

Subject: Review of the doctoral thesis developed by M.Sc. Eng. Arch. Jakub Bródka, entitled '*Late-modern architecture of single-family houses from 1945-1989 in Poland: research and perspectives for protection on the example of selected objects from the area of Silesian Voivodeship*'

The doctoral thesis developed by M.Sc. Eng. Arch. Jakub Bródka, entitled "*Late-modern architecture of single-family houses from 1945-1989 in Poland: research and perspectives for protection on the example of selected objects from the area of Silesian Voivodeship*" is of particular scientific relevance and originality because the topic of interest, that of 20th century heritage preservation, is addressed with reference to a particular architectural type and a specific geographical and historical context not yet sufficiently investigated.

The undoubted and greatest merit of the thesis is, in fact, to identify, and consequently to fill, a knowledge gap about single-family houses from 1945-1989 in Silesian Voivodeship, Poland, producing a rich and well-structured knowledge base and critical analysis, which represent the indispensable foundation for the implementation of strategies for their preventive and planned conservation.

The doctoral thesis, moreover, is characterized by a solid methodology and scientific rigor, which can be seen in the conception of its structure and the articulation of its contents. The topic is correctly introduced by a rich state of the art regarding 20th century single family houses in the international and national context. Equally well laid out is the analysis of literature review regarding 20th century heritage preservation.

Identification, mapping and historical analysis is a complex operation for any type of cultural asset but, for the type of assets covered by this study, it raises specific issues, which have been well identified and clearly described by the author.

The not only theoretical analysis but also highly practical purpose of the thesis is evident in the definition by the author of an ad hoc descriptive chart for the implementation of a catalogue, which, once implemented, will be a valuable tool in the hands of the subjects responsible for the management of these sites. Moreover, a very good output is identified by the author, namely, a set of accessible user-friendly guidelines for maintenance and conservation, conceived for the homeowners in order to support them in informed decisions making that align with internationally shared preservation principles.

Furthermore, in addition to the future research developments identified by the author – specifically, comparative studies beyond the regional boundaries in Poland, as well as across post-Soviet countries, which may lead to insightful new discussions - the doctoral thesis also suggests a number of possible further insights with regard to: 1. materials and construction technologies; 2. structural features; 3. landscape and garden design.

In conclusion, the dissertation of M.Sc. arch. Jakub Bródka entitled: “Architecture of modernist single-family houses in 1945-1989 in the Silesian Voivodeship: Polish heritage in the context of European architecture of the second half of the 20th century” prepared under the supervision of Prof. arch. Magdalena Żmudzińska-Nowak, Silesian University of Technology, and Prof. ing. Marco Giorgio Bevilacqua, University of Pisa, meets the conditions and recognized standards of quality dissertations and may be the subject to further proceedings on the way to the granting of the degree of Doctor of Technical Sciences.

Milano, 31 March 2025



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