

## Poznan Synagogue Design [Inbox](#) [PSP & Jewish Poland](#)

★ **Andrew Hingston** to Stefan, (bcc:Magdalena), (bcc:Ewelina), (bcc:Ca [show details](#) Jul 9 (3 days ago) [↩ Reply](#) ▾

Dear Mr. Bajer --

I would like to meet you this week to discuss your proposed designs for the Poznan synagogue. Frankly, the sooner we are able to meet, the better. You should invite Mr. Kwiatkowski to join us.

As you must know by know, I am strongly opposed to your design. I think it is trivial, poorly conceived, completely unoriginal, and ultimately dishonest. I also think will not succeed. For one thing, a glass dome is a difficult thing to design and construct -- ask Norman Foster, if you are not convinced. Do you really think you can manage it? Nothing in your portfolio of projects suggests that you can. It may be time for you and Krzysztof Kwiatkowski to admit the truth about yourselves. Humility will win you more sympathy than will claims to be able to do what you clearly cannot.

You and Kwiatkowski are simply not good enough -- you are local designers, adequate for most things but not great. You have never designed anything of distinction or prominence. The two of you can design local houses and restaurants, but you are not even close to being ready for projects of international prominence. Religious buildings are difficult -- damaged and desecrated religious buildings are especially difficult. All the churches you have designed are unimaginative, bombastic, and perfectly ordinary affairs. How can anyone have confidence in your ability to do better? I certainly don't.

Make no mistake: this is a project of international prominence. You are certainly no where near as good as some of the architects who have expressed interest in the synagogue -- such as Moshe Safdie, Peter Eisenman, and Stefan Kurylowicz. Can you honestly say that you are able to work at that level of excellence? I don't think so. Ewelina Jankowska's student project was far better than your proposal -- for one thing, it respected the historical complexity of the building, and did not try to turn back the clock, as though the Holocaust had never happened. Yet it, too, was not nearly good enough. Personally, I would like to see someone with the experience of Richard Rogers, the cool clarity of Herzog & deMeuron, the wit of Will Alsop, and the engineering genius of Nick Heatherwick do the design. Of Polish architects, only Kurylowicz is good enough to be considered a worthy contender.

Frankly, it would be best if you and Mr. Kwiatkowski quietly and quickly withdrew your proposal and told Mrs. Kobus and her friends at Gazeta Wyborcza to look elsewhere. If you don't, I must tell you that I will work very hard to see that your project is never built -- and that something much better is built in its place. In the process I will probably do considerable damage to your reputation, and expose you to a lot of ridicule that I am sure you would prefer to avoid. It's not a sin to be an architect of no particular distinction. But it is a sin to pretend to be something you are not.

That's my view. And I believe I can persuade a great many others to agree with it, in Poznań, in Wielkopolska, in Poland, in Germany. You will be laughed at by people who had never heard of you until I exposed you to them. You will have gained nothing and lost a great deal. On the other hand, you might believe that "all publicity is good publicity." It's a gamble -- what happens if you are wrong?

--  
Andrew Hingston  
Poznan, Poland  
tel. +48.502.349.753.

"An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." - Winston S. Churchill

[↩ Reply](#) [➔ Forward](#)

[Ne](#)  
[Pri](#)  
[Ext](#)  
[For](#)

[48 Bo](#)  
[2 Bedr](#)  
[Desigr](#)  
[Partne](#)  
[www.4](#)

[T. W. I](#)  
[Home/](#)  
[Mtns C](#)  
[Dream](#)  
[www.tv](#)

[The G](#)  
[Archite](#)  
[by Awz](#)  
[gilders](#)

[Allied](#)  
[Prefab](#)  
[Hobby](#)  
[www.A](#)

[Allegr](#)  
[devote](#)  
[Archite](#)  
[Develc](#)  
[www.a](#)

[Intellig](#)  
[Web E](#)  
[Buildin](#)  
[www.ir](#)

[Archit](#)  
[Archite](#)  
[quality](#)  
[www.h](#)

[Histor](#)  
[Search](#)  
[in You](#)  
[www.L](#)

[More z](#)  
[Archite](#)