

Urban wetlands – swamps, lakes, rivers; fountains and ponds, as well as the structure of underground watercourses with drainage pipes, and groundwater – combine into the thematic focus of this year's Jazdów Municipal Garden. The water geography and geology of the city are a constant inspiration for architecture and art, but also for communal activity, hence our rallying cry 'Bathe with Friends!' Water is a broad social metaphor; it is the liquid that binds, shapes and lubricates the urban fabric. Nevertheless, as the urban planner Matthew Gandy notes, 'the metabolic relationship between the body and city remains largely hidden. We become aware of it only in crisis, when there is a failure, disruption or contamination'.<sup>1</sup> In a plumbed city, the private and public realms are also separated, and they meet only in the intimate space of a standardised modern bathroom.

But it is enough to take a glance at the geological landscape of Jazdów to realise that it was created by elemental waters: first the collapsing Scandinavian ice sheet and later, the erosive impact of the PraWisła, the precursor of the Vistula River. Due to the presence of the impermeable layers of the Pliocene clay deposits, groundwater accumulates here, causing the formation of numerous water exudates and springs at the foot of the slope. Once abundant, they served as watering holes and public spas. The 17th-century urban and architectural designs emphasised the area's hydrological merits. The Piaseczyński Canal and the water bodies of the Royal Łazienki Park came into being.

In their designs, the CENTRALA team take the area's geological and natural structure as their point of departure, viewing architecture as a functional complement to the landscape or indeed an enhancement of nature; the user-friendly aspect is a less important consideration.

The latest project by Małgorzata Kuciewicz and Simon De Iacobis – *The Wetland Album* – is a vision of Warsaw that takes care of its wetlands, starting with bringing back the profusion of often archaic names for wetlands that have fallen into disuse. The authors want to give the viewers a different perspective, playing down the often spooky associations that remote watery wastelands had of old, and above all to demonstrate the merits of urban wetlands.

<sup>1</sup> M. Gandy talking to Anna Ptak and CENTRALA; *Liquid Constellations*, in: *Amplifying Nature. The Planetary Imagination of Architecture in the Anthropocene*, ed. Anna Ptak, Zachęta Narodowa Galeria Sztuki, Warsaw 2018, p. 87.

## U-jazdowski

05/07–31/10/2019

Jazdów City Garden

# Care about Water and Bathe with Friends

In turn, the duo of Héléne Soulier – a landscape architect who designs conceptual gardens, and Ewa Rudnicka – who is expanding the idea of Active Architecture, have put forward a blueprint for the development of the park around the Ujazdowski Castle incorporating the ponds. The land art composition entitled *Dystopia* provides a pleasant and poetic space for relaxation, but is also a disturbing vision of a planet that is dying, buried under plastic.

On considering the state of water, the disruptions to its circulation, the melting glaciers, the rivers and lakes drying up, yet with flood levels rising at the same time, it is difficult to appease the sense that the End is Nigh. Water made life on Earth possible – yet, considering the state of today's polluted seas and oceans, it may also bring about its demise. The art and architectural works, excursions, walks and workshops that combine into City Garden Jazdów are focused on the importance of taking care of water.

This is the final edition of the project. We have teamed up with artists, architects, sportspeople, green activists and our institutional neighbours to experiment with different ways of reviving the surroundings of Ujazdowski Castle. In the years to come we will continue to explore the artistic potential of the location but in a different format. The various editions of the project to date will be the subject of a book to be published in 2020.

## Education

### <Smykowitzje>

A workshop for families with children aged 0–5 (in Polish)  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Admission by ticket only  
Participants meet in the foyer

20/07  
27/07  
17/08  
24/08  
07/09  
19/10

### <Smykowitzje – Guided Tours in Baby Carriers>

Guided tours for families with children aged 0–5 (in Polish)  
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.  
Admission fee included in the ticket  
Participants meet in the foyer

07/08

### <How Does Art Taste?>

A workshop for families with children aged 0–5 (in Polish)  
Saturdays, 12 noon  
Admission by ticket only  
Participants meet in the foyer

27/07  
07/09

### <Art Knows No Age>

A series of get-togethers for adults (in Polish)  
Wednesdays, 12 noon  
Admission free  
Participants meet in the foyer

10/07  
11/09

### <Art Viewpoints>

Guided tours in Polish  
Thursdays, 6 p.m.  
Admission free  
Participants meet in the foyer

25/07  
08/08

### <Teacher in the Centre>

Guided tours with teachers (in Polish)  
Admission free  
Information at [edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl](mailto:edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl)

### <Creative School>

Workshops for organised groups  
Admission by ticket only  
Information and pre-booking at [edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl](mailto:edukacja@u-jazdowski.pl)

## Accompanying events

National Conference of OSSA, the Association of Polish Students of Architecture

More information on the programme [ossa.com.pl](http://ossa.com.pl)

13–22/07

STORE Warsaw Summer School

More information on the programme [www.storeprojects.org/#/event-628](http://www.storeprojects.org/#/event-628)

12–25/08

### Artists

Héléne Soulier  
Ewa Rudnicka  
and Centrala  
(Małgorzata Kuciewicz  
and Simone De Iacobis)

### Curator

Anna Czaban

### Co-ordination

Joanna Saran  
Maria Sapeta

### Graphic design

Studio Bękarty

### Translation

Anda MacBride

### Proofreading

Nick Faulkner

Ujazdowski Castle  
Centre for Contemporary Art  
Jazdów 2, Warsaw  
[www.u-jazdowski.pl](http://www.u-jazdowski.pl)

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CENTRALA (Małgorzata Kuciewicz, Simone De Iacobis)

## The Wetland Album

object

### Collaboration

Wetlands Preservation Centre

*The Wetland Album* is a wet diagram of the Warsaw swamps, envisioned through the use of natural sponges. It consists of riparian woodlands, lake-lands, springs, sources, karst springs, semi-drylands, wetlands, floodplains, magical wetlands, peat bogs, inland sedges, reed beds, bullrush beds, nettlebanks, polders, willowbanks, herb beds, wet woodlands, diluvial soils, marshes, mosslands, moors, swamps, mudflats, seasonally aquatic and seasonally terrestrial lands, loam soils, silt plains, fossil floodplains, quagmires, fens, morasses, sloughs, broads and backwaters. As is apparent from the above, CENTRALA aims to preserve the rich wet-land vocabulary that was once in common usage amongst the inhabitants of these waterlogged environments.

The reintroduction of these rarely heard specialist terminologies, many of which now elude us in their original definitions, offers an opportunity to envision a re-wetted Warsaw, comprising reconstructed wetland-scapes that have the capacity to absorb increasingly common weather extremes and periods of water abundance. *The Wetland Album* is the latest project from Centrala (whose project for the revitalisation of the Warszawianka sports grounds, *Amplifying Nature*, was chosen as the Polish pavilion exhibition at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2018), in which the group addresses the issue of water circulation as a vital phenomenon of both architecture and urban planning.

The diagram, located in the former water reservoir of the Ujazdowski Hospital, will allow viewers to navigate the Warsaw wetlands, in addition to being included in group tours led by natural scientists from the Wetlands Preservation Centre. The diagram also happens to be a tactile artistic object that welcomes touch.

Héléne Soulier and Ewa Rudnicka

## Dystopia

Garden Spatial Composition

A splash of darker colour can be seen between the trees – the stretch is overgrown with unusual vegetation. The water basins form a shape that makes it look as if the earth has been scratched by a huge claw – revealing underground springs, cracked pipes or, hidden in the ground, yet another element of the water infrastructure of the Ujazdowski Hospital that once occupied the site. It is likely that, in addition to the ruins from the war, there are also some historic cisterns and wells buried in the park in front of the castle. One of them could even be precisely under a land art installation.

*Dystopia* is an ambient water garden, but also a disturbing vision of a planet that is dying, buried under plastic. It is a modern cabinet of curiosities, as hinted at by the 'bubbles' floating on the water – these contain an inventory of human-generated fossils, water pollution and fungi, the organisms that are quickest to adapt to climate change. 'We are the encyclopaedists of yet another century, taking an inventory of surrounding reality in order to understand it. [...] These things do exist and tell the story of the water in our world, the water of our body, *living water* and *dead water*, the remnants of civilisations that let water through,' the architects add.

*Dystopia* is a space that is both highly functional and, paradoxically, inspires pleasant leisure time in the park. Developed during the workshops in 2016, this is another prototype for the development of U-jazdowski's surroundings, putting into play the attractiveness of water features in public spaces.

## Excursions and Walks

### Walk through the swamps

Within the city limits, and in a condition that merits legal protection, there are still surviving flood meadows and some oxbow lakes within the Vistula embankments (such as Lake Czerniakowskie in Mokotów, or the sequence of lakes in the Wilanów district). As well as these, there are remaining traces of wetlands in Powisn, Powisinek, underneath Skarpa Ursynowska and in Zakole Wawerskie, as well as mid-forest peatbogs in waterlogged depressions on the Wolomin Plain (including Jacek Marsh, Zielony Ług, Biały Ług). Together with Wiktor Kotowski, and Adam Snoppek – naturalists from the Wetlands Conservation Centre – we would like to invite you on sightseeing tours, during which they will reveal to you the beauty of the Warsaw marshes, their unique character and the key role they have in the Warsaw ecosystem.

Sundays, 10:00	Admission free
<b>28/07</b>	pre-book is not necessary
<b>18/08</b>	
<b>13/10</b>	
Meeting point	
Ujazdowski Castle	
ul. Jazdów 2	

### Visiting the Filter Station

The Filter Station, designed by William Lindley, is probably the last of this type of 19th-century construction in Europe: almost entirely preserved, perfectly maintained and in operation since 1886. Together with our partner, the Municipal Water and Sewerage Company, we invite you to pay a visit. The programme of the tour includes the museum of water supply and sewage systems, the water tower, the oldest slow filter, dating back to 1886, as well as the fast filter plant from the 1930s.

Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 and 11:00–12:30	Admission free
<b>15/09</b>	It is necessary to pre-book the visit on <a href="mailto:ogrod_jazdow@u-jazdowski.pl">ogrod_jazdow@u-jazdowski.pl</a>
Meeting point	
Zakład SUW Filtry	
ul. Koszykowa 81	

### Hydrography and Urban Planning of Stanisławowska Axis

While taking a walk with CENTRALA, we will take a closer look at the Stanisławowska Axis in the context of its hydrological and hydrographic conditions. We will follow the route from Ujazdowski Castle, along the Piaseczyński Canal to the biofilter on the Vistula River.

Sunday, 12 noon	Admission free
<b>29/09</b>	pre-book is not necessary
Meeting point	
Ujazdowski Castle	
ul. Jazdów 2	