

Modern Manor I BARYCZ & SARAMOWICZ ARCHITECTS  
Cracow I Poland I 2018



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A manor is an extremely important phenomenon for the Polish identity. For hundreds of years manors have been a characteristic element of the Polish landscape, a depository of the Polish history and culture, centres of the gentry ethos and customs as well as national traditions and the struggle for the Polish identity. Almost since the very beginning of the state they had been built first as defensive knights dwellings, and later, since the middle of the seventeenth century, as modest – in comparison with palaces - residences of landowners. As compared to other European countries, there were relatively many small landed gentry mansions in Poland. One major threat to our culture and identity in Europe that started after 1939 is the process of removing historical manor houses and parks from the Polish landscape, what implies blurring of patriotic gentry values in the collective consciousness of the society. Polish manors demonstrate a great variety of architectural concepts implemented in different historical periods.

In Grębyńce near Kraków, next to the Valley of the Prądnik River and an enclave of the Ojcowski National Park with the ojcowiska birch (*Betula pendula* var. *ojcoviensis*), the world endemit, the Barycz and Saramowicz Architects has built another villa. The area has important historical and cultural aspects here. In the neighbourhood there is the Korzkiew Castle, former Knights' stronghold dating back to the fourteenth century. Significance of the nearby town of Ojców, a popular health resort but also the centre of national revival on the borders of the then territory under the Russian rule, at the beginning of the last century, is invaluable. Hence the villa in Grębyńce has been given a form which is a far intellectual transposition of the massive archetype of a Polish manor. The building is a modern version of a country house out of town. It has been built using modern methods, relevant to the aesthetic sense of modernity. However, created with the use of state-of-the-art means of architectural expression and wonderful possibilities of modern technology, is by no means a copy of an international style. It is a creative reference to the Polish building tradition.

