

## THE CHAPEL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST IN THE PRĄDNIK CZERWONY DISTRICT AND THE 17<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF KRAKÓW

The Chapel of St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist in the Prądnik Czerwony district, at Dobrego Pasterza Street in Kraków, is the most valuable remnant of the former Dominican farmstead existing from the fifteenth century. This forgotten place of worship is one of the oldest monuments in this part of the city, with a significant architectural and artistic value in the context of Kraków as a whole.

Founded in 1642 by Jan Konstanty Morski, prior of the Kraków Dominican Monastery, it is a rare example

of a free-standing, central-plan religious building covered with a dome. It follows a model characteristic for Polish early modern art originating from the patterns found in the Wawel Cathedral: Sigismund's Chapel and especially its reduced version, the Chapel of Bishop Tomicki. Its architecture shows the direct impact of domed chapels at the Dominican Church of the Holy Trinity in Kraków. The Prądnik chapel is also one of a few examples of adopting the central-plan domed design in the small churches of Kraków and the surrounding area. The stone entrance

portal in a baroque style has a form characteristic for the Vasa period – it is almost identical to the portal, based on a drawing by G.B. Gisleni, of the Deputies' Staircase in the Sigismund's Tower of the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

The chapel in Prądnik has been preserved in its original architectural form. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was slightly distorted

by walling up the lantern crowning the dome and adding the unsightly annexe. These elements, however, were removed during the last renovation, thanks to which the monument regained its full stylistic qualities, and the interior was well-lit by natural lighting. Currently, the chapel is still used for religious purposes – it is regularly made available as a place for occasional prayer.