

Abstract

The research topic focuses on the field of the history of Polish architecture in the second half of the 20th century. The subject of this dissertation is private single-family houses designed on individual commission during the era of the Polish People's Republic (1945–1989). The lack of prior studies on the subject, coupled with a demonstrated gap in the current state of knowledge, has been identified as the research problem addressed in this work.

In popular perception, Polish single-family houses built between 1945 and 1989 are most often associated with the so-called "Polish cube" houses—structures based on repetitive and unoriginal standard designs. Preliminary research, however, revealed that the development of single-family housing during this period followed a dual path. Alongside the typical houses, highly modern private single-family homes were being designed and constructed in accordance with global design trends. These houses were commissioned and built for clients such as academics, doctors, engineers, and managers of state enterprises.

The aerial scope of the research encompasses the Silesian Voivodeship, with a particular focus on urban centers of regional administration, industry, and academia located within the Upper Silesian conurbation, as well as recreational and spa centers in the Silesian Beskid Mountains. The theoretical research analyzed the conditions and factors influencing the development of single-family house architecture in the 20th century globally. Subsequently, the study examined the working conditions of architects in the second half of the 20th century in Poland, with particular emphasis on the regional community of architects. Additionally, the factors driving the phenomenon of single-family house construction during the Polish People's Republic (PRL) were identified. Field research involved the examination of nearly one hundred buildings constructed within the Silesian Voivodeship. A selection of representative examples of single-family houses formed the basis for typological analyses, focusing on aspects such as spatial layouts, floor plan configurations, materials used, and interior design solutions.

The collected data also facilitated an analysis of the preservation state of the studied group of buildings, the identification of factors contributing to their deterioration, and the formulation of conclusions leading to general guidelines for the protection of this architectural heritage from the second half of the 20th century.