

The procedure is conducted in Polish. The English version of the Rules and Regulation is only an auxiliary material.

ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT AND AREA DEVELOPMENT FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE SASKI PALACE, BRÜHL PALACE AND TENEMENT HOUSES AT KRÓLEWSKA STREET IN WARSAW

INFORMATION, ASSUMPTIONS AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITION

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The basic legal act concerning the reconstruction of the Saski Palace, the Brühl Palace and tenement houses at ul. Królewska in Warsaw is the Act of August 11, 2021 (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1551) on the preparation and implementation of investments in the reconstruction of the Saski Palace, Brühl Palace and tenement houses at Królewska Street in Warsaw, adopted to "celebrate the jubilee of the 100th anniversary of the rebirth of the independent Republic of Poland, to restore the historic shape of the representative space of Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square in Warsaw, destroyed during World War II, to satisfy the will of Poles and to strengthen the unity of the civic community, symbolized by the rebuilt Saski and Brühl palaces together with the complex of tenement houses at ul. Królewska, and also to complete the work of rebuilding the capital city, destroyed and demolished by the German occupiers, so that those buildings and structures that proudly expressed the sovereignty of the Polish state a hundred years ago would serve Poles both today and in subsequent generations and be a visible sign of the continuity of our history, and at the same time a testimony to a strong and modern Republic of Poland". Reconstructed facilities must meet the requirements of the Act.

The act stipulates that the reconstruction of the Saski Palace, the Brühl Palace and tenement houses at ul. Królewska 6, 8 and 10/12 in Warsaw (according to historical addresses) is to be made according to the external architectural shape that these buildings had on August 31, 1939; the investment also includes the construction or reconstruction of utilities, the construction of underground car parks, the construction or reconstruction of public roads, the construction of internal roads and pedestrian routes, and the construction of other installations, devices and facilities necessary for:

- reconstruction and functioning of the Saski Palace, the Brühl Palace and the above-mentioned tenement houses;
- securing the investment area against destruction or damage;
- ensuring order in the investment area.

The Act indicates that the facilities created as a result of the investment will be intended for the needs of the Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Office in Warsaw and for the needs of entities conducting cultural, educational or socially useful activities intended for conducting these activities.

Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square, once the bustling center of the city, will again become an important point on the cultural map of Warsaw, a popular meeting place for its inhabitants, and a must-see for tourists on the itinerary of visiting the Polish capital. Part of the facilities dedicated to cultural activities will consist of many different solutions with a view to a wide range of needs of future guests. Among other things, an exhibition space for permanent exhibitions, spaces for temporary exhibitions, a multi-functional hall, among others, are planned. for the organization of chamber concerts and celebrations, a complex of conference, congress, educational and workshop rooms, a children's zone, a commercial section, a cultural information point, as well as a catering complex, which will be open to the Saski Garden, if possible.

It is preferable to meet the program needs of the Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland in the Brühl Palace, while the functional and utility needs of entities conducting cultural, educational or socially useful activities are preferred to be met in the Saski Palace.



Saski Garden, view of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 2022. source: Saski Palace sp. z o. o.

Relics of buildings on the western frontage of Piłsudski Square entered into the register of monuments by the Decision of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments no.

626/2007 of May 17, 2007, under the number A-741, cannot be removed. The preserved relics of buildings entered in the register of monuments and included in the outline of the reconstructed buildings should be exposed for visitors.

The existing Tomb of the Unknown Soldier must be clearly separated from the part being rebuilt. Any interference with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is unacceptable (also applies to the preserved underground part).

The internal structure of the reconstructed buildings must correspond to the divisions and tectonics of the façade as well as the arrangement of window and door openings. It is unacceptable to introduce elements of the internal structure of objects (vertical and horizontal partitions, stairs, devices, etc.) into the light of window and door openings and gate passages on the facades of reconstructed buildings.

With regard to the facades and roofs of reconstructed buildings, the competition entry should be as faithful as possible to the original, after careful examination of the sources, in particular the preserved plans, designs, photographs and sketches. As far as possible, the use of the same materials and methods for building facades and building in preserved original elements should be adopted, if this does not violate the provisions of generally applicable law.

In particular, it is not allowed to place visible installation elements and devices on the facades and roofs of buildings.

The competition materials, which will be made available to the Competition Participants qualified for the 1st Stage, will include a drawing showing approximately the historical outline of the reconstructed buildings along with their characteristic heights. In their competition entries, the authors will have to apply the above-mentioned rules. geometry of these objects.

The garden at Beck's pavilion should be reconstructed in its shape from August 1939, along with a fence and connected to the Saski Garden, allowing free access from the park space.

The act indicates that "taking into account the investment, the urban layout of Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the monument to Józef Piłsudski, the Papal Cross, the Monument to the Victims of the Smolensk Tragedy in 2010 and the monument to Lech Kaczyński are inviolable." Apart from the reconstruction of the historical fence of the Brühl Palace, it is not allowed to design fences from the side of Piłsudski Square and fences from the side of the Saski Garden, with the exception of fencing part of the reconstructed Beck's garden.

In addition to the reconstructed buildings and the reconstruction of Beck's garden, the current layout and development of the Saski Garden should be respected.

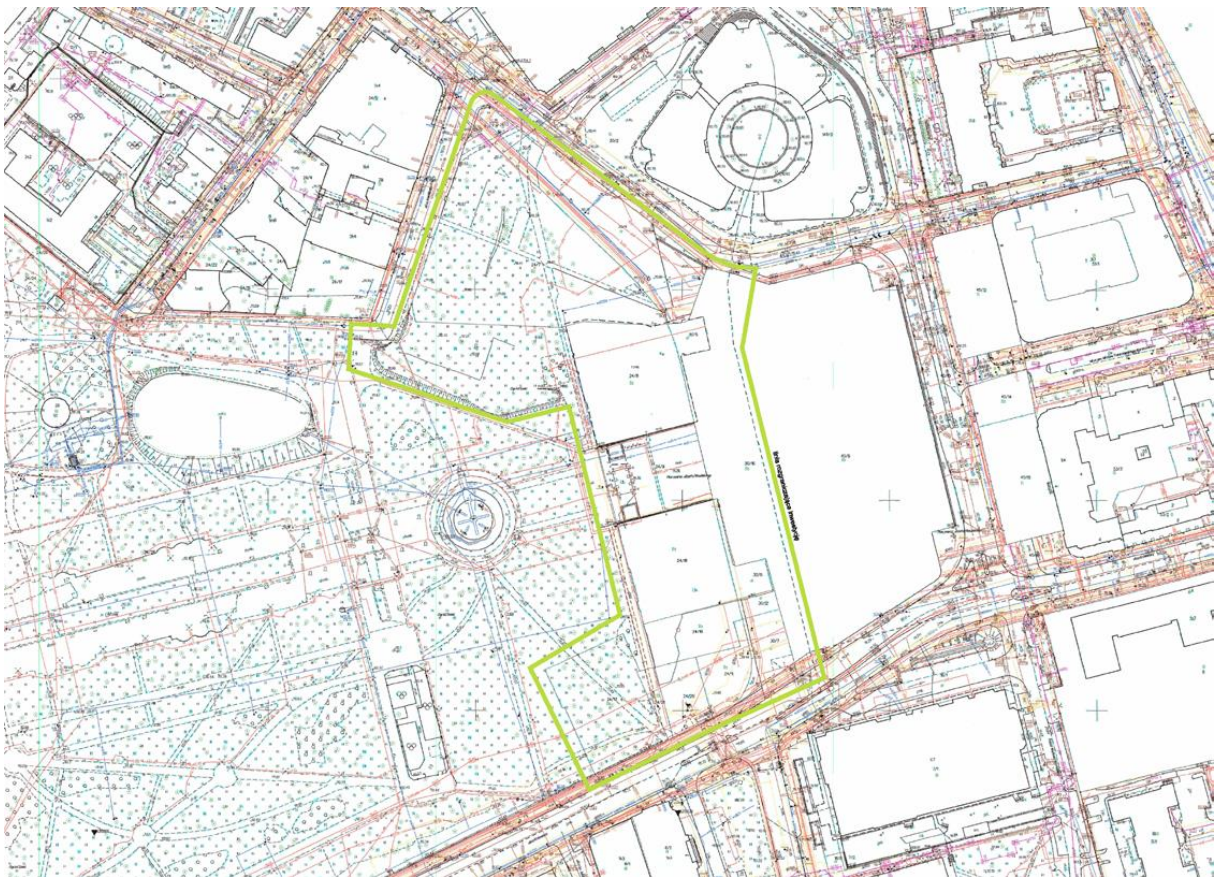
Due to the historical outline of Malhomme's tenement house (Królewska 6), it is allowed to narrow the section of ul. royal. It is allowed to solve the communication service of the reconstructed facilities in terms of access to the underground car parks and delivery zones, located on the underground floor with the entrance from ul. Wierzbowa, within one of the

existing two traffic lanes and exit at ul. Królewska (exit towards ul. Marszałkowska), also within one lane, in the form of a ramp. The above-mentioned entry and exit ramps may be located outside the outline of the investment boundary line. Other solutions for communication service, differing from the solution presented above, are also allowed.

2. INVESTMENT AREA

The investment area is intended for the reconstruction of the Saski Palace, Brühl Palace and tenement houses at ul. Królewska 6 (Malhomme's tenement), 8, 10/12 (Less's tenement) is located in Warsaw, in the Śródmieście district, at Square march. Józef Piłsudski.

The shape of the investment area is determined by the demarcation line shown in the drawing below.



The area of the investment area is approx. 3.44 ha. The investment area is located on the Saski Axis between the Square march. Józef Piłsudski, the Saski Garden, ul. Królewska ul. Fredry and ul. Wierzbowa. Motor vehicle communication service is possible through the above-mentioned streets.

The most important object in the investment area is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, next to which the Representative Regiment of the Polish Army performs Eternal Watch. The guard

of honor at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is manned 24 hours a day, all days of the year, and this will also be the case during the implementation of the investment.



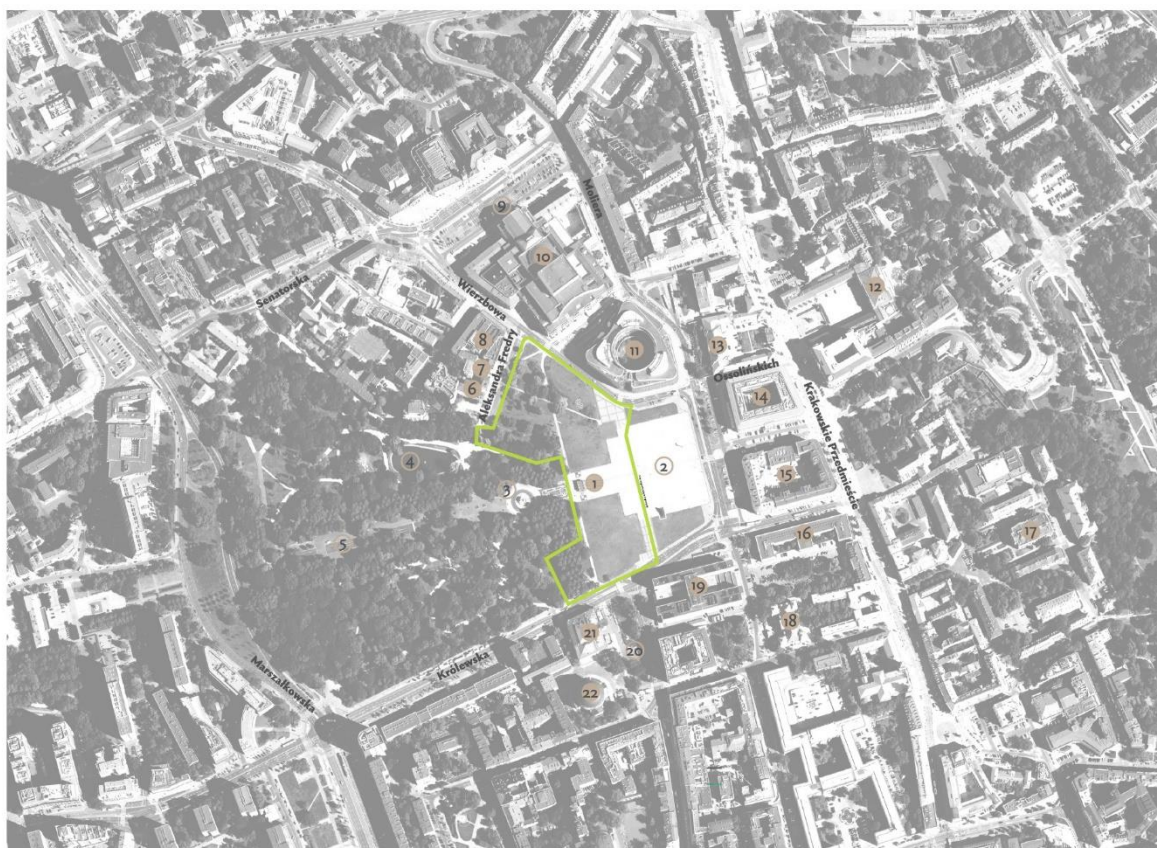
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, 2022. source: Saski Palace sp. z o. o.

In the vicinity of the investment plots on the north side, there is a frontage development of tenement houses at ul. Fredry and the Metropolitan office building at ul. Wierzbowa. The Grand Theater is also nearby. The square on the eastern side is closed with the building of the Raffles Europejski hotel and the building of the Warsaw Garrison Command. On the southern side there is ul. Królewska, and next to it "Zachęta" - the National Art Gallery and the Sofitel hotel. From the west, in the immediate vicinity, there is the Saski Garden.

Further away, there are facilities such as the Royal Castle, the University of Warsaw and the historic Royal Route.

The investment area is marked by a demarcation line with an irregular outline, resulting from the shape of the historical buildings.

The distance between the furthest points of the investment site in the north-south direction is approx. 337 m, and in the east-west direction it is approx. 200 m.



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Grób Nieznanego Żołnierza | 6. kamienica Fredry 8 | 11. Metropolitan | 15. Dowództwo Garnizonu Warszawa | 20. plac Stanisława Małachowskiego |
| 2. plac Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego | 7. kamienica Fredry 6 | 12. Pałac Prezydencki | 16. Agencja Uzbrojenia | 21. „Zachęta” – Narodowa Galeria Sztuki |
| 3. Fontanna Wielka | 8. Teatr Narodowy Scena przy Wierzbowej | 13. Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego | 17. Uniwersytet Warszawski | 22. Kościół Ewangelicko-Augsburski Świętej Trójcy |
| 4. staw | 9. plac Teatralny | 14. Raffles Europejski | 18. Akademia Sztuk Pięknych | — linia rozgraniczająca teren inwestycji |
| 5. Ogród Saski | 10. Teatr Wielki Opera Narodowa | | 19. Sofitel Victoria | |

Characteristic objects in the investment area. Source: geoportal.gov.pl

The area of the investment plots is flat, with a slight depression directed north-south. The surface of the investment area is currently made up of lawns, pavements made of granite slabs and cobblestones, pavements made of concrete slabs, and hardened park paths.

More than half of the investment area is the Square march. Józef Piłsudski. The square is a representative space and a place for organizing state and occasional ceremonies. On the square there are objects commemorating people and events important for Poland: the Józef Piłsudski monument, the Lech Kaczyński monument, the Papal Cross, the monument to the Victims of the Smolensk Tragedy in 2010, and - in the central point of the square - a fragment of the colonnade of the destroyed palace with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The surface of the square consists of large-format granite slabs and lawns on both sides.

In the eastern part of the square, as well as between the buildings at ul. Tokarzewskiego-Karaszewicza, car parks are located. The buildings to be reconstructed will form the western frontage of the square.

A fragment of the preserved colonnade of the Saski Palace is the only cubature building in the investment area. It is located at the junction of the square and the Saski Garden, directly adjacent to the investment area from the west. From the north-west side there is ul. Fredry with no passage from the south. The street frontage consists of two four-storey tenement houses and the building of the National Theater on the corner of ul. Wierzbowa and ul. Freddy. From the south, on the opposite side of ul. Królewska is the building of "Zachęta" - the National Gallery of Art. The dominant volumes in the northern area of the investment are the building of the Grand Theater building and the Metropolitan office building.

In recent years, archaeological research has been carried out on the investment area of the preserved architectural relics of the buildings located within the outline of the former Saski Palace and two tenement houses (Królewska 6 and Królewska 8). Currently, the unveiling of relics is planned within the area of the Brühl Palace and the Lessel tenement house (Królewska 10/12).



Relics of the former buildings of the Saski Palace, 2022. Photo by Michał Sawiński.

The possibilities of transporting the reconstructed objects by motor vehicles are limited to the following streets: Fredry, Wierzbowa and Królewska. Fredry Street is connected only with ul.

Wierzbowa The Saski Palace will not have direct access to any of the streets, the Brühl Palace will have access to Wierzbowa Street, and the tenement houses to Królewska Street. In the vicinity of the investment area, there are public bus stops, city bike stations and, further away, metro stations (Metro Świętokrzyska and Metro Ratusz Arsenal), as well as tram stops. The nearest bicycle routes are located at the south-western corner of the Saski Garden and at ul. Krakow Suburb.

3. HISTORY OF THE PLACE

The urban layout and development of the square, shaped by over four centuries, were destroyed during the last war. Over time, the square gained special urban and architectural values not only thanks to the patronage of the highest state dignitaries, but also thanks to the activity of the most outstanding European and native architects: Augustyn Locci, Tylman of Gameren, Dominik Merlini and Bohdan Pniewski. In the post-war period, despite several architectural competitions, no comprehensive actions were taken to restore the character of this place.

In 1712, King August II inaugurated the implementation of the residential complex, the so-called Saska Axis. This idea was continued by August III until 1763. The establishment of the royal residence was based on the property of the Morsztyn family with the palace located on its premises. This location was supported mainly by the proximity of the Royal Castle and the most important communication routes. The Morsztyn Palace was a Baroque residence with an axial composition. The building's front facing Krakowskie Przedmieście, and the western façade facing the garden, was a convenient starting point for creating a large, axial architectural and garden complex. The development of the land to the west of the palace allowed for its partial preservation and inclusion in the project.

The formation of the Saska Axis began in 1713. The general concept of the establishment was the work of Jan Krzysztof Naumann and Mateusz Daniel Pöppelmann. In its final form, the complex consisted of a pre-palace courtyard, a palace, a garden with an area of approx. 17 hectares and a complex of barracks. It stretched for about 1650 m.

The composition of the Saska Axis was based on two three-radius systems with opposite foci, located at the entrances from the east and west. The central point of the layout was the intersection of two roads that connected both systems. In this place there was the so-called The Great Salon, which is one of the determinants of the axis of the complex.

The Ossoliński Palace, adjacent to the Morsztyn Palace, was also included in the area of the royal residence. The construction of the brick estate was completed in 1642, then it was transformed several times, until in 1750 it was purchased by Henryk Brühl and rebuilt in the rococo style. The authors of the project were architects: Joachim Daniel Jauch and Jan Fryderyk Knöbel.

The Saska Axis has been designed in a way that enables the combination of residential, military and communication functions. Residential functions found expression in the expansion of the palace and the landscaping of the garden. A manifestation of the military functions of the establishment was the inclusion of a complex of barracks in the composition of the royal residence. Communication functions were performed by linking the internal road system with the public road network.

From the urban layout of the Saska Axis, the following parts are currently legible: the Saski Garden in the eastern part, the communication system of the following streets: Królewska, Ossoliński and Generała Karaszewicza-Tokarzewskiego, and the area of the former palace courtyard - currently Piłsudski Square.

The spatial layout of Piłsudski Square, which was originally an integral part of the Saska Axis, was shaped over three centuries. In the Saxon times (1712–1763), the palace courtyard was separated. The entrance gates were located on Wierzbowa, Mazowiecka and Krakowskie Przedmieście streets. In 1791, the gates were removed, thus making the courtyard a public place, which from around 1815 was commonly called Saski Square. The beginnings of the Russian partition are the period of giving the square a state rank on the one hand, and an invasive domination on the other. At that time, the seat of Grand Duke Constantine was located in the Brühl Palace, the square became an arena for military parades, and in the years 1835-1842 an obelisk was erected on it in memory of Polish generals who died for the tsar. As a result of the events of the Kosciuszko Insurrection and the November Uprising, the Saski Palace was significantly devastated, and its technical condition required costly repairs. At that time, the Warsaw Magistrate decided to reconstruct the building, which would also meet the needs resulting from changes in the urban planning of this area. The terms of the building's auction were announced, with the reconstruction order, assuming the dismantling of the main body, so that an unobstructed passage between the square and the Saski Garden was possible. Finally, in the years 1837-1842, the Saski Palace was purchased by the merchant Jan Skwarcow and rebuilt according to the design of Adam Idźkowski. According to the conditions, the main body of the palace was demolished, replacing it with a monumental colonnade. This procedure enabled pedestrian communication between the square and the garden. The colonnade also became a form of an openwork screen separating the green zone from the city forum, and at the same time a link between the northern and southern wings of the palace. The eleven-arcade colonnade was set on a pillar pedestal supported by 24 free-standing columns in the Corinthian order, arranged in two rows, connected in the base area with a baluster balustrade. The culmination of the colonnade was an entablature with a prominent cornice, on which a baluster balustrade was placed. The reconstruction of the palace did not affect the scale of the historic Saski Square.



View of the western frontage of Piłsudski Square, 1934. Photo by Willem van de Poll, source: National Archives of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In the following years, the representative character of the square was additionally emphasized by the newly erected buildings: the Europejski Hotel erected on the site of the Ogiński Palace or the Malhomme tenement house (Królewska 6), erected at the corner of the square, at the intersection with ul. Królewska. In the 19th century, tenement houses closing the complex of the western frontage of buildings from the south were also built. Tenement houses at ul. Królewska: Lessla (at no. 10/12) and at Królewska 8.

At the end of the 19th century, the tsarist authorities intensified the ideologization of the space of the square, erecting in its heart the monumental Orthodox Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevski with a separate bell tower. It was only when they were dismantled in 1926 that the former proportions of the square were restored and its representative functions were developed.

After Poland regained independence in 1918, both the Saski Palace and the Brühl Palace were designated as seats of government administration bodies, the General Staff of the Polish Army and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respectively.

In 1923, a recovered equestrian statue of Prince Józef Poniatowski was erected in front of the Saski Palace, and in 1925, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was unveiled in the arcades of the palace colonnade.

During this period, the Saski Palace was rebuilt, adapting its interiors to the needs of the army headquarters, and changes were made to the facades, giving them a coherent classicist character. According to the provisions of the Act, the buildings of the western frontage of the square are to be rebuilt in this - and not in the 18th or 19th century - shape. In 1936, for the needs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative pavilion was added to the Brühl Palace, from the side of the Saski Garden, housing also the apartment of Minister Józef Beck. The author of the project was the eminent architect Bohdan Pniewski. The building with a characteristic simplified colonnade, due to its refined and elegant form, has become an iconic realization of Polish modernism.



Beck's Pavilion, view from ul. Fredry, 1936. Photo: National Digital Archives.

In September 1939, as a result of German air raids on Warsaw, tenement houses at ul. Królewska at numbers 8 and 10/12. The roof of the Brühl Palace burned down, and one of its outbuildings was destroyed.

After the capitulation of Warsaw on September 28, 1939, the German administration occupied the square with the buildings. The Saski Palace was soon used as the headquarters of the Wehrmacht, and the Brühl Palace became the seat of the governor of the Warsaw District,

Ludwig Fischer. In the courtyard of the Brühl Palace, the occupying German troops gathered arms laid down by surrendering Polish soldiers.

During the occupation, the square was the place of official ceremonies of the German occupation authorities.

After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, the Germans began methodically destroying the buildings around the square. From December 11, 1944, German sappers began drilling holes for explosives in both palaces. Despite the conclusion of the "Treaty on the cessation of hostilities in Warsaw" of October 2, 1944, on December 16 of the same year, a monument to Fr. Józef Poniatowski. On December 18, 1944, the German army razed the Brühl Palace and the Beck Pavilion to the ground. On December 27-29, 1944, the occupying forces detonated charges near the Saski Palace. Only the ruins of the central bays of the colonnade with the remains of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was rebuilt in 1946 under the direction of architect Zygmunt Stępiński, have survived from the building.

Saski Garden

From the west, the Saski Garden adjoins the investment area, which was originally the palace garden of the Saski Palace, and more broadly - an integral part of the Saska Axis. The origins of the park are related to the garden layout at the Morsztyn Palace from the 17th century, but only after it was taken over by August II, it gained importance. At the beginning of the 18th century, it was laid out as a Baroque palace garden in the French style. The garden was opened to the public on May 27, 1727. The entrance was possible through one of the palace gates from the eastern side and through the Iron Gate from the western side. At that time, the garden occupied an area of 13.5 hectares and was the first city park in Warsaw. The works were finalized in 1733 according to the design of Karol Fryderyk Poppelmann, and by 1735 the whole was surrounded by a wall reinforced with five bastions from Królewska Street to ensure the king's safety. The following buildings were built in the garden at that time: the Great Salon, the Small Salon, and the Opera House designed by Karol Fryderyk Pöppelmann. The first gardener of the Saski Garden was Jan Jakob Mencke, brought in by August II in order to draw up a plan, arrange and maintain the greenery.

In the period of king Stanisław August , the Saski Garden was called the summer salon of the capital. The Royal Łazienki was the domain of the king and the court, while the Saski Garden was the only available park. The entrance to the Garden was not open to everyone, the possibility of using it depended on the social status of the walkers. After the death of King August III, the Garden fell into neglect, in 1772 the building of the Opera House was demolished. In the following decades, it was devastated as a result of military exercises conducted there during the Prussian rule and the Duchy of Warsaw. It was not until 1816–

1827 that the Garden was revalorized and transformed into an English park, designed by James Savage.

A pond was created, the wall was replaced with a fence, the Grand Salon, which did not match the new spatial and compositional solution, was demolished, and the park was made available to visitors in its entirety, although it was still closed at night. Once again, the Garden was significantly damaged during the November Uprising, but thanks to the actions of Michał Szubert, then director of the Botanical Garden, it was restored to its splendour. An important moment in the history of this place were the 1850s, when, thanks to Henryk Marconi and his water supply system, it was enriched with a water tower and a fountain. In 1870, the Summer Theater was established in the park, which was supposed to temporarily replace the renovated Grand Theatre. The wooden building was left and survived until September 1939, when it burned down during the bombing of Warsaw.

In the 1930s, Marszałkowska Street was cut through the western edge of the Garden, but the entire investment was completed only after the war. During World War II, the park remained under the control of the occupying German authorities. In 1942, Poles were forbidden to enter it.

It also remained in the hands of the occupiers during the Warsaw Uprising, when a large part of the tree stand and most of the garden buildings were destroyed. In 1948, the park was restored and rearranged according to a design by Alina Scholtz in cooperation with Romuald Gutt.



Saski Garden – location of the former Beck's garden, 2022 r. Źródło: Pałac Saski Sp. z o.o.

Building history

Saski Palace

The Saski Palace with the adjacent courtyard was the most important element of the composition of the Saska Axis. It was built on the basis of the residence of Jan Andrzej Morsztyn, which was bought by August II along with the adjoining buildings in 1713.

The Morsztyn Palace was built in the years 1661-1664 on a plot given to the magnate by King Jan Kazimierz. On a rectangular plan, a two-storey building was built with wings from the side of the courtyard and smaller pavilions from the side of the garden. The adaptation of the palace for the needs of the Saski on court began in the 1720s, but at that time it was provisional. On the land east of the palace, a courtyard was created in the shape of a trapezoid, expanding towards Krakowskie Przedmieście. From the north and south, the courtyard was surrounded by a wall.

The expansion of the palace was continued throughout the reign of the Saxon dynasty. Large wings were added from the side of the courtyard, while smaller wings were added from the side of the garden. The nursery was extended, giving it a rectangular shape. In its eastern part, auxiliary buildings were built, occupied by forges and palace stables. The Royal Palace in the *entre court et jardin* layout gained more representativeness through stronger references to Versailles.

The Palace remained unchanged until 1837. At that time, due to the poor technical condition of the building, the city authorities announced a competition for its reconstruction. The conditions of the competition stipulate that the project is to include a direct connection between Plac Saski and the Saski Garden. The reconstruction of the Palace, the owner of which became the Russian merchant Jan Skwarcow in 1837, was entrusted to the architect Adam Idźkowski.

While shaping the rebuilt Saski Palace, the architect used some of the existing walls and foundations from the original building. The new building consisted of multi-winged northern and southern parts connected by a monumental openwork colonnade. It stood in the place of the demolished body of the Morsztyn Palace. Between its foundations there are Morsztyn foundations of the main walls from the side of the garden. Idźkowski, for the most part, inscribed the new building in the building lines of the wings of the former royal palace. The outline of the newly erected northern and southern parts largely followed the line of the walls of the earlier buildings, but new sections of the external and internal walls were also marked out.

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Both wings had internal courtyards with facades devoid of architectural decoration, which indicates the strictly economic nature of these spaces. After the reconstruction, the three-storey wings of the palace gained a classicist costume. The external facades from the side of Saski Square have been unified with pilaster articulation. From the garden side, part of the southern wing received a neo-gothic detail. At that time, a new wing was erected on the side of the Saski Garden, and the wing on the side of the square by the Brühl Palace was extended by two additional axes, thanks to which the facade of the Saski Palace from the side of the square becomes fully symmetrical. The most important part of the exceptional artistic value of the Saski Palace was the 11-arcade colonnade with a pillar plinth.

With Poland regaining independence, the Saski Palace became the seat of the General Staff of the Polish Army. In the years 1923-33, it underwent a thorough renovation, designed by Aleksander Sygietyński. It was probably then that the gothic costume was removed from one of the garden façades, giving it a classicist character like the others. At that time, the attic covering the roof was rebuilt (the original attic was dismantled before 1900).

The arcades housing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier since 1925 were the only ones in the entire Saski Palace that survived being blown up by the German army in December 1944, enabling its quick reconstruction. The shattered gravestone was replaced with a new one, on which a constantly burning candle was placed. On the pillars of the arcades there are plaques with the names of battlefields from the Second World War. Three decorative grilles from the side of the Saski Garden contain representations of the Cross of Virtuti Militari, the Cross of Grunwald and the Cross of Valor. The rebuilt Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was handed over to the city in May 1946.

From the south, on Saski Square, a small tenement house bordered the Palace. The connector was a seal between Malhomme's tenement house and the Saski Palace. Before 1855, it was a rusticated wall with an arcaded gate. This year, the wall was replaced with a two-axis, neo-Renaissance tenement house designed by Henryk Marconi. In the interwar period, the building was an integral part of the headquarters of the General Staff.

Brühl Palace

The spatial arrangement of the palace was shaped from the 17th century. The triangular shape of the plot was marked by the line of ul. Wierzbowa and fortifications from the Vasa times - earthen bastion fortifications erected in connection with the Tartar threat. In the years 1641-1643, the Great Chancellor of the Crown, Jerzy Ossoliński, erected an impressive palace on this plot, designed by Augustyn Locci the Elder - the architect of King Władysław IV. At that time, it received the form of a two-story building on a quadrangular plan, with two corner towers crowning it from the garden side. In the 1680s, on the initiative of the next owner of the residence, Józef Karol Lubomirski, the palace was expanded under the direction of the outstanding architect Tylman van Gameren. At that time, two two-story alcoves with hipped roofs with pinnacles were added to the building. Each of them had a niche with a place for a sculpture depicting Polish kings, and pavilions were built in the back. The form of the complex developed at that time, consisting of a triangular courtyard limited by outbuildings and a gate, the main body and the garden located behind the building, determined the shape of the Palace for several centuries. In the mid-eighteenth century, the building was transformed again into the residence of Count Henryk Brühl, whose name has since become synonymous with the name of the building. The palace was adapted and expanded by a team of Saxon architects under the direction of Jan Fryderyk Knöbel.

At that time, the main body was raised to the height of two floors and topped with a high mansard roof. There is a balcony above the main entrance. The niches with sculptures on the façade were eliminated and replaced with windows. The façade from the garden side received a classicizing colonnade. In place of the entrance building, a representative gate was built, and two storey annexes were built on both sides of the courtyard. The baroque façade was decorated with sculptures by Józef Deybel. At the end of the 18th century, Dominik Merlini gave the façade and outbuildings classicistic forms.

At the end of the 19th century, the building underwent another reconstruction, which was to adapt it to the needs of the Central Telegraph Office, with the entrance located on ul. Kotzebue (now Fredry), designed by Karol Kozłowski. As a result of works aimed at adapting the interiors to the needs of the office, the original interiors of the residence were changed and destroyed. The external appearance of the building has also changed, including the characteristic roof inspired by Dresden architecture, replaced by a lower structure. At that time, the palace complex was extended with a corner four-storey tenement house located at the intersection of Kotzebue (Fredry) and Wierzbowa Streets. The building in the eclectic style had a cut-off corner, a rusticated plinth pierced with two storeys of large shop windows, above which two residential storeys were erected.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs occupied part of the palace as early as 1918. At the same time, the main building was still occupied by the Telegraph Office. As a consequence, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs had to settle for rooms in the side wings, which did not match the seriousness of one of the most important ministries of the reborn state. When the Office was moved to a new building at Poznańska Street, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a chance to adapt the entire establishment for its own needs. The work was entrusted to Bohdan Pniewski. The architect's task was to create over 320 office and representative rooms. For this, it was necessary to create a private space for the minister. Pniewski signed the contract on October 20, 1932. Work on the reconstruction was carried out in the years 1933-1937. In the first stage, already in 1933, the adaptation of the left outbuilding was completed. In 1934, the façade of the main body was renovated. Work on the interior lasted until May 1937.

The restoration of the building, carried out under the direction of Pniewski, restored the palace to its eighteenth-century facades, while the interiors gained a new, modernist character, seriously changing the historical layout of the rooms. An important measure that gave the building a lightness of proportions was lowering the level of the courtyard by one meter and raising the roof. In order to increase the volume of the building, Pniewski designed a new wing of the palace. The modernist pavilion on a rectangular plan, built on the site of the demolished garages, housed a ballroom on the first floor, and the apartment of Minister Józef Beck on the ground floor. The compact block of the pavilion was lightened by a loggia with 12 slender columns on the first floor of the longer façade, overlooking the Saski Garden. External stairs were located at the gable walls, entrances to the interior led through four-column porticos on the first floor. The pavilion was connected to the main body by a connector located at the height of the first floor.

In the same spirit, Pniewski rebuilt the interiors of the Brühl Palace itself - the then seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, making the heart of the building a monumental vestibule running upwards through all the floors, with an impressive staircase. The architect, operating with simple, clean forms, using luxurious materials such as marble and alabaster, gave the whole a representative, elegant and monumental character, without losing the spirit of modernity.

In September 1939, the roof of the Palace was damaged, but it was renovated, slightly raised, in 1940 according to the design of Juliusz Nagórski. The building was blown up by the Germans after the Warsaw Uprising, on December 18, 1944

Malhomme's tenement house

In 1852, a tenement house at ul. Królewska 6, which was modernized around 1880 in an eclectic spirit and added an additional floor. A corner tenement house, in a compact development with buildings at pl. Piłsudski and ul. Królewska 8, founded on a plan similar to the letter "U", with two front wings stretched along ul. Królewska and Piłsudski Square. The tenement house was destroyed in the last months of the occupation and was finally demolished after the war.

Tenement house Królewska 8

The front tenement house was erected in the late 1850s in a compact development with the neighboring tenement houses, on a plan similar to a rectangle, with a central, rectangular avant-corps, with extremely modest architectural details. The two-story building in the classicist style, after superstructures of the neighboring tenement houses, remained clearly lower, thus disturbing the compact row of frontages. The tenement house was destroyed during the bombing of Warsaw in September 1939.

Lessel's tenement house

In the years 1810-1820, tenement houses at ul. Królewska 10/12. The building was then rebuilt in the spirit of the Roman Renaissance in 1882, designed by Józef Huss, commissioned by Ludwik Strasburger, as a residential and rental house with luxury apartments. The tenement house stretched along ul. Królewska, partly in a compact development (from the east with the neighboring tenement house at 8 Królewska Street), with a side outbuilding from the east and a wing overlooking the corner of the Saski Garden, at the end of the plot from the west. The buildings from the north, i.e. from the side of the Saski Garden, were closed by a semi-rotunda on the plan of an almost full arch - a "horseshoe", in which until 1938 a confectionery was located. The tenement house gained its final shape in 1914, when the façade was transformed - the ground floor windows were enlarged, and Ionic columns were added flanking the window niches on the first floor.

In September 1939, as a result of German air raids on Warsaw, tenement houses at ul. Królewska at numbers 8 and 10/12. The roof of the Brühl Palace burned down, and one of its outbuildings was destroyed. After the capitulation of Warsaw on September 28, 1939, the German administration occupied the vicinity of the square. The Saski Palace was soon used as the headquarters of the Wehrmacht, and the Brühl Palace became the seat of the governor of the Warsaw District, Ludwig Fischer. In the courtyard of the Brühl Palace, the occupying German troops gathered arms laid down by surrendering Polish soldiers. During the occupation, the square was the site of German celebrations, including parades in honor of Adolf Hitler.

After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, the Germans began methodically destroying the buildings around the square. From December 11, 1944, German sappers began drilling holes for explosives in both palaces. On December 16, 1944, a monument to Prince Józef Poniatowski was blown up.

On December 18, German troops razed the Brühl Palace and the Beck Pavilion to the ground. On December 27 and 29, 1944, the occupying forces detonated charges near the Saski Palace. Only the ruined central bays of the colonnade with the destroyed slab of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have survived from the building.

Malhomme's tenement house, burnt down during the Warsaw Uprising, was demolished in 1945.

The importance of Piłsudski Square in the interwar period

Since Poland regained independence, the former Saski Square has become a state space. Already on November 11, 1918 at On the 13th, the buildings located on it were taken away from the Germans. The Brühl Palace became the seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Military Affairs and the General Staff of the Polish Army gained their headquarters in the Saski Palace. The representative character of the square was also emphasized by other institutions located in nearby buildings: the District Military Court and the City Command. The square became a space for celebrations of state ceremonies.

In 1923, a monument to Prince Józef Poniatowski. The classicist monument was the work of the outstanding Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The author of the project was inspired by the Capitoline monument of Marcus Aurelius. Made in the years 1826-1832 and transported by the tsar's field marshal Ivan Paskevich to Gomel, it returned to Warsaw in 1922 under the provisions of the Treaty of Riga. Originally, during the period of the Russian partition, the monument was to be erected in front of the Namiestnikowski Palace in Krakowskie Przedmieście (today's Presidential Palace), however, after regaining independence, this location was rejected due to the still vivid associations with Paskiewicz. The official unveiling of the monument took place during the celebration of the Constitution Day on May 3.

On November 2, 1925, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was ceremonially unveiled, which is a symbol of bravery and military virtues of those who died in the fight for independence. The arcades of the colonnade of the Saski Palace were intended as a place of glory. The ashes of one of the nameless soldiers who died in the battles for Lwów were buried in a 1.5-meter-deep tomb chamber. The visual setting of the tomb was designed by the sculptor Stanisław Kazimierz Ostrowski. In addition to the symbolic grave in the form of a sandstone slab, located under the central part of the colonnade, granite plaques with a list of battlefields where Polish soldiers died in the years 1914-1918 and 1918-1920 were mounted in the pillars of the arcades. The extreme walls of the arcades were decorated with bas-reliefs in the panoply type depicting banners surrounded by hussar wings. At the bottom of the bas-reliefs, cannonballs, cannon barrels, on which eagles with outstretched wings sat, were depicted. The whole was complemented by metalwork elements in the form of decorative, openwork grilles between the bays and bronze candles in the form of the goddess Nike.

In the same year, the monumental building of the former Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, which had been the architectural dominant of the square since the end of the 19th century, was demolished. This action had not only an urban dimension, but above all a symbolic one. It was a visible sign of the abolition of Russian domination in the public space of Warsaw.

The crowning achievement of the actual transformations of the space in question were the changes in the naming layer, when in 1928 the square gained the name of Marshal Józef Piłsudski.

The demolition of the former Orthodox temple and the location of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier contributed to the re-opening of the square, where from that moment solemn celebrations and

patriotic events could freely take place. State holidays such as May 3 or November 11 were celebrated in front of the Saski Palace. Saski Square was also the scene of numerous public gatherings.

4. CONTEMPORARY CHARACTER OF PIŁSUDSKI SQUARE - GENIUS LOCI

The uniqueness of Piłsudski Square is determined not only by its location in the heart of the city or urban connections, but also by the spirit of the place. The most important factor that gives it an emotional charge is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Today, the most important state and military ceremonies are held here, an eternal flame burns here, and the guard of honor from the Representative Regiment of the Polish Army is on duty. On public holidays, it is ceremonially changed with the participation of the highest state authorities. The memorial site is also a permanent point of visits by official foreign delegations and tourists from the country and the world.

Piłsudski Square is also a place associated in the social consciousness with John Paul II. The Polish Pope celebrated a mass there during his first pilgrimage to his homeland in 1979, which was commemorated in the form of a monument - the Papal Cross, located in the eastern part of the square.

Outdoor artistic performances and cultural events are organized on the square. The most important is certainly the annual concert "Varsovians sing (un)forbidden songs", which is an integral part of the celebrations of the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. Then, thousands of residents of the capital together with artists pay tribute to the insurgents by singing songs from the war and occupation period together.

From the west, the Saski Garden adjoins the investment area - one of the most important parks in the city center, a place of rest and fun for Varsovians.

This assumption is currently the most spatially legible element of the former Saska Axis. The garden has retained its historic character thanks to the surviving small architecture and sculptures, constituting a natural point of reference for the reconstructed buildings.

5. FORMS OF PROTECTING MONUMENTS - AREA ENTRIES

5.1. Saska Axis

The entire investment area is under legal conservation protection under the area decision covering the urban development of the Saska Axis. By the decision of the Conservator of Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw in July 1965, it was entered into the register of immovable monuments under number A-510.

Establishment of Plac Zwycięstwa (currently Józef Piłsudski Square).

The eastern part of the investment area, including the area of the former Saski Palace and a fragment of the outbuildings and the courtyard of the Brühl Palace, is entered separately in the register of monuments as the urban layout of Plac Zwycięstwa (currently Józef Piłsudski Square) by decision of the Conservator

Monuments of the capital city Warsaw of July 1965 under the register number A-511.



Brühl Palace, 1939 r. fot. State Archive, Warszawa.

5.2. Saski Garden

The western part of the investment is located in the area entered in the register of monuments as the area of the Saski Garden by decision of the Conservator of Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw of Warsaw in July 1965 under the register number A-512.



The Saski Garden, part of the Saska Axis, 2022. Photo by Michał Sawiński.

5.3. Wierzbowa Street

Closing the investment from the north, ul. Wierzbowa is entered in the register of monuments as an urban development under the Decision of the Conservator of Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw of July 1965 under the register number A-608.

6. FORMS OF MONUMENT PROTECTION - INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

6.1. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

It is entered in the register of monuments under the Decision of the Conservator of Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw of July 1965 under the register number A-511/3.

6.2. Remains of the Colonnade of the Saski Palace

Entered into the register of monuments under the Decision of the Conservator of Monuments of the Capital City of Warsaw of July 1965 under the register number A-511/2.

6.3. Fragments of the relics of the western frontage of the Square March. Józef Piłsudski

Fragments of relics from the period from the second half of the 17th century to the first half of the 19th century are located on the plots no.: 24/8, 24/9, 24/18 from precinct 5–03–04. The entry in the register of immovable monuments was made pursuant to Decision No. 626/2007 of the Mazowieckie Voivodship Conservator of Monuments of May 17, 2007 under the number A-741.

7. FORMS OF MONUMENT PROTECTION - OTHER

The buffer zone of the Historic Center of Warsaw, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980.

The Old Town with the Royal Castle within the medieval defensive walls along with the Vistula escarpment adjacent to it, the Bernardine church of St. Anna, ul. Podwale and part of Przedmieście Freta to ul. Mostowa has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as the Historic Center of Warsaw. The concept of the Historic Center of Warsaw, however, refers to a wider area than the one inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is part of a historic urban complex, mostly formed from the 14th century to the end of the 18th century on both banks of the Vistula River. A buffer zone has been designated to protect the spatial relations of the site with historic complexes, landscapes and panoramas. The borders of the buffer zone were determined based on the historical course of the city embankments from the 17th-18th centuries. street layout in the southern zone.

On the left bank of the Vistula, the range of Zygmuntowskie Embankments (according to T. Zarębska's interpretation) was adopted with the necessary corrections resulting from later layers - the Citadel esplanade, the development of Bankowy Square, the Saska Axis, the layout of streets in the southern zone.

ATTENTION:

Detailed competition guidelines and other Information Annexes constituting the basis for the implementation of competition concepts, i.e. Appendix No. 7 to 30, will be made available to Competition Participants who will be qualified for the 1st Stage of the Competition

The project was co-financed by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage - Reconstruction of the Saski Palace, Brühl Palace and tenement houses at ul. Królewska - preparatory work.