

TOWN-PLANNING DEVELOPMENT OF LUTSK AND RIVNE IN VOLYN REGION IN THE 1920–30-S: FROM THE GARDEN-CITY TO THE FUNCTIONAL CITY

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Abstract. During the 1920-30s of the XX century in the Second Polish Republic (II Rzeczpospolita) the significant town-planning actions were carried out, connected to building regulation of the largest cities and drawing up of new general plans. The compilations concerns town planning development for two cities of Volyn: Lutsk – an administrative centre of Volyn Voivodeship and Rivne – the important shopping center and the greatest city of region. For cities of Volyn this process was especially important in communication because of a more than the fifty years' period of city spatial development of region without precisely certain prospect and strategic directions of increase.

Key words: Rivne, Lutsk, urban planning in 1920-1930s, garden city

To one of urgent development problems of Volyn settlements during the period the IIInd Polish Republic (in 20–30-th of the XX century) began the reconstruction of planning and functional structure, improvement of residing conditions in cities and small towns, definition of development prospects in view of town-planning tendencies in both global and domestic architectural theories and practice. During formation of the Volyn Voivodeship in 1921 the region stayed at the lowest level of social and economic development in the Polish state. “Alignments” of a situation could be achieved by the attraction of the significant financial investments to Volyn for region restoration after the first World War and to its development according to requirements of time.

Development strategy definition of Volyn cities of in 1920-th was impossible because of the of absence experts – architects, including in the branch of town-planning. So in 1932, in Volyn Voivodeship constantly lived and worked 7 architects who had the right to carry out projects of buildings of all typological groups: Zdislaw Celarski (Kremenets), Tadeusz-Juzef Hornung (Volodymyr-Volynski), Franciszek Kokesz, Tadeusz Krafft, Władysław Stahon, Sergey Tymoshenko (Lutsk), Grzegorz Fress (Rivne). Engineers Anatoly Gurando (Sarny),

Sergey Nimieski (Zdolbunov), Jan Plawinski (Kowel), Konstantin Stelletsky, Alexander Stoljarov, Valery Svientohovsky (Rivne) Alexey Petrov (Lutsk) had similar power, except for the works connected with restoration or reconstruction of architectural monuments [Державний архів..., f. 31, op. 1, spr. 378a, 127]. Any of these experts had no right to be engaged in town-planning designing. Such personnel situation has led to that many investment undertakings were not coordinated, new construction (for example, schools, hospitals etc.) was conducted in inappropriate places without taking into account the available communications, an existing town-planning situation [Juraniec-Jurewicz 1937, 6].

The basic centers of the newest town-planning idea generation in territory of Poland were the cities of Lvov, Krakow, Warsaw. Despite the difference of approaches to an image formation of modern city, they were connected with problems of settlements development prospects.

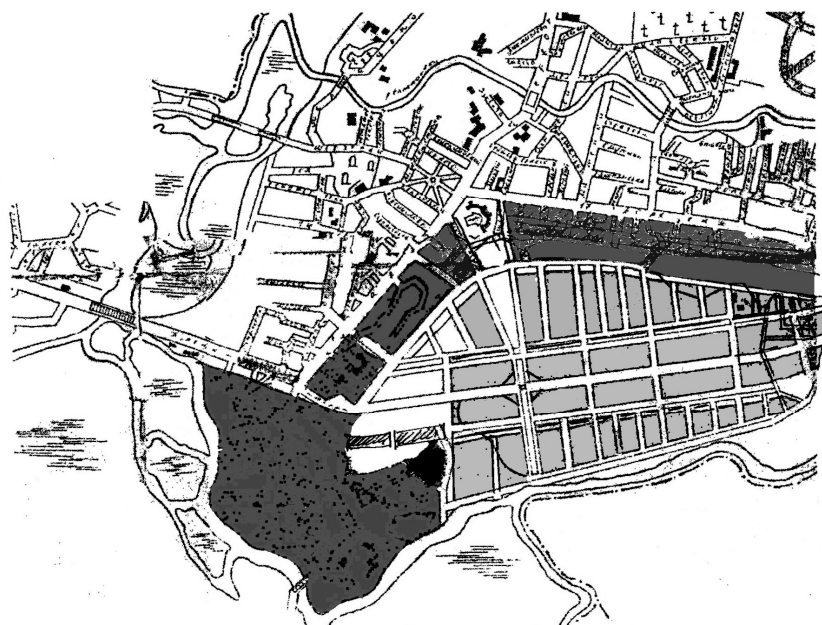


Fig. 1. Lutsk. Fragment of the planning of the central part. Engineer J. Jerome (Lutsk). 1928: grey – estate type building; dark grey – bloke many-stored building, black – castle of Ljubart

Ryc. 1. Lutsk. Fragment planu rozwoju części centralnej. Inż. J. Jerome (Lutsk). 1928: szary – budynki typu jednorodzinne, ciemnoszary – wielkopłytowe bloki, czarny – zamek Ljubart

Such task was necessary for solving to young generation of urbanists and architects which received professional education at architectural faculties of Warsaw and Lvov Polytechnics. The special role during an operating time of city planning bases of cities was given to the Society of the Polish Urbanists which has been based in 1923 by the dean of architectural faculty of the Warsaw Poly-

technics professor Oskar Sosnovski [Pawlowski 1971, 155]. During this period the process of city regulation plans creation in specially generated structural divisions: city and voivodeship urbanistic workshops¹ began. But actually the vigorous activity in this direction began in Poland in 1933 after an economic crisis.

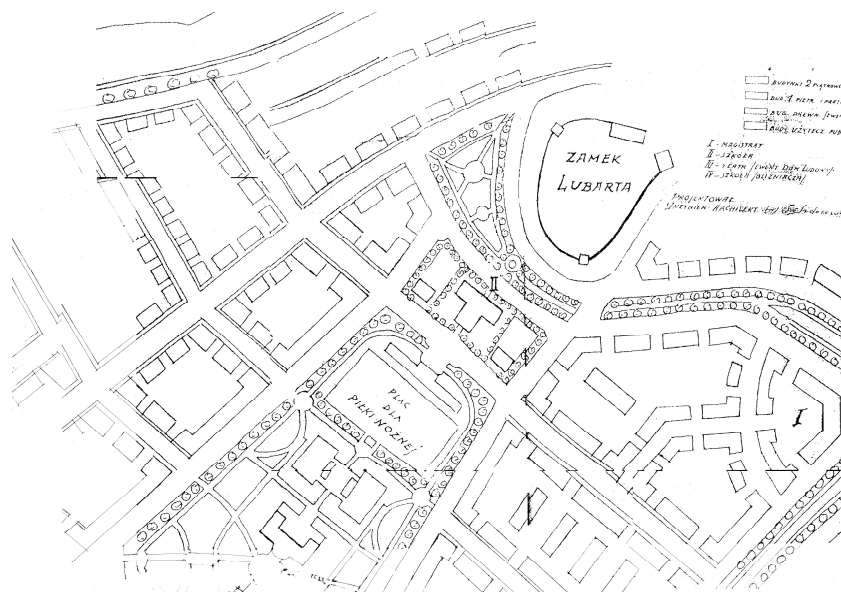


Fig. 2. Lutsk. Fragment of the Middle City planning. Architect S. Sidorchuk (Rivne), 1930

Ryc. 2. Lutsk. Fragment planu śródmieścia. Architekt S. Sidorchuk (Rivne), 1930

Regulation city plans provided a correcting of a street network contour, necessity of its expansion, defined the lines of street building, change of existing building structure, an opportunity of its intensification or underpressures if it was demanded according to the sanitary norms [Kühnel 1918, 153–154]. The plans of city building were carried out on a basis of measurement and regulation plans. It is typical, that such plans have been made before the first world war only for several large cities of the western Poland, in particular for Poznań [Tomaszewski 1937, 99]. The major factors which stimulated this process in Volyn, were: intensive urbanising processes in Lutsk, Rivne, Volodymyr Volynski, Kostopol, Dubno, Zdolbunov, Radyvyliv, Kremenets, Ratno during 1921–1931 (in cities which were significant railway junctions, administrative centres of districts or industrial centres); the necessity of engineering networks construction in territory of city; an opportunity of development of tourist and recreational potential in the region. All specified actions could be implemented on the basis of the concrete city building plan only.

¹ Before similar works were carried out by the Ministry of Public works only.

Principles of the complex approach became dominating, and the basic planning tendencies were: the city division into built up and functionally passive territories, restriction of building in the city administrative borders, to functional zoning of the city territory for mutual isolation of industrial and inhabited territories with the help of the green plantings penetrating deep into the city body.

The separate problem solved by building plans, was establishing of new inhabited quarters in the most convenient places with the best hygienic conditions. Territorially each new house should be equidistant from the planted trees and public spaces. Industrial territories and the territories intended for trade, were planned to be in those places where the most convenient communications with sources of raw material could be provided. As it was already marked above, the plan of building necessarily included the planted trees and shrubs territories (both new, and existing, natural), necessary for rest of inhabitants, isolation of inhabited quarters from other city zones, protecting the population from dust, noise, and smoke. Besides, in the building strategy of town planning development, new streets linings, office buildings arrangements and establishments were provided.



Fig. 3. Lutsk. Plan of the city. Architect A. Strazhakova. Fall 1920-th.
Ryc. 3. Lutsk. Plan miasta. Architekt A. Strazhakova. Koniec lat 20. XX w.

Making the building plans demanded significant expenses of means and time. For performance of the similar plan and its adoption for city with the population of 10–50 thousand inhabitants the period of one and a half to three years [Tomaszewski 1937, 100] was normal. Taking into account the absence of ex-

perts in Volyn in the branch of urbanistics and labour input of design works, in the majority of cases the architectural – planning development of Volyn cities was spontaneously and fragmentary.

On April, 1, 1935 for building designing management in Volyn Voivodeship the special Bureau was created [Juraniec-Jurewicz 1937, 7]. At the moment of the Bureau formation measurement plans of Lutsk, Rivne, Sarny, Ratno, Olyka, Rozhyshche, Torchyn, Kivertsi, etc. were already available; were started works the measurement in Liuboml, Gorokhov and Ostrog.

First of all, it was planned to develop the plan of city Lutsk – an administrative centre of voivodeship and Rivne – the greatest city and shopping center of Volyn. The task of creation of new general plans for Lutsk and Rivne was complicated by the historically generated system planning, and also by the necessity of inclusion to the planning structure of Styr and Ustja coastal territories.



Fig. 4. Lutsk. Fragment of the planning of the coastal territories of the river Styr. Architect A. Strazhakova. Fall 1920-th

Ryc. 4. Lutsk. Fragment planu zagospodarowania brzegów rzeki Styr. Architekt A. Strazhakova. Koniec lat 20. XX w.

Lutsk, in the territorial development, has been put before a problem of a river valley development. Together with a problem of drainage of meadows adjoined to medieval castle of Ljubart and Downtown, projects of building of this territory were considered. Two design offers reflected the basic tendencies of town-planning development in the first third of the XX century: estate type buildings or perimetral low-storied buildings with intensive territory saturation of a site or quarter green plantings and regular lower case building with inclusion in its structure of green strips.

The first project executed by E. Jerome in 1928–1929 [Державний архів..., f. 338, op. 2, spr. 3], gravitated to linear structure, reflecting the general town-

planning ideas of V. Gropius. The author has made attempt to attach coastal territories to the Middle City, having planned them for a vein of estate type building. Pedestrian spaces – avenues and water pools – channels have been included in the planning structure. Territory adjoining on perimeter, E. Jerome suggested to build up with buildings of the blocked type.

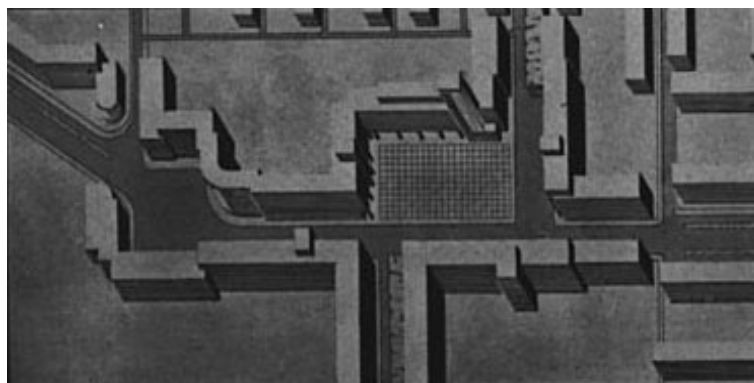


Fig. 5. Lutsk. Fragment of the central part building. Architect A. Strazhakova. Fall 1920-th.

Ryc. 5. Lutsk. Fragment centralnej części zabudowy. Architekt A. Strazhakova. Koniec lat 20. XX w.

The second project has much in common with the idea of “city-garden” suggested still in the end of XIX century by E. Howard. The architect from Rivne S. Sidorchuk in 1930 has suggested to consider new building as independent part of the Lutsk Middle City with all system of service, and has arranged radially a network of new streets, having directed them to the composite center – to the castle [ДАБО, f. 158, op. 4, spr. 1154]. Thus the architect has suggested to create an administrative centre of Lutsk which would become logical spatial continuation and development of a city historical nucleus. In the project the construction of residential buildings of two types was provided: section (no more than two floors above the ground floor – that is not higher than trees) and buildings of estate type which as a whole formed the system of perimetally built rectangular quarters. The significant width of streets, saturation of city spaces by green plantings, allocation of the composite axis generated by public buildings, would promote the formation of an ordered area, according to modern town-planning requirements in the central part of Lutsk.

The urgency of the theme of town-planning transformation of spatial – planning city structures, its functional zoning, accommodation of new quarters by a vein of building confirms the fact of execution in the end of 1920-th the degree project on the specified theme by a student of Architectural Faculty in Warsaw Polytechnics Alina Strazhakova [*Album młodej architektury...*]. The architect has shown the complex approach to the decision of this problem: lower case building of the blocked type has made a basis for planning the coastal territories

of the river Styr. Valuable historical objects and architectural complexes were included in structure of a green plantings strip located from the southern party of new residential area in the Middle City territory. The role of an original frame of each inhabited quarter was fulfilled by the section of blocked many-stored buildings, and also to new ensembles of office buildings.

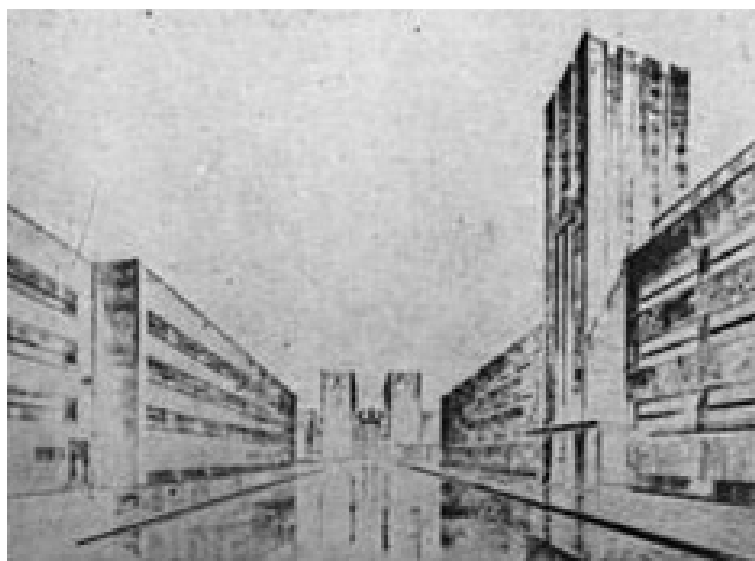


Fig. 6. Lutsk. View to the central street. Architect A. Strazhakova. Fall 1920-th.

Fig. 6. Lutsk. Widok ulicy centralnej. Architekt A. Strazhakova. Koniec lat 20. XX w.

To prevent the planless development Lutsk in 1934 city council has decided to develop a general plan of building with display of the basic development directions on a basis measurement plans [ДАБО, Ф. 158, оп. 4, spr. 16, 3]. The basic tasks was to arrange of the main office buildings, the spatial organization of the public center and reconstruction of the historical one, to define the structure by a vein of building on suburbs and to give Middle City a representative kind. The transport problem which was considered (examined) as strategic also required the decision. After realization the pre-projekt researches such plan has been executed in 1937 in the Bureau of measurements and plans of city building. The document covered, including, the new territories joining the administrative borders of Lutsk. The project provided:

- reorganization of a railway junction, accommodation of new railway station (passenger and commodity) in Kuchkarivka on the left coast of the river Styr and its linking to existing highway Lutsk – Kivertsi and building new transport arteries;
- creation of a roundabout highway around the city.

The separate point showed the necessity of a river Styr channel regulation and arrangement of a quay with a park along one of the river sites.

Simultaneously the plan of building of southern part Luts'k by the area 144 hectares has been made in the Bureau.

The first attempt of building regulation Rivne was the plan made by a technical department of the Rovno city council in 1928. The project provided building territories, nearby to former palace Liubomiskij, three-tier residential buildings of section type. Its author – architect S. Sidorchuk from Rivne. In the same document for the first time it was offered to arrange sport constructions of city value in a valley of the river Ustja, and to use a boggy site unsuitable for housing construction near the palace for an arrangement of the city park². The project provided expansion of the city borders and creation the new quarters with an individual vein of building in the attached territories, forming an original half ring from the east side. However, a problem of functional zoning of city was unsolved. In the territory of Rivne at the moment of drawing up of the project there were 11 mills, the brewery manufacture, a factory on processing and manufacture of leather, a brick and factory, a wood processing plant [ДІАПО, f. 31, op. 1, spr. 770, 2]. The enterprises have been dispersed in territory of city and considerably worsened conditions of living. As the main architect of city W. Świętochowski marked in 1929, the plan did not provide allocation of an industrial zone that was its significant lack. As a result design offers have not been accepted to the further development and were not implemented.

In second time to town-planning problems Rivne architects have addressed in the middle of 1930-th. Volyn Bureau of measurements and plans of city building in 1936 has executed predesign researches. The technique of their implementation has been considered exemplary in territory of all Polish state. Our contemporaries also admit this [Pawlowski 1971, 158]. Basis of preliminary studying and scheduling of the city building were the regional researches which have established an administrative, economic, cultural role of city in system of inhabitation. Such approach is probably not casual: the problem of regional planning become the major among discussed on the Ist Poland Urbanistic Conference organized by the Society of the Polish urbanists in 1930 [Pawlowski 1969, 20]. During discussion the thesis about city as an isolated organism, without its integration into the structure of the region was critically examined. The general plan of Warsaw of 1926 in which it was offered to execute a planning not only cities in its administrative borders, but also region as a whole become precedent of innovations. Studying of this problematics became more active after acceptance on the Congress SIAM of 1933 of the Athenian Charter and it was implemented in research of Polish architects J. Chmielewski and Sh. Syrkus „Warsaw functional” [Chmielewski i Syrkus 1935.].

So, predesign researches were based on already formulated and approved principles and represented the complex analysis of various social, geographical, historical, town-planning factors.

² The idea realized in Rivne during the post-war period.

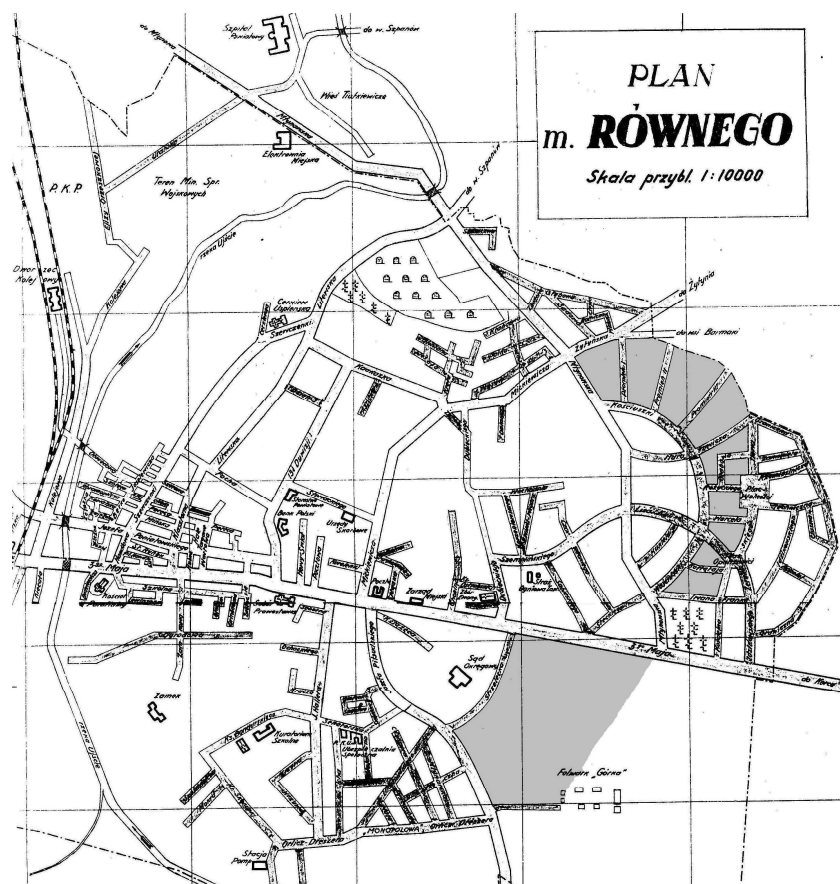


Fig. 7. Rivne. Plan of the city, 1938: gray – estate type building

Ryc. 7. Równe. Plan miasta, 1938: szary – budynki typu jednorodzinnego

On the basis of these researches the city council with the help of the Society of the Polish urbanists and the Union of architects of Poland has declared a competition on development of the city building plan at the end of 1936 [Juraniec-Jurewicz 1937, 8].

One of conditions of the program of competition – necessity to take into account the limited financial opportunities of realization of the plan. 19 projects have taken part in competition, 5 – are awarded. They became a material for scheduling building. Problems were important:

- the main message: designing of roundabout road, connection the east and western parts of city, connection the Middle City with the railway station; the organization of necessary entrances to a freight yard;
- industrial sites (for example, accommodation of a platform for cattle trade);
- expansion of territories of the Volyn tenders (agricultural and industrial regional exhibition);

– inhabited quarters (the exemplary worker in area Tsegelnya, quarter for employees³ on east suburb of Rivne, a vein quarter for officers in the western part of the city);

- park sites (green strips);
- public buildings.

The project awarded with the First premium (authors – architects of M. Buckievitchuvna⁴ and V. Viechorkievich from Warsaw), solved the tasks, defining directions of transit movement, bypassing the Middle City, and providing necessary internal connections of the railway station with, inhabited quarters. The Second premium was received by the project of architects M. and A. Juranietc-Jurevich from Warsaw too [Juraniec-Jurewicz 1937, 9–10].

The conclusions from above-stated facts are such. The functional method was the basic in the decision of the Volyn cities problems, and the main task was – to solve the problem of the communications (connection of functional zones and separate objects). The understanding of organic synthesis necessity of the city environment and nature elements (by formation of greens, underlining the characteristic sites of a landscape, including the natural water pools in spatial and planning structure of cities). The beginning of the second world war has prevented to continue design works and to implement the majority of projects. However, the fact of attempt to decide Volyn complex and many-sided town-planning problems has enabled to include the region into a context of the European architecture development in 1930-th. During post-war time these materials became ground for restoration and development of Volyn cities. With their help the town-planning development strategy of the largest settlements in the region for some decades forward was formulated.

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³ „Kolonja Urzędnicza” (from Polish).

⁴ Was one of authors of a general plan of Warsaw of 1929.

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ROZWÓJ URBANISTYCZNY MIAST ŁUCK I RÓWNEGO W REGIONIE WOŁYŃSKIM W LATACH 20. I 30. XX W. OD MIASTA-OGRODU DO MIASTA FUNKCJONALNEGO

Streszczenie. W latach 20-tych i 30-tych XX wieku w II Rzeczypospolitej miały miejsce znaczące programy planistyczne, powiązane z regulacją zabudowy największych miast i tworzeniem dla nich nowych planów urbanistycznych. Opracowanie dotyczy rozwoju planowania miast na przykładzie dwóch miast Wołynia: Łucka – centrum administracyjnego dla Województwa Wołyńskiego i Równego – ważnego miasta handlowego i największego z miast regionu. Dla miast Ziemi Wołyńskiej ten proces był szczególnie ważny wobec ponad pięćdziesięcioletniego okresu rozwoju przestrzennego regionu, bez sprecyzowanych planów i strategii wzrostu.

Słowa kluczowe: Równe, Łuck, urbanistyka okresu 1920-1939, miasto – ogród