


The surroundings of the historic Gdańsk University of Technology building

2016

 **University**
Gdańsk University of Technology
Country
Poland

Location 
City center

Size 
Number of students [2015]: approx. 23800
Number of employees [2015]: approx. 2750

Mobility Organizational Structure 
None

Summary

The reconstruction of the square is a key element of the implementation of the spatial development plan for the Gdańsk University of Technology, developed by Prof. Lucyna Nyka. The main idea was to create a representative space, friendly to both pedestrians and cyclists. The most important objective was the elimination of car traffic from this part of the campus. As a result, it was possible to create an open space that enabled pedestrians and cyclists to move freely and safely.

Aims

- Creating a square in front of the Main Building of the Gdańsk University of Technology, which will be spacious and representative. It has to be both modern and referring to the historical character of this place.
- Limiting car traffic on the Gdańsk University of Technology campus.
- Creating a friendly, representative space for pedestrians and cyclists with recreational and leisure functions.

Stakeholders

- Authorities of the Gdańsk University of Technology.
- Dean of the Faculty of Architecture Prof. Lucyna Nyka, DArch, Full Professor at GUT.

Background

Not available.

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Description

"One of the assumptions of the modernization was to minimize the car traffic in the historical part of the campus. [...] In front of the entrance to the Main Building, a spacious and representative square was designed, connected with the pedestrian traffic zone. You can easily get to other locations from here, including to the square next to the Auditorium Maximum, located near parks. [...] Its surface was made of granite slabs with three shades of gray (with a visible university logo), surrounded by narrow stripes made of granite blocks. From the side of the Main Building, the square was closed with stone seats in the shape of an arch. Two fountains and historic street lamps (from the campus construction period) were installed. Several glass-panelled bicycle sheds and uncovered stands were built. The square in front of the Auditorium Maximum was changed into a place for recreation and rest, and the park between the Machine Laboratory building and

the Faculty of Electrical and Control Engineering gained a new face (e.g. the neglected reservoir was replaced with a decorative water tank, woven into a system of stone passages and gravel paths). In front of the Main Building, next to the "A" Nanotechnology building, "Park Sztuki" (Art Park) was created - a green area with numerous benches, alleys and places for contemplation of art "[3]



Indicators

Indicators used to assess the impact of the renovation of the square can be:

- Number of people walking or cycling through the main gate of the GUT campus located in the northern part of the square.
- Number of people moving across the square in the east-west direction. Number of vehicles left on the newly created bicycle parking lot.



Results

- The possibility of moving freely around the square in front of the Main Building of the Gdańsk University of Technology.
- The possibility to leave one's bike safely (under a roof, stands in the shape of an inverted letter U).
- Larger number of benches, allowing rest between classes.

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 Expense

Over 12 million PLN.

 Financing

Gdańsk University of Technology.

 Lessons Learnt

- It is worth to limit car traffic and to allocate space for pedestrians and cyclists.
- In many places, there is no need to allow car traffic.
- The concern of the owner of a specific place about the possibility of safely leaving a bicycle on its territory has an encouraging effect on the use of this means of transport.
- Providing benches in resting places increases the number of people willing to use the common space in the open air.
- Removing or shortening barriers makes it easier for cyclists to move.
- A large amount of greenery is perceived better.

 Pictures



Fig. 1. Square in front of Main Building - with the possibility of car traffic before the implementation of the project, source [1]

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 Pictures



Fig. 2. Square in front of the Main Building - open space after the implementation of the project. [2]

 Links

- www.pomaturze.pl/pages/2261/963/Politechnika+Gdanska
- www.trojmiasto.pl/wiadomosci/Czy-zielen-wroci-na-plac-przed-Politechnika-Gdanska-n108782.html
- www.m.trojmiasto.pl/wiadomosci/Remont-historycznej-czesci-kampusu-PG-n101382.html

 Contact person

Not available.