



**Cracow University  
of Technology**  
80th Anniversary

Faculty  
of Architecture



# International Students' Competition **CUT CAMPUS: Driven by Novel Approaches**

**Appendix 2:  
INTRODUCTORY TEXT, COMPETITION THESES**



*Dear Young Friends,*

*We warmly invite you to take part in the international architecture and urban planning study competition " International Students' Competition CUT CAMPUS: Driven by Novel Approaches". This is a unique opportunity to showcase your creativity, and vision for a modern academic space. Your fresh perspective, innovative ideas, and youthful insight will be an invaluable source of inspiration for our university. It is you – the future engineers and architects – who will shape the world of tomorrow and design it in a wise and socially responsible way.*

*Cracow University of Technology, as a prestigious university of technology, aims to create a campus that meets the challenges of the 21st century, fosters scientific development, and strengthens the integration of the academic community. A modern and green campus can become not only the heart of the Cracow University of Technology but also a unique showcase of Kraków – a city of innovation, science and art – strengthening its position as an internationally recognized academic and cultural center.*

Professor Andrzej Szarata, Phd, DSc

Rector of Cracow University of Technology



## THESIS

The world sometimes changes without us, but the times we live in mean that we must change with it. That which remains constant in (some) human beings is the pursuit of knowledge. Knowledge provided us with the ability to clothe ourselves, to gather food, to light a fire – to survive. Today, everyone knows where to buy food or clothes. Here one might ask the question on how should gaining knowledge look like today? Do we need more knowledge? Are we prepared to learn it differently? The Cracow University of Technology, as an institution with eighty years of history, also needs answers to these key questions.

What we remember from our studies (as people in their forties, fifties and maybe even younger) are tests, exams, colloquia. Everything was done on paper. Our professors simply could not imagine (although they were a little younger than we are now) that something could be changed. Everything was taking place as it was a hundred years ago, as it was when the Cracow University of Technology was founded. The University has always been accompanied by enlightened ideals. It benefited from rich university traditions, such as the pursuit of truth, respect for knowledge and ability, dependability in their sharing and dissemination, openness to new ideas, respect for personal dignity and human civil rights, and respect for academic freedoms. It is here that the cadres now working in many fields of science and industry have been forged over the years. Our institution has trained engineering staff that could meet the challenges of the national and global economy. It has been doing so striving for interdisciplinarity in research and teaching, combining the technical sciences with mathematics, the natural, economic, and legal sciences with the humanities, and with the use of information technologies.

The staff and students of the Cracow University of Technology see the sense of community as their supreme goal, while also respecting individual beliefs, rights and aspirations of all members of the academic community. The CUT is not a large institution. In 2024, 12,000 students studied here, with a thousand academic teachers tending to their education. They are part of the university's tradition going back several generations by working to improve the condition of Polish scientific and engineering thought. Understanding the needs to be met by the university of the future, the Cracow University of Technology chooses development and modernity. It chooses to become an international school that attracts students from Europe and Asia. The grounds of the Czyżyny Campus offer an opportunity for this dynamic development and to combine various uses related to science, sport, culture, ecology or everyday student life. This site, so full of greenery, could accommodate even up to 30 thousand students.

And once again, we must ask the question as to what a twenty-first century campus should look like. Admittedly, as some would argue, this century is slowly passing and perhaps we already need a design for a school of the twenty-second century. Thinking about building a campus of the future must inspire architects to find new perspectives that deal away with habits associated with the classical appearance of buildings of higher learning. They have to reinvent the shapes of the buildings and their styles – no longer classical but fully modern. Technology can create new opportunities, it opens up new horizons for artists, it offers the possibility to connect buildings with nature more easily. Building a previously unknown campus can finally decouple itself from depicting the dull everyday life of education, sad dormitories or a lack of space and transport us to something unknown and beautiful.

There is a new purpose to the work, to amaze and present absolute novelty, to attempt to attract young people who wish to study new technologies in modern buildings. The Bilbao effect – this contemporary buzzword leaves no doubt that an architect's work can alter the perception of an entire city. Perhaps the designers of the Krakow campus should take it as a hint? The nature and buildings surrounding the campus need to be connected. However, the dream of Le Corbusier, who believed in the beauty of a speeding car, is probably no longer acceptable. In other words, one could say that such architecture must not only be a modern technical creation, but should also be a work of art. After all, these buildings are supposed to become emblematic of modern Krakow. They are to be admired, and one day, in the distant future, shown in books on architectural history. Only then, years later, will the goal of the competition be achieved.