

## SCHOOL OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN GRODNO

**RASA BUTVILAITĖ**

Vilnius Academy of Arts

An important factor in the institutionalisation of architectural studies in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Age of the Enlightenment was the noble patrons' role, which in a feudal society was a unique form of institutionalisation of the cultural process. So far, School of Building construction in Grodno, established approx. in 1772 by Antoni Tyzenhauz, has not become a subject of special research. The School programme and detailed schedules found in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, Tyzenhauz Foundation, gives principal information for the research of the activity of the institution. It was the first specialized in architecture post-secondary vocational training institution in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth intended to train not nobles but lower social group – peasants, citizens. The School, led by Italian architect Giuseppe de Sacco – one of the pioneers of Classicism in the State, had a high level of didactics, based on science, drawing and practical work coordination. The School was aimed to train highly qualified industrial and residential architecture designers, building contractors. Theoretical lectures and practical exercises workload was very intense – six days a week, often even for the 13 hours. Pupils had drawing lesson every day, for 2–3 hours. The program focused on the practical knowledge of construction – smart and economical organization of work. Pupils were trained not only in the classes, but on site as well: they were practicing in building houses, manufactures, farmsteads and other various structures in Grodno and its new suburb Horodnica. From the point of view of the development of architecture and urban planning Horodnica was the earliest sample of integrated planning and construction in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Modern urban structure was raised – crafts, industrial and administrative complex of buildings with settlement for workers and craftsmen. Horodnica plan was developed by Johann Georg Moeser (Möser), who lectured in the School and later by G. Sacco. An innovative method of design – standard models of buildings – was applied for the first time. Within 15 years (1765–1780) even 85 buildings with 50 great manufactures were raised – a uniquely rapid tempo of construction in the 18th century.

Unfortunately, A. Tyzenhauz's educational "experiment" stopped in 1780 by political considerations. This type of institutional establishment gave impulse to develop idea of the national public educational system, which would cover various social layers and many of life's needs. That was ambitious and innovative activity, which intended to bring the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth closer to the level of advanced European countries.

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