ABSTRACTS

Aleksander Asanowicz
UNDERSTANDING VR. GENESIS OF VIRTUAL REALITY

The article aims to present the genesis of virtual reality in the context of its relationship with the evolution of philosophical thought. Particular attention was devoted to Husserl's phenomenology. Another problem which was analysed is the difference between the imitation and simulation of reality, based on Baudrillard's views. Understanding what virtual reality is requires going beyond the technical aspects, which although important, do not constitute the essence of the problem. The idea of Lem's fantomatics or Gibson's cyber worlds was not created in a vacuum. Just as the current virtual reality devices such as Cave, which draw inspiration from the work of aforementioned authors. The appearance of virtual reality has not only radically changed our view on perception, but also on the ability to design in virtual spaces.

Bartosz Czarnecki
MANIFESTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DEPOPULATION OF POLISH CITIES. OUTLINE OF THE PROBLEM

Article outlining the main aspects of the current and the expected depopulation processes in polish cities: causes, manifestations, cites foreign cases and are under discussion of the expected consequences. Major issues discussed are the consequences of depopulation of a city, and to the extent the inevitable decline of quantitative indicators that characterise such a city is it possible to maintain the quality parameters in relation to the quality of life and quality of space. A survey of key aspects of the crisis, which is depopulation points to the specific risks for the management of Polish cities in such a situation according to the State and local government debt, low efficiency of management, the difficulty in taking action by the community and the inefficacy of planning.

Jarosław Szewczyk
NON-STANDARD BUILDING MATERIALS, SUCH AS CLAY, DUNG AND ADMIXTURES, IN OLD POLISH LITERATURE
PART 1. THRESHING FLOORS, FLOORS, WALLS AND PLASTERWORK

Non-standard building materials, such as clay or dung, were popular subject in the old Polish technical and household literature. They were used for all parts of buildings, from floors to roofs. Their building usage was the subject of experiments and improvements, and polemics, including discussions about various admixtures to clay- or cob-dung-based mortars. Those discussions and building craft clues are analyzed in the paper, with aim to present the past Polish culture of building with clay, dung and admixtures. The analysis can refer to more general topic of technological and cultural evolution of our civilization, supplementing this subject with the specific view on aesthetic changes for the last 200 years. The results can be applicable in the contemporary eco-tech and low-tech architecture.

Barbara Urbanowicz
INFLUENCE OF ORGANIZATION THEORY ON OFFICE SPACE

The work organization theory as a field of science has begun to exist in the era of industrialization. It was a way to increase labor productivity in industrial plants and initially achievements of the new field of science were used only there. Afterwards they appear in the offices as well. The article presents the impact of the work organization theory on office space since the nineteenth century to modern days. The study made clear that there is strong relationship between the organization theory and the way of designing office space and individual workstations. Therefore we can combine the Classical Organization Theories (including Taylorism) with the creation of the open space office, The Human Relations movement with the landscape office (Bürolandschaft) and the introduction of cubicle office as well as theories created after 1970's (including Human Resources model) with the introduction of
combi office and non-territorial offices (eg. hot desking).

During the analysis of the literature in the field of historical development of work organization as well as spatial and functional solutions in the offices, the author used the methods of comparative and historical research (chronological approach), and logical reasoning (demonstrating sequence of cause and effect between theory and practice). The text presents comparative analysis of the work organisation theory with the different office design solutions within earlier mentioned time frame as well.