

Historical elements of garden architecture of the spa park in Nałęczów

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Summary: Currently, Nałęczów is mentioned amongst most important Polish health resorts. One of the most important core of the whole urban complex in Nałęczów were the areas of greenery and spa park, which was originally part of manor historical complex. The former garden had a key role in the development of town urban structure. It was later adapted to services as spa park in health resort. The papers analyses the structure and development of spa park in Nałęczów in the context of health resort function and regional style. The article underlines their impact on architectural garden details in the late 19th-early 20th century.

Keywords: Spa park, Nałęczów, architectural garden details

Introduction

During the 19th century, naturopathy and hydrotherapy were rapidly developing in the territory of Poland, and they started to flourish in the late 19th-early 20th century. At that time, health resorts were immensely popular becoming the tourist attractions important at the national level. Urban development plans and architecture of these towns were the result of cumulation of the traditional regional architecture and modernism that was gaining popularity these days. The resorts were developing so fast partly due to the construction of railway¹ which had big influence on urban planning, and, most of all, on accessibility of health resorts.

During the inter-war period, the health resorts in the area of Huculszczyzna (the area of east Carpathian Mountains) were called the summer salons of the 2nd Republic of Poland attracting intellectuals and artistic bohema of that time both in summer and in winter [Czubiński, 2015]. Besides Truskawiec (situated in the Lwów Voivodeship these days) being one of the youngest and richest health resorts of the inter-war period, with its beaches with sand from the Baltic Sea [source internet 2018], the resorts like Worochta, Tatarów, Jaremcze, or famous for its Mediteranean climate Zaleszczyki (Tarnopole district) near the border with Romania, which boosted with its plantation of orange trees and vineyards, were especially popular. Spending free time in Polish health resorts was trendy and fashionable, so many guidebooks and catalogues promoting relaxation on the Baltic coast or at the frontiers of the 2nd Republic of Poland were published at that time.

The health resort in Nałęczów was founded during the boom of this type of tourism. Its architecture is the evidence of the rich past being the unique example in the Lublin region of the health resort complex. Increasing popularity of Nałęczów at the end of 19th century entailed the trend to travel to a health resort not only for treatments but also for socializing. The aim of this article is to present the history, the modifications of the form and composition of the palace complex transformed and extended for the needs of health resort and its equipment. The author shall underline the period of the biggest popularity of the resort in the late 19th-early 20th

1 Railway bridges were important element of the landscape of Huculszczyzna and Podole regions being the architectural dominants. See: Worochta, Jaremcze, Zaleszczyki, etc.

century presenting the historical substance of the park and the forms of the garden architecture which were only partly preserved and which are the evidence of past glory of the resort.

The crucial year for the development of Polish health resorts was 1922, when on April, 23rd the *act on health resorts* was issued. For the first time the term of health resort was defined. They were: the towns with thermal waters – so-called therms, hot springs², climate resorts and sea resorts. The same act established the term: town of “*public utility character*”.

The first health resorts of public utility character was deemed national health resorts, Zakopane health resort and spa resorts in Innowrocław [Journal of Law, 1922]. Only six years later as a result of the Directive of President of the Republic of Poland as of 22nd March 1928, which amended the *act on Health Resorts*, the list of health resorts was extended by Druskienniki, Jaremzcze, Truskawiec, Worochta, Zaleszczyki or Nałęczów³ in the Lublin region [Journal of Law 1928].

The state of research and methodology

The architecture and greenery of Nałęczów hasn't been described until these days in the monography, but some buildings were often appearing individually in papers as an “illustration” of the detailed topic of research. Many information regarding the life of the town could be found in tourist guidebooks in the late 19th-early 20th century. Among the others, H. Wierciński, A. Puławski (1908) or T. Kłak (1983) were writing about Nałęczów. The history of the town was the subject of the monography of M. Tarka (1989), which has been so far one of the most comprehensive study about the history of the health resort. Big contribution in the state of research on the history of Nałęczów and people connected with this town has current president of the Association of the Friends of Nałęczów (Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nałęczowa) – Jerzy Michał Sołdek and Janina Babinicz – Witucka (ethnographer).

For the purpose of this article, the author made numerous archive inquiries among the others in the National Archive in Lublin, the Archive of the Lublin Town Hall, the Archive of Provincial Monument Conservator WUOZ/Lublin Voivodeship department and Faustyna Morzycka's Municipal – Communal Public Library in Nałęczów. Collected literary and iconographic materials were subject to a comparative analysis with the current state (photographic inventory) and similar garden complexes from the same period in the Lublin Voivodeship particularly emphasizing accompanying architectural details.

The history of the Thermal Park in Nałęczów – the transformation of form and composition

The foundation of the palace-park complex in Nałęczów is connected with the work of Stanisław Nałęcz Małachowski and dates back to 1771 [Nałęczów (...) 1897].

One of the first cartographic resources presenting the topography of the complex with the scheme of the park composition was included in the first edition of military map *Karten von west Galizien* from 1764–1787. A 18th-century plan presented a park with main alleys – a lime alley from the side of the church to the palace and an alley from the north side of the complex indicating its borders and underlined with two ortogonal artificial water resevoirs on the Bochotniczanka River. Flower beds had simplified, elliptical shapes in one-storey, baroque style. Fenced farm of Małachowski's estate was located in south-west part of the estate. In the west part of the farm, there was a “fruit garden” with some farm buildings.

“*Planting of the area*” for the needs of the park accompanying new residence dates back to the second half of the 18th century. As the result of the leveling of the area, the road to the palace from the north was removed, the entrance gate was moved and the geometry of Lipowa Street was changed in a way that it became

2 Hot spring – a source of thermal water

3 Pursuant to the directive, Druskienniki, Iwonicz, Jaremzcze, Krzeszowice, Lubliń , Nałęczów, Rymanów, Solec, Swoszowice, Truskawiec, Worochta got the status of health resorts of public utility.

the main alley leading to the complex. The main square in front of the palace remained in its original location – on the west side of the building.

The borders of the park didn't change much except from the west border, where the former palace – lean-in was located in the fruit garden [Tarka 1983]. The outbreak of the November Uprising and later consequences resulting from it was descriptive for the estate. As a result, the Nałęczów complex was sold by the heirs of Ludwik Małachowski. At the end, the palace together with park was covered by lease in 1877 by Fortunat Nowicki. One year later, a new administrator started general transformation of the complex – probably it was the time when the big pond was removed and at that place was dedicated for a garden [Olszewski 1998]. At the same time, Nałęczów was bought by Michał Górski, who resold it in 1880 to the Spółka Udziałowa – Zakład Lecznicy (treatment intitute – holding company). That year was a start of "the golden period" of the resort, which lasted until 1914. At that time, the whole park and buildings in its area were substantially transformed. The new buildings were erected for the needs of the health resort, eg. hydropathy unit.



Fig. 1. A – Bochoćniczka River in the park, 2018, autor's photography, **B** – The park pond, 2018, autor's photography

The park was also modified. Walerian Kronenberg – well-known landscape planner, architect who made about 300 calligraphic parks in the area of the former Kingdom of Poland and in the west and north governo-rates of the Russian Empire was invited to extend and organize the park [Sołdek 1997]. In the legacy of Walerian Kronenberg it appears as an undated work. However, above-mentioned planner knew well the character of the area, because he was planning and realizing parks in the neighbourhood in Czesławice (1886) and Palikije (1899) [Kulus 1990]. Nonetheless, his job was quite different in Nałęczów – he had to adapt already existing palace complex and add the north part at the place of the former pond. Former park alleys and roads was also transformed determining the whole composition of the park and creating north-south and east-west communication routes. The fragment of the park which got calligraphic geometry was only the area that was previously used for the pond. [Fig. 1A,B] The characteristic feature of Walerian Kronenberg's works was to compose the greenery in the massives situated at the frontiers of the park and in groups – aggregations situated in the middle part. The axes were composed taking into account the topography, the choice and way of the woodlot. The garden of Nałęczów had natural topography and its characteristic feature was "waviness, abundance of water, lush and various plants, which was favoring the foundation of the parks" [Przeszłość..., 1903]. It was giving the possibility to plan multiplan perspectives and the natural topography was providing a lot of opportunities for "decorative use of water" [Przeszłość..., 1903].

The health resort has been modernised over the years. In 1901, the first pavement was made out of concrete slabs. In 1903, the horticulture garden was made and the pond was restocked. Some architectural details appeared in the park. The alleys and paths were "precisely organized". They got comfortable dips and they were laid out with penetrable ground. In most frequent places the concrete pavements were laid. At that time eight garden bridges were built, source was rebuilt, statues, numerous flowerbeds and flower carpets, gazebos and around 200 benches appeared [Przeszłość (...) 1903].

At the beginning of the 20th century, the garden of Nałęczów could be divided into three parts. The whole park had a shape of a quadrangle. According to Bolesław Prus, the historical "old park" was in the middle, east and south part of a quadrangle. It was indicated by historical alleys with centrally located pond. An "upper

park” was located on the flanks of Góra Armatnia (a hill) and was planted with young limes thanks to Michał Górski. A “new park” was located in the west part of the complex. It was planned by an administrator Stanisław Thile. The characteristic feature of this part of the park was plantings including mostly pine trees [Prus 1905].

Nałęczów Park was admired because of its greenery and plant compositions. Bolesław Prus mentioned “old dediduous and corniferous trees, (...) bushes, flower-beds, maypoles and alleys”. He said that there were numerous elder bushes and chestnut with yellow flowers, which he compared to “Christmas trees with bright lights” [Prus 1905].

Apart from the palace and buildings of spa resort, there were three hothouses, an area for “sun baths”, gazebos: one for the orchestra (located at an island) and a photographic gazebo, fruit room in the park. Outside of the park, there was a horticulture garden and a forest of about 5.5 hectares [Puławski 1908].

The horticulture garden was located behind the so-called “little verandas” in the west part of the park complex. It included numerous hotbeds and greenhouses with exotic plants, which in the summer were the decoration of flowerbeds and the space in front of the palace [Żelechowski 1998]. In August, 1914 Nałęczów was continuously haunted by marches and stops of Russian army. “(...) all patients fled. The spa and baths were closed. The staff was freed (...)” [Babinicz – Witucka 2015]. The complex suffered huge losses during the stay of Russian staff of the Kisiel – Kisielewski’s brigade. The palace, which was the staff centre, the villas and the spa hotel were devastated and robbed. At that time, the spa was closed and the spa park was falling apart. From the beginning of their stay, Russian soldiers were devastating park benches, lighting fires in the flowerbeds and destroying the boats using the pond to bath [Babinicz – Witucka 2015]. During the inter-war period, the park has never regained its past glory. Its negligence was visible even on the pictures from that time.

The architectural frame of the waters of Nałęczów

The pride of every spa park of the inter-war period was water sources. They were lavishly decorated and they were given architectural frame often balancing on the verge of kitsch and good taste. The sources often got their names and they were becoming tourist spots, which were attracting people not only because of their therapeutic assets, but also because of their visual qualities.

The sources in Truskawiec were decorated with wooden gazebos, bricked gloriettas (the Naftusia source) and the pavilions in the form of garden pavilions. The pump rooms were often key elements of so-called covered promenades. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2. The Naftusia and Bronisława Sources in Truskawiec, the inter-war period.

The water intakes in the spa park in Nałęczów had a bit more modest architectural form.

The whole garden complex had two sources; the third and the fourth were located near the estate of Michał Górski. One of them was called “the source of hope”. This source was not used.

The biggest attraction of the park was “*the source of love*”. It was deep, “*abundant*” source of the efficacy of around 750 l/ minute. It didn’t have the character of mineral water source, but it was meeting the criteria of drinking, clear water of hypotonic type. After the 2nd world war, this water was bottled (about one and a half million bottles per year) and sold in Poland under the name of “*Nałęczowianka*” [APL]. At the end of 1950s bottling company of Nałęczów waters was producing more than 2 million bottles of this water annually. Apart from drinking water, this source was also used for thermal bathing water. Baths in water rich in iron in Nałęczów were esteemed both by the patients and by the medical community. Small amount of minerals in 1 liter of water (around 0.38) and of carbonic acid didn’t classify this source as therapeutic for the human body [Działalność ...1910]. Together with two sources in the estate of Michał Górski, this source was enough to provide water for the whole area of Nałęczów.

The source of love was situated in the west part of the health resort near the pond. Currently, there is ferruginous mineral water drinking room with palm house in the neighbourhood. After the 2nd World War, the source was decorated with gazebo [Słomczyński 1958], which were trying to copy Zakopane style of pre-war relaxing area designed by Jan Witkiewicz Koszczyc. Original architectural frame of the source (immortalized in numerous postcards from Nałęczów) remained probably after recomposition of the park the late 19th-early 20th century. In the calendar prepared by dr. A Puławski dated back to 1908, it is assumed that the “*new park*” was made in 1904 [Puławski 1908]. The evidence is quite rich iconography of the garden complex from that period.

There was quite wide alley leading to the source, from which there were two descents in the form of eight steps to the source. The whole object was emphasized with bricked arcade decorated with the motive of shell made out of pebbles and accentuated with cuboidal poles with stone vases – just like descents to the source. In summer “*the source of love*” was decorated with exotic plants, which were stored in greenhouses in winter-time. It was african apaganthus (*Agapanthus sp.*) with blue flowers, cordylines (*Cordylina sp.*) and dragon tree (*Dracaena sp.*) [Słomczyński 1958].

In front of the source, on the stony island, there was a statue of a crane, which was also a fountain. The sculpture didn’t preserve until modern times. It was still on the photographs from the inter-war period, but it didn’t survive the turmoil of the 2nd World War. The crane was very popular theme in 19th-century garden architecture as evidenced by preserved moulds of the garden art and “*readymade projects*” of the sculptures. That sculpture was very popular among the patients, and that is why we have quite vast iconography of this subject (Fig. 3A, B).

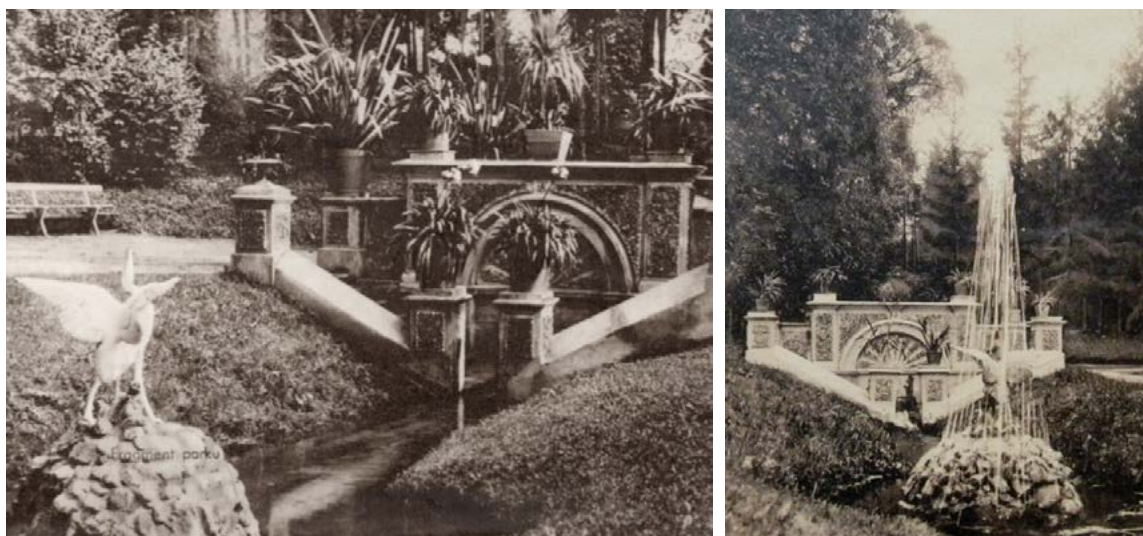


Fig. 3. A – The source of love, the inter-war period 1920 – 1940, **B** – “The source of love”, 1912, a postcard

Further behind “*the source of love*”, there were alluvial meadows covered with alders used for extraction of peat for peat baths [Żelechowski 1998]. First peat baths were dated back to 1883 [Puławski 1908]. Peat used in the resort was winded for one to two years in order to eliminate already small radioactivity of the produce. The

medical community considered peat from Nałęczów very healthy. Professor L. Korczyński in the book *Balneologia krajowa* (National balneology) said: *“the big quantity of humic acid and also partly carbonic acid gives the peat of Nałęczów important medical value and puts it amongst the best bath products of this kind”* [Korczyński 1900].

Apart from the source of love, there was another source in the vicinity of Domek Biskupi (Little Bishop's House) or Domek przy źródle (Little House by the Source) was built in the beginning of the 19th century, and then *“Łazienki kąpielowe”* (Bath building) was built in 1816 [Sołdek 1997]. (Fig. 4) It was so-called Celiński's source, *“ferruginous acidic water”*, used both for drinking and for bath [Nałęczów...1891]. It was very efficient source – around 120 liters / minute. It fulfilled the needs of the patients and related therapies at that time [APL] Unfortunately, the grandness of the former source is now a history. Nowadays, the Celiński's source is still active, but there is no access to it. Its history is described on the information board. *“The source of love”* is in much worse shape. The former grandness from the beginning of the 20th century is long gone. There is only concrete frame with devastated stairs and the inscription *“Drinking of water is forbidden”*.



Fig. 4. Łazienki with the first “Celiński's source”, author's own photography, 2018

The additional elements of the plan of the park of Nałęczów were architectural details in the form of gazebos, garden bridges, sculptures and entrance gates. Unfortunately, they are only partly preserved until this days. The former pavilion where kumis was distilled doesn't exist anymore – the same with gazebos and a fountain with the sculpture of Cupid located previously in front of the Małachowski's palace. Until now, the historical substance of the park is historical gates and to a lesser extent statues. Current garden bridges don't reflect on the original character of the original wooden garden bridges of the complex.

Unexisting architectural garden details – gazebos

After modernization of the park in the second half of the 19th century, in the central part of the park, the pond with the island was built. In a gazebo built on the island, there were concerts by orchestra organized twice a day. Originally, the gazebo had a form of openwork pavilion in the Chinese style topped with the lantern. The arched garden bridge made out of birch wood was leading to the gazebo. At the beginning of 20th century, the number of gazebos in the park was estimated at eight. During the inter-war period this pavilion was much extended and got a new function. Local small farmers composed 20-person orchestra, which was giving concerts in the gazebo. Apart from the gazebo in the island, there was also other one in the park, so-called *“photographic gazebo”* with photographic studio. That building was mentioned in the list of buildings from 1908 [Puławski 1908].

One of the attractions available for the patients was boats rental in the little harbour at the south part of the pond. Other was free of charge tennis court located at the descent between the palace and the maple tree alley. From 1935, the spa resort went into decline [Żelechowski 1998] (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. The spa park, the pond, 1927–1935, Album of Nałęczów:- Pub. By. Jadwiga Cholewińska w Nałęczowie

Realaxing areas

The element of garden architectural details, which distinguished Nałęczów from other garden complexes and connected with the health resort function of the park, was wooden relaxing area. Sun and air baths started to be increasingly popular at the end of 19th – and the beginning of 20th century. *Lying down on a veranda* was considered as one of the methods to treat the following afflictions: *nervous disorders, anemia, constitutional neuropathy, permanent exhaustion and fatigue, insomnia due to constant nervous tension and illnesses with the symptoms of hysteria and neurastenia which seems to have reasons lying much deeper* [Tokarski 1910].

The relaxing area was built in 1905 [Puławski 1908]. Its architecture was inspired by Zakopane style. The building had the shape of elongated, covered pavilion with accentuated, forward middle part with characteristic roof. The building was covered with shingle and had characteristic woodcarving details: arched poles, decorative wooden dowels and ornate handrails. The building was situated within the borders of the upper park, on the flank of Góra Armatnia on the characteristic wall base made of “wild stone” strengthened with bricks. [Przesmycka, 2019]

Garden bridges

Unseparable elements of the spa park were wooden garden bridges made in the style referring to the 19th-century models of garden bridges popular in magnate mansion's gardens. The handrails were diverse – from bent wooden on the bridge by the palace to openwork in Chinese style to module ones – later solutions of wooden handrails with the motif of a crosshead.

All details of the bridges were made entirely of the wood and painted white. Mostly they had a form of simple footbridges, but the one that led on the island of love was special: it was an arched bridge supported originally with poles. That bridge of delicate, openwork handrails was made in the Chinese style. Its form was to refer to the style of the gazebo and a swan house (which resembled little Chinese pagoda) located on the island. During the inter-war period the bridge and the gazebo were rebuilt gaining more unified form, which was referring to the other elements of this type in the park. At that time, it was 8 bridges in the park. (Fig. 6 A, B)



Fig. 6. A – Garden bridges leading to the island and a gazebo for an orchestra, a postcard, the beginning of the 20th century, **B** – Garden bridges leading to the island, author's own photography, 2018

Garden gates

There were three gates to the garden complex: east, west and north. Apart from that, it was possible to enter the health resort by three doors by so-called Upper Alley (Aleja Górna) and one by the south side leading to the farmhouse of M. Górski [Przeszłość... 1903].

Eclectic main gate, called also Żelazna gate was located in the east part of the palace – park complex, at the extension of lime tree alley. It was built by Stanisław Małachowski in the 70s of the 18th century [Głos... 2017]. The building of a lodge near the gate dates back to the beginning of 20th century – precisely to 1906. The gate with the lodge was built of brick. It was decorated by putti (preserved until these days). The main entrance gate is one-axis, eclectic-baroque gate.

The 20th-century lodge near the gate was built on a rectangular plane. It is a house with a single row of rooms. From the south, it has three-storey tower covered with a hipped roof. Northern part is a two-storey building covered with a three-sloped roof. Currently, the lodge is hosting confectionery and the tourist information point.

In the area of the current spa park there are two other lodges: northern and western – a former out-patients' clinic. Now the building of the former clinic is not used. Current gate diverges from the one from the beginning of the century, when construction elements of the poles were made of bricks and filled with limestone (referring to the appearance of the building of the former out-patients' clinic) and ended with decorative bricked capstone. Current gate grid, likewise, doesn't recreate its historical appearance. Northern gate was built of brick and local stone fitting into the traditional trend of the material solutions used in the Nałęczów area. Characteristic architectural details are pilasters, which create arcades and Mauritanian arches [Chmielewska, 2001].

Summary

Currently, Nałęczów is mentioned amongst most important Polish health resorts. Since 1950s, the health resort functions as a public company, which every year extends its infrastructure facilities. Not many historical architectural garden details and infrastructure connected with the complex have remained until these days in the area of historical park. There are mainly historical lodges and Celiński's source, which is now inaccessible for the patients.

Analyzing the architectural garden details in Nałęczów in the late 19th-early 20th century, it should be noted that the park equipment didn't deviate much from the architectural details of manors and public parks of the Lublin area at the turn of the centuries.

Characteristic architectural garden details in the spa park were connected with its health resort function. It was among the others wooden relaxing area in Zakopane style, sources typical for health resorts and architectural frames attractive for the patients (the source of love). Unfortunately, these elements didn't survive the 2nd world war, and later they haven't been rebuilt. Similarly, the gazebos and wooden bridges replaced with

metal constructions, which didn't reflect on the character and original interesting architectural style. Regional elements in garden architecture of the park in Nałęczów currently could be found only in the lodges: north and west. These buildings were made of limestone reinforced with ceramic brick, which was characteristic for the buildings from Nałęczów and its area (the building of Ochronka, Dom Ludowy architecture of farmhouses belonging to the villas, etc.)

Analyzing historical iconography regarding the spa park in Nałęczów, it is concluded that the reconstruction of the architectural garden details that didn't survive until these days would substantially increase attractiveness of the park accentuating its uniqueness.

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