



REVIEW

of monograph by **prof. dr hab. inż. arch. Wojciech Kosiński** under the title: „PARADIGM OF THE CITY OF THE 21st CENTURY: BETWEEN THE PAST OF POLIS AND THE FUTURE OF METROPOLIS”, 248 pages, Cracow: Publishing House of the Cracow University of Technology, 2016. Scientific editor: prof. dr hab. inż. arch. Jacek Gyurkovich

Reviewers: prof. dr hab. inż. arch. Wojciech Bonenberg,
prof. dr hab. inż. arch. Artur Jasiński

This reviewed monograph is an original interpretation of town planning as a science and art of town building. This is a “twin” continuation of the previous book (2011) of the author under the title “The city and the beauty of the city.”

The scientific problem has been developed on the background of:

- the origins of cities as a synthesis of ideological and pragmatic elements,
- main development challenges faced by cities,
- new ideas and creative concepts in town planning,
- creative attitudes and theoretical approaches in creating an urban space,
- political, legal, cultural, environmental and social conditions influencing the philosophy of town planning.

The title and content of the work „PARADIGM OF THE CITY OF THE 21st CENTURY: BETWEEN THE PAST OF POLIS AND THE FUTURE OF METROPOLIS” classifies it as a monograph, but this is a non-standard monograph, diverging from standard works related to town planning. The author succeeded in a unique synthesis of the urban development concepts from ancient times to the present. He has combined concepts and theories laying and the foundations of town planning (as science and art) from the oldest to the most recent and pointed out the directions of development.

The subject matter of the work is very up-to-date – it fits into the hot discussions on how cities are planned, their identity, new challenges related to globalization and networking of functional links and also the issue of smart cities and cities as virtual environments.

I consider the reviewed book as particularly valuable for the following reason: it fills the gap between theory, experience and creative vision of town planning. This is a model way of using theoretical knowledge, scientific observation and design achievements of prof. Wojciech Kosiński – a great creator, researcher and town planning teacher.

The author applied in the book original narrative-sequence methodology using carefully selected representative examples. The distinguishing feature of the reviewed monograph is the direct comparison, even confrontation of theory and empirical attitude. The contents contained in the narration require conscious reflection in the context of specific places, conditions and urban occurrences analyzed mostly in-situ and described as personally experienced images. This are the inspirational values of the monograph that make the book “absorbing” and fascinating for the reader from the very first pages.

I am of the opinion, that the reviewed work is a comprehensive and innovative approach to town planning. The merit of the work is the combination of theoretical and methodological issues with the analysis of case studies.

The reviewed text is an original of the author, distinguished by the complexity in approach to problems of urban design and town planning taking into account the wide spectrum of social, political, cultural, landscape connections. This is an integral approach to the major problems related to architecture of cities, urban design and spatial planning in a single coherent workflow. The structure of the content in chapters related to specific problems is logical and perfectly organizing the subject of the monograph.

The book is written in a clear language, understandable not only for professionals, but also for students and those interested in urban development. The great advantage is its full bilingualism (Polish and English).

The special attention demands very good selection of illustrations which perfectly complement theoretical considerations. Likewise, it can be expressed about the choice of bibliography. The impressive literature of the subject has been fully used in the text as shown in the footnotes. As regards the author’s interpretation of the research topic, correctness of terminology, graphic layout, I have no critical remarks. The editorial standard, particularly the edition of the book is comparable to its highest substantive values.

prof. dr hab. inż. arch. Wojciech Bonenberg

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