

THE DISTRICT

The Wilanów Fields (Pola Wilanowskie) is a large undeveloped area located on the south of Warsaw – large green island on the land cover map of the city, never developed before. Mostly, it's a natural wetland, the Vistula river old terrace.

As the new millennium, this situation slowly began to change. First started construction on the Fields (2000) was a giant Temple of Divine Providence, the culmination of architectural visions of Polish Catholicism since 1792. A little later the work was started on the realization of one of the greatest urbanist enterprises of the contemporary Poland. The New Wilanów District, coming into existence on the Wilanów Fields is to become a model town space of the 21st century, designed on the basis of the balanced development ideas.

The concept for the organization of the Town public space [...] is based on the understanding of the town environment in a coherent manner, which means that the cityscape is to constitute a natural and cultural whole. [...] Particular stress has been laid on the greenery. It occupies from 40 to 70 percent of the housing plots area. [...] The principle for the shaping of the buildings area in the Town is openness and, at the same time, a clear division between the public space of streets and the private space of housing quarters. [...] All the objects at the Wilanów Town will be distinct for the high level of architectural quality, corresponding to the best world's urbanist and architectural standards.

In the invested area of more than 190 hectares of a few dozen dwelling houses have already been built and new ones are still appearing. The target population of the district is estimated at several dozen thousands people.

Our aim is to make The Wilanów Town famous for its unflinching success and long-standing value. When designing the Town, we tried to do it in the timeless [...] manner.

Shall the high-flown vision become a reality? Observing the process of building development of The District one can already doubt the success of realization of a magnificent vision of a modern, green and functional housing estate. High density of the development and its character suggest a different scenario. The New Wilanów becomes a luxury apartment district with towering above all a monumental concrete temple.

Required melioration caused the change of natural water conditions resulting degradation of the natural environment of Fields. Wetland areas due to drainage are slowly drying. Suburban enclaves are transforming into a highly urbanized areas. The process of urban sprawl is inevitable, but the question is, what price...

If treat the development of the Wilanów Town as a kind of an urbanist experiment, this project constitutes the documentation of this experiment.

This my first serious photographic project. I started photographing the growth of The District in 2007 and I plan to continue this work in next years. I use large and medium format cameras. Every work is printed as a large (125 cm) OCE Lightjet laser print mounted on DiBond.

Jarosław Januszewski, 04.2011

The quotations come from the article „Miasteczko Wilanów – miasto w mieście. Plany a pierwsze efekty realizacji“ (“The Wilanów Town – town in a town. Plans and the first effect of their realisation”), Urbanista, 1/2006 (www.urbanista.pl)

Source: www.miasteczko-wilanow.pl