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Urban Archeology as a main factor of rebuilding the old city structure

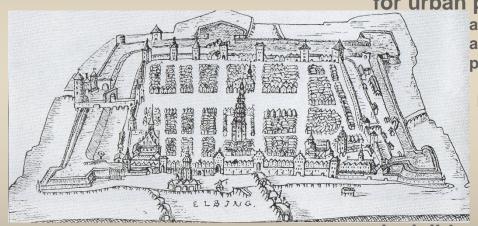
Archaeological discoveries are a challenge

for archaeologists - how to expose excavated relics; for architects - how to use the fragments of ruins

to compose a clear three-dimensional message for present and future generations;

for urban planners - how to integrate archaeological sites and excavated architectural relics into a modern city structure as to be essential elements identifying and distinguishing public spaces of the city.

In all of these cases, the most important element and function in the city landscape is the archaeological site



Sometimes, however, archaeological works are invisible,

although their importance to the contemporary structure of the city **is priceless**. This is the case with large-scale archaeological research for the reconstruction of cities that disappeared from the face of the world during World War II.

The presentation will focus on archaeological research and the method of reconstruction of the historical urban landscape of the medieval city of Elblag

Elblag (Elbing) is a medieval town founded by the Great Teutonic Master in 1246 on the law of Lubeck with broad privileges for trade;

The town was the first seat of the **Teutonic Order in Poland**, they founded a settlement and the castle, before the Oder moved to Malbork (Marienburg).

Elblag was the rich port-city of Hanza between the East and the West of Europe; by mid of the 14th century was an important competitor of Gdańsk.

In 1440 the town joined the Union of Prussian Towns, and after the peace of Toruń in 1466 became a part of the Polish state.

In 1772, after the first partition of Poland was annexed to Prussia.

In 1945 returned to Poland. The indigenous people left the town, new ones entered.



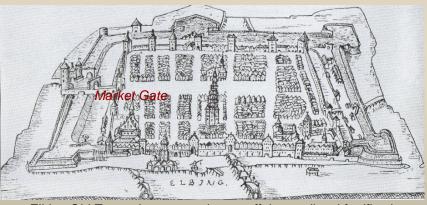
fragment of the map of Prussia, C. Hennenberger 1576 and the Elblag Territory 500 km2 of the town's property



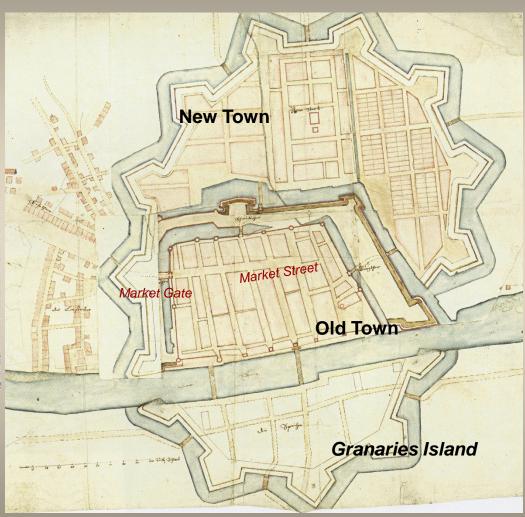
New fortifications built on the orders of Gustaw Adolf 1626-1643 acc. H. Thome's project covered the Old and New Town, the Granaries Island and the suburbs, by M. Merian 1626



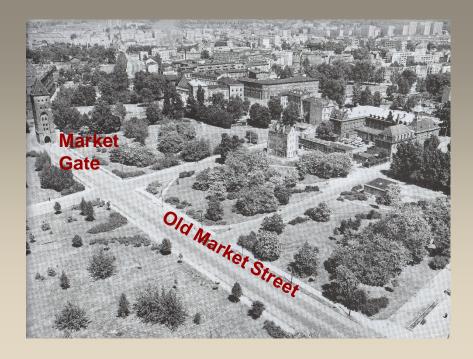
we will talk about the reconstruction of the Elblag Old Town

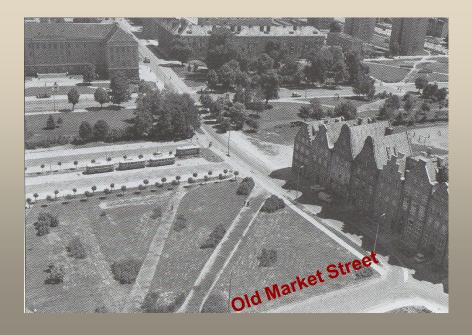


Elbląg Old Town, the western image off the medieval fortifications, by I. Hoppe, 1636



Elbląg, 1630 KrA:Sveriges, krig1:91, N. Ahlberg,Stadsgrundningea och planforandringar. Svensk stadsplanering 1521-1721, katalo**g s.152**





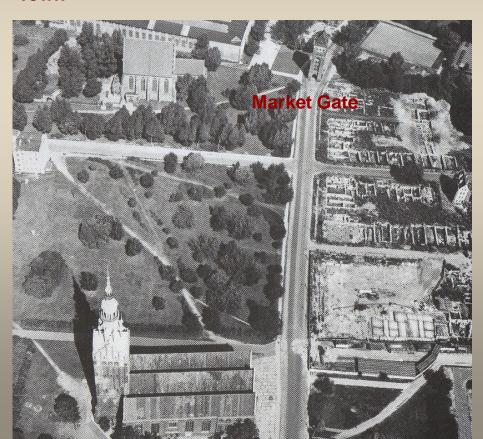
1945

As a result of World War II, the city was destroyed in 65%

Because the lack of money and also the will to rebuild it, the area of ruins of the Old Town was plowed and transformed into a park

- only the Market Gate **remained**, the parish church and several tenement houses

1980 – excavation works began in the Old Town



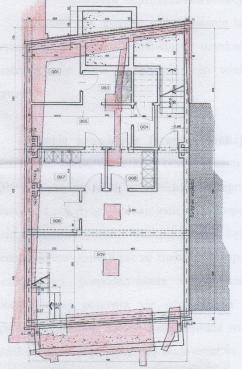
FLRTAO - STAKE MIASTO OBIEKTY ZABYTKOWE 1 BUDYNKI PRZEZNACZONE DO REKONSTR 2) 4) Monuments (red) Buildings under the reconstructon (mainly the dimensions and fasade) KAMPRICE DO REKONSTRUKCIL (ETAP PROJEKTOWY) Buildings possible reconstruction (full

The principles of reconstruction

all participants to the investment process have recognize the priority of conservation guidelines inscribed in the local spatial plan adopted in 1997 (restoraion of the function)

- reconstruction of the historical landscape in the main streets and Market Street (retrowersja = retro-version)
- 2) new houses on foundations archaeologically discovered
- form and function within one building (private property)
- 4) joint use of the interior of the urban block (co-ownership)

preservation of the scale of tenements and dominants





Ryc. 18 Mury fundamentowe kamien

- a newhouses on foundations marchaeologically discovered
- b. wykoszystany mur in situ

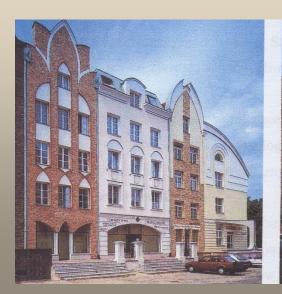


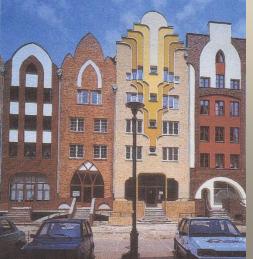
ELBLAG under the construction, 1998



-not exactly like historical research (inventory)

-creative in ideas for detail and composition of the fasades but in keeping with the spirit of the rich hanzeatic city-port -the language of contemporary architecture (postmodern architecture stile in use)

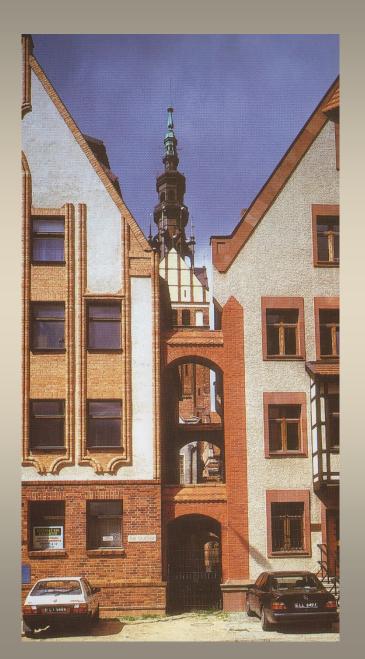




RETROWERSJA, RETRO-VERSION



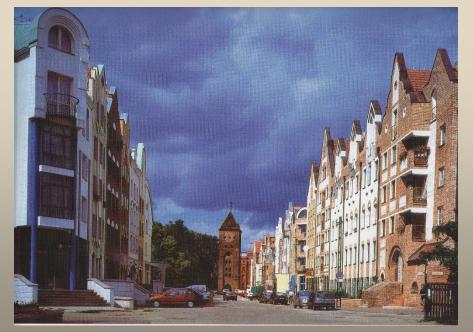




the authors of The Reconstruction Program of the Old Town in Elblag have created a new city on a medieval layout whose landscape of historical interiors never existed in the proposed form.

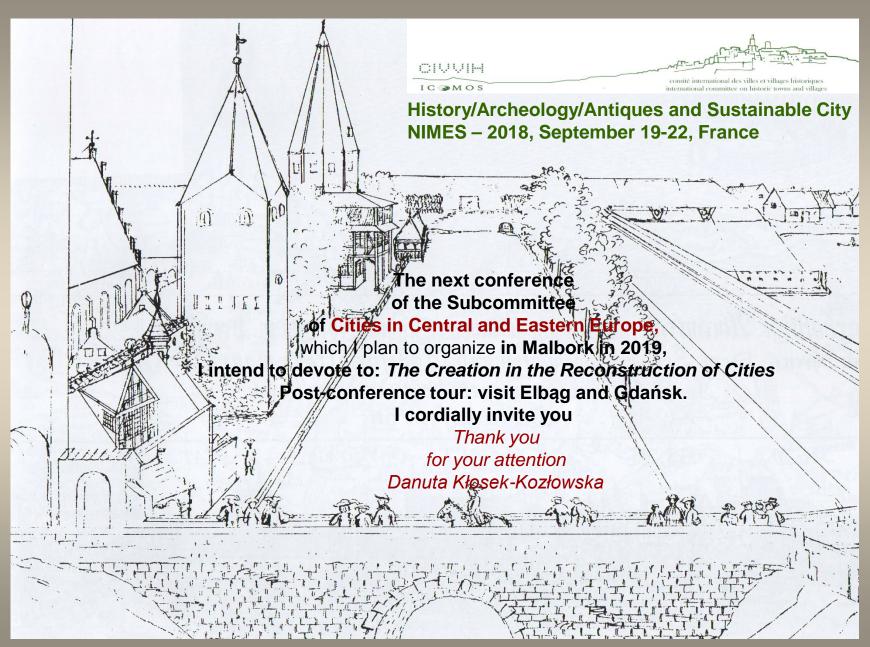
But the City is alive and the inhabitants are proud of it. The identity of the place has been restored, it is still historic.

Retrovesrion of the Markt Street - 1998



1910 - view of the Market Street





Elbląg, View of the city wall, bridge and moat and the main Gate, 1765