

Dissertation abstract

Architectural transformations of the St. Elisabeth Church in Wrocław

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Presented doctoral dissertation is a monographic study of the architectural transformations of St. Elisabeth's Church in Wrocław - the parish church of the Wrocław patriciate and one of the most important gothic churches in Silesia, functioning continuously since the 13th century. The chronological scope of the work covers the period from around 1220, when construction of the first sacred building on the site began, to the present day.

The aim of the dissertation was to show the complex and multi-stage process of the formation of the architectural form of the church, taking into account both intentional transformations and reconstructions, alterations and repairs resulting from destruction, building disasters and fires. An integral element of the dissertation is a comprehensive, detailed chronological stratification of the church, providing a basis for the reconstruction of the individual building phases.

The analytical basis of the research carried out was in situ work using architectural methods, in particular the Architectural Stratigraphic Units (ASU) method, which allows the precise and clear delineation of construction phases and transformations of the historic substance. The research was supplemented by a number of analyses, including synchronic and historical studies, a search for written and iconographic sources and existing literature, the use of data from archaeological stratigraphy, and comparisons with analogous objects from Silesia and Europe.

The use of modern digital tools such as digital photogrammetry, three-dimensional computer modelling, laser scanning (LiDAR), spatial documentation and analysis in CAD environment, and photographic registration using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) also played a crucial role. The confrontation of the results obtained using the various tools allowed for a comprehensive, multi-layered analytical perspective.

As a result of the research carried out, conclusions were formulated regarding the chronology of the various phases of construction, the successive stages of the temple's transformation, and reconstructions of its architectural form at selected historical moments. A separate chapter is devoted to a stylistic analysis of the building and the identification of its formal and ideological links with other Gothic realisations, which allows St Elisabeth's Church to be set in the wider cultural and artistic context of Central Europe.