

Living in the countryside – tradition vs. the contemporary

An interior design of rural buildings at a farm complex in the village of Działosze.

This PhD thesis explores the subject of living in the countryside and investigates the relationship between tradition and the contemporary. The goal of the research carried out for the purpose of this thesis is to convert the interior of rural buildings at a farm complex in the village of Działosze. The thesis is divided into two parts.

The first part of the thesis is a theoretical analysis of rural buildings, providing a basis for further research and design work in the field. The analysis shows village types in terms of urban planning, functionality and the impact of atmospheric conditions as well as landform on the form of traditional rural buildings. Moreover, the analysis focuses on indigenous and immigrant inhabitants, which serves to answer the question of who the contemporary village inhabitants are, what needs they have and how they impact the form of rural buildings. The theoretical part is also a detailed analysis of rural buildings in their original form, after the aesthetic transformation over the years as well as in their current condition. This part of the thesis discusses contemporary conversion designs in rural areas and the change in the building functionality that may indicate the direction into which rural buildings currently develop. Finally, the theoretical part analyses the relationship between traditional regional architecture and contemporary projects, which is an attempt to answer the questions of whether these two types of buildings can complement each other and whether there can be a symbiosis between them. This thesis approaches the rural landscape as a background to traditional and contemporary forms, their interaction and the relationships developing between them.

The second part of this PhD thesis is devoted to a conversion design of rural buildings in the village of Działosze. Subject to the conversion is a residential house dating back to the 19th century. First, a historical outline of the farm complex in Działosze is presented along with a description of an audience at which the design would be targeted, which also determines the desired functionality of the buildings. Next, the space surrounding the buildings is analysed. A study of the urban plan and the land development allows for creating a new development design. The study also involves an analysis of the impact of atmospheric conditions on the form of rural buildings in the area. The sun exposure of the buildings in question is thoroughly investigated and so is the relationship between the landscape and the existing as well as new architectural forms. This kind of research makes it possible to take the right decisions regarding the arrangement of the building functionalities, the lighting and the shading of the buildings. The existing functional building plan is also studied in relation to the new functionality arrangement. This allows for determining a contemporary functional plan of which the house in Działosze is an example. Finally, traditional as well as contemporary building materials and technologies are investigated in the thesis with regard to how they relate to one another and how they interact.

The purpose of this thesis is to identify the most efficient mechanisms and tools that can be useful in similar design projects to the house conversion in Działosze. The thesis is an attempt to indicate the direction into which rural buildings develop and, above all, to show the relationship between the new and the old, presenting the rural landscape as a key background to contemporary and traditional forms.