

# Abstract

Kołobrzeg is a city with a rich history and an interesting urban layout. The historical structure, revealed through research, served as the starting point for the city's reconstruction after the war damages in 1945. Based on the layout of the old town-port-spa, which evolved over centuries, it created a balance and harmony, forming the foundation for the symbiotic coexistence of three functionally distinct districts. This resulted in a unique urban situation where the intersections harmoniously merged various elements of the urban space.

The post-World War II reconstruction of Kołobrzeg was a complex, multi-stage process influenced by economic, political, and conservationist factors, which reflected in the dynamics of spatial actions. The city, which had been over 90% destroyed, required decisions that took into account both its historical structure, the current needs of the inhabitants, and the devastated country.

The reconstruction of Kołobrzeg proceeded in three main stages: the phase of securing the ruins, the first phase of reconstruction from 1956 to 1969, which involved urban reorganization, the phase of reconstruction in the 1970s, reflecting economic needs and the dominance of large-panel construction, and the phase of revalorization and revitalization, which began in the mid-1980s. The first step in Kołobrzeg was the removal of rubble and securing the few surviving buildings, as well as an attempt to revive the economic life. Conservation decisions were initially limited, with the priority being to ensure basic living conditions for the incoming population. During this phase, the first reconstruction plans were created, but they were never implemented. In the next phase, after 1956 and the 1957 resolution of the KERM, the city's dynamic reconstruction began. The port, downtown, and spa district developed, while the exclusion of the old town area altered the pre-war functional and spatial layout. Modernist solutions dominated, marginalizing the importance of the historical urban structure. Historical buildings were treated selectively, often opting for functional changes in the urban space rather than full reconstruction. The culmination of architectural dissonance occurred in the 1970s when oversized large-panel buildings were introduced into the historical space, disrupting the coherence of the historical urban fabric, scale, views, and urban structure.

Since the 1980s, interest in revalorization issues gradually increased. In 1985, based on the historical communication layout of the old town, actions began aimed at restoring some of the historical elements, while also considering contemporary housing and economic needs. Revitalization followed the path of sustainable development, adapting the city to the changing social requirements. The new old town in Kołobrzeg, despite lacking direct references to pre-war architecture, retains an atmosphere of antiquity and introduces functional diversity, while returning to the historical urban layout and scale.

Research on the morphology of the historic city used Castels and Conzen's concepts in relation to identifying features of the network structure in the urban fabric. In the analysis of the reconstruction process, an original method was applied, based on historical, morphological, and tabular analyses, which allowed for an objective capture of the dynamics of changes in the urban structure and their connections with historical and political factors. The work also considered

conservationist theories and political factors that had a significant impact on shaping the reconstruction actions in Kołobrzeg. Understanding these aspects helps to better grasp the complexity of planning processes and their multifaceted nature.

The reconstruction of Kołobrzeg fits into the broader context of actions taken in the Recovered Territories. This area was characterized by tension between political ideology and economic reality. The German heritage was treated as foreign, which influenced decisions regarding its selective preservation. In Kołobrzeg, as in other cities, it was crucial to maintain the continuity of urban functions while minimizing reconstruction costs. The reconstruction of Kołobrzeg is not complete and has been linked to revitalization since the 1980s, which results from the city's ongoing adaptation to new challenges. Current actions should take into account sustainable development, combining the protection of cultural heritage with the needs of contemporary society. Local analysis must be compared with the experiences of other cities with a similar historical context, which will allow a better understanding of the processes shaping urban space in post-war Poland. The entirety of the research conducted demonstrates how important it is to preserve the historical structure in the process of city reconstruction and revitalization.