



## Café “As” The Survival of Simon Wiesenthal

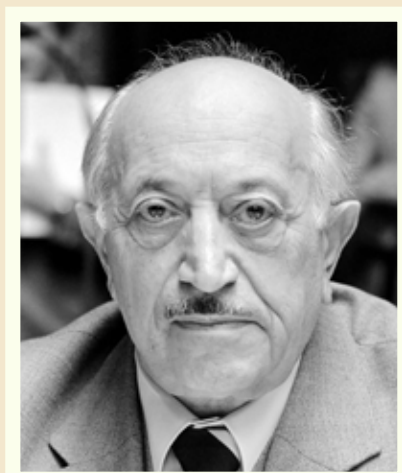
**Simon Wiesenthal** (1908-2005) is known today as the man who devoted his life to justice for the victims of the Shoah. His profession as an architect, which he pursued until his persecution by the Nazi regime, has largely been forgotten. He studied architecture in Prague and Lviv (at that time Prague was an important center of modernism and functionalism). Until 1939 he worked at a local architectural office and drew cartoons for newspapers and satirical magazines. After his arrest by the National Socialists in July 1941, Wiesenthal was forced to work at the Eastern Railway repair workshop and to move to the Lviv Ghetto; later he was imprisoned in the Janowska concentration camp. Although he helped his wife Cyla to escape, his own futile attempts led to years of suffering at five concentration camps.

During his internment at the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1945, Wiesenthal got to know the Polish prisoner **Edmund Staniszewski**, who repeatedly slipped him some food and thus saved Wiesenthal's life. The end of the war was already foreseeable. Staniszewski hoped to open a coffee house in Poznań and asked Wiesenthal for ideas. Wiesenthal made the first sketches while still at the camp. In the weeks following the liberation, he perfected them into drawings. Simon Wiesenthal designed exterior and interior views, clothing for the staff, as well as advertising posters—similar to today's “corporate identity.”

Yet the establishment of “**Café As**” (“Café Ace”) never came to be.

The sketches of the never-built “Café As” (Café Ace) had long been considered lost. In 2018, the Jewish Museum Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien) acquired more than 80 drafts from Edmund Staniszewski's son-in-law. These remain a symbol of hope in Simon Wiesenthal's struggle for survival and document a little-known aspect of his biography.

Exhibition in the windows of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Warsaw is based on the exhibition *Café As. The Survival of Simon Wiesenthal* presented last year at the Jewish Museum in Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien). It is part of the **17th Singer's Warsaw Festival**. The digital exhibition is available in Polish, German and English at [www.austria.org.pl](http://www.austria.org.pl)



Simon Wiesenthal



Edmund Staniszewski  
late 40'  
©Svoboda family Archive



Simon Wiesenthal's apartment  
before his arresting in Lviv  
(6th. Szumlańskich Str., currently 6th. Sechenova Str.)  
Yaroslav Yanchak © Urban Media Archive of the  
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe



Głogowska Str., Poznań  
planned location of Café “As”  
©unknown photographer ca. 1940  
fotopolska.eu

Curator: *Café As. The Survival of Simon Wiesenthal* at the Jewish Museum Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien) (05.2019 – 01.2020): **Michaela Vocelka**

Catalogue: *Café As. The Survival of Simon Wiesenthal* edited by **Danielle Spera, Michaela Vocelka**

Curator of the exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Warsaw: **Stanisław Welbel**

Graphic design of the exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Warsaw: **Jacek Malinowski**

The exhibition in cooperation with the Jewish Museum Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien) as part of the **17th Singer's Warsaw Festival** organized by the **Shalom Foundation**.



Fundacja Shalom

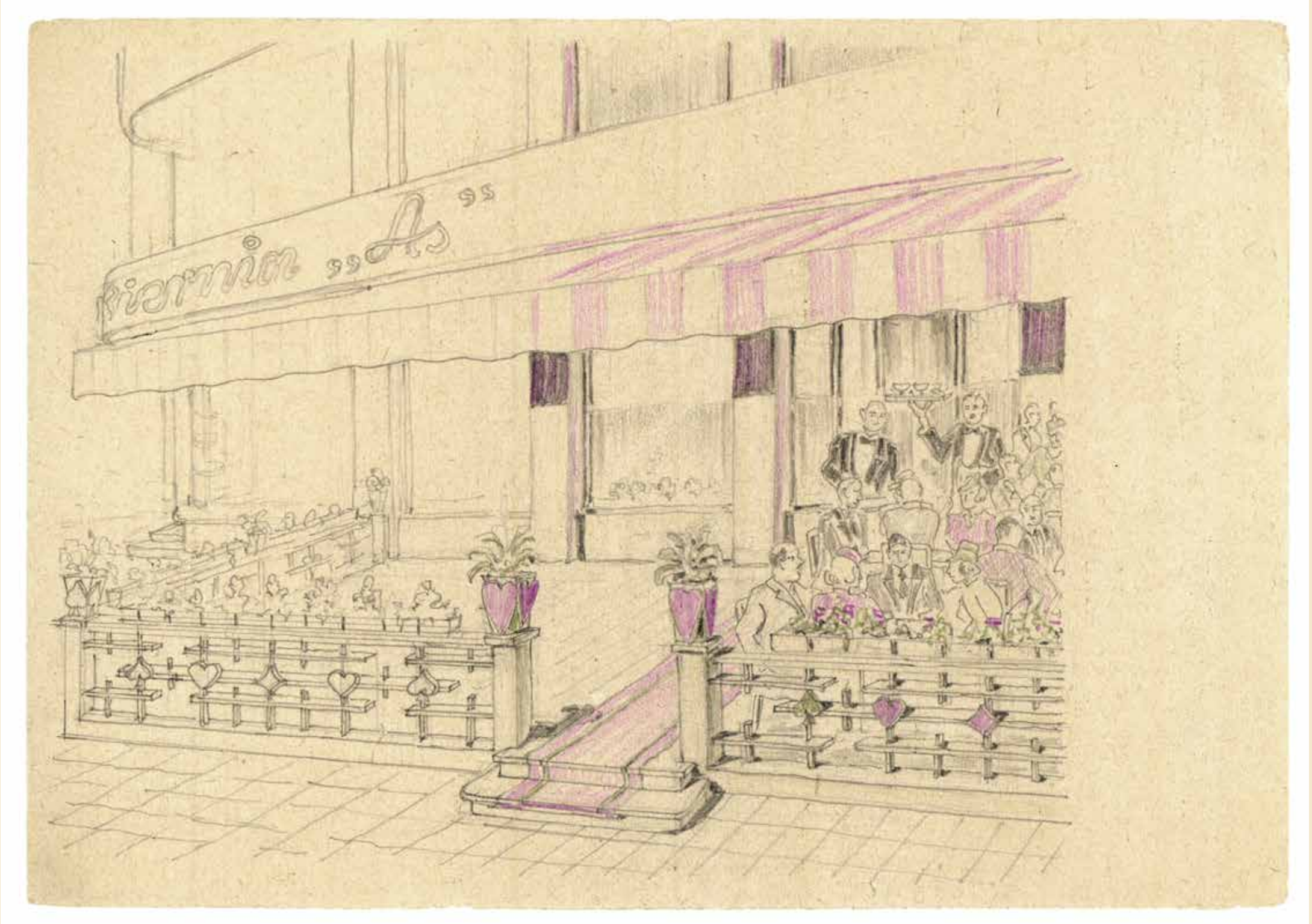


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# CAFÉ „As“

Handwritten notes and sketches related to the Café "As" project, including architectural details and decorative elements.

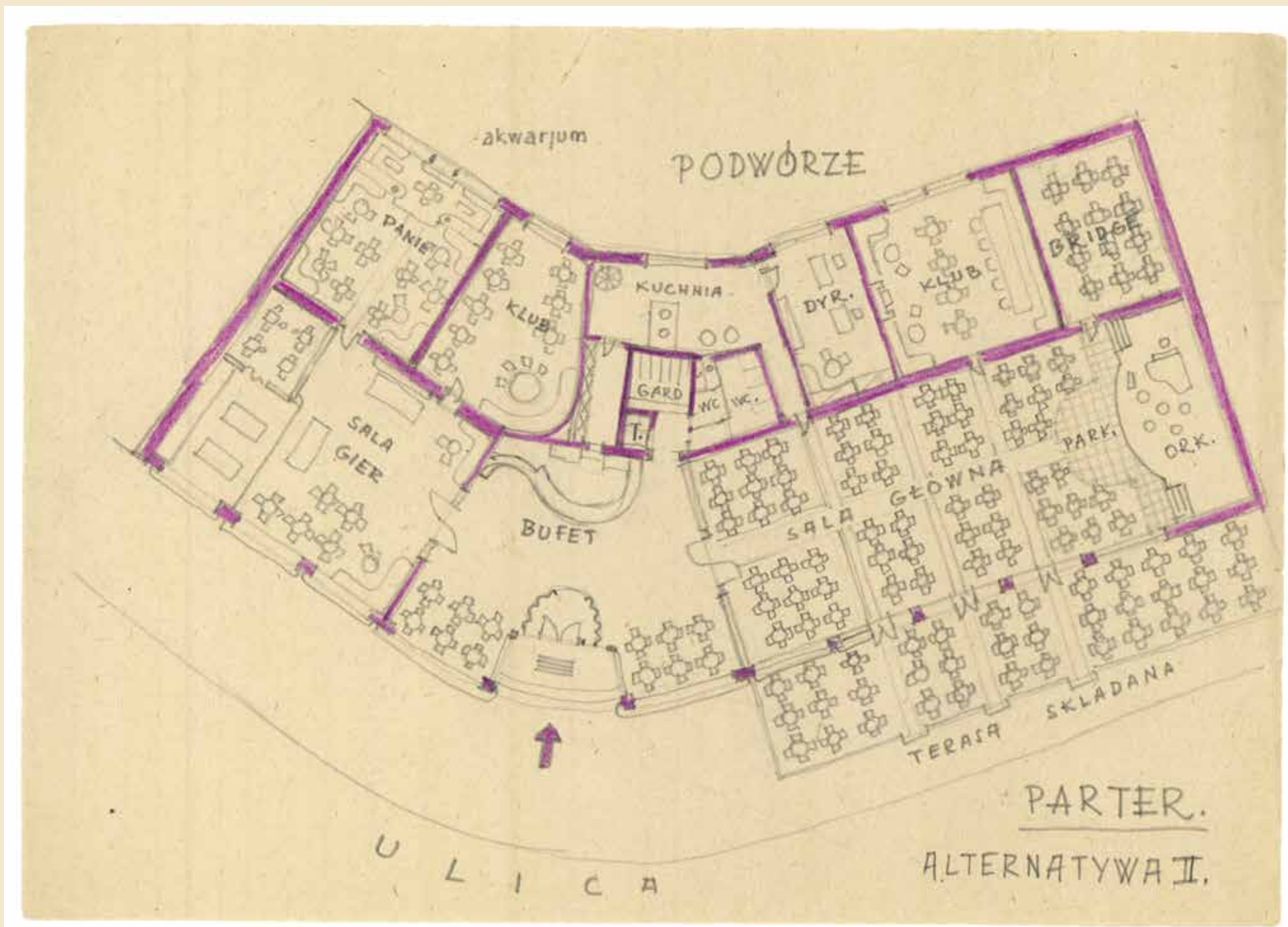
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Simon Wiesenthal, documentation of the Café "As" project. All sketches from the collection of the Jewish Museum Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien), original sizes: 14.7 20.7 cm or 20.7 x 29 cm.

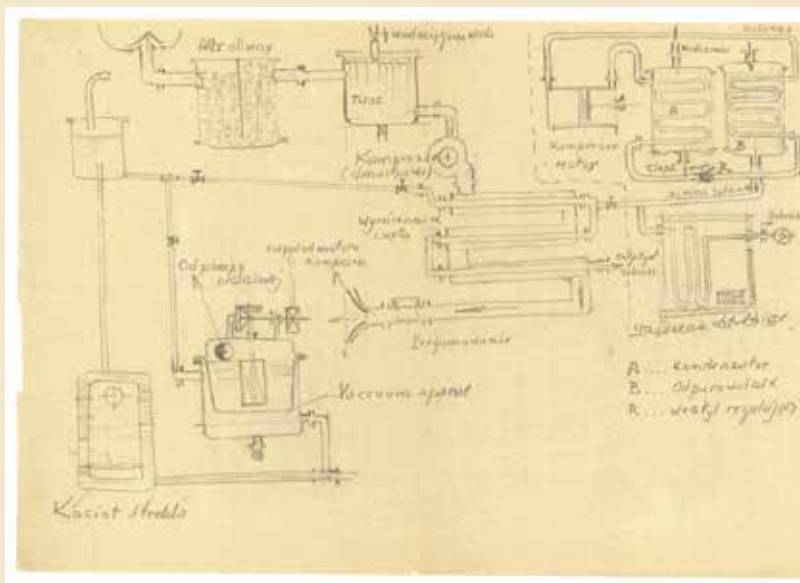
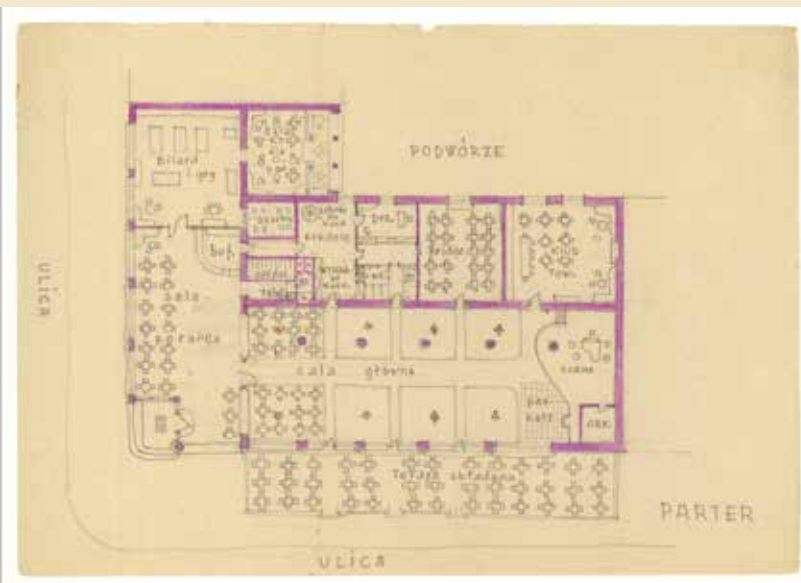
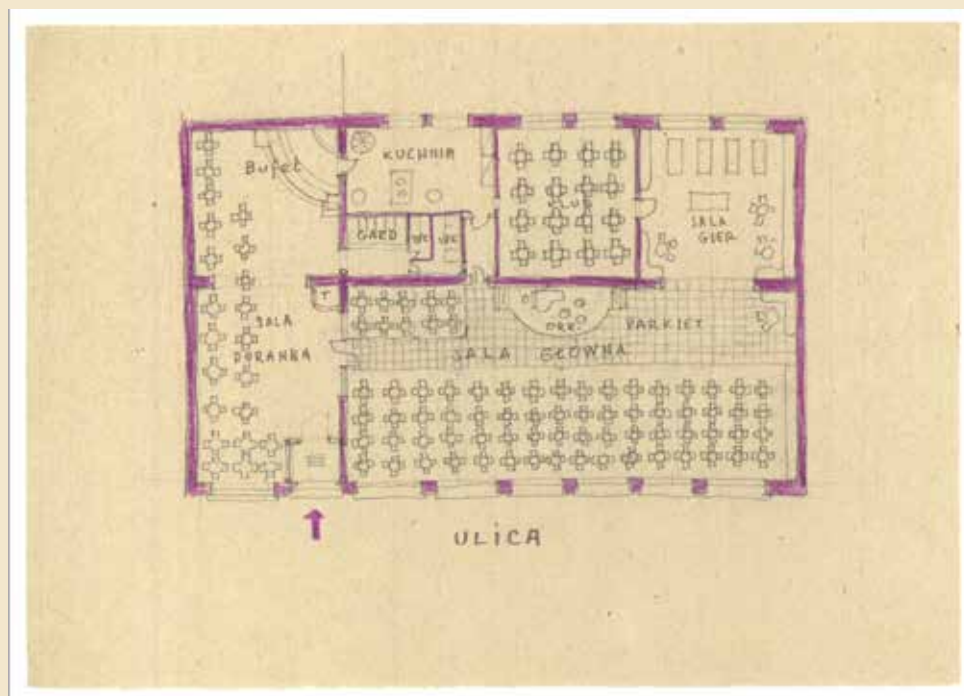
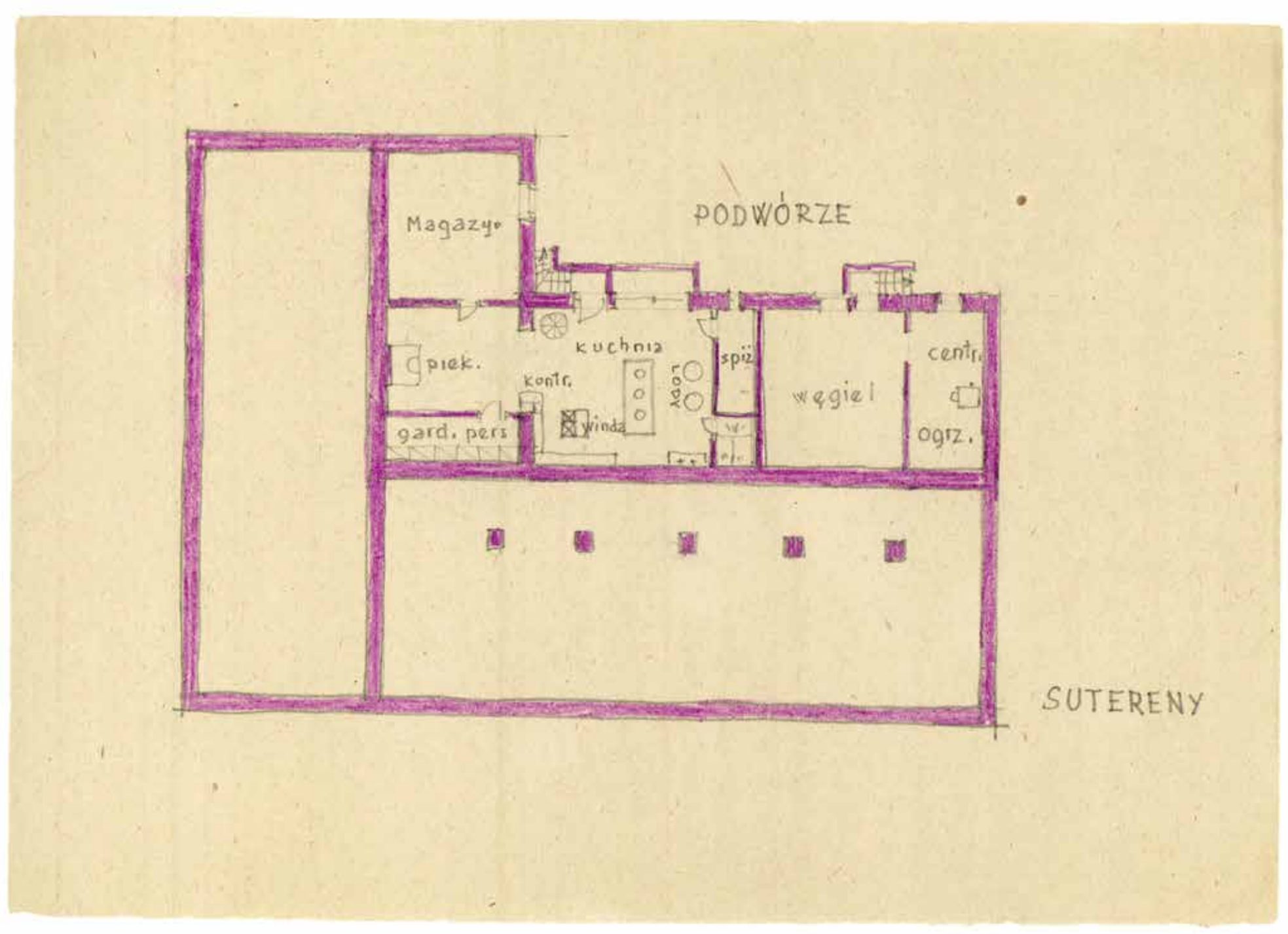
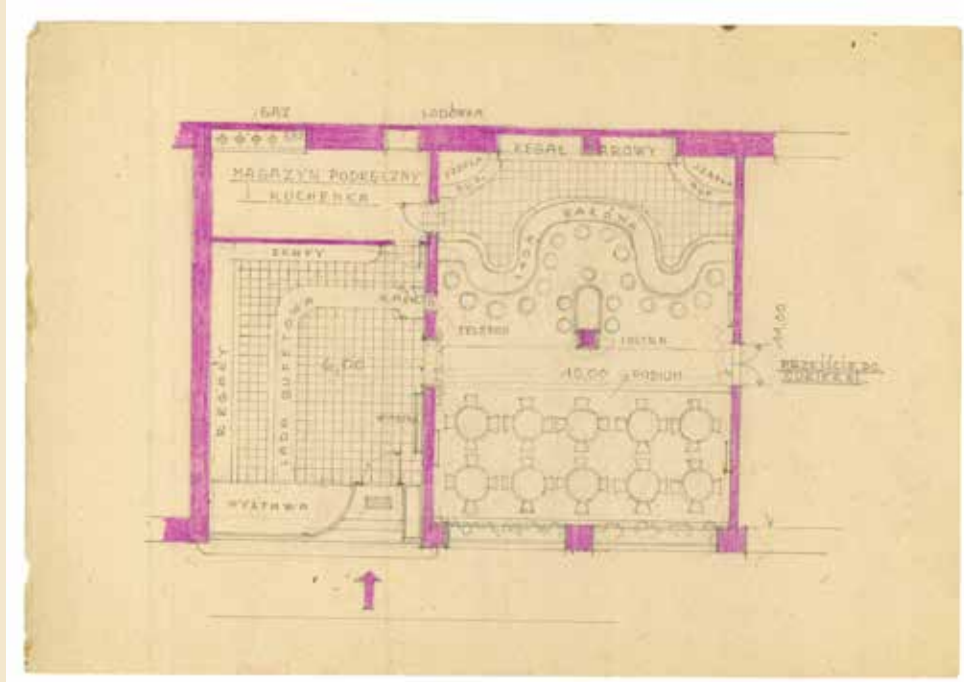
# CAFÉ „As”

## opis techniczny



16) Na wyjściu z miasta od ul. ...	21	Ryba
17) Ten i jeden koniec	460	
18) Jak kształt do loggia	26)	<del>Woj. ...</del>
19) Jakiś w gory opus ...	27)	Każo ...
20) Restauracyj ...	210	
21) Należy na dwie ...	234	
22) ...	248	
23) ...	270	
24) <del>...</del>	260	

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Simon Wiesenthal, documentation of the Café "As" project. All sketches from the collection of the Jewish Museum Vienna (Jüdisches Museum Wien), original sizes: 14.7 20.7 cm or 20.7 x 29 cm.

