks, providing a place for rest and contact between man and nature. The green areas, namely the Jasna Góra parks, Błonia and the Jasna Góra Monastery were regarded as a historical monument (Figure 15).

5. Results and discussions

An important task - in order to meet further challenges in design, being related with the directions of architectural design trends in the 21st century in the aspects of preserving historical values, cultivating the natural and cultural environment - is seeking for a suitable form to meet expectations of the society. Further research study should concern special analysis of innovative architectural and landscape solutions. There should be considered the possibilities of applying them in particular public spaces, taking care for the history and architecture of objects, fauna, flora, small architecture, as well as, aesthetics and environmental protection of the surroundings. The process of undertaking such activities is necessary to be followed, due to the need of not losing the concepts for introducing the natural environment into cities. For this purpose, it is necessary to apply carefully designed and clearly defined spatial layout, binding architectural and landscape forms in a complex composition. Green areas, urban parks are among the primary tools to be used for revitalizing the urban spaces [12]. When designing parks and restoring historic urban green areas, it is necessary to prepare methodological elaborations, indicating methods for managing the „green infrastructure", emphasizing the importance of such types of areas for protecting the cultural heritage [13].

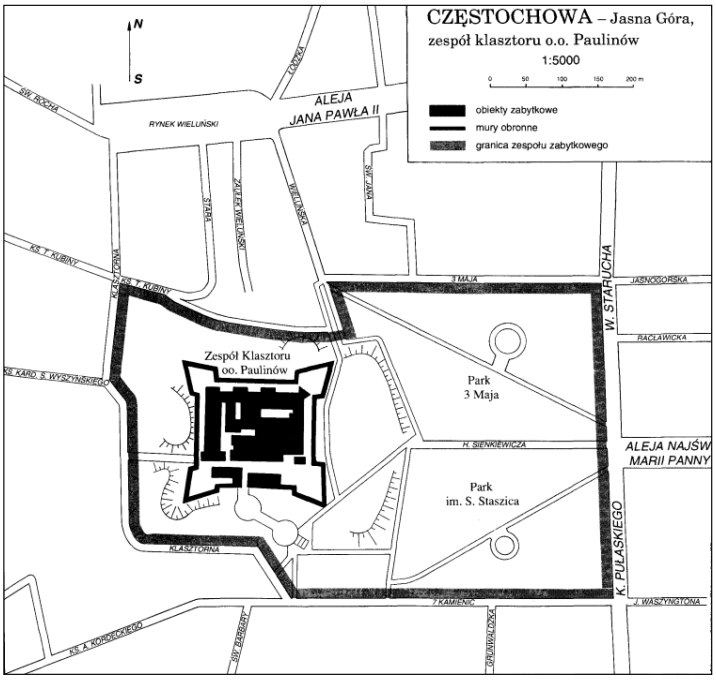


Figure 15. Historic Monuments - Jasna Góra Monastery, Błonia, Jasna Góra Parks [1]

6. Conclusions

The architecture of objects, architectural and landscape values of the areas around Jasna Góra Monastery being presented in the paper demonstrate the aspects of concern for understanding and commemoration of the historical function of this place and integration of past and present. On the example of Błonia of the Jasna Góra Monastery it was indicated that - by combining the present and past – the green area functions not only as a Prayer Square for thousands of pilgrims, but it also demonstrates an important role of resembling fundamental historical events, shapes patriotic feelings and brings respect to the past. The Stanisław Staszic Park and the 3rd May Park - after being revitalized and renovated – bring in harmony the heritage of the past. This harmony was achieved by maintaining mutual relations between the building and the surrounding space, as well as, by preserving and taking care of historic objects. The functionality of the landscape was reached thanks to the application of appropriate materials, choosing selected colors, proper type of vegetation and appropriate species, color and structural form of surrounding greenery. The employed terrain carving together with the planned and visible composition were reflected in harmonized proportions of particular spatial elements, simple solutions and the capability of observing the area from various sides. The architectural and landscape space of the Jasna Góra Monastery does not interfere in the natural structure of the environment and it does not violate the existing biological harmony (through protection of stagnant fauna and flora), and this contributes to its grow. In this manner, it responds to the need of creating a place with a distinctive role, that creates proper atmosphere for contemplation and reflection, functioning as a community place for the urban environment, tourists and numerous pilgrims coming to the Monastery.

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