



The Cathedral. Photo D. Krakowiak

## Poznań's Cathedral Island (Ostrów Tumski) – the cradle of Polish statehood

Poznań's Cathedral Island enjoys unique significance in Poland's history. Over more than a millennium, the location performed essential political and religious functions. This site of a robust settlement in the 10<sup>th</sup> century served as a major town in the emerging Polish state. The Cathedral Island is believed to have been the place of baptism of Poland's first ruler: Mieszko I. This breakthrough event ushered Poland into the cultural community of Christian Europe. Poznań became the first seat of bishops and the site of the country's first cathedral. The cathedral building also became the first necropolis of Polish rulers.

While Poznań has lost its capital city status in the centuries that followed, it has nevertheless remained a key religious, political and cultural center. Its rank and prestige is evidenced by its numerous artistically-outstanding architectural sites and works of art.

The invaluable architecture of Cathedral Island has become a main tourist attraction of Poznań and Wielkopolska.

### • The Island's most precious attractions are:

- - the Arch-Cathedral Basilica,
- - relics of the necropolis of Poland's first rulers,
- - remains of 10<sup>th</sup> century buildings: the Duke's palatium and the town chapel,
- - remains of the town's 10<sup>th</sup> century fortified embankments (to be displayed in an upcoming archeological reserve),
- - the Archdiocese Museum with an extensive sacral art collection

## The Competition

- the objective is to design a exhibition concept for a permanent exhibition of the Heritage Center of Cathedral Island in Poznań
- the competition will be officially launched at the beginning of 2010
- awards: a cash prize and a contract to design the exhibition
- total awards value: ca € 400,000
- total project budget: ca € 4 million
- competition rules will be posted at: [www.trakt.poznan.pl](http://www.trakt.poznan.pl)
- procuring parties: the City of Poznań, TRAKT Center for Cultural Tourism

## Feel invited to win!

Address:

TRAKT Center for Cultural Tourism

[www.trakt.poznan.pl](http://www.trakt.poznan.pl), [centrum@trakt.poznan.pl](mailto:centrum@trakt.poznan.pl)



The Royal-Imperial  
Route in Poznań

[www.poznan.pl](http://www.poznan.pl)

**POZnań\***  
\* Eastern energy. Western style



The Golden Chapel in the Cathedral. Photo D. Krakowiak

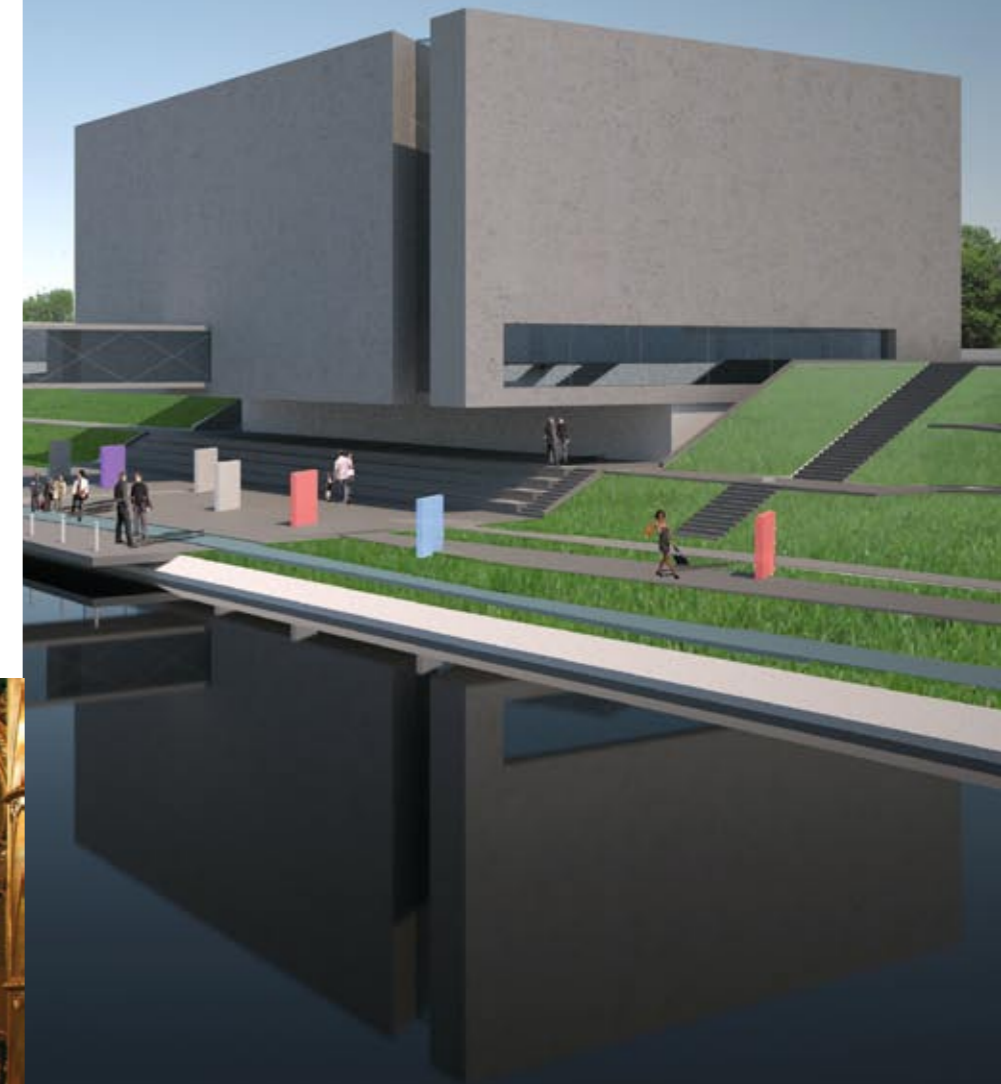


## International competition

for the design of a permanent  
**exhibition concept**

for a Heritage Center

of Cathedral Island in Poznań, Poland



**To be launched at the beginning of 2010**

# The Heritage Center of Cathedral Island in Poznań

The Center will become Poznań's new tourist attraction that will set it apart from the rest of the European cultural tourism scene. With its modern presentation, the exhibition will bring the millennium-old history of Cathedral Island closer to home, covering periods from the emergence of the Polish state in the 10<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary times. The Center will provide interpretations of the meaning of the Island's historical sights to prepare visitors to visit the actual historical monuments.

## The exhibition is to incorporate:

- a narrative presentation that tells the tale of the location as it has unfolded over the centuries,
- a multi-faceted presentation of Cathedral Island history structured around three thematic axes,
- interaction to engage the visitors and evoke greater involvement in sightseeing,
- multimedia and other advanced display technologies,
- multiple tour paths to fit the needs of various visitor groups,
- areas and paths designed especially for children,
- ways to encourage visitors to see the actual Cathedral Island sights.

## The Heritage Center building

The Center will be housed in a new building to be situated on the bank of the Cybina River and in a historic Cathedral Lock across the river (the remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century fortifications). The two will be connected with a footbridge thrown across the river. The exhibition (the objective of the competition) will be housed in the new building. The total approximate exhibition area will be 3,000 sq. m.

Cover and Background: the Heritage Center building project, drawings by Ad Artis.

## Exhibition thematic axes

Main axis: **This is where Poland originated... and survived**

Side axes: **Spatial development of Cathedral Island**  
**The history of the Poznań Cathedral**

Adoption of Christianity by Poland

Construction of Ducal Palatium

First bishopric and cathedral in Poland

Royal necropolis

Cathedral Island – the site of announcement of patriotic manifesto during the Partition Period

Cathedral consecration coinciding with Poznań Protests of June 1956

The Millennium celebration

Visit by Pope John Paul II

10<sup>th</sup> century

21<sup>st</sup> century