

MONIKA GAŁA-WALCZOWSKA
 ORCID 0000-0002-8562-6015
 Cracow University of Technology, Poland

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY – THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLEX IN NIEPOŁOMICIE

ARCHITEKTRA I HISTORIA – ZESPÓŁ SZKÓŁ ŚREDNICH IM. OJCA ŚWIĘTEGO JANA PAWŁA II W NIEPOŁOMICACH

Abstract

The architecture of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice, designed by architect Mieczysław Gała and his team, inspired reflections on the relationship between the art of building and history. The school was designed on the basis of the existing buildings of the “Motoruch” Co-operative, located in the historic centre of Niepołomice, in the vicinity of the Royal Castle and park areas. The single-storey buildings, which formed the initial spatial layout, were extended and adapted for the needs of the school, creating two teaching sectors, a specialist workshop sector, and a library sector. The architectural composition is complemented by newly designed school buildings: a tower accentuating the corner, housing a staircase, and a dominant central entrance sector, serving as a school forum and sports sector. The proximity of the Royal Castle – the hunting residence of the Dukes and Kings of the Piast and Jagiellonian dynasties, who hunted centuries ago in the nearby Niepołomice Forest – was both an inspiration and a challenge for the architectural form and detail of the *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice.

Keywords: architecture of Niepołomice, architectural composition, architectural form, semantic threads of significance in contemporary architecture

Streszczenie

Architektura Zespołu Szkół Średnich w Niepołomicach, autorstwa architekta Mieczysława Gały z Zespołem, inspirowała rozważania na temat związków sztuki budowania i historii. Szkołę zaprojektowano na bazie istniejących budynków Spółdzielni „Motoruch”, usytuowanych w historycznym centrum Niepołomic, w sąsiedztwie Zamku Królewskiego i terenów parkowych. Parterowe budynki, stanowiące wyjściowy układ przestrzenny, nadbudowano i zaadaptowano dla potrzeb szkoły, tworząc dwa sektory dydaktyczne, sektor pracowni specjalistycznych oraz sektor biblioteczny. Kompozycję architektoniczną dopełniają nowoprojektowane budynki szkoły: akcentująca narożnik wieża mieszcząca klatkę schodową i dominujący formą wejściowy sektor centralny – pełniący rolę forum szkolnego oraz sektor sportowy. Sąsiedztwo Zamku Królewskiego – myśliwskiej rezydencji Książąt i Królów z dynastii Piastów i Jagiellonów, połączonych przed wiekami w pobliskiej Puszczy Niepołomiczkiej, stanowiło inspirację, a jednocześnie wyzwanie dla formy architektonicznej i detalu Zespołu Szkół im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach.

Słowa kluczowe: architektura Niepołomic, kompozycja architektoniczna, forma architektoniczna, wątki znaczeniowe architektury współczesnej

The proximity and formal impact of a building such as the Castle require special attention to architectural detail and the achievement of the correct proportions of the composed architectural forms.¹

Architect Mieczysław Gała

1. ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

Architecture and history are intertwined. Architecture exists across time – past, present, and future. The history of a given work of architecture is linked to the personality of its creator and the work itself – the architectural idea and design, the construction of the building, and its fate over time. Architecture becomes an existential space for humans – a setting or backdrop for life and history. “Architecture, remaining an art that cannot escape chance, cannot fully exist without historical and theoretical knowledge,” emphasises Maria Misiągiewicz². The relationship between architecture and history becomes particularly dynamic in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Nineteenth-century architecture draws directly on history – styles and forms taken from the past. Architects of the historicism era reinterpret the styles of past eras, decomposing their forms and meanings, designing in the Neo-Romanesque, Neo-Gothic, Neo-Renaissance, Neo-Classical, Neo-Baroque styles. Architects advocating eclecticism freely drew on the achievements of architectural history, combining elements inspired by several historical styles in a single building.

Modernist architecture, and especially avant-garde trends – purism, constructivism and functionalism – break with the past, reject historicism and eclecticism, becoming the leading style of the 20th century. Modernists, in their search for novelty, conciseness and aesthetic universalism, draw inspiration from abstract painting, geometry, and technology. Louis H. Sullivan’s slogan *form follows function* and Mies van der Rohe’s *less is more* capture the essence of modern architecture, revealing its rationalism. Le Corbusier’s poetic definition – *architecture is a game of solids in light*, draws attention to the new aesthetics of modern architecture, emphasising the importance of composition and the beauty of Euclidean geometry, which became determinants of architectural form and carriers of meaning.

Reflection on the aesthetic condition of architecture appeared in the mid-1960s in the United States, directing the attention of theorists and architects towards the history of architecture and inspiring them to rediscover and transform forms drawn from the past. The evolution of architecture in the second half of the 20th century was largely due to the books *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* by Robert Venturi, published in 1966, and *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture* by Charles Jencks, published in 1977 in New York and in 1986 in Poland. An event of inestimable importance in Europe was the 1980 Venice *Architecture Biennale*, and as part of the exhibition *The Presence of the Past*, the famous exhibition *Strada Novissima*. The aim of the exhibition’s curator, Paolo Portoghesi, was to show the growing phenomenon “of architecture’s return to history and the transformation of traditional forms in a new context, [...] christened with the ambiguous term postmodernism.”³

¹ M. Gała, *Opis do projektu koncepcyjnego Szkoły Średniej w Niepołomicach*, Archiwum Pracowni Projektowej Architektura Mieczysław Gała Monika Gała-Walczowska, Kraków 1993

² M. Misiągiewicz, *Architektoniczna geometria*, Instytut Projektowania Architektonicznego, Wydział Architektury Politechniki Krakowskiej, Kraków 2005, p. 21.

³ P. Portoghesi, *The End of Prohibitionism* [in:] *The Presence of the Past – First International Ex-*

The architecture of the early 1990s in Poland reflects the period immediately following the political transformation. Freedom, respect for property, a free-market economy and local government, while posing challenges, also open up new possibilities in architectural design. New building materials and technologies appear on the Polish market, as well as private investors – companies and individuals. The importance of place, the discovery of local identities, traditions and history increase. The pluralism of architecture is combined with the simultaneous emergence of many trends, both drawing on history and tradition, and continuing or reinterpreting the achievements of modernism and avant-garde movements, focusing attention on the architectural work and the architect – the creator.

2. ARCHITECTURE OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLEX IN NIEPOŁOMICIE

Historically, the origins of Niepołomice date back to the beginnings of the Polish state. The development and growth of Niepołomice are linked to the Royal Capital City of Krakow and the Niepołomice Forest – hunting grounds of the princes and kings of the Piast and Jagiellonian dynasties. Around 1340, King Casimir the Great of Poland decided to build a Gothic *hunting castle* in Niepołomice. The Gothic *hunting castle* in Niepołomice was rebuilt in the Renaissance style between 1550 and 1571, commissioned by King Sigismund Augustus of the Jagiellonian dynasty. “Four single-aisled wings with cloisters around the courtyard and open staircases in the corners of the courtyard indicate the infiltration of Italian palace concepts, shaped at the end of the *Quattrocento*, into Polish territory⁴”. Casimir the Great also founded the Gothic *Church of Ten Thousand Martyrs* in Niepołomice, built between 1350 and 1358, and expanded in subsequent centuries with two chapels: a Mannerist one, belonging to the Branicki family and a Baroque one belonging to the Lubomirski family⁵. Niepołomice boasts an architecturally interesting town hall building, erected in the Neo-Gothic style in 1903, according to a design by architect Jan Sas-Zubrzycki.

The relationship between the art of building and history was analysed on the example of the architecture of the *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice, designed by architect Mieczysław Gała⁶ with the team, implemented in stages between 1994 and 1999 at 2 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street in Niepołomice.

The conceptual design of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice was created in 1993, according to the idea of the author and chief designer, architect Mieczysław Gała, in co-operation with architects Marta Kozielec and Jarosław Kazior. The technical design was developed in stages between 1994 and 1999 at the Marta Kozielec Architektura Design Studio, by a team consisting of the author and chief designer, architect Mieczysław Gała, with the authorship collaboration of architects Ewa Kasz and Marta Kozielec. The replacement

hibition of Architecture – The Corderia di Venezia, Venice 1980, after: B. Gadomska, A. Gliński, “Obecność przeszłości” czyli retrospekcja o Biennale weneckim, “Architektura” 1982, no. 2, pp. 25.

⁴ H. Kozakiewiczowa, S. Kozakiewicz, *Renans w Polsce*, Arkady, Warszawa 1976, pp. 128.

⁵ *Historia Parafii* [in:] Rzymskokatolicka Parafia Dziesięciu Tysięcy Męczenników, <https://parafianiepolomice.pl/historia-parafii/> (access: 4.09.2025).

⁶ Mieczysław Franciszek Gała (1939–2020), graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Krakow University of Technology, where he studied from 1958 to 1964. A commemorative website dedicated to the work of architect Mieczysław Gała: www.architektmieczyslawgala.com

design for the sports sector was prepared between 1997 and 1999 by architect Mieczysław Gała, author and chief designer, in collaboration with architect Miłosz Łucki. The structural design of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice was developed by engineer Wiesław Wazl and engineer Teresa Nowak, in collaboration with engineer Krystyna Wazl. The steel structure was designed by engineer Barbara Wazl.

The *Holy Father John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice is located in the historic centre of Niepołomice, at Kazimierz Wielki Square, in the vicinity of the *Royal Castle* and park areas, with a partially preserved historic layout. The plot is roughly diamond-shaped, adjacent to Kazimierza Wielkiego Street on the eastern side, and on the western side to 3 Maja Street. From the south, the area borders on a preserved fragment of the former defensive moat. The plot was partially built up with single-storey buildings that once belonged to the “Motoruch” Cooperative, which, according to a decision by the Niepołomice Town and Municipality Office, were to be adapted and modernised for the needs of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice.

The *Royal Castle* in Niepołomice – the architectural and symbolic landmark of the town – was a reference and source of inspiration for the author and chief designer, architect Mieczysław Gała, and above all for the designed architecture of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. The similarities are visible in the architectural form, composition and architectural details.

The spatial concept of the school refers to the architecture of the *Royal Castle* – two teaching sectors (marked with the letter A on the development plan), a library (E) and a sports sector (D) – are arranged around a courtyard, in the centre of which is a single-storey sector of specialist workshops (marked with the letter B on the development plan), opening on one side onto a terrace and on the other onto a green recreation area. The existing single-storey buildings on the plot formed the initial spatial layout of the architectural concept, prompting the architect to create sectors grouping together the individual functions that make up the programme of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. Four existing buildings were adapted to house the school’s main teaching programme: two teaching sectors, specialist workshops, and a library.

The elongated-form buildings of the teaching sectors, situated perpendicular to each other, on the side of the former moat and park and along Kazimierza Wielkiego Street, were extended by one storey and topped with gable roofs. The composition of the façade was designed to break up the monotony of the long façade planes of the teaching sectors, divided into sequences marked by clinker risalits (masking the roof drainage), complemented by the rhythm of windows illuminating the classrooms and topped with dormers. The *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice has IT, language, and subject classrooms, as well as a library multimedia centre and a virtual shooting range.

School forums are elements characteristic of schools designed by architect Mieczysław Gała. The school forum enhances the quality of the architectural space of educational institutions, diversifying the architecture of the school with a representative area used during school ceremonies and for student recreation between lessons.

The dominant feature of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice is the central sector (marked with the letter C on the development plan) – housing the school forum, connected to the adjacent staircase tower, distinguished by its height and location, as it is located at the corner of Kazimierza Wielkiego Street and Spółdzielcza Street. The school forum is composed on a square plan, rotated at an angle of 45° to the main composition of the *Holy Father John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. The central sector with the school forum was designed on a square plan and topped with a hipped roof with

a skylight. A linear skylight with a triangular cross-section brings light into the interior and accentuates the main entrance to the school, running vertically from the column supporting the entrance roof, then along the ridge of the hipped roof, giving the school's architecture and the representative interior space of the school forum their original character. The steel structure supporting the hipped roof of the central sector (C) has been exposed in the interior. The steel truss structure, powder-coated in navy blue, stands out against the light surfaces of the hipped roof, finished with trapezoidal sheet metal on the inside.

The motif of a castle tower was the romantic inspiration for the architecture of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. Designed by architect Mieczysław Gała, the tower is a compositional accent of the central sector (C) and an urban and architectural landmark, as well as a symbol of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. The tower of the main staircase was designed on a square plan and topped with a hipped roof, reminiscent of the corner tower of the *Hunting Castle* from the 14th-century Piast architecture of the *Royal Castle* in Niepołomice. The main four-flight staircase connects the school forum of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice with the teaching sectors on the ground floor, and leads through the gallery to the classrooms in the teaching sectors on the first floor. The *School Complex* in Niepołomice includes a General Secondary School with a Military Preparation Department and a Sports Department and a Technical College⁷. In 2002, a clock and a sundial designed by Dr Jan Mietelski, from the Jagiellonian University's Astronomical Observatory, were placed on the southern façade of the tower of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice. Below it, a Latin motto from *The Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians* was inscribed: *VIDETE QVOMODO CARTE AMBVLETIS NON QUASI INSIPIENTES SED VT SAPIENTES REDIMENTES TEMPVS*⁸.

The physical culture sector (D) – housing a gym with facilities, was designed by architect Mieczysław Gała in two versions. The first version of the sports sector, visible in the axonometric drawing of the conceptual design from 1993 (Ill. 2), seems more interesting architecturally and more integrated with the character of the *Holy Father John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice and the historical context of the centre of Niepołomice. In the original version of the design, the rectangular solid of the sports sector, covered with a gable roof, was diversified by vertical glazing illuminating the gym, topped with dormers. A second, simplified version of the sports sector design from 1997–1999 was implemented, subordinated to the optimisation of construction and operating costs. Vertical glazing on the façades and dormers was abandoned in favour of a linear skylight running along the ridge of the gable roof, illuminating the interior of the gymnasium. Inside the gymnasium, the steel truss structure supporting the roof was exposed. The ceramic tiles were replaced with red corrugated sheet metal.

Skylights are an important element of schools designed by architect Mieczysław Gała. In the architecture of the *Holy Father John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice, roof skylights bring natural light into the interior, determining its atmosphere and influencing the energy efficiency of the buildings. A linear skylight planned along the ridge line of the hipped roof of the school forum in the central sector (C) and a linear

⁷ The official website of the City and Commune of Niepołomice, <https://www.niepolomice.eu> (access: 18.09.2025).

⁸ St. Paul of Tarsus, *Letter to the Ephesians*, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time...” from: *Historia Szkoły. Powstanie Liceum Ogólnokształcącego w Niepołomicach* [in:] Zespół Szkół im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach, <https://www.lo-niepolomice.pl/a/historia-powstania-szkoly> (access: 18.09.2025).

skylight planned in the completed version of the sports sector (D) are complemented by a skylight on the flat roof of the specialist workshop sector (B), introducing upper daylight into the corridor between the teaching and administrative rooms.

In the architecture of most postmodern schools designed by architect Mieczysław Gała, the colour scheme refers to the national colours of the Republic of Poland. The colour scheme of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice was also designed in white and red. The dominant colour of the façade is white, combined with the red of the clinker brick vertical risalits and foundations, and above all with the red of the sloping roofs of individual sectors, covered with ceramic tiles, in reference to the architecture of the *Royal Hunting Castle* in Niepołomice.

On 29 May 1994, at 2 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street in Niepołomice, in the presence of, among others, the Krakow Governor Tadeusz Piekarz and the Mayor of the Town and Municipality of Niepołomice – also a Member of the Polish Parliament – Stanisław Kracik, the Foundation Stone and the Erection Act were laid for the construction of the *John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice, marking the beginning of the phased implementation of the project, which took place between 1994 and 1999. The Erection Act for the *John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice reads, *inter alia*:

This construction is made possible thanks to the generosity of the community and numerous grants, based on Resolution No. XX/121/92 of the Niepołomice City Council dated July 20, 1992 and is being undertaken out of concern for providing our youth with decent educational conditions appropriate for the standards of the 21st century. The buildings, designed by Architect Mieczysław Gała, were erected on the site of the former Motoruch factory and former Uhlan barracks, and were entrusted to the Przedsiębiorstwo Budownictwa Przemysłowego Budostal-3⁹.

The significance of the investors – the residents and local authorities of Niepołomice – without whom the architecture of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice would not have been possible.

3. ARCHITECTURE, HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Niepołomice is a town whose identity is defined by valuable architectural monuments and natural assets – developing around the *Royal Hunting Castle* in the vicinity of the Niepołomice Forest. The town's status is also determined by the ambitions and diligence of its residents.

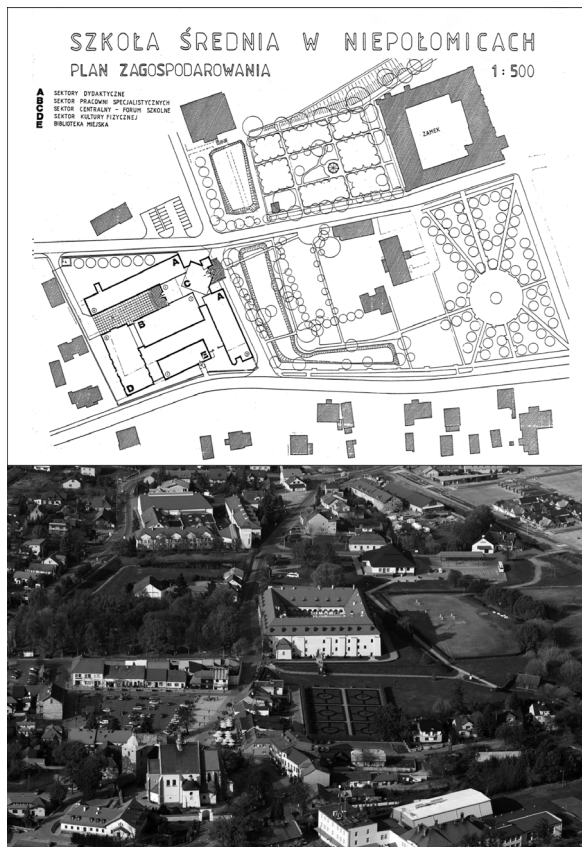
The architecture of the *Holy Father John Paul II Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice, designed by architect Mieczysław Gała and his team, is an example of a postmodern approach to the historical and cultural heritage of the town. The *School Complex* was built in a location that is special in terms of history, urban planning and form, closing the landscape and viewing axes leading from the *Royal Castle* in Niepołomice and the park terraces. The architectural design's strength lies in the adaptation and modernisation of the existing single-storey buildings for the needs of the planned educational facility.

The programme of the *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice is based on functional sectors, whose form and composition refer to the historical architecture of the *Royal*

⁹ *Akt Erekcyjny Zespołu Szkół Średnich im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach*, source: Archive of the Mieczysław Gała Monika Gała-Walczowska Architectural Design Studio.

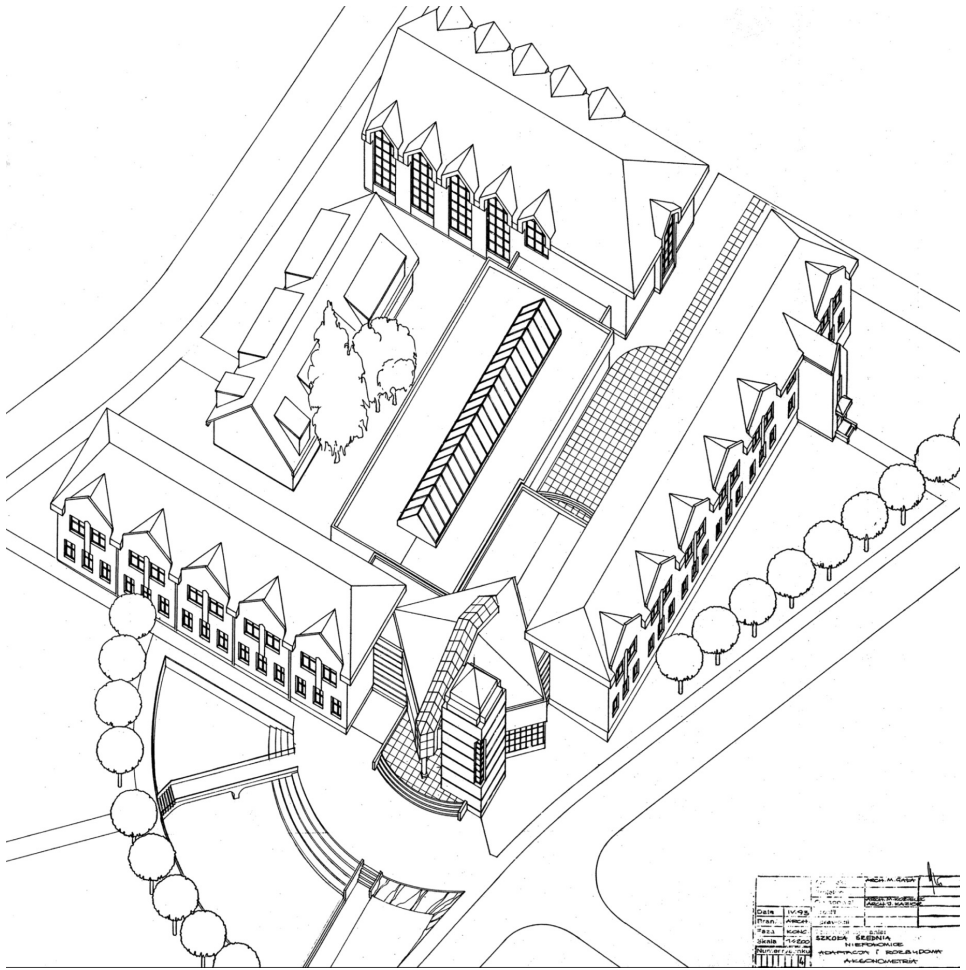
Hunting Castle in Niepołomice. The teaching sectors house a general secondary school with a military training department and a football sports department, a technical college preparing students for the professions of economist, IT technician and programmer, hotel and logistics technician,¹⁰ as well as the Vocational Education and Life-Long Learning Centre in Niepołomice.

The spatial concept and, above all, the architecture of the *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice harmoniously fits into the location, combining individual elements located around the Castle – a fragment of the former moat and park greenery – into a complex with a uniformly defined urban layout. The architecture of the *Secondary School Complex* in Niepołomice is an integral part of the spatial layout of the centre of Niepołomice, which has grown over the centuries around the *Royal Hunting Castle* in Niepołomice.



Ill. 1. Conceptual design of the *Secondary School in Niepołomice*, ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 1 in Niepołomice – development design, Chief Designer and Author – architect Mieczysław Gała, collaboration: architect Marta Kozielec, architect Jarosław Kazior, Krakow 1993, source of illustration: Archive of architect Mieczysław Gała and the Monika Gała-Walczowska Architektura Design Studio; Panorama of Niepołomice, source: *Widok z lotu ptaka od południa*, author ZeroJeden [in:] *Polskie zamki*, 10. 2013, <https://www.zamki.pl/?idzamku=niepolomice#&gid=null&pid=19> (access: 6.09.2025)

¹⁰ The official website of the City and Commune of Niepołomice, <https://www.niepolomice.eu> (access: 18.09.2025).



III. 2. Conceptual design of the Secondary School in Niepołomice, ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 1 in Niepołomice – adaptation and modernisation of the buildings formerly belonging to the “Motoruch” Cooperative in Niepołomice – axonometric projection, Chief Designer and Author – architect Mieczysław Gała, in collaboration with architect Marta Koziół and architect Jarosław Kazior, Krakow 1993, source of illustration: Archive of architect Mieczysław Gała and the Monika Gała-Walczowska Architektura Design Studio



Ill. 3. *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex in Niepołomice*, ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 1 in Niepołomice, Chief Designer and Author – architect Mieczysław Gała, authorship collaboration: architect Ewa Kasz, architect Marta Kozielec, collaboration on the second version of the sports sector: architect Miłosz Łucki. Phased implementation 1994–1999. Photos: aerial view, source: W. Sternal, *Niepołomickie Technikum czwarte w Małopolsce i trzydzieste w Polsce* [in:] Niepołomice, 19.01.2022, <https://www.niepolomice.eu/edukacja/niepolomickie-technikum-czwarte-w-malopolsce-i-trzydzieste-w-polsce/> (access: 27.10.2025), photos of the implementation by architect Mieczysław Gała, source: Archive of architect Mieczysław Gała and the Monika Gała-Walczowska Architektura Design Studio



III. 4. *Holy Father John Paul II School Complex* in Niepołomice, ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 1 in Niepołomice, Chief Designer and Author – architect Mieczysław Gała, authorship collaboration: architect Ewa Kasz, architect Marta Kozielec, collaboration on the second version of the sports sector: architect Miłosz Łucki. Phased implementation 1994–1999. Photos: architect Mieczysław Gała gallery and interior of the school forum, architect Monika Gała-Walczowska skylights and internal communication spaces of the school, source of illustrations: Archive of architect Mieczysław Gała and the Monika Gała-Walczowska Architektura Design Studio; interior of the gym, source: *Sala Gimnastyczna* [in:] *Zespół Szkół im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach*, <https://www.lo-niepolomice.pl/a/sala-gimnastyczna-1> (access: 6.09.2025)

References

- [1] *Akt Erekcynjny Zespołu Szkół Średnich im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach*, Archiwum Pracowni Projektowej Architektura Mieczysław Gała Monika Gała-Walczowska.
- [2] *Definiowanie przestrzeni architektonicznej*, DjaF, Kraków 2001.
- [3] Gadomska B., Gliński A., “Obecność przeszłości” czyli retrospekcja o Biennale weneckim, “Architektura” 1982, no. 2, pp. 25–31.
- [4] Gała M., *Opis do projektu koncepcyjnego Szkoły Średniej w Niepołomicach*, Kraków 1993.
- [5] Gała M., Kozielec M., *Opis do projektu technicznego architektoniczno-budowlanego Zespołu Szkół Średnich w Niepołomicach*, Archiwum Pracowni Projektowej Architektura Mieczysław Gała Monika Gała-Walczowska, Kraków 1994.
- [6] Gostomski D., *Pocztówka z Niepołomic*, Wydawnictwo Ruthenus – Rafał Barski, Niepołomice – Krosno 2024.
- [7] *Historia Parafii* [in:] Rzymskokatolicka Parafia Dziesięciu Tysięcy Męczenników, <https://parafianiepolomice.pl/historia-parafii/> (access: 4.09.2025).
- [8] *Historia Szkoły. Powstanie Liceum Ogólnokształcącego w Niepołomicach* [in:] Zespół Szkół im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach, <https://www.lo-niepolomice.pl/a/historia-powstania-szkoly> (access: 18.09.2025).
- [9] Jencks C., *Architektura postmodernistyczna*, Arkady, Warszawa 1984.
- [10] Kozakiewiczowa H., Kozakiewicz S., *Renesans w Polsce*, Arkady, Warszawa 1976.
- [11] Misiągiewicz M., *Architektoniczna geometria*, Instytut Projektowania Architektonicznego, Wydział Architektury Politechniki Krakowskiej, Kraków 2005.
- [12] *Sala Gimnastyczna* [in:] Zespół Szkół im. Ojca Świętego Jana Pawła II w Niepołomicach, <https://www.lo-niepolomice.pl/a/sala-gimnastyczna-1> (access: 6.09.2025).
- [13] Szczerki A. *Cztery nowoczesności. Teksty o sztuce i architekturze polskiej XX wieku*, Studio Wydawnicze DodoEditor, Kraków 2015.
- [14] The official website of the City and Commune of Niepołomice, <https://www.niepolomice.eu> (access: 18.09.2025).
- [15] Venturi R., *Complexity and contradiction in architecture*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York 1977.
- [16] Watkin D, *Historia architektury zachodniej*, Arkady, Warszawa 2001.
- [17] *Widok z lotu ptaka od południa*, author ZeroJeden [in:] Polskie zamki, 10. 2013, <https://www.zamki.pl/?idzamku=niepolomice#&gid=null&pid=19> (access: 6.09.2025).

Author's Note

Monika Gała-Walczowska, PhD, Architect

Employed at the Chair of Architectural Design, Faculty of Architecture, Cracow University of Technology. Involved in research and lectures on *Threads of Significance on the 20th-Century Architecture*. Author of several scientific papers. She is currently conducting research on the architectural works of her father, architect Mieczysław Gała. From 1995 to 2020 she collaborated with architect Mieczysław Gała at the Architektura Design Studio Mieczysław Gała Monika Krygowska-Gała (1995–2002) Monika Gała-Walczowska (2002–2020), in Krakow. From 1997 a member of SARP Krakow Branch, and from 2004 a member of the Małopolska Regional Chamber of Architects.
monika.gala-walczowska@pk.edu.pl