

# **The culture of architectural competitions in Poland 2014-2023. Characteristics and practices compared to Europe.**

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## Summary:


The work is an expression of the author's practical and theoretical interest in the subject of architectural competitions. It is seen as part of a broader phenomenon of competition culture, which consists of the processes involved in preparing, conducting and adjudicating competitions. These processes are part of building culture (*Baukultur*), a holistic concept for the transformation of the built environment. Their quality has direct consequences for architecture, society and also for the architectural profession itself.

In the absence of cross-sectional scientific research on the subject of Polish competitions, this work is an attempt to characterise and systematise this issue. The author attempts to place it in a broader, European context in which the tradition of organising competitions has grown. On the basis of available materials and research, the work presents the historical, legislative and practical conditions for the use of competitions in Europe. Starting from international definitions, it discusses the typology of competitions, traditional practices, and the role they play for all parties in the process: investors, architects and the society. It presents the advantages and disadvantages of competitions as an anonymous and democratic procedure. The paper also addresses the issue of architectural quality, which is of great importance for competitions, and the difficulty of its assessment by a jury. Using examples from various European countries, it points to characteristic good practices used in competitions as a potential model to follow.

In the research part, devoted to the detailed functioning of competitions in Poland, the dissertation includes a detailed analysis of the project competitions organised between 2014 and 2023 under the Public Procurement Law. It presents the historical, legislative and economic conditions that influenced the functioning of the competition during the research period. It conducts a comparative analysis of 92 competitions within the research pool, studying a variety of their features. The research results present the complexity of the features of Polish competitions, revealing their characteristics. On this basis, referring to traditional and foreign practices, the author proposes solutions that can positively influence the quality of Polish competition culture, and thus architecture.

## **Keywords:**

architectural competition, architectural design contest, quality, investment process, good practice, public procurement, *Baukultur*.

  
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