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The map presents the location of housing developments in Łódź, in breakdown into housing types, within the administrative boundaries as at the end of 2000.

The significant diversity of the types of housing developments is a consequence of the city's rapid urban growth over a period of no more than 200 years under the various political systems. In the early industrial period, residential areas in Łódź were established on greenfields. In later periods, the former artisan single-storey wooden houses were converted into brick multi-storey and multi-family dwellings. At the turn of the 19th and the 20th centuries in the then suburban and close exurban areas of the city built were districts with single-family, several-family, and multi-family tenement developments. Residential, villa, and boarding pension developments were established in proximity to forests. The built-up areas transformation process particularly intensified after WW2, when the rural-urban fringe incorporated into the city's administrative boundaries became building sites of large council and cooperative housing microdistricts. Around large multi-family housing microdistricts arose small estates of private and cooperative detached and concentrated single-family housing developments. At the same time industrial and warehousing zones significantly extended their range beyond the undeveloped areas or parts of the existing housing areas they had hitherto occupied. Also, housing areas in the inner city and the city centre transformed to take on more tertiary functions. Recently, further development is observed in respect of multifamily, single-family, villa, and residential housing. At the same time, following the decline of agriculture within the city limits, smallholdings were converted into single-family housing properties with non-farming business activities.

Characteristic of Łódź is the patchwork of development types and functions within the relatively small central area (within the ring railway).

Ten types of housing developments have been identified and classified into four groups:

1. rural development areas:
 - smallholdings (compound comprising a housing building and utility buildings grouped around a backyard),
 - housing developments in areas with greenhouse cultivation
 2. suburban development areas:
 - detached and dispersed single-family housing developments,
 - concentrated single-family housing developments (semi-detached and terraced houses),
 - villa and residential housing developments (more impressive one- or two-family houses with a large garden or park),
 - tereny zabudowy wielorodzinnej wolnostojącej (przedwojenne kamienice czynszowe przy ulicach o niepełnej pierzei),
 3. urban development areas:
 - multifamily block housing developments (housing buildings built along streets with compact frontage and high proportion of green areas within the given quarter) and microdistrict developments (detached multifamily housing buildings on large sites under uniform administration),
 - compact multifamily developments (housing buildings in front of the plot with outhouses around the courtyard),
 4. downtown development areas:
 - compact multi-functional developments with prevalent housing function
- compact multi-functional developments with prevalent functions other than housing

The basic criterion for classifying districts into housing development types was the spatial prevalence of the given development type within the given quarter.

Literature and sources

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 L i s z e w s k i S., 1978, *Tereny miejskie. Podział i klasyfikacja*, Acta Univ. Lodz., ser. II, Nauki Matem.-Przyr., z. 15, Łódź.
 Topographic map at a scale of 1:10 000 using the coordinates from 1942 issued by Głównego Geodetę Kraju, Warsaw 1993.
 Aerial photo at a scale of approx 1: 5 000 in 1996
 Shp files: buildings, railways, infrastructure, rivers, streets and 'green' areas released by the Information Office of Łódź City Council
 Field surveys carried out in July and August 2001.