

# AESTHETIC AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF REPAIRING THE "PANCERA" FLYOVER IN WARSAW

W. Trochymiak<sup>1</sup>, K. Bucholc<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Warsaw University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Warsaw, Poland.

e-mail: [w.trochymiak@il.pw.edu.pl](mailto:w.trochymiak@il.pw.edu.pl), [k.bucholc@il.pw.edu.pl](mailto:k.bucholc@il.pw.edu.pl)

## SUMMARY

The "Pancera" flyover, located in the historic part of Warsaw, near the Royal Castle, was constructed together with Trasa W-Z route in 1949. Repair works of the load-bearing structure, the supports and the immediate surroundings of the flyover were performed in the course of repairs and expansion of the grid of tram routes, carried out by Tramwaje Warszawskie tram operator in 2009.

The paper presents the aesthetic and historical aspects of the design and repair works from 2009. It presents the examples of the color scheme of the flyover while bearing in mind its location in a historic area, in the direct vicinity of the Royal Castle and the Old Town. Also, the requirements of the Metropolitan Monument Conservator are presented. The article presents the appearance of the flyover before and after the renovation was done in 2009 and the current aesthetic reception of the object and its surroundings.

**Keywords:** *Flyover, Repair Works, Historic Area, Aesthetics, Metropolitan Monument Conservator.*

## 1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Warsaw's Feliks Pancer flyover (named after Feliks Pancer, a prominent Polish engineer (1798-1851)), which is characterized by a monumental, arched brick structure, having the overall length of 657 meters, was built in the years 1844-1846 (Fig. 1). It enabled access, from Krakowskie Przedmieście Street's level to a boat bridge constructed at the extension of Bednarska Street and subsequently, from 1864 to Kierbedź Bridge (the presentation will contain additional information regarding location of the flyover). During World War II Warsaw, and in particular some of its parts, such as the Old Town, were demolished or significantly damaged (Fig. 2). All of Warsaw's bridges spanning across the Vistula River, and a significant part of the urban infrastructure, were also destroyed or damaged. The Feliks Pancer flyover was partly destroyed in 1944 (Fig. 3), and during the construction of Wschód-Zachód (East-West) Route (the W-Z Route for short) it



**Fig. 1.** *Feliks Pancer Flyover from before World War II; a) southern facade, facing the Royal Castle [11]; b) top view with the access road to Kierbedź Bridge.*