

**MUZEUM**  
sztuki  
nowoczesnej  
w warszawie



Press Info, 01.09.2021

## How to Make a School?

### 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION festival

08.10 – 7.11. 2021

Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 22

Designing spaces, and the learning process: architecture and education. An exhibition, historic and contemporary school designs, architectural tours, a retreat for educators, workshops, discussions. All at a time of heated debate over the future of public education in Poland. The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION festival is launching under the title “How to Make a School?”

This year’s edition of the event, traditionally focusing on a selected aspect of architecture, is devoted to trends in designing spaces for education. The curators of WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION 13 are **Szymon Maliborski and Paweł Brylski**, both affiliated with the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (MSN). The festival they have prepared continues the tradition of WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION: on one hand it actively contributes to commentary on current events, and on the other is an event devoted to urban design. The urban design aspect is also vital for the museum in the context of the ongoing construction of its new home on plac Defilad.

The exhibition and numerous events accompanying the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival will examine various architectural practices in the light of urban transformation and will serve as an invitation to discuss methods of education and changes needed in the educational process. The team organizing the festival want to point to the challenges and prognoses for the architecture and life of schools, and to help develop scenarios for action by institutions and individuals, as well as “toolkits” for teachers.

As **Szymon Maliborski** explains, **“We pose the question in the title at the time of a crisis in education intensified by the pandemic.** But we realize that problems due to shortages of places, staff and funds, or political tensions, have occurred numerous times before and were managed in various ways. Alongside the question *How to Make a School?* we also pose the questions: Who and what is a school for? How to change pedagogical models, to redirect education from imparting knowledge to cultivating competencies?”

The festival began with the **Retreat for Educators** (16–28 August), in which teachers worked on their own strengths and learned techniques for fostering their own wellbeing. Soon **weekend architectural tours** will begin for anyone interested in historic and contemporary school buildings (from 5 September, for the following nine weekends), as well as the online **series of films entitled *The Art Teacher*** (broadcast on the museum's social media sites). On Friday, 8 October, the **exhibition accompanying WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION 13** will open at the Museum on the Vistula (8 October – 7 November), supplemented as usual by a rich programme of meetings, discussions, and additional activities.

The exhibition and accompanying events are designed to encourage contemplation on **the kind of education we need in the future and the features that the accompanying architecture should have**. Selected historical and contemporary projects will be a starting point for discussions of the role of the school in building social competencies, as well as a pretext for inquiring into the role of the school in the local community. As the curators put it, "Design and education are both excellent examples of team disciplines." We invited the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning, the National Digital Archive, the City of Warsaw Architecture and Spatial Planning Department, the Polish Teachers' Union, and numerous specialists to cooperate in the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION. The festival consultants on educational issues are Justyna Suhecka, Przemysław Sadura and Ewa Radanowicz, and the consultants on architecture include Maria Sołtys, Michał Pszczołkowski, Grzegorz Piątek, and architectural studios who design projects for education. Part of the programme for young people will be carried out with Zuzanna Karcz, a young artist raising issues of psychological wellness of people within the education process and the situation of LGBT+ students. Writer and graphic artist Marcin Wicha, in cooperation with Maciej Chodziński, will prepare the installation *Education—Enlightenment—Illumination*, focussing on the historic role of education and the metaphor of teaching as spreading light in the darkness. The festival will also include a **museology conference** devoted to the relations between schools and museums and the role of space in education (Museum Educators Forum, 15 and 29 October).

The exhibition will feature works by such artists as Karolina Wojtas, Jaśmina Wójcik, Anna Grzymała, Paulina Włostowska, Marcin Chomicki and Justyna Wencel. An entirely new element of this exhibition will be a *second* exhibition, or to be more precise, 10 ready scenarios awaiting execution, i.e. the **pilot project for artistic cooperation *Formy podstawowe* [Fundamental Forms]**, prepared by Sebastian Cichocki and Helena Czernecka. The curatorial team, along with invited artists (including Paweł Althamer, Sharon Lockhart and Goshka Macuga, among others), developed 10 sets of instructions for preparing an exhibition, and invited 10 schools whose communities will carry out these

instructions, first with the support of museum staff and then on their own. *Fundamental Forms* was created thanks to cooperation between the museum and the Roman Czernecki Educational Foundation. It is a new project which will be carried out regularly in the future.

The launch of the latest book from the museum's publishing arm Wydawnictwo MSN, *Witajcie w świecie bez architektów* [Welcome to a World without Architects], by Jakub Szczęśny (on sale from 22 October) will also be held during the festival. In the book, the creator of the Keret House and popularizer of design uses a story of anonymous builders to show us the ethical dimension of architecture and the importance of context and existing conditions in the design process.

WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION is a festival consistently employing architectural and historical issues to pose current questions. This year will be no different. According to **Paweł Brylski**, "The task of the exhibition is not so much to diagnose difficulties, but first and foremost to **seek solutions and remedial strategies**. The school is a microcosm of society. Who we will be depends on what our school is like."

**Project financed by the City of Warsaw.**

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08.10 – 7.11. 2021

Opening: 8.10, 18.00

Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 22

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 12.00-20.00

Saturday 11.00-20.00

Sunday 11.00-18.00

Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw:

[artmuseum.pl/en](http://artmuseum.pl/en)

WARSAW UNDER CONSTRUCTION festival:

[warszawawbudowie.pl](http://warszawawbudowie.pl)

Press kit:

[prasa.artmuseum.pl](http://prasa.artmuseum.pl)

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m.st. Warszawa



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Ministerstwo  
Kultury  
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i Sportu

Mecenas Muzeum  
i Kolekcji



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SZUM



## Curators

Paweł Brylski, Szymon Maliborski

## Contributors

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## Festival team

Anna Grajewska, Dominika Jagiełło, Marta Skowrońska-Markiewicz, Marta Przybył

## Production

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## Key visual

OKI OKI Studio

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Huncwot

## Public program coordinator

Paweł Nowożycki

## Educational program

Marta Baranowska, Katarzyna Domagalska, Marta Skowrońska-Markiewicz, Marta Przasnek, Marta Przybył, Katarzyna Witt, Hanna Zwierzchowska

## Exhibition architecture

XYstudio

## Partners of the festival

Narodowy Instytut Architektury i Urbanistyki, Edukacyjna Fundacja im. Romana Czerneckiego, Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, Huncwot

## Cooperation

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Fundacja Orange