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# ARCHITECTURE BEHIND US, ARCHITECTURE BEFORE US AND FOR US A MOMENT BETWEEN ARCHITECTURE

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## ARCHITEKTURA ZA NAMI, ARCHITEKTURA PRZED NAMI, A DLA NAS CHWILA MIĘDZY ARCHITEKTURAMI

### Abstract

The author was born in Łódź and worked as an architect for over 40 years. She was brought up in a modernist villa owned by a pediatrician, reading Jan Izydor Sztudynger epigrams (famous Cracovian). The article title stems from his statement: "Eternity behind us, eternity before us and for us a moment between eternity". Therefore what is going on with Łódź architecture, shaped in the city which is the cradle of avant-garde buildings, designed by Władysław Strzeмиński and Katarzyna Kobro. The beginning of Piotrkowska Street – Plac Wolności, center of the city identity is the best place to start following the creating process of spatial legacy.

*Keywords: Łódź, Plac Wolności, classicism, avant-garde, modernist architecture*

### Streszczenie

Autorka artykułu jest rodowitą łodzianką i od ponad czterdziestu lat praktykującym architektem. Wychowała się w modernistycznej, nieistniejącej już obecnie willi lekarza pediatry, czytając fraszki słynnego krakowianina Jan Izydora Sztudyngera, który m.in. napisał „Bo największą łodzian troska wszystko zmieścić na Piotrkowską”. Z kolei tytuł tego artykułu koresponduje z Jego stwierdzeniem „Wieczność za nami, wieczność przed nami, my w chwili między wiecznościami”. A zatem co z tą łódzką architekturą, architekturą kreowaną w mieście stanowiącym kolebkę obiektów awangardowych w postaci twórczości Władysława Strzeмиńskiego czy Katarzyny Kobro. Najtrafniej prześledzić proces kreowania dziedzictwa przestrzennego Łodzi na przykładzie centralnego miejsca jej tożsamości tj. stanowiącego początek ulicy Piotrkowskiej – Placu Wolności.

*Słowa kluczowe: Łódź, Plac Wolności, architektura klasycyzująca awngardowa, modernistyczna*

As a practicing architect and academic teacher, I try to observe the space around me in order to shape it in the best possible way. Architecture is, after all, the art of transforming space and how every useful thing should serve people regardless of age. My hometown Łódź is the cradle of avant-garde architectural art. This fact obliges us to recognize the power of the legacy of the myth of modernity. The dilemma of approach to the process of contemporary

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design of the architectural form “tradition or modernity” I will try to start the example of creating the central place of Łódź identity, which is the beginning of the famous Piotrkowska Street – Plac Wolności.

The genesis of Plac Wolności dates back to the 19th century. On 18 September 1820, the Governor decided to create (in the center of the Kingdom of Poland) a dozen or so factory cities, to which Lodz was also promoted. Romuald Rembieliński ordered to mark the boundaries of a new cloth factory at the top of a local hill. The estate was to be named Nowe Miasto. In it, the New Market Square was to be built – today – Wolności Square.<sup>2</sup> The main works on the New Town were carried out in the years 1821–1823. It was created at a distance of about 500 m south of the Old Town. The New Town was built in accordance with the town planning principles of the Classicism period – axial and symmetrical systems.<sup>3</sup> Regulatory work on the layout of the New Town was made by geographer F. de Viebig. The core of the settlement, the area designated for its development, was located on the axis of the Piotrkowski route. The New Town received a rectangular shape within the following streets: Północna, Południowa (now Rewolucji 1905 St), East and West. In the center of the New Town, the market was created (Rynek Nowego Miasta).<sup>4</sup> It was located at the intersection of the Piotrkowski route and Średnia St (currently: Legionów and Pomorska St). The market received a unique octagonal shape.

After the later extension of Średnia St in the east-west direction, this road took over the function of the main route (parallel). It connected the newly created settlement with Brzeziny and Konstanytown. It increased the rank of the New Town market. In contrast to the original market, located in the Old Town, it was called the New Market. It should also be noted, that the New Town Market Square was built on the site of the former transport hub, where several local roads converged. They were connected with the Piotrkowski route and together they passed through a causeway and a bridge over the Łódka river to the agricultural town – the Old Town. Therefore, the outgoing roads on the main axes of the New Town spread to four corners of the world. Nowadays, Piotrkowska St. (planned in 1823–1825, when the Piotrkowski route was regulated) begins from the Wolności Square and continues southwards. To the north of Wolności Square, Nowomiejska St continues into Zgierska St. From the west to Plac Wolności there is Legionów St, and from the east – Pomorska St. The entire area of the New Town covered around 27 hectares of land. The New Town consisted of 202 plots (around the New Market Square), and in total 184 building plots were identified in the settlement. The varied size and shape of the plots was adapted to 4 different types: the market surfaces, due to the octagonal outline of the square, had the shape of larger and smaller semi-trapezium, the other squares – rectangles. Most plots were small. 16 plots adjoining the market (due to the octagonal shape) received the intermediate area between small and large plots. The largest plots were located on the north side of Północna St. After the layout of the New Town, the area of Łódź with the Old Town increased to 15.4 km<sup>2</sup>. The plan of the 19th century New Town drew upon the diagrams of Western European cities from the 17th and 18th centuries. The New Town was symmetrical and at the same time transparent. For example, the New Town plan had many similar features to the Renaissance layout of the city of Frampol from 1705. It was even more similar to the radial system, which was the basis for the layout of the

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<sup>2</sup> S. Liszewski (ed.), *Łódź – monografia miasta*, Łódzkie Towarzystwo Naukowe, Łódź 2009

<sup>3</sup> M. Koter, M. Kulesza, W. Puś, S. Pytlas, *Wpływ wielonarodowego dziedzictwa kulturowego Łodzi na współczesne oblicze miasta*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź 2005, pp. 150–151.

<sup>4</sup> S. Liszewski (ed.), *op. cit.*, pp. 83–84.

city of Korc from 1809. The plan of Zgierz is very similar to the New Town from the cities of the Łódź area.

To sum up, Nowe Miasto was established in the early period of industrialization in Łódź as a clothing production settlement. After 1820, Łódź was promoted in socio-economic rank. It was the result of being included in the group of factory cities and the creation of several industrial complexes. The settlements specialized in textile production. Therefore, Rembieliński was the author of the first planned Łódź industrial center.

Plac Wolności (the original name “Rynek Nowego Miasta”) is the central square of Łódź, located at the northern outlet of ul. Piotrkowska, it was given the shape of a regular octagon. (Ill. 1) To distinguish it from the primary market of Łódź, located about 450 m to the north, it was called the New Town Market Square: *Having entered from Zgierz, you remember the old town, but quickly pass it, where once there was deep water, you enter a number of new, decent buildings, and everywhere is movement, and everywhere is life. You walk one viorst, then second and fifth, and you're still in the city, you're still in Lodz. Huge buildings surround you, full of industrial activity and almost weary of life, you leave the city. To think this was once some small village!*<sup>5</sup>

In 1863, the northern section of the Piotrkowki route, from the New Town Square to the Old Market Square, was renamed to Nowomiejska Street, whereas the street facing west was named after Konstantynowska. “Nowe Miasto” was surrounded on four sides by streets: West, North, East and South. In the center of the market, a city marketplace is located. At the market square in 1827, the Town Hall and the Evangelical Church of St. Trinity were built. These were the first representative buildings in Łódź. In 1857 a local school building was erected (currently the Archeological and Ethnographic Museum). Even before the New Town market, O. Flatt wrote about it: *In the near future there is hope that the New Town square will be surrounded by beautiful edifices: it is already planned to construct a real regional school, a church for a Roman Catholic parish and a Łódka river bank. Here, in Lodz, similar projects in a shorter time than elsewhere take place, because here is the capital, a strong basis of all ventures; government care for the well-being of the inhabitants, local authority, and finally the population, which combines work, venture and the spirit.*<sup>6</sup>

In 1898, tram transport reached the New Town Market Square, and the marketplace was transformed into a representative city square. In 1918, when Poland regained its independence, the market was renamed to Wolności Square. In 1930, a statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko was erected in the middle of the square. After the annexation of Łódź by the Third Reich, the German occupation authorities of Łódź destroyed the monument on November 11, 1939, the square was renamed *Freiheitsplatz*, and in 1940 *Deutschlandplatz*. The monument was rebuilt in an identical shape in 1960. In the 1820s, a small settlement south of the Old Town was established, which gave rise to the great industry of Łódź. The centrally located square, later called the Market Square of the New Town, was mainly inhabited by clothiers and for a long time served as a marketplace. The square is the reference point in the numbering of Łódź streets. In 2015, Freedom Square was declared a monument of history. The square opens onto Piotrkowska Street. Here, in the years 1826–28, two similar Classicist buildings stood – the Town Hall and the Evangelical Church of St. Trinity, designed by Bonifacy Witkowski. At

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<sup>5</sup> R. Rosin (ed.), *Łódź dzieje miasta. T. I – do 1918 roku*, PWN, Warszawa, Łódź 1980, pp. 157–158.

<sup>6</sup> O. Flatt, *Opis miasta Łodzi pod względem historycznym, statystycznym i przemysłowym*, GRAKO, Łódź 2002, pp. 48–49.

the eastern frontage of the Market Square there is a small quadrangular annex with arcades – the remains of slaughterhouses built in the first half of the 19th century. Today, the former Evangelical church is the main feature of the square, this beautiful domed building gained its appearance between 1889–96. Later, it became the Catholic Church of The Pentecost. The monumental building of the neighboring Archeological and Ethnographic Museum is also impressive. Next to the church, of the Holy Trinity, the building of the German-Russian Real School was erected (1856), later the Łódź Higher School of Crafts. The New Market Square was perfectly planned in accordance with the principles of spatial order. Only one-story brick buildings were erected next to it, so not to exceed the representative Town Hall. Unfortunately, during the war and after its end, the uniform residential buildings of the square were demolished. Only two tenement houses from the turn of the century survived, one of them adorned with the figure of a lying lion. There is also a well adorned with dolphins, at which cabs have been standing not long ago. In the central part of the square, there is a high obelisk with the statue of the Chief – Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Plac Wolności is a local communication node – departing streets mark the directions of the world, Hence the streets start at right angles: Piotrkowska – Pomorska (formerly Średnia), Nowomiejska (formerly Piotrkowska) – Legionów (formerly Średnia). The square, which is the heart of the New Town, has received the shape of a regular octagon, which is rare in Europe. It is a great landmark. The New Town Market Square is the beginning of the Piotrkowski Route from the 19th century industrial Łódź. According to the city authorities, only stone buildings were to be located at the New Market Square. The only wooden building was a single-storey inn. The New Market Square in the 19th century was a key place for the New Town cloth factory, created for settlers from the Czech Republic, Prussia and Saxony. They were involved in the production of fabrics in home workshops. Plans for the construction of the New Town were set in 1821. 202 plots were designated in four urban areas. The area of the settlement was limited by Western, Northern, Southern (now Revolution 1905) and Eastern streets. In the center of the settlement was the New Market, located at the intersection of Piotrkowska and Średnia St. The New Town Market Square (Wolności Square) changed into a market twice a week. For commercial purposes, stalls were built according to the design of H. Marconi, so-called meat and bakery stoves, one-storied stands protected by a common roof. Brick buildings were built on two opposite corners of the Piotrkowska St: the Town Hall (1827) and the Evangelical church (1828). They were a kind of “gate” of Piotrkowska Street. The most important object was and remained the Town Hall, the most valuable monument in classicist style in Łódź. In the 1840s, the market was paved. The square remained a market until 1898, when the era of tram communication came. At that time, it became a representative part of the city. The New Market was renamed Plac Wolności in 1918 after regaining independence. The central place is occupied by the monument of Tadeusz Kościuszko (1930). On November 11, 1939, the occupation forces of Litzmannstadt, destroyed the monument with the plan of destroying Polish symbols. With the participation of the creator, sculptor Mieczysław Lubelski, the monument was rebuilt in 1960. At Plac Wolności there are many valuable historic objects. Particularly noteworthy is the classical Town Hall, the only building of the New Market which survived in an unchanged architectural shape. (Ill. 2) On the other corner of ul. Piotrkowska, in the vicinity of the Town Hall, stands the former Evangelical Church of St. Trinity (now Catholic). (Ill. 3) It was a building very similar to the Town Hall in architectural design, but after the reconstruction (1891–1893) lost its original form. Right next to the Town Hall, at number 2, is a tenement house, and in it the oldest pharmacy in Łódź. (Ill. 4) Inside there is antique furniture from the

XIXth century. On the opposite side of the square, at number 9 is the second tenement house "Pod Lwem". (Ill. 5) At Wolności Square, there are museums of freedom: at number 14, the Archeological and Ethnographic Museum, and at number 2 a branch of the Museum of the History of the City of Łódź presenting the history of the Catholic Church in Łódź and the Museum of Pharmacy History. Those interested in what is underground, Plac Wolności invites to the so-called "Dętka", an underground channel, one of the oldest in Łódź. A section (142 m) was open for tourists in 2008. The entrance is located at the monument of Tadeusz Kościuszko. (Ill. 6) Freedom Square was often used for Polish movie scenes, including "Czarne stopy", "Daleko od szosy" or "Powrót na ziemię". The urban complex of Wolności Square was entered in the monuments register under the registry number A/25 in 1971. At present, the square closing Piotrkowska Street from the north is to become pedestrian friendly and adapted to the organization of mass events. The Łódź Municipal Investment Authority has announced a competition for the design and reconstruction of Plac Wolności. The investment will be part of the revitalization of the city center. The main task is the reconstruction of the square slab along with the roadway and track, underground installations, the construction of a fountain, planting trees and setting up urban furniture. During the revitalization of the square, the track layout will change at the intersection of tram lines. The tram roundabout will disappear, (sometimes used as an emergency loop). Its place will be taken by a double track north of the monument of Tadeusz Kościuszko, marking the center of the square. There will also be stops and a branch of tracks north through Nowomiejska St. According to the authorities, this step is to allow for the creation of a functional extension of the pedestrian zone at Piotrkowska St, which reaches the square from the south, and expands public space. The effects of this controversial decision are to be alleviated by the construction of the track arches at nearby Nowomiejska – Północna St intersection. Plac Wolności will change after revitalization beyond recognition, despite the fact that Kosciuszko's monument will not be moved, and the track will remain on at least part of the square. About 50 trees will be planted in the southern part of the square in two rows, and a fountain will be adjacent to them, consisting of about 30 nozzles.

To sum up, Nowe Miasto was established in the early period of industrialization in Łódź, as a clothing production settlement. After 1820, Łódź was promoted in socio-economic terms. It was the result of being included in the group of factory cities and the creation of several industrial complexes.

The New Town Market Square was also a landmark of Łódź. At the same time, it was the central point of the cloth factory founded in 1823 – Nowe Miasto. Therefore, it was the most impressive square of the city and maintained this position until new industrial settlements were created in the area of present Łódź, eg along the Piotrkowska St. As time passed (1824–1827), south of the New Town market, another settlement was planned (along the Piotrkowski route) – cotton weaving, called Łódka.<sup>7</sup> In the first phase of development, the New Town market was a place of trade (until the end of the 19th century). There were merchant stalls, bakers and butchers. In 1837, the authorities of Łódź ordered from L. Bethier a project of one-story stalls covered with one roof and decorated with brick arcades. The construction was commissioned to Józef Weyland. On the southern end side of Średnia St (currently Pomorska St) there were 15 bakery stalls and 15 butcher stalls on the northern side. Jatki were built in the classical style.<sup>8</sup> They were demolished only after 1945, and in the 1970s the present place got its current

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<sup>7</sup> M. Koter, M. Kulesza, W. Puś, S. Pytlas, *op. cit.*, p. 153.

<sup>8</sup> R. Bonisławski, J. Podolska, *Spacerownik Łódzki*, Biblioteka Gazety Wyborczej, Łódź 2009, pp. 46–47.

appearance. The main public buildings in the New Town Square (now Plac Wolności) were and still are: the Town Hall from 1827 – Plac Wolności number 1 and the Evangelical Church of St. Trinity from 1828 – Piotrkowska St number 2. These two buildings were built on both sides of Piotrkowska St (end) in accordance with the principles of classical urbanism. They were erected in a modest style of empire classicism, that is in the “Empire Style”. They were located on a hill – both buildings were visually dominating the New Town area. As a result, the medieval idea of communication between secular authorities (town hall) and spiritual power (church) resounds in its own way. It is the connection of the sacred and profane (dual power). The town hall and the church were built according to the design of Boniface Witkowski. The construction of town halls in the Kingdom of Poland was to raise the rank of provincial cities, including, for example, Łowicz or Łódź. In the town hall on the New Market Square in Łódź, a shallow, deep, columned portico was used. It was captured with two Ionic columns, thus giving it the features of representativeness. The town hall was erected by a construction entrepreneur from Zgierz – Jan Libelt. The facade of this building, from the market square side, has been symmetrically arranged. In the center on the axis is the main entrance at the bottom and a window at the top. In the side facades of the building, rectangular windows have been regularly placed in the bottom, in closed semicircular panels. The ground floor walls have been covered with ornamental fillings. The top is crowned with the attic, in which the center, above the portico, has a semicircular loft window and on the sides – narrow panels with a relief decoration of a griffin motif. There was a large hall in the interior of the town hall, which led to 7 rooms on the ground floor (city hall, archive, and a guardhouse with prison cells). Wooden stairs led to the first floor. The town hall was expanded in 1862 with a side wing from Piotrkowska Street. It received the entrance gate to the courtyard, according to the design of Jan Karol Mertsching. Despite numerous reconstructions (years 1862, 1888, 1915) the town hall has been preserved to this day unchanged. Thus, it is a small building – one story, square, with a quiet, classic form with a sparse detail (eg lion’s head). A small four-sided turret is located above the front elevation, with a hipped roof, in which in 1834 a clock with a chime was placed. The Town Hall belongs to the group of municipal government buildings of the Kingdom of Poland. Formerly, it was the calling card of the city related to the textile industry.<sup>9</sup> Today, the State Archives are located there. The second important object of the New Market is the aforementioned St. Trinity Church. At present, it is a Roman Catholic Garrison Pentecost Church. The church was thoroughly rebuilt in the years 1889–1892 according to the design of Otto Gehlig in the eclectic style, with majority of neo-roman elements. The former classicist-empire building referred in form and scale to the nearby town hall. The contemporary church is situated on the plan of an isosceles cross topped with a dome flanked with six towers. Inside, 19th-century equipment has survived, such as two-story galleries. Currently, it is a large object with a quite interesting and picturesque silhouette. Museum of Archeology and Ethnography (Plac Wolności 14), was created from the expansion of the former Powiatowo-Realna school, existing already in 1856. Then, the Łódź Higher School of Crafts was located here, transformed later into a School of Handicrafts and Industry. In 1887, the second floor and side wings were added. At the beginning of the 20th century (1903), the school moved to another building (outside Plac Wolności). In the 1920s, the object was expanded once again. In 1924, it became the seat of the magistrate (until 1942). From November 1945 it serves as a museum. At the end of the 19th century, the building was much more interesting.

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<sup>9</sup> K. Stefański, *Gmachy użyteczności publicznej dawnej Łodzi*, „ZORA”, Łódź 2000, pp. 71–72.

The facade of this building had a richer architectural setting. It was maintained in forms of a mature renaissance. The windows were covered with decorative frames. They were separated by rusticated pilasters. The facade was crowned with a frieze and attic.<sup>10</sup> Currently, it is a two-storey building with a modest facade. (Ill. 7)

In the years 1829–1830, at Nowy Rynek 2 (currently Plac Wolności 7), the first brick tenement house was erected (author Antoni Bittdorf). On the ground floor there was the first pharmacy in Lodz (launched in 1828 by Karol Kestchman). The building no longer exists. It was demolished in 1966.<sup>11</sup> In 1840, the owner of the pharmacy was Bogumił Zimmermann. Around that time, he erected a building at Plac Wolności 2 near the town hall. The pharmacy was moved to a newly built house by the market square, which still stands today. In 1893, the second floor with the attic was added along with two outbuildings. The project was designed by Gustaw Landau-Gutenteger. After the war, the pharmacy was nationalized. In the same building there is currently a branch of the Museum of the History of the City of Łódź with the exhibition “Catholic Łódź”. The Museum of Pharmacy also has its headquarters here. At Plac Wolności 6 is one of the oldest tenement houses from the time of former New Town Market Square. It comes from 1880 (the date appears at the top of the facade of the building). At number 9 there is a corner building “Under the Lion”. It was built in 1890 on the site of the old Inn of Adam Adamowski. Adamowski’s building was the first house at the market square and the only wooden one. Tenement House “Under the Lion” – although it is slightly destroyed by the passage of time, it is one of the last constructions from the 19th century market.<sup>12</sup>

At the corner of Wolności Square and Legionów Street, there is a building where the oldest confectionery in Łódź was established, under the name Confiserie. It was founded by a Swiss man – Vogeli. Over the years, the premises have changed. Today, the Chinese restaurant A Dong is located here. The New Town’s residential buildings were modest. Architecturally similar to each other. Only brick, one-storey, roof-covered buildings were erected in the city market. In the side streets, mostly one-storey buildings were constructed. Wooden buildings with steep roofs with mansards were not uncommon. They were covered with shingles. A typical clothier’s house was 3 or 4 – axis. It had a large workshop room, where in the course of the day cloth was hand-woven, and at night it was used for sleeping in (the production room was also used as a flat). In the clothier’s house there was also a living room, a chamber and a storage for wool and finished products.<sup>13</sup> This is how Oskar Flatt wrote about the development of the New Town market and surroundings (quote): *The long, regular, busy panorama presents the eye ranks of low, brick, monotonous houses from the New Town market – the center of traffic – continued to the Factory District, where the elevated buildings form the great, final link of this chain.*<sup>14</sup> In 1898, tram transport reached Nowy Rynek, and the city marketplace was transformed into a representative city square. Nowadays, the development of Plac Wolności does not fully reflect its origin from the beginning of the 19th century. The historic architecture of the New Market was largely replaced with new construction. Many homesteads were demolished in the 1970s,

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 34.

<sup>11</sup> M. Koter, M. Kulesza, W. Puś, S. Pytlas, *op. cit.*, p. 153.

<sup>12</sup> M. Bomanowska, R. Bonisławski, J. Podolska, *Spacerownik Łódzki 2*, Biblioteka Gazety Wyborczej, Łódź 2010, p. 84.

<sup>13</sup> R. Rosin (ed.), *op. cit.*, s. 159; S. Liczewski (ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 85; M. Koter, *Geneza układu przestrzennego Łodzi przemysłowej*, Prace Geograficzne, no. 79, PWN, Warszawa 1969.

<sup>14</sup> O. Flatt, *op. cit.*, p. 113.



and new buildings, not connected with earlier architecture, took their place. Currently, there are one storey brick buildings on Plac Wolności. Mainly from the north-west and from the north-east there are residential houses – they are newer, from the 20th century. On the ground floor and first floor there are institutions, cafes, a language school and other businesses. At number 5 – the Łódź Czterech Kultur festival is located in the corner building. The festival was established to present the achievements of four nations co-creating the old Łódź, namely: Poles, Jews, Germans and Russians.<sup>15</sup> In addition to the aforementioned houses, at number 3 there is a new, postmodern office building with a glass facade in which the bank is located. It was built in the 21st century. Its silhouette differs from other buildings at Wolności Square. (Ill. 8) Currently, Plac Wolności performs mainly a representative and transport function. There is a bus stop for two bus lines (“59” – for Radogoszcz, “78” – for Teofilów) and tram transport (for the time being). There is also a taxi stop (on the south-west side of the square).

To sum up – the characteristic, unique shape of the New Town and market consists of: its geometric repeatability of layout, unique shape of the market, rectangular street grid, support of parts of the system components on the 5-bar module. All this was a manifestation of the taste and imitation of classicist urbanism – symmetry and uniform composition.

Plac Wolności, formerly the New Town Market Square, is around 190 years old. Although most of the original buildings are gone, it still owes its originality to the urban development (octagonal market), and it impresses many people. There is no other nineteenth-century market in Poland, only some are similar. It is a kind of compensation for the fact that Łódź does not have a market of a medieval origin, such as other Polish cities, for example: Poznań, Warsaw, Wrocław, Toruń, Lublin, Rzeszów, Chełmno and many others. Today, Plac Wolności needs renewal, restoration of several tenement houses, needs a new development plan to serve the Lodz citizens further, in the 21st century. It needs changes, just like the Poznański Empire (Manufaktura Center), which is next door. I think that, as in the past, today, the market can become the pride of the inhabitants of Łódź. After all, it is an important urban monument that remembers the 19th century when Industrial Łódź and the 20th century were born. This is where the headquarters of several museums and other important institutions are located. This shows the rank and role of this place. Despite the passage of years, the square is still an important place in Łódź, in the historical, cultural and transportation sense. Therefore, Plac Wolności is a link between the past and the present.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> M. Bomanowska, R. Bonisławski, J. Podolska, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

<sup>16</sup> S. Liszewski (ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 86.

- Ill. 1. View of Plac Wolności from the bird's eye, author of the aerial photo W. Stepień
- Ill. 2. The Town Hall at Plac Wolności, photo by the author
- Ill. 3. Garrison Church of The Holy Trinity at Plac Wolności
- Ill. 4. Plac Wolności 2, photo by the author
- Ill. 5. “Under the Lion” tenement house, photo by the author
- Ill. 6. Tadeusz Kościuszko Monument, photo by the author.
- Ill. 7. Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum at Plac Wolności, photo by the author
- Ill. 8. Bank at Plac Wolności, photo by the author

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