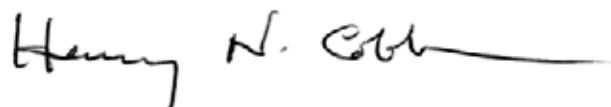


**WARSAW, AUGUST 1947**

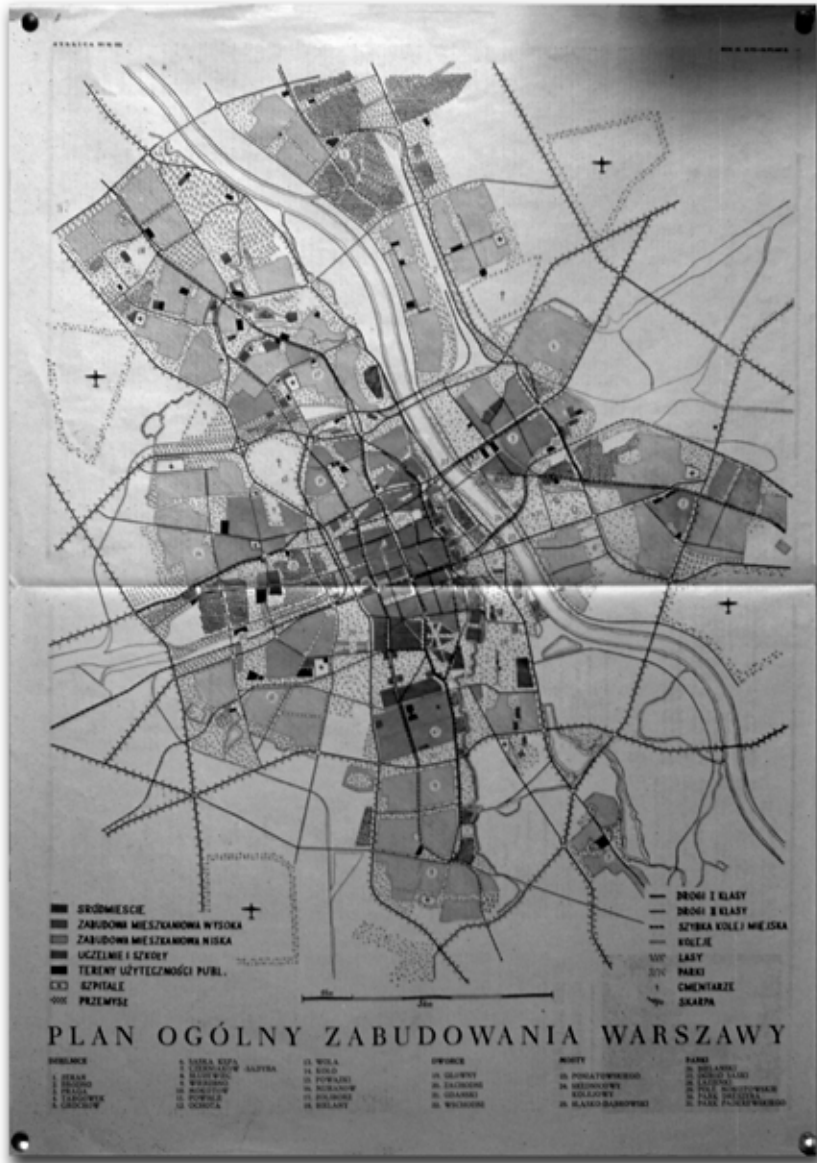
PHOTOGRAPHS BY HENRY N. COBB

In the summer of 1947 I was a member of a small group of American design professionals, led by the architect Hermann H. Field, who traveled to England, Czechoslovakia, and Poland to study the progress of postwar reconstruction. In Poland we visited Warsaw, Krakow, Katowice, Wroclaw, and Szczecin. Although I cannot recall the precise length of our stay in the capital city, I do remember clearly that we extended our visit for several days beyond its planned duration in order to meet at greater length with planners in the Office for the Reconstruction of the Capital (BOS), whose work we found deeply inspiring. The architects Helena and Szymon Syrkus were our hosts in Warsaw, and we spent a memorable Sunday with them at their small farmhouse outside the city on the bank of the Vistula. Photographs taken on that occasion are included at the end of this album.

The photographs reproduced in this album were taken with a 35 mm camera utilizing Kodachrome film. The color rendition of the transparencies is remarkably well-preserved—no doubt owing to the fact that the cardboard-mounted slides have been stored in a sealed box for the past sixty-four years. The compact disk included herein contains the entire album in PDF format. High-resolution files of individual images can be made available on request.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry N. Cobb" followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

September 2011



## POLAND'S REBUILDING AMAZES U. S. EXPERTS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WARSAW, Sept. 12—A group of American architects, town planners and housing officials finished a brief tour of Poland today and prepared to leave for home. According to Herman Field of New York, the experts were amazed at "the thoroughness and real brilliance of the Poles' physical planning."

The group visited England, Czechoslovakia and Poland at its own expense to see what steps Europe's planners were taking to rebuild. Mr. Field, a member of the New York architectural firm of Raymond and Rado, said the party had found substantial advances everywhere over what was being done in the United States.

"Things are happening in Europe, due to the circumstances of destruction, which force a much deeper planning analysis than we are facing at home," he said. The handful of planners left in Poland after the war, he said, had started to rebuild the face of the country, with the result that "what they are doing is more modern to me than what we called modern before the war."

Mr. Field said he was surprised to find a complete absence of "doctrinaire rigidity" in Polish planning, which he described as "extremely humanistic" and much concerned with retaining whatever fragments of Polish history were left as a foundation.

*Cost*



**WARSAW, AUGUST 1947**

Hermann H. Field

Henry N. Cobb

Helena Syrkus

Szymon Syrkus



















