

## INTRODUCTION

For the fifth time, we are pleased to present another thematic special issue. This time it is dedicated to library architecture.

The subject of library construction has been discussed in the literature appearing on national and foreign websites for many years and is of interest to both librarians and architects.

Both groups of professionals work to create platforms for cooperation so that as a result of discussions in which architects learn about the social needs and expectations communicated by librarians, libraries are created that meet not only the ten most important features of good library space proposed by Harry Faulkner Brown, but also meet the expectations corresponding to the concept of Andrew McDonald which expands Faulkner Brown's „commandments“ and gives them a more comprehensive and human approach. They show what to do to make existing libraries modern in order to meet the needs of the changing environment, what criteria should be followed, and whether the capabilities of the libraries themselves allow them to become innovative, taking into account both criteria and needs.

These issues are dealt with by the IFLA Library Buildings and Equipment Section (IFLA LBES), which includes librarians and architects with a passion for design and modern library technologies.

The Section supports the exchange of experiences between these groups of professionals, collects and disseminates knowledge on the design, construction and equipment of libraries, and promotes excellence in this field, among other ways by preparing a very helpful tool, the *IFLA Library Building Guidelines: Development and Reflections*.<sup>1</sup>

LBES, as a result of cooperation with other IFLA sections, popularizes the best solutions in the field of library construction, combining functionality and creativity while taking into account both technological progress and local culture.

In line with the Section's action plan, adopted in 2019, a project has been implemented to support IFLA's strategy of inspiring and improving professional practice by presenting a variety of libraries, large and small,

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<sup>1</sup> *IFLA Library Building Guidelines: Development and Reflections*. Karen Latimer, Helen Niegaard (eds.). München: K.G. Saur, 2007.

in all parts of the world. Promoting these inspirational libraries is done through Instagram, with the first post appearing at the end of September 2020.

It is worth recalling that in Poland too there has been cooperation between architects and librarians. In 2009, the Association of Polish Architects joined the Information Society Development Program, and as a result of joint activities, on the initiative of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, a mini guide was created,<sup>2</sup> thanks to which librarians can learn how to make the space of their library more user-friendly with little financial outlay<sup>3</sup>. The guide is addressed to people planning or carrying out all kinds of investment works, ranging from small projects such as renovation to reconstruction or construction of new facilities. The publication was developed primarily for small public libraries operating in rural or urban-rural communes and small towns. It contains very useful information on the preparation of a functional and operational program for library space, showing the design and implementation phases of the investment project as well as providing auxiliary materials, e.g. a description of sample public consultations in the form of participatory architectural workshops, examples of contracts, and other useful materials.

Also in the monthly "Murator" there are texts about the projects for the best Polish libraries: for example, the Wrocław University Main Library, the Łopaciński Provincial Public Library in Lubin, and the building of The Scientific Information Center and Academic Library (CINiBA) in Katowice, known as "redhead"<sup>4</sup>.

In this 5th issue, in addition to presenting new architectural solutions in library construction, using, among others those proposed in the above guide as well as others presented in the *IFLA Guidelines*, we wanted to give readers an opportunity to see whether changes in the library environment can and indeed do affect the external appearance and internal arrangement in a visible way. Has the biggest problem we are currently facing – the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had repercussions in virtually all areas of human activity (as we discussed in the previous thematic issue) – also left its mark on library construction?

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<sup>2</sup> Karol Langie, Dariusz Śmiechowski & Maciej Walczyna: Biblioteka małe pomysły na wielkie zmiany (The Library: small ideas for great changes)

file:///C:/Users/selle/Downloads/Biblioteka\_dobre\_miejsce\_poradnik\_architektoniczny\_dla\_bibliotek.pdf; Karol Langie, Dariusz Śmiechowski & Maciej Walczyna: Meble w bibliotece. Małe różnice, duże znaczenie. (Furniture in the library. Small changes, big impact.)

[http://www.biblioteki.org/poradniki/meble\\_w\\_bibliotece\\_male\\_roznice\\_duze\\_znaczenie.html](http://www.biblioteki.org/poradniki/meble_w_bibliotece_male_roznice_duze_znaczenie.html);

<sup>3</sup> Odkryć na nowo biblioteczną przestrzeń - rozmowa z Dariuszem Śmiechowskim. (Rediscovering library space – a conversation with Dariusz Śmiechowski) [http://www.biblioteki.org/artykuly/Odkryc\\_na\\_nowo\\_biblioteczna\\_przestrzen\\_rozmowa\\_z\\_Dariuszem\\_Smiechowskim.html](http://www.biblioteki.org/artykuly/Odkryc_na_nowo_biblioteczna_przestrzen_rozmowa_z_Dariuszem_Smiechowskim.html). Date of publication 14/01/2010budy. „Biuletyn Programu Rozwoju Bibliotek” 2009, No. 1, September 2009 r.

<sup>4</sup> Polish libraries with excellent architecture: [https://archirama.muratorplus.pl/architektura/polskie-biblioteki-ciesza-architektura,67\\_1557.html](https://archirama.muratorplus.pl/architektura/polskie-biblioteki-ciesza-architektura,67_1557.html)

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*The current special thematic issue of "Przegląd Biblioteczny" includes the following texts:*

**Karen LATIMER** (THE DESIGN OF LIBRARY BUILDINGS: SOME RECENT TRENDS), co-editor of *Guidelines* and author of one of its chapters, presents trends in library design in the 21st century, illustrating it with examples from Great Britain and Ireland.

**Iwona OSŁOWSKA** (THE ARCHITECTURE OF CONTEMPORARY POLISH LIBRARIES: SELECTED PROJECTS), basing her discussion on new, modernized, or adapted Polish libraries, shows how technologies, materials and current trends affect the language of design and architecture and how they shape the appearance of library objects in the 21st century, created in accordance with the new understanding of the functionality of architecture.

**Monika SIMONJETZ** (IS SPACE FOR PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPACE FOR BOOKS? LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION IN THE LUBUSKIE VOIVODSHIP – NEW SEATS AND ARRANGEMENTS) presents the implementation of 13 library projects in the Lubuskie Voivodship in 2010-2019.

**Barbara KORYŚ** (SURVEY OF DOMESTIC LITERATURE – SELECTION) introduces a review of Polish literature in the field of library science which has been published in the years 2020-2021.

With best wishes for a pleasant and inspiring reading,

Prof. dr hab. Elżbieta Barbara Zybert  
Editor in Chief of "Przegląd Biblioteczny"