



The international architectural competition for the building of the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk in 2007 was entered by 58 architectural firms from around the world. The jury favoured the design project from a group of Gdańsk architects from the Fort workshop. On May 14, 2011 the foundation stones for the ECS headquarters were laid. Municipal Investments of Gdańsk Ltd. is undertaking the investment on behalf of the city and the building contractor is Polimex-Mostostal. The building is funded by the EU. The construction of the ECS headquarters is to be completed by the end of 2013.

The structure of the building takes the shape of a simple, straightforward system of parallel and regularly spaced walls, without extensive detail. The external walls and internal area will be covered with CORTEN sheet metal which, with its rusty color, will give the impression of the kind of large, hull-like structures that could be found in shipyards. The steel walls will look as if they are moving; the first one will crack in the middle and lean forward, followed by others.

Visualization - PPW FORT Ltd., made available by the municipality of the city of Gdańsk.



The designers' architectural intention was for the Fallen Shipyard Workers Monument and Gate No. 2 of the former Gdańsk Lenin Shipyards located near the Health and Safety Hall (where on 31 August 1980 the Interfactory Strike Committee signed an agreement with the Government of the People's Republic) to become physically part of the permanent exhibition of the ECS, which is the heart of the complex.



# ECS FOR SUMMER & AUTUMN



## ► SUMMER IN THE SHIPYARDS

July Gdańsk

Children and young people have been learning about recent history in a fun way by using documents, films, photos and meeting with some of the participants in the events of August '80. And all in the backdrop of the former Lenin Shipyards in Gdańsk, where Solidarity was born. 641 people took part. "We want our meetings to look as least like a school as possible and therefore throw a fresh angle on this historical shipyard and the Solidarity movement", says Agnieszka Wichrowska of ECS Educational Projects Department. What's on offer includes workshops such as "Now I do not have time for you... The history of a few pictures and a song", "Discoverers of symbols" and "The Story. The history of Solidarity in English".

## ► UNDERSTANDING AUGUST

July - September

Gdańsk Workshops for children, general knowledge competitions about Solidarity, meetings with the heroes of August '80, debates about democracy, sport contests - these are just some of the ideas for "Understanding August". The ECS brought district councils into the project as well as local NGOs. And so the civic celebrations of August '80 were created by the residents of five Gdańsk districts: Brzeźno, New Port, Stogi, Orunia and Siedlce. "I once wrote that "solidarity is a challenge and commitment at the same time," says Patricia Medowska, deputy director of the ECS. "The challenge is, above all, to stimulate the imagination of young people to discover for themselves the fascinating history of Solidarity and to see in it an important element of their own identity. The "Understanding August" project fits right into this idea."

www.sierpiensolidarnosci.pl



## ► ARTISTS ABOUT SOLIDARITY

August - September

Gdańsk This festival presents outstanding figures from various fields of art who have created something in connection with the idea of Solidarity. This year the event took place for the fourth time and includes an outdoor concert: "Stańko +" with the participation of Quincy Jones, the world-renowned musician appearing for the first time in Poland, as well as the premiere of the film "World Cup. All or nothing". Between the Great Mill and the Old Town Hall stood the three-dimensional structure "Ribbon Concert" by Jerzy Janiszewski, the legendary creator of the "Solidarity" logo. The 10-foot multicolored ribbons suspended on a grid placed between the four 20-meter high towers transformed the area, and moreover, stimulated the sense of sound. Everyone can casually sit under the rippling ribbons and hang out for a while. The ECS is a coorganizer of the festival. www.solidarityofarts.pl

## ► AUTHORITIES. Sopot Dialogues

Summer

In this coastal climate - in Zatoka Sztuki, Sopot - we brought discussion on all kinds of issues, significant or less so, into the public domain. This series kicked off with

a meeting with the writer Václav Havel. We also invited the art historian Anda Rottenberg and President of the Foundation "Akogo?" Ewa Błaszczak to the discussion. "Authorities. Sopot dialogues" - open meetings - will be back in the summer of 2013. The project is undertaken by the ECS in collaboration with MCKA Zatoka Sztuki, with Gdańsk and Sopot.

## ► ETHICS OF SOLIDARITY

August 30

Gdańsk The idea behind the series "Ethics of Solidarity. Reflections on the anniversary of the August agreement" is to preserve the memory of Solidarity and the cultivate its heritage, while also extending the formula for celebrating and marking August '80. In subsequent years, we will invite prominent personalities from public life to reflect on the concept of solidarity, and the hope it brings by encouraging thought on the development of a democratic culture. It is worth mentioning that the term "Ethics of Solidarity" was taken from the title of a volume written by the priest Józef Tischner [1981]. The first lecture was given by priest Adam Boniecki, senior editor of "Universal Weekly", 30 August 2012, at 12.30, in Artus Court in Gdańsk. The project has been undertaken by the ECS in cooperation with the city of Gdańsk.

## ► YOUTH FORUM

September

The presence of young people on the Internet, freedom and responsibility on the web, discourse regarding new media - these and many other topics will be tackled at this year's Youth Forum. The participants in the event, which will be held at the University of Gdańsk, will meet with experts on the topic, and will exchange views both during debates and workshops. This year we also plan to

conduct workshops at schools to learn more about issues connected with copyright and the possibilities of using the Internet in study. During the forum we will invite teachers to the seminar. Information: www.ecs.gda.pl

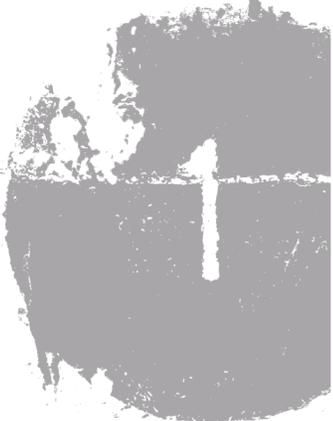


## ► FILM | DISCUSSION MUSIC | CULTURE

October 19-28

The All About Freedom Festival presents artistic and innovative films, provoking debate about freedom, about the condition of the contemporary world and of man. The screenings are accompanied by meetings with artists and thinkers, as well as theatre and music projects. "For the first time starting in September we will organize in schools preparation for the AAF, inviting students to a movie marathon," says Iwona Katarzyńska-Czaplewska, civic education specialist for the ECS and producer of the project. "And while the festival is running, the audience will chose and award the best film". This is the sixth edition of the AAF. The projections will traditionally take place in Gdańsk Multikino.

Schools should apply to: Iwona Katarzyńska-Czaplewska, e-mail: i.katarzynska@ecs.gda.pl



# ECSinfo

# Sierpień 80

"The European Solidarity Centre (ECS) is a lively and open institution where a lot of young people work. I believe that working with our youth is the most important task of ours because democracy as a system is still somewhat vague and therefore we need to pay constant attention to civil education" - says Basil Kerski, director of the ECS. - "We want the new ECS building to become a forum, a meeting place, where we might even manage to preserve some of that pivotal moment during the August strike, when workers did not go home".

## we remember because the workers did not go home

The heart of the new ECS building is to be a permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of the Solidarity movement. Space has been planned for a temporary exhibitions hall, a library and reading room, a media library, an archive, a research centre, a Centre for education and training workshops and creative workshops for young people. There will be a bookstore and gift shop. It will be possible to enjoy a cup of coffee in the comfort of a perennial garden. The ECS building rises at the north-end of Solidarity Square, near the monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers and the historic Gate No. 2 of the Gdańsk Lenin Shipyards and the Health and Safety Hall, where

on 31 August 1980 the Interfactory Strike Committee signed an agreement with the Government of the People's Republic. The architectural intention behind the project is for the monument, gate and Health and Safety Hall to become literally an element of the museum's exhibitions. The new building will open its doors in 2014. Meanwhile, the ECS continues to make research, obtaining certificates of participants in the opposition movement, and the collection of historical memorabilia, as well as organizing educational, civic, cultural and publishing projects.



Photo by Stanisław Skłodanowski / Collection ECS

European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk  
www.ecs.gda.pl

## HOW TO TELL THE STORY OF AUGUST?

The set design and concept of the permanent exhibition exhibition ECS is explained by its authors - Dr. Beata Szymanska and Dr. Jarosław Szymanski from the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, from their Studio 1:1 Design workshop based in the former Gdańsk Lenin Shipyards.

**Jarosław Szymański:** "For me the main point of the exhibition is to make young people aware of the phenomenon of Solidarity, but of course it is actually aimed at two or even three generations. So we have to speak in a language that will be understood by all."

**Beata Szymańska:** "It is not easy to target three generations at the same time. What may be attractive in terms of a light and dynamic approach for young people may be difficult for the generation that lived through this time who require quiet reflection rather than fireworks. This is our challenge: to find a way of reaching all generations. The exhibition will be multi-layered. For example, we're making a special route designed for children."

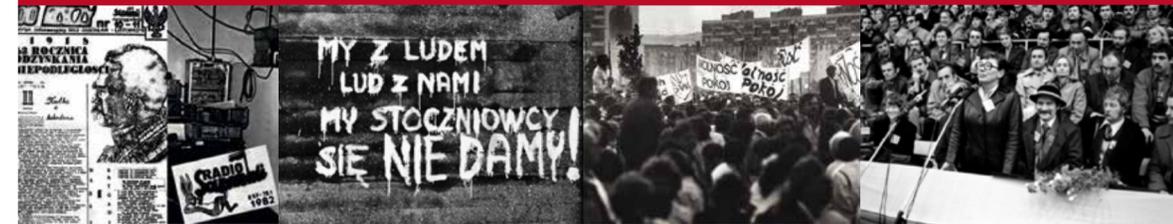
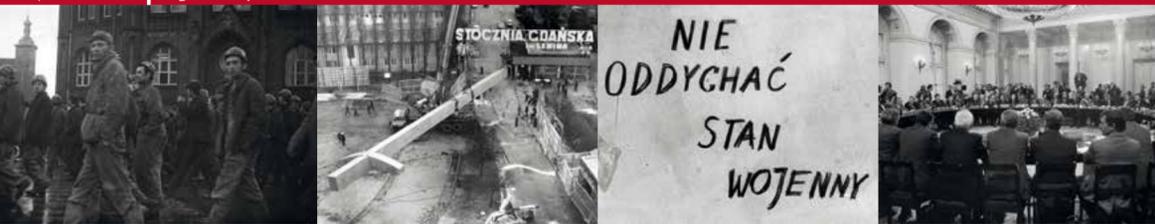
**J.Sz.:** "It is impossible to present all the facts concerning the great Solidarity movement. You can not capture in a literal way the atmosphere in the shipyards during August '80 just as you cannot really recreate Jacek Kuron's room with those talks till dawn and billowing cigarette smoke. You can, however, do it in a more metaphorical, symbolic and interesting way. We are not putting up symbolic barriers in



Photo by Robert Kwiatkiewicz / Collection ECS

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EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTRE  
 ul. Doki 1, 80-958 Gdańsk  
 tel. 58 767 79 71  
 e-mail: ecs@ecs.gda.pl  
 www.ecs.gda.pl  
 f/solidaritycentre



The objectives of the ECS are set out in the following statute: • The commemoration, preservation and promotion of our heritage as well as the dissemination of the ideals of Solidarity throughout Poland and around the world • The inspiration of new initiatives which may be cultural, civic, federal, involving local governments, national and European or a more universal dimension • Sharing the achievements of a non-violent struggle for freedom, justice, democracy and human rights with those who are deprived of such rights • The active participation in the construction of a European identity and a new international order

## GEMS HIDDEN IN THE DARK CORNERS OF OUR HOMES

Paweł Golak, historian and archivist, head of the Museum and Archive Department and the library of the ECS  
*"We want to collect as far as possible complete materials documenting the history and legacy of Solidarity. The easiest way, of course, is to find stuff from the Gdańsk region. But we're also reaching out to people from deeper inside the country. We are interested in all items that make up the legacy of Solidarity, such as souvenirs and personal documents, letters, leaflets, posters, books and magazines, photographs, memoirs and eyewitness accounts of those days, film and sound recordings, posters, albums, greetings, handwritten and official documents, commemorative postage stamps, official stamps, printing machines ... I'm sure that in the nooks and crannies of our homes there are lots of things, and sometimes we come across some real gems".*



Photo by Robert Kwiatek / Collection ECS

**MEMORABILIA COLLECTION CAMPAIGN CONTINUES**  
 You are very welcome to bring to the ECS any archives or souvenirs connected with Solidarity | Contact: tel: 58 768 23 31, e-mail: [pamiatki@ecs.gda.pl](mailto:pamiatki@ecs.gda.pl)

## THE NORWEGIAN ARCHIVE

ECS collections received a boost in May 2012 with the archives of Solidaritet Norge-Polen, the scale of whose actions during the Polish struggle for freedom – firstly in terms of moral support and secondly through material assistance, and finally with financial backing – was the largest throughout Western Europe and encompassed the whole of Norway.  
*"These collections are very rare. Actually, this is the first coherent archive of foreign origin involved in the Solidarity movement,"* stated Basil Kerski, director of the ECS, during a Polish radio broadcast. From Oslo came also documents relating to the activities of the organization, newsletters and magazines, a unique set of posters, and memorabilia. *"We received, for example, an SNP canvas banner and one of the watches that were produced in the years 1984–1985 and sold in the SNP campaign to spread information about the situation in Poland,"* says Monika Krzencessa-Ropiak, curator of the ECS. *"In the SNP archive there are a lot of components that merit their own personal story because they could reveal a lot of interesting human history. The material requires some restoration, cataloguing and describing. It will be made available to scientists, and some archives will enrich the permanent exhibition in the new headquarters of the ECS."*



Photo by Grzegorz Mehring / Collection ECS

## MEDAL OF GRATITUDE

Those who supported Poland in the fight for freedom and democracy, deserve from us a Medal of Gratitude. The ECS has launched this award on the 30th anniversary of the Solidarity uprising. So far, more than 400 people from around the world have been honored. Some smuggled printing presses and radio transmitters for the underground Solidarity, and others organized shipments of medicines and food, while others took care of the family of interned dissidents or demonstrated in the name of violated civil liberties in Poland. On the ECS website there is an application form. Anyone who wants to tell the story of someone to whom Poles owe gratitude can fill it in. The Medal of Gratitude Committee considers each application individually. One of the ceremonies for the awarding of Medals of Gratitude took place on 25 May 2012 at the Polish embassy in Oslo. Throughout Norway, one hundred thousand people were affiliated with Solidaritet Norge-Polen to help Solidarity – morally, materially and financially.



Photo by Robert Kwiatek / Collection ECS

**MEDAL OF GRATITUDE**  
 Information and an application form for the Medal of Gratitude:  
[www.ecs.gda.pl/medal](http://www.ecs.gda.pl/medal)  
 Please apply by email to: [medal@ecs.gda.pl](mailto:medal@ecs.gda.pl)

## PEOPLE DEPART

As well as film records of times of opposition, eyewitness accounts are also collected by the Department of Notation and Film Projects of the ECS. These materials are particularly useful for filmmakers who are working on new documentaries, as well as scientists looking for source material. The film project is dedicated to those who witnessed the activities of the democratic opposition and those who created an independent culture, and particularly those active in the Solidarity movement. The ECS has so far immortalized the accounts of almost 800 people. *"I have the feeling that time isn't exactly on our side. People are departing, and with them go stories that no one else can recount,"* says Anna Maria Mydlarska, head of the Notation and Film Projects Department. The ECS also has a very interesting collection of archive film footage made before 1989. It is enough to mention those shot by Jacek Petrycki, an outstanding cameraman, working with a camera purchased in the West by Agnieszka Holland. Once upon a time footage which used to be smuggled out of Poland from behind the Iron Curtain, and was edited and broadcast on foreign television channels, today serves documentary-makers. The ECS has so far produced or co-produced 16 documentaries that are broadcast by television stations all around the world.



Photo by Robert Kwiatek / Collection ECS

**MOVIES** [http://zbiory.ecs.gda.pl/Filmy\\_24/](http://zbiory.ecs.gda.pl/Filmy_24/)  
**NOTATION** <http://zbiory.ecs.gda.pl/Notacje/>

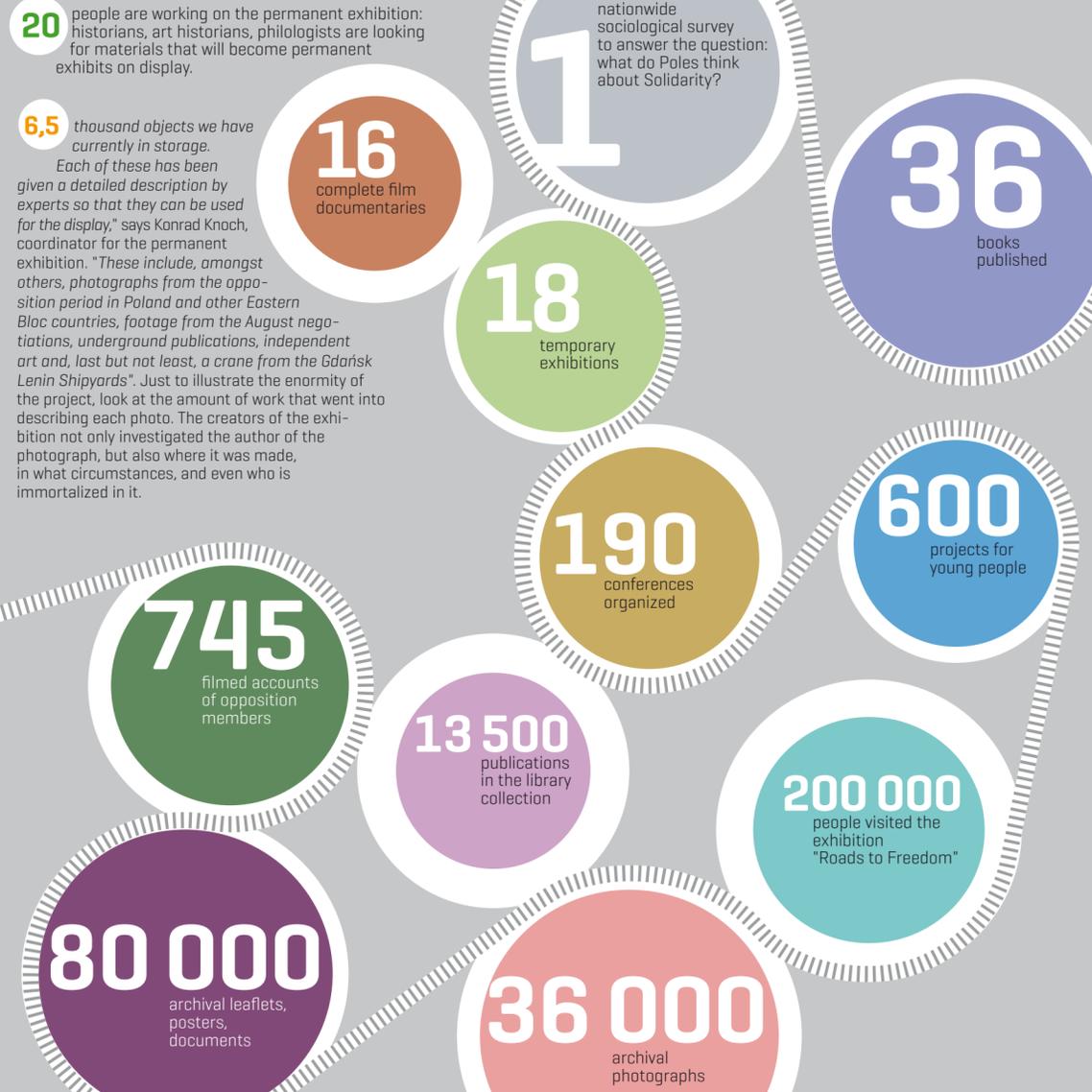
## EXHIBITIONS | BOOKS | MAGAZINES | CDs

Exhibitions organized by the ECS – and we already have 18 under our belt – are either incidental in nature or simply timeless, which allows them to make their way throughout Poland and the world, involving meetings with former members of the opposition, workshops with children and young people, lectures, meetings with authors. More than 30 books have already been published by the ECS, of which 20 were published independently. They incorporate many fields of science, history, social science, and political science, but among them there are also reports, memoirs and poetry. The ECS is also involved in two regular publications: the Polish language "Freedom and Solidarity" and the English-language "New Eastern Europe". The ECS has also brought out 7 CDs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** <http://zbiory.ecs.gda.pl/publikacje/>

# ECS European Solidarity Centre in numbers

**WORK** in full swing!



## who benefits from the ECS

- The heroes of the Polish road to freedom.** because their testimony is invaluable both for young Poles, already born in a free country, as well as those who are in the furthest corners of the world still fighting for freedom
- Teachers** whom we invite to take part in joint projects, who believe that it's possible to talk passionately about modern Polish history and the values of a good society
- Those hungry for culture since theatre,** music and art perfectly convey the human hunger for solidarity as well as the fear brought by all forms of suppression
- Young people** so that the story of the Polish road to freedom should not be for them a dead topic consigned to the printed page of a history book
- Students** whom we inspire and support, so that every year more master and PhD theses are written dedicated to the Polish road to freedom
- Non-governmental organizations** whom we wish to serve not only by providing space where they can work effectively and develop, but also substantive and organizational support
- Tourists** visiting Poland to remember Solidarity as a living force whose ideals remain for the good of humanity
- Journalists** who seek the truth: we have at our disposal not only the testimonies of people who lived through those times of opposition, but also documents, writings, letters, magazines, personal memoirs, books and accounts of those days, film footage and audio recordings...
- All of us** in the words of pope John Paul II: freedom is not given to us once and for all, so we still need to continue the dialogue and to redefine the fundamental values of a civil society: justice and the common good, responsibility, truth...
- Scientists and artists** without whose research, analysis, and creativity, we cannot salvage the ideals and phenomenon of the Polish bloodless revolution
- Opposition members** from countries fighting for freedom, because Solidarity is still an inspiration: "Revolution is learned this from the example of your Solidarity", said Mohamed El Dahshan, an economist and political scientist from Egypt who along with 17 leaders among the democratic opposition in Tunisia and Egypt visited Gdańsk in the past year