

winowską, a racjonalnymi układami linijkowymi, spełniającymi charakterystyczne dla nowoczesnego mieszkalnictwa postulaty: „powietrza, słońca i zieleni”. Ważnym osiągnięciem Maya, potwierdzającym jego wkład do nowoczesnej urbanistyki były projekty decentralizacji Wrocławia metodą satelitów, tak

w skali miasta, jak i w ujęciu regionalnym. Doświadczenia zdobyte przez Maya we Wrocławiu, zastosowane w procesie budowy Nowego Frankfurtu, poparte większymi jego możliwościami organizacyjnymi jako Stadtbaurata, przyczyniły się do osiągnięcia spektakularnego sukcesu, w krótkim czasie.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF URBANIST AND ARCHITECT ERNST MAY IN WROCLAW IN THE YEARS 1919–1925 – A STAGE IN THE PROCESS TOWARDS FUNCTIONAL FRANKFURT¹

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The housing architecture developed by Ernst May in the years 1919-1925 in Silesia anticipated his famous realizations of functional and modern estates in Frankfurt am Main, where from mid-1925 he held the post of the city architect². The Wrocław suburbs and Lower Silesian towns were May's first large experimental sites, on which he tested the principles of planning settlements and paved the way for typified, functional, healthy and economical housing construction.

May's professional and ethical attitude was greatly influenced by his apprenticeship in 1910-1911 at the atelier of top English urbanist Sir Raymond Unwin³, during work on the design and construction of the Hampstead Garden Suburb⁴ project, the plan of

which became a catalogue of picturesque solutions, and the published theory of town planning supplied designers throughout Europe with examples how to compose housing estates up until World War II⁵.

Among the canons of Unwin's composition were: hierarchization and morphological differentiation of space, an arrangement that is treated holistically with a defined centre, an axis directed at the dominant element, symbolic borders and gateways, and a picturesque layout of streets⁶ and „closes”⁷.

Collaboration and friendship with Unwin gave direction to May's own beliefs, what he particularly stressed, avowing that personal contact with this great figure had made a decisive impact on his own development as a human being and urbanist, not in

¹ This article antecedes a book, devoted in greater extent to the professional activity of E. May in the Wrocław period.

² The life and work of E. May have been the subject of many publications in which, however, the Wrocław period is treated only superficially: J. Buekschmitt, *Ernst May. Bauten und Planungen*, Bd. 1, Stuttgart 1963; *Ernst May und das Neue Frankfurt 1925-1930*, Ausst.-Kat. Deutsches Architekturmuseum Frankfurt am Main, Berlin 1986; R. Diehl, *Die Tätigkeit Ernst Mays in Frankfurt am Main 1925-1930 unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Siedlungsbau*, Frankfurt am Main 1976; E. Herrel, *Ernst May. Architekt und Stadtplaner in Afrika 1934-1953*, Frankfurt a. M. 2001; on the effects of May's activity in and around Wrocław wrote: W. Kononowicz, *The urban activities of Ernst May in Breslau after the First World War*, in: Conference Preceedings. Second International Docomomo Conference, September 16-18th, 1992, Dessau 1992, Germany, Dessau 1993, pp. 82-85; on his activity in the area of Wałbrzych wrote: B. Ludwig *Działalność Spółki Schlesisches Heim pod kierownictwem Ernsta Maya na terenie Wałbrzyskiego Okręgu Przemysłowego*, (The activity of the company Schlesisches Heim under Ernst May in the Wałbrzych Industrial Zone) in: „Quart”. 4(6)/2007, p. 40-61.

³ together with Barry Parker designed the first garden-city Letchworth (1903) according to Howard's concepts; C. B. Purdom, *The building of satellite towns*, Second edition, London, Dent, 1949, p. 458.

⁴ first plan - 1905; final plan - 1909; co-designer: Barry Parker, architectural consultations: Edwin Lutyens; J. Castex, J. Ch. Depaule, Ph. Panerai, *Formes urbaines: de l'ilot à la barre*, Bordas, Paris 1977, p.49 and foll.

⁵ R. Unwin, *Town Planning in Practice - An introduction to the art of designing cities and suburbs*, London 1909.

⁶ J. Castex, ...op.cit., p. 55, 57.

⁷ „Close” is a development of houses around a dead-end street or square. It guarantees to its residents a specific, intimate atmosphere, as already indicated by the name (in English *close* means: an enclosed place, estate or yard, an alley or narrow way, as well as: sealed, blocked, near). The English *close* is answered by the French term *cul-de-sac* and German *Hof*. Par excellence English, the term *close* became permanently established thanks to French specialist literature; *ibidem*, p. 58 et al.

the way of creative fads that changed from year to year, as do the fashions for dress or hats, but in regard of the age-old rules of humanity that endure even when the architectural background is fundamentally altered⁸.

The formation of May's professional preferences was certainly also influenced by an earlier contact with Friedrich Pützer in Darmstadt, a supporter of the ideas of Sitte⁹, also Joseph Maria Olbrich, as well as later studies at the Technische Hochschule in Munich and encounters with its excellent professors Theodor Fischer, Friedrich von Thiersch or baron von Berlepsch-Valendas, an ardent promoter of the English theory of town planning. Taking his first steps in the profession in his home city of Frankfurt (1913), May was first oriented at architects Hoffman and Messel. Later searches took him towards Peter Behrens and the path of New Objectivity (*Neue Sachlichkeit*)¹⁰. Early on he understood that modern architectural thinking should start with the function and the shape of a building and not the aesthetics of its façade. He was referring to the dictum „more matter, with less art”, of Hermann Muthesius, who contained within that Shakesperean idiom the entire programme of modern tectonic art¹¹. The conviction, combined with the great importance which he attached to social considerations, placed him within the ranks of pioneers of functionalism in urban planning¹².

May began his work in Wrocław in May 1919, as the head of the construction department of the Schlesische Landgesellschaft company directed by Koepfel, which had the objective of supporting the construction of housing settlements in the countryside, in suburbs and in towns. In July of that year „Schlesisches Heim” was established, with the same board¹³ and construction management¹⁴, concentrat-

ing on housing estates for workers and minor office staff, only in suburbs and towns. The company dealt with organization, financial and technical matters, draughtsmanship of plans and design projects, and also intermediated in supply of construction materials. The company „Schlesisches Heim”, which from June 1921 functioned under the changed name of „Schlesische Heimstätte Provinzielle Wohnungsfürsorge-Gesellschaft” m.b.H.,¹⁵ was created along the example of similar organizations that were already functioning in other provinces of Germany¹⁶. May informed public opinion about progress in construction on the pages of of a periodical he himself edited, entitled „Schlesisches Heim”¹⁷, the official press publication of the cooperative, which in Wrocław and Silesia filled an analogous role to „Das Neue Frankfurt” which he later headed in Frankfurt.

The typification and industrialization of housing construction which arose from the norms of German Werkbund, that May so successfully developed in Frankfurt, began in Wrocław. Typification was the superior feature of this architecture, in spite of its traditional, often farmhouse looks. Supported on serial production, from the outset „Schlesische Heimstätte” used normalized house construction elements, such as beams, rafters, windows, doors, stairs, stoves etc; in the next stage, whole homes and furniture were typified. It was in Wrocław that May began work on his „minimum dwelling”, in the form of the so-called emergency house „Notheim”, anticipating the idea of „Die Wohnung für das Existenzminimum” demonstrated in 1929 at the International Exhibition in Frankfurt am Main.

May aspired to the construction of universal, technologically improved and cheap housing. He systematically worked on perfecting the Schlesische Heimstätte types of houses, among which were

⁸ J. Buekschmitt, *Ernst May*, op. cit., p. 20-21.

⁹ C. Sitte, *Der Städtebau nach seinen Künstlerischen Grundsätzen*, Wien 1889.

¹⁰ J. Buekschmitt, *Ernst May*, op. cit., p. 20-21.

¹¹ H. Muthesius, *Sztuka stosowana i architektura*, (Applied Art and Architecture) Kraków 1909, p. 40.

¹² J. Buekschmitt, op. cit., p. 19.

¹³ See signature under the introduction to the first issue of „Schlesisches Heim”, Koepfel, Oberregierungsrat a.D., leitender Geschäftsführer der Schlesischen Landgesellschaft und des Schlesischen Heims, *Zum Geleit!*, in: „Schlesisches Heim” (hereon: SH), 1(1920), issue 1, p. 7.

¹⁴ See signature to the article: Architekt May, Leiter der Bauabteilungen des Schlesischen Heimes und der schlesischen Landgesellschaft, *Siedlungspläne*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 1, p. 7.

¹⁵ *Zur Beachtung!* in: SH, 2(1921), issue 6.

¹⁶ Out of 13 Prussian housing societies founded in the years 1918-1925, the first was established for Westphalia (26.07.1918), the fourth for Silesia (28.07.1919) and the last for Upper Silesia (9.02.1925); see: Pauly, *10 Jahre Wohnungsfürsorgegesellschaften – 10 Jahre staatliche Wohnungsreformpolitik*, in: SH, 9(1928), issue 7, pp. 177-178.

¹⁷ *Schlesisches Heim – Monatschrift des Schlesischen Heimes gemeinnützigen Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Kleinwohnungsbaues der Prov. Schlesien*; the first issue was published in January 1920.

semi-rural, suburban, town, one, two and three-floor houses, single-family and multi-family, free-standing, semi-detached and terraced houses¹⁸. Out of the large number of house types designated by numbers and letter indexes, sixteen types were selected, which were called by the names of famous people: reformers, architects, writers, poets, industrialists, philosophers, painters, such as: Damaschke, Langhans, Hauptmann, Freitag, Borsig, Boehme, Menzel etc.¹⁹. Technical and economic motivations caused the number to be reduced, with an aim to rationalize and cut the costs of realization²⁰. May additionally emphasized aesthetic aspects, claiming that the new housing estate should be a rhythmical composition of identical elements and not a theme with variations²¹.

May's own house was a typical one, constructed to a design project from the „Schlesisches Heim” catalogue (pic. 1, pic. 2) in the prestigious villa district of Zalesie (Leerbeutel), at Dahnstraße 8 (today Stanisława Moniuszki 6)²². This was a „cottage” - a detached single-family home, with a large living space (143,62m²), adapted to the needs of the middle class, with a toilet in the house, a bathroom, a study and separate kitchen²³.

For comparison, below are listed the areas of the „smallest dwellings” in the various categories of houses, as according to the 1925 catalogue:

- detached single-family house – type „Damaschke” – 63,20 m²;
- twin single-family house – type „Gerhard Hauptmann” – 57,11m²;
- single-family terraced house – type „Borsig” – 53,63 m²;
- house for six families with minimum dwellings - type „Jacob Boehme” – 42,0 m².

May considered the architect's profession as a special kind of vocation in the service of humanity.

He had great respect for patient creative and consistent work, resignation from ambitious and spectacular projects for the sake of small tasks undertaken in the course of the struggle for human dignity. A confirmation of this attitude was to place a quote from Wilhelm Raabe²⁴ as the motto to his article on the methods of building modest „emergency” homes, published on the pages of „Schlesisches Heim”: Everyone should work and create according to one's nature, as that is the source of one's dignity; one should keep building within oneself and around oneself, and keep patiently rebuilding what has been destroyed by enemy forces in one's soul and around, because that is happiness. Who lowers his hands is lost and gone forever. Who at every step resists his doom and can with dignity descend from the bright peaks to the dark valleys - without cowardly complaint and ineffective obstinacy - has won!²⁵

From Unwin, the convinced socialist, May took over the principle of supporting a design project primarily on social considerations, putting the formal profile in a more distant perspective. In his own words, he explained that New Building (Neues Bauen) architects were never offended when their architecture was criticised for being cold, heartless and soulless uniformism, but took it straight to heart if anyone denied that humans, i.e. a social approach was the main pillar on which they raised their construction; and whether it was worth anything or not was debated, but would be decided in the future²⁶.

Firstly, May emphasized a rational, functional and economic layout of the dwelling, where the kitchen took central position, composed of a living area and niche for cooking. This was a Silesian living kitchen, and the separate cooking niche was a prototype of the famous Frankfurt kitchen - laboratory, which organized in a scientific way the lady of the house's occupations (pic. 3, 4). Grete Schütte-Lihotzky from

¹⁸ E. May, *Kleinwohnungstypen*, in: SH, 1 (1920), issue 1, pp. 14-17; *Typen für mehrgeschossige Kleinwohnungsbauten*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 4, pp. 9-12; idem, *Die Grundtypen der Schlesischen Heimstätte mit Finanzierungstabelle*, in: SH, 5 (1924), issue 3, pp. 71-78, 109-115.

¹⁹ Idem, *Die Typen Schlesischen Heimstätte*, in: SH, 6 (1925), p. 65.

²⁰ Most construction elements were industrially manufactured to be assembled on the building site.

²¹ E. May, *Die Grundtypen der Schlesischen ...*, op. cit., in: SH, 5(1924), issue 3, p. 72.

²² The house design was done in April 1920. In the summer he moved in together with Ilse, neé Hartmann, from Berlin, whom he had married a year earlier; here too were born their sons Klaus (1920) and Thomas (1923); E. Herrel, *Ernst May. Archi-*

tekt und Stadtplaner in Afrika 1934-1935, Frankfurt am Main 2001, p. 168.

²³ Mittelstandtyp - Group I, Type 1b – later type „Dahn”; E. May, *Die Typen Schlesischen...*, op. cit., p. 65.

²⁴ Wilhelm Raabe (1831-1910), pseudonym Jacob Corvinuf, German writer, master of realist characteristics, deeply compassionate for human misery and suffering.

²⁵ Freely translated by the author; see: E. May, *Notheime*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 2, pp. 1-10.

²⁶ Quote after: Lore Cramer, *Rationalisierung des Haushaltes und Frauenfrage - Die Frankfurter Küche und zeitgenössische Kritik*, in: *Ernst May und das Neue Frankfurt 1925-1930*, Ausst.-Kat. Deutsches Architekturmuseum Frankfurt am Main, Berlin 1986, p. 77.

Vienna, the renowned designer of the Frankfurt kitchen, had collaborated with May already in the early 1920s, in the Wrocław period, developing on the pages of „Schlesisches Heim” the idea of a small, functional kitchen niche²⁷.

Similarly, May attached grave importance to the site plans. He believed that a good layout plan for any settlement, simplest included, rural or suburban, was one of the most difficult tasks facing the architect and should be given to a talented professional²⁸. He believed that a good plan depended on the selection of the proper location, with a quadrangular site that would not be elongated like a ribbon, of good proportions, which allowed it to be parcelled into regular plots, and good placement of houses, as well as access roads on a N-S or approximate direction, to give the houses good light. The area should be dry and as flat as possible with access to potable water. Also important were the transport and communication connections. If there was a railway or tram line in the vicinity, the future estate should not be farther than 15 minutes from the station or stop. Just as short should be the distance to a shop selling the basic necessities for everyday existence.

May divided rural and suburban settlements into three basic types, in respect of the site arrangement: dispersed, linear and with a green (Angersiedlung)²⁹. He advised against building the dispersed type as uneconomical and outdated, unless forced to by particularly difficult land conditions. Ribbon that is linear settlements with houses placed along one main communication route were frequently met in the highlands of Silesia; their disadvantage was that the houses were directly exposed to the dust and noise from a busy road.

May was the strongest advocate for the estate around a piazza-green lying to the side of a communications route but with a good connection to it via a main internal road. The green - an echo of the old village commons - served as a play area for children, a small pasture or gathering place for the inhabitants. The houses were concentrated around

it, and in many instances so were also important buildings such as the church, school, inn and others. Greens were given strongly pronounced shapes, usually a rectangle (Ząbkowice, Jelenia Góra, Nowe Miasteczko, Brzeg, Nysa, Ołtaszyn, Głubczyce), triangle (Złotniki, Prudnik, Nowa Ruda, Boguszów), semicircle (Złotniki), or multilateral (Oława).

The estate in Ząbkowice (Frankenstein - 1919) is an example of the simplest site plan on a green (pic. 5). The initial design provided for dwellings along the perimeter of a triangular area, similar to a city quarter. But mindfully of the Schlesische Landgesellschaft plan, the buildings were grouped in the centre of the site, around a rectangular commons situated in the place of an old clay pit and the plots were demarcated on the back of the buildings. Two houses, flanking the entrance from the south, created a symbolic gateway to the estate (pic. 6)³⁰. A similarly simple arrangement - and programme - was a feature of the Ołtaszyn estate (Oltaschin 1921). Originally designed for an area of some 20 morgens, it consisted of identical twin houses placed along a main street, and a rectangular green which was the culmination of the composition (pic. 7). A house with different design stood at the farther end of the green, closing the vista from the street. This axis started at the main entrance to the estate, accented with a single house placed crosswise, which guarded the composition and at the same time invited inside. This subtle, truly „English”, picturesque combination of elements to open and close the composition, awarded the rudimentary arrangement proper taste³¹.

On bigger estates, the piazza-commons had a more complex functional programme. An example can be Nysa (Neisse - 1919), where as well as houses, a church, school and shops were drafted beside the green (pic. 8, 9). Also an estate designed some years later, in the western part of Głubczyce (Leobschütz - 1923, pic.10), with an inner square-green, included a school, a gathering hall and shops, although space for public buildings had also been provided along the city street and square on the outskirts of the estate³².

²⁷ G. Lihotzky, *Einiges über die Einrichtung österreichischer Häuser unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Siedelungsbauten*; in: SH, 2 (1921), issue 8, pp. 217-222; idem, *Die Siedlerhütte*, in: SH, 3(1922), issue 2, pp. 33-35; idem, *Die Siedlungs-, Wohnungs-, und Baugild Österreichs auf der 4. Wiener Kleingartenausstellung*, in: SH, 3(1922), issue 10, pp. 245-247;

²⁸ E. May, *Siedlungspläne*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 1, pp. 7-9.

²⁹ Ibidem, s. 8.

³⁰ E. May, *Halbländlicher Siedlungsbau der Schlesischen Landesgesellschaft in den Jahren 1919/20*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 11, pp. 15-16.

³¹ W. Kononowicz, *Ołtaszyn i Sepolno – dwa osiedla wrocławskie okresu międzywojennego*, (Ołtaszyn and Sepolno – two examples of Wrocław's interwar housing estates), in: *Ten wspaniały wrocławski modernizm*, (That Wonderful Wrocław Modern Movement) PAN, Wrocław 1991, p.117 et al.

³² E. May, *Stadterweiterungsplan für den Westteil von Leobschütz*, in: SH, 4(1923), issue 7, pp. 193-194.

May preferred to group houses in close arrangements, which gave more advantages in comparison with an open plan site. Dense construction meant savings on the cost of building and exploitation, of houses as well as roads, light and water supply (one well to serve several buildings), shorter routes to trains or shops. May believed that houses in a dense development were protection for one another against wind and bad weather, suffered less heat loss, and generally looked better and were, in a certain sense, „monumental”. He also stressed the social advantages of a close-knit community that by its nature helped reinforce neighbourly relations.

The compact construction passed muster in the form of terraced houses, in ribbon arrangements as well as settlements concentrated around a piazza-green, and „closes”, as the culmination of a vista or a street extension.

Examples of this can be seen in the communal estate on Piaskowa Góra (Kleinsiedlung Ober Salzbrunn) in Wałbrzych, one of May’s earliest undertakings from his period of activity at the Schlesische Landgesellschaft³³. An estate with the typical Silesian linear layout, enriched with English accents - „closes” - stretched along the road from Szczawno to Piaskowa Góra (pic. 11)³⁴. The centre of the estate, created by six two-floor terraced houses with shops³⁵ was designed on an escarpment, on the south side of the road (pic. 12). These houses differed from the other single-family and semi-detached homes on the estate by their size and compact form, as well as carefully-selected location. They stood at the highest point of the area, on a curve in the road, closing the vista from the side of Szczawno and Piaskowa Góra. On the east and west side, towards the central part of the estate led groups of detached and semi-detached houses, arranged in closes (pic. 11).

Closes, a form which derived from Hampstead (pic. 13), was popular with May in his projects, and he treated them as an element of the site plan or an individual solution. As well as the Piaskowa Góra estate, there are examples of this layout in his de-

signs for: Nowe Miasteczko (Neustädtel – 1919), Złotniki (Goldschmieden – 1919), Wojszyce (Woischwitz – 1921), Głubczyce (Leobschütz – 1923, pic. 10), Kowale (Cawallen – 1924, pic. 14) and Krzyki (Krietern – 1924, pic.16, 17). The two latter examples (today lying within the boundaries of Wrocław city) are complexes of the smallest, terraced single-family homes of the „Borsig” type, raised by the Schlesische Heimstätte company from communal funds. The close at Kowalska street in Kowale consisted of eighteen two-storey houses arranged around an open U-shaped patio (pic. 14)³⁶. The close at Wietrzna street (formerly Falkstrasse) in Krzyki (pic. 16, 17) did not have closed-off corners as did the Kowale estate; grouping six houses along each of the longer sides of the patio and a double house at the closure of the vista. The individual houses (pic. 15) with areas of some 52 m.sq. each, had a working wing with a toilet and shed, attached on to the back and joined by a porch with the main house, or built on to the sides of the end houses (as in those which stood at the end of the close’s axis in Krzyki, pic. 16). The day rooms were on the ground floor, and the bedrooms upstairs. Almost all of the ground floor was taken up by a kitchen consisting of three parts: the dining area, a cooking niche and the scullery, which depending on necessity could function as a back-up for kitchen chores, a washroom, a laundry and, most often, a corridor³⁷. The houses were designed with central heating from a stove installed in the kitchen (pic. 15).

Presented below in more detailed consideration are examples of May’s biggest housing projects, which have the full range of composition measures applied by this architect. Moreover, they illustrate the evolution of his approach to forming space, from elaborately picturesque to ultimately simplified, striving for rational, „direct” arrangements which made certain that the houses had sunlight and air. It is evident here how much the social aspect grew in importance in respect of the formal. In time, on May’s urban estates the social aspect comes to dominate, displacing

³³ The plan was probably completed at the close of 1918. Krug, *Die Bautätigkeit der Schlesischen Landgesellschaft in Kleinsiedlungssachen im Jahre 1919*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 1, pp. 11-12.

³⁴ the settlement belt was 1.5 km long and 170-230m wide, with differences in lay of land reaching 50m; E. May, *Ländliche Kleinsiedlungen der Schlesischen Landgesellschaft in der Provinz Schlesien* in: „Der Sädtebau (hereon: Stb)”, 16(1919), pp. 84-86.

³⁵ *ibidem*, p. 86; in 1920 houses were built in the central part but without shops; see: E. May, *Kleinsiedlung Ober=Salzbrunn*, in: SH, 1(1920), issue 7, pp. 9-11; *ibid*, issue 11, insert, il. 3-10.

³⁶ W. Kononowicz, *Problemy dziedzictwa architektonicznego Ernsta Maya z okresu wrocławskiego (1919-1925)*, (Problems of the architectural heritage of Ernst May from the Wrocław period) in: *Renowacja budynków i modernizacja obszarów zabudowanych*, (Renovation of buildings and modernization of developed areas), edited by T. Biliński, volume 5, Zielona Góra 2009, pp. 267-279.

³⁷ The working wing was reached through the washroom, also the garden and cellar; *ibidem*, p. 273.

romanticism altogether, as can be seen in the plans for some developments in Frankfurt.

Ernst May's biggest early urban project, elaborated within Landgesellschaft, was Złotniki-Żerniki rentier estate (Goldschmieden-Neukirch, pic. 18) in the suburbs of Wrocław, near to Leśnica (Deutsch Lissa), some 10 kms west of the Old Town Market. The estate comprised of about 750 individual houses and a certain number of garden plots, altogether for 3-4 thousand inhabitants, on an area of 350 hectares³⁸. The perimeter of the estate was demarcated on the west by river Bystrzyca and the former manor house park; the south - the railway line which connected Leśnica with Wrocław, the north - what is now Kosmonautów street (formerly Frankfurter Chaussee) and the east - Żernicka street. The estate's expanse was an effect of the terrain. Ryńka stream (a tributary of river Bystrzyca) and the high level of ground water made a good part of the land out of bounds to construction, thus much was left in the form of meadows or destined for large vegetable plots, measuring up to 36 morgens (local land units).

The supreme formal feature of the plan for Złotniki-Żerniki was a romantic picturesqueness that reflected an always-actual aesthetic dimension of Sitte's urban planning, taken up and incorporated into the town planning theory by Unwin. A network of gently winding streets studded with cottages was enhanced by green places in a variety of shapes: rectangle, triangle or semicircle. May's design for Złotniki included a tightly-knit centre for the composition, a „crowning glory” of a kind for the estate - in the form of a piazza in the shape of a rectangle (95 x 115 m), located at the highest point of the plot. A town hall was to be raised in its centre, twinned with a water tower that dominated the settlement, clasping the vistas of three streets which ran towards the market. Along its sides were situated shops and houses, as well as a school, the back of which overlooked a large rectangular square (60 x 115m), on the opposite side of which stood a community house (Genossenschaftshaus). The estate's services included another school, a railway station and a chapel and cemetery. The square was lined with two-storey terraced houses, homes for teachers, clerkly officials,

a doctor and chemist. The remaining houses in the estate were detached bungalows, in eight design types³⁹.

The picturesque layout of Złotniki reflected not only Unwin's direct influence on urban planning with a: - defined centre, - dominant accented by an axis, - articulated boundaries and „gates”, and a scenic arrangement of streets, squares and closes. Evident within it were also the experiences of the German Gartenstadtbewegung, which drew on the treasury of domestic examples, certainly followed closely by May. The rectangular market, rooted in the German urban planning tradition, was introduced by Paul Schmitthenner as early as in 1914, in the design for garden-city Staaken (near Berlin), considered the prototype of the modern German housing estate⁴⁰. Another domestic source was the idea which May applied to the Złotniki design, of a wide (c.50 m), tree-lined esplanade rising to the east towards the market, and the water tower coupled with the town hall building. To the west the esplanade descended towards a woodland park, finishing in a small square with a monument that completed the vista. A prototype for this solution could have been the „street-cum-square” introduced to the design of the first garden-city Berlin-Falkenberg (1912) by Bruno Taut, inspired - as he said - by the old fields of Brandenburg⁴¹.

In his draft for Złotniki, similarly to Taut's design for Falkenberg, May combined planning elements borrowed from English garden-cities and traditional German towns - with his own, new ideas. Inspired by the 18th-century Royal Crescent in Bath, May devised a variant that can be described as a „pseudo-crescent”. In opposition to the crescent, a half-moon-shaped line of houses with uniform façades, looking on an open green area, the pseudo-crescent is a fan-shaped arrangement of detached houses, standing on the edge of a semicircular field. May introduced the pseudocrescent to the design in various places, for instance at the „entrance” to the estate, street extension or closing - i.e. close (pic. 18).

In the original form, the crescent was a rare occurrence in German urban planning. It was introduced by Bruno Taut to his plans for garden-city Falken-

³⁸ E. May, *Ländliche Kleinsiedlungen...*, op. cit., p. 86, Tafel 46; idem, *Halbländliche ...*, op.cit., pp. 8-17.

³⁹ E. May, *Ländliche Kleinsiedlungen...*, op. cit., p. 86.

⁴⁰ K. Kiem, *Die Gartenstadt Staaken als Prototyp der modernen deutschen Siedlung*, in: V. M. Lampugnani, R. Schneider (ed.), *Moderne Architektur in Deutschland 1900 bis 1950. Reform und*

Tradition, Stuttgart 1992, pp. 133-149; idem, *Die Gartenstadt Staaken 1914-1917. Typen, Gruppen, Varianten*, Berlin 1977.

⁴¹ F. Bollerey, K. Hartmann, *A patriarchal utopia: the garden city and housing reform in Germany at the turn of the century*, in: A. Sutcliffe, ed., *The Rise of Modern Urban Planning 1800-1914*. London 1980, p. 156.

berg (1912), developing it after some years into an original horseshoe shape (Hufeisen), which became the compositional core of the first great Berlin estate - Britz (1925), commonly known as „Haufeisensiedlung”. The pure form of a crescent opening on to a green expanse was also applied by Rudolf Eberstadt and Hermann Muthesius in the design for the Hermsdorf estate (pic. 19) near Berlin (1918)⁴².

Only the north-westerly part of Złotniki was realized according to the original plan. As it proved, in the existing circumstances, for public and legal reasons, it was impossible to build a rentier estate of this size. By 1920 a new and downsized design was published, reflecting a gradual reduction of the spatial objectives (pic. 20). Along Rajska street were built houses of Group II type 2h (pic. 22), around the semi-circular Kaliski place which closed it from the west Group II type 9h houses (pic. 21), and along Ciesielski place, a triangular commons, for the first time, tiny Dutch emergency houses: Group II type 10 (pic. 23, pic. 24)⁴³. May wrote that the small size of the Dutch house did not preclude its advantages for living, because of the rational layout and furnishing options⁴⁴. May took care for the typical, identical houses to have individual accents in the form of symbolic signs painted on the walls, referring to the profession or hobby of the owner. The pictures were painted by Lotte Hartmann from Berlin⁴⁵, just as later in Ołtaszyn or Klecina.

The remainder of the estate was built in the 1930s according to an adapted and simplified design prepared by the city. May's extensive plans, patterned on Hampstead inadvertently anticipated the so-called Stadtrandsiedlung realized here in times of the Third Reich, which in new political conditions was to fulfil specific ideological objectives. Settling a worker on a plot that could provide food was a means to alleviate the crisis, while the sprawling layout could minimize losses in case of an air attack and be advantageous to nurturing the young

generation - the nation's defensive force - in healthy conditions⁴⁶.

In the early 1920s, May's draft estate developments began to show new tendencies and patterns where the rows of houses were arranged along a direction approximating the North-South axis, to guarantee the best, East-West light in the homes. The composition of these estates is dominated by Unwin's principles of a garden-city, however there is an evident decided and consistent move towards the idea of functional development. These plans, drafted in 1921 with Herbert Boehm, concern the estates of Wojszyce (Woischwitz) and Brochów (Brockau).

The Wojszyce plan (pic. 26, 27) was drawn for a competition on the development of Greater Wrocław and is a singular example of a satellite town, interestingly and logically designed, using existing elements: railway transport, road network and industry⁴⁷. The plan was to incorporate the old villages of Wojszyce and Ołtaszyn (formerly Oltaschin) located on an area of some 700 hectares, situated between the streets Buforowa and Agrestowa, including an enclave north of the freight rail line with an existing factory.

Among the works completed so far by May, the Wojszyce design, albeit unrealized, was his most mature spatial composition and fullest functional programme. The satellite-town connected with Wrocław by good rail and road communications routes, was to constitute a separate unit surrounded by a belt of open land, self-sufficient, providing its inhabitants with work, housing, services and recreation. The development provided a train station, a town hall, three churches, a communal hall, a covered market, schools, a stadium and two cemeteries. Employment would be mostly supplied by the local factory.

The satellite design was dominated by an elliptical composition centre, with a main axis drawn through the middle, from north to south (pic. 27)⁴⁸. The composition axis bifurcated into a „Y” shape, connecting the main buildings and squares. Next to

⁴² *Bebauungsplan für die Kleinsiedlung der Hermsdorfer Boden - Aktien Gesellschaft*, in: *Stb*, 15 (1918), tab. 12.

⁴³ E. May, *Die Grundtypen der Schlesischen ...* op. cit, in: *SH*, 5(1924), issue 3, p. 78.

⁴⁴ The floor plan of the living space of a single house occupied the area of 4.6x7.0m. The entrance led from the yard straight into the kitchen. The ground floor was taken up by a „live-in kitchen” with a living room and niche for cooking. Next to the niche was a chamber with a sleeping place under the stairs, which led to two small rooms in the attic. Gustav Wolf, who dealt with the economics of floor plans for Rfg. described the living conditions of this house as primitive. G. Wolf, *Grundrisstaffel*, München

1931; after: „Dom, Osiedle Mieszkanie”, Year 3 (1931), no 11, p. 15.

⁴⁵ Privately May's sister-in-law.

⁴⁶ A. Teut, *Architektur im Dritten Reich 1933 - 1945*, Frankfurt/ M - Berlin 1968, p. 331.

⁴⁷ F. Behrendt, *Der Wettbewerb zur Erlangung eines Bebauungsplanes der Stadt Breslau und ihrer Vororte*, in: *Stb*, 19 (1922), issue 5/ 6, pp. 46-48; E. May, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten*, in: *Stb*, 19(1922), issue 5/6, pp. 51-55.

⁴⁸ following the route of the former main street of Wojszyce village (today Pawia street).

the railway line, at the ends of the streets, was located the market and train station. The main part of the composition, inscribed inside an oval, began with a church in the northern end and ended, in the southern, with a giant, domed People's Hall (Volkshaus). The centre was formed by a wide, tree-lined street that became a market square with a town hall in its centre. At the extension of the axis, in the south of the estate, there was a stadium, to which a green promenade led from the centre. The area north of the railway line was drafted as an industrial zone. The streets in the housing area of the development were demarcated on the north-south direction (or approximate). Their curving courses, reminiscent of rings spreading on water, echoed the image of the elliptical centre. Distinctive in the south-western part of the development was a wide street-square oriented east-west, where the designers preserved the original main road of Ołtaszyn village (today Strachowskiego), with a commons and a medieval church.

The houses situated along the streets had a specific character and height. In the centre and at major roads or squares, they were taller, three to four-storey, close-knit. Smaller houses were placed towards the outside, one and two-storey, in groups of several. The areas between the houses were filled up by gardens.

In line with Unwin's principles, the settlement constituted a whole and was surrounded by a belt of greenery. The designers treated the outskirts of the estate in a singular fashion, creating a symbolic border with elements suggesting fortifications, separating the town from its surroundings. This characteristic method of distinguishing bordergrounds was later repeated by May and Boehm in the design for a partial development of the town of Głubczyce (Leobschütz O/S – 1923, il. 10), and also in the Römerstadt estate (1927) in Frankfurt a/M. In the case of Wojszyce and Głubczyce, on the outskirts there are groups of houses in the form of „closes”, situated with their backs to the landscape beyond, and closing the vistas of the inner streets of the settlement. With its external bulwarks and bastions, Römerstadt is reminiscent of a real fortress.

The design for Wojszyce, though it has remained a draft, shows an important stage in the development

of European town planning. It is the intermediary link between the picturesque and the rational, preserving the moment of harmonious balance between the formal, social-rational and economic aspects in design projects for housing estates, right before the onset of rational schematicism⁴⁹. Moreover, the plan is a valuable example of the spatial disposition of a satellite town, in a specific urban situation, supporting Unwin's theory.

The subsequent housing estate design, elaborated by May and Boehm for the Clerical Housing Association in Brochów⁵⁰ also had rational features, in spite of the garden nature of the composition (pic. 28). It covered an area of 46 hectares in the northern part of Brochów, triangular in shape, located between a railway embankment, Ignacego Mościckiego street (formerly Brockauerstrasse) and with Warszawska street (former Winklerallee) at its base. The underlying communications network was formed by five streets oriented N-S (more or less), of which the central one became the core around which the estate was built⁵¹. It had at its southern end the Protestant Church and at the northern a semicircular arrangement of houses, alike to a giant bastion placed against the hue and cry of the city of Wrocław⁵². In the vicinity, the designers provided a wide green belt which cut into the estate, with ponds and a playing field. The houses stood on the streets. The tallest - three-storey - ringed and screened the estate along the streets on the outside; two-storey houses fronted the central street; on the remainder stood detached bungalows. The areas between the houses were filled by gardens. The design project was realized in part.

May approached problem issues of urban planning with great social sensitivity. He regretted the fact that city dwellers had lost contact with nature and the sense of neighbourhood community typical to the inhabitants of villages or small towns, writing that „a city dweller almost does not know his neighbor”, becoming „an atom of an indifferent mass, which pushes through a sea of houses to fill its existential needs, without perception of social wealth”⁵³. He compared the big city to a machine devouring human strength and enslaving humans instead of serving them⁵⁴. He appealed for an end to unhealthy development of cities, indicating that the supreme

⁴⁹ As evident in May's later developments such as Westhausen (1929), or unrealized Goldstein (1929).

⁵⁰ Schierer, *Streiflichter aus dem Wohnungs- und Siedlungswesen*, in: SH, 2(1921), issue 5, p. 127.

⁵¹ Leonardo da Vinci (formerly Pulststrasse).

⁵² Schierer, *Streiflichter...*, op.cit.

⁵³ E. May, *Stadterweiterung...*, in: Stb, op. cit., p. 51.

⁵⁴ Idem, *Die internationale Städtebautagung in Amsterdam*; p: SH, 5 (1924), issue 7, p. 208.

law in the development process should be: city for humans not humans for city⁵⁵.

Initially, May was a supporter of the concepts of Fritz Schumacher, according to whom a big city should graduate the height of its housing, from tallest in the centre, through an intermediate zone, down to a belt of low construction on the outskirts⁵⁶. He changed his convictions under Unwin's influence and the concept devised together with W. R. Lethaby, George L. Pepler and others, in 1921, of a model city with satellites⁵⁷. He began to consider insufficient hitherto methods of development by the concentric system or the newer radial system, which allowed for the penetration of green wedges into the city grid⁵⁸. He claimed that the wedges of green were not equivalent to open, free space, which could be made available to the inhabitants of satellite developments. It was a radically different vision than Schumacher's, with the city surrounded by individual green satellites, entirely different in nature. In the satellite town, limitation performed an important role, in a spatial sense as well as demographic. On the problem of formal isolation of the satellite from its surroundings, May wrote: „it is an important fact that the satellite town, because of its designated size, will differ from its surroundings. Once a traveller, entering a city, would encounter ramparts, a moat and walls, which constituted the boundaries of the urban entity; and so nowadays the satellite town is surrounded by rows of buildings or avenues, the outlines of which endow it with a specific character. The impression of a border is highlighted by groups of taller buildings flanking the entrances to streets”⁵⁹. The principle of limiting the city and re-

inforcing the contact of its inhabitants with nature - on the one hand expressed nostalgia for small urban communities from the pre-industrial era, rooted in the Arts and Crafts movement and Morris's „News from Nowhere” - and on the other referred to the idea of hygienic and rational, compact Owensian estates of „harmony and cooperation”, arranged in an open landscape⁶⁰.

May's no insignificant contribution to modern town planning was a competition design for the development of Greater Wrocław by the satellite method and an elaborated version of decentralizing the city in relation to the region. The planning competition (1921) was a grand and important event in Wrocław. Organized by the city authorities, its purpose was to obtain a general development plan, in the form of a document⁶¹ which would delineate the areas of influence of the city and district. The district authorities with whom May worked intended to set down in the suburban areas foundations for planned settlement of the increasing Wrocław population. Meanwhile, the city saw its chance in territorial expansion over areas that for long had been associated with it. The area covered by the competition totaled around 16 thousand hectares. Expanded Wrocław was to accommodate around one million inhabitants expected by the year 1950⁶². The competition aimed for a planned development of industrial and housing areas, communications routes and green zones.

The competition was organized by the municipal authorities. Invited to it were urban planners and architects from Germany and Austria, among them Wrocław architects Adolf Rading, as well as

⁵⁵ „Die Stadt dem Menschen, nicht der Mensch für die Stadt!” , E. May, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten*, in: SH, 3(1922), issue 11, p. 270.

⁵⁶ J. Buekschmitt, *Ernst May...*, op. cit., p. 28.

⁵⁷ Ibidem; E. May, *Stadterweiterung ...*, op. cit., in: Stb, p. 52; C.B. Purdom, *The building of satellite towns*, second edition, London, Dent, 1949, p. 25; W. Ostrowski, *Urbanistyka współczesna*, Arkady, Warszawa 1975, p. 65.

⁵⁸ A reference to the entry for the competition on the development of Berlin (1910), design by R. Eberstadt, B. Möhring and R. Petersen (First Prize); Ibidem.

⁵⁹ E. May, *Stadterweiterung...*, in: Stb, op. cit., p. 53.

⁶⁰ E. Goldzamt, *William Morris a geneza społeczna architektury nowoczesnej*, (William Morris and the social genesis of modern architecture) Warsaw 1967, p. 306; W. Kononowicz, *Wybrane zagadnienia urbanistyczne wielkich miast i osiedli mieszkaniowych w zachodniej Europie od połowy dziewiętnastego wieku do drugiej wojny światowej*, (Selected urban development issues of big cities and housing estates in western Europe from the mid-

19th century to the Second World War) in „Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki” quarterly, 2008, issue 1, p. 6.

⁶¹ The competition is described by: F. Behrendt, *Der Wettbewerb zur Erlangung eines Bebauungsplanes der Stadt Breslau und ihrer Vororte*, in: Stb, 19(1922), issue 3/4, pp. 21-30, 43-50; W. Kononowicz, *Wrocław. Kierunki...*, op. cit., p. 31; idem, *Wrocław w projektach urbanistycznych okresu międzywojennego*, (Wrocław in urban development projects of the between-war years) in: „Rocznik Wrocławski, Wrocław 1995, pp.301-338; idem, *Pierwszy plan generalny Wrocławia (1924) i początki kompleksowego projektowania urbanistycznego*, (The first general plan for Wrocław and the beginnings of comprehensive urban planning) in: *Architektura Wrocławia*, vol. 2. *Urbanistyka*, ed. by J. Rozpędowski, Wrocław 1995, p. 301-338; B. Szymański-Störtkuhl, *Konkurs na rozbudowę miasta Wrocławia i gmin podmiejskich z lat 1921-1922*, (Competition for the development of the city of Wrocław and suburban communes in 1921-22) ibid, pp. 339-357.

⁶² Ibidem, p. 39.

Ernst May and his collaborator, engineer Herbert Boehm⁶³.

Forty projects were sent in. First prize was not awarded and the money it included was split between the authors of the best five designs, among them A. Rading's „Bodenreform". Design no.12 by E. May and H. Boehm, inscribed with the motto: „Satellites" (Trabanten), was purchased together with two other works⁶⁴.

Two approaches became evident in the design plans, concerning the displacement of settlement areas around the built-up zones. Supporters of the so-called „academic" approach grouped closed island-like estates evenly around the city. Those who preferred the „flexible" approach believed that Wrocław should not be expanded in all directions. Its development should start at several important sites, in consideration of natural tendencies, economic factors and links with workplaces. Wrocław representative May and Rading took radically opposite positions.

In the design by May and Boehm, which contained a quintessence of urban decentralization, the „academic" approach presented itself in its most sublimated (pic. 29) variety. Wrocław was surrounded with satellite settlements, which - though dependent on the mother city - had the power to lead separate existences. Wrocław within Rading's „Bodenreform" that represented the „flexible" approach, took on an elongated shape, following the course of the river and the main rail and road direction.

May referred to Unwin's propositions of decentralizing a city by the method of satellites and Howard's transposed idea of a garden-city⁶⁵. He believed that decentralization was the only correct and healthy method for development of a big city, definitively stopping territorial spread and creating satellites in green surrounds, grouped around the central organism. May treated the competition as an opportunity to present a solution which broke with outdated schemes. Territorial development would be halted by the municipal authorities which would buy out a ring of land around the city, to devote it to recreational purposes or agriculture. Within this ring would be located the satellites, numbering pop-

ulation of 50 to 100 thousand, with the objective of housing or industry, having their own services and food sectors, situated at a distance of 20 to 30 kms from the central city and linked with it by a good transport connection⁶⁶. May claimed that because of the limits of the competition his entry could not fully present the principles of the satellites. And so, the compromise version described a city with twelve satellites, lying within a radius of 10 kms from the centre (pic. 29), these were: Szczytniki, Swojczyce, Karłowice, Różanka, Osobowice, Kuźniki, Nowy Dwór, Muchobór Wielki, Oporów, Partynice, Wojszyce and Brochów (Scheitnig, Schwoitsch, Carlowitz, Rosenthal, Oswitz, Schmiedefeld, Maria-Höfchen, Gr. Mochbern, Opperau, Hartlieb, Woischwitz, Brockau). The strict limits on population of the individual satellites intended to stop them from growing into big urban conglomerations. The satellites, being individual units having local self-government, could have the nature of towns, for housing or industrial purposes, or combined. May advocated mixed functions, as industry supported almost full self-sufficiency. Satellites, despite their independence, were to be parts of a comprehensive organism, connected to the central city, their source of cultural and economic effects. The service centres of the satellites provided churches, schools, communal halls, workshops and shops, and other local institutions⁶⁷. The mother city would provide central institutions, administration, unions, banks, universities, theatres, etc., as well as the offices of transport organizations, food processors, the central railway and freight station, port installations, and the main market, from which commodities would be sent out to local markets in the satellite estates. Food was to be obtained by their own means. A detailed solution, elaborated by the authors in the competition entry on the example of Wojszyce, has been described above.

The competition design by May and Boehm met with considerable appreciation from Fritz Behrendt, director of the Wrocław Development Office and future constructor of the general plan, who wrote in his opinion: „The idea here presented strives to-

⁶³The jury included i.a. renowned architects and urbanists such as: B. Möhring, H. Jansen (Berlin), P. Bonatz (Stuttgart), F. Schumacher (Cologne, Hamburg) and, from Wrocław, M. Berg, A. von Scholtz and P. Ehrlich; *Programm für einen Ideen Wettbewerb zur Erlangung eines Bebauungsplanes der Stadt Breslau und ihrer Vororte*, Magistrat der Hauptstadt Breslau, Breslau, 1.03.1921.

⁶⁴ W. Kononowicz, *Wrocław. Kierunki...*, op. cit., (Wrocław. Directions) p. 34-35.

⁶⁵ C.B. Purdom, *The building...*, op. cit., p. 458.

⁶⁶ E. May, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten*, in: Stb, 19 (1922), issue 5/6, pp. 51-55; Idem, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten*, in: SH, 3(1922), issue 11, pp. 269-273.

⁶⁷ E. May, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten...*, op. cit.

wards a perfect objective in the social, economic and artistic aspect. Within this planned organism, relaxation might solve all the problems resulting from overburdening an urban centre that is too big and too crowded, transport difficulties included. Regarding this, the work constitutes an important contribution to the theoretical consideration of the problems of a metropolis⁶⁸. Also the report by the competition jury contained a favourable opinion: „Particularly interesting is the mode of developing new areas, creating closed organisms - satellites, on the foundations of existing localities. The idea, as a novel way of solving the problems of a metropolis, is worthy of attention and has a specific charm in the consistency of the project's elaboration⁶⁹.”

May's design, although it did not win a prize, became famous in Europe - as the first attempt to decentralize a big city by a system of satellites. Unwin himself used the competition entry to illustrate a lecture on the principles of developing a city by the method, presented in 1923 in Berlin⁷⁰. In the same year, May's design aroused much interest at the International Town-Planning Exhibition in Göteborg⁷¹.

In 1924, the Bureau for Urban Development used the competition entries to create a general plan for the development of Wrocław⁷². The construction of a plan that put down the infrastructure enabling the city to proceed with expanding its borders brought forth a reaction from district authorities. In March 1925 was published a „Memorial of the land district of Wrocław on the attachment of suburban communes to Wrocław⁷³” by district governor Bachmann and architect May, representing the district's interest as the director of Schlesische Heimstätte. In the memorial, May presented a regional plan for Wrocław with satellites located at 30 kms from the city (pic. 30), even though the idea itself had been

already published three years earlier⁷⁴. This model of the city's development - in his conviction - gave the only opportunity for healthy living to its inhabitants. To support his aims, May cited the results of an international urban planning competition in Amsterdam (1924), where decentralization with the use of satellites was held to be a recommended method for the development of big cities, preventing them from spreading over into giant conglomerations⁷⁵. May's concept was received in Amsterdam as a good answer to one of the Congress's questions: „how to solve the problem of big cities, so they serve humans instead of enslaving them⁷⁶.”

May's concept was a singular continuation of Berg's decentralization ideas from 1911, according to which, communes located closer should be incorporated into Wrocław, and those farther out, such as Sobótka, Oborniki or Trzebnica - bought out by Wrocław or purposefully attached to the city, but with the difference that May favoured restrictions on the growth of Wrocław as well as its satellites⁷⁷. He saw the future satellites of Wrocław in places such as Oborniki, Trzebnica, Brzeg Dolny, Leśnica, Kąty, Sobótka, Oława (Obornigk, Trebnitz, Dyhenfurth, D. Lissa, Canth, Zobten, Ohlau), etc.

Satellites in the region, of constant size and population of up to 100 thousand, would have considerable independence, grounded on a fundamental administrative, economic and cultural infrastructure, own industry as well as a food-producing and recreational zone. Wrocław, offering services at a higher level, was within reach by good railway and bus connections. The green outskirts would give Wrocław inhabitants open leisure areas outside the city „gates”, while the satellite residents would have forests or a green belt within 15 minutes of home⁷⁸. The problem of „greater Wrocław”, connected with

⁶⁸ F. Behrendt, *Der Wettbewerb...*, op. cit., p. 48.

⁶⁹ *Bericht über den Ideen-Wettbewerb zur Erlangung eines Bebauungsplanes der Stadt Breslau und ihrer Vororte*, Breslau 1922, p. 7.

⁷⁰ The lecture was presented on 31 May 1923, at the invitation of H. Muthesius and P. Behrens, in a „full to the rim” lecture hall of the Museum of Artistic Craftsmanship and„Unwin's arguments, supported with magnificent photographs, met with great appreciation of the audience”; SH, 4 (1923), issue 6, pp. 138-139.

⁷¹ E. May, *Die internationale Städtebauausstellung in Gotenberg*; in: SH, 4 (1923), issue 8/9, p. 187.

⁷² W. Kononowicz, *Pierwszy plan generalny Wrocławia...*, (First general plan of Wrocław), op. cit.

⁷³ Bachmann, E. May, *Denkschrift des Landkreises Breslau zur Frage der Eingemeindung von Vorortgemeinden in die Stadt Breslau*, Breslau, 1925.

⁷⁴ E. May, *Stadterweiterung Mittels Trabanten*, in: Stb, op. cit., and in: SH, op. cit.

⁷⁵ Bachmann, E. May, *Denkschrift...*, op. cit., p. 16; O. Berger, *Internationaler Städtebaukongreß Amsterdam vom 2-9 Juli 1924*, „Ostdeutsche Bauzeitung” (hereon OBZ), 1924, No. 33, pp. 234-236.

⁷⁶ E. May, *Die internationale Städtebautagung in Amsterdam*; in: SH, 5 (1924), issue 7, p. 208.

⁷⁷ M. Berg, *Die Besiedlung des Zobten unter Erhaltung seiner landschaftlichen Schönheit*, Schlesien, 5(1911-1912), p. 497 et al., W. Kononowicz, *Wrocław. Kierunki...*, op. cit., p. 21.

⁷⁸ W. Kononowicz, *Wrocław. Kierunki...*, op. cit., pp. 45, 145; „Breslauer Neueste Nachrichten”, No. 319.

the region, was tackled by May with involvement in daily and specialist press, criticising the concept then put forward by Rading of a city developed along industrial-settlement strips. The sharp polemics between the two brought out their significant differences in opinion on urban development⁷⁹.

The reaction of the City to the district's memorial and May's press articles, was a Memorial published by the municipal council⁸⁰, authors of which Martin Fuchs and Fritz Behrendt strongly criticised the publication of the district authorities, proving the legitimacy of the method adopted by the City to develop Wrocław by territorial expansion. It was pointed out that May's conception omitted a number of existing suburbs, dooming them for the sake of a green belt around the city. May was accused of using fashionable theories to help preserve communes attached to the district, for financial reasons.

The Urban Planning Commission of the Association of German Architects (BDA) judged May's concept of satellites impossible to implement for administrative and technical reasons⁸¹. May, abandoned in his struggle and disappointed over the lack of understanding, took advantage of an invitation from the authorities of Frankfurt a/Main and that same year left Wrocław, to assume the position of municipal construction adviser in his home city and

begin a new chapter of his life, eventually crowned with success - building a new Frankfurt.

May's Wrocław experiences as an architect and urban planner were an important and fruitful stage on his path towards New Construction. It was an unfaltering direction confirmed by such practices as a decided preference for the social aspect in housing construction, application of typified construction elements, also whole homes and furniture, a striving for rational and cost-cutting solutions among others anticipating the „Frankfurt kitchen”, experiences with „minimum dwellings”, as well as an introduction to flat roofs. The new matter-of-factness also found its expression in town planning scale. Estates were arranged according to a rationalized „paralinear” plan, that was a link between Unwin's picturesque compositions and the rational „linear” designs that fulfilled the postulates of new housing on „air, sun and nature”. An important achievement of his, confirming May's contribution to modern urban planning, were the designs for decentralizing Wrocław with the use of satellites, on a scale of city as well as region. May's experiences gathered in Wrocław, applied in the process of building New Frankfurt, supported on his greater organizational potential as the Stadtbaurat, contributed to his spectacular success, reached within a short time.

Translation by E. Krajewska

⁷⁹ A. Rading, *Die Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft Breslau – Niederschlesien. Ein Beispiel Künftigen Stadtbildung*, in: SH, 5(1924), z.5, s. 149-154; F. Behrendt, A. Rading and others, *Bebauungsplan Gross-Breslau*, OBZ, 23(1925), no 2, p.13.

⁸⁰ M. Fuchs, F. Behrendt, *Die Stadt Breslau und die Eingemeindung ihres Erweiterungs Gebietes. Denkschrift des Magistrats*, Breslau 1925.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, p. 64.