



Master of Science in Architecture
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THESIS

Brama - The Gateway to Warsaw: Re-imagining Parade Square in Downtown Warsaw, Poland.

Parade Square (polish: Plac Defiled) is the most central square in Warsaw, Poland. The Square is a rectangular parcel 410 m wide and 610 m long. Enclosed by Jerozolimskie Ave from the south, Marszalkowska St from the East, Swietokrzyska St from the north and Emila Plater St from the eastern side. There are several elements belonging to the square. Swietokrzyski Park along Swietokrzyska St in the north. At the southern frontage a small land depression which is an inner entrance plaza for the subway station 'Centrum'. Next to it two modernistic pavilions functioning as entering structures for the cross-town railway station 'Srodmiescie'. Finally, the most characteristic skyscraper in Poland – Palace of Culture and Science. Also, Central Railway Station is located right next to the site. Its position, being aligned with the other two transportation nodes, make the site a suitable place for a transportation hub as of today these three entities are not joined in any way. The Parade Sq. was designed and built together with the main actor of the site - Palace of Culture and Science, which is a functioning historical monument and the city's icon. Before 'Solidarity' union won a victory in partially free elections in 1989, the square had been used for national festivities. Since the very beginning of the nineties, there were plans for reimagining the space. However today the square is far from being used to its full potential and hasn't been improved in any way. That makes the parcel being a kind of suburban area in the very middle of the city. Only the recent actions regarding future buildings on the site, triggered local authorities and citizens of Warsaw to think about the common space that will surround new cultural facilities. On the eastern side of the palace, a new theater (TR Theater of Diversity) and Museum of Modern Art Warsaw (both designed by Thomas Phifer and Partners), as well as undefined yet structure on the southern side of Zlota Street's axis will be built in the upcoming years. Assuming the above-mentioned, both existing and soon to be built elements of the site are its part, my project's goal is to make the square unified and consistent. As well as to provide a well-functioning transportation hub for the tourists and other commuters of the city. This thesis project extends from the masterplan stage into the building stage through urban furniture, by offering a complete design proposal of this significant for the city site. I aim to establish a brand-new quality, though respecting the historical monument and the underground infrastructure.

Author: Stanisław Gulkowski (10518666)

Supervisor: Renato Juarez Corso