

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL IN ŻORY

Year: 2018

Investor: Urząd Miasta Żory

Location: Żory

Area: 350m<sup>2</sup>

Team: arch. Marek Wawrzyniak

arch. Karol Wawrzyniak

arch. Adriana Łukowska

arch. Pushkraj Tambdey

arch. Monika Wojaczek

The concept of the school building arose from the need to improve the operating conditions of the existing school with a kindergarten section, improve teaching conditions and adapt the school to the needs of caring for people with disabilities. The main assumption was to expand the space with specialized teaching rooms and pedagogical facilities of a special school together with a gymnasium, and to combine the new function of the facility with the existing buildings on the plot - Kindergarten No. L. Krzemieniecka and Special School No. 22 - to allow direct access of all students to the gym.

The newly designed space will also be a place for students with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities. The possibility of conflicts between these groups of students, related to their different disabilities, often including the difficulty of communicating with each other, contributed to the creation of three functional zones: classrooms for students with mild mental impairment, classrooms for students with moderate mental disabilities, and some shared, including a dining room, gymnasium and specialist rooms, which also act as a buffer between students. The use of the rooms in the central zone (buffer) is under the constant supervision of caregivers. Access is regulated by closing corridors to limit exposure of students to varying degrees of disability.

### Shaping the solid

The idea of creating a solid, which is a connector, allowed for a close and practically direct connection of both existing buildings, additionally equipping the space between them with elements forming a common part. Further on, there are classrooms separated by an atrium, thanks to which they are well lit and have close contact with nature.

Greenery elements in the form of internal courtyards and external terraces, divide classrooms, provide light to the rooms and have a therapeutic function, creating sensory gardens, accessible directly from the rooms, separated individually for individual zones.

FILM: <https://youtu.be/b0G4knTrKHI>