

The subject of the dissertation is an open cultural landscape and a historic monument placed in it. The landscape, commonly understood as the image of the surroundings, is enriched in deliberations with adjectives: open and cultural. Openness of the landscape refers to the scale of the space reception and its broad perception, culture-related content, on the other hand, confirms anthropogenic intervention existing in it. Historic monument, as seen in a broad reception scale, is understood as a form of various sizes and defined as: a single object, group of objects or spatial arrangement.

The main objective of the dissertation is analysis and assessment of the possibilities for area protection of monuments in open cultural landscape and indication of activities driving at improvement of the quality of their surroundings. The objective is accomplished through:

- specifying the rules of identifying the monument in open area and various forms of its perception;
- systematizing historic data and assessing the possibilities of actions taken by previous generations in terms of area protection of monuments from the conservation and spatial planning perspective;
- overview of current problems occurring in open cultural landscape and assessment of their impact on area protection of monuments existing in it;
- indication of changes necessary to enhance spatial quality in open landscape;
- defining the set of notions encompassing terminology in the scope of area protection of monuments.

The dissertation thesis postulates that the reception of monuments in Polish open cultural landscapes undergoes currently spatial degradation. There are no good formal foundations imposing identification of spatial values in open landscape surrounding monuments. There are no real actions and spatial planning instruments that guarantee their exposition in space. There is urgent need for prompt and efficient change in terms of area protection shaping in Poland, including return to good practices functioning in the past. Conducted analysis and assessment verifies the truthfulness of the thesis formulated in the dissertation aimed at answering the following question: What did, does and possibly would protection and creation around monuments in open landscape influenced by human actions look like?

The time frame adopted in the dissertation covers the period from the Second Polish Republic (from 1918) through Polish People's Republic transformations up to current times (until 2015). Territorial scope of studies includes area protection problems across the entire Polish area in the aforementioned time frame, however the title of the dissertation narrows down the scope of topic presentation to selected examples from the Lodz Region. They are presented graphically in the form of figures, photographs, drawings and tabulated summaries.

The dissertation in its content is of review character, which results in the occurrence of notions proper to terminology of the subject under study and not used in everyday language. They are listed in a glossary which is annexed to the dissertation and which includes fifty definitions constructed on the basis of available relevant literature sources and the results of the author's considerations.

The research leads to the conclusion that the development of the history of spatial planning included the period in which foundations of Polish thought regarding area monument protection was shaped and "good practices" existed. Relatively short, lasting only twenty years, period of realization of inter-war assumptions, was the time in which principles of conservation monuments protection including their surroundings began to take shape. It is exemplified by defining during this time such notions as: *the right of view, landscape easement or inappropriate surroundings*. In turn, post-war activities brought integration of conservatory determinations with spatial planning design, which led straight to good area protection and creation. The fate of monuments surrounding areas was compromised by "times" and "political system" in which they found themselves in post-war reality. The years when *you thought different things that you said and did still different things* resulted in gradual destruction of Polish space. Spontaneous spatial planning that spread due to central planning of economy and control regulation of construction norms and materials, had adverse effect of reception of surrounding area, in particular in visually valuable spaces. Modern times, marked for the purpose of this dissertation by the turn of the 20th and 21st century (justifying this period with changes that occurred in legal regulations and conducted spatial planning activities) brought ever deeper impoverishment of principles and possibilities of area actions in spatial shaping. The existing condition of Polish landscapes was also influenced by insufficient supply of spatial planning instruments left for planners and self-governments. Currently, it seems necessary to define effective tools for open space protection and creation. All related and indicated in the dissertation actions must take into account **landscapes with a "historic monument in the background"** which must be recognized as *common good*.