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Apart from areas that boast eye-catching natural features, contemporary tourists' attention increasingly focuses on cities which are becoming large tourist centres attracting sizeable tourist traffic. This eagerness to consume city spectacles causes that the space of contemporary cities is increasingly becoming tourist space.

The purpose of this Sheet XXXIX is to present the types of tourist and recreational space in Łódź which are dynamically developing within the administrative boundaries of the city. The types were identified on functional basis (Liszewski 1995), and their spatial range does not cover the entire administrative area of Łódź.

Within the boundaries of Łódź in 2002 there are four types of tourist and recreational spaces (Liszewski 1999) which generate the entire tourist traffic into the city and intracity trips linked to recreation in urban areas.

1. Urban tourist and recreational penetration space is the principal and best developed type of urban tourist and recreational space.

Tourist penetration space refers to that part of urban space which tourists arriving in the city visit (penetrate) mainly for cognitive reasons (sightseeing), and less frequently for recreational reasons (Liszewski 2002).

On arrival, such tourists first turn to places and areas generally considered to be tourist attractions. In the case of Łódź, these are specific spaces, mainly linked to the industry which built this city and the people who lived and worked here. Łódź, which as a large city emerged only in the 19th century, does not have older tourist features and what makes it unique are the industrial complexes, villas and palaces, parks and gardens, as well as the elements of the natural environment (forests and nature reserves) which are remnants of the vast forests that still covered the area in the 18th century.

Tourist and recreational penetration space in Łódź includes forests with nature reserves, city parks, cemeteries of various faiths, botanical gardens, a zoo, and four large industrial and residential complexes. Spot tourist penetration spaces in Łódź include museums (14, plus the palm house and the planetarium), palaces, villas and residences of architectural value (43) selected sacred places (oldest and having the greatest learning value – 26) and other listed sites.

Tourist and recreational penetration space covers various parts of the city space, but the individual sites are found mainly in the 19th century central zone, while the others occupy outer areas.

2. Tourist and recreational assimilation space

Tourist assimilation denotes such activities in which tourists meet the locals and become familiar with the local customs and culture, as well as the quality of life and living conditions. By getting to know the local conditions, tourists temporarily adopt them and identify with the local population, in other words assimilate with the local environment (Liszewski 1999). In cities, the process of tourists' or newcomers' assimilation mainly takes place in central areas that provide opportunity for direct and spontaneous contacts between 'strangers and locals'.

In Łódź, the major assimilation space is Piotrkowska Street with its backstreets, and the perpendicular to it Mickiewicza and Piłsudskiego Avenues, where a new metropolitan centre is being built. This is where Lodzians assimilate with non-residents, not only for the reason that Piotrkowska Street is the city's showcase, but also because it accommodates a wide range of catering outlets. It seems that with its retrofit, decoration, and special ambience Piotrkowska St. attracts all arrivals in Łódź regardless of their purposes.

In the 1990s, new areas falling into the category of tourist assimilation were created. These are large hypermarkets and shopping centres which provide opportunity for mass contacts between locals and non-residents.

3. Tourist and recreational exploration space

The term exploration is associated with searching and discovering the unknown. Contemporary urban tourists increasingly do not settle for the objects and spaces commonly recognised and described as attractive sites (tourist penetration space), but wish to make 'new discoveries', and see something interesting, genuine, and unknown. Such visits to the various parts of a city, still undiscovered by mass tourists, are characteristic of the urban space exploration tourism. The urban exploration space varies from tourist to tourist, because it depends on their individual interests which are highly diversified and informed by a variety of factors.

Łódź, a city only recently discovered by tourists, has vast areas which could potentially become tourist exploration spaces. The tourist exploration space in Łódź, as shown in this Sheet XXXIX, corresponds with the preservation zone delimited by the heritage conservation services based on the listed sites and buildings. This zone consists of two parts, the first one covers the area of the 19th century industrial Łódź, while the other includes two villages incorporated into the city boundaries: the medieval village of Mileszki, and Nowosolna which originates from the colonisation period.

Having acknowledged the preservation zone as the tourist exploration space, one can hope that it will attract the interest and encourage individual tourists to explore and discover new and interesting sites, spatial patterns, and buildings.

4. Tourist and recreational colonisation space

The term 'tourist and recreational colonisation space' is understood as a process of permanent occupation and adaptation of space by tourist facilities which leads to changes in the land use. Tourist colonisation space is defined as that part of the urban space which undergoes permanent development for tourist and recreational purposes.

In view of its many functions, urban space only to a limited degree lends itself to tourist colonisation. The oldest form of such colonisation are hotels which are built in various parts of the urban space. As is the case with Łódź, tourist and recreational colonisation space also includes areas of allotment gardens which have a very long tradition that goes back to the interwar period, recreational centres usually located by rivers or reservoirs, large-scale sports grounds (stadiums and sports centres), and of course hotels and other accommodation facilities.

The tourist and recreational colonisation space in Łódź is dispersed and covers different parts of the city's urban space.

This Sheet XXXIX is not a tourist map of Łódź, but brings together the various types of tourist spaces found within the administrative boundaries of the city.

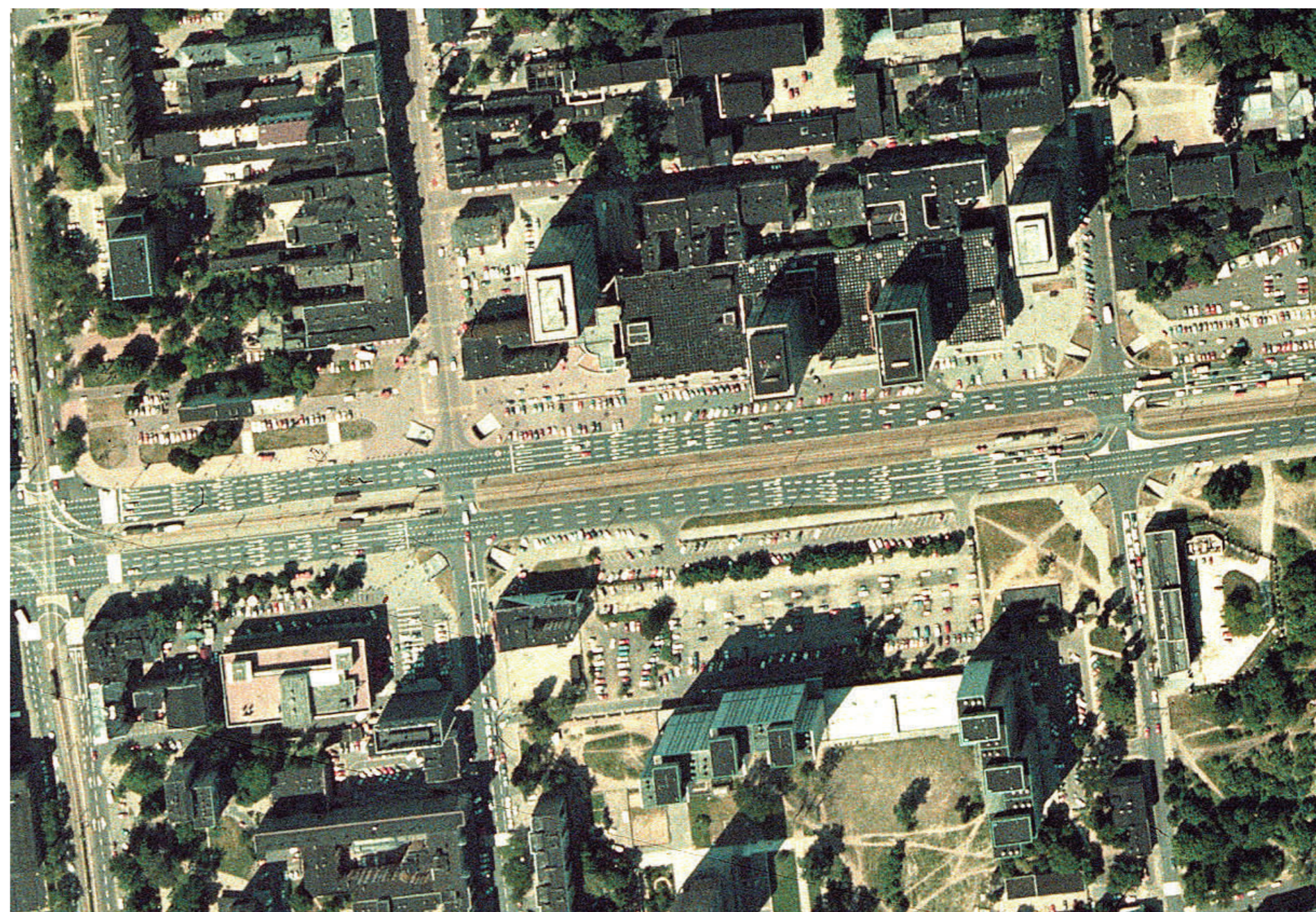
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St Stanisław Kostka Cathedral Basilica (Roman Catholic Church) – at the top of the photograph is St Mathew Cathedral (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession) – at the bottom right: a section of Piotrkowska Street is visible.  
 aerial photo



Matejki Park at the junction of Narutowicza and Matejki Streets  
 aerial photo



Centre of Łódź: Mickiewicza Avenue (west of Piotrkowska Street) and Piłsudskiego Avenue (east of Piotrkowska) and the streets perpendicular to them (in the easterly direction): Al. Kościuszki, Piotrkowska and Sienkiewicza Streets. Visible is the yet undeveloped area on the southern frontage of Piłsudskiego Avenue.

aerial photo, early 1990s



Part of Zdrowie Park: to the right: a section of the railway and Unii Lubelskiej Avenue  
 aerial photo