

Summary

CEZARY WAS (Uniwersytet Wrocławski) / The Shadow of God in the Garden of the Philosopher. Parc de La Villette in Paris in the context of contemporary philosophical concerns. Part I

Bernard Tschumi's project of the Parc de La Villette could have won the competition and was implemented thanks to the political atmosphere that accompanied the victory of the left-wing candidate in the French presidential elections in 1981. François Mitterand's revision of the political programme and the replacement of radical reforms with the construction of prestigious architectural objects and urban assumptions in the French capital gave Tschumi a unique opportunity to realize ideas that polemized with traditional forms of social life, questioned the basic principles of architecture and included architectural work in the philosophical disputes over the issues of metaphysics. Tschumi's theoretical assumptions put forward during the design of the Parc de La Villette highlighted the questions of conflict between the main components of the project and suggested that the intensification of differences was analogous to Derrida's creation of the concept of *différance*. It was this philosopher who in a special commentary to Derrida's project also introduced the concept of *maintenant*, which aimed at demonstrating that the architect's polemical inclinations remain in a hidden balance with his inclinations to affirmation of architectural principles. During the discussion between Derrida and Peter Eisenman, who was to take part in the design of the Parisian park, the concept of the *chôra* was also put forward, which in the course of the debate led to an additional confusion of architectural and philosophical problems.