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Roman Cements for Architectural Restoration to New High Standards



Municipality of the city of Krakow, the new wing, 1908–1913, by Jan Rzymkowski, Poselska 12–14, Krakow, Poland.

From 1860s, the main seat of the municipal authorities was the Wielopolski palace built in the sixteenth century and adapted to the need of the municipality. The building proved quickly too small to satisfy the needs of the City Council and the municipal offices. In 1903, an architectural competition for a design of a new representative city hall was organised but finally the city decided to build just a new wing linked to the existing building. The plain Roman cement renders of the façade are combined with stone architectural decorative details. A painted frieze shows coats-of-arms of the city and of several communes which united with the city in 1910 to form the Great Krakow.



| Preparing the construction site for the new wing of the Krakow Municipality. The former Wielopolski Palace to which the new wing was added is visible.

| **Restoration in brief**

- restoration of the façade was carried out in 2008, financed through a grant from the Citizen's Committee of the Renovation of Krakow Monuments SKOZK
- the restoration works comprised restoring the original aesthetic appearance of the Roman cement renders as well as full restoration of stone elements and the frieze.

The façade before restoration.



The Roman cement renders were preserved under a later cement-coat.



Cleaning has revealed the original surface of the render.

Restoration works.



After the removal of the secondary cement coat, changes in the original appearance of the renders became visible: stains due to salts and soiling and dirt penetrating the network of cracks.



The façade after restoration.



The renders were re-integrated aesthetically with a thin layer of Roman cement mortar and coated with the water repellent silicone paint based on Roman cements, both produced by the Institute of Ceramics and Building Materials, Branch of Glass and Building Materials in Krakow, Poland.



Conservation by **Budmet Spółdzielnia Rzemieślnicza**, Krakow, Poland.

www.budmet-krakow.pl

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