



Zygmunt Borawski
Architect Dipl. Arch. USI-AAM / IARP

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Born 1987, Bagno a Ripoli (Florence), IT
Citizenship: Polish, Italian (EU)

Languages: Polish and Italian (native), English (fluent)

Profile

Architect (Dipl. Arch. USI-AAM) working between Warsaw and Basel, founder of Zygmunt Borawski Architect and co-founder of A-A Collective. As partner and project leader he co-designed Warsaw Central Square, from the winning competition entry (1st prize, 2018) to its opening in 2025. In 2026 the square received the [Peter Davey Prize of The Architectural Review](#) (AR Emerging Architecture Awards), which called it “one of the best new public spaces in Europe”. His practice spans public space, schools, houses and exhibitions in Poland, Switzerland and Denmark. He teaches at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio and writes about architecture. He has published in Polish and international magazines – among them *Przekrój*, where he edited the architecture and design section, *Pismo*, *Autoportret*, *Architektura-murator* and the first issue of *6850*, the magazine of the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio – and in 2026 guest-edited “The New Swiss Wave” for *Architektura & Biznes*.

Practice & Positions

- 2020 – present
 - Founder – Zygmunt Borawski Architect, Warsaw, PL
 - Houses, exhibitions and installations in Poland, from concept to construction supervision
- 2018 – present
 - Co-founder & Partner – A-A Collective
Warsaw / Copenhagen / Basel
 - Collective practice with Martin Marker, Srdjan Zlokapa and Furio Montoli: public space, schools, competitions, exhibitions and research
 - Peter Davey Prize, AR Emerging Architecture Awards 2026; AD100 Polska 2026
- 2022 – present
 - Teaching Assistant – Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, CH
 - See Teaching & Research
- present
 - Member of the Council – [BRDA Foundation](#), PL

- 2016 – 2020
Editor, Architecture & Design Section – *Przekrój*, Polish cultural quarterly
• About 50 articles, essays, interviews and reviews (see Writing & Editing)
- 2015 – 2018
Junior Architect – JEMS Architekci, Warsaw, PL
- 2010 – 2011
Intern – Christian Kerez ETH SIA, Zurich, CH

Projects & Built Work

- 2017 – 2025
Warsaw Central Square (Plac Centralny), Warsaw, PL
Competition 1st prize 2018 – opened June 2025
• A-A Collective with Landscape Practice; ca. 2.2 ha public square in front of the Palace of Culture and Science
• Partner and project leader: concept, building permit, executive design, tender documentation, author's supervision
• Client: City of Warsaw
• Published in [Landezine](#), [The Architectural Review](#), [Building on the Built](#), *Architektura-murator*, *Architektura & Biznes* and others
- 2026
“Gisleni. A Roman Architect in Poland” – exhibition design, Royal Castle, Warsaw, PL – Direct commission – built
• Exhibition of about 30 original drawings by Giovanni Battista Gisleni from the Castello Sforzesco, Milan; 11 September – 13 December 2026
• Client: Royal Castle in Warsaw
- 2025 – ongoing
House MA, Solina, PL
Direct commission – in progress
• Designer: concept design
• Client: private
- 2025 – 2026
“Primary Forms” – travelling inflatable box, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, PL – Direct commission – built
• Architect and designer of a special art container – an inflatable box for the safe transport of artworks within the museum's education programme, touring about 15 primary schools in Mazovia
• Client: [Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw](#)
- 2025
“Saxon Visions. Architecture of Power” – exhibition design, Royal Castle, Warsaw, PL – Direct commission – built
• Co-designer and project leader with Jan Przedpełski: concept, executive design, supervision of production
• Client: Royal Castle in Warsaw
- 2021 – ongoing
House SJ, Barchów, PL
Direct commission – in progress
• Designer and project leader: concept, permit, executive design, tender, author's supervision
• Client: private

- 2020 – 2023

House MM and House AO, Dąbrówno, PL
Direct commissions – built

 - Designer and project leader: concept, permit, executive design, tender, author's supervision
 - Client: private

- 2022 – 2023

Mobile Saunas, PL
Direct commission – project

 - Designer and project leader: concept and executive design
 - Client: private

- 2020 – 2021

An Arch for Sønderjylland, Christiansfeld, DK
Open competition 1st prize 2020 – built 2021

 - A-A Collective; centenary monument of the 1920 reunification, inaugurated by Queen Margrethe II
 - Client: Municipality of Kolding
 - Published in [ArchDaily](#); ArchDaily Building of the Year 2022 nominee

- 2020 – 2021

“The Death of a Building” – OTHERNITY, Hungarian Pavilion, 17th Venice Architecture Biennale 2021 – Invitation – built

 - A-A Collective; also shown at the Ludwig Museum, Budapest, 2021 – 2022
 - Client: Ludwig Museum Budapest / La Biennale di Venezia

- 2018 – 2019

Arena Design Exhibition, Poznań, PL
Direct commission – built

 - Designer and project leader: concept, executive design, supervision of production
 - Client: MTP Grupa / Targi Poznańskie

- 2018

House WD, Wyszków, PL
Direct commission – project

 - Designer: concept design
 - Client: private

Awards & Nominations

- 2026

[Peter Davey Prize, AR Emerging Architecture Awards](#) – winner – A-A Collective, Warsaw Central Square (The Architectural Review, London)

- 2026

SARP Award of the Year 2026 – nomination, public space – Warsaw Central Square

- 2026

Architecture Award of the Mayor of Warsaw (12th edition) – nomination, public space – Warsaw Central Square

- 2026

Polityka Architecture Award – finalist (top 5) and 2nd place in the public vote – Warsaw Central Square

- 2026

Gazeta Wyborcza “Stółek” readers’ vote – winner, Place of the Year 2025 – Warsaw Central Square

- 2026 [AD100 Polska 2026](#), Architectural Digest – A-A Collective listed
- 2025 Golden Pin Design Award, Taiwan – finalist, public space – Warsaw Central Square
- 2025 Property Design Awards, PL – finalist, public space – Warsaw Central Square
- 2025 BauNetz Shortlist 2025 – A-A Collective featured
- 2023 – 2024 Projekt START, Danish Association of Architects – A-A Collective selected as emerging practice
- 2022 ArchDaily Building of the Year 2022 – nomination, An Arch for Sønderjylland
- 2022 Westival – Sztuka Architektury, Szczecin – invited practice, exhibition “Młoda Polska”

Competitions

- 2026 Culture House, Kobierzyce, PL – 2nd prize
With Jan Przedpełski and team
- 2025 “New Karowa” – redesign of Karowa Street, Warsaw, PL – equal honourable mention (with Jan Przedpełski, Landscape Practice)
- 2025 Wohnbau Pilotprojekt 2401, Pontresina, CH – open competition – with Alexandra Galer and Patrik Honegger
- 2025 Ekofuturium, Centre for Sustainable Development, Koszalin, PL – with Marcin Kropidło
- 2024 Extension of the Primary School, Mammern, CH – “4 × 4”, 2nd jury round (top 10 of 26) – ARGE Romagnoli Borawski Architekten
- 2024 Redesign of Walther-Bringolf-Platz, Schaffhausen, CH – with Pietro Romagnoli
- 2024 Polish Pavilion, 19th Venice Architecture Biennale 2025 – curatorial proposal “A Lost Future: The Contested Fate of Late-Modern Mirror Glass Architecture in Poland” (with A. Redzisz, C. Mills, J. Przedpełski)
- 2023 Natural Park Gołędzinów, Warsaw, PL – honourable mention – with Landscape Practice
- 2023 Exhibition Pavilion, Archaeological Museum, Biskupin, PL
- 2022 Extension of the Museum of the Insurgent Act, Góra Świętej Anny, PL – equal honourable mention (with Aleksander Wadas Studio)
- 2021 – 2022 New Primary School Goumoëns, Bern, CH – 2nd prize, “PAR TERRE” – with Stadler Zlokapa
- 2021 Exhibition and Education Building, Treblinka Museum, PL – with Marcin Kwietowicz

- 2020 An Arch for Sønderjylland, Christiansfeld, DK – 1st prize, built – A-A Collective
- 2020 Textile Museum St. Gallen, CH – open ideas competition – A-A Collective with Studio PNEUMA
- 2019 New Building, Upper Courtyard, University of Warsaw, PL – A-A Collective
- 2017 – 2018 Warsaw Central Square, Warsaw, PL – 1st prize, built 2025 – A-A Collective with Landscape Practice

Further competition entries with A-A Collective

- A Pavilion Along a Path, Aarhus, DK – closed competition, 2nd place (with Raphael Kadid)
- A Baroque Scenery, Gl. Holtegård, Holte, DK – one of 16 finalists (with Mikael Stenstrøm)
- New School, San Vittore, CH – restricted competition
- Raiffeisen Bank, Oberlunkhofen, CH – restricted study (with Buol & Zünd)
- Hortus Conclusus, MEXTRÓPOLI, Mexico City, MX

Teaching & Research

- 2022 – present Teaching Assistant – Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio (USI), CH
 - 2026 – 2027: Atelier Penzis-Bettini
 - 2023 – 2026: Atelier Prof. Renate Walter
 - 2024: Atelier Prof. Richard Venlet
 - 2022 – 2023: Atelier Prof. András Pálffy
- 2023 – 2024 Diploma Research Assistant – Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio (USI), CH
 - Diploma 2024 “Basel”, Prof. Quintus Miller: research and book *Basel: A City of Research, Industry & Culture*
- 2026 Tutor – TEORIA 2026, Stefan Kuryłowicz Foundation, Warsaw, PL
 - Writing-about-architecture workshop (with Igor Łysiuk)
- 2021 – 2022 Professor of Architectural Design – Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology, PL
- 2016 – 2023 External Critic – Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology, PL
- 2017 Junior Teacher, Theory and History of Architecture – Institute of Advanced Studies, Warsaw, PL

Lectures, Talks & Panels

- 2026 Zachęta – National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, PL – lecture [“4 ½”](#) on four and a half houses in Masuria, Bieszczady and Mazovia
- 2026 OSSA Workshop, Warsaw, PL – lecture “Nixons – On the Later Modern Mirror Glass Architecture in Poland”
- 2025 Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples, IT – lecture “Ugly, Awkward but Beautiful: On the House in Trübbach–Azmoos by Peter Märkli”
- 2025 PULSE Ostrava 2025 “RESTART”, CZ – panel “Creating Public Spaces” and discussion on architectural education
- 2025 Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, PL – talk [“{Background Check}”](#), conversations with emerging Polish architects
- 2025 POKA / Prolog, Wrocław, PL – lecture “On the Historiography of Julius Posener”
- 2025 “Planning Cities Amid Uncertainty”, Embassy of Lithuania, Warsaw, PL – presentation of Warsaw Central Square
- 2023 Reflexie architektúry 2023, Faculty of Architecture and Design STU, Bratislava, SK – [lecture “A-A Collective”](#)
- 2022 Westival – Sztuka Architektury, Szczecin, PL – lecture
- 2022 OSA, Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, CH – lecture – “Works of A-A Collective”
- 2021 Big Book Festival, Warsaw, PL – panel [“Sen o Warszawie”](#) with Grzegorz Piątek, moderated by Agnieszka Szydłowska
- 2021 A-Akademia – lecture “How We Work Collectively” (A-A Collective)
- 2020 ZODIAK Warsaw Pavilion of Architecture, PL – co-moderator, book launch – “Przestrzenie uniwersytetu” (with Prof. Anna Giza-Poleszczuk)
- 2020 MIASTORANEK #24, antyRAMA / Fundacja Bęc Zmiana, Katowice, PL – talk [“Commandments for Architects”](#)
- 2020 D&A Design and Architecture Forum, BUDMA, Poznań, PL – speaker
- 2019 KÉK Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, Budapest, HU – presentation “Long Time No CEE” (A-A Collective)
- 2018 ZODIAK Warsaw Pavilion of Architecture, PL – lecture “The Duality of the Public Space” (A-A Collective)

Podcasts, Radio & Interviews

- 2026 [Podcast Architektoniczny](#), Architektura-murator – “Ostatni, którzy pracowali po nocach”, with Artur Celiński

- 2026 City of Warsaw – [“How to discover Central Square”](#), interview and walk on the square’s first anniversary
- 2025 Architektura & Biznes – [“Designing the Ecosystem of Central Square”](#), interview by Kacper Kępiński
- 2025 ZDM Warsaw – [“We Will Always Feel at Home Here”](#), interview with the architect of Central Square
- 2025 Radio Kampus, “Warszawa w optyce” – “The New Central Square”
- 2024 Vogue Polska podcast [“Emigranci”](#), season 1, episode 1 – “Switzerland”, guest Zygmunt Borawski
- 2023 Nowa Warszawa – [video interview on Central Square](#)

Workshops & Residencies

- 2018 Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, CA – [“How to: Not Make an Architecture Magazine”](#), one of eight selected participants
- 2017 AA Visiting School Paris – “Architecture + Écriture”, FR

Exhibitions

- 2022 Westival, Szczecin, PL – “Młoda Polska” (A-A Collective)
- 2021 – 2022 OTHERNITY – Reconditioning Our Modern Heritage, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, HU (A-A Collective, “The Death of a Building”)
- 2021 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, Hungarian Pavilion, IT – “The Death of a Building”; *A Guide Book of DIY Chairs* in the Biennale Library
- 2019 – 2020 “55 Living Frames”, Botaničar, Zagreb, HR (A-A Collective)
- 2018 “A Bigger Splash – Warsaw” and “Futurama”, ZODIAK Pavilion, Warsaw, PL

Writing & Editing

Guest editing

- *The New Swiss Wave* (Nowa fala szwajcarska), Architektura & Biznes 3/2026 – guest editors Zygmunt Borawski and Jan Przedpełski; ten conversations with young Swiss practices, including [Irina Davidovici](#), [dorsa + 820](#), [Parabase](#) and [Adam Szymczyk](#).

Books, essays and articles

- [“The Giant Amazon Parcel ...”](#), opinion column, Architektura-murator, March 2026.
- “The Mass Above the Ground – On St Peter’s Chapel by Paulo Mendes da Rocha”, 6850, Mendrisio Academy Press, 2025.

- [“The First Stone”](#) (Pierwszy kamień) – on building Warsaw Central Square, *Autoportret* 4 [87], 2024.
- *Basel: A City of Research, Industry & Culture*, Diploma 2024, Prof. Quintus Miller – research and content (with Alexandra Galer), Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, 2024.
- “Reflections on Architecture – Polish Architectural Scene”, *Spektrum* 2023, Faculty of Architecture and Design STU, Bratislava, 2023.
- *A Guide Book of DIY Chairs*, A-A Collective with the Royal Danish Academy, 2020; Venice Biennale Library edition, 2021.
- [“Academy of Constructive Madness”](#) (Akademia konstruktywnego szaleństwa) – on studying in Mendrisio, *Autoportret* 1 [60], 2018.

[Przekrój](#) – articles, essays and interviews, 2016 – 2020

- 2020 – Budowanie kolorem / “Building with Colour” (Luis Barragán), 4/2020
- 2020 – Dom huraganoodporny / “Hurricane-Proof Homes”, 3/2020
- 2020 – O domu, który lekko dotyka ziemi / “Touch the Earth Lightly” (Glenn Murcutt), 3/2020
- 2020 – Sen o kryształowych domach / “Dreaming of Crystal Houses” (Crystal Palace), 2/2020
- 2020 – Dwuznaczność polskiego krajobrazu – interview with Andrzej Tobis
- 2020 – Architektura – przekrój przez dekadę / “Our Favourite Architecture from the New East”
- 2019 – Dom szczęśliwego sieroctwa / “The Home of Happy Orphanhood” (Aldo van Eyck), 1/2020
- 2019 – Nieokreślone ciała w ruchu / “Unspecified Bodies in Movement” (Carlo Mollino), 4/2019
- 2019 – Dom z (niebauhausowskiej) baśni / “A Non-Bauhaus Fairytale” (early Gropius), 3/2019
- 2019 – Ogród mój widzę ogromny / “In Hope of a Garden” – interview with Gilles Clément, 3/2019
- 2019 – Biblioteka Niepodległości (Oodi Library, Helsinki), 2/2019
- 2019 – Bookworm Cabin – mały domek dla wielbicieli książek, 2/2019
- 2018 – Mniej nie oznacza więcej, mniej oznacza dość / “Less Is Not More, Less Is Enough” – interview with Pier Vittorio Aureli, 1/2019
- 2018 – Najważniejsza lodówka świata / “The Most Important Refrigerator in the World”, 1/2019
- 2018 – Złota gwiazda polarna / “A Golden Pole Star” (Polish Antarctic station), 1/2019
- 2018 – Bóg, inwestor i cztery ściany / “God, Investor and Four Walls” – interview with Reinier de Graaf
- 2018 – Kawał domu z kawałków / “A House Made with Pieces” (Jean Prouvé), 4/2018
- 2018 – Kosmiczny bajzel / “Space Mess”, 4/2018
- 2018 – Wirtualne zachwyty nad Wertykalnym Lasem / “Virtual Admiration of Vertical Forests”, 3/2018
- 2018 – Dom mistrza (Bruce Lee’s house); Dom sztuki walki, 3/2018
- 2018 – Dom z drewna i słońca / “A Wooden House Powered by the Sun”, 2/2018
- 2018 – Głód jak po ścieżce rowerowej, 2/2018
- 2017 – Architektura na zimę; Bar na lodowej tafli; Hotel co roku inny; Igloo i quinzee; Od Sottsass do lasa; Okładzina z aspiracji, 1/2018
- 2017 – Słowem i rzutem (architektonicznym) – review of a book by Rem Koolhaas
- 2017 – Dumna i piękna (Pruszkowski villa, Kazimierz Dolny); Guziki, przyciski i inne natręctwa, 4/2017
- 2017 – Klejnot Faaborga
- 2017 – Mamy za dużo złej architektury / “We Have Too Much Bad Architecture” – interview with Adolf Krischanitz
- 2017 – Jak zbudować gliniany piec?, 3/2017
- 2017 – Pisarz, który garnki lepi (Edmund de Waal)
- 2017 – Modernopolo (with Radosław Krajewski)
- 2017 – Elektrownia w Czarnobylu: coś więcej niż arka
- 2017 – Doniosłość cienia w czasach ciągłej aktualizacji (Tanizaki)
- 2017 – Nowoczesne plemię / “A Modern Tribe” (Halen, Atelier 5), 2/2017
- 2017 – Architektura VII Dnia; Italo Modern 1 & 2 – book reviews
- 2017 – Dom sprzeczności (Villa De Bondt); Domy o przeciekających dachach (Frank Lloyd Wright), 2/2017
- 2017 – Akupunktura miejska / “City Acupuncture” (Grafton Architects), 1/2017
- 2016 – Dom z miłości (Erich Mendelsohn); Dom z przekonani (Adolf Loos); O zapomnianych przedmiotach, 1/2017
- 2016 – Za fasadą szkicu (Peter Märkli), 1/2017

- 2016 – Architektoniczne dowody zbrodni (Forensic Architecture), 1/2017

Publications on His Work (selection)

Books and catalogues

- Michał Murawski, *A Form of Friendship. The Museum on the Square*, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, 2024 – conversation with Zygmunt Borawski, Marlena Happach and Dorota Jędruch.
- *Building Diversity: Who Is the Architect*, Arkitektens Forlag, 2023 – A-A Collective.
- Natalie Donat-Cattin (ed.), *Collective Processes – Counterpractices in European Architecture*, Birkhäuser, 2021/22 – A-A Collective, pp. 196–199.
- Dániel Kovács (ed.), *OTHERNITY – Reconditioning Our Modern Heritage*, Ludwig Museum Budapest, 2021.

International press

- 2026 – The Architectural Review, [AR Emerging 2026 winners](#) and October issue 1535
- 2026 – Landskab 05/2026, DK
- 2026 – [Landezine](#), “Warsaw Central Square by A-A Collective”
- 2026 – [mooolo](#), CN; [Building on the Built](#), “Site Specific: Warsaw Central Square”
- 2025 – BauNetz, DE
- 2025 – Warsaw Insider; Walking Warsaw – Central Square
- 2022 – Arkitektforeningen, DK – “Arkitektkollektiv via Zoom-forbindelse”
- 2021 – [ArchDaily](#) and Archello – An Arch for Sønderjylland
- 2021 – Artforum, “Building Blocs” (Ian Volner); ArchDaily, WorldArchitecture, Hype&Hyper – Hungarian Pavilion, Venice
- 2020 – 2022 – JydskeVestkysten, TV Syd, Fællesavisen Christiansfeld, kongehuset.dk – An Arch for Sønderjylland

Polish press

- 2026 – Architektura-murator, [“Kolektyw związany w paryskim barze...”](#) (Artur Celiński)
- 2025 – Architektura-murator, [“Asymetryczna mapa zburzonego miasta”](#) – review of Central Square
- 2025 – Architectural Digest Polska, [“Plac Centralny w Warszawie”](#)
- 2025 – Architektura & Biznes, [“Kłątwa Stalina straciła moc”](#) and opening of Central Square
- 2025 – Sztuka Architektury; Bryła; whiteMAD; TVN Warszawa; WawaNews – Central Square
- 2018 – Rzeczpospolita, “Nowe centrum Warszawy z nutą historii”; Sztuka Architektury; Bryła – competition results

Education

- 2008 – 2014 Bachelor & Master of Architecture (Dipl. Arch. USI-AAM) – Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio – Università della Svizzera italiana, CH
- 2011 – 2012 Exchange Student, Faculty of Architecture – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), USA
- 2006 – 2007 Sociology – Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw, PL