

RESILIENCE & RECONSTRUCTION WARSAW'S CASE



REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF OWHC
QUEDLINBURG NOVEMBER, 13 2014



INTRODUCTION

Resilience, a material's ability to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed.

Resilient City is the one that has developed capacities to help absorb future shocks and stresses to its social, economic, and technical systems and infrastructures so as to still be able to maintain essentially the same functions, structures, systems, and identity.

Resilience, a capacity of a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

**How city can remain resilience
in front of the catastrophe?**

CASE OF WARSAW: EXTREME EXAMPLE OF THE RESILIENT CITY



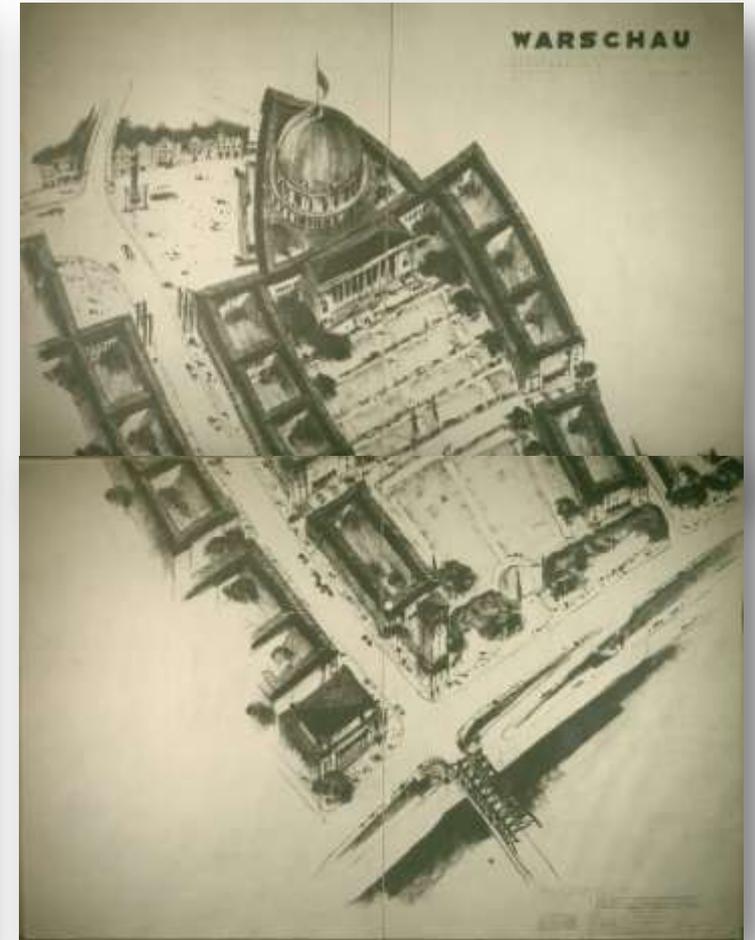
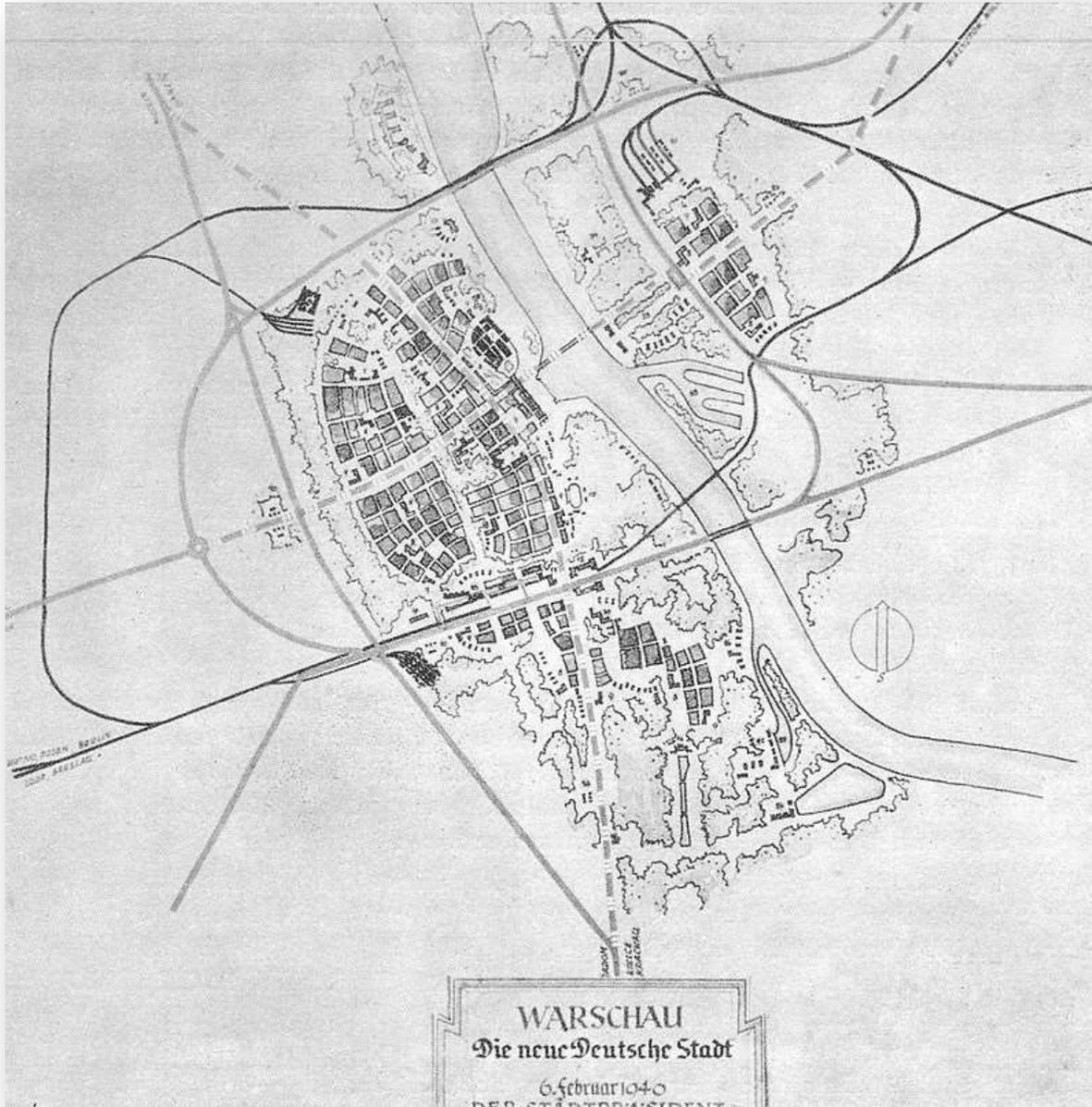
Is Warsaw resilient city if the city suddenly disappeared during the WWII, losing 85% of its historic fabric?



CASE OF WARSAW: EXTREME EXAMPLE OF THE RESILIENT CITY

**Risk preparedness and disaster risk management
Assessment and response to damage**

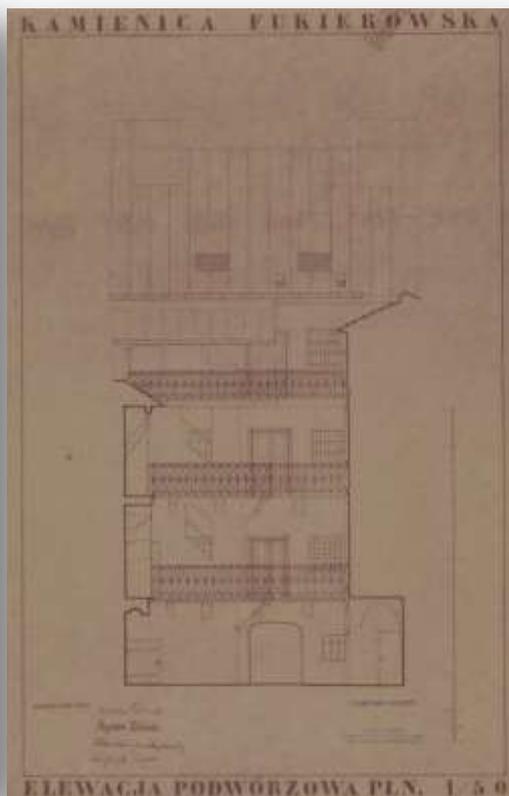
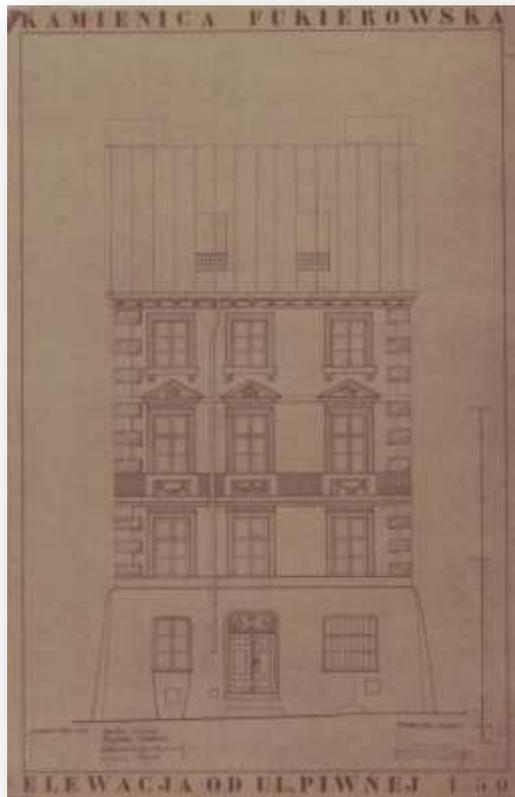
CASE OF WARSAW: DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY



CASE OF WARSAW: DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY

How to protect heritage in front of such crises?

Conservation through documentation.
Preservation of the documentation.



CASE OF WARSAW: DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY



CASE OF WARSAW: ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TO DAMAGE



CASE OF WARSAW: ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TO DAMAGE

Heritage city it's not only what you see. For citizens this is something more than urban fabric. It's a document of the past, a symbol of past actions and events, a witness of the history.

And this is very important factor that makes historic cities resilient.

In case of Warsaw, rebuilding the historic city was the result of the determination of the inhabitants and the support of the whole nation.

So in this particular case, that were the citizens who actually made the city resilient.

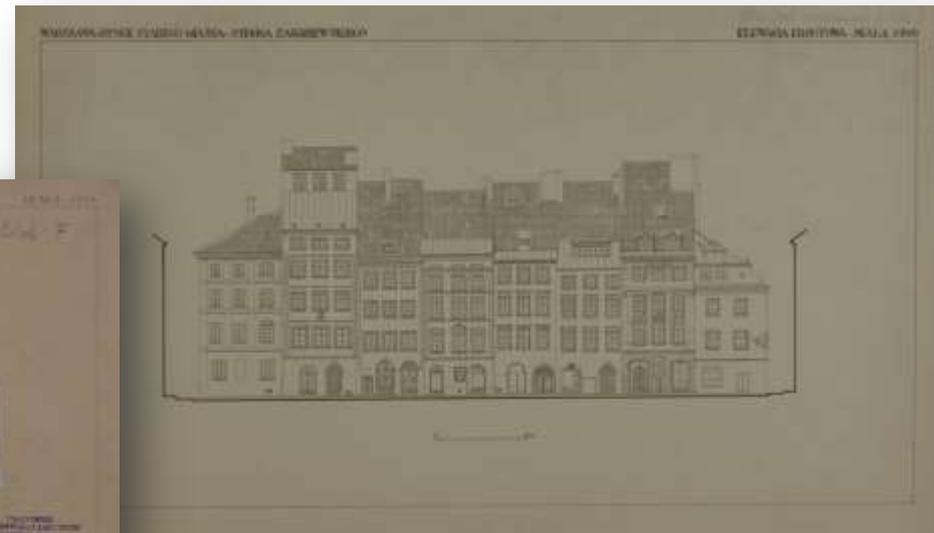


CASE OF WARSAW: RECONSTRUCTION

The reconstruction project was devised at the Warsaw Reconstruction Office between 1945 and 1951. The reconstruction project utilized any undamaged structures built between the 14th and 18th centuries, together with the late-medieval network of streets. Two guiding principles were followed:

- to use reliable archival documents where available
- to aim at recreating the historic city's late 18th-century appearance.

The Archive of the Warsaw Reconstruction Office was inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2011.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Memory of
the World

CASE OF WARSAW: RECONSTRUCTION

The rebuilding of the Old Town continued until the mid-1960s in the adopted format of residential housing, featuring public functions. To accentuate the city walls and the city panorama viewed from the Vistula, the reconstruction of some buildings was deliberately foregone. The urban layout was retained, along with the division of the street frontages into historic building plots; however, the properties within these quarters were not rebuilt, thus creating communal open areas for residents.



CASE OF WARSAW: RECONSTRUCTION

A highly regarded feature was the decoration of exterior elevations carried out by a team of eminent artists, in part drawing on designs from the interwar period. Polychrome decoration was executed using traditional techniques, including sgraffito.



CASE OF WARSAW: RECONSTRUCTION



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organizacja Narodów
Zjednoczonych
dla Wychowania,
Nauki i Kultury



Historic Centre of Warsaw
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1980

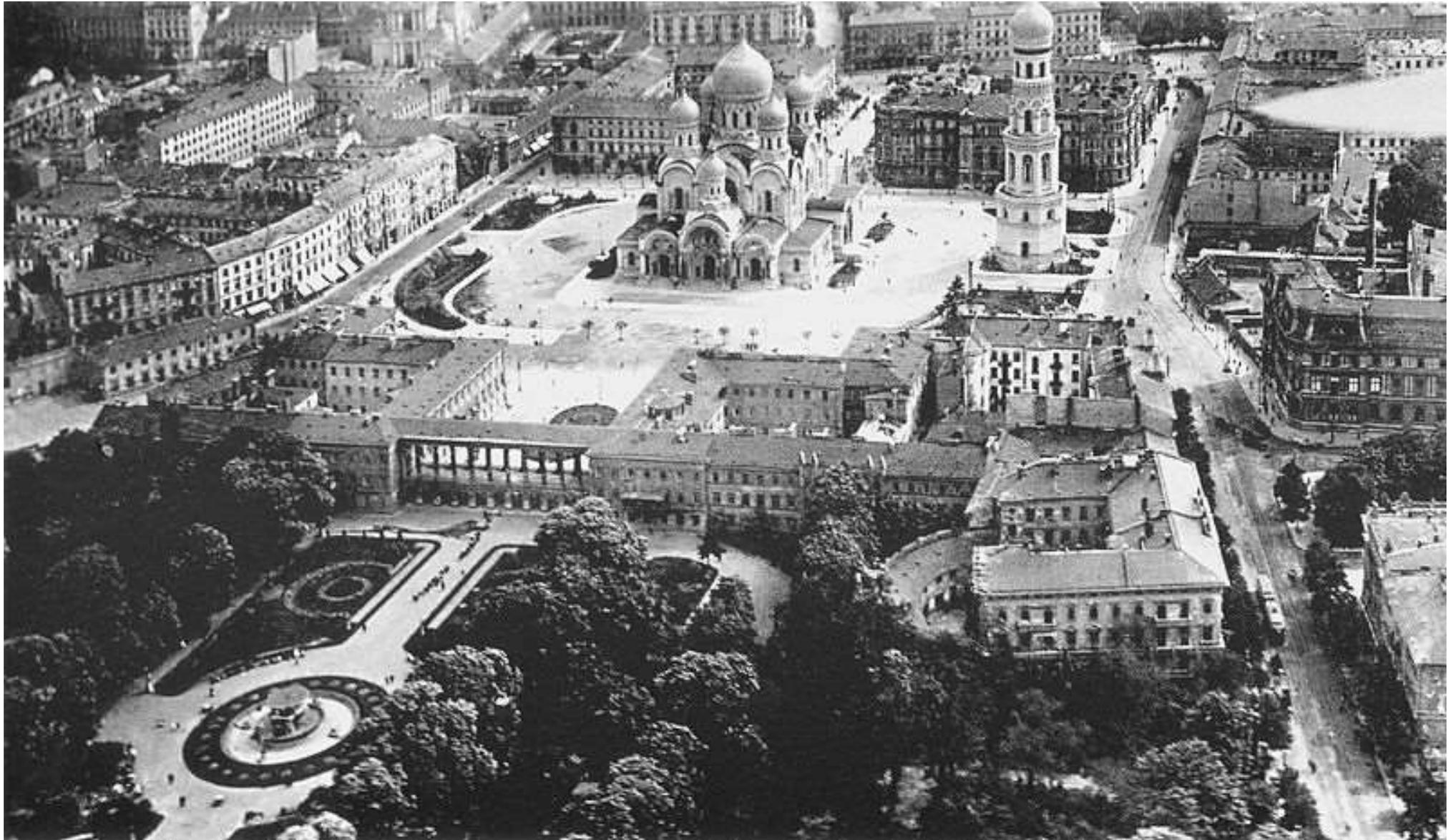
Historyczne Centrum Warszawy
wpisane na Listę Światowego
Dziedzictwa w roku 1980

Reconstruction of Warsaw's historical centre was a major contributor to the changes in the doctrines related to urbanisation and conservation of urban development in most of the European countries after the destruction of World War II. Simultaneously, this example illustrates the effectiveness of conservation activities in the second half of the 20th century, which permitted the integral reconstruction of the complex urban ensemble.

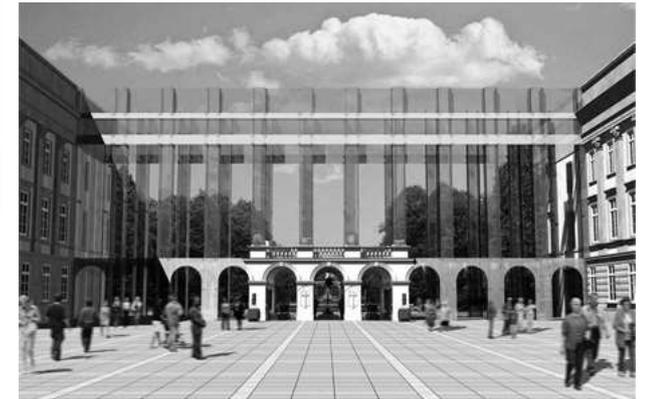
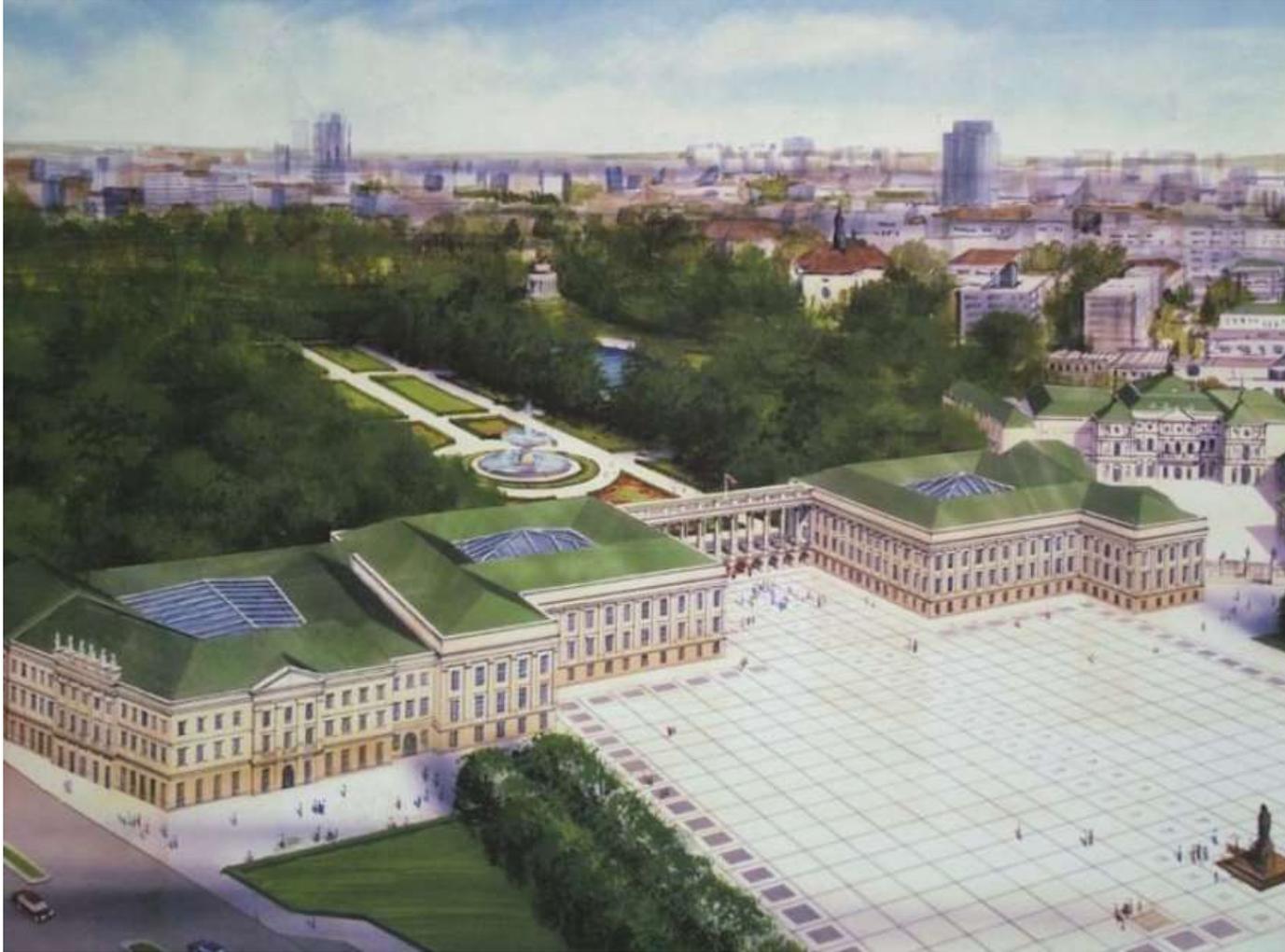


CASE OF WARSAW: IS THE RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED?

Tomb of Unknown Soldier – part of the colonnade of Saski's Palace.



CASE OF WARSAW: IS THE RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED?



CASE OF WARSAW: IS THE RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED?

General public is very much pro this investment. And now, bearing in mind that in case of Warsaw, rebuilding of the historic city was the result of the determination of the inhabitants and the support of the whole nation, and it was the citizens that actually made the city resilient, I wonder, if it's not still the same process. If term *resilience* is used to describe a material's ability to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed, so this is exactly what it is – an attempt of the city to spring back into its former shape.



Thank You

