KAN-therm
MULTISYSTEM

>35 years of experience on the installation market

THE ART OF FUTURE INSTALLATION

Water
Heating
Cooling
HVAC

Install the **future**

KAN GROUP

EN 25/12

kan-therm.com

KAN is a Polish manufacturer in the construction and installation industry with a global reach.

For 35 years, KAN has been delivering comprehensive solutions for potable water, heating, and cooling. The products that make up the KAN-therm multisystem stand out for their durability, ease of installation, and the assurance of comfort, safety, and operational cost savings.

KAN-therm systems are used in single- and multi-family residential buildings, as well as industrial and commercial facilities. KAN-therm solutions have been implemented in the majority of Warsaw's skyscrapers. One of the most recent reference projects is the beautifully revitalized Palace of the Republic, Warsaw, Poland.

The company invests in modern technologies, with a strong focus on energy efficiency and sustainable development. It offers innovative solutions and provides technical support at every stage of the project.

>35 years of experience on the installation market

>65 countries to which we export

>1200 employees worldwide

>76000 m^2 of office and warehouse-production space

A complete installation multisystem composed of the most advanced, mutually complementary solutions for piping installations in water supply, heating, cooling, and technological applications.

	ultraLINE	ultraPRESS	PP	Steel	Inox
SYSTEM COLOR					
SYSTEM NAME					
DIAMETER RANGE [mm]	14-32	16-63	16-110	12-108	12-168,3
INSTALLATIONS TYPE					
TAP WATER	●	●	●		●
HEATING	●	●	●	●	●
TECHNOLOGICAL HEAT	○	○	○	○	○
WATER STEAM					○
SOLAR				○	○
COOLING	○	○	○	○	●
COMPRESSED AIR	○	○	○	○	○
TECHNICAL GASES	○	○	○	○	○
FLAMMABLE GAS					
TECHNICAL OILS				○	○
INDUSTRIAL				○	○
BALNEOLOGICAL			○		○
SPRINKLER FIRE-FIGHTING					
HYDRANT FIRE-FIGHTING					
UNDERFLOOR HEATING AND COOLING	●	●			
WALL HEATING AND COOLING	●	●			
CEILING HEATING AND COOLING	●	●			
EXTERNAL SURFACES HEATING AND COOLING	●	●			

In atypical cases, the conditions for using KAN-therm components should be verified using technical and informational materials or by consulting the KAN Technical Department. Please use the form titled Inquiry Regarding the Possibility of Using KAN-therm Components to submit the basic operating parameters of your installation. Based on the submitted data, the Technical Department will assess the suitability of the selected system for the specific installation.The form is available on the website. To quickly complete it electronically, simply scan the QR code.

	Copper	Surface heating and cooling	Cabinets, manifolds	Copper Gas	Steel XPress Sprinkler	Inox XPress Sprinkler
SYSTEM COLOR						
SYSTEM NAME						
DIAMETER RANGE [mm]	12-108	8-25	–	15-54	22-108	22-108
INSTALLATIONS TYPE						
TAP WATER	●		●			○
HEATING	●	●	●			
TECHNOLOGICAL HEAT			○			
WATER STEAM						
SOLAR						
COOLING	●	○	○			
COMPRESSED AIR	○			○	○	○
TECHNICAL GASES	○			○	○	○
FLAMMABLE GAS				●		
TECHNICAL OILS	○					
INDUSTRIAL						
BALNEOLOGICAL						
SPRINKLER FIRE-FIGHTING					●	●
HYDRANT FIRE-FIGHTING					●	●
UNDERFLOOR HEATING AND COOLING		●	●			
WALL HEATING AND COOLING		●	●			
CEILING HEATING AND COOLING		●	●			
EXTERNAL SURFACES HEATING AND COOLING		●	●			

● standard range of applications
○ potential application – subject to confirmation by the KAN Technical Department

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

ultraLINE

∅14-32 mm

This is an innovative and unique technical solution on the installation market, designed for both, standard internal heating and drinking water systems, as well as specialised piping such as compressed air.

3 pipe types

2 fitting materials

1 sleeve construction

The unique, o-ring-free fitting design and the flexible configuration of this complete end-to-end solution offer exceptional convenience for both installers and designers. The versatility of the KAN-therm ultraLINE system lies in its ability to accommodate different pipe types using the same brass or PPSU fittings and plastic (PVDF) sleeves.

KAN-therm ultraLINE is an excellent alternative for internal distribution systems, including heating, cooling, and hot and cold water installations in multi-family buildings. The available diameter range - up to 32 mm - also enables the implementation of complete heating, cooling, and domestic water systems in single-family homes.

01 Versatile choice of materials

02 Symmetrical sliding sleeve

03 Optimised hydraulics

04 Convenient and easy installation

05 O-ring-free design

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

ultraPRESS

∅16-63 mm

The KAN-therm ultraPRESS system is a modern, complete installation solution consisting of PERTAL polyethylene pipes with an aluminium layer, and PPSU or brass fittings, available in diameters ranging from 16 to 63 mm.

ultraPRESS fittings in the 16–32 mm diameter range feature a unique “LBP” (Leak Before Press) function, which makes it easier to detect unpressed connections. Their special design incorporates several additional features that enhance installation comfort and safety, while ensuring many years of trouble-free system operation.

The system is designed for indoor water supply systems (hot and cold water), central heating and cooling, process heat applications, and industrial installations (e.g. compressed air).

01 Unpressed connection detection (LBP)

02 Multi-purpose application

03 Proven design, guaranteed safe operation

04 Convenient and easy installation

05 Compatible with "U" and "TH" press jaws

06 Diameter identification via color-coded ring on the fitting

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

PP

∅16-110 mm

The KAN-therm PP system is a complete installation system consisting of pipes and fittings made from plastic materials - polypropylene PP-R and PP-RCT.

System components are connected using socket welding (thermal polyfusion) with electric welding tools. This welding technology produces homogeneous joints, ensuring exceptional leak tightness and mechanical durability of the installation.

Complete neutrality toward potable water makes the system perfectly suited for use in indoor water supply installations. Thanks to its wide range of diameters and the use of corrosion-resistant materials, the KAN-therm PP system is also suitable for indoor heating and cooling installations in single- and multi-family residential buildings, as well as public utility facilities.

01 Multi-purpose application

02 Wide range of pipes

03 Durable connections

04 Optimal hydraulics

05 Highest quality guaranteed

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Steel

∅12-108 mm

A complete, state-of-the-art installation system consisting of pipes and fittings made from high-grade, zinc-coated carbon steel.

The system is designed for use in indoor, closed-pressure installations for central heating, chilled water, process heat, solar applications, as well as industrial systems (e.g. heating oil).

The KAN-therm Steel system is used in multi-family residential and public utility buildings for constructing new internal heating installations. Its material properties and extensive product range enable the creation of complete, closed pressure systems (with no air access to the installation water).

Thanks to the simplicity, speed, and safety of installation using the reliable and proven "Press" technique (a flame-free technology), the KAN-therm Steel system is especially recommended for replacing old, corroded steel heating systems in multi-family buildings..

01 Quick and easy installation

02 Safety and reliability of connections

03 Aesthetics and corrosion resistance

04 Resistance to high pressure and temperature

05 High mechanical strength

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Inox

∅12-168,3 mm

A highly durable installation system consisting of pipes and fittings made of high-grade stainless steel.

The system is designed for use in typical residential installations - such as heating, tap water, and solar systems - as well as in a wide range of technological and industrial applications, including chilled water, deionised water, compressed air, oils, greases, fuels, and chemicals.

Thanks to the use of high-quality stainless steel, the KAN-therm Inox system is successfully used in numerous residential and public utility buildings, as well as in the construction of various technological installations in the industrial sector.

01 A material for long-term use

02 Top quality and aesthetics

03 High corrosion resistance

04 Durability and versatility

05 GIGA hydraulics

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Copper

∅12-108 mm

The KAN-therm Copper system is a modern installation solution consisting of top-quality fittings made of CU-DHP copper and 2.109 bronze, available in diameters ranging from 12 to 108 mm. The use of Press connection technology ensures simple installation and reliable, failure-free operation.

The KAN-therm Copper system is designed for constructing new, complete indoor heating installations - including supply risers and horizontal distribution pipes - as well as hot and cold potable water systems in multi-family buildings.

Due to the high quality of the copper used in the production of fittings, the KAN-therm Copper system is particularly recommended for installations in high-standard buildings or projects requiring elevated hygiene standards - such as heating and potable water systems in hospitals, laboratories, treatment rooms, and similar environments.

01 Safety

02 Simplicity and reliability

03 Reliable 3-point clamp

04 Short installation time

05 Excellent aesthetics and corrosion resistance

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

XPress Sprinkler

∅22–108 mm

KAN-therm XPress Sprinkler is a fire extinguishing installation system composed of pipes and fittings made of zinc-plated carbon steel (Steel XPress Sprinkler) or stainless steel (Inox XPress Sprinkler), available in diameters ranging from 22 to 108 mm (DN20–DN100).

The KAN-therm XPress Sprinkler system is intended for the construction of indoor fire protection sprinkler and hydrant installations. Both material variants have been tested and certified in accordance with VdS guidelines for use in stationary sprinkler systems.

The KAN-therm Steel XPress Sprinkler system is intended for the construction of indoor, continuously pressurized sprinkler installations, as well as indoor, continuously pressurized, non-flow, dedicated, or single-sided hydrant installations connected to domestic water systems. The KAN-therm Inox XPress Sprinkler system is intended for the construction of indoor dry and wet sprinkler installations, as well as continuously pressurized indoor sprinkler systems.

* *Applies only to KAN-therm Inox XPress Sprinkler*

01 Quick and safe installation

02 Installation aesthetics

03 High resistance to corrosion

04 Fire safety

05 Certified quality

VdS · FM APPROVED · CNBOP-PIB · ULC LISTED · CLASSIFIED UL WATER QUALITY

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Surface heating and cooling

∅8-25 mm

The low-temperature water-based surface heating and cooling system (floor, wall, ceiling) uses building partition surfaces as a source of heat or cooling for indoor spaces.

KAN-therm systems offer a comprehensive range of products and components for constructing low-temperature surface heating and cooling installations (floor, wall, ceiling), including pipes, thermal insulation, manifolds, installation cabinets, and control automation.

KAN-therm surface heating and cooling, designed for integration with KAN-therm heat pumps, ensures optimal thermal comfort while maintaining high energy efficiency of the installation.

01 Comfort and aesthetics of interior spaces

02 Easy installation

03 High-quality components

04 Energy-efficient thermal performance

05 Long-term safety

06 Optimal compatibility with KAN-therm heat pumps

Cabinets

Slim & Slim+

A distinguishing feature of the Slim and Slim+ recessed installation cabinets is the frameless design developed by KAN engineers.

They owe their name to the slim front construction, which integrates seamlessly with the wall surface. Investors will appreciate the modern design, high hygienic standards, and visual aesthetics. Installers, on the other hand, will value the quick and easy installation - without the need for additional tools - and the cabinet's straightforward structure.

The cabinets feature a contemporary design and incorporate several new solutions that simplify installation. In developing this innovative product, KAN focused on enhancing both visual appeal and functionality, ensuring aesthetics remain at the highest level.

01 Protection of the painted surface using foil

02 Tool-free installation

03 Depth adjustment

04 Move & Lock mechanism simplifies alignment of mounting screws for the manifold

05 Clean, aesthetic surfaces

06 Indicators of the allowable floor level

Manifolds

InoxFlow

New KAN-therm manifold line made of 1.4301 stainless steel beams.

Thanks to innovative production technology and the use of stainless steel profiles with a larger internal diameter and thinner walls compared to brass constructions, the hydraulic capacity of KAN-therm InoxFlow manifolds is nearly double that of their brass counterparts - without any compromise in mechanical strength.

All KAN-therm InoxFlow manifolds come with a 10-year warranty on the beam profile and a 2-year warranty on control components, automation elements, and the circulation pump.

The extensive range of KAN-therm InoxFlow variants fully covers 100% of the existing brass manifold designs and will ultimately replace them in the KAN-therm product portfolio.

01 High-grade material

02 Easy flow identification

03 Adjustable beam orientation

04 Increased capacity

05 Simple identification of circuits

06 Compatibility with other KAN-therm solutions

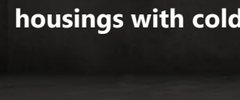
SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Residential Manifold Set (RMS)

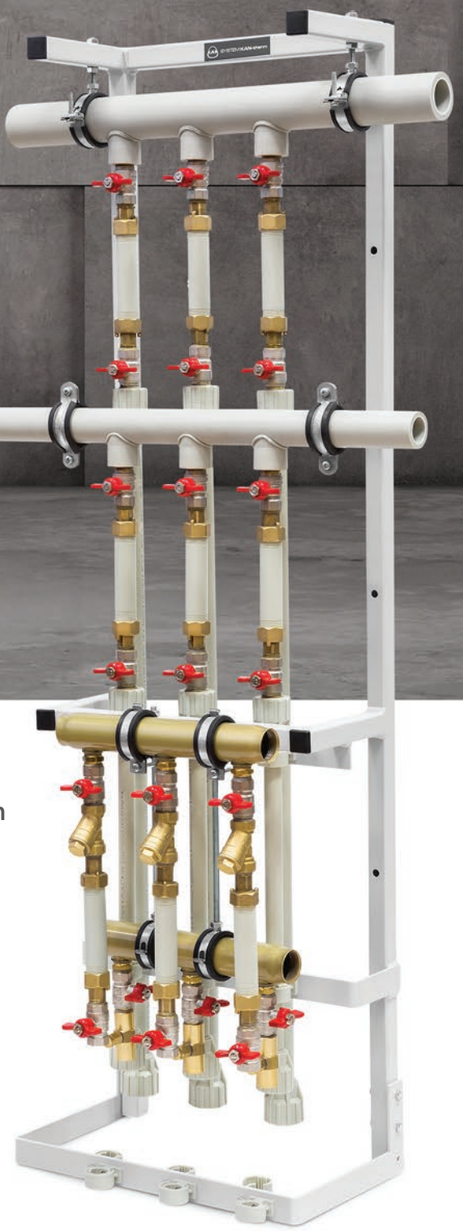
RMS are prefabricated sets of manifolds designed for supplying multi-family housings with cold and hot water, as well as the heating medium.

As well as potable water, all functions are combined in one compact construction. The RMS is an innovative, space-saving solution offering a convenient and technically advanced concept not previously available on the installation market. Its design is legally protected and patented.

Using the RMS significantly reduces installation time, which translates into lower labor costs and faster project completion and commissioning. This innovative product is delivered ready for direct connection to heating and water supply systems, enabling immediate pressure and leakage testing. Its compact, frame-based structure with integrated manifolds is both functional and aesthetically pleasing, optimizing the use of available space.



PATENT PROTECTION



01 Compact design

02 Configuration versatility

03 Short installation time

04 Space-saving in residential areas

05 Immediate leak testing

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Football

The KAN-therm Football system is a set of specially designed, selected, and integrated products that together form a complete installation for outdoor area heating.

The elements of the KAN-therm Football system are tailored to each specific project. Technical documentation is developed based on information gathered about the site and the investor's requirements, initiating the process of selecting and preparing individual components. The KAN-therm Football system is dedicated to large-scale area installations.

The core component of the KAN-therm Football system is a large-area manifold connected to pipes that form heating or cooling loops. This solution is ideal for surface heating or cooling applications in both outdoor areas (e.g. sports field turf) and indoor facilities (e.g. warehouses, livestock buildings).

01 Comprehensive project support

02 Top quality materials

03 Experience

04 Investment project support

05 Safe operation

06 Project-specific component selection

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Mailboxes

The wide KAN-therm product range also includes mailboxes for correspondence. We offer non-through (rear-closed) mailboxes designed for wall mounting. The dimensions of the mailboxes comply with the requirements of the binding Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure of September 24, 2003 (Journal of Laws No. 177, item 1731).

General guidelines for the location and installation of correspondence mailboxes:

Mailboxes or mailbox sets should be placed in locations accessible to both recipients and operators.

In multi-unit buildings with several entrances, a separate set or mailbox group should be installed for each part of the building, in close proximity to the main access point.

The height for installing the mailbox set must not be lower than 700 mm (measured from the floor to the bottom edge of the lowest box) and not higher than 1600 mm (measured to the top edge of the top box).

In multi-family buildings, mailboxes intended for the lowest set level should be assigned to persons with limited mobility or those using a wheelchair.

01 Material: galvanized steel sheet, powder -coated

03 Slot design prevents unauthorized retrieval of mail

03 Lock with hundreds of possible key combinations

04 Available in two colors: RAL 1015, RAL 7035

05 Wall-mounted installation

RAL 1015

RAL 7035

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

KAN Software for Design and Calculation

Use the most advanced design approach - BIM ideology-based design - with the KAN SET software (PRO version).

BIM

The Future of Installation Design

KAN SET gives you the ability to export your designed installation to Revit, along with detailed technical data via the KAN SET for Revit plugin. You can also export a simple sketch of the installation without the need for full project calculation.

KAN SET is a comprehensive design platform. It combines, in a single package, the calculation of cold and hot water installations with circulation, as well as central heating and cooling systems. It is a unique tool for designers, significantly streamlining and accelerating the design process.

KAN H2O

Cold and hot water installation module with circulation

KAN CO

Central heating and underfloor heating modules

KAN CC

Central cooling installation module

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Mobile Applications

KAN apps provide top-level usability, convenience, and guaranteed access to up-to-date materials and information. Available for download on Google Play and the App Store.

KAN Multi App

A modern application that becomes your personal assistant during installation work.

It includes up-to-date price lists, technical information, instructions, and manuals that support you in your daily work.

There's no need to download the file each time you want to use it- once downloaded, the content is stored on your smartphone and remains accessible without an internet connection.

KAN SMART Control

An intelligent tool for managing KAN-therm Smart systems, allowing you to monitor and regulate temperature from anywhere in the world.

- Intuitive and user-friendly operation
- Remote, fully automated control of room temperature
- The app is available for both Android and iOS platforms
- Extensive settings and parameter control options

KAN Quick Surface

Supports your daily work by greatly accelerating the configuration process of surface heating and cooling systems.

The application allows you to estimate the heating and cooling capacity of the installation, as well as the flow rates required for hydraulic balancing.

- Versatility
- Immediate control
- Precise results
- Power assessment
- Easy to use
- Accessibility

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Heat Pumps Air-to-Water

MONOBLOK INVERTER & ON/OFF

Monoblock air-to-water heat pumps are modern devices that harness renewable energy stored in the surrounding outdoor air, converting it into heating or cooling for buildings.

KAN-therm & Silesia Term air-to-water monoblock heat pumps provide heating and cooling for buildings, as well as heat domestic hot water. In many cases, the heat pumps also support systems for heating swimming pool water or for industrial processes that require water at elevated temperatures.

With an A+++ energy efficiency rating and one of the highest COP values on the market (≥ 5 for selected models), these units deliver significant savings in building operating costs.

Thanks to the use of the natural refrigerant R290, known for its excellent thermodynamic properties, KAN-therm & Silesia Term air-source heat pumps consume less electricity while maintaining high operating efficiency.

High supply temperature parameters (up to 65 °C) ensure seamless compatibility with both underfloor heating and radiator systems.

Inverter technology allows the unit's output to be precisely adjusted to the building's current heating or cooling demand, while models equipped with an On/Off system are ideal for applications requiring high output or for operation in cascade configurations.

01 Highest energy efficiency class A+++

02 Natural refrigerant R290

03 Modulated heating capacity

04 Integrated backup heat source

05 Remote control capability

06 EVI technology – operation at high supply parameters

ECO

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

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01 Highest energy efficiency class A+++

02 Natural refrigerant R290

03 Modulated heating capacity

04 Integrated backup heat source

05 Remote control capability

06 EVI technology – operation at high supply parameters

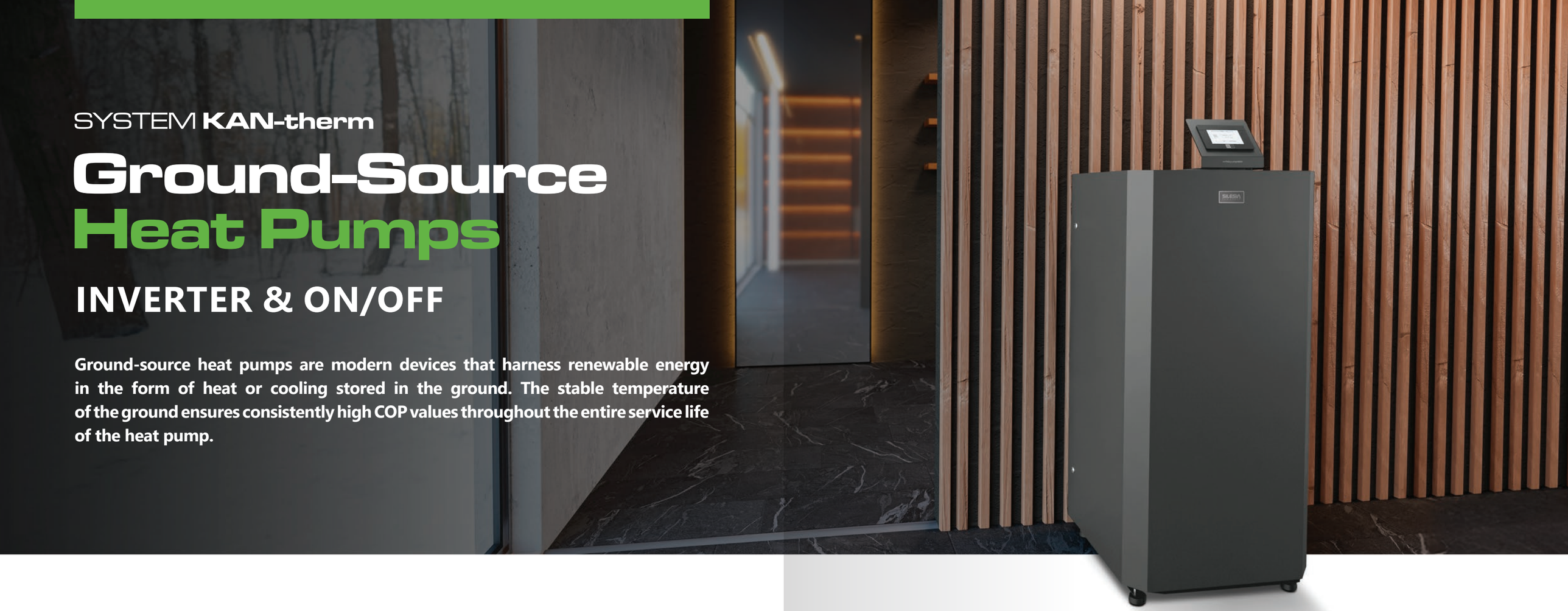
ECO

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Ground-Source Heat Pumps

INVERTER & ON/OFF

Ground-source heat pumps are modern devices that harness renewable energy in the form of heat or cooling stored in the ground. The stable temperature of the ground ensures consistently high COP values throughout the entire service life of the heat pump.



KAN-therm & Silesia Term ground-source heat pumps provide heating and cooling for buildings, as well as heat domestic hot water. In many cases, the heat pumps also support systems for heating swimming pool water or for industrial processes that require water at elevated temperatures.

With an A+++ energy efficiency rating, a high COP, and stable parameters of the ground as the heat source, these systems deliver exceptional energy savings for the complete installation throughout its service life.

The passive cooling function enables operation in cooling mode without using the compressor, taking advantage of additional heat exchangers and the naturally low ground temperature.

High supply temperature parameters guarantee smooth integration with both underfloor heating and radiator systems. Inverter technology ensures precise adjustment of performance to the building's current heating or cooling needs, while On/Off models are perfectly suited for high-output applications and cascade system operation.

01 Highest energy efficiency class A+++

02 Passive Cooling Function

03 Modulated Heating Output

04 "SG Ready" Function

05 Remote control capability

06 Very Quiet Operation, Cascade Connection Capability.

ECO

HIGH-CAPACITY RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES RES

SYSTEM **KAN-therm**

Heat Pumps

EARTH | AIR | WATER

INTEGRATED WITH THE **KAN-therm** MULTISYSTEM
FROM 2025

A cascade of ground-source heat pumps in the new production section of the KAN-therm Plastics Processing Factory in Białystok.

RESPONSIBLE
ENERGY

New products 2026
silesiaterm.pl

Design, production and servicing of ground- and air-source heat pumps supported by the development of proprietary technologies and installer training.

SILESIA KAN GROUP

We offer solutions dedicated to multi-family housing, public utility buildings, and industry. We provide professional support in selecting high-capacity equipment and optimize your investment from both a technological and economic perspective.

Installation of monoblock air-to-water heat pumps on the roof of a multi-family building in Jaworzno.

Air-source heat pump

ST AIR SMART MINI INVERTER

ECO

High-rise and multi-family residential construction

Multi-family buildings-especially high-rise structures-require the use of products that offer high performance and durability. Piping installations in such buildings are complex systems that must ensure reliable delivery of domestic water, heating, or cooling to all floors, including the highest levels. These systems must provide safety and operational comfort throughout the entire lifespan of the building.

Single-family housing construction

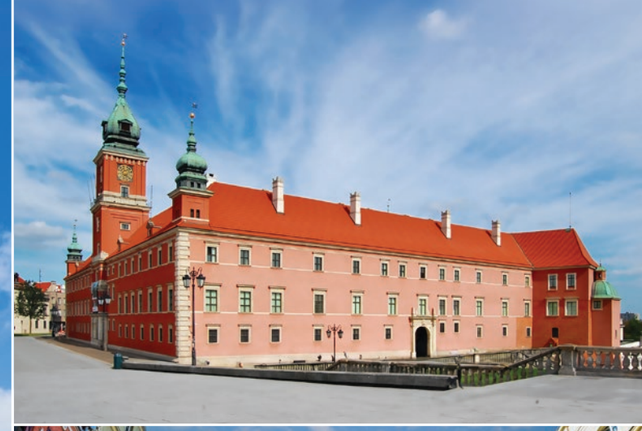
Single-family housing-whether detached, semi-detached, or terraced-comprises buildings tailored to the individual needs of residents, often the investors themselves. For this reason, these structures require the use of diverse technologies that ensure thermal comfort indoors while maintaining high energy efficiency and long-term durability.

Hotel and hospitality facilities

Hotel infrastructure buildings are complex facilities that must meet a wide range of requirements to ensure guest comfort and safety. Many hotels are developed through the adaptation of existing buildings, such as office spaces or old warehouses. This process requires detailed planning and careful consideration of hotel-specific needs, such as room layouts and sanitary installations. A high standard of the hotel is crucial to its competitiveness in the market-lack of appropriate amenities can negatively impact its standing compared to other properties.

Historic and sacred buildings

Historic and sacred buildings represent an essential part of our cultural heritage. These structures often feature impressive dimensions and expansive interiors designed to evoke, among other things, a sense of spiritual elevation. High vaulted ceilings, domes, and towers are typical of many temples, old castles, and fortresses Ensuring proper comfort in such buildings presents a significant challenge for designers, contractors, and the systems used to build water supply and heating installations.



Stadiums and sports facilities

Football and athletics stadiums, sports halls, ice rinks, tennis courts, and water parks are key sports facilities that enable the organization of various athletic and recreational events-such as concerts. Comfortable seating, food courts, restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and swimming pools are standard amenities in modern sports venues. Domestic water, heating, and cooling installations play a critical role in maintaining thermal comfort throughout these facilities. In many cases, such systems are essential to the functionality of the venue itself-such as under-pitch heating for football fields or cooling systems for ice rink surfaces.

Universities, preschools, and schools

Preschools, schools, and university buildings must be designed and constructed with a focus on safety, comfort, and the all-around development of children, adolescents, and students. These facilities are required to meet strict safety standards, including fire protection and sanitary regulations. It is essential that all components-as well as the installations that ensure comfort-are completely safe for all users.

Hospitals and public healthcare facilities

Hospitals and public healthcare facilities play a vital role in the healthcare system, providing access to essential medical services. Domestic water, heating, and cooling installations in hospitals are critical to maintaining proper hygiene standards and ensuring comfort for both patients and medical staff. Such systems must guarantee uninterrupted operation and meet stringent quality standards to prevent infections and ensure patient safety. Hospitals rely on advanced heating systems to maintain the correct temperature throughout their spaces-these systems must be both highly reliable and energy-efficient.

Public buildings

Public buildings are facilities that serve a wide range of users and fulfill various social functions. They must meet numerous technical requirements and regulations aimed at ensuring safety and comfort for all occupants. The selection of specific installation systems depends on multiple factors, including the size of the building, local climate conditions, and the availability of energy sources.

Livestock buildings for agriculture

The primary purpose of livestock buildings-such as poultry houses, stables, or greenhouses-is to provide optimal conditions for animal or plant cultivation and to support efficient farm management. Facilities designed for raising pigs, cattle, horses, or poultry must be equipped with systems that ensure proper sanitary and hygienic conditions, as well as controlled temperature and humidity levels. Maintaining optimal thermal comfort and ensuring access to clean domestic water in these buildings is a key factor in supporting successful and efficient animal or plant breeding.

Everything we do needs to move us in new directions

An interview with Rene Hougaard, Danish architect and designer at the ARDE studio in Copenhagen. For years, he has collaborated with BoConcept – a brand well known to Polish audiences – with whom he visited East Design Days in Białystok in 2019. At the same time, we met at the Konopnicka Residence Showroom, and just before the next edition of East Design Days, we had the opportunity to speak with him about key topics in bio-design.

Learn more about ARDE's design philosophy at www.arde.dk

"When I think about our industry, I believe that both architects and designers are aware of the responsibility we carry," says Rene Hougaard, Danish designer and architect, who was a guest at the East Design Days 2019 conference in Białystok. "There are many great ideas emerging, yet still too many that lead nowhere. Even if we choose not to think about global issues (such as environmental challenges), we should at the very least remember to uphold the highest standards of quality and durability in the solutions we propose."

We last met in Białystok at the previous East Design Days conference, and today – as a Foundation – we are participating in the next edition. Only a year has passed, but it has been unlike any other. Have the challenges of that year changed anything in your approach to design?

Naturally, unprecedented situations like these bring many changes. Personally, I believe they also offer answers to many important questions. Lately, there's been a lot of talk about what truly matters – like family... The crisis forced nearly all of us to pause our daily routines – at least in my environment. I even feel that many people began questioning their previous lifestyles, as the lockdown gave them time for reflection.

I don't know what the situation looked like in Poland, but where I live, many people started to seriously consider major life changes. Without a doubt, our approach to design must also change.

I have no doubt that designers, too, are faced with the need to answer some very pressing questions about the future of our planet and the environment.

Aside from aesthetics – which will, of course, always be essential – these issues have become extremely important to us. Compared to last year, they have clearly moved to the forefront.

Was it a difficult year for you?

Not really. I'm actually surprised myself – I consider it a very good year. I do realize that many people had to face truly serious challenges, but in my case, everything has remained perfectly fine.

How do you remember East Design Days 2019? The meetings with young people, students, and the KAN Vision Foundation?

I remember my stay in Białystok and the conference itself very well. I was met with incredible interest, especially from students, and even then, you could clearly see the potential for growth in your country – there was a visible concern for the future of our planet.

Your clients and the users of the products you design probably approach the concept of design differently than a designer does. They may or may not like a project, or find it more or less useful. So, what does design mean to you?

That's a tough question (laughs). It should be the right form – or as some say, "a well-designed solution." If I understand what is needed, I can propose the right solution, a well-thought-out, solid design. I think that's what design is really about – giving shape. Not just to furniture, but to the experience as well.

Do you enjoy surrounding yourself with interesting designs?

Absolutely. Design is present everywhere, all the time. Every object must have some kind of shape – my computer, my iPhone, a lamp, a chair... There's no escaping the designs that surround us. The real question is: are they good or bad solutions?

Do you have a favorite object?

Not really. There are several designers who've created beautiful objects – people I consider truly talented. But I wouldn't say I have a personal idol. Many interesting works can serve as inspiration, though inspiration usually comes from a variety of sources.

Personally, I tend to look for more comprehensive solutions – where what matters is not just the shape or appearance of an object. We live in a time when everything is changing at lightning speed... Over the past decade, humanity has achieved more in technology and medicine than ever before. But we must also remember that we're facing a multitude of challenges. That's why many design patterns or solutions that were considered good five years ago now seem outdated or inadequate. Time has changed everything, and we're uncovering more and more challenges that must be addressed if we are to think seriously about the future. We must act quickly to develop new solutions for many things – even those as seemingly trivial as furniture.

Is design an art form for you? Something truly lasting that can serve a long time? Or is it, like fashion, subject to trends that quickly fade?

Over the past ten to fifteen years, design has drifted dangerously close to artistic decadence. I'm opposed to that – I believe it's a dead-end road. Of course, every designer must be an artist, but professionalism is just as essential – it's what makes one project stand out from the rest We need to move away from viewing design purely as an art form and instead adopt a new perspective: design should respond to real-world, current challenges. I believe the artistic aspect has come to dominate modern thinking too much. A quick glance at Instagram reveals a race for the most beautiful images – but that's not what we need today.

Do you think functionality is the most important aspect?

Yes, functionality is key. If you forget about it and offer solutions that are impractical, they won't work – and no one will use them. Whenever I work on a project, I always consider three aspects: aesthetics, functionality, and technology. This principle has guided architects since ancient times, and it remains just as relevant today. Thanks to it, I know I'm doing my job right.

And what is your personal style? I'm asking not only about your work, but also your home.

I surround myself at home with many beautiful objects, like furniture, for example – but everything is very modern. I'm not a fan of antiques. I believe we should always look ahead, not backward. I truly love art – it's essential in life – but I prefer contemporary art. It's a great source of inspiration and opens doors to unknown worlds, like the worlds of painting and sculpture.

Have you ever created a project that was far from your own style?

No – my style is my style.

So you want to stick to your style. What about your projects from years ago?

That depends on their purpose. Some of them have evolved, while others I had to leave behind completely and create something entirely new. As you've probably noticed, my work tends to have a distinctive form, and each project conveys something. Still, creating a design in a specific form or style isn't what matters most to me. I believe every concept should respond to a specific need. Quite simply – it has to be useful.

Which of your own projects would you consider your favorite? And why?

A few weeks ago, I was in Copenhagen for the launch of a new chair I designed for one of the local companies. The chair is made from a material composed of 98% recycled fishing nets – one of the first products of its kind on the market. I really like this project because it addresses a serious issue: tons of fishing nets lie abandoned on the ocean floor.

In Denmark, a new industry has emerged – companies purchase discarded fishing nets and process them into plastic to create valuable, new products. This kind of initiative is a brilliant way to solve a real problem faced by many fishermen – instead of dumping their used nets into the sea, they can now pass them on to companies that give them a second life.

That's why I believe this project is so important – because it directly responds to a major environmental challenge.

You work with a variety of materials – like plywood – and what you do with them sometimes seems to defy the laws of physics.

Has overcoming material limitations become part of a designer's job?

Absolutely. I firmly believe that breaking boundaries is part of a designer's role. I'm not a fan of simply reworking old designs or styles. Design must move forward – it should be at the forefront, constantly evolving.

I've always wanted to bring about change, to steer things in a new direction. And yes, that might even mean bending the laws of physics – or creating chairs from fishing nets. Every step we take must lead us forward – in a new direction. That's how it should always be.

Where do you look for inspiration?

Lately, I've been focused on the world's most pressing issues. Over the past year, I've worked on concepts that aim to bring us closer to solving these problems – ideas that go beyond merely giving shape to things. That's the direction I want to develop in. I also have several extraordinary projects in the pipeline – they'll debut next year. I believe I've never created anything better. These projects give my work a new direction. It's a true breakthrough when you begin to think seriously about real issues, rather than just designing a chair that looks slightly better than the others. Looking back at last year – it's impossible to ignore such dramatic events as the wildfires in Australia, where vast areas of bushland burned – an area four times the size of Denmark.

And now, forests in California are ablaze, with the glow reaching all the way to Denmark – just yesterday, the sky was entirely purple.

So we're facing – all of humanity is facing – enormous challenges that we can't afford to ignore.

We can no longer live the way we did thirty, fifty, or a hundred years ago. We must find new paths – new ways of living. It's a difficult task, and one each of us must confront.

You're clearly deeply engaged with global issues...

Yes, more and more. They've become a genuine source of inspiration for me. I also feel that my experience and knowledge are attracting many companies

You've spoken a lot about how solving global problems has become a responsibility for designers. What other challenges do you face in the 21st century?

When I think about our industry, I believe that both architects and designers understand the responsibility we carry. Many companies are trying to implement principles of the circular economy and sustainable development, and are exploring how to improve our sector – including the construction industry – to reduce its environmental impact. There are plenty of good ideas emerging, but unfortunately, just as many that lead nowhere. Even if we choose not to focus on global issues, we should at the very least adhere to the highest standards of quality and durability in the solutions we create. Short product lifespans and poor production quality – especially in the construction industry – remain serious problems.

All around the world, we can find countless remarkable designs – just look at the names of those who've made history, or simply observe your surroundings. Do you believe designers should feel responsible for guiding the next generation and teaching them what "good design" truly means?

Absolutely. We should all feel responsible for future generations of creators – governments, companies, designers, architects... Even if it's just about passing on the knowledge of how to use materials to change the world around us.

Have you ever considered what you might have done if you hadn't become an architect and designer?

I've always liked biology (laughs). It's always fascinated me. But I don't think I would've been happy working as a biologist. Since I was a child, I knew exactly what I wanted to be – an architect and designer. I never even considered another profession. I followed my passion, dedicated my life to it, and gave it my whole heart.

I believe everyone should make that kind of decision. People are different and have different interests, but if you follow your heart, success will eventually come. For me, my work shapes who I am... it keeps me alive. If your profession doesn't bring you satisfaction, then it's time to start doing something else – immediately.

Thank you for the conversation.

Interview by Aneta Gawędzka-Paniczko
Edited and translated by Anna Wajs-Magierska

An interview conducted at Bialystok University of Technology during East Design Days (EDD), at the invitation of the KAN VISION Foundation.

An article from KANVISION magazine.

THE ART OF INSTALLATION

kanvision foundation
ART CHARITY PROJECT

Two freaks in one
Małgorzata Józefowicz

1. The Art of Installation at the KAN-therm stand in China – "Two Freaks in One" **Małgorzata Józefowicz** – artwork from the 2017 6th Guanlan International Print Biennial.
2. The Art of Installation at Polonia Theatre and Och-Theatre by **Krystyna Janda** - water and heating systems.
3. The Art of Installation at the Garnizon Sztuki Theatre by **Grażyna Wolszczak** - theatre hall heating system.
4. The Art of Installation in **Natalia Kukulska's** Music Studio – design and execution using the **KAN-therm** system.
5. The Art of Musical Installation – scenographic support for **Anita Lipnicka's** album production.
6. The Art of Dance Installation – "Rhythms of Space" concert and performance by **Wiktor Klimaszewski**.
7. The Art of Installation in the Tallest Residential Tower in the EU – Złota 44, designed by **Daniel Libeskind,** completed using the **KAN-therm** system.
8. The Art of Installation: construction of easels and the vernissage of works by Polish fashion designer **Żaneta Biernat.**
9. **KAN-therm** installations are present in Poland's most iconic heritage sites, including the Royal Baths and the Royal Castle in Warsaw, the Arsenal and the Museum of Solidarity in Gdańsk. The most recent project: the Palace of the Republic in Warsaw, designed by **Tomasz Konior**.
10. The Art of Architectural Installation at **EAST DESIGN DAYS** – ongoing support since 2018.
11. The Art of Installation: street art by renowned creators **Himbala and Liwen**, **Niebieski Robi Kreski** featured in the interiors of **KAN** Polska offices in collaboration with **Leonarda Art Gallery.**
12. The Art of Installation at **URBAN ART AREA** – continuous support by the **KANVISION Foundation** since 2021.
13. The Art of Light Installation at **Anna Halarewicz's** exhibition APPARITIONS / SANCTI – supported by the **KAN Vision Foundation.**
14. The Art of Word and Portrait Photography Installation at the Szczebrzeszyn Festival – by **Mariusz Gajewski**, supported by the **KAN Vision Foundation**.
15. The Art of Light and Matter Installation – DIADA by **Katarzyna Derkacz-Gajewska** and **Mariusz Gajewski.**
16. The Art of Graffiti Installation for **KAN** - a project by renowned Polish rapper and street artist **MŁODY DRON.**

THE ART OF INSTALLATION:
A project by the **KAN Vision Foundation** for **KAN**, and the name of the gallery at Nowy Świat 9/2, Białystok.

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Map with contacts in your region and addresses of technical and sales offices.

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