

Greeting of the Hosting Warsaw Heritage Protection Office

The architecture of Socialist Realism in Poland is no longer the heritage we once fervently renounced. Over the past decade, growing interest and appreciation of its legacy have led to the granting of statutory protection to the most outstanding examples, such as the listings in Warsaw: of the Palace of Culture and Science in 2007, the former Communist Party Headquarters in 2009, and the Ministry of Finance in 2012.

Nevertheless, the majority of the 1950s buildings do not enjoy any form of protection and thus they are easy targets for insensitive development. Furthermore, these historical assets face important challenges in the 21st century. There is the urge to improve buildings through thermo modernization and hence reducing the loss of thermal energy poses a great threat to their distinctive original architectural and artistic décor. Socialist Realism is a shared inheritance of the former Eastern European Block countries. It is important to raise awareness that some of the surviving examples represent outstanding architectural objects and urban planning schemes from the period that bears witness to the continuity of European architectural design. Recognized as unique but

threatened landmarks of Eastern and Central Europe, they deserve international recognition in the form of a serial transnational nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The need for wider international dialogue prompted Warsaw Heritage Protection to organize the “Expert Meeting on Serial and Transnational Nomination of the Architectural Heritage of Socialist Realism to the UNESCO World Heritage List – Presentation of Proposals”. The seminar held on April 15, 2013 marked a turning point in the international campaign on the road to granting the legacy of Socialist Realism “World Heritage” status.

The publication presents proposals from Eastern and Central Europe, which are subject to consideration for a serial recommendation. I strongly believe that dedication and commitment demonstrated by the partners involved in the project will be rewarded by the joint nomination of the sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

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▷ *CAD-Simulation eines geplanten Museums über den Kommunismus (SocLand Memorial Museum) von DiM’84 Dom i Miasto sp. z o.o. zu Füßen des Kultur- und Wissenschaftspalast Josef Stalin (1952–55, Lew Rudnew u. a.) in Warschau*

▷ *CAD simulation of a Museum of Communism (SocLand Memorial Museum) projected by DiM’84 Dom i Miasto sp. z o.o. at the feet of the Joseph Stalin Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw (1952–55 by Lew Rudnew et al.)*

