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STUDIO

REVIEW

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HORIZONE STUDIO

Dear Reader,

This is the first edition of our bulletin. We hope you will find it of interest. By publishing it, we would like to stay in touch with you and share some of the stories that truly matter to us.

Ever since our return to Poland in 2009 when we decided to set up an architecture office in Kraków, Horizone Studio has been growing and expanding its areas of expertise. This approach has brought us new clients, who have put us in charge of their investment projects, as well as awards including the SARP award for the best office building developed in Poland in 2015. We have also continued to develop international relations. The experience-sharing resulting from this form of cooperation allows us to effectively assess the situation of the market and adjust to modern European trends.

We believe that thanks to this publication we will be closer to our existing and future clients and partners. One of the fundamental, distinctive qualities of Horizone Studio is the way we work, which helps us develop a proper understanding of expectations as well as maintain direct relations with the investor.

The very first edition of this bulletin (Issue No. 001) presents news and highlights important assignments and projects such as the Ericpol Software Pool office building or the competition project for the design of the Academy of Music in Kraków.

We want you to get to know us better, then maybe you'll discover that architecture is not only our professional passion but also an important aspect of our community, cultural and social activities.

Enjoy reading.

Horizone Studio was established at the initiative of architects who gained their professional experience in renowned architecture offices in Poland as well as on the most demanding foreign markets, i.e. Germany, Sweden and Ireland.

Over the past twenty years, we have successfully participated in international projects of different scale. Our experience covers both technologically advanced office spaces, public-use buildings, industrial and residential housing.

Horizone Studio is one of the founding companies of PLGBC (The Polish Green Building Council). We are also a member of SPCC, The Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce.

Irrespective of the nature of the projects developed by Horizone Studio, all of them incorporate solutions characteristic of green buildings, following the rule of triple responsibility: environmental, social and economic. When creating modern architecture, we look for the best solutions which reflect the needs of the investor and the context of the location.



INTERVIEW

Dawid Hajok: Today, Poland is one of the most dynamic construction markets in Europe. From the perspective of architects, who have also been active on European markets for almost two decades, how would you summarize the current trends in Poland?

Horizone Studio: Over the last few years Poland is becoming an increasingly mature market. The presence of foreign investors has boosted the country's competitiveness and facilitated the emergence of demanding quality standards. Change is perhaps most visible on the office market. Buildings built 10 to 15 years ago no longer meet today's tenants' expectations. And then there is the clear rise in expectations when it comes to the quality of both public and residential buildings. This progressive evolution of project standards and architect competence requirements is very much to our satisfaction. This is where we see our competitive advantage. We hope the next step will be an increase in public awareness and expectations towards public spaces.

Each of you had previously worked for years in other architecture offices in Germany, Sweden and Ireland. Today, you are taking advantage of your international experience when doing business with foreign investors who increasingly decide to launch their projects in Poland. Which operational model works best when cooperating with foreign clients investing in the Polish market?

- Most importantly, because of our experience abroad, all of us are well-equipped to lead investors through the complexities and administrative hurdles of investing in Poland, ensuring western standards and understanding investors' expectations on the way. Understanding these expectations is important for both sides. From the investors' perspective, it's a guarantee that, at the end of the day, the right standard will be delivered. For us, it makes the design,

the implementation and the supervision process smooth and free of any undesirable occurrences. The Rolls Royce investment in Gdynia is a good example. We worked on it as consultants, together with an investor from the UK, a project manager and a designer from Germany and a contractor from Poland.

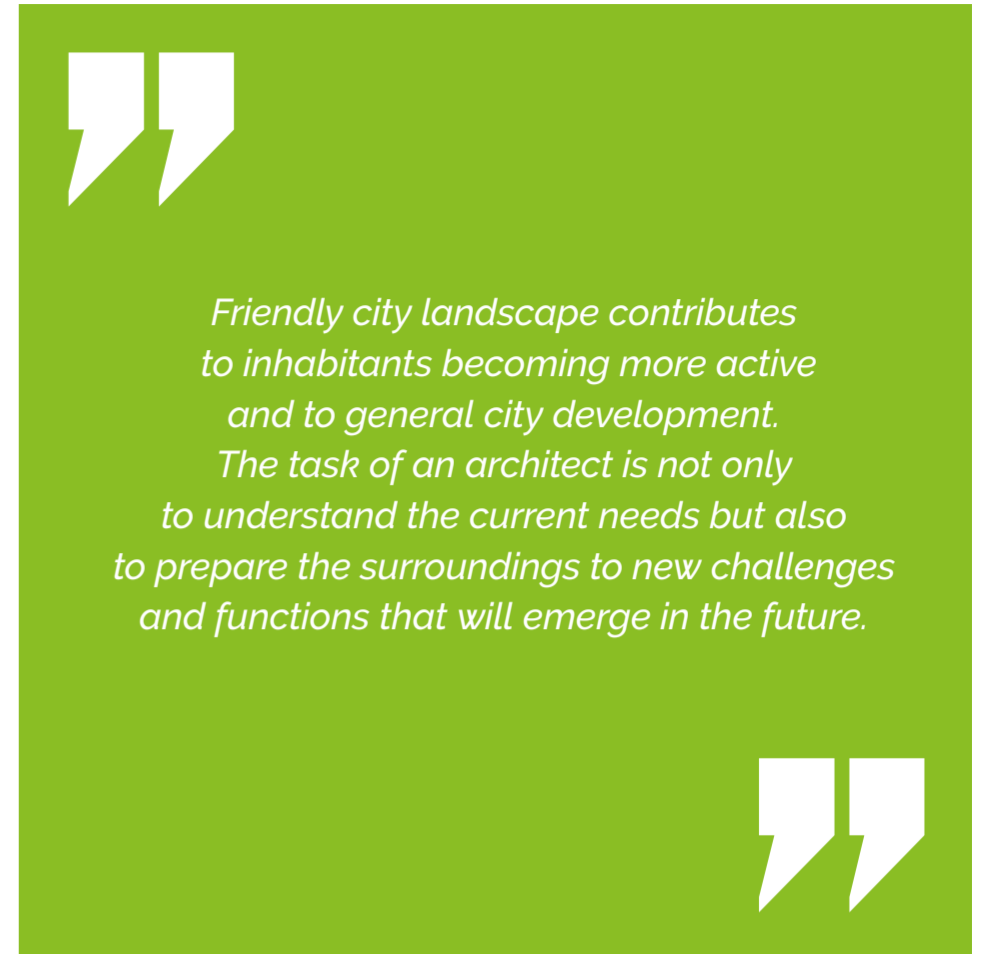
You are maintaining strong ties with the Scandinavian market. You are also one of the Polish reference names in the German Chamber of Architects. What are the benefits of having such a diverse network of contacts?

- International cooperation and experience sharing not only help us grow continuously but also look at the Polish market from a different perspective. Thanks to this, we are in a position to recognize market changes a little faster and, consequently, respond to them on the level of projects we are developing in our office.

And how is your cooperation with domestic investors? Where is your competitive advantage?

- Professional Polish developers also put demanding requirements before us, often linked to the application of advanced technologies. The role of architects, in addition to the design process itself, is to advise and help investors make well-informed business decisions. This is why, for many of our projects, we have implemented the globally-recognized Integrated Design Process. It's a design method, in which a number of specialists in charge of individual project sectors are involved in the entire project from the very beginning. Thanks to their cooperation, professional management of all aspects that impact upon the proper and effective functioning of the building in the future becomes possible.

During the annual PLGBC Green Building Awards gala, in October last year, you were awarded two top awards. One of



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them was the Małopolska Regional Government Office in Kraków, the other for the Ericpol Software Pool office building in Łódź. The latter award was for "the best green building built without certificate" category. What does it mean that a building is green but has no certificate?

- It's true that both for leaseholders and property buyers, certification has become something like a guarantee of a well-designed building. This is why for our projects, even those that are not designed with ecological certification in mind, we are making efforts to take into account the majority of guidelines for sustainable buildings.

In the first quarter of 2017 Horizone Studio stood out thanks to your participation in the much-talked-about, international competition for the campus of the Academy of Music in Kraków. Frank Gehry's concept proved to be the winner. Your

proposal put you in the top five, but the concept you have put forward has generated quite a lot of interest from the public opinion. What's your view on that?

- We believe that people living today in cities like Kraków, visited by 12 million tourists a year, cities that boast high living standards, expect well-designed urban spaces and functionally-planned buildings from architects, rather than only iconic buildings. That was our approach to this project from the beginning. In addition to a thoughtful certification in mind, we are making efforts to take into account the majority of guidelines for sustainable buildings. The kind of place where people would want to spend time. This way of thinking about architecture is very close to us.

Do you often take part in social projects aimed at raising the awareness of city inhabitants with regard to the quality of life in the city?

- Yes, we are happy to participate in city initiatives. This is why we have recently accepted an invitation to take part in workshops dedicated to the development of the new 2030 Development Strategy for Kraków. It's a good thing that architects are invited to participate in such initiatives as experts. Friendly city landscape contributes to inhabitants becoming more active and to general city development. The task of an architect is not only to understand the current needs but also to prepare the surroundings to new challenges and functions that will emerge in the future. It has become a trend these days that public spaces should be developed with the participation of local inhabitants. Thanks to this, future users of city spaces identify themselves with the spaces being developed. It's important that people should identify themselves with architecture.



Interviewed by: Dawid Hajok



Side facade



Night view from the garden side

ERICPOL OFFICE BUILDING

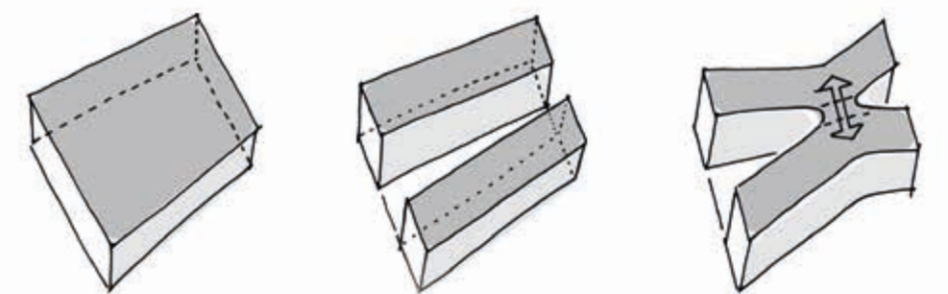
The modern office building of Ericpol Software Pool was built in the centre of Łódź, in the neighbourhood of Piotrkowska street. Its historical context is defined by the former industrial and residential area originally developed by Karol Wilhelm Scheibler. This means that the design was subject to consultations with the Regional Heritage Office. Today, 750 Ericpol (now Ericsson Polska) IT professionals work in the building. The building consists of two main sections,

i.e. two four-level wings, joined by a glass intersection with a lobby and lift area. The building is X-shaped, which helps optimise the use of the building as well as its flexibility in the context of possible office space rental. The functional design has been adjusted to the type of work performed in the building as well as to the investor's demands with reference to safety and access control. The building elevations allude conceptually to 19th century factory structures. Its eastern and west-

ern walls boast hand-made, traditionally fired brick, which stands in contrast to the large-format windows and glass sections of the main facades. Attention is drawn towards the many sophisticated details by the use of carefully chosen materials and the quality of the craftsmanship. The choice of architectural language has made it possible to incorporate distinctive visual allusions into the surroundings. What makes the building stand out from other facilities with typical office functions is the use of greenery. It enters deep inside the building and optically becomes part of its interiors, thanks to large glass panes. The view from the main lobby is particu-

larly eye-catching. It points to the park and the nearby cathedral. The building makes use of multiple state-of-the-art technology solutions, including thermoactive TABS ceilings. According to surveys conducted by Ericpol among the employees in the building, satisfaction resulting from the comfortable work environment, availability of creative spaces and the possibility to actively use the well-developed areas surrounding the building stand out as positive features. The surrounding space is used not only during breaks but also for work-related meetings.

Concept



maximum buildable area

width of typical office building

link - connection - flexibility

The building was presented among the 20 most interesting facilities of the past few years at the exhibition "Polska.Architecture". Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it promotes Poland worldwide. It also received the Annual Award of the Association of Polish Architects (SARP) for the best office building built in Poland in 2015.



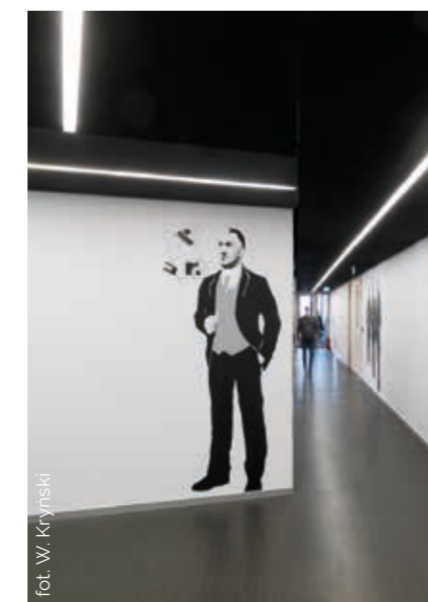
Conference room at the elevator lobby

foto: P. Piątek



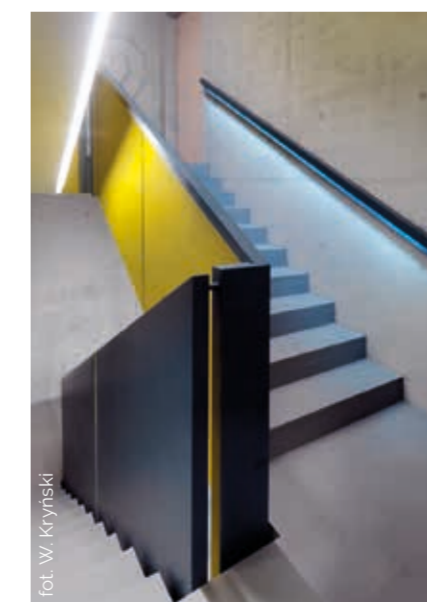
Office interior

foto: P. Piątek



Corridor with murals

foto: W. Kojński



Staircase

foto: W. Kojński



Day view from Sienkiewicza Street

foto: P. Piątek



Courtyard



Educational section

THE CAMPUS OF THE MUSIC ACADEMY

The project was developed as part of a two-stage, international competition. The goal was to develop a concept for the new location of the Music Academy in Kraków. The complex included: teaching rooms, a main concert hall for about 550 people, four rehearsal rooms (orchestra, choir, organ, theatre/vocal), an administrative section with the Rector's Office, a library, common areas as well as an additional building with guest rooms. The didactic section was given a low-rise design to better integrate the building

with the pre-existing greenery. An internal courtyard/pathway has been included as the backbone of the entire design. The attractive, green courtyard, with trees as natural monuments and spaces for spending time during breaks between classes, was conceived as the focal space in the life of the campus. The project gives a clear preference to pedestrian movement and cyclists within the campus premises. It abandons the traditional layout dominated by corridors in favour of interrelated spaces. Thus, more intimacy and individu-

ality is achieved for individual Academy departments. The terraces boast a view to the greenery of the park and the Vistula river banks. They were conceived as additional spaces of inspiration. They also have a significant potential for hosting Academy-organised events during the spring-summer season. Within the courtyard and terrace area, a "Garden of Music" type of space could be developed, taking into account the idea of a "sound tube". In other words, physical connections can be established with the

use of tubes (pipes) between the chosen practice/rehearsal rooms situated below the green roof. This way, people standing on the terraces and in the roof area will hear the sounds coming from practice rooms and thus will participate in the musical experimentation process. The concert hall together with its main functions was designed in a way that makes it possible for them to operate independently from the educational section. The multiple shades of red and burgundy reflected on the main structure of the hall was conceived as an artistic element in its own right. It creates the right ambience and bestows distinctive, recognizable qualities on the Music Academy.



Working on the model of the Triangeln development in Malmö for NCC



Entrance foyer of the concert hall



Concert hall



Schematic urban plan

HORIZONE GRAPHICS

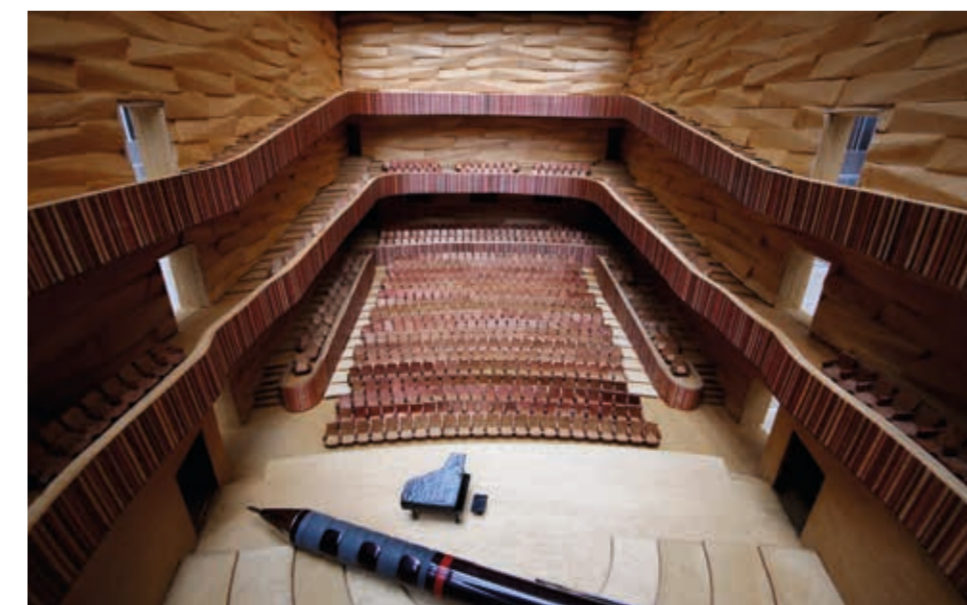
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Slightly curved, rounded lines of balconies, warm, wooden wall panels, atmospheric, subtle lighting, the audience area, 550 chairs. Somewhere in the middle, a minuscule-looking piano glimmers in semi-darkness, creating the impression that a drawing tool lying next to it looks strangely like a fallen tree. The mock-up of the concert hall of the Music Academy is one of many developed by Horizon Graphics, a division operating within Horizon Studio.

Horizon Graphics specialises in photorealistic visualisations as well as building architecture models. We have been active in this field since 1996. Thanks to the passion and experience of our graphic designers and modellers, we are entrusted with developing models for developers, city authorities, private investors as well as architecture offices from Sweden, Poland, Holland and Germany. Each month, Horizon Graphics delivers at least one mock-up as well as multiple visualisations developed for one of these countries.



Model of the Art City estate for Eko-Park



Model of the Music Academy concert hall



OVO Wrocław model for Angel Poland Group



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A visit to Copenhagen

The summer of 2017 has been spent on meetings and highly informative trips. As part of the exchange of experience, we participated in 5-day "Developer Workshops" ("Warsztaty Dewelopera") in Copenhagen, organised by SBDiM. We learned about the scale of investments being undertaken as well as the mechanisms behind them. We conducted meetings with, among others, Jens Mikkelsen – chairman of By & Havn, the special purpose entity of the city of Copenhagen, in charge of the development of the new districts: Nordhavn (3,6 million sq.m.) and Orestad (3,1 million sq.m.), State of Green, a company specialising in new technologies for construction, Lars Riemann – head of buildings in Ramboll, one of the biggest engineering companies in Denmark.



Preparations for the construction of UMWM

Towards the end of 2016, the design work for the construction of the complex of buildings for the Małopolska Regional Government Office in Kraków was completed. Currently, preparations for the tender aimed at choosing the general contractor are under way. The complex with a total space of 41 000 sq. m. is to be constructed near the Grzegórzeckie Roundabout. Horizone Studio is the designer of buildings A and B, and is also in charge of the development of the area. Building C is designed by Mateccy Biuro Projektowe, with RCA Małopolska as investor. The end result will be one of the most technologically advanced office spaces in Kraków (e.g. a trigeneration system will allow for generating combined cooling, heat and power on site).



New mock-ups went to Sweden

The last few months have been dedicated to developing large-scale, sophisticated models for Eko Park, Angel Poland Group, Budimex Nieruchomości as well as the Swedish companies, Bonova and Ikano. In August, we supplied an urban-development model for the Elinegard district in Malmö. The size of the model, scaled down to 1:500 is 1,2m by 1,8m. It is made of wood and stained plywood, and the residential buildings are printed by 3D printers. The model commissioned by Ikano is a marketing and information tool. It enjoys great popularity among those who come to see the investment and it seems to be a real treasure for the investor, judging by the fact that a special exhibition hall has been constructed to display it.



The house in Lusina

The design of the building for a family of four in Lusina is one of our most recent completed projects. In the next edition of this bulletin we are planning a closer look at this investment. The house, situated near Kraków, with a simple geometry to it, has been designed with the use of high-grade elevation materials: titanium-zinc plates, Trespa panels and external, sliding blinds made of cedar wood. The balcony balustrades and the terrace have been built from frameless glass. The neutral colours of the house correspond closely with the surrounding garden, which visually blends with the picturesque meadows on the western side, allowing those who sit on the terrace to savour the beautiful view.



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