

Architectural transformations on the Market Square in Krakow

Jean-Yves BLAISE, Iwona DUDEK, Waldemar KOMOROWSKI, Tomasz WĘCŁAWOWICZ

Architectural transformations on the Market Square in Krakow

A systematic visual catalogue

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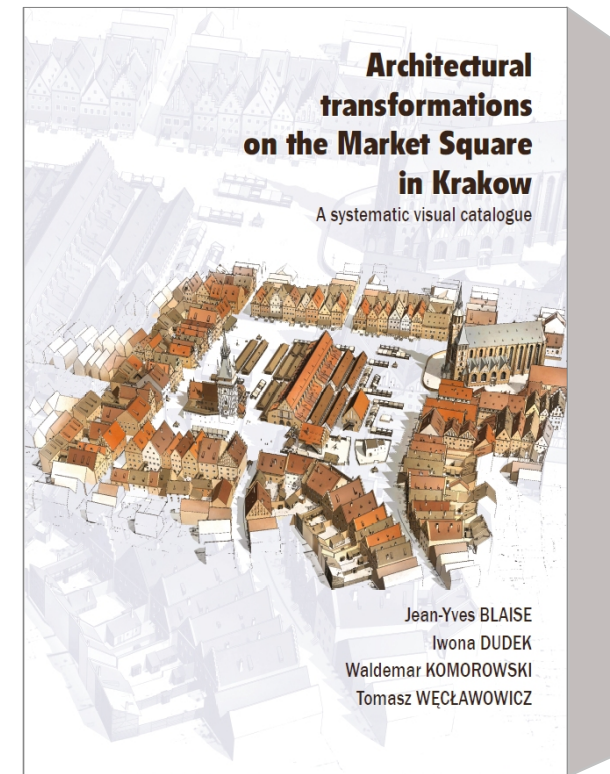
This book sums up pieces of information about the **evolution of the architectural objects that used to be located on Krakow's Main Market Square**. It combines texts and visualisations – and accordingly aims simultaneously at verbal and non-verbal ways of thinking.

Section 1 : Method of analysis

Section 2 : The catalogue of architectural objects

Section 3 : Analogous examples - different faces of one 'idea'

Section 4 : Visual analysis of the collection



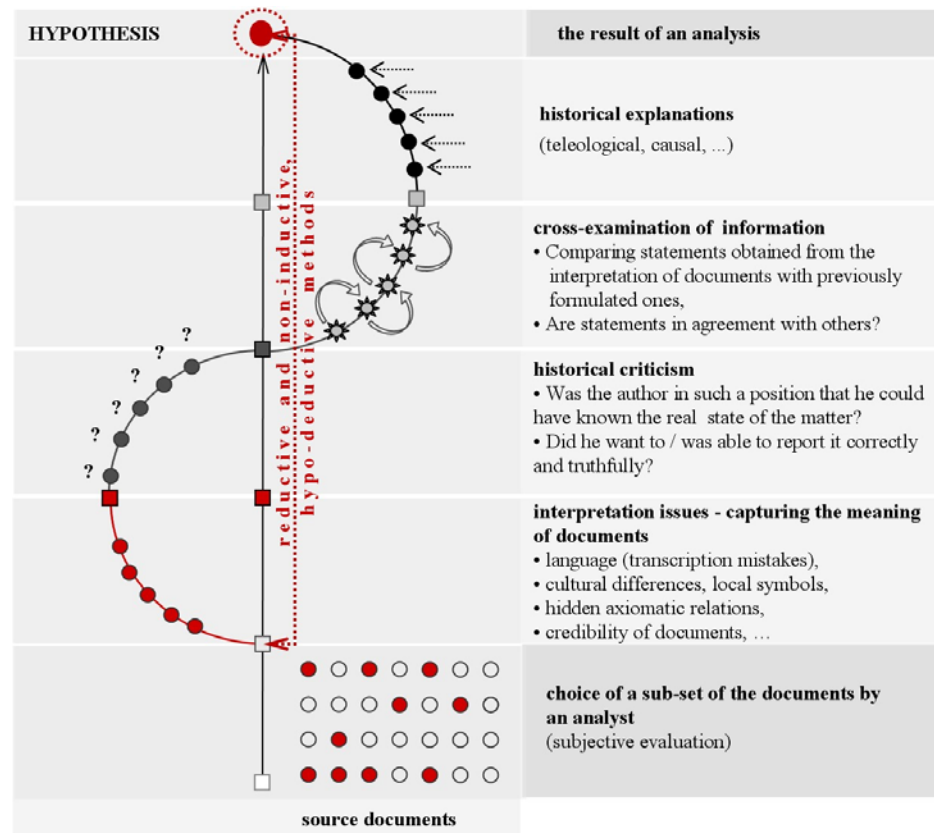
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Section 1 - Method of analysis

presents the method of analysis that we have developed over the years in order to model and visualise the evolution of architectural objects.

In this section some fundamental epistemological issues will be discussed
(science, knowledge, intersubjectivity, historical criticism, diachronic bias, etc.).



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Details will be given on the choices we made in order to describe architectural transformations and to cope with classic uncertainty problems (*trustworthiness, precision, credibility, etc.*).

leading transformations

transformations introducing essential morphological changes, leading to the creation of a new evolutionary phase

- **morphological transformation**
a transformation introducing major physical changes (e.g. construction, extension)
- **regressive transformation**
a transformation leading to the creation of a new evolutionary phase by removing part of an object (e.g. the demolition of a fragment of an object)
- **destructive transformation**
a transformation which causes the removal of an object and the retrieval of the whole space occupied by it (e.g. demolition) or a total annihilation of an object

episodic transformations

transformations which can sporadically appear during one evolutionary phase, not leading to volunteer or major morphological changes that would imply a new evolutionary phase

- **degrading transformation**
a transformation which causes the deterioration (aggravation) of the present state but does not result in the creation of a new evolutionary phase (e.g. a fire)
- **neutral transformations**
transformations which do not cause any essential changes of morphology
- **recurring transformation**
a transformation occurring regularly during the evolution of an object (e.g. roof renovation)
- **on-site investigations**
a "non-interventionist" transformation concerning archaeological relics

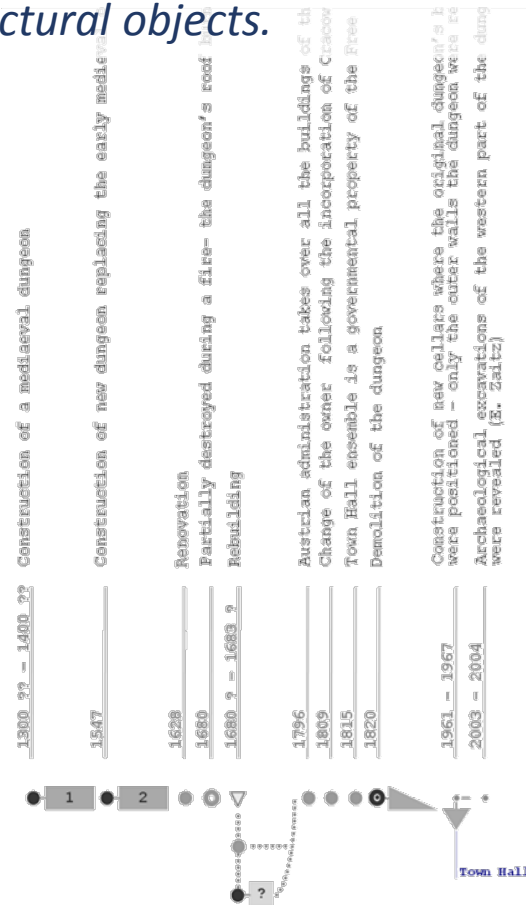
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Section one is concluded by a chapter presenting choices we made in the design of time-oriented data visualisations.



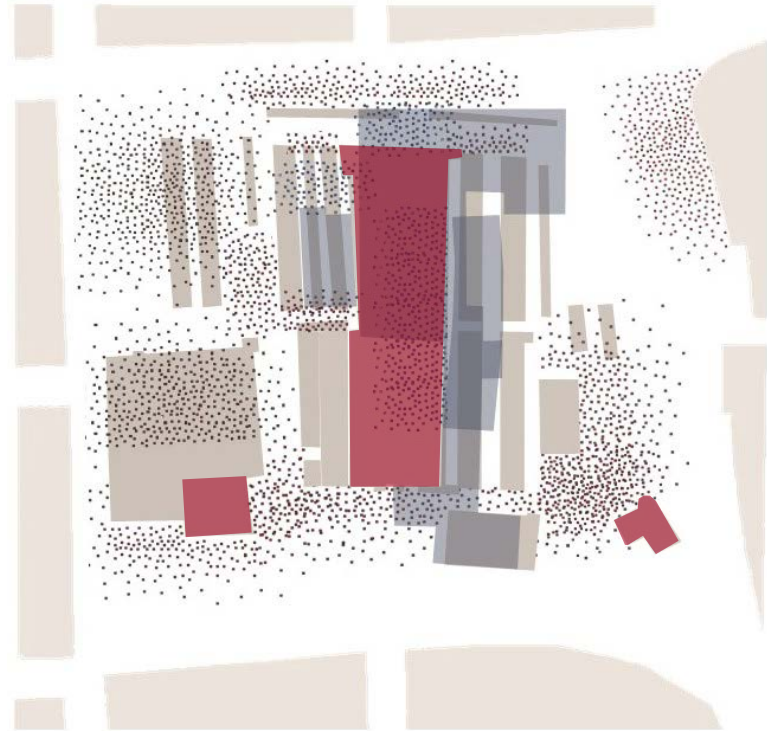
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Section 2 - The catalogue of architectural objects

sums up what we know of each object's evolution (localisation, lifeline and transformations, sources, illustrations, visualisations, etc.) 41 objects

Only three architectural objects stand today on Krakow's Main Market Square: **St Adalbert church**, the **Cloth Hall** and the **Town Hall's tower**.



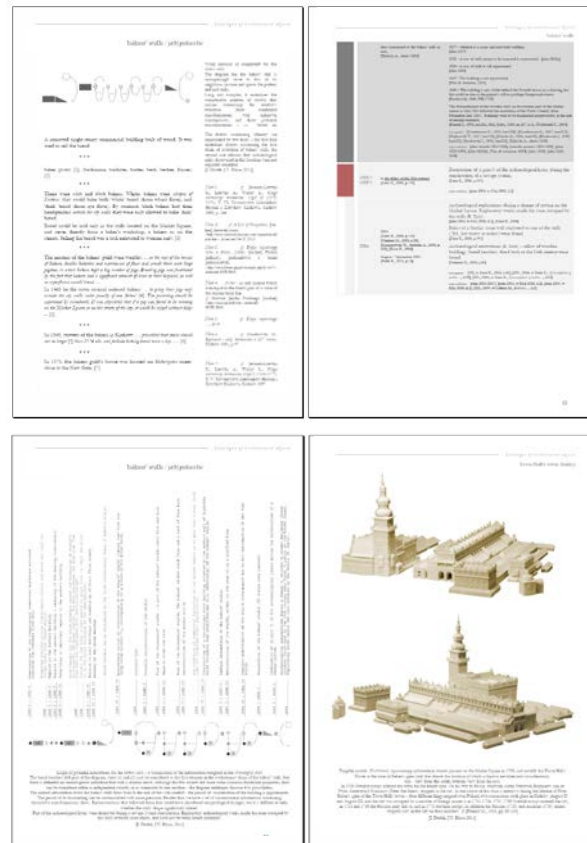
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41 architectural objects



leading and the historical names

schematic map showing its approximate localisation

diagrams
visual measure of complexity, multi-hypothesis chronology diagram graph of potential interactions

short texts concerning a wider historical context

the chronological chart

tangible models (*Tactichronie*)

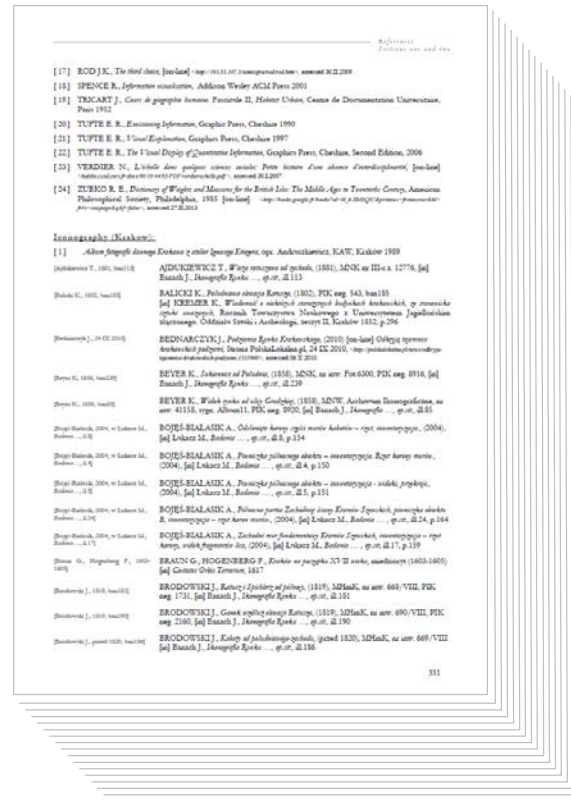
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Bibliography

a thorough list of the references quoted (bibliography, iconography and cartography), a table of illustrations, and an index

detailed bibliography comprising over 700 references (studies and source texts, iconography, plans and restitutions, websites, scientific and popular literature) either on Krakow's Main Market Square, on analogous example, or on methodological issues



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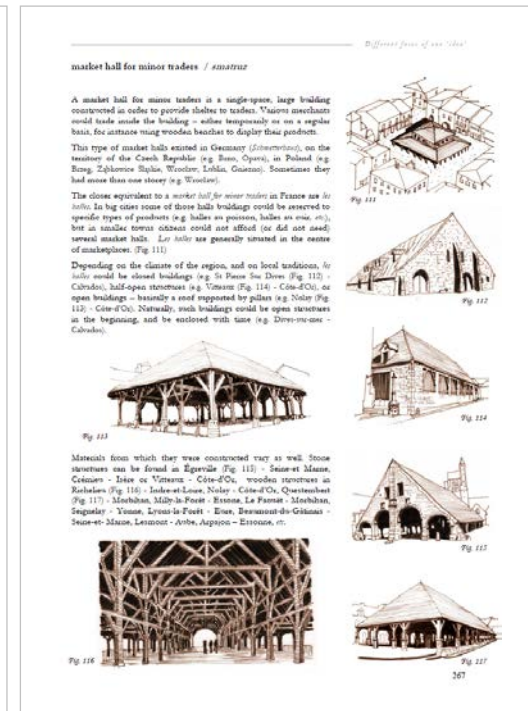
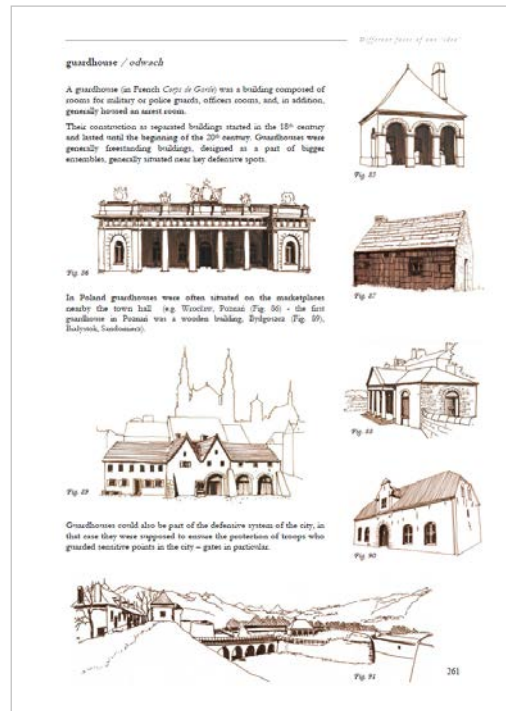
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Section 3 - Different faces of one 'idea'

presents a selection of analogous examples (European medieval public-use and commercial buildings) so as to help the reader weigh to which extent the layout of Krakow's marketplace, as well as its architectures, can be related to other sites.

unexpected similarities,
sharp contrasts,
layers of political, cultural and
climatic differences ...

but one 'idea' (a common
practical need) with different
faces



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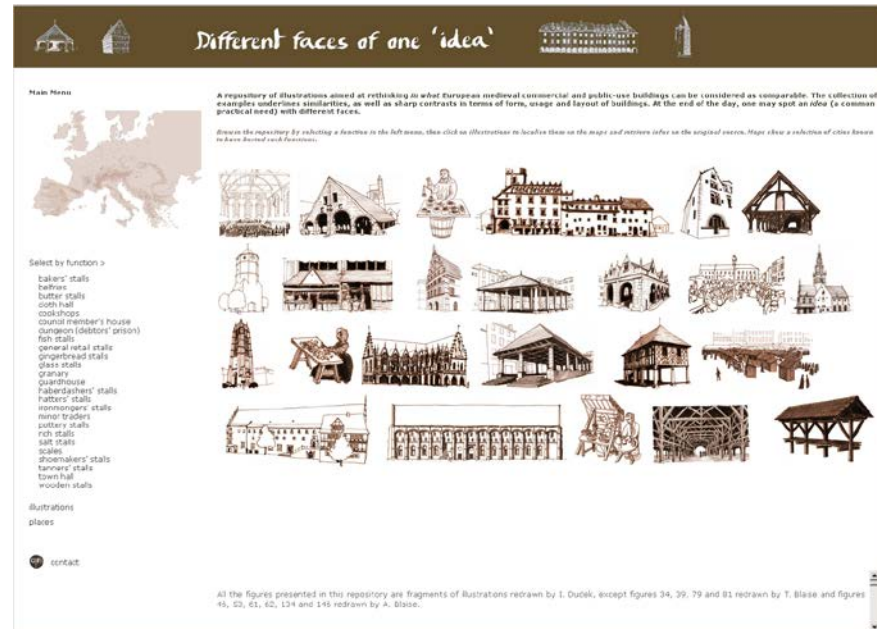
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<http://www.map.archi.fr/idu/DifferentFaces>

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Section 4 - Visual analysis of the collection

introduces a selection of visualisations, designed as tools for cross-examination and questioning

The whole section should be understood as illustrative of a method, rather than as conclusive on this or that theory, hypothesis or scientific position.

... Infovis is about **visual thinking**, and one of the particularities of visual thinking is its **non-verbal character**, its independence from ethnic languages.

According to Kобрzycki the capacity of perception (and of abstraction) of humans is primarily organised in three non-verbal levels (silent, un-speakable levels: happenings, their nervous impacts and reactions such as feelings). Only then, as a fourth level, does language intervene, as a way to picture reality for ourselves, and to describe it for others. **The way we “understand” on the non-verbal level differs from what we can “think” on the verbal level – because we then have to band reality to the structure of the language we use. ...**

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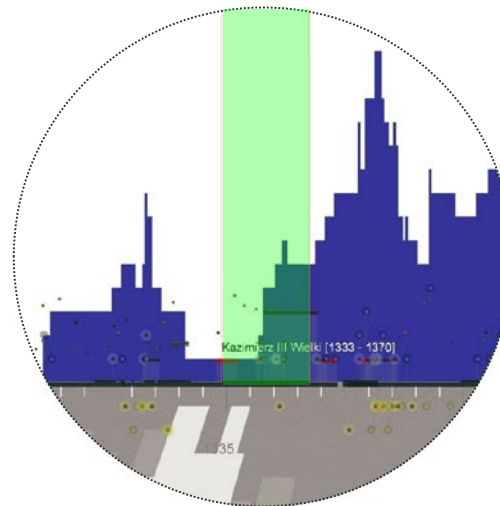
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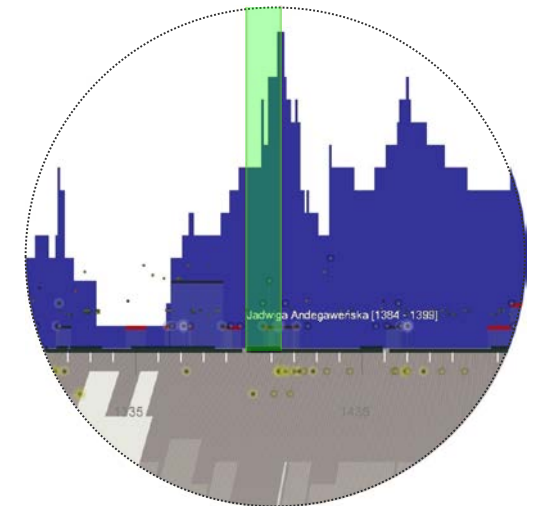
introduces a selection of visualisations, designed as tools for cross-examination and questioning

The section is organised as a sort of *vis à vis* dialogue between a **common sense question or assertion** and a **visual answer**.

To which ruler does the largest constructive activity on Market Square correspond?



Casimir III the Great



Jadwiga of Poland

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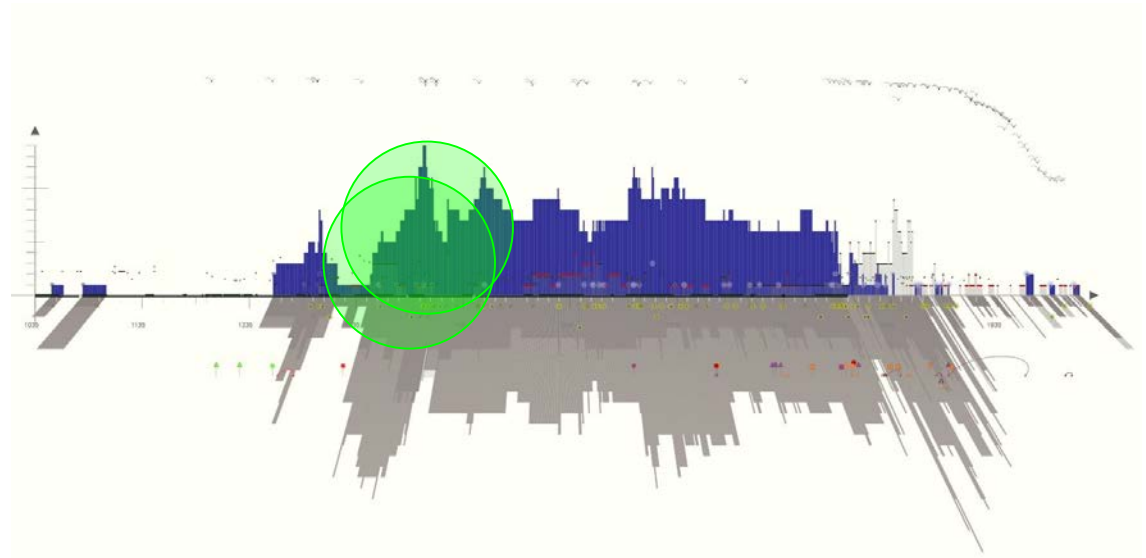
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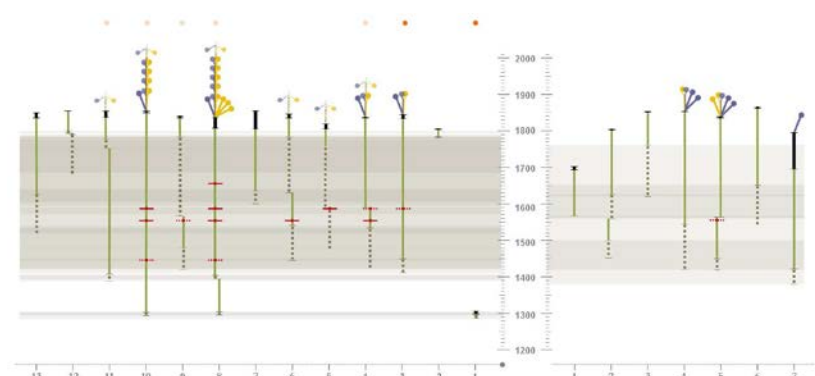
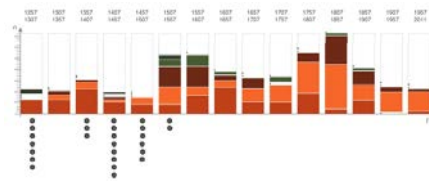
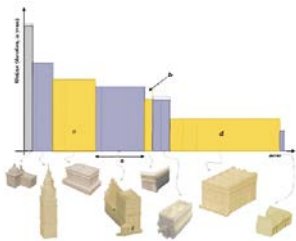
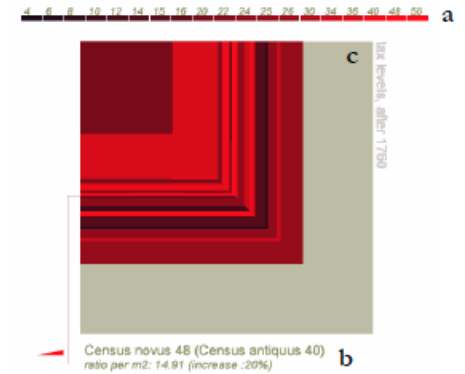
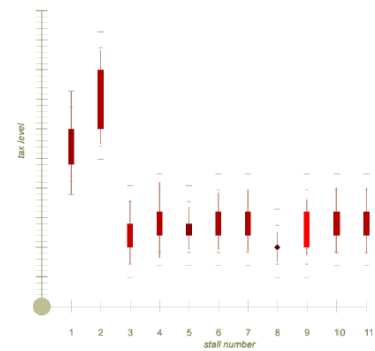
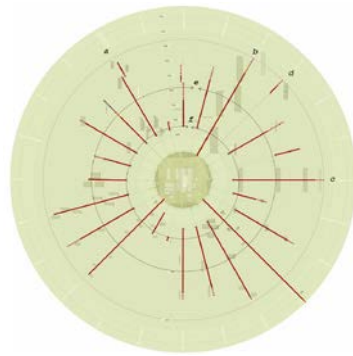
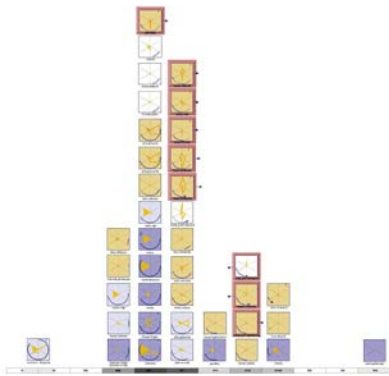
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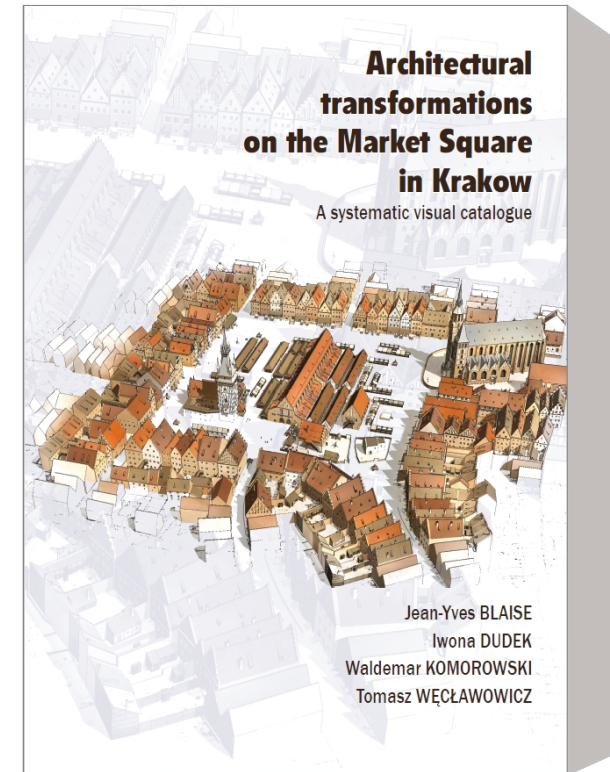


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This book is about:

- **architecture** the way it really is, ever-changing rather than everlasting,
- **history**, packed with hints needing interpretation, with alternative scenarios and possibilities,
- **visual thinking**, a non-verbal, insight-gaining reasoning process,
- **Krakow's Main Market Square**, unique, yet typical.



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It contains:

- facts, information and references about the **evolution of 41 objects** located on Krakow's Main Market Square, described through **349 transformations**,
- **191 visualisations and diagrams** commenting on the state of our knowledge at the time of writing the book, and helping to recount and compare the stories of those 41 objects,
- a selection of analogous examples, including **180 objects illustrated**,
- a detailed bibliography comprising over **700 references** (studies and source texts, iconography, plans and restitutions, websites, scientific and popular literature) either on Krakow's Main Market Square, on analogous example, or on methodological issues.

