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## *An integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage on the example of Kolumna – a former summer resort near Łódź*

*Heritage is currently exploited for many purposes [...]. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that heritage is perhaps the most important, and certainly the most widely used tool in creating places.*

Gregory Ashworth [1, Introduction]

### **Introduction**

Today, the relationship between the past and the future is not limited to the protection of monuments. Cultural heritage serves contemporary purposes, which are not only material cultural goods, but also natural heritage and our memory and identity.

In the literature on the subject of monument protection law [2], as well as in the theory and practice of monument conservation, the terms “monument”, “cultural asset” or “cultural resources” are used interchangeably. When trying to organize the semantic ranges of these concepts, it should be noted that the objects or phenomena covered by them are distinguished by the fact that they carry certain values that can generally be called cultural. The works of man, as well as products of nature, which represent spiritual (intangible) values, can be called cultural goods. It is worth adding that for the theory and practice of monument studies and conservation, it was extremely important to recognize in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that cultural phenomena are resources analogous to natural resources [3]. A common protection policy, and an integrated approach to these issues is therefore obvious.

The area of Kolumna, which is the subject of the study, about 25 km from Łódź, was and is a special place. Rich in characteristic wooden summer buildings surrounded by

picturesque nature, Kolumna was an attraction and a base for spending free time (often short weekends) for the inhabitants of a large industrial city. Since 1973, the area of Kolumna has been a district of Łask<sup>1</sup>. Formerly, Kolumna existed as a separate resort. To this day, it is famous for its specific climate, being an attraction for visitors. Protecting and preserving its value seems to be a very important task. The aim of the article is to present the results of research on the cultural heritage of Kolumna as well as to emphasize the importance of an integrated approach to its protection. Empirical research was carried out based on direct observation, analysis and self-assessment based on the existing archival materials and publications. Field observations on human intervention and landscape transformations were carried out. The obtained results shed new light on the issue of heritage protection in terms of European Union (EU) arrangements. According to the opinion issued by the European Committee of the Regions in 2015, cultural heritage is an integral element of the cultural and creative sectors, includes resources, goods and tangible, intangible and natural knowledge passed down for generations, and can help shape the image of municipalities, cities and regions [4]. It makes a significant contribution to strengthening social cohesion. It is a common value and a common resource that will be duly appreciated in the future. Heritage belongs to all of us, and access to it is one of the

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<sup>1</sup> This decision was not accepted by the inhabitants and the Kolumna is still considered a separate entity among them.

fundamental human rights [5]. As emphasized by Jacek Purchla: *Cultural and natural heritage faces unprecedented threats almost every day. Their basis is often growing intolerance, which only divides communities and nations. Also in recent years, in various parts of the world, we are dealing with the deliberate destruction of heritage*<sup>2</sup> [6]. Hence, it should be concluded that the role of cultural heritage is still underestimated, and yet it is the foundation of local, regional, national, European and global identity.

In recent years in Poland, an increase in the importance of protecting cultural heritage can be observed, which is the so-called territorial capital. These are all elements of territorial space that create a system of relations, norms and regulations as well as the uniqueness of the place in the cultural, spatial, social and economic dimension [7]. Different actions are being taken to protect all existing forms of cultural heritage. The National Heritage Board of Poland, which is an expert and consultative support for the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and conducts activities supporting local governments in managing cultural heritage in their area. However, it can also be seen that sadly, these actions do not cover all areas.

### ***The state of research***

There are several studies dealing with the issue of an integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage. It is worth mentioning here the article by Zbigniew Myczkowski *Krajobraz kulturowy – fenomen integracji ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego i przyrodniczego* [Cultural landscape – the phenomenon of integrating the protection of cultural and natural heritage], in which the author attempted to present the form of heritage protection in chronological terms [8]. The problem of the protection of nature and objects of cultural heritage and landscape developed in Poland at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The quoted author explained how important the first initiatives were and which of them were reflected in the legislation. In the collective work entitled *Zintegrowane podejście do dziedzictwa kulturowego w gospodarowaniu przestrzeni na przykładzie gminy Konstancin-Jeziorna* [An integrated approach to cultural heritage in spatial management on the example of the Konstancin-Jeziorna commune] a contemporary approach to the subject of cultural heritage is presented. The monograph attempts to analyze the process of integrating heritage with planning systems and assessing its advancement in Poland, with particular emphasis on Konstancin-Jeziorna [9]. Gregory Ashworth in the book *Heritage planning* described how to manage heritage in order to achieve the assumed goals [1]. In the article *Dziedzictwo kulturowe jako czynnik rozwojowy w kontekście zarządzania zintegrowanego* [Cultural heritage as a development factor in the context of integrated management], Filip Moterski indicated the possibilities of using this issue in the process of creating local documents. As an example, he presented cultural heritage (in tangible

as well as intangible aspects), which is considered an important development factor, but often remains unrecognized or is not used in a way that positively affects the development of both local governments and heritage sites. The cited author considers integrated management to be a management process that is aimed at a holistic approach to decision-making and organizational processes combining three dominant spheres: environmental and spatial, economic and social [10].

Jacek Purchla, in the publication *Dziedzictwo a transformacja* [Heritage and transformation], particularly strongly emphasized that cultural heritage in many countries is a very strong impulse for the development of the tourism industry [11]. This, in turn, is an impulse for the development of cities and regions, as long as tourism and the process of managing individual elements become part of a wider integrated management process. In the collective work entitled *Kolumna-Las, miasto-ogród* [Kolumna-Forest, city-garden], we can find articles devoted to Kolumna, its history and wooden architecture, as well as drawings of inventories of wooden buildings (works by students of architecture at the Lodz University of Technology) [12].

### ***Programs, strategies and recommendations regarding protection of cultural heritage***

There are many studies that define the directions and basis for activities in the field of integrated protection of cultural heritage. The issue of protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage was defined in the UNESCO Convention of 1972 [13]. In turn, an integrated view on heritage protection was developed within the *Heritage as Opportunity* thematic network of the URBACT II program [14]. This program focused on the historic urban landscape and influenced the further development and management of heritage. Nowadays, we can observe the use of various concepts that allow for an integrated approach to space. As a result of the debates of the Council of Europe, in February 2017, Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)1 [15] was adopted for the Member States on the *European Strategy for Cultural Heritage for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (known as Strategy 21 or TS21 for short). It contains recommendations on integrated heritage management, divided into the following components: social, economic and territorial development, as well as knowledge and education.

It is worth adding that Strategy 21, in accordance with the mission of the Council of Europe, presents an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach to cultural heritage, the conscious and skillful use of which can become an asset in achieving various socio-economic goals, especially at the level of small territorial units. The integrated approach to the use of cultural heritage resources proposed by Strategy 21 means setting and specifying many conditions necessary to achieve the intended goals:

- taking into account all aspects of cultural heritage, including its intangible dimension and links with the natural and cultural environment,
- making decisions based on agreement and participation, enabling the satisfaction of society's needs,

<sup>2</sup> Statement by Prof. J. Purchla during the opening ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee in Krakow.

– enabling citizens to take responsibility for giving value to cultural heritage, as well as for its protection and preservation,

– taking into account the existing tools and course of action, in accordance with the legal framework in force in the country.

In our country, the National Heritage Institute published a guide for municipalities entitled *Zintegrowane zarządzanie dziedzictwem kulturowym w rozwoju lokalnym* [Integrated management of cultural heritage in local development], which presents recommendations of the Council of Europe for member states, helpful at the local level [16]. On the basis of such recommendations, the document *Lokalny Program Rewitalizacji dla Gminy Łask na lata 2016–2023* [Local Revitalization Program for the Municipality of Łask for the years 2016–2023] was adopted by Resolution No. XXVIII/298/20 in Łask. It provides for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and the strengthening of local identity [17]. At the request of the Łask Commune, a study on the development strategy of the Łask Commune for 2021–2027 [18] was published, which is a continuation of the previously adopted assumptions. As part of the activities aimed at preserving and saving the buildings in Kolumna, students of architecture at the Lodz University of Technology have been taking inventory documentation of local wooden buildings for several years.

Moreover, the Environmental Protection Program for the Łask commune [19] was adopted, which forecasts the analysis of the environmental state and provides scheduling of planned tasks. It also deals with preventing soil contamination, protecting air quality, promoting a low-carbon economy, protecting natural resources such as the “Kolumna-Las” nature and landscape complex, “Dolina Grabi” nature and landscape complex, Natura 2000 area, nature monuments.

### *An example of Kolumna – historical background*

The first mention of Kolumna in written sources dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and referred to the existing mill. The town of Kolumna appeared on maps in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It consisted of two parts: a mill settlement and a village [20]. In 1826, the settlement had 5 houses with 29 inhabitants [21]. On the quartermaster’s map from 1839, it was described as a separate settlement (today known as Old Kolumna). In the past, the area was part of the Wierzchy estate. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Kolumna had 12 homesteads with 76 inhabitants and, together with the Łask estates, belonged to the Szweycers, who lived in the nearby village of Ostrów. In 1928, Janusz Szweycer, the last heir to Łask’s estates, separated 120 ha from his land-estates, which he designated for the construction of a summer resort. It was supposed to be an adaptation of a large forest area for the needs of potential holidaymakers, referring to the concept of garden cities (Figs. 1, 2) by Ebenezer Howard [22].

The establishment of the village was undoubtedly also due to its favorable geographical location on the rivers Grabia and Pałusznicza. In the years 1928–1929, forest areas



Fig. 1. Kolumna-Forest, development plan (1927, by A. Jawornicki, [28])

II. 1. Kolumna-Las, plan zagospodarowania (1927, oprac. A. Jawornicki, [28])

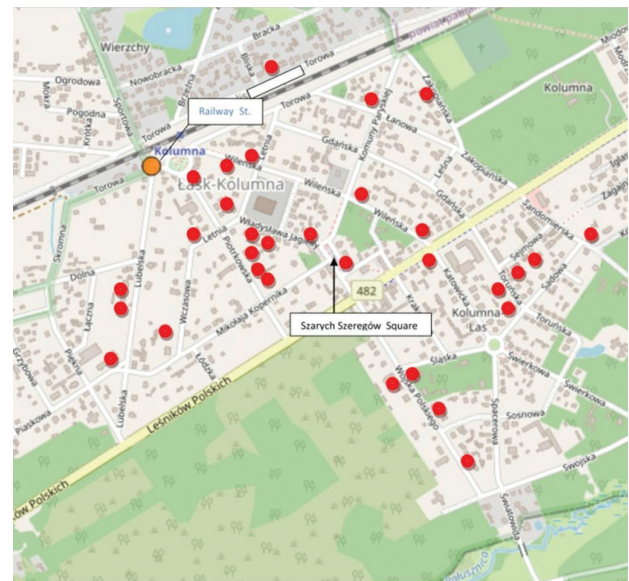


Fig. 2. Plan of Kolumna with marked locations of wooden villa buildings and boarding houses (red points) and a railway station (orange point) (elaborated by K. Strumiłło, based on the OpenStreetMap map)

II. 2. Plan Kolumny z zaznaczonymi punktami lokalizacji drewnianej zabudowy willowej i pensjonatów (czerwone punkty) oraz stacji kolejowej (pomarańczowy punkt) (oprac. K. Strumiłło, na podstawie mapy OpenStreetMap)

were parceled out, a market square, squares for a school, a church, a post office and a railway station were marked out. In the 1930s, a house of prayer for the Jewish population was also built, as many of the inhabitants of Kolumna were of Jewish origin. 427 summer plots were marked out, which began to be sold in 1929. In 1931, 80.6 ha of the Szweycer forest were further parceled out [23]. As a result, 298 new plots and land for the park were marked out [24].



Fig. 3. Kolumna. A wooden villa with a corner turret at Szarych Szeregów Square 4. In the foreground a revitalized square with elements of small architecture (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 3. Kolumna. Drewniana willa z narożną wieżyczką przy pl. Szarych Szeregów 4. Na pierwszym planie zrewitalizowany plac z elementami małej architektury (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)



Fig. 4. Kolumna. A wooden villa with a corner turret at 14 Komuny Paryskiej Street (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 4. Kolumna. Drewniana willa z narożną wieżyczką przy ul. Komuny Paryskiej 14 (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)

In addition to small private houses, luxury wooden boarding houses and villas (wood was the cheapest material at that time) were built for rent as summer resort housing. This town was given the name Forest-Kolumna. All housing estates were built mainly in pine forests with dry, sandy ground [22].

Kolumna was shaped on an axial-radial plan. It was intended to develop a project to use the natural landscape and create a kind of garden city, where the architecture blends in with the surrounding forest. Architect Antoni

Jawornicki, the creator of the garden city of Podkowa Leśna, took care of detailed land development plans. The approved design of Kolumna resembled Howard's original (1898) concept [25]<sup>3</sup>. As a result of parceling, two

<sup>3</sup> Robert Stern [26] pointed out that the garden city concept is a model for the development of present and future cities [25], [27]. This is supported by the renewed interest in garden cities and the many new suburban projects in the UK that show a resurgence of this planning model in both theory and practice. In 2017, the UK government unveiled plans to create

areas were created on both sides of the axis, which is the street (provincial road) called Leśników Polskich Street [28]. In the northern part, there are streets radiating from the railway station, also called avenues – Lubelska, Piotrkowska, Wileńska. In the southern part, the streets (alleys) – Katowicka, Świerkowa, Spacerowa, Śląska, Sadowa branch off from the centrally located Plac Gwiaździsty. In the above-mentioned areas, a significant part of the old buildings are wooden buildings, often two- and three-story, located as detached on large forest plots. The architecture of these buildings has historical and cultural value. Szarych Szeregów Square is a link between the two parts of Kolumna (Fig. 2). The complex of plots located to the north of the railway tracks is also intended for single-family housing.

It is worth noting that in 1931 there were about 20 boarding houses in Kolumna, which were very popular, and six of them were open all year round [29]. At that time, there were already several permanent shops with groceries, and in the summer season their number increased significantly. A gas station opened. A public bath was established on the Grabia River, on the road to Ostrów, connected with the accumulation of water and a small beach. In 1934, there were over 150 larger and smaller villas in Kolumna. The beach on Grabia was expanded, there was a facility equipped with showers and other conveniences. Currently, these buildings do not exist.

After the war, some of the boarding houses were taken over by the Workers' Holiday Fund. *Lokalny Program Rewitalizacji dla Gminy Łask na lata 2016–2023* [The Local Revitalization Program for the Łask commune for the years 2016–2023] [17] specifies that before World War II, there were 11 large boarding houses in Kolumna, as well as a whole base of infrastructure, including tennis courts and restaurants. There were 30 boarding houses in Kolumna at that time. In addition, there were about 160 summer houses [21]. As time passed, these buildings began to be inhabited not only in the summer, but also throughout the year, which changed the character of the buildings into multi-family buildings. Post-war politics led to the division of entire buildings into random flats inhabited by different families. The most numerous form of a summer house was a symmetrical house with a centrally placed staircase. These were buildings in the modernist style, but there were also houses in the manor style.

### ***Kolumna summer houses – current state***

Dozens of wooden summer houses have survived to this day in Kolumna (Fig. 2). Most of these buildings have retained their original spatial layouts (although there are added vestibules or liquidated glazing replaced with wooden panels). They usually have a simple form with modernist connotations (as they have roofs with a small angle of inclination, which are not visible from the street level).

14 new garden cities and garden villages across England. In the south of England, in the counties of Buckinghamshire, Somerset and Essex Hertfordshire, garden cities with over 10,000 inhabitants are to be built.



Fig. 5. Kolumna. Elevation of the villa at Szarych Szeregów Square 4 from the south-east. Inconsistent fragments of the walls and windows after partial replacement of the original ones (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 5. Kolumna. Elewacja willi przy placu Szarych Szeregów 4 od strony południowo-wschodniej. Niespójne fragmenty uzupełnienia ścian oraz okna po częściowej wymianie oryginalnych (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)



Fig. 6. Kolumna. A wooden building (former boarding house) with a corner turret with a roof with a slight inclination at 1 Wileńska Street (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2021)

Il. 6. Kolumna. Budynek drewniany (dawny pensjonat) z narożną wieżyczką z dachem o niewielkim kącie nachylenia przy ul. Wileńskiej 1 (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2021)

These buildings are wooden, one- or two-story, without a basement. They are surrounded by old pine forests. Among the surviving buildings, a few are distinguished by corner turrets. Such facilities include the building at Szarych Szeregów Square 4 (Fig. 3) and at 14 Komuny Paryskiej Street (Fig. 4). Both buildings have gable roofs covered with roofing felt. The façades, on the other hand, have decorative plank boarding on fragments of the walls, which is partly original and partly supplemented (Fig. 5). The window joinery is partly historical, and partly modern. The polygonal turret also distinguishes the building at 1 Wileńska Street (former Dora boarding house) (Fig. 6). It is located on the south side, and its roof is multi-pitched



Fig. 7. Kolumna. Wooden villa at 25 Wileńska Street with a rhythmic façade (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 7. Kolumna. Drewniana willa przy ul. Wileńskiej 25 o rytmicznej elewacji (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)



Fig. 8. Kolumna. The Rozenblats' wooden villa from the mid-1930s at 14 Wojska Polskiego Street. Window joinery after partial replacement does not refer to historical divisions (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2021)

Il. 8. Kolumna. Drewniana willa Rozenblatów z połowy lat 30. XX w. przy ul. Wojska Polskiego 14. Stolarzka okienna po częściowej wymianie, nie nawiązuje do historycznych podziałów (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2021)

with a small angle of inclination, imperceptible from the street. There are symmetrical layouts in the buildings: buildings at 8 Jagiello Street, corner of Sejmowa/Toruńska Street, at 8 Wileńska Street, 25 Wileńska Street (Fig. 7) and simple asymmetric layouts, such as the aforementioned building at 1 Wileńska Street and at 7 Letnia Street, however, often with numerous protrusions of wall planes creating faults (7 Piotrkowska Street, 9 Piotrkowska Street, 10 Jagiełły Street). The building located at 14 Wojska Polskiego Street (former Warszawska) (Fig. 8), which consists of two wings connected by a circular staircase with semi-circular porches with entrances on the ground floor, has retained its original formal and spatial layout.

Currently, among several dozen monuments in Kolumna, almost all require modernization. They are included in the local revitalization plan and constitute the cultural heritage of the district. In the resolution on the designation of a degraded area and a revitalization area in the commune, the Łask City Council draws attention, among other things, to two buildings (at 14 Wojska Polskiego Street and in Sejmowa Street) in poor technical condition. Their wooden structure requires repair [30]. It was decided that the upper floors will be intended for apartments, while the ground floor of the buildings will have social functions. Unfortunately, the modernization has not started yet. Raising funds becomes the overriding goal. In accordance with the project of revitalization of the Łask commune for the years 2017–2023 (the basic diagnosis was carried out at the level of village councils and rural areas, divided into Łask and the Kolumna district) and the adopted *Lokalny Program Rewitalizacji dla Gminy Łask na lata 2016–2023* [Local Revitalization Program for Łask for the years 2016–2023], one of the directions of action is the promotion of the Kolumna district and promoting it as a garden city [17].

It should be noted that despite the high degree of degradation, the buildings in Kolumna constitute housing facilities, which fact is of additional importance when revitalizing activities are undertaken. Therefore, on the one hand, it is important to act towards improving the quality of life of the residents, and on the other hand, to save the buildings that are the indisputable showcase for the district. Their architectural values define the identity and character of this area. Noteworthy is the guesthouse (circa 1930) located at 18 Wojska Polskiego Street, which has a multi-colored façade (Fig. 9). The inhabitants of Kolumna call this building a colorful guest house – until recently, you could still rent rooms here. The existing wooden boarding houses and summer villas with a large number of windows (Fig. 9), characteristic decorative verandas (Fig. 10) and large roof eaves can still be admired today. However, there are concerns about their technical condition and questions about how long these buildings will last. Some buildings have been abandoned, e.g. the above-mentioned guesthouse (18 Wojska Polskiego Street and 18 Wileńska Street) and are gradually degrading. In November 2021, a fire broke out in a villa at 26 Wojska Polskiego Street, which was entered into the Municipal Register of Monuments of the Łask Commune. The fire caused extensive damage to the building. Without specific modernization measures, it will not be possible to preserve these buildings<sup>4</sup>. Dealing with existing cultural values should be comprehensive and multifaceted. Although many studies have been prepared to take into account the most important tasks, it remains a problem to obtain funds, as well as to make reasonable decisions to save cultural and natural resources.

An example of a significant investment in Kolumna, in addition to tidying up the area next to the railway

<sup>4</sup> A threat to the original character of the buildings is also the disturbing attempts to renovate the wooden façades of the buildings by replacing them with other materials, as for example in the building located in Piotrkowska Street (the walls were plastered).

Fig. 9. Kolumna. Pension at 18 Wojska Polskiego Street. Poor technical condition of the building and façade (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2021)

Il. 9. Kolumna. Pensjonat przy ul. Wojska Polskiego 18. Zły stan techniczny budynku i elewacji (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2021)



Fig. 10. Kolumna. A wooden villa with a characteristic glazed veranda from Szarych Szeregów Square side (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 10. Kolumna. Drewniana willa z charakterystyczną przeszkloną werandą od strony pl. Szarych Szeregów (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)



station and building new platforms, is the revitalization of Szarych Szeregów Square<sup>5</sup>. The modernization was completed in 2021, and the square was re-opened on August 1, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. Previously, the square was occupied largely by a parking lot. The renovated space was filled with newly planted small trees and elements of small architecture:

a fountain, benches, etc. From the north, on the extension of the square, a monument in honor of the Szare Szeregi (Gray Ranks) was located (Fig. 11).

### *Natural heritage resource of Kolumna – threats and methods of protection*

Kolumna, which is a recreational and leisure place, is located in a particularly picturesque area in terms of landscape and nature, among pine forests, near the Pałusznicza and Grabia rivers. In 1993, it was included in the decision of the Town Council in Łask and established as the Nature

<sup>5</sup> Gray Ranks was the underground codename of the Scouts Organization of the Polish Scout Association, colloquially also of the entire Polish Scouting and Scouting Association, during the German occupation during World War II in the years 1939–1945.



Fig. 11. Kolumna. The place of honoring the Gray Ranks located on the extension of the axis of Szarych Szeregów Square (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 11. Kolumna. Miejsce uczczenia Szarych Szeregów zlokalizowane na przedłużeniu osi pl. Szarych Szeregów (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)

and Landscape Complex “Kolumna-Forest”. This region covers an area of 365 ha and is the oldest existing form of nature protection in the Łódź Voivodeship. An old-growth pine forest with a historic wooden summer house located here is under protection. Tree felling is restricted. Unfortunately, legal changes from the late 1980s led to a significant arbitrary felling of many pines, which threatened the forest character of Kolumna. In the last few years, we can observe a further loss of significant forest areas caused by logging and strong storms in the summer.

Another problem causing the loss of these areas is the sale and permission for single-family housing in the area located in the southern part of Kolumna – in the area of the pine forest. Some residents of the city and the Kolumna Forestry Inspectorate protest against the parceling, demanding that the forest be left as a public recreational area, especially since it is located close to the Pałusznicza River and the Grabia River and the Natura 2000 area. In addition, a large area of forest with a large pond located in the northern part of the district, in Brzeźna Street, is now privately owned. It used to be an open area serving as a recreational place available not only to the inhabitants of Kolumna, but also Łódź. The change of ownership of the areas closes the way to their use as recreational areas.

As already mentioned, Kolumna is located in the valley of the Grabia and Pałusznicza rivers, in the vicinity of the protected Natura 2000 area. The rivers flow through the southern part of Kolumna. The Grabia Valley, within the Łask commune, is a natural ecological corridor. It is included in the plans of the National Ecological System as an area of regional importance. It is a pity that the riverside areas are neglected, and the beach is polluted and devoid of social facilities for tourists (Fig. 12). Currently, under the *Rozporządzenie Wojewody Sieradzkiego z 31 lipca 1998 r. w sprawie wyznaczenia obszarów chronionego krajobrazu oraz uznania za zespoły przyrodniczo-krajobrazowe* [Regulation of the Sieradzkie Voivode of 31 July 1998 on the

designation of protected landscape areas and recognition as natural and landscape complexes], the area of this valley has the following rank [31]:

- the Nature and Landscape Complex “Dolina Grabii” in the communes of Dobroń, Łask, Sędziejowice, Widawa and the town of Łask,
- Nature and Landscape Complex “Kolumna-Forest” in the Kolumna district,
- the “Środkowa Grabia” Protected Landscape Area in the communes of Buczek, Łask and Dobroń.

The purpose of creating this form of protection for the Grabia valley is to preserve the natural bed of a lowland river with meanders, meanders, rapids and sandbanks. The protection of the natural values of Grabia as part of ecological use has been included in the local spatial development plan [32].

Kolumna has landscape, cultural and tourist values. There are natural monuments and tourist trails of supra-local importance, and the area has the possibility of developing a tourist function. These include: Łódź Surroundings Trail – leading through Kolumna from Grabia to the entrance to the Poleszyński forest in Wronowice. Another one is the Mills Trail on the Grabia River – a walking trail connecting preserved technical monuments in the form of six former water mills built on the eponymous river. The trail starts at the railway station in Kolumna, runs through the Grabia valley and the center of Łask. The next one is the Trail of Mill Settlements and Ecofarms on the Grabia River (a cycling route of about 50 km) on the route Kolumna–Barycz–Łdzań–Drzewociny–Trzy Brzozy–Róża–Dobroń–Markówka–Poleszyn–Kolumna. This route has been awarded a European certificate [33].

The priority task of the commune and society is to preserve not only cultural resources, but also to protect environmental values for future generations. The search for favorable environmental conditions, especially in the era of specific conditions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, has taken on a new meaning. The basis for cultural heritage management is the analysis of strategic documents, the task of which is to identify resources and also to define the expectations of the community. Communes carrying out their own tasks, which include e.g. maintaining spatial order, as well as protecting and caring for monuments and cultural goods [34], must themselves raise funds for this and use the available funds as effectively as possible.

For several years, the Łask Commune Council has been discussing a new form of protection of the monuments of Kolumna – the creation of a cultural park. The cultural park is an integrated protection of exceptional cultural and landscape values along with monuments characteristic of the local settlement tradition. The creation of a cultural park would involve the continuation and extension of the area covered by the local plan for Kolumna (currently, the local plan covers mainly the southern part of the village).

### Summary

Kolumna is a charming place. It is an area where you can admire the wooden villa architecture of the bygone era, the historical urban layout of the garden city and the



picturesque nature of the Grabia valley. However, various problems related to the maintenance of monuments and the development of the area can also be diagnosed here. The main ones include:

- technical degradation of wooden historic buildings,
- improper renovation of wooden façades of buildings consisting in changing the original elements,
- low level of development of the riverside areas of Grabia,
- deficiencies in infrastructure and the presence of neglected, undeveloped land,
- improper land management, sale of the most attractive plots for private purposes,
- threats related to random events, such as storms, fires, etc.

The most important tasks facing the authorities include preserving the unique values of the cultural environment and counteracting the transformation of the structure and methods of development, which may pose a threat to its unique values, which make up the identity of the city, district or place.

In the case of Kolumna, in order to distinguish it from Łask's downtown, this zone is also described as a zone of protection of the historical spatial arrangement and historical functions [35]. However, current activities regarding both the modernization of facilities, maintenance and displaying of natural values seem to be very modest. The intensification of activities depends to a large extent on the possibility of obtaining funds, but also on the proper management of cultural heritage resources. It is advisable to revitalize and activate the area around Grabia, create a swimming pool with the accompanying infrastructure, establish a trail of wooden villas, revitalize the area in terms of recreation and tourism, strengthen the protection of forest resources. Kolumna should be equipped and rich in infrastructure focused on leisure and tourism. A revitalized area, such as Szarych Szeregów Square, is an example of a place that has been socially activated to some extent. In addition, the protection of the cultural heritage



Fig. 12. Kolumna. Beach on the river Grabia. Currently neglected, overgrown with grass, no social facilities (photo by K. Strumiłło, 2022)

Il. 12. Kolumna. Plaża nad rzeką Grabią. Obecnie zaniedbana, porośnięta trawą, brak zaplecza socjalnego (fot. K. Strumiłło, 2022)

of Kolumna as a garden city with high urban and natural values should consider the following directions of activities: revitalization combined with modernization of historic buildings, revalorization of recreational areas, appropriate development of public spaces, supporting energy efficiency in public infrastructure and housing.

In order to preserve and use areas of outstanding historical and cultural values and at the same time characterized by high natural and landscape values, it is necessary to integrate activities for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. An integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage reflects the society's attitude to the world of values. It is also a response to EU provisions and recommendations regarding the heritage management and strengthening local identity.

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## Abstract

### *An integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage on the example of Kolumna – a former summer resort near Łódź*

In recent years, the growing importance of protecting cultural heritage can be noticed. An integrated approach to the protection of cultural heritage reflects both the society's attitude to the world of values and the very process of reinterpretation of values. The aim of the article is to present the results of the research conducted by the author on the cultural heritage in Kolumna (Łask district) near Łódź. These results shed new light on a holistic view of the issue of heritage protection in terms of European Union provisions. Empirical research was carried out consisting in direct observation, analysis and self-assessment, as well as archival queries and studies of the latest literature on the subject. Field observations concerned human interference and transformation of the green landscape. As a result of the conducted research, it should be stated that cultural heritage, whose values are not only material cultural goods, but also natural heritage and our memory and identity, is subject to constant evolution. Proper welfare management and the intensification of activities aimed at protecting these values are becoming crucial.

**Key words:** cultural heritage, heritage protection, Kolumna

## Streszczenie

### *Zintegrowane podejście do ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego na przykładzie Kolumny – dawnego podłódzkiego letniska*

W ostatnich latach można zauważyć rosnące znaczenie ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego. Zintegrowane podejście do ochrony dziedzictwa kulturowego odzwierciedla zarówno stosunek społeczeństwa do świata wartości, jak i sam proces reinterpretacji wartości. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie wyników przeprowadzonych przez autorkę badań dotyczących dziedzictwa kulturowego na terenie Kolumny (dzielnicy Łasku) niedaleko Łodzi. Rzucają one nowe światło na całościowe spojrzenie na zagadnienie ochrony dziedzictwa w aspekcie zapisów unijnych. Przeprowadzono badania empiryczne polegające na bezpośredniej obserwacji, analizie i ocenie własnej oraz kwerendy archiwalne i studia najnowszej literatury przedmiotu. Obserwacje terenowe dotyczyły ingerencji człowieka i przekształceń zielonego krajobrazu. W wyniku przeprowadzonych badań należy stwierdzić, że dziedzictwo kulturowe służy współczesnym celom, którymi są nie tylko materialne dobra kultury, ale także naturalne dziedzictwo przyrodnicze oraz nasza pamięć i tożsamość. Właściwe zarządzanie dobrotanem oraz intensyfikacja działań skierowanych na ochronę tych wartości stają się kluczowe.

**Słowa kluczowe:** dziedzictwo kulturowe, ochrona dziedzictwa, Kolumna