

BIENNALE KEYNOTE:

Professor Jan Gehl, a world recognised expert in making the urban spaces more human-friendly, strongly believes that improvement of overall quality of life in the cities is derived from the appearance of their public spaces. For it is in the public spaces that people actually do meet up "to exchange ideas, trade or simply relax. The public area of the city – streets, squares and parks – is both a stage and a catalyst for these activities".

For decades a humanistic dimension in the process of developing cities has been missed out, forgotten, and altogether dismissed. Cars have invaded the cities in huge numbers effectively limiting living space for the residents, i.e. the space indispensable for the residents and visitors alike for actively participating in urban life. Despite numerous adversities, urban development continues to take place. A number of inspiring ideas have appeared that actually envisage moving away from the Modernist concept of urban development, frequently drawing upon the Aristotelian inspiration in their own vision of the new Classicism.

What the city of Kraków actually needs for shaping up its immediate future consists in granting due recognition to its unique history and rich architectural heritage.

Both domestic and foreign Biennale attendees bring tangible hope for an exchange of experiences, all with a view to broadening overall body of experience in the domain, and hope for this to become prospectively instrumental in eliminating any past spatial errors that are difficult to correct. This year's edition of the MBA Kraków 2015 is to be dedicated to the key issues of urban spaces and their overall accessibility to the city residents. It offers an opportunity to pursuing open public discourse on the specific architectural needs of the city of Kraków, in due consideration of its unique history and rich architectural heritage. Principal focus of this year's edition therefore rests firmly upon **HUMAN DIMENSION OF URBAN SPACE**.

All Biennale attendees are expected to volunteer and contribute a diversity of points of view and forms of expression, well anchored within the topical issue, while duly taking into account the following issues:

A new dimension of design of a city

A city full of life and bustle

A safe city

A sustainable city

A healthy city

A pedestrian-friendly city

A city of better designed urban spaces

A city of better architecture

The anticipated outcome of the Biennale is also construed as a more involved community striving to create and develop better quality public spaces, not only in terms of their practical advantages, but also in terms of their overall aesthetic and emotional appeal, frequently of key significance for their ultimate public endorsement as human-friendly urban spaces.

The aforementioned emotional and aesthetic experience of urban space, its positive impact on overall quality of life, physical and intellectual development of man, is also closely linked to the quality of architecture which actually defines public spaces.

The new edition of the Biennale and the accompanying architectural exhibition is meant to inspire reflection and stir up our imagination in the process of designing more beautiful cities.

BIENNALE COMPETITIONS:

MBA Kraków 2015 shall be held in three disciplines whose principal idea and theme is "Human dimension of urban spaces"

A. The Competition – An Exhibition of Completed Designs

In this competition the entries submitted by the Biennale participants, shall be publicly exhibited and assessed by the Jury, i.e. design projects actually completed or approved for completion whose design tasks are fully consistent with the principal theme of the Biennale, i.e. HUMAN DIMENSION OF URBAN SPACES. The competition is aimed at all practicing architects.

[Download The Registration Form – A](#)

B. The Competition – An Exhibition of Conceptual Designs

In this competition the entries submitted by the Biennale participants, shall be publicly exhibited and assessed by the Jury, i.e. conceptual designs, visions, or studies whose design tasks are fully consistent with the principal theme of the Biennale, i.e. HUMAN DIMENSION OF URBAN SPACES. The competition is aimed both at the graduates of academic schools of either architectural or artistic profile and practicing architects.

[Download The Registration Form – B](#)

C. The Competition – A Seminar

In this competition the presented papers shall be assessed by the Jury, i.e. any that tangibly contribute to the development of theory of the domain, or offer a hands-on input into the actual practice of shaping up a human-friendly, urban environment.

[Download The Registration Form – C](#)

Official languages of the Biennale are: Polish and English. There will be simultaneous translation. All competitions are open and non-confidential. There are no rules of anonymity. Competitions shall be held according to the general principles of architectural competitions organised by the SARP. Please find more detailed information in The Biennale Regulations attached below.

[Download The Biennale Regulations](#)

THE JURY:

The works in their respective categories shall be assessed by a 7-person Jury, made up of architects and urban planners.

1. Mr **Romuald Loegler** (Poland) – Chairman of the Jury
2. Ms **Marta A. Urbańska** (Poland) – Seminar Reporting Judge
3. Mr **Piotr Lewicki** (Poland) – Exhibition Reporting Judge
4. Mr **Peter Butenschøn** (Norway)
5. Mr **Giovanni Multari** (Italy)
6. Mr **Claudio Nardi** (Italy)
7. Mr **Christopher Sharples** (USA)

AWARDS:

1. The Prizes shall be awarded on the 16th of October, in the evening hours, during the closing ceremony of the Biennale.
2. The Prizes shall be awarded to the Biennale participants whose works have been selected by the Jury.
3. The Biennale financial prizes in the Competition of Completed Designs shall be awarded in the following amounts:
 - 1st Prize - PLN 12 000 • 2nd Prize - PLN 8 000 • 3rd Prize - PLN 5 000

4. The Biennale financial prizes in the Competition of Conceptual Designs shall be awarded in the following amounts:

• 1st Prize - PLN 12 000 • 2nd Prize - PLN 8 000 • 3rd Prize - PLN 5 000

5. The Biennale financial prizes in the Competition - Seminar shall be awarded in the following amounts:

• 1st Prize - PLN 10 000 • 2nd Prize - PLN 6 000 • 3rd Prize - PLN 4 000

6. The Biennale Organisers, in consultation with the Jury, reserve the right to an alternative allocation and award of the prizes, as well as to granting, whenever deemed appropriate, the honourable mentions.

7. The Biennale prizes may either be handed over during the actual announcement of the competition results, or transferred directly into the respective winner's bank accounts, although not later than within two weeks of the official announcement of the competition results. The amounts indicated in the Items 2, 3 and 4 are to be construed as gross. All prizes are subject to statutory taxation in line with general principles.

8. It also falls within the prerogatives of the Jury to award a one-off, special Grand Prix MBA Kraków 2015 accolade to one of the 3 top winning works – entrants in the aforementioned Biennale Competitions.

CONTACT:

mba-office@sarp.krakow.pl

Association of Polish Architects – Kraków Branch

Plac Szczepański 6, 31-011 Kraków, Poland

Phone: +48 12 4227540

For questions concerning the:

A. The Competition – An Exhibition of Completed Designs

B. The Competition – An Exhibition of Conceptual Designs

please contact:

mba-competition@sarp.krakow.pl

For questions concerning the:

C. The Competition – A Seminar

please contact:

mba-seminar@sarp.krakow.pl

More info: mba2015.sarp.krakow.pl

Event info on Facebook SARP Krakow:

<http://www.facebook.com/events/1616781245261520>