

Baltic Towers – Contribution to the City and the Community

Seminar of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning

2nd – 4th April 2009

INVITATION

The Commission on Urban Planning of UBC and the City of Gdansk warmly welcome you to the seminar being held in Gdansk, Poland from 2nd to 4th of April 2009.

The seminar is organised and hosted by the Gdansk Development Agency – a local government institution responsible for the city's planning policy. The work of this Agency includes preparing master and local plans plus various urban studies: demographical, environmental and others.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

With the changing world and environmental constraints the crucial “burning question” for many cities is how to accommodate future growth and avoid further urban sprawl. One option is efficient and dense development and redevelopment in the inner city. Strategic locations of purpose built high-rise buildings may be the solution, but it evokes many difficult questions about creation or the transformation of the cities identity and landscape. Not forgetting the influences on heritage, environment, transportation and technical infrastructure requirements.

Despite all mentioned issues during our seminar we would like to focus on social and urban aspects of tall building location. We will try to find out:

- How well do the high-rise buildings contribute to the diversity and mix-use urban development?
- Can they contribute to the creation of viable places and sustainable communities?
- What does the community require and expect from high-rise projects in the city core, especially when public space is concerned?

The UBC seminar, as a platform of professional experiences exchange will consist of lectures, “good practice” examples, questionnaire findings and workshops; organized in two different subject groups (they can further be divided to two additional groups).

Every participant is kindly requested to devote his/her time to fill in the questionnaire about the local high-rise policy. Those findings along with various international examples and the participants own personal experiences will form the basis for group work during the seminar.

SEMINAR'S AGENDA

The program may be subject to some minor changes due to lecturers' schedule. You will receive a final version of the full seminar agenda between the 2nd and 3rd week of March 2009.

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Wednesday, 1st April

Hotel Wolne Miasto

19:00 Informal “get-together” at Hotel Wolne Miasto

Thursday, 2nd April

City Council Hall

8:30 **Registration**
9:00 Welcome speeches
9:20 Comments on City Towers questionnaire findings – Marta Jaskulska, Gdansk Development Agency
9:40 **Lecture:** Gdansk policy for City Towers location (SLOW) - deputy mayor Wieslaw Bielawski
10:00 Coffee break
10:15 **Lecture:** System of Polish spatial planning – law regulations and land ownership, Adam Rodziewicz, Gdansk Development Agency
10:30 **Lecture:** Wrzeszcz quarter – the role and location in the city structure - Maria Magdalena Koprowska, Gdansk Development Agency
11:00 **Lecture:** Quality and function of public spaces in Wrzeszcz from a community perspective
11:30 **Lecture:** Public and green spaces in the City Towers context – prof. Krystyna Pawłowska, Cracow University of Technology
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Sightseeing in Gdansk-Wrzeszcz, an excursion to the workshop site
14:30 Coffee break and forming groups
15:00 **Lecture:** Impact of high – rise development on the city structure – dr Piotr Lorens, Gdansk University of Technology
City Towers examples - participants presentations: Malmo, Rotterdam, Riga – Mara Liepa - Zemesa, Gdynia – Marek Karzynski, Vilnus, Aarhus – Niels – Peter Mohr, others –15 min. presentations + coffee break
15:30- 17:30
19:00 Formal dinner hosted by Mayor – Pawel Adamowicz

Friday, 3rd April

Hotel Wolne Miasto or Hotel Aureus

9:00 Group work
12:30 Lunch
13:30 **Presentation** of PriceWaterhouseCoopers & Hamburg Institute of International Economics: Baltic cities – potency for development based on creativity
14:30 City walk in the Old Town
15:30 - 18:00 Group work
19:00 Informal dinner in an interesting place

Saturday, 4th April

Hotel Wolne Miasto

9:00 – 10:00 Finishing presentations
10:00 – 11:15 Workshop presentations
11:15 Coffee break
11:30 Short presentation about the next seminar
11:45 – 12:00 Closing the seminar
12:15 Lunch (on your own)

If you want to catch flight at 14:10 you should leave at 12:00!

WORKSHOPS

Please inform us in the registration form as to which of the following groups you prefer to participate in. It is preferable, for sharing your experiences as well as possible, if participants from the same city take part in different workshops. The place of interest will be the central part of Wrzeszcz quarter - a commercial sub-center of city of Gdansk. This part of Gdansk may be a subject to vital urban transformation.

Group 1 Acceptable and desirable tall buildings location

- in what way can they strengthen the central role of Wrzeszcz,
- where are the crucial points of location (if there are),
- evaluation of existing developers proposals.

Group 2 Vital public spaces inspired by tall buildings location

- composition,
- accessibility,
- endowment,
- linkage to the city structure.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT GDANSK

Location

Gdansk is located in northern Poland. The city lies on the southern edge of Gdansk Bay (of the Baltic Sea) and Motlawa River, in a conurbation with the spa town of Sopot, the city of Gdynia and suburban communities. Together they form a metropolitan area called the Tricity (Trojmiasto), with a population around 1 200 000. Gdansk itself is the largest city in the Pomerania region.

Population

Gdansk's population is rather steady – 455 700 (2007).

History

A thousand years of history and a beautiful scenery linked with bright lights, lively clubs, galleries, concerts – that is not all that makes the unforgettable atmosphere of Gdansk, the city of Fahrenheit, Uphagen, Hevelius or Schopenhauer.

The first written mention of Gdansk comes from 997 when St. Wojciech (Adalbert), a missionary and bishop of Bohemia, arrived in the area.

The dynamic development of Gdansk started in the second half of the 10th century. The excellent location together with trade, fishery and craft guilds soon pushed the city to the leading position in Pomerania and Hansa.

During Partitions of Poland (1795-1918) Gdansk was under regime of Prussian state. In June 1919, under the Versailles Treaty, Gdansk became a Free City supervised by the League of Nations represented by its High Commissioners.

On 1st September 1939 the armoured ship, Schleswig-Holstein, began shelling the Polish military post on Westerplatte. This was the breakout of the World War II. The war left Gdansk completely ruined.

During the post-war times Gdansk was rebuilt and became an important seaport and a centre of shipping and chemical industry. Gdansk also became a scene of dramatic historical transformation - it is the place where the free trade unions "Solidarity" were born. Gdansk is the city of Lech Walesa - the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and President of the Republic of Poland (1990-1995). This made Gdansk a symbol of Polish road to Freedom.

Nowadays, Gdansk is a fast transforming city. It is no longer an industrial area – services and tourism play the major role today. Gdansk is also an important cultural and sport place – thus it has been chosen to host The UEFA European Football Championship in 2012 and is a candidate for European Capital of Culture title in 2016.

Gdansk in the year 2009 will celebrate two important anniversaries. In June it will be 20 years since Poland started the peaceful political and social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. One of the next phases of this process was the pulling down the Berliner Wall. In September, in Gdansk Westerplatte, Poland will commemorate the 70th anniversary of World War II outbreak.

Weather

The average temperature in April in Gdansk is 6° C but may vary from 3° C to 14° C. The weather in Gdansk at the beginning of April may change rapidly, so it is better to be prepared for windy and rainy weather and significant differences from day to day.

Currency

Polish national currency is 1 zloty.

1 zloty = 100 groszy

1 zloty ~ 0,25 euro, 1 euro ~ 4 zl

Credit cards are accepted in most places and cash dispensers are widely available. In some places payment in euro is accepted. It is common to leave 5-10% tip at bar or restaurant.

Borders

Poland is a member of EU. No visas are required for nationals from any UBC member countries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GDANSK VISIT www.gdansk.pl.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SEMINAR

Transport

It is possible to reach Gdansk by plane, ferry, train, bus or car.

Airport

Airport is about 15 km away from the city centre and places where seminar will be held. From the airport to the city centre you can travel by taxi or bus (line B).

Taxi costs about 50 zł, may be paid in euro. We recommend you to pick a taxi from City Plus Taxi (phone number 9686).

Bus costs 3 zł, tickets may be bought from bus drivers. You have to get off at Brama Wyzynna bus stop. Bus timetable is available at www.ztm.gda.pl.

Ferry port

Ferry port is about 9 km far from the city centre and places where seminar will be held.

From the ferry port to the city centre you can go by taxi. The taxi costs in the region of 35 zł.

Stay

We recommend you to stay at one of the following hotels.

Hotel Wolne Miasto

2 Sw. Ducha Street

www.hotelwm.pl

reservation: mail rezerwacja@hotelwm.pl

phone + 48 58 322 24 42, fax + 48 58 322 24 47

Single room – 80 euro per person per night

Double room – 60 euro per person per night

Price includes breakfast.

Hotel Wolne Miasto is 250 meters far from City Council Hall and 750 meters far from Hotel Aureus.

Hotel Aureus

3 Sieroca Street

www.hotelaureus.pl

reservation: mail aureusgdansk@fortenhoteles.pl

phone +48 58 326 07 50, fax + 48 58 326 07 51

Single room – 80 euro per night

Double room – 94 euro per night

Double room superior – 124 euro per night

Executive suite – 154 euro per night

Price includes breakfast.

Hotel Aureus is 900 meters far from City Council Hall and 750 meters far from Hotel Wolne Miasto.

Please note you need to book a room on your own. The number of rooms in these hotels is limited so the “early birds” are welcome. Hotel reservations at those special prices will be waiting for you until 1st March 2009 – when booking please use **entry password : UBC seminar**.

If you decide to book your room later, you will be charged regular prices.

Seminar Meetings

City Council Hall, 1 Waly Jagiellonskie Street

During the inter-war years, according to the terms of the Versailles Treaty, Gdansk became the Free City of Danzig, an independent quasi-state under the auspices of the League of Nations. At that time Gdansk had its own constitution, national anthem, parliament and government and this building was a residence of the League of Nations' High Commissioner. After the World War II there was a famous students club ZAK situated in this building. Nowadays, it is a residence of City Council Hall.

Hotel Wolne Miasto, 2 Sw. Duchy Street

Hotel Wolne Miasto (eng Free City), which name and decor refers to times of Free City of Danzig, is situated in the city centre. The reception holds replica renaissance furniture which was reconstructed on pieces of the museum's collection.

Hotel Aureus, 3 Sieroca Street

Hotel Aureus is a newly opened hotel venue near centre of Gdansk Old Town. Hotel comprises of newly renovated premises in 19th century tenement houses.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you need more information, please contact Ms Maria Magdalena Koprowska, +48 58 308 44 97 or Ms Marta Jaskulska, +48 58 308 44 11, ubc.seminar@brg.gda.pl.