



Name of the supervisor: Kinga Racoń-Leja

Degrees and titles: Dr hab. inż. arch., Prof. PK
Assoc. Prof., D.Sc., Ph.D. Eng. Arch.

Position: University Professor

Field of engineering and technical sciences

Discipline: architecture and urban planning Wybierz element.

Academic Functions

Head of the Chair of Urbanism and City Structure Architecture (A-9) at the Faculty of Architecture of Cracow University of Technology

Przynależność do organizacji zawodowych i akademickich:

Member of the Main Board of the Society of Polish Town Planners TUP
Member of the Board of the Kraków Branch of the Society of Polish Town Planners TUP
Member of the Association of Polish Architects SARP
Member of the Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland – Małopolska Regional Chamber of Architects
Member of the Małopolska Regional Spatial Planning Commission
Head of the Urban Planning Section of the Urban Planning and Architecture Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Kraków Branch)
Member of the Municipal Urban Planning and Architecture Commission in Skawina and the Municipal Urban Planning and Architecture Commission in Nowy Targ
Member of the Anti-Mobbing Committee at the Cracow University of Technology

Scientific achievements:

She is the author and co-author of over 80 scientific publications and 25 popular-science publications in the field of urban planning and architecture, including numerous highly ranked works indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. She is the author of an (outstanding) monograph — *“The City and the War — The Impact of World War II on the Transformation of Spatial Structure and the Contemporary Urban Condition of Selected European Cities”* (PK Publishing House, Kraków 2019) and the co-author of three additional monographs. The monograph received the Award of the Minister of Development in 2020 (8 January 2020).

Her academic output includes over 40 presentations in the field of urban planning and spatial planning at international and national conferences, including international conferences in Barcelona, Prague, Graz, Beirut and St. Petersburg, as well as lectures at European universities — among others at TU Wien, HTW Dresden and in Rotterdam.

In 1995, she graduated with distinction from the five-year Architecture and Urban Planning programme at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology. Her diploma project was nominated for the SARP “Diploma of the Year” Award. During her studies, she completed an internship at the Institute of Urbanism at UPC Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona under the supervision of Prof. Joan Busquets (1991). She received a one-year scholarship at the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, USA (1992–1993), where she pursued partial studies in architecture. In 1993–94, she completed a professional internship under Prof. Thom Mayne at Morphosis Architects in Los Angeles.

During her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology (1997–2000), she was a Tempus PHARE Programme scholarship holder, completing a four-month research internship at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV) in 1997, under the supervision of Prof. Gianugo Polesello. She received a KBN (State Committee for Scientific Research) Promoter Grant (2000–2003) titled “Shaping Contemporary Covered Public Spaces and Their Role in the Revitalisation of Urban Areas”. She defended her doctoral dissertation under the same title at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology in 2003, specialising in urban planning and spatial planning. Her supervisor was Prof. Andrzej Wyżykowski.

In 2002, she co-organised an international symposium on Central European countries in cooperation with Technische Universität Graz and the Austrian Consulate General — she was the author of the concept for the accompanying exhibition of Polish and Austrian architecture at the Jagiellonian Library.

Between 2009 and 2012, she was the coordinator and, together with Prof. Krzysztof Bieda, led the international scientific-educational project “Facing the Impact of the Second World War — Urban Design in Contemporary European Cities”. The results of this international research collaboration were presented in her habilitation dissertation “*Miasto i wojna ...*”. On 8 January 2020, the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology awarded her the degree of doktor habilitowany in technical sciences, in the discipline of architecture and urban planning. Since 1 March 2020, she has been a Professor at the Cracow University of Technology.

Since 2001, she has been affiliated with the Institute of Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture of the Cracow University of Technology. She worked at the Department of Revalorisation and Development of Urban Complexes (KRiRZU), and later at the Unit for Shaping Transport Spaces, initially as a research-teaching assistant and, from 2007, as an assistant professor. Between 2013 and 2019, she served as Deputy Director of the Institute of Urban Design. Since its establishment in 2020, she has been the Head of the Chair of Urbanism and City Structure Architecture (A-9). In 2019–2020, she was Vice-Dean for Education, preparing a new curriculum for the Faculty of Architecture in accordance with the Standards of Architectural Education.

She is an expert in socially safe urban spaces. Her research in this field began in 2003, when she and the team of the Department of Revalorisation and Development of Urban Complexes carried out a KBN research grant (2003–2004) under the supervision of Prof. Andrzej Wyżykowski, resulting in the monograph “*Przestrzeń bezpieczna. Urbanistyczne i architektoniczne uwarunkowania kształtowania przestrzeni miejskiej dla zwiększenia bezpieczeństwa mieszkańców*” (2004). She collaborated with institutions in the Małopolska region within the “Safe Middle School” and “Safe School” programmes, conducting — on a voluntary basis — several dozen safety audits of schools in the Małopolska Voivodeship and in Kraków (together with Dr. Eng. Arch. Krzysztof Kwiatkowski).

In recent years, in cooperation with the Jagiellonian University (2018–2019), she participated in the “Safe Kraków” programme for the Municipality of Kraków. As part of this programme, she conducted research aimed at improving safety in 16 educational facilities, preparing in 2018 the architectural-urban guidelines titled “*Przybornik bezpiecznej przestrzeni*” (“Safe Space Toolkit”). The team included Prof. Maciej Motak, Dr. Krzysztof Kwiatkowski and architect Marek Leja.

She conducts extensive international scientific and educational cooperation with leading European institutions, including UPC BarcelonaTech, TU Delft, Technische Universität Dresden, Czech Technical University in Prague, Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaft und Kunst (HAWK) Hildesheim, Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft (HTW) Dresden, Université de Mons, Chalmers University of Technology, the University of Bremen and Bragança.

In recent years, she has completed research internships at Technische Universität Wien under a CEEPUS (OeAD) scholarship in 2015, and at UPC Barcelona under the supervision of Prof. Carlos Marmolejo Duarte in 2023. Between 2013 and 2019, she participated in programmes addressing the depopulation of cities in Saxony-Anhalt, funded among others by the State of Saxony-Anhalt — Ministry for Regional Development and Transport — and by municipal authorities. The programme was coordinated by Kompetenzzentrum Stadtumbau in Magdeburg and HTW Dresden. Partners included TU Delft, the Cracow University of Technology, Ghent University, Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Szent István University Budapest/Gödöllő, Lahti University of Applied Sciences and the University of Padova. The programmes covered the cities of Wernigerode–Schierke am Brocken (2013), Halle-Neustadt (2014), Magdeburg (2017), Selb-Aš (2018) and Freiberg (2019).

She served as the PK team leader in an interdisciplinary consortium implementing stages I and II of an NCBiR implementation grant within the stream “Social housing — energy- and process-efficient construction”, as part of the DMD_M consortium, led by DMD Modular, with PK and Lightoffo (until 2022) as partners, and the City of Mysłowice as the Strategic Partner. The energy solutions incorporated systems developed in the RESHEAT project (Horizon 2020). The building was designed as zero-energy, and even plus-energy. The work included the design phase (2021–2022) and the construction completed in 2023.

The multi-family social housing building, constructed using 3-D volumetric modular technology, energy- and process-efficient, located at 28 Karola Miarki Street in Mysłowice, received the PLGBC Green Building Award as the Sustainable Product of the Year in 2023.

She participated in research projects for the Municipality of Kraków carried out within the cooperation framework between the Cracow University of Technology and the city, including the “Green Neighbourhood” project (2021) and the “Green Standards for Municipal Housing in Kraków” (2022–2023). Since 2024, she has been a member of the Advisory Team for the “Zero-Emission Kraków” Project Portfolio.

Since 2024, she has led an interdisciplinary team from the Cracow University of Technology implementing the HORIZON-CL5-2023-D4-01 grant “FuturHist — An integrated typology-based approach to guide the future development of European historic buildings towards a clean energy transition” (2024–

2027). The project is coordinated by EURAC Bolzano, with 17 institutions involved, including ICOMOS and INTBAU. PK coordinates, among other tasks, the implementation of demonstrator solutions in the ZBK building at 18 Kościuszki Street in Kraków. The project examines the scalability of solutions — at urban scales, across architectural typologies — and oversees design activities, monitoring and research related to the implemented solutions. The team is also responsible for dissemination and educational activities.

She has been the organiser of the International Conferences of the Department of Urban Planning and Architecture of Urban Structures at the Faculty of Architecture, including: Chair of the conference “Urban Composition of the Resilient City” (2021), Co-Chair of “Wise City” (2023), “Wise City II” (2024) and “Wise City III” (2025). As Head of the Department, she co-organised the International Conference ISUF — XIX Conference of the International Seminar on Urban Form 2022, Łódź–Kraków, titled “Urban Redevelopment and Revitalisation — a Multidisciplinary Perspective”.

She carries out urban-planning, scientific and educational cooperation for cities and municipalities (2013–2023), including Miechów, Skawina, Sandomierz, Koźmin Wielkopolski, Mogilany, Rabka, Golub-Dobrzyń, Hrubieszów and Mysłowice. She supervised the doctoral dissertation of Dr. Eng. Arch. Ewa Szymczyk, defended with distinction in June 2026 at the Faculty of Architecture, with Prof. Michael Peterek from TU Frankfurt serving as second supervisor.

For her scientific, teaching and organisational achievements, she has received awards from the Rector of the Cracow University of Technology and the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, the Jubilee Medal for the 60th Anniversary of the Faculty of Architecture, and the Honorary Badge of the Cracow University of Technology. For her social engagement, she received the 800th Anniversary Medal of Bieżanów, the Bronze Medal for Long Service, and the Bronze Cross of Merit; in 2025, the Medal of National Education; and in 2026, the Bronze Distinction of the Association of Polish Architects.

Professional qualifications / foreign language proficiency

Full professional architectural licence since 2001 / English – fluent, German – good command

Research Area:

Urban design – urban processes, particularly in areas of transformation and post-World War II reconstruction; the sustainable city in the context of climate adaptation; the city shaped by transport conditions; participatory processes in urban design; and socially safe urban spaces

Adress:

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Links

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