

A SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ENTITLED:

„The role of architecture in getting out of homelessness. Help for excluded people in Poland”

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The subject of the doctoral dissertation entitled „The role of architecture in getting out of homelessness. Help for excluded people in Poland” is to present issues related to homelessness in terms of lack of availability of appropriate housing for homeless people and to analysis of existing temporary and long-term housing dedicated for this social group. Research work also concerns social policy of European Union and Poland in order to improve housing exclusion through the systematic introduction of pro-social programs and strategies to combat poverty and exclusion. Such actions and common goal could have a real impact on improving the situation of homeless people and help overcome the homelessness crisis they have experienced.

This doctoral dissertation contains following issues: homelessness as a contemporary problem of society in Europe and EU, homelessness and exclusion, outline of history of helping poor and homeless people related to housing situation (XIX – XXI century), architecture for poor – social housing, contemporary housing dedicated for homeless in Poland and Europe, actual situation of homeless located in temporary housing in Masovia Province and Lower Silesia Province in Poland (selected examples), contemporary exemplary examples of architecture for living dedicated for homeless people – Europe and Poland, evolution of housing in term of users’s needs and location of building, efficiency of housing architecture in relations to the program of getting out of homelessness.

Main european program which is focusing on fighting against homelessness and housing exclusion is Housing First established in USA, implemented in UE in 1989. Lack of affordable, accessible and safe housing inclined finding proper program giving homeless people hope for future in having their own space to live. The right to decent housing is one of the most basic human rights ensuring human dignity. Access to housing is also a precondition for other fundamental rights. Long term homelessness expose people to illnesses, mental and social problems. Lack of family atmosphere, safe home and proper activities could lead to solitude and exclusion. Deepening a lack of self-acceptance.

This could create a space for discussion for architects and urban planners. Designing facilities for temporary and permanent housing should be based on a thorough analysis of needs of this social group and should take into account the knowledge of people providing this group with all sort of care. It might create design standards in a field of housing architecture for poor or homeless people.

The subject of this doctoral dissertation should contribute to:

1. Creating of pilot project on a appropriate housing availability program for homeless,
2. Undertaking legislative work on systemic solutions to help homeless people,
3. Creating research and student projects related to the best architectural designs for temporary and permanent housing.

Homeless is still serious and multifaceted problem for many societies in the world, also for european countries and for Poland. It needs quick reactions and dialogue. Therefore, there is a real need for a new forms of help which would provide a homeless person a real place to live and development.

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