



## The principles of the program regarding a concept of urban-architecture of Roman-Catholic church in the area of the district of “Europejska Stolica Kultury Nowe Żerniki” in Wrocław

### 1. The church – architecture, elements and the interior equipment

The church can be designed on a rectangular or square, with a transept, or without it, in a form of the Latin Cross or Greek cross, of a hall or basilica type (with defined main axis), on vertical or central plan (circle, square, multi-axes) as well as irregular or non-symmetrical projection.

#### **The architecture of the church should be adequate for mass service (in the past, the style of the church’s architecture was regulated by liturgical norms).**

In the vertical projection of the church’s project, a space for people who attend the mass should be made – a nave with a presbytery, which should draw the attention of believers (it is the centre of the mass). The nave must be close to the presbytery and should be designed in away, which will allow the believers to focus their sight on the presbytery. While designing the nave, one should keep in mind that it has to create an atmosphere stating that the church is a serious but also a calm place. The design should also include a place for a prayer in private that is “less attractive than the presbytery”. It is important to also take the lighting, both natural and artificial into the account, along with the acoustics.

The size of the nave in the church is determined by the number of believers in the church’s area, who attend masses and the number of the masses. Provided that around 7 500 people will live in the area and 1/3 of this number will attend the mass on Sundays and that there will be 4 masses on each Sunday, the number of places where people can sit (comfort of current times) should be equal to 600 (at most). 600 seats, provided that 2 people take space of 1m<sup>2</sup> gives us nave surface of 300 m<sup>2</sup>. The space for free movement should be added to the nave surface area, which will allow both entering and exiting the church in the right moment (required by law). They also allow the believers to attend the holy communion (around 50% will attend it). The size of the presbytery (depending on the church’s size) should be equal to ¼ or 1/3 of the surface of the nave. While designing the presbytery part, the distance between the presbytery’s wall and the altar and the communion step. This distance should include the space for the priest, in which we can move.

#### **The nave design should include:**

- A. Space for benches with seats for the believers and aisles,
- B. A cycle of Stations of the Cross (14 stations in a painted or carved form – an iconographic minimum is 14 crosses, one for each station) with the option of procession,
- C. Space for 2 or 4 confessionals (one should be a “closed area” allowing full isolation from the church’s nave – with adequate techniques for isolating and ventilation),
- D. The organ gallery (preferably facing the presbytery) along with the instrument and organ loft with a place (amphitheater) for the choir. The size of the organ should you proportional

to the cubic capacity of the church and the acoustics of the church (they play a role in the liturgy). Organ is to serve as an element of aesthetic of the church. Due to the necessity of placing the piece of equipment of the church (instrument organ - organ) within the organ gallery, should be limited in the project to the window size for organ prospect or removed from the design project (organs cannot be illuminated and heated by sunlight).

- E. Inside chapels – baptismal chapel from the proper arrangement of wall decoration (regarding baptism) and the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament with an independent entrance and the option of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the whole day (caution: the chapel projects are optional).

In addition, the design should include:

- church vestibule leading (through the main entrance to the church) to the interior of the church with the inner door separating the nave from the entrance. The vestibule should isolate the interior of the church from the cold and heat and allow (for security reasons and in the absence of a separate chapel of the Blessed Sacrament), adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and individual visits in the church.
- The place for the nativity scene and the Holy Sculpture, since they are a periodic element of the equipment of the church.

The presbytery should include:

(caution: the decoration of the nave should expose the church's architecture, not the ornaments or statues).

- A. The main altar should be exposed as the most important place in the church (exposition by illumination) and it should be placed in the presbytery area in a way that it has space around it for concelebrants, who can use incense. The altar's form and texture should stand out in the church. In history, altars took on the shape of a sarcophagus (tomb of the martyr) a table or a sacrificial stone (the dimensions of the altar should be in the range: 95 - 100 cm high., 80 - 120 cm width., 140 - 300 cm length.). The width and length of the mensa of the altar is conditioned by the size and dimensions of the sanctuary. Mensa should be designed on a rectangle or a square, and in exceptional cases, oval or circle. Altar may be made of stone, brick, wood or reinforced concrete, or from other suitable materials. Formally, it should correspond with the furnishings and decoration of the church (or in a monumental or sculptural form).
- B. The pulpit, candlesticks and a place for flowers (interior fittings, ie. the pulpit and candlesticks, must be designed in the same style as the altar). The pulpit as the place to proclaim the "Word of God" must be separated in composition from the altar, so that you can work around the altar in a procession "of incense," at the same time it must be designed in a style and form (including material) of the altar. The pulpit should be extended (in relation to the altar) towards the nave of the church (believers) and resting at the altar level. It cannot obstruct the view of the altar or the tabernacle.
- C. The tabernacle - the place of the Blessed Sacrament (unless there is a separate chapel); The tabernacle may have different form and shape (depending on the needs and decor of the church), but it must be an armoured and a safe "box". The tabernacle is usually situated on the main axis of the church, in the wall of the presbytery (properly secured and protected from profanation). The tabernacle has a shelf, which should be mounted

at a height which allows to comfortably place the box (in the front), 2 candles, and (possibly) floral decoration. The axial arrangement of the church tabernacle should be located on the main axis of the temple, behind the altar, on the platform (a few degrees), along with a platform allowing its adoration. In the asymmetrical churches and multi axes churches, the tabernacle may be placed on one of the axis of the church (not on the main axis); then, behind the altar there is usually a place of presiding "the liturgical assembly" - the so-called Sedilia. The tabernacle should be placed so that it is visible to the believers, it should also be highlighted by appropriate decoration and lighting (there must always be a red light near it). The design of the tabernacle should take into account the possibility of issuing a monstrance above it - for adoration and worship (this may be in a form of the throne or other arrangement).

- D. Sedilia - location of the presiding "the liturgical assembly" (Sedilia is chair - a chair of the chairman of the liturgy and chairs, stools or benches - for the concelebrants or assists). They should be designed so that the celebrant is visible (a little further from the altar and the panel). Before the chair of the celebrant, there should be a portable or a permanent desktop. If the tabernacle is in a separate chapel or on one of the axis of the multi-axis church, and Sedilias are located on the main axis of the church, it should be elevated a few degrees above the floor of the presbytery, so that the altar does not make the celebrant less visible. The Sedilias can be made out of any material, but it must take into account their function, and formally correspond with the decor and furnishings of the presbytery.
- E. The place for the baptismal bowl (unless the design does not include a separate baptismal chapel). The baptismal bowl can be made of any material – stone, reinforced concrete, metal or wood – with a metal bowl for water. The form is free to choose, however it should correspond to the furnishing and décor of the church. A place for the paschal candlestick should be made.

The presbytery can be designed with apse like, polygonal or curvilinear closure. It can also be closed with a wall. The wall decoration of the presbytery can be either in the form of paintings or sculpting. Inside the presbytery, near the main altar, the cross should be placed (on the wall or near the altar) which should be highlighted. The decoration on the presbytery's walls should also complement the tabernacle (if it is placed on the main axis of the church). The walls of the presbytery can contain windows filled with stained glass decorations, which should refer the name of the church – ornamental or abstract.

## 2. Interior and outside lighting.

The interior of the church should be illuminated by: natural lighting (windows – including the windows with stained glass) and artificial (electrical illumination). The lighting, apart from its basic function (proper illumination of the interior), should also have an aesthetic and compositional function (lighting illumination emphasizing the sacred character and the unique atmosphere of the interior). Depending on the function, the lighting can be divided into:

- Basic – the one needed for the preparation of the mass
- Illuminative – emphasizing the architecture of the interior, altar etc.
- Occasional – used for the nativity scene and the Tomb
- Night – inside the church – eternal light (constant light)

- Night – outside the church for security reasons
  - Local, this is the lighting of selected elements of the decor and fittings, ie the altar, the pulpit, the confessionals etc.
  - Decorative – having only the aesthetic form, mainly due to the form of the lighting frames
  - External - exposing the architecture of the church, illuminating the area around the church, etc.
3. Sound inside the church

Acoustics is an important element in the designing of the church. This includes many factors: construction of the object and the architectural detail, the types of materials used, the type of plaster, equipment and interior design, and even the type of windows. To ensure adequate audibility in the church, the sound system should be designed in a way, which is functional and aesthetic.

#### 4. Sacristy

The sacristy is a place of immediate preparation for the celebration of the liturgy. Its location in the design and its architectural layout depends on the needs and size of the church. The sacristy should be located near the presbytery. Two sacristies should be incorporated in the design. One should be for the priests and the other for the altar boys. The sacristy for the priests should have (given the size of the parish, size of the church and the number of priests) from 20 to 30m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the room should be equipped with cabinets for liturgical clothes and a cupboard (furniture for church vessels). The sacristy for the altar boys should have the surface area of 30 to 40 m<sup>2</sup>. It should be connected to the priests' sacristy and should be equipped with furniture suitable for keeping liturgical clothes. Both sacristies should be connected to bathrooms (available also to the believers)

#### 5. The bell tower

The design of the church should include a church tower which functions as a bell tower. Its location is free to choose (it should be connected to the church – in oriented churches, in the western facade or freestanding). Besides its bell tower role, it should be prominent in the landscape (especially in low-rise housing estates) and topped with a cross. In larger towers (connected to the church) a part of the organ mechanism, appliances, occasional decorations and stairs to the matroneum. The project should include 1- 3 (or more) church bells (also in the construction project), with the mass of 50 to 1500 kg.

#### 6. Utility room and heating

The design of the church should include utility rooms for tools (boiler room, “fuel” storage, plumbing and electrical wires, workshop for maintenance workers, technical equipment, storage and a place for special installations).

#### 7. Processional way around the church

The processional way around the church should be included in the design. It should start and end at the entrance doors, which should be 3 /4 m wide.

#### 8. Parking spaces

There should be a car park for those, who come to attend the mass. With around 7500 believers in the area, the car park should have space for 30 cars.

## 9. Facilities around the church: program for usage of the buildings around the church.

The program associated with the building of the church buildings should take into account the basic needs of daily life of the church. The buildings include, among others: a vicarage and rooms for regular meetings of church groups.

The vicarage is a place where the priest live and work. It should be a welcoming place, where one feels welcome and can feel comfortable while working and resting. Aesthetically it should follow the church. It should be built no further than 100 m from the sacristy (see paragraph 4 – functional program of the church building). The vicarage should have a direct connection to the access road and a separate entrance to the church office.

### Vicarage program

#### A. Public areas:

- The church office with archives (separate room with a surface of 10 to 15 m<sup>2</sup> ),
- Waiting room ( 50 m<sup>2</sup> - no archives area included),
- Restrooms (in the office area).

#### B. Private area:

- Private living space of the parish priest (3 rooms, kitchen and a restroom – 70m<sup>2</sup>)
- 2 flats for vicars – (2 rooms, kitchen and a restroom – 50m<sup>2</sup>)
- 2 guest rooms – one flat (room and a restroom - 20m<sup>2</sup>)
- Shared dining room – size that allows 30 people to sit at one table (the table should be able to hold full dinner and deserts) with a proper furniture set.
- Utility rooms (a washing room, a dryers room, a boiler room, a place to store coal, workshop, storage rooms, pipeline room etc).
- A flat for the maid (near the kitchen – a room and a restroom - 30m<sup>2</sup>).

In addition, there should be a garage for 4 cars in the building (or separated), provided that this design of the building is maintained.

The building with meeting rooms should be designed as a freestanding building, or incorporated in the vicarage. It should take different numbers of visitors into consideration, depending on the type of group that will meet there. The division of the rooms should include:

- 3 rooms – each for 15- 40 people; a variation which allows 100 people in one room can be used (making the rest of the rooms smaller).
- Library
- Bathroom/ bathrooms: number adjusted to number of possible visitors

The proposed solutions should take into consideration the neighbouring cultural centre and an educational complex ( possible cooperation, allowing adaptation of the mentioned rooms to meet the needs of the church's social life).

The proposed solutions should involve the option of enlargement of the vicarage and the building designated for meetings of the church groups, in case the area population grows ( creation of a new district).

