

Agata Woźniczka*

The impact of policy initiatives on the design of public spaces on the example of the New European Bauhaus

Introduction

In recent years, there has been a shift in the way public spaces are categorized and discussed. Instead of classifying them based solely on their functions, they are considered nowadays in terms of the aspirations and values held by those who manage them and those who use them. In both academic literature and public discourse there is significant attention given to Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS), the implementation of which is usually aimed at increasing the value of surrounding properties or even entire estates and neighbourhoods. As well as an awareness of the possibility of using the design of public spaces to speculate on property values, the use of architecture and public spaces as a manifestation of the ambitions of their hosts or as political paraphernalia is also growing in popularity. As a result, contemporary public spaces possess not only abstract or political significance but also measurable, numerical value.

Contemporarily, public space is a political tool used by both bottom-up initiatives and official administrative bodies. Grass-roots initiatives often advocate for broader objectives when it comes to providing common spaces' design aims, such as guaranteeing the preservation of natural resources, adapting to climate change and mitigating its impact or enhancing accessibility for diverse users. European politicians echo these concerns and, through directives, initiatives and other policies, establish guidelines for designing communal areas.

One notable European Union (EU) initiative from the 2nd decade of the 21st century, influencing the design of the built environment, is the New European Bauhaus (NEB)

that seems to best express the contemporaneity. This interdisciplinary project, initiated by the European Commission, draws inspiration from the historic Bauhaus, an art and craft college founded in Weimar in 1919. Much like its predecessor, the New European Bauhaus seeks to create a platform for knowledge exchange and enriching experiences, aiming to define a new design ethos suited to contemporary challenges. Since the NEB establishment in 2020, inspired by the historic Bauhaus's global influence on modernity's formal language, the European Union has been actively promoting proclaimed contemporary qualities in the design of public spaces.

The motto of the New European Bauhaus – “Beautiful, Sustainable, Together” – succinctly captures the current multidimensional design principles for EU countries. Similar to the original Bauhaus movement, the NEB promotes a creatively collaborative synergy of theory and practice along with the integration of art, architecture, and craftsmanship. However, unlike the historical Bauhaus, the New European Bauhaus is not a response to societal shifts but rather a reaction to the ongoing climate crisis. It is geared towards sustainability and serves as a design tool to support the Green Deal. Given the potential for impact of the New European Bauhaus on a pan-European scale, the article focuses on the above political initiative and its influence on the design of public spaces. The narrow scope of the article is due to the current relevance of the NEB's political agenda. Expressing both grass-roots social ambitions and shared political objectives of the European Union, the New European Bauhaus stands out as the latest and most interdisciplinary political initiative for sustainable design. The NEB's uniqueness is also proven by its comprehensive definition of sustainability, encompassing ecological, design, social, and managerial aspects. This multifacetedness in approaching design quality is perfectly captured by the initiative's slogan

* ORCID: 0000-0002-0650-8820. Faculty of Architecture, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Poland, e-mail: agata.wozniczka@pwr.edu.pl

“Beautiful, Sustainable, Together”. It is the aforementioned interdisciplinary perspective on urban living space that determined the understanding of the New European Bauhaus as the contemporary embodiment of the quality excellence in the built environment.

Additionally, the article explores the potential of the NEB Compass, a tool proposed by the political initiative to aid the effective and concrete implementation of abstract goals. The EU instrument not only assesses the realization of the three core New European Bauhaus values but also evaluates working principles that ensure interdisciplinary collaboration, multi-level engagement and local community participation. It occurs that the combination of aspirational qualities and operational methods in the NEB Compass makes it particularly well-suited to contemporary, multifaceted design.

Although the New European Bauhaus Compass [1] has been published as a multi-criteria tool for valorising the design of architecture and public spaces towards the realisation of NEB values, this paper examines whether it qualifies as a fully functional design tool. The NEB Compass, with its interdisciplinary and qualitative approach, appears to offer the advantage of being easily accessible to the public and user-friendly. This sets it apart from complex (and paid) sustainable building certification systems, which often use codified principles not easily comprehensible to individuals outside the architecture and construction industry.

In the research presented in this article, the NEB Compass was used as a tool for formulating design guidelines instead of being an auditing instrument. The research was conducted on the example of the study *Węzły przesiadkowe jako elementy infrastruktury publicznej realizujące ambicje Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu – wytyczne do projektowania wieloaspektowego* [Transportation hubs as elements of public infrastructure realising the ambitions of the New European Bauhaus – guidelines for multifaceted design] [2], prepared by the paper’s author within the framework of the 4th edition of the City of Warsaw scholarship for doctoral students. The process of assessing the current state, identifying the potential for deliberately sustainable transformation of specific areas of the Polish capital city and creating the most specific guidelines has highlighted the significant value of the NEB Compass. This value becomes particularly evident when evaluating the functionality of urban areas, including those with crucial infrastructure roles, as contemporary public spaces. Thus, the presented outcome of the research provides insight to determine whether the chosen policy initiative can have a real, meaningful impact on forms and functions of communal spaces in the 21st century Europe.

Current state of research

The research relies on official documents that describe the objectives of the New European Bauhaus initiative and provide details about the NEB Compass tool. These documents serve as primary sources for the study:

- European Commission’s *New European Bauhaus Progress Report* [3],

- Horizon Europe and New European Bauhaus NEXUS report: *Conclusions of the High-Level Workshop on “Research and Innovation for the New European Bauhaus”*, jointly organised by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission [4],

- publication of the Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission: *EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change* [5],

- publication of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Climate Action entitled *EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change – Best practice guidance* [6],

- *New European Bauhaus Compass*, developed by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) and published in its first version on the 21st of November 2022 [1].

An important source describing the New European Bauhaus initiative is the following work *Solutions for Modern Society of the Future. The New European Bauhaus Manual* [7], edited by Robert Zajdler. The publication includes Robert Rybski’s article *New European Bauhaus as the EU sustainability tool* [8], in which the author considers the possibilities of expanding the initiative into a political ecosystem, looking for the most effective applications of the NEB programme to increase sustainability. However, the author does not examine the design tools; instead, the focus is on the management and financing prospects of the initiative.

Therefore, while the topic of the New European Bauhaus itself has been explored by the international research community, there is a notable absence of independent, external analyses regarding the NEB Compass. This article represents an inaugural effort to analyse and diagnose the potential of using the NEB Compass as a design tool to aid European architects in implementing the New European Bauhaus goals. As of now, there is a dearth of published research work on the impact of the New European Bauhaus policy initiative on the design of public spaces.

Research method

Due to the specific thematic scope of the paper, the primary source of information for the research is a body of official EU documents accurately describing the objectives of the New European Bauhaus. Additionally, an extensive literature review was conducted, examining the official EU reports and documents outlining the New European Bauhaus initiative and the principles of the NEB Compass. The author also analysed documents on the European Green Deal [9], as the New European Bauhaus aims to support its implementation. Throughout this research, the author drew on her own design expertise to understand how to shape high-quality urban spaces. To define the thematic scope of this study, the NEB Compass was compared with other available tools for assessing the quality of the built environment, such as the Bauhaus High Quality Criteria [10]. In our study of the transformation of the NEB Compass from an assessment system to an instrument for formulating design guidelines we used the “research by design” method.

Research description

The research was performed while working on the City of Warsaw's scholarship for doctoral students, which began in December 2022 and is scheduled for completion in October 2023. Given the unique characteristics of the scholarship program, an independent, individual study was conducted while maintaining ongoing consultations with the Office of Architecture and Spatial Planning of the City of Warsaw to track the progress of the work.

During the research it was noted that the administration of the City of Warsaw does not employ specific tools for the qualitative assessment of the already completed facilities. Instead, it relies on processes like architectural competitions to ensure project quality before implementation. Recognizing the absence of structured tools (not processes) for assessing the design and execution of Warsaw's public spaces, it was decided to use the NEB Compass to create a procedure for evaluating completed urban investments, particularly common spaces. Diagnosing high potential of deployment, the author endeavoured to extend the new procedure's functionality with the ability to derive conclusions and formulate design guidelines. The results of this effort are presented in this article.

Because of examining possible utilization of the NEB Compass as a basis for work on developing a framework for evaluation or for creating guidelines, its principles are outlined below.

The NEB Compass [1] considers qualitative aspects of projects in the process of valorisation, making the Compass's potential applications quite extensive – ranging from products, buildings or types of services to educational models and planning strategies. This versatile tool is designed to cater to a wide array of users, including large corporations and grass-roots initiatives, state governments and local authorities, as well as individual space users. The tool's development followed a three-step process. First, a comparative analysis was conducted on the entries for the NEB 2021 Awards to determine the ambition levels of a given value and the quality of the design process. Secondly, the identified degrees of value intensification were compared with existing design models. Thirdly, a review of relevant literature on the subject was undertaken, aligning the tool's structure and its methodology with the terminology of the NEB documents.

The NEB Compass indicates possible design directions in line with the three core values of the New European Bauhaus: Beauty, Sustainability, and Inclusiveness. It also incorporates three exemplary working principles: Participatory Process, Trans-disciplinary Approach, and a Multi-level Engagement (Fig. 1). Each of the NEB values and working methods has three levels of ambition that can be targeted at the project outset. These levels are designed to outline: I. Baselines that establish fundamental characteristics of the project, II. Increased aspirations, III. More ambitious and complex goals. The following diagrams (Figs. 2, 3) depict the aforementioned concept, where the NEB values are represented as three-level sets, while the working methods form the compositional axes of the NEB Compass graph.

The fulfilment of the successive ambitions can be assessed by comparing them to benchmark characteristics and by responding to control questions. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the clarity and comprehensiveness of the NEB Compass components.

To construct the NEB Compass for the selected project during the analytical phase, successive levels of the three-stage sets and axes of the Compass are marked, filling in the consecutive outlines with colours. This process generates a concise overview of the project's current alignment with the New European Bauhaus initiative. The graphical diagram, due to its straightforward operating principle, is highly comprehensible for both the authors of the project and the external observers. In addition, creating such NEB Compass diagrams facilitate effective comparison of multiple projects. As an example, the figure below (Fig. 4) provides a summary of the selected projects submitted for the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2021, showcasing possible variants of the NEB Compass visualization. It is worth noting that in order to meet the NEB objectives it is sufficient for a project to exhibit the lowest levels of ambition and employ basic working principles. However, such a strategy may result in a lower ranking in the NEB Awards poll.

In-depth analyses of the chosen tool allowed the author to reframe the principles of the NEB Compass and utilize them in the development of an evaluation register. The prepared table served as the foundation for subsequent research efforts. During the "research by design" phase of the work, a proprietary design analysis form was developed further. The updated table not only described the main function of the case study, but also assessed the realisation of the values and working principles outlined in the NEB Compass.

In order to establish guidelines for multifaceted design, the following steps were taken:

1. The study examples were selected.

Considering the territorial and thematic scope of the scholarship research work, diverse urban spaces with the potential to be transformed from purely infrastructural transportation hubs into multifunctional public spaces were selected for further analysis.

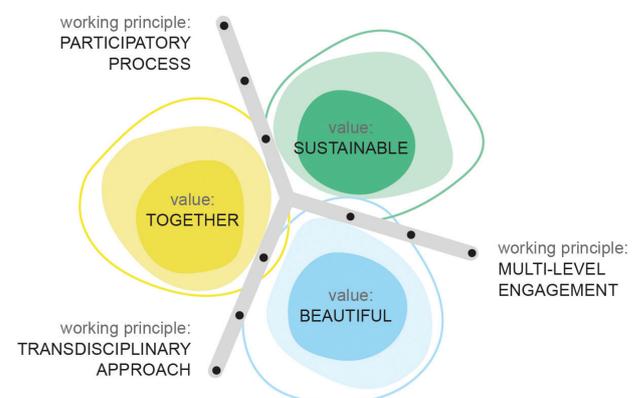


Fig. 1. The NEB Compass Structure, 2023
(drawing by A. Woźniczka on the basis [1, p. 2])

II. 1. Struktura Kompaszu NEB, 2023
(oprac. A. Woźniczka na podstawie [1, s. 2])

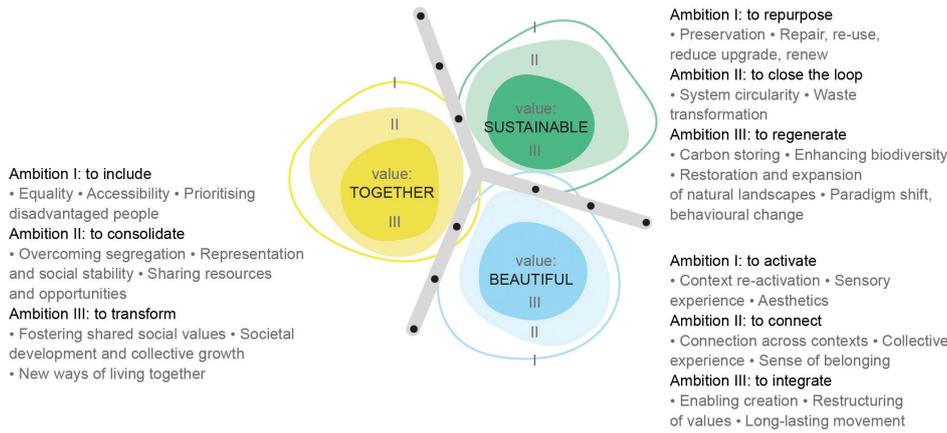


Fig. 2. The NEB Compass Structure – three ambition levels of NEB values (elaborated by A. Woźniczka on the basis [1, pp. 6, 8, 10, 12])

II. 2. Struktura Kompaszu NEB – trzy poziomy wartości Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023 (oprac. A. Woźniczka na podstawie [1, s. 6, 8, 10, 12])

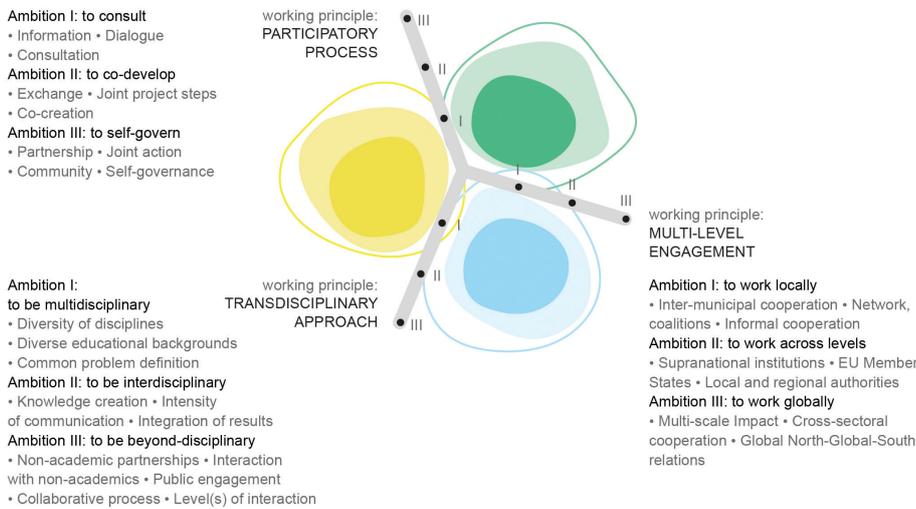


Fig. 3. The NEB Compass Structure – three ambition levels of NEB working principles (elaborated by A. Woźniczka on the basis [1, pp. 14, 16, 18, 20])

II. 3. Struktura Kompaszu NEB – trzy intensywności wzorcowych sposobów pracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023 (oprac. A. Woźniczka na podstawie [1, s. 14, 16, 18, 20])

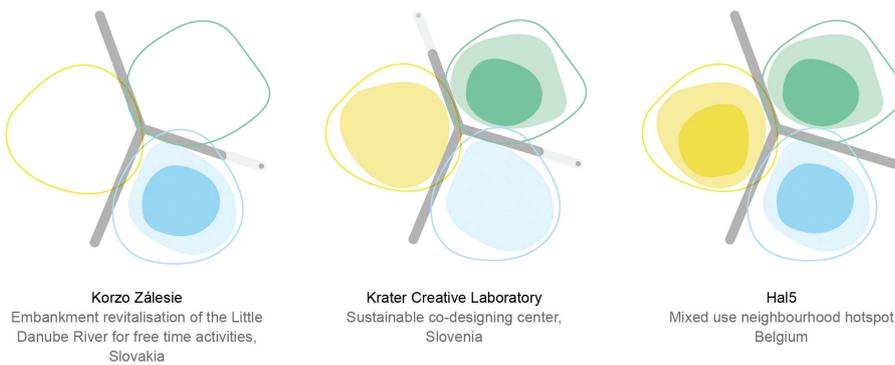


Fig. 4. Projects awarded the European Bauhaus Prizes 2021 presented with the NEB Compass (elaborated by A. Woźniczka on the basis [1, p. 21])

II. 4. Projekty nagrodzone w plebiscycie Nagrody Europejskiego Bauhausu 2021 przedstawione za pomocą Kompaszu NEB, 2023 (oprac. A. Woźniczka na podstawie [1, s. 21])

2. A model evaluation sheet was created.

The first part of the project analysis table evaluated the existing main function of the selected site as an effective interchange / transportation hub. It assessed a level of multimodality, public accessibility and multifunctionality by examining the accompanying cultural and commercial functions. The evaluation culminated in a SWOT analysis (of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), providing an overview of both current performance and a potential of a given space as an effective multimodal transportation hub. The second part of the analysis form captured the NEB Compass principles in the tabular form.

Assessment rubrics were introduced to evaluate the realisation of the NEB values, the fulfilment of three ambition levels, and the utilization of preferred working methodologies. Each of the three levels of ambition for fulfilling the NEB values and applying NEB working principles was accompanied by a rubric indicating potential areas for improvement. By incorporating a segment within the form that outlines the potential for meeting the particular ambition requirements, the NEB Compass gained a new functionality. This new functionality enables formulating design guidelines for a beautiful, sustainable and inclusive regeneration of the study area. In the second

part of the assessment table, a SWOT analysis was conducted again. In this case, the SWOT analysis served both to summarise the existing state of each of the study sites (covered in Strengths and Weaknesses sections) and to assess the potential for change (covered in Opportunities and Threats sections).

3. The NEB Compass graph was generated.

The findings from the evaluation form were documented through a graphic representation using the NEB Compass in two variations. The first illustrated the current state of the analysed space, while the second one presented the diagnosed possibilities of realising ambitions of subsequent values and working methodologies promoted by the New European Bauhaus.

4. Targeted design guidelines were developed.

Based on the obtained results, guidelines intended for the selected public spaces were elaborated. These guidelines considered the unique characteristics of the local cultural landscape, the vernacular language of architectural forms and the potential for change and gradual revitalisation in accordance with the New European Bauhaus principles.

This article provides an example of the project analysis form, completed for a multi-modal transportation hub Młociny in Warsaw, which can be found in Table 1. To suit the scope of the paper, the table was simplified. However, in its extended version [2] the part describing the multi-modality of the hub was included and the NEB value

Table 1. Project audit table for compliance with the ambitions and model processes of the New European Bauhaus, 2023

(elaborated by A. Woźniczka)

Tabela 1. Karta oceny projektów względem zgodności z ambicjami oraz modelowymi procesami współpracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023 (oprac. A. Woźniczka)

Analysis date	May 2023			
Name	MŁOCINY HUB			
Address	Nocznickiego Street, 01-999 Warszawa			
Importance	Supra-district node			
Description	<p>The transportation hub is located in Bielany, in the vicinity of the Warszawa Steelworks area and the Młociny Shopping Mall. The area of the interchange is separated by the following streets: Pułku Strzelców Kaniowskich from the north-west side, Nocznickiego and Gen. Maria Witek Avenue from the south-east side, and Zgrupowania AK “Kampinos” Street from the east side. One of the entrance pavilions to the M1 metro station (located within the hub) is located at the northern end of Jana Kasprowicza Street.</p> <p>The hub consists of the M1 metro station, a hub for buses and trams and a P&R car park for cars (approx. 900 spaces), bicycles and UTOs. The hub also includes a terminus for suburban and regional buses, whose operators include both PKS and private carriers.</p> <p>The Młociny metro station consists of one underground storey and two above-ground entrance pavilions, located on both sides of the intersection of J. Kasprowicza Street and Nocznickiego Street / Gen. M. Witek Avenue. The northern part of the station is terminated by the stand-off tracks. The station and track layout were built with the possibility of extending the metro line in the future. It will be possible to extend the metro line in one of the directions: to the north (direction: Łomianki), to the west (direction: Chomiczówka), to the east (crossing the Vistula under the North Bridge).</p>			
THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS VALUES				
BEAUTIFUL				
I. To activate				
Ambition categories	users' comfort	sensory experience	reflecting regional/local particularities	calling upon local materials and skills
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Comfort in the Hub Area: Introduction of street architecture elements aimed at increasing the comfort of the hub area. These elements would comprise potable water fountain, comfortable benches featuring backrests and armrests, as well as benches designed for standing by. Individual seating options would also be provided. Enhancing Sensory Experience: The plan includes the incorporation of various sensory-enhancing elements. This encompasses the use of vibrant colour combinations in accompanying greenery and the integration of fragrant and visually appealing plants. Diversification of wall and floor textures, as well as the variation in finishes of landscaping elements, is also a part of design. Additionally, the potential inclusion of water infrastructure, utilizing techniques such as rainwater harvesting, would not only boost comfort but also engage the senses. Incorporating Local Heritage: The design should pay tribute to the region's industrial heritage, particularly to the historical significance of the steelworks and the materials traditionally employed. This homage would be evident through the inclusion of steel elements in small architectural features and the thoughtful arrangement of communal spaces. Sustainable and Ecological Features: In adherence to a commitment to environmental sustainability, pro-ecological solutions should be integrated into the design. These solutions not only reflect the city's shift towards cleaner industry but also serve to mitigate the environmental repercussions of previous activities by Warsaw Steelworks in this area. Local Materials: Utilization of locally sourced materials, including “gorseciki” tiles and terrazzo, among others, underscores the design approach. Artistic Enhancements: The hub would be enriched artistically by the introduction of various art objects commonly found in public spaces across the capital. Examples may include mosaics, totem-style sculptures, and artistic installations that harmonize with the unique character of the area. 			

Table 1 cont. Project audit table for compliance with the ambitions and model processes of the New European Bauhaus, 2023
(elaborated by A. Woźniczka)

Tabela 1 cd. Karta oceny projektów względem zgodności z ambicjami oraz modelowymi procesami współpracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023
(oprac. A. Woźniczka)

II. To connect					
Ambition categories	attractiveness and comfort	diverse formal and functional settings	sense of community for people with different backgrounds and perspectives	opportunities to learn about new ideas, places, or people	
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Functional Attractiveness: Improving the functional appeal of the space could involve the introduction of public amenities that complement the hub, such as comfortable waiting areas serving as meeting spots or pocket recreation areas and gardens designed to provide a pleasant microclimate or a resilient ecosystem. • Enhancing Route Convenience: The priority lies in updating the convenience and functional appeal of routes leading to adjacent functional areas. This includes increasing the width of these routes and implementing design solutions to ensure public accessibility. • Enhancing Formal Appeal: The aim is to enhance the formal appeal of the hub by making architectural forms more welcoming and relatable. This can be achieved by introducing architectural detailing and incorporating greenery at various levels: low, medium-high, and high. • Educational Opportunities: Opportunities for educating the hub users on new concepts, particularly those related to green transport and the significance of public transportation are being considered. This may involve expanding the existing open-air exhibition in the metro pavilion courtyard, tailoring the content to the diverse age groups of audience, and establishing a dedicated exhibition for young passengers. Additionally, the concept of resource sharing may be incorporated through an art installation or playground design. 				
III. To integrate					
Ambition categories	reimagining new ways of life	generating new fulfilling habits	long-term thinking about future needs of the project's users	enabling participation and creation	
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Resource Sharing: The hub can prototype a new public life centred around resource sharing through an information campaign. This campaign would emphasize the sustainability of shared resources and encourage a mindset of limiting individual use. Specific benefits, such as environmental conservation and cost savings, would be highlighted across various hub functions. • Fostering New Habits: The transportation hub aims to foster new habits by offering public accompanying functions, extending and enhancing the time visitors spend within the facility. • Ensuring Long-Term Resilience: The hub would undergo periodic audits as a public space to ensure its long-term resilience. These audits would identify opportunities for simple improvements or functional modifications to enhance the overall experience. • Flexible Accompanying Functions: New accompanying functions would be composed using demountable or easily dismantled elements. This approach allows for potential future modifications to both form and function, aligning with the concept of urban prototyping. 				
SUSTAINABLE					
I. To repurpose					
Ambition categories	potential for reducing the resources	potential for prolonged use of a repairable project – possibility of an upgrade	potential for lowering environmental impact	potential for components replacement – retrofitting or a conscious upgrade	potential for prioritizing renewable energy solutions
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting an Information Campaign: The plan involves running an information campaign to educate hub users of all ages on the benefits of resource sharing. • Facilitating Resource Exchange: The initiative includes the introduction of facilities that enable the exchange and sharing of resources, such as magazines and books for reading on the go, umbrellas, and shopping trolleys. • Managing Rainwater: To reduce the volume of rainwater discharged into the storm-water drainage system, outdoor rainwater harvesting features would be incorporated. These may take the form of water plant pots, infiltration vessels in the green area, the introduction of rain gardens, or rain channels. • Utilizing Renewable Energy: The facility would be equipped with renewable energy sources, such as a photovoltaic installation on the existing canopies and pavilions of the hub – now finished with glass or PVC panels. • Innovative Surface Materials: A part of the traffic route surface would be replaced with permeable or semi-permeable materials. Additionally, there would be a prototype for hardened paths designed to filter and infiltrate rainwater into the ground. 				

Table 1 cont. Project audit table for compliance with the ambitions and model processes of the New European Bauhaus, 2023
(elaborated by A. Woźniczka)Tabela 1 cd. Karta oceny projektów względem zgodności z ambicjami oraz modelowymi procesami współpracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023
(oprac. A. Woźniczka)

II. To close the loop					
Ambition categories	working with circular economy principles	stakeholders cooperation	overview of the carbon impact, material, energy or water waste streams	zero pollution action plan e.g. for air, water and soil	analysis of indirect impacts across time and space and trade-offs between different sustainability measures
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing an Expert Team: The initiative involves assembling an expert team tasked with developing a closed-loop system for the hub while also incorporating a complementary public function. Digital Twin Modelling: The plan includes creating a “digital twin” of the hub for comprehensive monitoring of energy consumption, water usage, waste production, and their optimization. This model would also analyse the sustainability impact of additional hub elements. Air Pollution Mitigation: Air pollution would be addressed by implementing plantings that filter and trap dust. Noise Pollution Reduction: Noise pollution would be reduced by creating acoustically isolated public areas, achieved mainly through the use of greenery of varying heights, or acoustically appropriate texture of walls, partitions or ceilings. Soil Pollution Remediation: Soil pollution would be mitigated by introducing phytoremediation plantings, which naturally cleanse the soil. Light Pollution Control: To minimize light pollution, various lighting types would be introduced based on their function, usage time, and other relevant criteria. 				
III. To regenerate					
Ambition categories	restoration and expansion of natural landscapes while enhancing biodiversity	paradigm shift, behavioural change	positive balance of energy, carbon storing		
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patio Enhancement: Within the northern underground entrance pavilion’s patio, the introduction of climbing plants and lower shrubs, along with a greater variety of greenery, has the potential to transform the space into a diverse ecosystem. Green Public Space Creation: The open area in the northern part of the site can be converted into a lush green public space using pots and climbing plant guides, and this transformation can be carried out without risking interference with subsurface installations and networks. Flexible Space Usage: There is an opportunity to develop a vision for altering uses of this space by conducting an audit of the existing functional program, analysing current trends, and studying future tendencies. This approach would help define options for prototyping new functional areas and establish long- and short-term strategies for the dynamic revitalization of the area. 				
TOGETHER					
I. To include					
Ambition categories	equality and accessibility	affordability	prioritising disadvantaged people		
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient Mobility Audit: Conducting an audit to identify obstacles that hinder efficient mobility and addressing architectural barriers. Pedestrian Route Improvement: Expanding well-travelled pedestrian paths and aligning road crossings with pedestrian routes. Inclusive Toilets: Adding toilets without gender differentiation. Inclusive Seating: Increasing the availability of seats equipped with backrests and armrest, or standing ones. Enhanced Route Lighting: Installing photocell lighting and surveillance systems on less frequented routes. 				
II. To consolidate					
Ambition categories	overcoming segregation	sharing resources and opportunities	representation and social stability		
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Integration through Transport Enhancement: The project can enhance community integration by combining its transportation function with pro-public amenities such as meeting spaces and pocket green areas with a pleasant microclimate. Community Integration through Small Architectural Facilities: The project has the potential to integrate the community by strategically arranging small architectural features like seating, sports facilities, and playground equipment. 				
III. To transform					
Ambition categories	societal development and collective growth		fostering shared social values		
Improvement potential	<p>Enhancing Community Interaction through Public Functions: By incorporating public functions within the interchange, the project can encourage new forms of community interaction and resource sharing. This extends beyond public transport and UTIs to include items such as books, amenities that improve travel experiences, and “last-mile” accessories.</p>				

Table 1 cont. Project audit table for compliance with the ambitions and model processes of the New European Bauhaus, 2023
(elaborated by A. Woźniczka)

Tabela 1 cd. Karta oceny projektów względem zgodności z ambicjami oraz modelowymi procesami współpracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023
(oprac. A. Woźniczka)

THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS WORKING PRINCIPLES				
PARTICIPATORY PROCESS				
I. To consult				
Ambition categories	information	dialogue	consultation	
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging the Community in Functional Program Changes: When modifying the functional program, initiate an information campaign tailored to diverse audiences (e.g., teenagers, the elderly, foreigners, people with disabilities). Subsequently, conduct public consultations or establish a social team to engage in identifying changes within the study area. Sociological Analysis for Improved Communication: Conduct a sociological analysis to assess current users and potential new users. Then, develop effective communication strategies based on the analysis findings. 			
II. To co-develop				
Ambition categories	exchange	joint project steps	co-creation	reaching out to the excluded
Improvement potential	Enhancing the Functional Program through Public Engagement: When considering changes to the functional program, explore the option of organizing public consultations and establishing a citizen's expert group. This approach aims to gather input and proposals from the local community to improve the functioning of the hub.			
III. To self-govern				
Ambition categories	empowering and sustaining grass-roots initiatives beyond project implementation	joint ownership	self-governance	inclusion of those affected by a design
Improvement potential	No possibility to introduce co-management of the complex. It is possible to propose the introduction of function areas managed by grass-roots initiatives (e.g. a community garden on the site), but due to the location of the hub co-management seems difficult to implement.			
MULTI-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT				
I. To work locally				
Ambition categories	inter-municipal cooperation	aiming at influencing the local living environment	cultivating a place-based approach	
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-Building Design Elements and Pro-Public Functions: Enhancing the project with design elements and pro-public functions that foster the growth and integration of the local community. This includes pocket green areas, art installations serving as meeting places, and pocket recreation areas. Utilizing Disused Premises for Community Integration: Allocating some of the disused premises to a local social/activist organization whose initiatives will actively contribute to the integration of the local community. Examples include a library, community café, care facility, or day care centre. 			
II. To work across levels				
Ambition categories	interacting with networks and/or institutions that are active beyond the scale of the projects itself	working at different scales	having an influence across different scales	
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating Supra-Local Public Units Within the Hub: Allocate a portion of the space within the hub for supra-local public units. These units should enhance the hub's regional significance by offering facilities such as a specialized library or urban sports space. Model Revitalization of the Hub as a Multi-functional Public Space: Undertake a comprehensive revitalization of the hub to transform it into a multi-functional public space. This revitalization should serve as a blueprint for future efforts when revitalizing other areas. 			
III. To work globally				
Ambition categories	aiming at reaching a global, transformational impact		considering the local impact in perspective with the future of the entire ecosystem	
Improvement potential	Transforming the Hub into a Multifunctional Infrastructure Facility: The project aims to revitalize the hub, turning it into an infrastructure facility that offers a vibrant public space and cultural/creative functions. However, its peripheral location raises questions about the realization of its ambitions for global significance.			

Table 1 cont. Project audit table for compliance with the ambitions and model processes of the New European Bauhaus, 2023 (elaborated by A. Woźniczka)

Tabela 1 cd. Karta oceny projektów względem zgodności z ambicjami oraz modelowymi procesami współpracy Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu, 2023 (oprac. A. Woźniczka)

TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH					
I. To be multidisciplinary					
Ambition categories	diversity of disciplines	common problem definition	different educational backgrounds involved	distance between disciplines	
Improvement potential	Inclusive and Resilient Hub Transformation through Diverse Specialist Involvement: Throughout the revitalization process, it is crucial to involve specialists not only in architecture and engineering, but also in fields such as sociology, economy and ecology. These experts will play a pivotal role in supporting the transformation of the hub into an inclusive and resilient public space.				
II. To be interdisciplinary					
Ambition categories	intensity of communication	knowledge creation	integration of results		
Improvement potential	Applying Hub Revitalization Insights to Developing Infrastructure Transformation Standards: The lessons and insights gained from the revitalization of the hub should be applied to the development of standards for transforming infrastructure facilities into multifunctional public spaces.				
III. To be beyond-disciplinary					
Ambition categories	non-academic partnerships and interaction with non-academics	equal value of formal and informal knowledge	defining a common goal	possibility of reaching a common goal	collaborative process
Improvement potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement in Revitalization Project: Actively involving representatives from the local community in the revitalization project, granting them an equal and influential role in project discussions. Defining Multi-functional Hub Transformation Goals: Clearly defining the multifaceted objectives for transforming the hub into a multi-functional public space, addressing various aspects within the study area. 				
NEB ANALYSIS SUMMARY					
Strengths			Weaknesses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUSTAINABILITY-Centric Project Transformation: The project aligns with the fundamental goal of sustainability and has the potential to be adapted to fulfill all its ambition levels, including re-purposing, closing the loop, and regenerating the site. The existing configuration of the study area, along with the available open land, forms a solid foundation for sustainable transformation. Enhancing Accessibility and Functional Diversity through Public Transport: The existing public transport program serves as a strong starting point for efforts to improve space accessibility and diversify its functional program. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited BEAUTY Value: Beyond serving as a transportation facility, the hub lacks the capacity to satisfy the need for comfort and sense of local identity. Underground infrastructure as a Challenge: Creating public space above underground networks can be problematic in implementing. Little Opportunity for Collaborative Approaches and Interdisciplinary Design: There is limited potential to introduce innovative working methods and collaboration at NEB. This might be achieved by establishing an interdisciplinary design team and implementing participatory processes, potentially as part of the broader area revitalization effort. 		
Opportunities			Threats		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevating BEAUTY, SUSTAINABILITY, and INCLUSIVENESS: The existing volume and functional layout, premises, and basic infrastructure provide a favorable starting point for elevating BEAUTY, SUSTAINABILITY, and the core principles of INCLUSIVENESS to the exemplary values of the New European Bauhaus. Additional enhancements can be easily integrated. Community and Stakeholder Involvement for Enhanced Working Methods: By engaging the local community and stakeholders, it is possible to elevate the ambition levels of model working methods: PARTICIPATORY PROCESS to ambition II, MULTI-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT to ambition I, and TRANS-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH to level II. Streamlined Changes for Enhanced Connections: Implementing changes to improve connections with the surrounding area, such as widening paths and crossings and introducing green isolation, can be achieved relatively easily. Defining the main theme of revitalization process as an eco-centric one. Focusing on utilizing sustainable solutions in retrofitting, introducing public domain in the vast open-air spaces (remodeling the land), adding totems of locality. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peripheral Location as a Potential Stagnation Threat in Hub Transformation: The peripheral location poses a challenge to the revitalization of the hub into a multi-functional public space, because of its peripheral location – that is why it is important to introduce public functions appropriate for the first/last mile stop. Perception of Surrounding Service Areas and Quality of Public Spaces: The perception of the surrounding service function areas as being responsible for maintaining the quality of the adjacent public spaces. Underground infrastructure as a Challenge: Creating public space above underground networks demands innovative strategies for forming the new landscape. 		

ambition categories were described in detail. Despite condensing the content, the simplified table captures the principles of the NEB Compass as a tool for the valorization of architectural concept designs and completed objects.

Conclusions

The examination of the study area within the context of the New European Bauhaus has proven to be effective. This effectiveness is attributed to the rigorous structure of the values describing the initiative, the proposed methods for their implementation, and the capacity to formulate conclusions tailored to local characteristics. This study has yielded fresh insights into the transformation of an infrastructural area into a multifunctional and unique public space.

The analysis of Warsaw's multimodal transportation hub Młociny revealed the site's potential for seamlessly integrating contemporary public and cultural functions into its existing and purely infrastructural functional program. This integration could significantly enhance the hub's local significance, enrich its multisensory appeal, and improve the overall experiential comfort. The study also provided guidance on how to effectively transform an infrastructural site into a multifunctional area while maintaining strong connections to nearby functional centres. Throughout the research process, specific areas requiring design intervention were identified, along with practical and serviceable new programs for the chosen location.

The conducted examination encompassed few crucial aspects: both the culturogenic potential of the multimodal transportation hub and the features ensuring the inclusiveness of the study area were delved into. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrated high potential for transforming the hub in alignment with sustainability guidelines. Site-specific opportunities were identified in order to introduce solutions mitigating climate change or reducing development's environmental impact. Additionally, potential approaches to engage users in co-designing the revitalisation process of the study area were also diagnosed.

The structure of the assessment form facilitates the systematisation of the examined aspects of the project. It also provides a framework for outlining design guidelines aimed at improving the functional programme, as well as formal and technological solutions supporting sustainable development. By incorporating a graded scale of ambitions aligned with the New European values, these guidelines can be adjusted to suit local conditions (spatial, social, environmental and economic) and to ensure the practical feasibility of change.

The formulated conclusions affirm the potential for transforming the existing hub into a contemporary public space in accordance with the NEB initiative. It is important to emphasize that the design guidelines aim to enhance the space's quality and user experience rather than serve political interests – the value of profits from introducing NEB-oriented solutions is too complex to be solely measured as political capital. This humanistic aspect of the NEB makes it a suitable political initiative for fostering a widespread, contemporary design language and supporting its implementation. Furthermore, the presented audit

and design research form concerning the revitalization of multimodal transportation hub shows that the NEB Compass can serve as both an analytical tool and a systematic framework for developing design guidelines. Importantly, performed analyses were conducted using a combination of basic literature studies, publicly available information about the project site, and on-site observations of the study areas. This approach ensured that the tool can be effectively used by individuals with varying levels of expertise. The experience gained from conducting these case studies underscored that, thanks to the accessibility of the required information, the NEB Compass can be utilized by both design professionals and individuals interested in shaping public spaces in their local communities.

Furthermore, the research conducted on the quality of selected common spaces in Warsaw emphasizes the usability of the NEB Compass not only for evaluating a project in the light of a policy initiative but also for enhancing the entire project life cycle. The initial concern that conclusions about enhancing spatial quality would be uniform across all the selected locations has been dispelled through a meticulous analysis of the NEB's value definition. This analysis highlighted activities with the realistic potential for change.

Tailored to the unique characteristics of each study site, the guidelines illustrated how formal improvements and functional enhancements can be implemented in selected public spaces using a clear and comprehensible analysis structure. The multidirectional recommendations, aligned with the principles of the NEB, stress the substantial value of this policy initiative in today's context, emphasizing the role of communal spaces in fostering inclusive local communities and enhancing urban biotope resilience. The NEB emerges as a political movement capable of shaping the contemporary perspective and ethos of urban designers, property owners, and community members.

Concluding, the obtained results suggest that the NEB initiative could have a significant impact on the development of communal spaces and, consequently, on its broader geopolitical success. This research has demonstrated that the NEB and its associated tools have the potential to create a knowledge and experience exchange platform, akin to the historic Bauhaus, enabling the definition of contemporary design guidelines through interdisciplinary collaboration. The instruments supporting the NEB initiative allow for the occurrence of multifunctional areas (where recreation is not a dominant function), inclusion of spaces of local and regional significance, and areas integrated into complex urban systems rather than isolated architectural compositions. The interest shown by Warsaw's city authorities in the impact of the NEB and the tools the initiative can develop as aids for valorising and designing urban spaces reflects a commitment to realizing pan-European political aspirations. It also signifies a shift in the organizational structures of urban entities, which are now seeking not only project selection procedures but also tools for evaluating projects at various stages of their life cycle.

It is crucial to highlight the importance of well-crafted, multifaceted design guidelines in long-term development

strategies and smaller-scale (even temporary) multifunctional spatial interventions. This underscores the significance of the NEB Compass and locally customized processes that utilize this instrument to develop assessment charts and formulate revitalization recommendations. Such tools have the potential to exert a substantial influence on the design of communal spaces, especially when applying those in diverse scales of intervention and various project timespans.

In addition to diagnosing the significance of the NEB initiative in shaping contemporary public spaces, the research demonstrated that the NEB Compass, as a design tool for realizing the policy initiative's ambitions, offers several notable advantages. The NEB Compass:

- features well-defined, differentiated quality criteria to support multi-faceted design,
- includes clear levels of intensification for New European Bauhaus values and working principles, which are presented in an understandable manner,
- formulates clear and comprehensible questions to help determinate the ambition levels and value definitions of the New European Bauhaus,
- enhances understanding of the initiative's ambitions by supplementing the instructions for using the NEB Compass with exemplary examples,
- employs a visually intuitive method for presenting the results of the analysis (making them accessible to both industry experts and a broader audience) in the form of graphics that vary in colour intensity and composition,
- simplifies the process of formulating conclusions from the analyses as actionable improvement guidelines.

As a result of the performed research, the weaknesses of the NEB Compass tool and the potential risks associated with halting the development of its future versions were identified. These include:

- Subjectivity in case evaluation: The tool's evaluation of the analysed cases may exhibit subjectivity due to its reliance on qualitative criteria alone. To address this, it may be necessary to complement the full evaluation process with analyses based on measurable and quantitative criteria,
- Small Sample Group: The NEB Compass has been tested on a limited sample group thus far. Consequently, there may be a need to refine evaluation criteria based on functional groups or the specific program of the building or space under consideration. To address this issue, a preliminary analysis section was introduced in the study of multimodal transportation hub. This section provided a detailed description of the dominant function of the area being analysed.

The study's findings strongly suggest that the NEB Compass can be effectively utilized in formulating design guidelines for a comprehensive, sustainable revitalization of the analysed area. These guidelines have the potential to encompass various process aspects: not only formal or technological solutions, but also changes in the way the space is managed, methods of involving the local community, or the formulation of an interdisciplinary team for the detailed design of a holistic revitalization.

In addition to its use in evaluating existing spaces, the NEB Compass can serve as a valuable tool for formulating design guidelines for emerging developments. This

can be achieved through a step-by-step process. It should begin with assessing how well the project aligns with the NEB values or what the design aspirations are. Then, the ambition levels within the NEB Compass should be utilized as flexible guidelines for the design team. Importantly, these ambition levels should serve both for work methods and composition guidelines. As the project progresses, one should delve into specific NEB values and ambitions that are the most relevant. Then these values can be translated into precise design guidelines. When combined with the basic program of a given project, the NEB Compass ambitions could complement and support the functional program of the design site. By following this approach, the NEB Compass could become an integral tool for guiding the design team in creating projects that are as beautiful, sustainable, inclusive, and interdisciplinary as possible.

Summary

In conclusion, it is essential to highlight the significance and the potential impact of policy initiatives on public space design. To ensure the successful translation of political declarations into the qualities of urban shared areas, it is crucial to provide design tools that clearly and systematically define benchmark values. These tools should also indicate key areas of interest or aspects of design for architects to consider in their work.

Conducted research has shown that the NEB Compass, developed within the NEB initiative, is an effective tool for qualitative evaluation of the existing projects in line with the principles of this political program. Furthermore, through the restructuring of its operating principles, the NEB Compass can also be used to establish guidelines for both revitalization processes and the creation of new spaces. The work undertaken has identified opportunities for enhancing the existing tool's functionality and refining its structure, enabling the development of more accurate, precise and targeted recommendations.

Promoting multifaceted design is highly worthwhile, as it aligns with the objectives of sustainable development and ensures the resilience of urban spaces. Embracing contemporary values regarding environmental quality, which are significant for both local communities and political organizations, can catalyze the creation of effective tools for project implementation in accordance with defined goals. A notable example of such efforts is the establishment of the NEB initiative with its practical approach, exemplified by the tools developed to assess ongoing projects. To enhance the initiative's effectiveness and its implementation potential, it is essential to continuously evaluate available instruments and explore opportunities to transform analytical systems into design frameworks for defining project guidelines. These initiatives will help physically implement the aspirations of the NEB and contribute to the widespread acceptance and adoption of the values championed by the initiative.

Acknowledgements

This study was made possible thanks to the Warsaw grant for doctoral students. It supported the realization of the project “Transportation hubs as elements of public infrastructure realising the ambitions of the New European Bauhaus – guidelines for multifaceted design”.

References

- [1] Joint Research Centre, *New European Bauhaus Compass*, https://www.urban-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/NEB_Compass_V1.pdf [accessed: 16.05.2023].
- [2] Woźniczka A., *Węzły przesiadkowe jako elementy infrastruktury publicznej realizujące ambicje Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu – wytyczne do projektowania wieloaspektowego*, doi: 10.13140/RG.2.2.26166.47680.
- [3] European Commission, *New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/progress-report_en [accessed: 10.06.2023].
- [4] Schellnhuber H., Widera B., Kutnar A. et al., *Horizon Europe and new European Bauhaus NEXUS report – Conclusions of the High-Level Workshop on “Research and Innovation for the New European Bauhaus”*, jointly organised by DG Research and Innovation and the Joint Research Centre, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/49925> [accessed: 7.05.2023].
- [5] European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action, *EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change*, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2834/558395> [accessed: 1.06.2023].
- [6] European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action, *EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change – Best practice guidance*, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2834/585141> [accessed: 7.05.2023].
- [7] *Solutions for Modern Society of the Future. The New European Bauhaus Manual*, R. Zajdler (ed.), Oficyna Wydawnicza PW, Warszawa 2023.
- [8] Rybski R., *New European Bauhaus as the EU sustainability tool*, [in:] R. Zajdler (ed.), *Solutions for Modern Society of the Future. The New European Bauhaus Manual*, Oficyna Wydawnicza PW, Warszawa 2023, 38–51.
- [9] *A European Green Deal*, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en [accessed: 10.06.2023].
- [10] *Davos Baukultur System*, <https://davosdeclaration2018.ch/en/dd/nav/index/quality-system> [accessed: 7.05.2023].

Abstract

The impact of policy initiatives on the design of public spaces on the example of the New European Bauhaus

The program of contemporary public spaces continues to add new functions. As is the awareness of using the design of common spaces to speculate on property values, the use of architecture and public spaces of the second decade of the 21st century as political paraphernalia – used by both civic initiatives and official administrative bodies – is also growing in popularity.

The author’s goal in this paper was to examine the impact of political initiatives on public spaces, and because of the timeliness and multifaceted ambitions of the New European Bauhaus (NEB), it was this initiative that was chosen for analysis. The paper describes the implementation potential of the NEB Compass, a tool that the New European Bauhaus initiative is currently proposing as a concrete aid to realizing abstract ambitions. During the research, an extensive literature study of the subject was carried out, which provided an overview of official EU documents describing the New European Bauhaus initiative and the principles of the NEB Compass. The “research by design” method was then used to transform the Compass from an evaluation system into an instrument for formulating design guidelines. The studied multimodal interchanges of the city of Warsaw and the guidelines for their revitalization, formulated through the NEB Compass, showed that an audit tool can be transformed into a design instrument.

Testing the resulting evaluation sheet in a project on transforming Warsaw’s interchanges into sustainable and inclusive public spaces made it possible to define effective ways of transforming urban infrastructure into public space, and to diagnose the potential impact of the chosen policy initiative on shaping contemporary public spaces.

Key words: sustainability, New European Bauhaus, public space, multifaceted design, design tools

Streszczenie

Wpływ inicjatyw politycznych na projektowanie przestrzeni publicznych na przykładzie Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu

Program współczesnych przestrzeni publicznych wciąż uzupełniają nowe funkcje. Podobnie jak świadomość wykorzystywania projektów przestrzeni wspólnych do spekulacji wartością nieruchomości, rośnie także popularność wykorzystywania architektury i przestrzeni publicznych drugiej dekady XXI w. jako akcesoriów politycznych – używanych i przez inicjatywy obywatelskie, i oficjalne organy administracji.

Celem autorki pracy było przebadanie wpływu inicjatyw politycznych na przestrzenie publiczne, a ze względu na aktualność i wieloaspektowość wartości Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu (NEB) to właśnie tę inicjatywę wybrano do analizy. W artykule opisano potencjał wdrożeniowy Kompas NEB – narzędzia, które inicjatywa Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu obecnie proponuje jako konkretną pomoc w realizacji abstrakcyjnych ambicji. Podczas pracy badawczej przeprowadzono rozległe studia literatury przedmiotu, które pozwoliły na zapoznanie się z oficjalnymi dokumentami unijnymi opisującymi inicjatywę Nowego Europejskiego Bauhausu oraz zasady działania Kompas NEB. Następnie wykorzystano metodę „badania przez projektowanie” w celu przekształcenia Kompas z systemu oceny w instrument do formułowania wytycznych projektowych. Zbadane multimodalne węzły przesiadkowe m.st. Warszawy i wytyczne ich rewitalizacji, sformułowane dzięki Kompasowi NEB, pokazały, że narzędzie służące audytowi można przekształcić w instrument projektowy.

Testowanie powstałej karty oceny w projekcie dotyczącym przekształcenia warszawskich węzłów przesiadkowych w zrównoważone i inkluzyjne przestrzenie publiczne umożliwiło zdefiniowanie efektywnych sposobów przekształcenia miejskiej infrastruktury w przestrzeń publiczną oraz diagnozę potencjalnego wpływu wybranej inicjatywy politycznej na kształtowanie współczesnych przestrzeni publicznych.

Słowa kluczowe: zrównoważenie, Nowy Europejski Bauhaus, przestrzeń publiczna, projektowanie wieloaspektowe, narzędzia projektowe