

ˆSOKOŁOWSKO

The first mention of Goerbersdorff appeared in 1357. The village was most likely founded by the Benedictine monks of Broumově.

Until the 15th c. the village had had many owners. In 1509 Goerbersdorff, along with the south part of Świdnica, was bought by Count von Hochberg, whose family seat was in Książ.

Up to the mid 19th c., Sokołowsko wasn't different from other villages owned by the Hochbergs. Its fate changed in 1849, when countess von Colomb vacationed at the village. Enchanted by the landscape of Sokołowsko, she encouraged her brother-in-law Dr. Hermann Brehmer to open a health resort, using hydro-therapeutic methods developed by Vincent Preissnitz.

In 1855, the world's first tuberculosis sanatorium, using an innovative regimen of climatic and dietary treatments, was opened in Sokołowsko. The Davos Sanatorium was modeled after Sokołowsko. In later years Goerbersdorff was referred to as the Silesian Davos, even though it was Davos that should have been called the Swiss Goerbersdorff (Sokołowsko). The town was very prestigious and known throughout Europe, not just for its climatic properties, but also for its rich cultural offerings. Patients would have access to mineral water drinking fountains, visit the thermal baths, and enjoy plays at the local theater. By 1888 the resort had a post office and telegraph connection. In 1887 it hosted 730 patients. In 1930s a 60 meter skiing ramp was built nearby. From the early 20th c. Goerbersdorff was highly regarded throughout Europe. It was the most modern health resort in all of Silesia.

Architecture:

The Sanatorium complex was built between 1853 and 1876, based on the innovative healing concept of Dr Hermann Brehmer and the wonderful architectonic project of Edwin Oppler – one of the top 20th c architects. Oppler's favourite style was the neo-gothic and neo-roman (his most famous works were the New Synagogue in Wrocław (1866-72) which after the Berlin Synagogue was the biggest in the world, the Synagogue in Świdnica, and the Heinemann shopping complex in Hanover).

In 1966 the Sanatorium building got included in the register of historical monuments. The complex was built in the letter „F” shape, and consisted of living quarters, reading rooms, the winter garden, dining room and Dr Brehmer's villa.

The building was constructed using full bricks in longitudinal alignment for the load-bearing walls; the richly decorated outside walls were made from facing bricks.

Originally the building consisted of two overground tiers, and a two level attic accessible through the stairwell.

At the entrance hall, facing the park, two round towers were constructed. The central part of the building has a stairwell with granite steps and cast iron railings. The picturesque facade is richly decorated, with many towers, bay windows, mansards and dormer windows.

DR HERMANN BREHMER

Hermann Brehmer was born in 1826 not far from Strzelin. He attended schools in Wrocław, and in 1847 started mathematical and biological studies at the Wrocław University. He was passionate about astronomy and botany. Because of his active involvement in the Spring of Nations revolutionary movement, he was forced to leave Wrocław. By some accounts he went into hiding in the Sudetan mountains. From 1854 to 1858, together with Maria von Colomb, he ran the natural medicine institute in Görbersdorf. Thanks to Professor Schonlein's patronage he was granted a license (by the Prussian government) to start a respiratory disease clinic using his own methods. Not long after acquiring the license he started major construction works, extending the small hydrotherapy facility owned by Countess von Colomb. In 1862 the first sanatorium buildings were erected, later called the "old house", and guesthouses "Weisse Haus" and "Villa Rosa". Simultaneously the surrounding area was transformed into a park and outbuildings were constructed. Edwin Oppler was the architect in charge of the complex and the park was planned by Dr Brehmer. In the mid 1870s Dr Brehmer's apartments, a winter garden, library and tower were added to the old part of the sanatorium. By the end of the 70s the "New Kurhaus" was added to its eastern wing. All the buildings were designed by Oppler. In 1882 the interior was modernized, improving the heating and air conditioning; 303 rooms were made available for patients in both Kurhauses.

After World War II the resort fell into ruin. In 2005 fire ravaged most of the historical complex. Since 2007 the In Situ Contemporary Art Foundation has been rebuilding and revitalizing the structure

Contemporary Art Foundation In Situ

The Contemporary Art Foundation In Situ was founded in December 2004 in Podkowa Leśna by the painter, sculptor, performance and installation artist Bożenna Biskupska and the photographer and installation artist Zygmunt Rytka and the art manager and curator Zuzanna Fogtt. The goal of the foundation is to create space for artistic residences, art projects and diverse interdisciplinary creative processes, where people could meet and explore, compare differing viewpoints, and exchange ideas and experience. Equally important is the propagation of innovative artistic approaches and the support of diverse

forms of creative activity. At the same time, the aim of the foundation is to promote activities in the field of the protection of cultural assets, art, and the national heritage. Currently the main objective of the Foundation is to rebuild Dr. Brehmer's Sanatorium in Sokołowsko and transform it into an International Laboratory of Culture.

The name "In Situ" means "in place" (Latin) and is a part of the Foundation's philosophy. Activity in any spot, regardless of its location, can become space for art. In Situ offers opportunities for creating infinite permutations of artistic and academic solutions and explorations in a free and unrestricted zone open to everybody.

The Eco-Tower, along with the multi-media room and workshop spaces, was opened to the public for artistic and educational purposes in 2015. The architectonic concept was chosen by means of open tender: the winners were Hirouki Mae and Tomasz Grzyb. The restored buildings have been finished with modern elements and elevation materials. This is a continuation of the bold, forward-looking ideas that Dr Brehmer was famous for in the 19th c. A range of activities from the fields of ecology, education, and art take place here.

Every year the Foundation organizes several festivals: the International Sokolowsko Festival of Ephemeral Art CONTEXTS; the Sanatorium of Sound; and the Hommage a Kieślowski Film Festival.

Contexts

International Festival of Ephemeral Art.

The festival provides a platform for presenting ephemeral art in its various manifestations: performances, installations, sound pieces and multimedia works, accompanied by presentations of art centers, artists and events, discussions, exhibitions and screenings. The festival events take place all over Sokolowsko, in public spaces, the cinema, the sanatorium, and the Villa Rosa.

Sanatorium of Sound

The Festival is dedicated to improvised and experimental music, as well as the art of sound approached in the broadest way. The core idea is to present the latest achievements in modern music and create a dialogue between the artists and audience across the world. Concerts take place in the park, the Eco-Tower, and the „Zdrowie” theater stage.

Sokołowsko Film Festival Hommage a Kieślowski

The Festival is centered around the work of Krzysztof Kieślowski. Many movies are screened during the festival, both in the cinema "Zdrowie" and on open air cinema screens. During many

open panel discussions and meetings there is an opportunity to encounter the brilliant actors and people Krzysztof Kieślowski worked with.