



# Exhibition Pyskowice City

easy-to-read  
version (ETR)



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AUTHORS OF THE PUBLICATION:

The historical descriptions and illustrations presented at the exhibition represent a selection of materials providing knowledge about the development of the town of Pyskowice and the Pyskowice railway junction. The materials were obtained as part of a private project entitled „Pyskowice Station – Agglomeration and Museum Railway of the Upper Silesian Industrial Region” carried out in 2024, whose creators are: Piotr Borowiak, Franciszek Krawczyk, Michał Zbiciak, Jerzy Ziobrowski, and Jakub Dąbrowski.

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# What is this exhibition?

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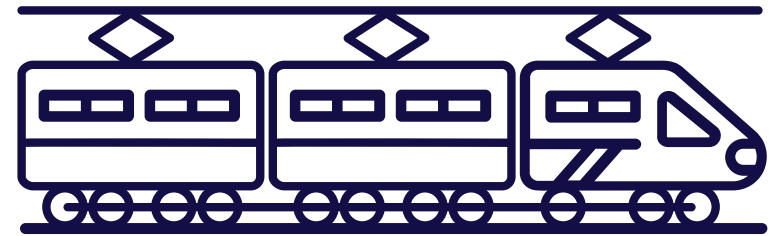
The permanent exhibition „**Pyskowice City**” is located in the MOKiS Exhibition Centre in Pyskowice. It presents the history of the town of Pyskowice after World War II, i.e. from 1945 to 2005. The exhibition also shows the importance of the Pyskowice Miasto railway station and the development of the railway (**railway = trains**)

The exhibition features:

- old photographs,
- documents (important papers),
- souvenirs from the town’s residents.

The exhibition shows the reconstruction of the market square, new buildings and housing estates.

Of particular importance is the history of the railway station and plans to build the Silesian Metro (**metro = fast underground train**).





## What can you see at the exhibition?

- old photographs of the city,
- urban plans (**city plans showing how streets and houses are to be built**),
- platform boards (**boards at the railway station**),
- railway clocks,
- railway workers' uniforms,
- various railway signs,
- miniature sculpture



## The „Pyskowice Station • GOP Agglomeration and Museum Railway” project

- Established in 2015.
- It is a database on the history of Pyskowice and the railway in the region.
- Its creators are local history enthusiasts: Piotr Borowiak, Franciszek Krawczyk, Michał Zbiciak, Jerzy Ziobrowski and Jakub Dąbrowski.

## The exhibition was supported by:

- Mayor of Pyskowice Adam Wójcik,
- Municipal Centre for Culture and Sport,
- the Exhibition Centre team.

The exhibition presents the history of the town in a simple and interesting way.



# The beginning of the story – the market square and town centre (1945–1950)

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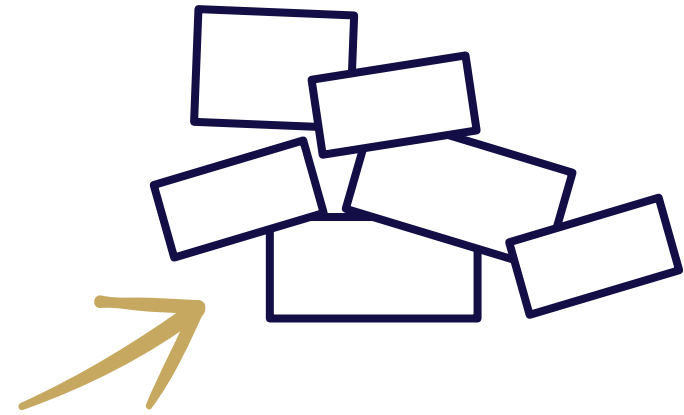
We begin our journey at:

- the market square,
- Wyszyński Square.

## What happened after the war?

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- In March 1945, Pyskowice came under Polish administration.
- The town was destroyed after the war.
- First, the rubble (**i.e. the remains of demolished buildings**).



The work progressed slowly because

- there was a lack of money.

It was not until 1948 that the city received a loan (**i.e. a loan for reconstruction**).



## What are „oval cities”?

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Pyskowice is one of the cities with an oval layout.



## Oval layout:

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- the town is oval in shape,
- the market square is located in the centre,
- the roads run around the centre.

Such towns were built long ago in the Middle Ages and once served a defensive function.

Similar towns include:

- Toszek,
- Gliwice,
- Żory,
- Czeladź.

## Who planned the reconstruction of the city?

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The reconstruction was planned by state institutions:

- the Department of Urban Planning in Katowice,
- the Central Office for Architecture and Construction Design.

Urban planners (**specialists in city planning**) arrived in Pyskowice.

The projects were managed by:

- **Kazimierz Wejchert** (an architect who also designed Nowe Tychy).





# Display case 1

## Railways and everyday life in documents

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This display case shows documents related to the railway and the lives of the people who worked on it.

What will you see in the display case?

### 1. Documents of railway families

- A scan of a railway worker's family member ID card issued to Stanisław Borowiak.
- Such a document confirmed that the person belonged to the family of a railway employee.
- It entitled the holder to discounts (i.e. cheaper tickets and other benefits).

### 2. PKP employee documents

- Three employee ID cards issued in the name of Zofia Kumalowa.
- They show how, over the years,
  - the appearance of the documents changed,
  - the organisation of work on the railways has changed.

### 3. Train timetables

- Timetables from Katowice from 1987–1998.
- Thanks to them, you can see:
  - where the trains went,
  - how often they ran,
  - how public transport operated.



#### 4. Older historical documents

- Military Training ID card from 1947 (i.e. a document related to military training).
- Proof of payment from the German prisoner-of-war camp Oflag VII A Murnau from 1943.

What does this mean?

These documents show:

- the fate of people during and after the war,
- the lives of railway families,
- that the railway was not only a job, but an important part of everyday life and memory.



### RYNEK

ODBUDOWA PYSKOWICKIEGO RYNKU I PL. WYSZYŃSKIEGO · 1945 – 1950

Władze polskie przejęły Pyskowice w marcu 1945r. Odbudowę miasta pod względem historycznym i urbanistycznym rozpoczęto od gruntownego odgruzowania, jeszcze w tym samym roku. W 1946r. Pyskowice uzyskały funkcję na cele odbudowy rynku, będącego centrum miejskiego, "owalnego" miasta, na skrzyżowaniu istniejących szlaków drogowych (m. in. tak zwanego "szlaku solnego") z kierunku Krakowa w stronę Wągrowca.



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Władze Miast i Osiedli przy WBN w Katowicach kieruje do Pracowni Urbanistycznej Centralnego Biura Projektów i Budownictwa w Katowicach plan, w którym informuje o planach odbudowy zniszczonych Pyskowickich rynku oraz dalszej rozbudowy i ekspansji miasta. Jednocześnie zwraca uwagę na powtarzalność formy przestrzennej miasta i nakazuje uczynić Pyskowice miastem "wszystowym", dającym szkielet wyjąłowy dla dalszych projektów i odbudowy następnych miast o owalnym charakterze.

Niemalże natychmiast, w mieście pojawia się Zespół Pracowni Urbanistycznej CBPAiB w Katowicach. Przygotowywany jest projekt odbudowy, według którego będą postępować dalsze prace. Działaniem zespołu przewodniczą Kazimierz Wejchert, główny architekt budujących się na równi z Pyskowicami, po przeciwległej stronie GOP-u, Nowych Tychów. Prace nad projektem były prowadzone w stałej kooperacji z grupą pomiarową Zakładu Urbanistyki Politechniki Warszawskiej pod kierownictwem Zdzisława Łuszczynskiego.

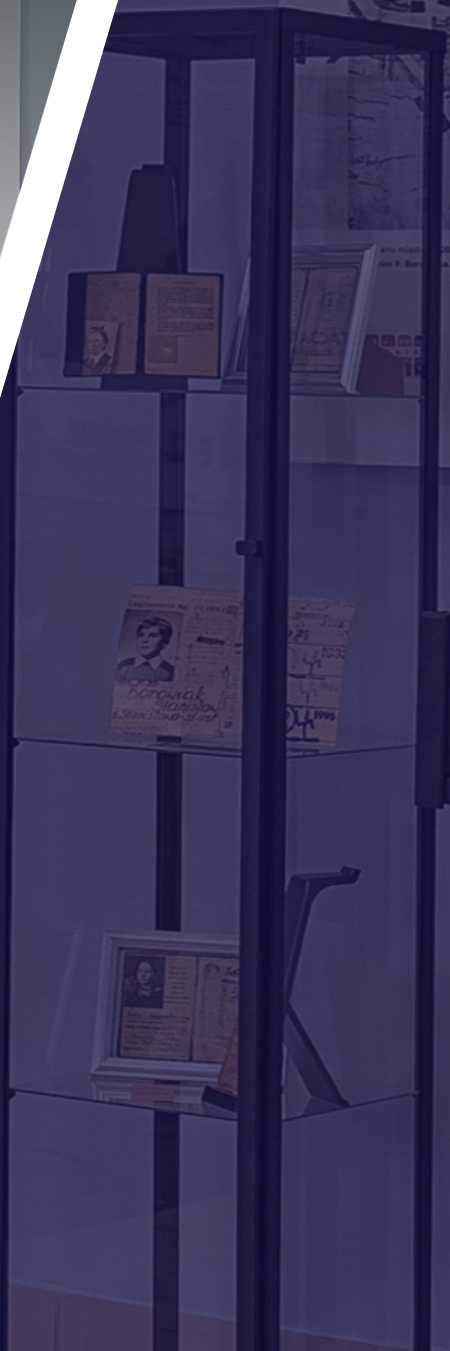


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KIERUNEK ZWIADZANA WYSTAWY

STACJA PYSKOWICE

STACJA PYSKOWICE



## Display case 2

# Pyskowice - the market square and the new town in photographs and plans

This display case shows how Pyskowice changed after the Second World War.

What will you see in the display case?

### 1. Market square and town hall

- The oldest materials show:
  - the market square,
  - the town hall,
  - the city centre in the 1960s.
- There is also a city map created by architects Hanna Adamczewska-Wejchert and Kazimierz Wejchert.

### 2. Documentary photographs

- Photographs by:
  - Zofia Rydet,
  - Władysław Macowicz.
- They show:
  - the reconstruction of the market square,
  - the daily life of the inhabitants.





### 3. Expansion of the city

- Aerial photographs of the town (i.e. taken from above, from an aeroplane).
- Press articles about the so-called New Pyskowice (new housing estates).
- City plans from different years.
- Photographs showing how the city grew.

### 4. Streets and housing estates

- Photographs of streets:
  - Dworcowa,
  - Wojska Polskiego,
  - Szopena,
  - Strzelców Bytomskich.
- They show:
  - buildings,
  - the everyday life of residents in the second half of the 20th century.



What does this mean?

The photographs and plans together tell a story about:

- changes in the appearance of the city,
- the transition from the old market square to modern housing estates,
- the development of Pyskowice after the war.



The materials come from:

- private collections,
- museums,
- state archives.



#### Explanations of difficult words (ETR)

- **Document** – an official paper containing information.
- **Identity card** – a document confirming identity or entitlement to something.
- **Discount** – a cheaper ticket or assistance.
- **Timetable** – a schedule of train departures.
- **Urban planning** – city planning.
- **Aerial photography** – a photograph taken from above.
- **PRL** – period in Polish history from 1945 to 1989.

#### Nowe Pyskowice (1951–1990)

In 1951, the government decided:

- Pyskowice was to be expanded.

Reason:

- there was a need for housing for steelworks and factory workers.

The town was to be:

- modern,
- green,
- comfortable to live in.

Not all plans were realised.



### What was achieved?

The following were implemented, among others:

- the main streets of the city,
- schools and kindergartens,
- the hospital,
- a heating plant,
- railway line No. 198,
- **Pyskowice Miasto** railway station.

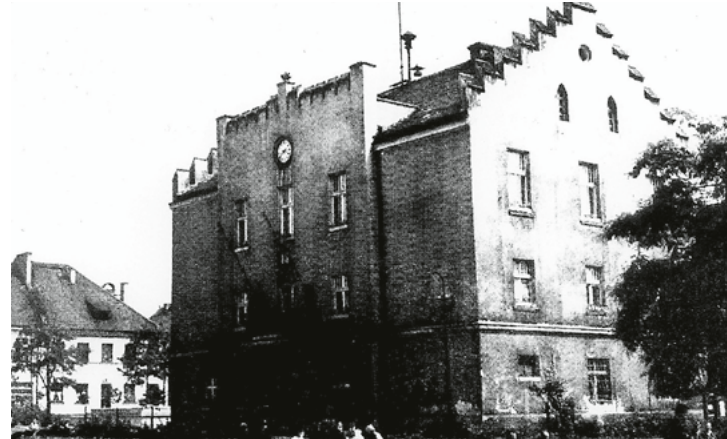
### What was not achieved?

The following, among other things, were not built:

- the „Silesian Metro”,
- a tram network,
- a coal mine,
- a shopping centre,
- a county town.

This contributed to:

- slower development of the city,
- transport problems.





## Display case 3

# Pyskowice and the railway – industry and service

This display case tells the story of two important issues:

- **industry** in the Pyskowice area,
- **railway work** and its importance for the residents.

What will you see in the display case?

### 1. A map board (object 1)

The board features a printout of a sketch (i.e. a simple drawing/plan).

It shows where the metallurgical plant was planned to be built in the Pyskowice area.

The map is on a scale of **1:25,000**.

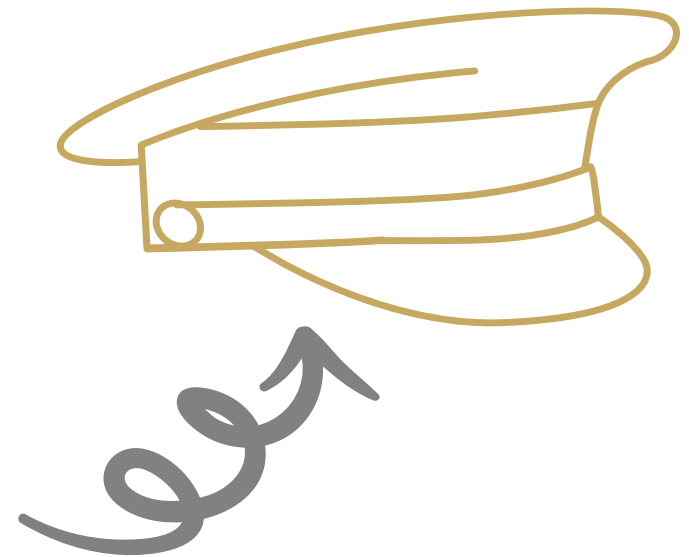
This board shows:

- where the industrial plants were to be located,
- how they were to be connected to roads and railways,
- how the region was planned to develop in the second half of the 20th century.

### 2. Elements of railway uniforms (objects 1-3)

The display case contains:

- a railway cap,
- two **rogatywki** (caps with a characteristic „four-cornered” shape).



Such headgear was part of the uniform of railway workers.

They showed that the person wearing them:

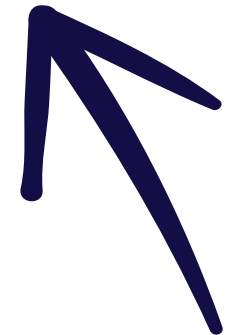
- worked on the railway,
- performed an important service.

### What does this mean?

Together, these items remind us that for many years:

- heavy industry (large manufacturing plants),
- and the railway (transport and railway workers)

had a major impact on the life of Pyskowice and its inhabitants.



### Explanations of more difficult words

- **Industry** – production in factories and plants.
- **Heavy industry** – large plants, e.g. smelters, mines, steelworks.
- **Metallurgical combine** – a very large plant related to metal, e.g. steel.
- **Cartographic** – related to maps.
- **Scale 1:25,000** – 1 cm on the map is 250 m in reality.
- **Uniform** – work attire (uniform).
- **Rogatywka** – a cap with a characteristic shape, known from uniforms.
- **Civil service** – work for a state institution (e.g. the railway).



## Regional Railways – “Silesian Metro”

At the end of the 1970s, there were plans for:

- a fast railway connecting the cities of Silesia.

It was to be:

- the main transport line in the region,
- connected to buses and trams.

Construction began in 1986, but was halted in the early 1990s.

The reason:

- political changes,



**METRO DLA ŚLĄSKA** ↑





## Display case 4

# Technical plans

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This display case shows **railway plans**.

The plans help to understand how the railway in Pyskowice was designed.

What is in the display case?

There are **two colour plans** in the display case.

Both concern **railway infrastructure**.

Railway infrastructure includes:

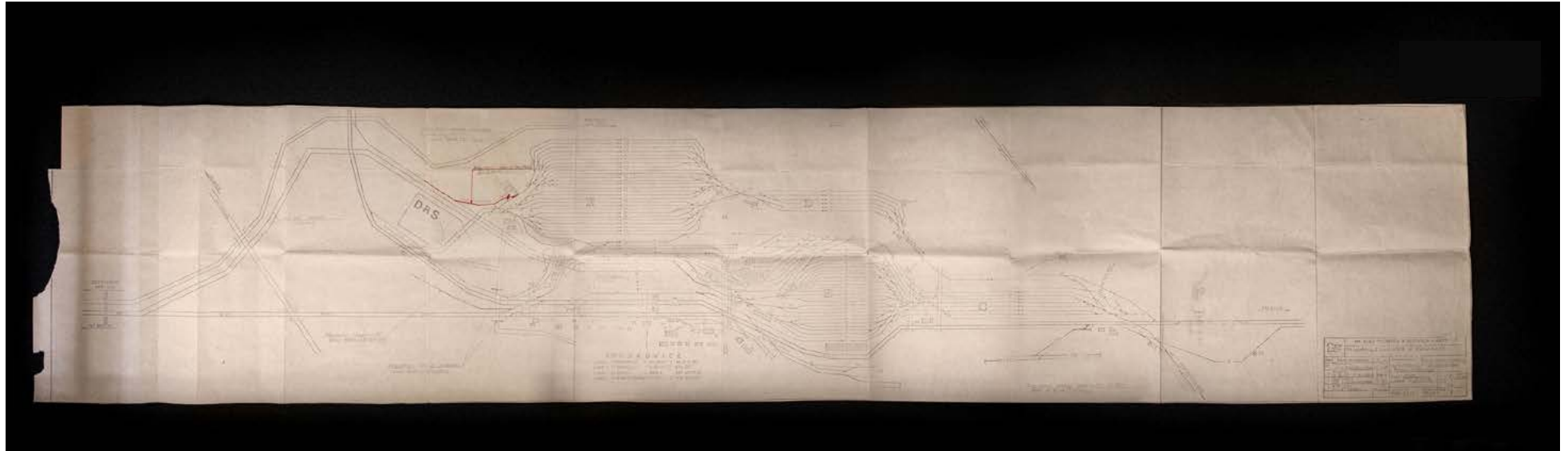
- tracks,
- stations,
- technical buildings,
- equipment necessary for train traffic.

The second plan is particularly interesting. It is called: „**Technical plan for the construction of the first line of the Regional Railway Network – Pyskowice station**”.

This document is an excerpt from the plan of the Regional Transport Railway technical station in Pyskowice, which shows

- what a section of the first line of **the Regional Transport Railway (KRR)** was to look like,
- how the construction of the technical station in Pyskowice was planned,
- how the tracks and equipment were to be laid out in this location





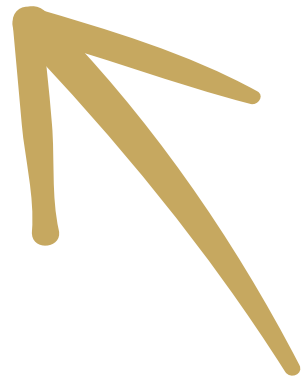
The plan is an example **of a technical design**.

#### What does that mean?

- **A technical design** is a detailed drawing that shows how something is to be built.
- **A phased investment** means that the construction was to be carried out step by step.

The plans in this display case show:

- how the development of the railway in the region was conceived,
- what the work of railway designers looked like.



### Explanations of difficult words

- **Technical plan** – a detailed construction drawing.
- **Infrastructure** – things needed for operation (e.g. tracks, buildings).
- **KRR (Regional Railway)** – planned high-speed railway for the region.
- **Investment** – a large undertaking, e.g. railway construction.
- **Phased** – implemented step by step.

### Pyskowice Miasto station

- The railway line was built between 1961 and 1964.
- The station was opened in 1969.
- It was modern and glazed.

Inside, there were:

- ticket offices,
- a waiting room,
- departure boards,
- luggage storage,
- atrium (a very unusual solution for those times, but even today rarely seen in railway stations),
- the sculpture „Seals”

In 2000:

- passenger traffic was closed.





## Display case 5

# Pyskowice Miasto railway station – from its establishment to closure

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This display tells the story of the **Pyskowice Miasto** railway station.  
The station was very important for the town in the 20th century.

What will you see in the display case?

- **The oldest photograph** shows the station at a time when Pyskowice was beginning to develop rapidly.
- The following photographs show:
  - the area around the station,
  - Dworcowa Street,
  - everyday life in the People's Republic of Poland (PRL – the period of the People's Republic of Poland, 1945–1989).

Other photographs show:

- steam trains pulled by a **TY45 steam locomotive** (i.e. a steam engine),
- later **EN57** electric trains,
- disused tracks,
- the demolition of the station in 2000.



The display case also contains:

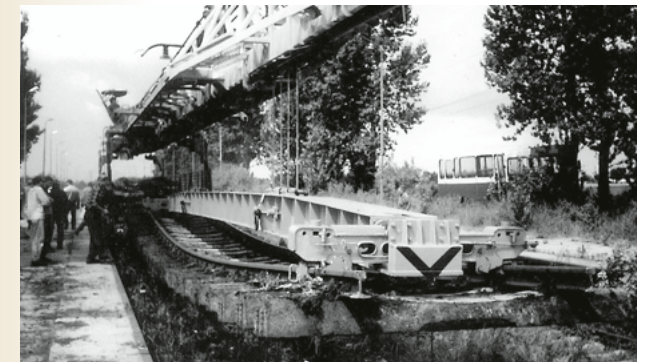
- a sign from the station with the text „Ticket offices open 24 hours a day” (i.e. a board with a name, important information or a sign)

### What does this mean?

The photographs and objects together show:

- how the station was built,
- how it operated for many years,
- how it was closed.

It is a story about changes in the town and in transport.





## Display case 6

# Projects, plans and visions for the railway in Pyskowice and the region

This display case shows:

- how the railway operated,
- how its future development was planned.

What is in the display case?

### 1. Technical plans

- Colourful drawings from the Pyskowice Miasto station.
- They show:
  - tracks,
  - traffic control devices,
  - railway workers' workplaces.



## 2. Model

- The model is a **small model** of buildings and terrain.
- It shows what the station might look like after reconstruction.

## 3. Unrealised ideas

- Photo of the 1974 vision of the „**Metro for Silesia**”.
- Press articles about the **Regional Transport Railway (KRR)**  
– a planned high-speed railway.

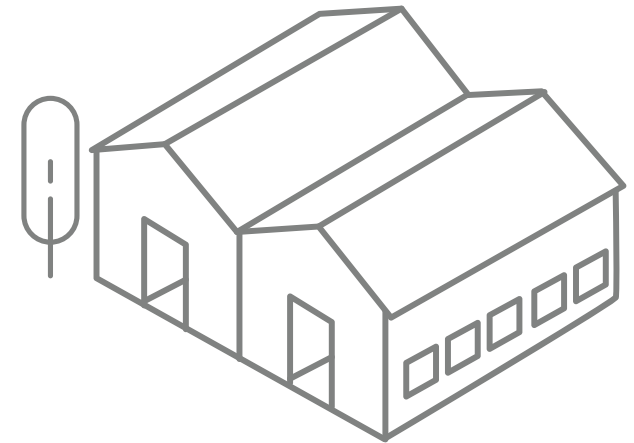
Finally:

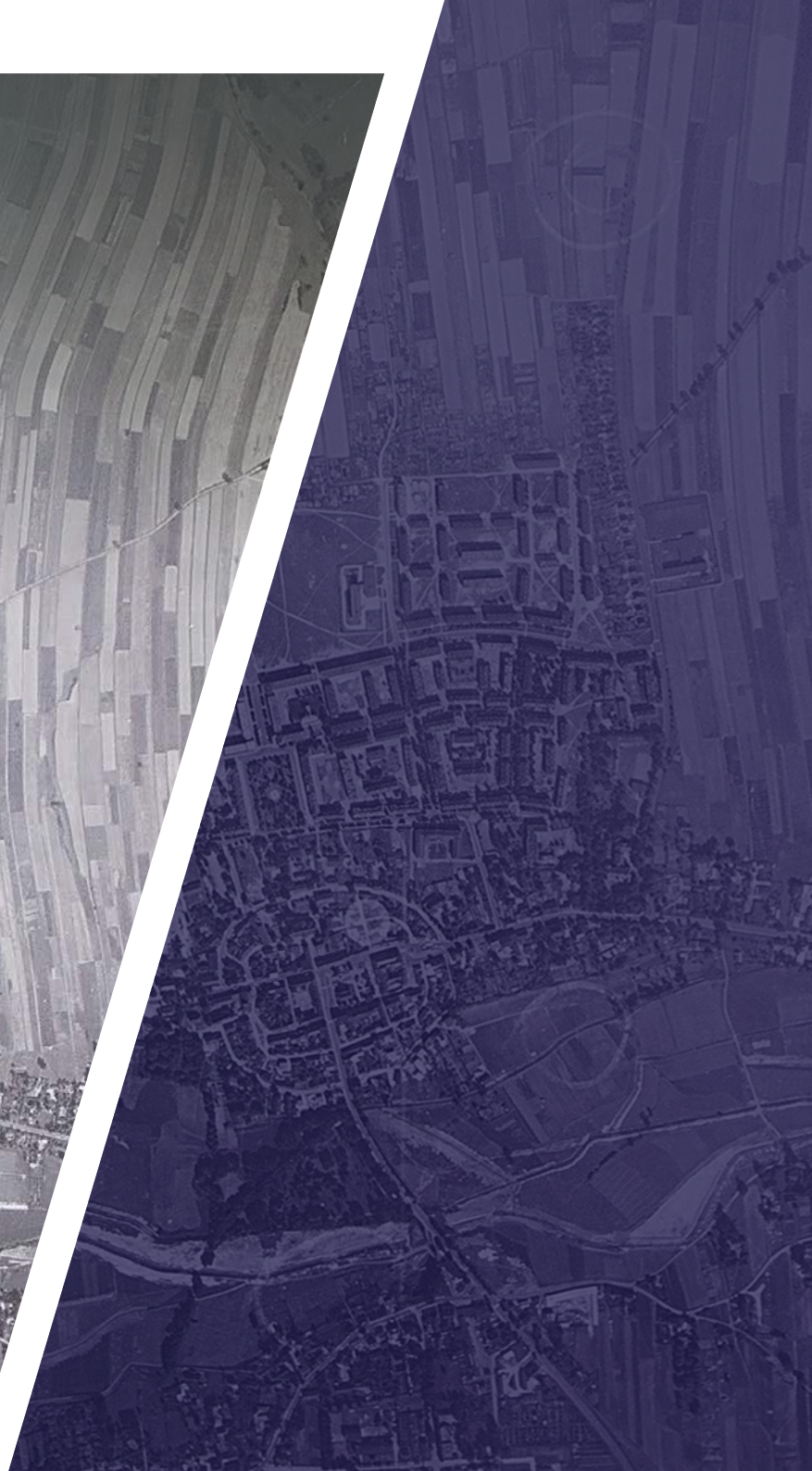
- a photo of the design for the first KRR line from 1990.

## What does this mean?

This display case shows:

- real technical plans,
- dreams and ideas for the future,
- projects that were never realised.





## Display case 7

# Railway signs and markings (ETR)

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This display case shows **signs and boards** that were used on the railway.

**What will you see?**

- **Cast iron plates from steam locomotives (i.e. metal plates from steam locomotives).**
- The plates contained:
  - the vehicle number,
  - the type of locomotive,
  - information about the railway unit.



There is also:

- a **metal information plate** from **PKP** in Pyskowice.

**What were these boards used for?**

The boards helped to:

- identify vehicles,
- mark buildings and workplaces,
- organise railway operations.

They show that the railway was:

- well-organised,





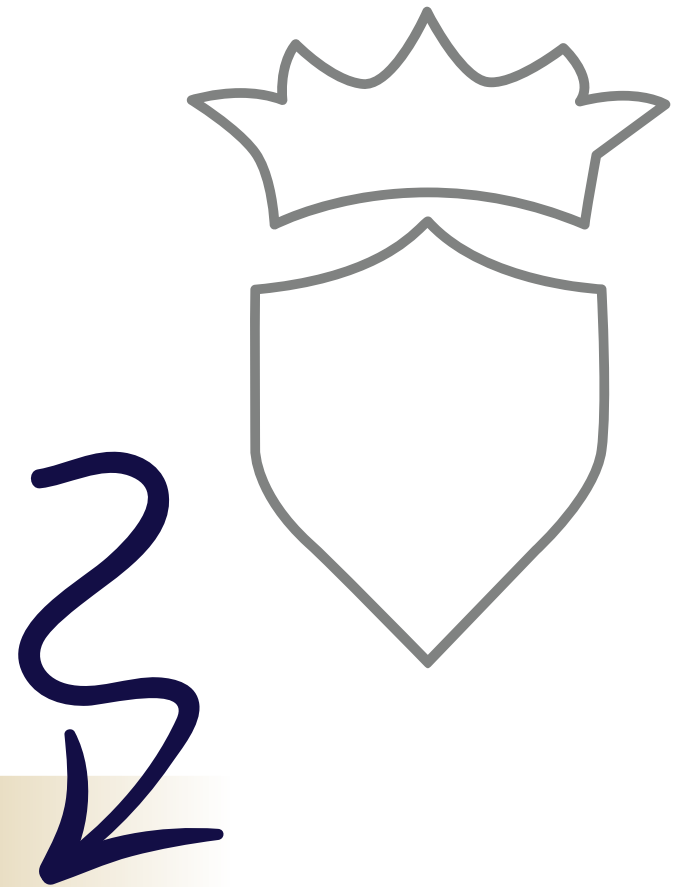
## Display case 8

# Railway boards from Pyskowice

This display case contains **two original railway signs** from Pyskowice.

What do the signs look like?

- They are made of metal.
- They are **white and red**.
- They come from old railway technical buildings.



### What do the inscriptions say?

The inscriptions provide information about:

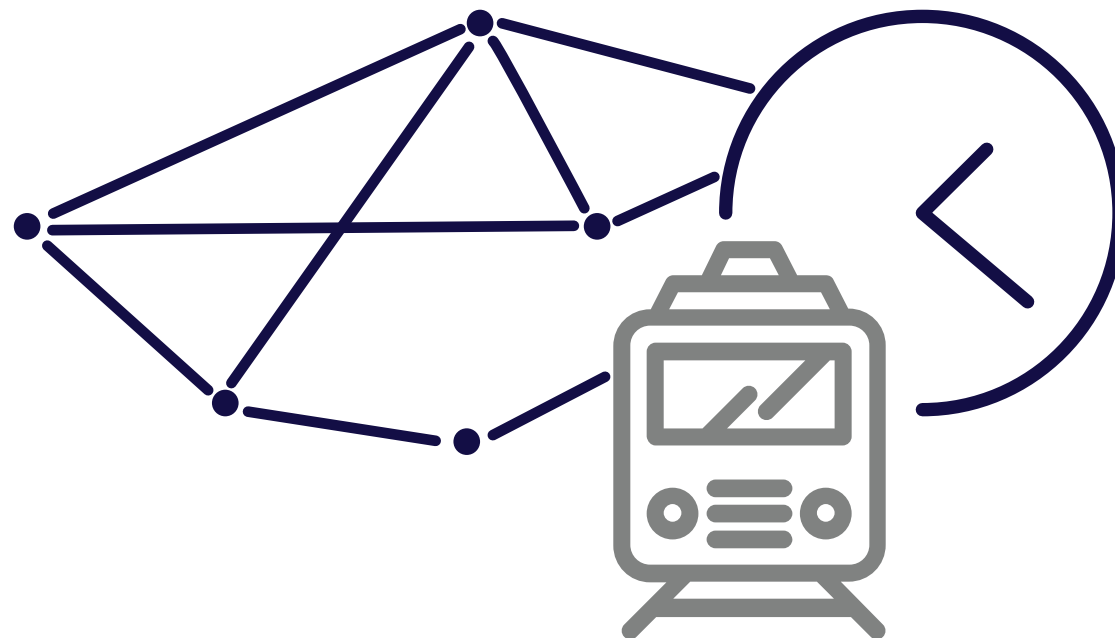
- the Automation Section (**i.e. the place where traffic control devices were maintained**),
- Line Supervision (**i.e. the unit responsible for monitoring the condition of the tracks**).

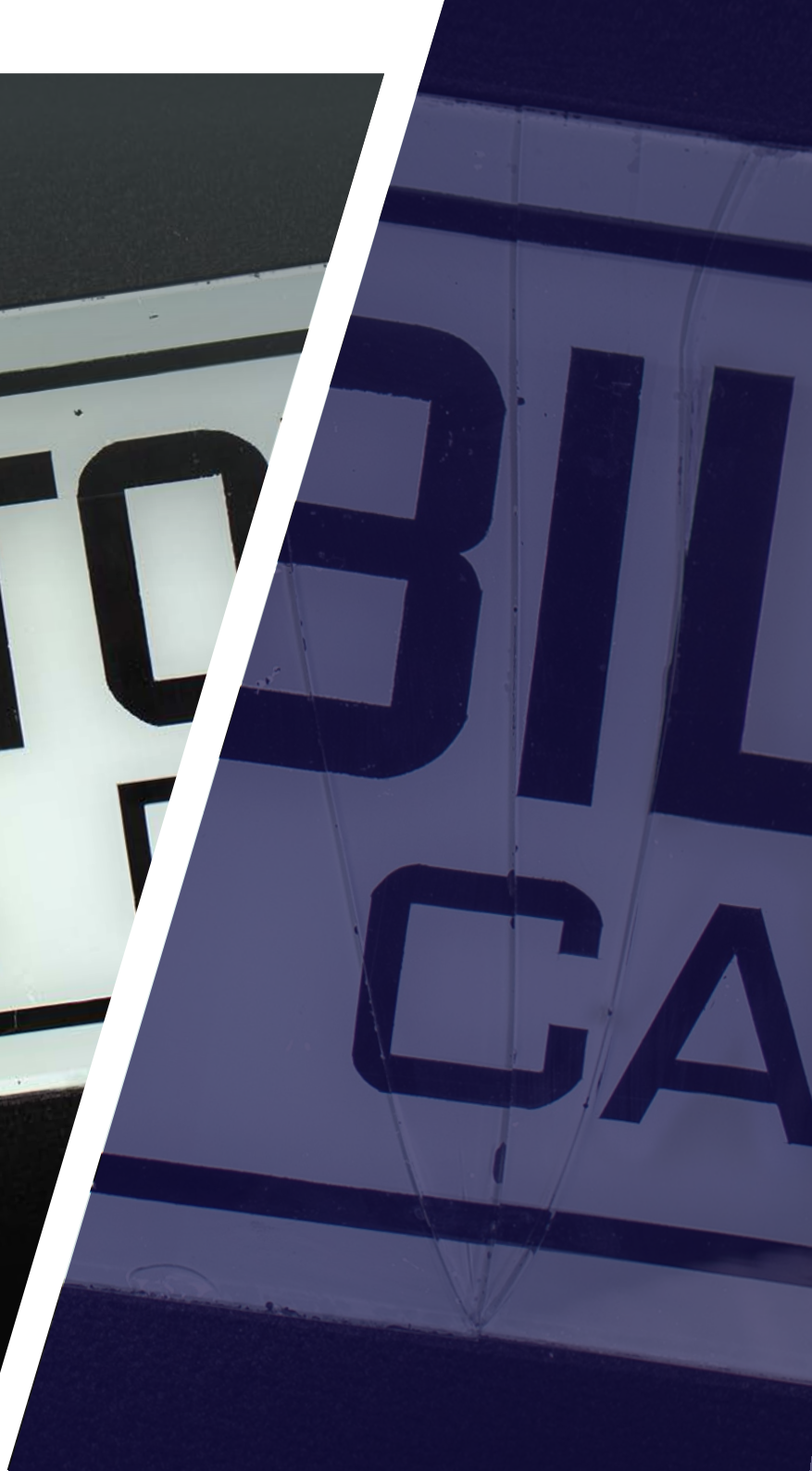
### What does this mean?

The boards show:

- the daily technical work of the railway,
- the facilities that passengers usually do not see.

Today, they are a reminder of the former railway in Pyskowice.





## Display case 9

# The railway in detail – everyday and symbolic objects

This display case shows small objects that were part of the lives of railway workers.

**What is in the display case?**

### 1. Decorative item

- Made of metal and wood.
- Mounted on a wooden board.
- Its exact purpose is unknown.
- It could have been:
  - a tool,
  - a decorative item,
  - a symbol related to work.



## 2. Curtain from a train carriage

- Used in trains between 2000 and 2010.
- It was used to:
  - covering windows,
  - protecting from the sun.
- Sometimes used as a tablecloth.

### What does this mean?

These items show:

- everyday life on the railway,
- the little things that created the working atmosphere,
- that the railway is not only about technology, but also about people.



### Explanations of more difficult words (ETR)

- **Infrastructure** – things needed for operation (tracks, buildings).
- **Artefact** – an old object from the past.
- **Steam locomotive** – a locomotive powered by steam.
- **Model** – a small model of buildings or terrain.
- **Signage** – signs and information boards.
- **Technical facilities** – workplaces for technicians and mechanics.





## „Seal” – an unusual symbol

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At the exhibition, you will see:

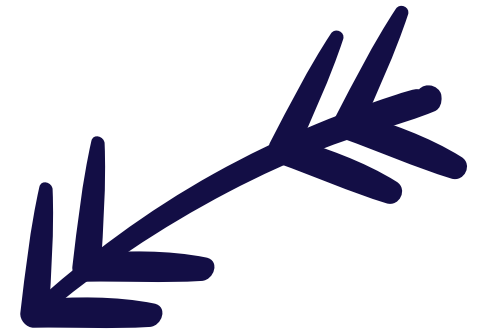
- a small sculpture called „**The Seal**”.

The original:

- once stood in the station,
- and disappeared after it closed.

New version:

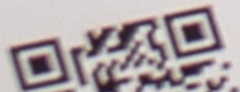
- reminds us of the old station,
- it is a symbol of the city’s memory.





ANA TAJEMNICA

Widzisz się na stronie, dzięki której dowiesz się więcej.



wickim Ratuszu. Na f

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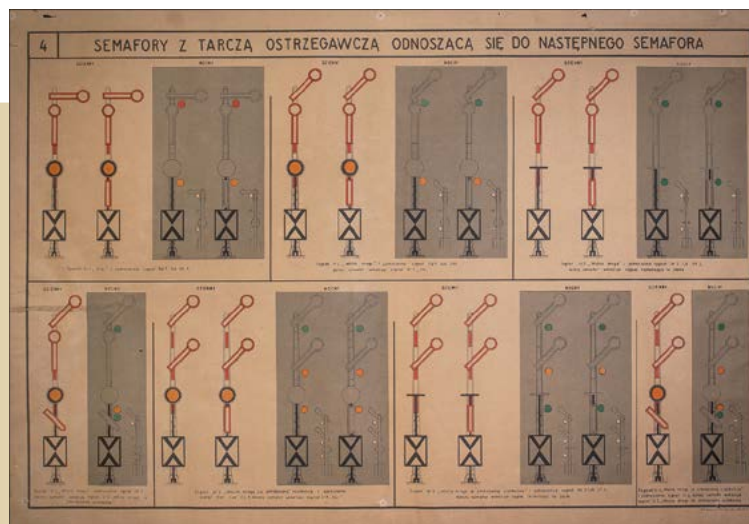
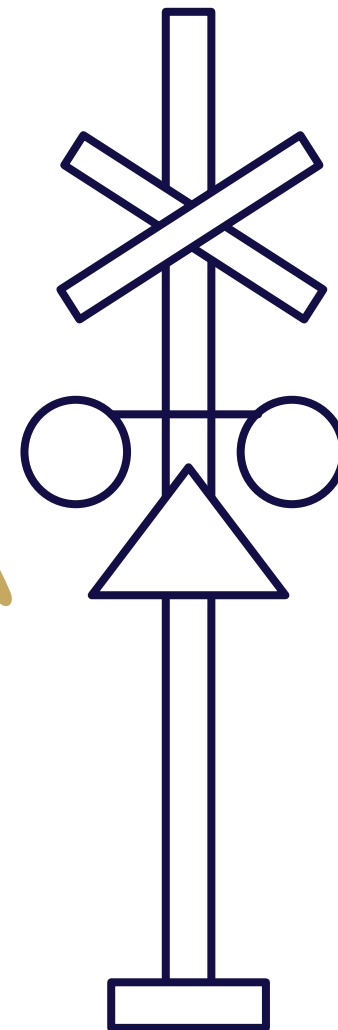
## End of the exhibition

On the walls and floor you will see:

- old railway clocks,
- railway network maps,
- railway uniforms,
- signs and semaphores.

They show:

- how the railway operated,
- how important it was for the town.





# The exhibition „Pyskowice City”

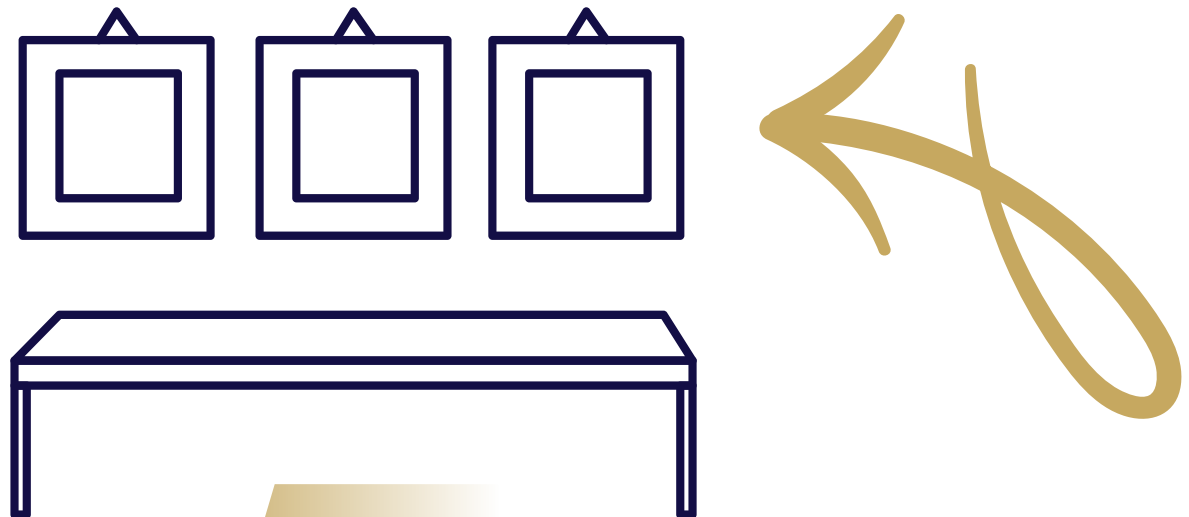
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This is a story about:

- people,
- the town,
- the railway,
- memory.



It is a story that connects the past with the present.







# STACJA PYSKOWICE

STACJA AGLOMERACYJNA I MUZEALNA GOP

otowane opisy historyczne oraz ilustracje i materiały dostarczających wiedzy nt. rozwoju Stacji Pyskowice, w tym Stacji Pyskowskiego węzła kolejowego, pozyskane na rożnym etapie budowy Stacji Pyskowice - Kolej Aglomeracyjna i M

- Piotr Borowiak
- Franciszek Krawczyk
- Michał Zbiciak
- Jerzy Ziobrowski
- Jakub Dąbrowski

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# KASY BILETO

## CZYNNE CAKA

