

## Summary of the doctoral thesis

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**Title:** „Modern architecture in the Polish film from the years 1929-1939”.

**Key words:** modernism, architecture, interwar period, Polish film, scenic design.

The doctoral thesis elaborates on the phenomenon consisting in the appearance of the examples of modern architecture in the Polish film from the years 1929-1939, in the broad context concerning the culture-making role of the film, as far as the promotion of the modern aesthetics is concerned.

The analysis was based on the research sample comprising seventy one Polish fiction films and documentaries. All of them depicted modern cities, buildings and interiors. In some cases original modern edifices or architectural complexes were used in order to create scenic design. In others, decorations imitating modern architecture in various scales were created. Starting from the end of 1920s, the film decorations were designed by professional architects, especially Jacek Rotmil and Stefan Norris. At the same time, in the documentaries of the period occurred a trend to concentrate exclusively on modern architecture.

In the Polish fiction film from the last decade of the interwar period, modern architecture was customary reduced to the role of the background. However, exceptionally there occurred single shots concentrating exclusively on modern architecture. At the same time, as far as the documentary films are concerned, modern architecture was repeatedly brought to the forefront, helping to shape a positive image of the of the reborn Polish state.

Although in the cinematography of the period, modern architecture often occurred as a synonym of the exclusiveness or even luxury both on visual and contextual level, the filmmakers were trying to break this stereotype. Thus, they were choosing modern style for the public utility buildings depicted in the films, especially for those connected with public health or social care, such as hospitals or orphanages. As far as the plots are concerned, modern style was often presented as an element compatible with such notions as modern lifestyle, comfort, hygiene and overcoming social barriers.

The doctoral thesis produced conclusion on the vital and varied role of the modern architecture in the Polish film from the years 1929-1939, both as far as aesthetics and meaning are concerned. Therefore, it may contribute to the further exploration of this topic, which so far has been present in the Polish research only to a small extent.

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