



**ПЛАТФОРМА 4. ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ РОЗВИТКУ ДИЗАЙНУ АРХІТЕКТУРНОГО  
СЕРЕДОВИЩА**

**UDK 72.04.03**

## **MURAL – A CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL**

KOZUB Waldemar  
Habilitation Doctor of arts  
Kielce University of Technology, Poland

*Modern cities architecture has become the basic street art medium, primarily regarding graffiti and mural. The themes and forms of murals, which are designed independently of architects, constitute visual interference in the architectural space of the city. Murals should be related both contextually and formally to the place in which they are created, so as to enrich the surrounding space in terms of esthetic and ideological values. The author is trying to illustrate the phenomenon painting of murals as contemporary architectural details on the example of selected architectural objects from Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Poznań and Kielce.*

**Key words:** mural, graffiti, architectural detail, wall painting, urban space.

### **INTRODUCTION**

An architectural detail is a fragment of a building that has an aesthetic and functional role. Modernist architecture of the previous century, based on industrial buildings, rejected exaggerated ornamentation and headed towards structural details.

The postmodern architecture restored commercial details in decorations. Due to this the architecture of modern cities gained a new detail and became a basic carrier of a mural painting. Wall painting in architecture derives from ancient cultures and has a rich tradition. Mexico is considered the cradle of the modern mural. In the 1920s and 1930s there were numerous artists who created wall paintings, so called muralist, together with



Diego Rivera recognized as the most eminent artist. Thanks to Mexican artists murals became popular all over the world.

Mural is a type of painting which name is derived from Spanish h. mural – wall (adjective) and means decorative and monumental wall painting, presented most often in the urban spaces on buildings and walls. Murals – monumental wall paintings – can be seen on buildings in many cities around the world. Themes of murals are very diverse; there can be artistic manifestations, mapping of famous easel paintings, comments on current or historical events, thematic realizations made in order of, for example, city authorities, communities of inhabitants. Creating a mural may also aim at improving the aesthetics of the object, creative expression, as well as advertising or product promotion.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Murals are often not only a purely aesthetic phenomenon, they become a social event influencing the lives of the inhabitants of a given city. They are often mistaken with graffiti, mainly because of using similar painting techniques and the painting basis which is a building or a wall. The theme and form of murals are created independently from the designers of the buildings and they are a visual interference in the architectural space of the city. Murals are often not connected with the building and architectural space thus they become strange objects „glued” to the building which is only a sub-picture for them.

The basic factors that should be taken into consideration during creation the mural are: the history of the place, its architectural and urban structure, present and future investments, aesthetic deficits of color, space, diversity, sense of belonging to the house, neighborhood, street, community of values.



**Fig. 1.** Illusive mural made on a flat wall of a tenement house in Poznań (Poland)



Murals should be created in places where these factors are in favor for them, where places and people need pictures and their influence. A properly prepared mural can make the architectural object and its surrounding more attractive. This type of painting cannot be created with force. It must be made with maximum diligence and artistic precision. First and foremost, however, it should be created in the right places of the city, so that the project would fit well in the architecture or the area in which it is to exist. Murals are increasingly emphasizing their presence in the urban space of cities, aspiring to the works of contemporary art. Due to their location they popularize painting art, and the creators of these paintings have a huge group of recipients.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Mural paintings dedicated to specific architectural objects, realized with respect to local, social and historical contexts, saturate the urban space with ideological and symbolic contents appropriate for the art. A mural can give a new life to the buildings, architectural space, public space of the city and become a new, important detail of the architectural object. It can positively affect the psychological comfort of a man. The mural creates a new type of architectural detail modifying already-existing objects by imposing an artist's vision on it. Murals-details re-attach attention to the buildings, give them new meaning, new life, new completion, new impact on the imagination of the audience.

Murals appear more and more often as not only a new additional element of the building but also as new architecture. Recently, a mural has become a qualitatively new, dynamically changing architectural detail.