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**THE ARCHITECTURE OF PALACE AND PARK COMPLEXES
OF THE LATE XVIII - THE EARLY XIX CENTURIES
BY JAKUB KUBICKI WITHIN POLAND**

**ARCHITEKTURA PAŁACOWO-PARKOWYCH KOMPLEKSÓW
JAKUBA KUBICKIEGO W POLSCE
(PÓŹNY XVIII – WCZESNY XIX WIEK)**

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ABSTRACT

The article covers the works of famous Polish architect Jakub Kubicki who worked at the close of the XVIII century – in the early XIX century within modern Poland and Ukraine. The author goes through the palace complexes within the territory of Poland, illustrates restoration approaches to the objects and their current use.

Key words: Architectural aspects, classicism, palace complex, Jakub Kubicki.

STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł analizuje prace słynnego polskiego architekta Jakuba Kubickiego, który pracował pod koniec XVIII wieku - na początku XIX wieku w Polsce i na Ukrainie. Autor bada kompleksy pałacowe na terenie Polski, ilustruje sposoby rekonstrukcji obiektów i ich obecne wykorzystanie.

Słowa kluczowe: aspekty architektoniczne, klasycyzm, zespół pałacowy, Jakub Kubicki.

1. INTRODUCTION

The golden age of classicism coincides with the late XVIII – the early XIX centuries. Palace and park complexes, constructed during this period included palaces, household buildings and religious structures as well as large landscape parks. Magnate residences were powerful household systems and exceptional cultural and historical phenomenon at the same time. Family seats were being created within generations. Historical chain of ancestors made people cherish cultural heritage.

Upon the projects of Polish architect Jakub Kubicki (1758-1833) there were constructed the palaces not only in Poland but also within the territory of modern Ukraine. However, palace complexes by Jakub Kubicki in Poland are studied and get covered in published works in great detail. They are considered to be a unique part of historical and cultural heritage of the settlements, and due to their stylistic and aesthetic features they promote the preservation of authentic image of inhabited areas, the development of regional and international tourism.

Today the former palace residences no longer fulfil their initial function. They are mostly adapted to houses and buildings for healthcare and rest, educational buildings or cultural-spectating or entertainment establishments; sometimes they are even forsaken and abandoned and thereby, obviously, they are in a state of decay. Thus, the problem of preservation and restoration of palace complexes needs close attention. In particular, it is a must to make a point of foreign best practices in preservation of such objects and to involve them in tourist infrastructure of the area.

A great number of researches devoted their works to the study of palace and park complexes by Jakub Kubicki within the territory of Poland.

The description of palace complexes architecture can also be found in the works of Roman Aftanazi "The history of the residences within the territory of former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth", volume 1-2 [1,2]. He studies the history of establishment and development of the objects.

On a separate note we are to emphasize the works of Wioletta Brzezinska, devoted to classicistic palace complexes [3]. The works contain detailed architectural descriptions of palaces and study architectural and stylistic features of the objects.

Two-volume work of Khrystyna Stepinska [4, 5] deals with castles, palaces and mansions in Poland. It contains very interesting photos of the objects dating back to World War Two as well as old engravings.

The article by Monika Paluch "Palace and park in Radziejowice within a framework of cultural and tourist potential of the Western-Mazovia region" [22] is interesting in terms of modern adaptation of palace and park complexes. The article is made as a try to represent a part of cultural and tourist potential in Western Mazovia. In the work there are demonstrated general features of palace and park complex that allow understanding its location and constituent parts of the complex as well as analyzing object's history. Also there are described the functions the palace and park complex in Radziejowice performs as well as the tools used for further involvement of the object into tourist infrastructure.

Brief description of the palace in Białaczów can be found in the article by Roman Mirowski [7]. Outline description of history of the palaces as well as architect description can also be find on web-sites of urban communes of Poland.

2. BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARCHITECT

Jakub Kubicki was born in 1758. Architect, student of Szymon Bogumił Zuga and Domenico Merlini. Since 1781 he worked on commission for the court of King Stanisław II Augustus Poniatowski. Between 1785-86, he travelled across Italy. He was raised to the

rank of nobility in 1790 and from 1806 onwards, he managed construction projects for the government. He proposed several designs for the church in Ujazdów, various projects for ceremonial architecture and pavilions within the royal Łazienki Park. He was the winner of Poland's first architectural competition for his design of the Church of Divine Providence. He was behind the design of the Belweder Palace and the Holy Trinity Eastern Orthodox church in Podwale, as well as the city's tollhouse pavilions. He worked on designs for the renovation project for the Royal Castle, and urban planning for the Castle Square grounds and the Praga district. He built a number of churches (e.g. Nadarzyn, Radziejowice, Mokobody, Borowica i in.) and succeeded in popularizing the rural palace style, with its portico colonnade in front and an avant-corps garden, in Poland (e.g. Białaczków, Bejsce, Sterdyń, Młochów). He was known to be fond of the Palladian architectural style and his designs are attributed to the style of late classicism. [9]

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Upon the projects of Jakub Kubicki (1758-1833) there were built palace complexes within the territory of Poland, namely: palaces in Radziejowice (1802), in Bejsce (1802), in Pławowice (1804), in Młochów (1806), Belweder Palace in Warsaw (1824) [10, p. 85].

Belweder Palace in Warsaw was constructed in 1662 by Krzysztof Pac for his wife. In 1764 the palace went over to Stanisław Poniatowski who established pottery factory there. In 1818 the palace was destroyed upon order of Russian authorities. The current classicistic building was constructed in 1824 according to a project of Jakub Kubicki. In 1918-1922 it was a residence of head of the state Józef Piłsudski, and president Stanisław Wojciechowski. After the coup in May 1926 in the palace there lived Józef Piłsudski, as war minister. In 1935-1939 in the palace there was organized a museum dedicated to the memory of Józef Piłsudski. During the invasion of Warsaw the palace was a residence of governor general Hans Frank. In 1940-1943 the palace was restored.



Fig. 1. Engraving. View of Belweder as viewed from Vistula river. Author F. Dietrich, 1827-1829. Source: [23]

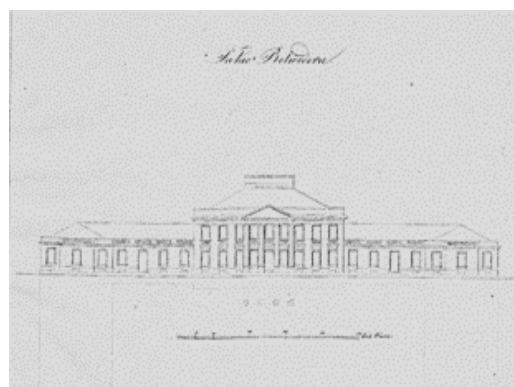


Fig. 2. Belweder Palace. Drawing of front facade, 1823. Author L. Shmidter. Source: [23]

In 1998-2001 there were carried out major structural repairs of Belweder Palace.

Since 1989 Belweder Palace has belonged to the Administration of the president of Poland and is a residence of the president and his family; it is also used for meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers and the conduction of different ceremonial events.



Fig.3. Belweder Palace. Top view. Current state.
Source: [23]



Fig.4. Belweder Palace. Front facade. Current state.
Source: [23]

Palace in Pławowice village was constructed in 1804-1805 for Ludovic Felicjan Morstin, according to plans of Jakub Kubicki. For today it is the most precious and the greatest example of neoclassical manor architecture in non-urban area all over the country. The palace is located in a big park with a pond. One could enter the palace through the gates with statues of two lions (the sculptures are currently located in Krakow at the entrance to a town hall, on the gates there are installed their copies). The palace was owned by Morstin's family up to 1945. In 1945 the palace and park were ruined.

The mansion served for an asylum for multi-child families.

Since the 90ies of the XX century the palace has been restored to be returned to a previous state.

Palace and park complex in Radziejowice – the palace in classical style with a park surrounding it. In the place of current palace as far back as XV century there was a residence of the Radziejowski. In the middle VXIII century, after the reconstruction it acquired baroque form. The golden age of the residence was under the reign of king Sigismund III and Jan III Sobieski.

The palace acquired present-day form in the late XVIII – the early XIX centuries after the reconstruction by Jakub Kubicki. Windows were surrounded with narrow stripes and window ledges were supported on consoles. Central entrance on front facade was enhanced with fronton in tympon of which there was placed the emblem of owners. On the second floor there was constructed a balcony supported by four columns of Tuscan order. It also had to emphasize the main entrance to the palace.

The expansion of the palace took place later: there was created cultivated landscape garden and small Neo-Gothic castle. The palace and park complex, besides the palace, also contains a large park, within the territory of the residence there are located hotel rooms. The buildings of former farm and blacksmith's shop have been used as conference rooms. The palace, ruined during World War Two, was totally restored by the Ministry of Culture and Art.

Since 1965 it has been the art center for artists. In the palace there is a museum and halls for temporary exhibitions.

Palace in Bejsce – a provincial palace built in Polish mansion style, which formed during the reign of King Stanislaw August. The palace was built in 1802 (the date is seen on park facade of the palace) by Marcin Badeni, the last minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Poland upon the project of architect Jakub Kubicki.



Fig.5. Palace in Pławowice vil. Current state. Source: [24]



Fig.6. Pławowice vil. Current state. Source: [24]



Fig.7. Palace and park complex in Radziejowice. Top view. Current state. Source: [25]



Fig. 8 Palace and park complex in Radziejowice. Territory of the palace and park complex. Current state. Source: [25]

The palace is one-storeyed, rectangular in plan, main entrance was emphasized with four-column portico and park entrance – with risalit. By using available terrain slope, the architect projected romantic cavern under the risalit.

Marcin Badeni accumulated precious library since he was deeply interested in history. His collection contained a lot of Latin and Polish documents.

World War Two took mercy on the palace but its property was destroyed or plundered. There survived the part of original interior decorated with statues and pictures. Special attention should be paid to the living room, round in plan, with rich decorating and stucco molding.

Conservation of the interiors was performed in 1964-1965.

Nowadays the palace is used as the administration of social support of population.

Palace in Białaczów– a classicistic palace, which in 1797-1800 was built by Stanislaw Malachowski upon the project of Jakub Kubicki. Two-storeyed main building of the palace, rectangular in plan, decorated with four-column portico from front facade and with triangular risalit from the park one. Galleries, which, upon the project, were to be connected with wings, were adjacent to a front facade. But there was constructed only one wing, and west gallery was enlarged in XIX by adding several buildings from park side to it. At the mansion's lodge-gate, from the south side, there were two pavilions. Behind the palace there was a beautiful park in which in 1825-1830, according to the order of Francisco Lancego, there was constructed neogothic gallery. The palace inside was decorated with classicistic sculptures and molding with floral and geometrical

ornament. The living-room, the dining-room and Etruscan closet withstood the ravages of time, in terms of interior, best.

The palace didn't undergo changes during World War Two, however it was in disrepair. Restoration of the object began in the early 30ies, and later, in 1966-1974 the residence was generally repaired. They reinforced the walls, replaced loadbearing constructions and roof covering, conserved sculptural decorations and wall paintings, replaced wooden window-cases and door-frames. Conservation works were carried out under the direction of prof. Bohdan Marconi.

In the palace there is "The House of secure retirement". Its management and the pensioners themselves take care of the object. It is planned to further construct the left wing, in accordance with initial project of Jakub Kubicki, as well as to generally repair gate pavilions.



Fig. 9. Palace in Bejsce. Front facade. Current state. add in all illustrations. Source: [26]



Fig. 10. Palace in Bejsce. Park facade. Current state. Source: [26]



Fig. 11. Palace in Białaczów Front facade. XX century. Source: [27]



Fig. 12. Palace in Białaczów Front facade. Current state. Source: [27]

Palace in Chelenow – a small one-storeyed classicistic house with two wings from the both sides, which in the early XIX century (in 1807) was built by Tomasz Ostrogski – the head of senate of the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Poland under the project of Jakub Kubicki. The palace complex is located in picturesque area surrounded by natural lakes and a big park.

In 1855 the mansion went over to Maria Sapekhiv and Stanislaw Potocci who wanted to change provincial manor into luxurious residence. The author of transformation in 1853-1860 was Henryk Marconi and construction works were guided by architect Wladislaw Hirschel. New palace is Neo-Renaissance-like. The building is two-storeyed, rectangular in plan, with prominent risalits. The portico of front facade was changed into risalit topped with banister with figured carving.

The palace was once again rebuilt in the early XX century, in those days a green-house was redesigned into library. Initial park was re-planned by H. Marconi in 1859-1860. There were installed park sculptures. There were destroyed the remains of original park with unique water channel. The last owner Jakub Potocki transferred the mansion for senators' needs in 1934. During World War Two the mansion suffered no damages. It was repaired in 1948, 1965, 1974.

Nowadays the palace is in a good state, adapted to the house of rest.

Palace in Mlochowie was constructed in the early XIX century upon the project of Jakub Kubicki for P. Wihlinski – a director of government revenue commission of the Kingdom of Poland. J. Kubicki projected also two side pavilions with green-house that were built simultaneously with the palace.

Classicistic one-storeyed house, rectangular in plan, with simple architectural forms typical for J. Kubicki. Front and park facades were decorated with column porticos. A special feature of architectural concept of the palace in Mlochowie is the thing that the entrance was from park side and not from the front one as most palaces, built at that time, had. A beautiful park, which foundation was laid in the days of palace construction and which was later re-planned by Valerian Kronenberg in 1887, is a decoration of the residence.

The Radzyvilovi and the Kurnatovski were the owners after the Wihlinski. The palace burnt in 1915 during the First World War, it was partially rebuilt in 1933 but totally destroyed during the Second World War. However, it was restored again in 1948-1953.

Currently the palace and park complex belongs to botanic institute of unique plant cultivation.



Fig. 13. Palace in Chelenow. Park facade. Current state. Source: [28]



Fig. 14. Palace in Chelenow.
Front facade. Current state.
Source: [28]



Fig. 15. Palace in Młochów.
Front facade. Current state.
Source: [29]



Fig. 16. Palace in Młochów.
Territory of the palace and park
complex. Current state. Source:
[29]

4. CONCLUSIONS

The palaces, projected by Jakub Kubicki, are mainly two-storeyed, symmetrical in plan. Front facade of the palace is always emphasized with portico with colonnade and the park one - with prominent risalit. The living room with cloister vault decorated with sophisticated molding always was the main decoration of the palaces. Palace building was always located on higher territory, and living-room exit opened picturesque view of water pond, which always complemented a general composition of palace complexes.

Jakub Kubicki made a special contribution to the construction of palace and park complexes of the late XVIII century – the early XIX century. Developing palace and park complexes for big landowners, which were adapted for both farming and usual aristocratic accommodation, he created a high level of comfort, opportunity for enjoying nature as well as for having social lifestyle with lavish banquets. Every complex included more or less developed core (palace) with residential and ceremonial premises and auxiliary group of buildings (household, staff and storage facilities).

Nowadays former palace residences stopped fulfilling their initial function; they are adapted to houses and buildings for healthcare and rest, educational buildings or cultural-spectating or entertainment establishments. However, all of the aforesaid objects were restored in a proper way that allows avoiding their further destroying and makes it possible to see special features of creative method of the architect.

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