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KRAKÓW PROJECTS BY FRYDERYK TADANIER FROM THE PERIOD 1938–1945: CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR FORMS, DETAILS, AND TEXTURES[1]

KRAKOWSKIE PROJEKTY FRYDERYKA TADANIERA Z OKRESU 1938–1945: CHARAKTERYSTYKA FORM, ICH DETALI I FAKTUR

Abstract

The paper analyses Fryderyk Tadanier's Kraków projects from the period 1938–1945. Its aim is to expand understanding of this architectural heritage. The study employs traditional research methods, including a review of the relevant literature and design documentation, *in situ* investigation, and genealogical research. The findings indicate that Fryderyk Tadanier's designs from 1938–1945 are characterised by a moderate form of modernism, simplified yet carefully designed details that constituted the architect's distinctive style, a diversity of details and textures influencing the perception of architectural forms, a preference for high-quality materials in both interiors and façades, and functionally designed floor plans.

Keywords: *architectural detail, architecture of Kraków, Fryderyk Tadanier, Kraków tenement house*

Streszczenie

Przedmiotem artykułu jest analiza krakowskich projektów Fryderyka Tadaniera z lat 1938–1945 oraz pogłębienie wiedzy dotyczącej tego dziedzictwa. W pracy wykorzystano tradycyjne metody badań: badania literatury i dokumentacji projektowej, badania *in situ* i genealogiczne. Udało się określić, że projekty Fryderyka Tadaniera z analizowanego okresu cechuje umiarkowany modernizm, uproszczone i starannie zaprojektowane detale tworzące charakterystyczny styl architekta, różnorodność detali i faktur wpływająca na zmienną percepcję form, dbałość o dobrej jakości rozwiązania materiałowe we wnętrzach i na elewacjach, funkcjonalne rozwiązanie rzutów budynków.

Słowa kluczowe: *architektura Krakowa, detal architektoniczny, Fryderyk Tadanier, kamienica krakowska*

1. INTRODUCTION

Fryderyk Tadanier was a graduate of Lviv Polytechnic, an outstanding architect-engineer who worked from the early 1930s in Kraków and in other cities, including Warsaw, Częstochowa, Rabka, Krynica, Będzin, and Radziszów. He served, among other positions, as a member of

[1] This publication was funded by the research project entitled *Jewish Architects and Builders in Kraków during the Second World War (1939–1945): Professional Activity, Life Stories, and Heritage*, National Science Centre (NCN), project no. 2024/53/B/HS2/02010.

the board of the Association of Polish Architects (SARP), a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, editor and publisher of the journal *Architekt*, and chief engineer as well as deputy head of Miastoprojekt[2].

The time scope of the article covers Tadanier's projects created in Kraków between 1938 and 1945, on the eve of and during the Second World War. The article is related to the research project entitled *Jewish Architects and Builders in Kraków during the Second World War (1939–1945): Professional Activity, Life Stories, and Legacy* (head researcher: Maciej Motak), within the framework of which it was prepared.

The traditional research methods adopted for the study – including a review of the literature, archival research in the National Archives in Kraków (ANK), and *in situ* investigations (including photographic documentation of existing buildings) – made it possible to present eight of Fryderyk Tadanier's Kraków designs from the years 1938–1945. The study also draws on genealogical research[3].

Fryderyk (Friedrich) Tadanier (born 18 January 1892 in Kamionka Strumiłowa; died 1 November 1960 in Kraków)[4] (Ill. 1) was the son of Pessel (Peppi, Paulina) Mager (born 5 April 1858 in Brody)[5] and Abraham (Adolf) Isaak Tadanier (born in September 1855 in Kamionka Strumiłowa). His parents married on 23 July 1888 in Kamionka Strumiłowa[6]. Abraham worked as a storekeeper in a steam mill and later as the manager (superintendent) of a steam-powered sawmill[7]. Abraham's parents were Cyrel (Zirel) Tadanier (born 1820 in Kamionka; died 22 April 1882 in Kamionka)[8] and Chaiem (Chajem, Chaim) Mendel Tadanier (born 1818 in Krystynopol; died 30 June 1883 in Kamionka)[9], who officially registered their marriage on 7 October 1866 in Kamionka[10]. Chaiem worked as a teacher. Fryderyk's mother,

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[2] B. Zbroja, *Leksykon architektów i budowniczych pochodzenia żydowskiego w Krakowie w latach 1868–1939*, Wysoki Zamek, Kraków 2023, pp. 233–234.

[3] Unfortunately, only a few vital records from Kamionka Strumiłowa have survived.

[4] Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych [Central Archives of Historical Records; AGAD], *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich* [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka. Księga urodzin 1890–1892* [Kamionka. Birth Register, 1890–1892], ref. no. 386, pp. 116–117 (entry no. 9).

[5] In another record, the place of birth has been given as Czernowitz (Czerniowce).

[6] AGAD, *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich* [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga ślubów 1878–1898* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Marriage Register, 1878–1898], ref. no. 1984, pp. 25–26 (entry no. 2).

[7] Archiwum Akademii Sztuk Pięknych w Krakowie [Archives of the Academy of Fine Arts; ASP], *Fryderyk Tadanier 1935–1960*, ref. no. 95.

[8] AGAD, *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich*, [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga zgonów 1880–1884* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Death Register 1880–1884], ref. no. 390, pp. 175–176 (entry no. 57).

[9] AGAD, *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich* [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga zgonów 1880–1884* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Death Register 1880–1884], ref. no. 390, pp. 267–268 (entry no. 61).

[10] The spouses' religious affiliation was recorded as Roman Catholic, see: AGAD, *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich* [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga ślubów 1866–1876* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Marriage Register, 1866–1876], ref. no. 387, p. 15.

Pessel, was the daughter of Hudel and Maier (Majer, Meir) Mager, a surgeon's assistant in Brody. Fryderyk had an older brother, Meier (born 28 January 1882 in Kamionka Strumiłowa)[11], another brother Wilhelm, who was murdered during the pogrom in Brzeżany in 1941, and a sister, Cecylia, who went missing during the war[12].

The work of architects and builders of Jewish origin in Kraków has been discussed in several publications[13], as has the subject of their wartime experiences during the years 1939–1945[14]. The projects and professional activity of Fryderyk Tadanier have likewise been examined in a number of studies[15]. However, there is still no comprehensive analysis of his projects from the Second World War period that would examine in detail the characteristics of their architectural forms (including façades and floor plans)[16], as well as their details and textures. The existing publications have focused primarily on Tadanier's more important tenement houses[17] and public buildings[18], including the tenement house at 7–8 Inwalidów Square / 2–2a Słowackiego Avenue (1930–1931) (Ill. 2a–b), the tenement house of the Pension Fund of the Municipal Savings Bank of the Kraków Poviat at 5 Szczepański Square (designed with Stefan Strojek, 1932–1934) (Ill. 2c–e), the Poviat Department Building at 18a–20 Słowackiego Avenue / 44 Łobzowska Street (designed with Stefan Strojek, 1935–1936) (Ill. 2f), and the Main Post Office at 2 Wielopole Street / 20 Westerplatte Street (rebuilding, 1930–1931).

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[11] AGAD, *Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich* [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands], *Kamionka. Księga urodzin 1880–1884* [Kamionka. Birth Register, 1880–1884], ref. no. 385, pp. 207–208 (entry no. 14).

[12] Fryderyk Tadanier only mentioned two siblings – Wilhelm and Cecylia, see: ASP, *Fryderyk Tadanier 1935–1960*, ref. no. 95.

[13] *Cf.* B. Zbroja, *Leksykon architektów..., op. cit.*; B. Zbroja, *Architektura międzywojennego Krakowa 1918–1939. Budynki, ludzie, historie*, Wysoki Zamek, Kraków 2013; B. Zbroja, *Miasto umarłych. Architektura publiczna Żydowskiej Gminy Wyznaniowej w Krakowie w latach 1868–1939*, WAM, Kraków 2005; M. Motak, *Architekci czy rzemieślnicy? O budowniczych krakowskich okresu międzywojennego*, [in:] M. Motak (ed.), *Studia nad architekturą i urbanistyką polski międzywojennej*, vol. 6, PK Press, Kraków 2021, pp. 11–82.

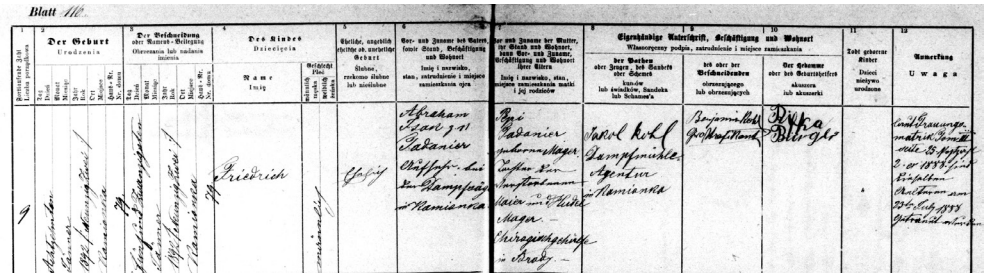
[14] B. Makowska, M. Motak, *Jakub Jan Spira – genealogy and works, including the years 1939–1945*, "Architectus" 2025 no. 4(84), pp. 49–63; M. Motak, *The fate of Krakow's builders and architects of Jewish origin in the face of World War II. Possibilities of applying the microhistorical method in research on architecture and urbanism*, "Architectus" 2024, no. 3(79), pp. 13–24.

[15] K. Twardowska, *Fryderyk Tadanier*, Instytut Architektury, Kraków 2016; K. Twardowska, *Krakowskie realizacje architekta Fryderyka Tadaniera (1892–1960)*, "Rocznik Krakowski" 2014, no. 80, pp. 193–216; B. Makowska, *Modernistyczne kamienice zaprojektowane w Krakowie przez Fryderyka Tadaniera*, [in:] M.J. Sołtysik, R. Hirsch (eds.), *Modernizm w Europie. Modernizm w Gdyni. Architektura pierwszej połowy XX w. i jej ochrona w Gdyni i w Europie*, Gdynia Municipal Office, Gdynia 2011, pp. 137–142.

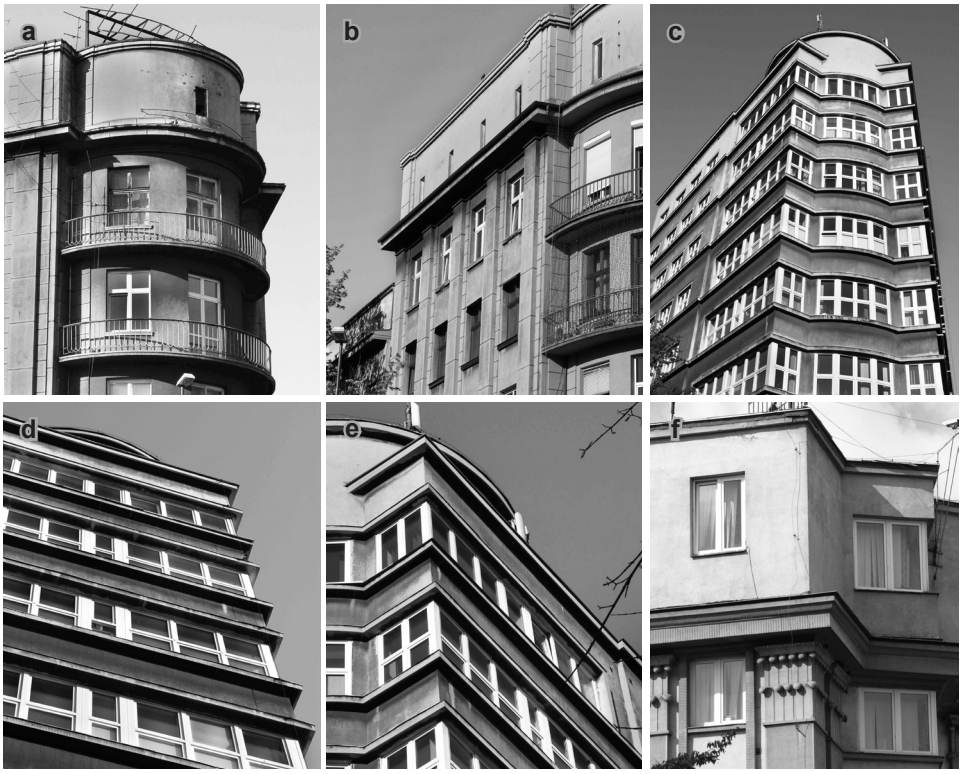
[16] Not all of Tadanier's projects presented in the publication by K. Twardowska include discussions of the buildings' floor plans. The genealogical data were also verified and supplemented.

[17] Including B. Zbroja, *Architektura międzywojennego…*, *op. cit*., pp. 254–255, 282–283; B. Makowska, *Kamienice krakowskie z przełomu XIX i XX wieku i okresu międzywojennego położone na obszarze pomiędzy pierwszą i drugą obwodnicą. Charakterystyka form i ich ewolucja*, PK Press, Kraków 2014, pp. 138–139, 1157–1158, 1168.

[18] B. Zbroja, *Leksykon architektów...*, *op. cit*., pp. 225–236; M.J. Żychowska, *Między tradycją a awangardą. Problem stylu w architekturze Krakowa lat międzywojennyc*h, Wydawnictwo Politechniki Krakowskiej, Kraków 1991, pp. 44–45.



Ill. 1. Fryderyk Tadanier's birth certificate, 1892



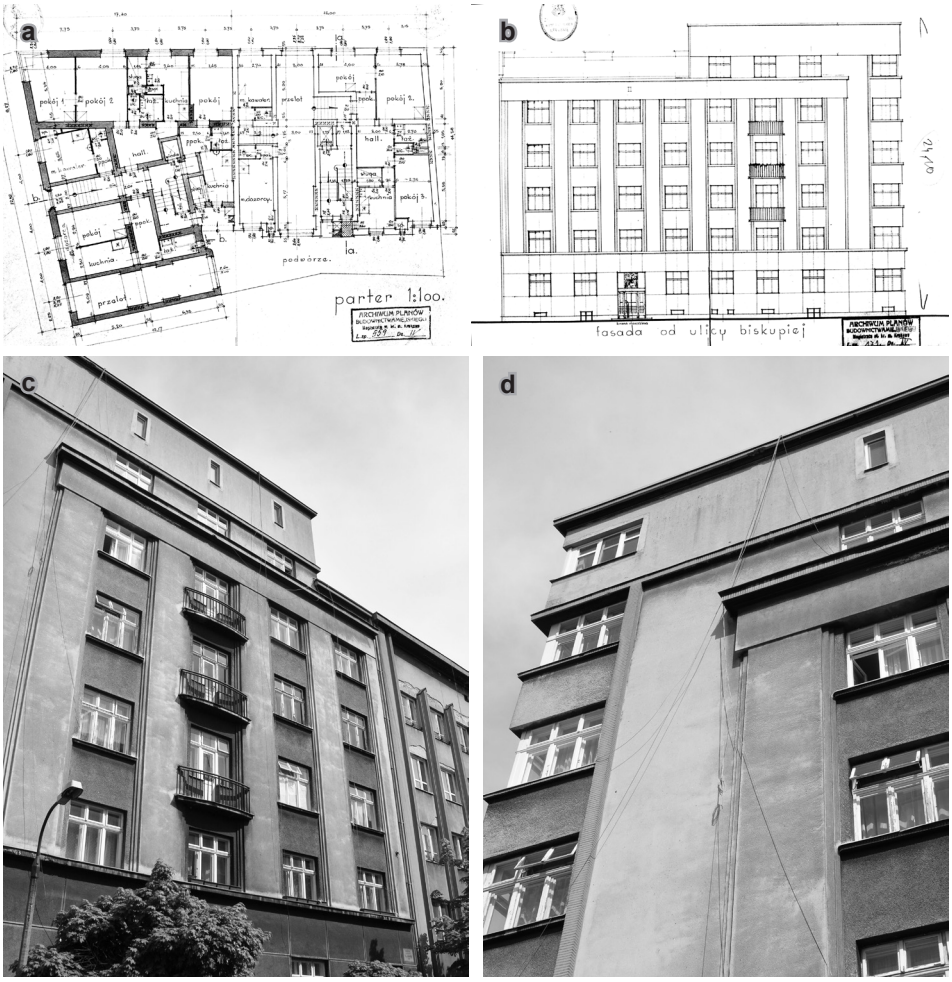
Ill. 2. Tadanier's more important projects executed in Kraków in the period from 1930 to 1936: 7–8 Inwalidów Sq. / 2–2a Słowackiego Av. (2a–b), 5 Szczepański Sq. (2c–e), 18a–20 Słowackiego Av. (2f), photos by B. Makowska

The war years were particularly difficult for the Jewish community. Although Tadanier converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926[19] and concealed his Jewish origins, he nevertheless had to go into hiding during the war. His architectural experience helped him survive the war; from October 1942 to July 1944[20], he worked at the Ćmielów porcelain factories in Boguchwała and Ćmielów. The factory manager had been an investor in Tadanier's pre-war tenement house projects.

[19] B. Zbroja, *Leksykon architektów…*, *op. cit*., pp. 225, 233.

[20] E. Mazur, *Po prostu człowiek: (materiały dotyczące pomocy niesionej Żydom w czasie okupacji hitlerowskiej w Warszawie)*, "Palestra" 1968, no. 12/11(131), p. 85.

2. FRYDERYK TADANIER'S PROJECTS EXECUTED IN KRAKÓW IN THE YEARS 1938-1945



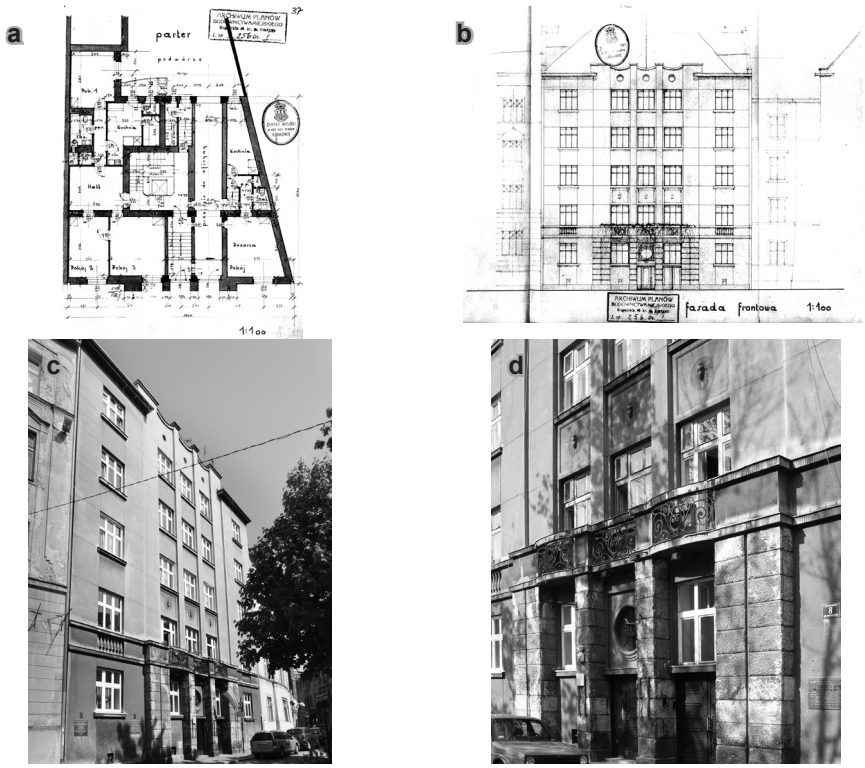
Ill. 3. Tenement at 9 Biskupia St. / 2 Fenna St.: ground floor plan (3a), elevation plan (3b), overall and detailed views of the façade – photos by B. Makowska (3c–d)

Fryderyk Tadanier is the designer of eight Kraków projects from the period 1938–1945. These include two four-storey tenement houses (with a fifth storey in the corner section), which are formally separated in plan but combined in their overall massing and façade articulation: at 9 Biskupia Street / 2 Fenna Street (1937–1938) (Ill. 3a–d) and at 11 Biskupia Street (1937–1938)[21]. They were designed for engineer Stanisław Syska and the Ćmielów S.A. company. The floor plan of the building at 2 Fenna Street is irregular, reflecting the

[21] Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie [National Archives in Krakow; ANK], Archiwum Budownictwa Miejskiego [Archives of the Municipal Building Records; ABM] Biskupia 9, file 38b; ANK, ABM Biskupia 11, file 38b.

shape of the plot. On the ground floor, the design included a two-room flat, a studio flat, and a caretaker's lodgings, as well as a spacious staircase with a lift. On the façade facing Fenna Street[22], a decorative emblem depicting a miner was placed above the entrance (Ill. 7a), along with a stained-glass window featuring the Virgin Mary with the Child, and the inscription: "Designed by Fryderyk Tadanier, Architect and Engineer, 1938" placed nearby.

On the ground floor of the tenement at 11 Biskupia Street, the layout included a three-room flat with a kitchen (including a room for a servant), a studio flat, a caretaker's lodgings, a passage to the courtyard, and a staircase with a lift. Above the entrance, the façade features a decorative emblem representing the Ćmielów company logo (a vase surrounded by plant ornamentation). The fragmented form with corner windows is an example of moderate modernism. The horizontal articulation of the façades is created by a cornice above the ground floor with geometric plaster divisions, a cornice above the fourth and fifth storeys, and a crowning cornice.



Ill. 4. Tenement at 8 Św. Marka St.: ground floor plan (4a), elevation plan (4b), overall and detailed views of the façade – photos by B. Makowska (4c–d)

The four-storey tenement house at 8 Św. Marka Street (1937–1938) (Ill. 4a–d) was designed on commission for the Municipal Savings Bank of the Kraków Poviat[23]. The

[22] Tadanier lived in flat no 8 at 2 Fenna Street in 1938 and in 1940.
[23] ANK, ABM Marka 8, file 571.

building has an irregular floor plan (due to the shape of the plot), with a side annex on the left. On the ground floor, the design included a three-room flat with a kitchen (including a room for a servant), a caretaker's lodgings, a wide passage hall, and a three-flight staircase with a lift.

The details and textures of the building's façade make reference to its historical context. The architect designed a simplified attic form, as well as a stone-framed entrance portal (cladding made of diplopora dolomite)[24] with an oval transom window (the decorative element shown in the drawings was not executed). He also visually separated the ground floor using a band framed by cornices in artificial stone (fluted plaster), linking the balconies with metal balustrades and stone balusters beneath the windows (Ill. 7c). In addition, geometric lines were introduced into the plaster façade, created by extending the outlines of the windows. Above the first-floor windows, three bees were placed as an emblem of the building symbolically associated with the investor (Ill. 7b). Among the residents of this tenement was the architect Piotr Jerzy Wzorek[25].

The four-storey tenement house at 40–40a Kazimierza Wielkiego Street (1937–1938)[26] was designed for Antoni Rogowski. On the ground floor, the design included shops, storage rooms, a studio flat, and a caretaker's lodgings, while the owner's apartment was located on the first floor. On the asymmetrical façade, the two window axes on the left side are framed by plastered lesenes in red and sand tones, with hand-finished frames in high-quality plaster (fluted plaster) (Ill. 7g–i). The vertical articulation has been contrasted with horizontal cornices that visually separate the ground floor and mezzanine. Characteristic details also include large square windows on the upper floors and an entrance portal with a door featuring a geometric grille.

The six-storey tenement house at 2 Matejki Square (1938–1940)[27] (Ill. 5a–d), with a floor plan approximating a trapezoid and courtyard projections, was commissioned by the Ćmielów Porcelain and Ceramic Works Factory. On the ground floor, the design included shops, storage rooms, a caretaker's lodgings, a staircase with a lift, and a passage leading to the courtyard. The upper floors contained two three-room flats per storey with kitchens (including a room for a servant), while a gas shelter was located in the basement. In 1940, additional plans were submitted introducing changes to the internal layout of the basement and ground floor (including a pharmacy, a guard room, and laboratory on the ground floor). On the façade, the four central window axes on the upper floors are framed by lesenes, forming a pseudo-portico. The window surrounds on the first floor are decorated with plant ornament, while the inter-window panels feature decorative motifs of vases with garlands (referencing the ceramic designs produced by the Ćmielów factory), created by Franciszek Kalfas (Ill. 7d–f). The visually separated ground floor contains shop windows, the entrance to the building, and a plaque bearing the inscription: "Designed by Fryderyk Tadanier, Architect and Engineer, 1940."

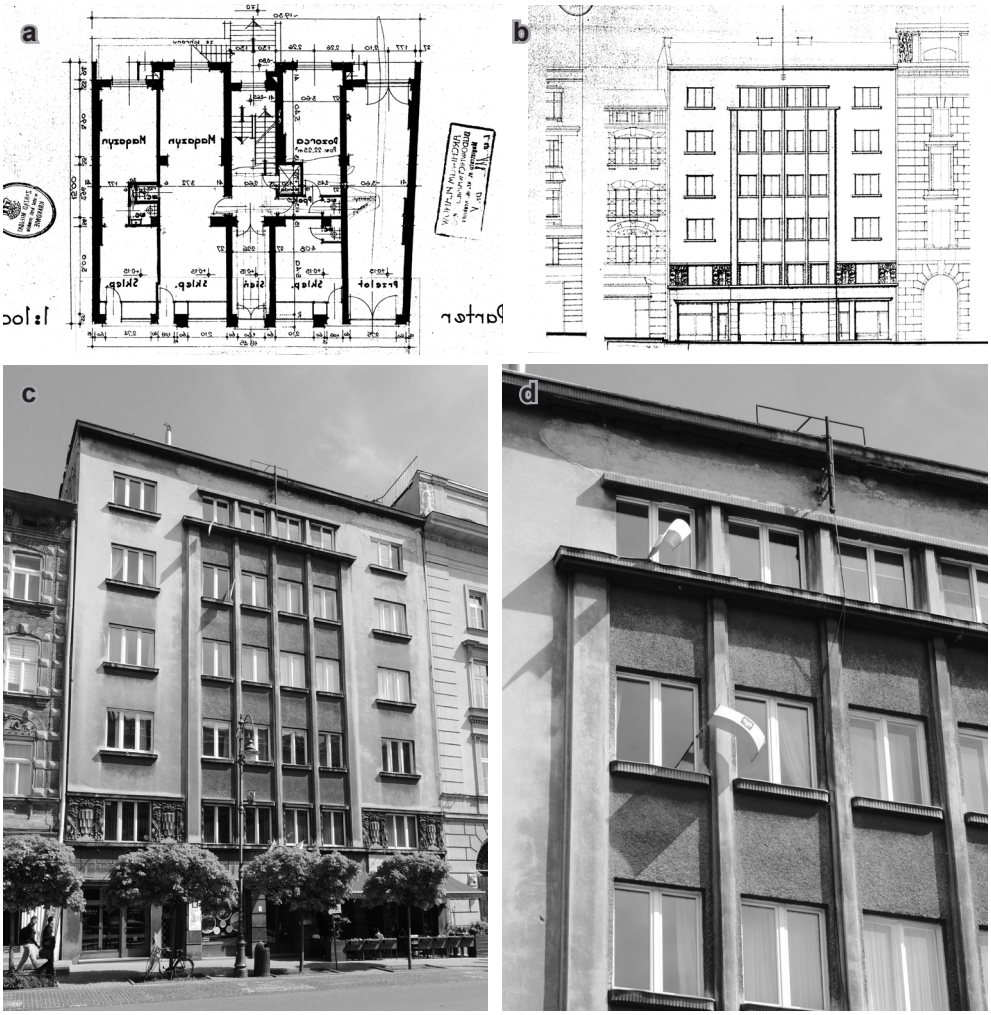
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[24] B. Zbroja, *Architektura międzywojennego…*, *op. cit*., p. 264.

[25] The author of the article attended his drawing classes while preparing for the entrance examination for Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture. The experience of this building, its details, and textures remained in the author's memory forever. The same applies to the outstanding drawings in the hall of Piotr's flat, presenting designs for the redevelopment of the surroundings of Wawel Castle competition from 1953, created by his father, Zbigniew Wzorek.

[26] ANK, ABM Kazimierza Wielkiego 40, file 375.

[27] ANK, ABM Matejki 2, file 577.



Ill. 5. Tenement at 2 Matejki Square: ground floor plan (5a), elevation plan (5b), overall and detailed views of the façade – photos by B. Makowska (5c–d)

The two-storey house at 67 Beliny-Prażmowskiego Avenue (1945–1949)[28] (Ill. 6a–d) was commissioned by Maria Juchowska[29]. The basement level included, among other spaces, a shelter and storage room; the ground floor contained a two-room flat, a bachelor studio, and a caretaker's lodgings; and the upper floor housed two-room and studio flats. In 1946, additional plans were approved for the construction of a storage space in the attic, and in 1949 further plans were approved for the design of a fence and modifications to the internal layout of the attic. Along the central axis of the façade, recessed niches were introduced on the upper floors, forming loggias with metal balustrades.

[28] ANK, ABM Marchlewskiego 67, file 565 (now Beliny-Prażmowskiego).
[29] She lived at 2 Matejko Square.



Ill. 6. House at 67 Beliny-Prażmowskiego Avenue: ground floor plan (6a), elevation plan (6b), photos of the façade sections showing a loggia balustrade and the entrance (by B. Makowska) (6c–d)

During the period 1938–1945, Tadanier was also the author of the design for the rebuilding of the Bagatela Theatre at 4–6 Karmelicka Street / 1 Krupnicza Street into the Scala cinema and theatre (1938)[30], involving alterations to the building's internal layout and façade decoration[31], as well as the extension of the one-storey chemical laboratory of Dr. Wander S.A. Company – Chemical Factory at 80 Mogilska Street (1945–1946)[32].

3. CONCLUSION

Initially, Fryderyk Tadanier's designs were executed in a modernised classicist style, and later in a moderate form of modernism. His projects from the period 1938–1945 belong to the latter trend. In the buildings designed by the architect, characteristic modernist features included corner windows, ribbon window arrangements, fragmented form, and horizontally or vertically emphasised rhythms on façades (lesenes, window and crowning cornices, etc.), as well as simplified detailing (Ill. 7). In tenement houses located near the centre of Kraków, the architect made references to the historical context by visually separating the ground floor, accentuating the entrance portal, and emphasising the crowning cornice of the building. In some projects, larger façade surfaces were divided by slightly projecting bay sections, while the height was visually reduced by separating the uppermost storey with a cornice. A further characteristic feature was the placement on façades of plaques identifying the author of the design. Tadanier's projects allow for a multisensory experience of forms whose variable perception intrigues the viewer.

The findings of the study indicate that Fryderyk Tadanier's projects from the period 1938–1945 are characterised by:

- moderate modernism – the architect combined local tradition with international architectural trends;
- simplified yet carefully designed details that form the architect's distinctive style; attention to high-quality material solutions in both interiors and façades;
- functionally designed floor plans, generally featuring interesting spatial solutions for halls and staircases, as well as shelters in basements.

[30] ANK, ABM Kina, teatry, file 9.
[31] The building was described in detail in: K. Twardowska, *Fryderyk Tadanier*, *op. cit*., pp. 148–149.
[32] ANK, ABM Mogilska 80, files 621 and 622.



Ill. 7. Details, decorations and textures in Tadanier's designs from the period between 1938 and 1945: 11 Biskupia Street (7a), 8 Św. Marka Street (7b–c), 2 Matejko Square (7d–f), 40–40a Kazimierza Wielkiego Street (7g–i). Photos by B. Makowska

References

[1] Archiwum Akademii Sztuk Pięknych w Krakowie [Archive of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków] [ASP], *Fryderyk Tadanier 1935–1960*, ref. no. 95.

[2] Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych [Central Archives of Historical Records] [AGAD], Księgi metrykalne gmin wyznania mojżeszowego z terenów tzw. zabużańskich [Vital Records of Jewish Religious Communities from the Former Eastern Borderlands]:
AGAD, *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga ślubów 1878–1898* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Marriage Register, 1878–1898], ref. no. 1984, pp. 25–26.
AGAD, *Kamionka. Księga urodzin 1890–1892* [Kamionka. Birth Register, 1890–1892], ref. no. 386, pp. 116–117.
AGAD, *Kamionka. Księga urodzin 1880–1884* [Kamionka. Birth Register, 1880–1884], ref. no. 385, pp. 207–208.
AGAD, *Kamionka Strumiłowa*. *Księga zgonów 1880–1884* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Death Register, 1880–1884], ref. no. 390, pp. 175–176 (entry no. 57).
AGAD, *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga zgonów 1880–1884* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Death Register, 1880–1884], ref. no. 390, pp. 267–268 (entry no. 61).
AGAD, *Kamionka Strumiłowa. Księga ślubów 1866–1876* [Kamionka Strumiłowa. Marriage Register, 1866–1876], ref. no. 387, p. 15.

[3] Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie [National Archives in Kraków] [ANK]. Archiwum Budownictwa Miejskiego [Archives of the Municipal Building Records] [ABM], ref. no. 29/1410:
ANK, ABM Marchlewskiego 67, file 565 (now Beliny-Prażmowskiego).
ANK, ABM Biskupia 9, file 38b.
ANK, ABM Biskupia 11, file 38b.
ANK, ABM Kina, teatry, file 9.
ANK, ABM Kazimierza Wielkiego 40, file 375.
ANK, ABM Marka 8, file 571.
ANK, ABM Matejki 2, file 577.
ANK, ABM Mogilska 80, files 621 and 622.

[4] Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie [ANK], Komunalna Kasa Oszczędności Powiatu Krakowskiego w Krakowie [Municipal Savings Bank of the Krakow Poviat] [KKO PK], file 29/628/9 and file 29/628/10.

[5] Makowska B., *Kamienice krakowskie z przełomu XIX i XX wieku i okresu międzywojennego położone na obszarze pomiędzy pierwszą i drugą obwodnicą. Charakterystyka form i ich ewolucja*, PK Press, Kraków 2014.

[6] Makowska B., *Modernistyczne kamienice zaprojektowane w Krakowie przez Fryderyka Tadaniera*, [in:] M.J. Sołtysik, R. Hirsch (eds.), *Modernizm w Europie. Modernizm w Gdyni. Architektura pierwszej połowy XX w. i jej ochrona w Gdyni i w Europie*, Gdynia Municipal Office, Gdynia 2011, pp. 137–142.

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