

CITIES IN TRANSITION

1st INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

Sustainability

Formal and informal settlements

Memory of places

IFAU`17

1ST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

CITIES IN TRANSITION

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

ABSTRACT PROCEEDINGS BOOK

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1st INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

● Sustainability

● Formal and informal settlements

● Memory of places

IFAU¹⁷

December 14-16 | Tirana



Prof. Dr. Andrea MALIQARI
Rector of the Polytechnic University of Tirana

FOREWORD

While living, working and contributing to our cities, it is quite impossible not being confronted with the frenetic development of their [our cities] reality. This is often an uncontrollable development, which is deeply connected with important economic, social and cultural factors, but at the same time connected with many complex problems. Therefore, they deserve the special attention of researchers, especially the researchers in the fields of architecture, urbanism and urban planning and development. In this regard, IFAU Tirana 2017 – 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism: “Cities in Transition” is an important contribution which transforms these complex problems in constructive debates, studies and scientific research, and by proposing sustainable and scientific solutions.

On the other side, IFAU Tirana 2017 is a very good opportunity for the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, to identify and present the best values of the scientific studies and research, not only in the fields of architecture and urban planning, but also in regards of the doctoral school attached to the Faculty, through these three



important research topics: Sustainability, Formal and Informal Settlements, Memory of Places.

The most important merit of IFAU Tirana 2017, stands in the fact that the topics and problematics raised in this forum are part of a solid collaboration and partnership with foreign partner Universities and foreign researchers in Europe and beyond. IFAU17 has gathered scientists, researchers and scientific academics to exchange and share their experiences, their research results in relation to broad aspects of Architecture and Urbanism, but also to present and discuss over innovations, new trends, and concerns, challenges, encountered practices and solutions approved for cities in transition.

Allow me, to express my sincere appreciation for all the researchers and scientists, Albanian and foreign ones, and for their valuable scientific works, selected by a very competent International Scientific Committee, composed of Albanian and foreign prominent personalities in the fields of architecture and urban planning.

Gratitude, respect and encouragement for the organizers of IFAU Tirana 2017 – 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism “Cities in Transition”, for their maximum dedication, and their competence in the successful organization and progress of this forum.

For all the above reasons, I express my highest considerations for IFAU Tirana 2017 – 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism: “Cities in Transition”, and for all the great work done with professionalism, passion and dedication, and most importantly with a high level of scientific research, which deserves not only higher appreciation, but it gives faith and encouragement to continue organizing further successful scientific research activities in these fields.



Prof. Dr. Florian Nepravishta
Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism

INTRODUCTION

IFAU Tirana 2017– 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism organized by Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Polytechnic University of Tirana-Albania, and Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Pristine - Kosovo aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Architecture and Urbanism. It also provides the premier interdisciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners, and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, practical challenges encountered, and the solutions adopted for the *Cities in Transition*.

The forum aims to address various aspects of the urban development of cities in transition. Of particular interest for the conference are *sustainability development, formal and informal settlements* and *memory of the cities*. These cities are undergoing one of the fastest rates of development in the world. However, this rapid, often erratic, and sometimes traumatic growth has not occurred without unwanted consequences in the built environment. The theme of the conference is “Cities in Transition”. It aims to provide a forum to examine and discuss solution-oriented, practical methods for implementing sustainable development, and to stimulate more ideas and useful insights regarding



architecture and urbanism within the context of sustainable development. It will be organized into three parallel sessions:

- ***Sustainability***
- ***Formal and informal settlements***
- ***Memory of places***

The event will feature international prominent Key Speakers, Academic Sessions, Roundtable Discussions and other interactive discussions, to ensure that all participants will greatly benefit from this conference and its international format.

SUSTAINABILITY

The increasing urbanization of the ***Cities in Transition*** coupled with other globally critical issues such as environmental pollution, energy consumption, and resources shortage are resulting in major urban crises in many parts of the world. A strong emphasis nowadays is placed upon improving the sustainability of the urban environment. This is attributed to the growing public awareness of the importance of “sustainable development” practices, which also enhances the quality of life. Municipality governance and the construction industry in the cities are confronted by the push for sustainability. A fresh and holistic approach to designing, constructing and managing the built environment addressing building and spatial environment of the ***Cities in Transition*** is required. New sets of regulatory practices, indicators, measurements, and priorities are emerging with the application at all scales – from individual buildings to the district and city-scale level.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

There is a growing attention for informal settlements and economies as important urban phenomena worth the attention of urban planners, designers, and policymakers. We are witnessing a big raise in studies and projects on informality by architects and urban planners. There is a general belief that these informal structures possess an untapped potential to contribute to urban development.

Nevertheless, there is a substantial lack of knowledge on the concept of informality. In the first-place informal systems are strengthened by the public sector’s neglect of socio-spatial exclusion in cities. At the same time, the incorporation of the informal structures in the formal urban development framework can erase the unique qualities and opportunities which informality brings to urban life.

MEMORY OF PLACES

Heritage is deeply linked to the concept of identity, providing a shared way for people to identify with the world around them, the past that has led to the present, and the future that may unfold. Heritage buildings exhibit a set of features that guarantee a particular place's distinctiveness and continuity in time and are endowed with meaning through their use by successive generations.

Continuing the discussion of rapid urbanization, this session will examine how identities shift as heritage evolves in urban contexts, looking at the formation of community, memory in architecture, the economic potential of built heritage, and the need for both construction and destruction to allow traditions to continue to adapt to retain their relevance.

Therefore, we tried to establish a structure, or frame, of the Conference which would be appealing for all sorts of a new age of researchers, those enthusiastic and ready to enter the new era of sustainable city development. We have received a variety of very interesting and innovative research papers made by young scientists from all over Europe, and we are proud to share them gathered in this Abstract Book.

In the IFAU Tirana 2017 – 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism. *Cities in Transition* there were more than 180 participants from 36 universities and 8 institutions from all around Europe like Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, England, France, FYR of Macedonia, Germany, Italy, Kosovo, Netherland, Serbia, Slovenia, and USA.

We are particularly proud to say that invited speakers and moderators during sessions will be our most prospective experts in the field, from different partner universities of the region and from Europe as well.

A practical reference book consistent of common conclusions from these sessions will be the matter of further presentation. The best papers of the forum will be published in a Monograph Book with ISBN (hard copy) by the Italian publishing house: "La Scuola di Pitagora editrice" and e-book, PDF distributed by international EBSCO and in the "*Bulletin of Science*" edited by PTU Special Issues.

During the upcoming two days, Polytechnic University of Tirana – Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism will be the host of an incredible exchange of knowledge, networking and development of new thoughts, ideas and projects for the sustainable development of our cities.

Thank you for your attention and Welcome to Tirana one of the transition cities in continuous change!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IFAU Tirana 2017 – 1st International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism was organized by Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Polytechnic University of Tirana-Albania, and Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Pristine - Kosovo with the support of Municipality Of Tirana, Politecnico Di Bari – Dip. Di Scienze Dell’ingegneria Civile E Dell’architettura (Dicar), Università Degli Studi Della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, University For Business And Technology (UBT), Polis University, Epoka University – Faculty Of Architecture And Engineering, Architect Association Of Albania (AAA), Institute Of Cultural Monuments (ICM) and Central Technical Archive Of Construction(CTAC).

Special appreciation to the international Organizing Committee with Abdullah Zejnullahu, Anna Bruna Menghini, Luigi Corniello and the Scientific Committee members have offered and provided their numerous contacts, colleagues from abroad who participate at the Conference.

Many greetings go to the distinguish Invited Speaker Alcibiades P. Tsolakis, Alenka Fikfak, Anna Bruna Menghini, Besnik Aliaj, Carlo Bianchini, Derya Oktay, Francesco Collotti, Heinrich Haass, Lorenzo Pignatti, Manfredo di Robilant, Paolo Di Nardo, Paolo Giordano, Paul Luis Meunier.

The final thanks belong to the organization committee and special to the Technical Organisation Committee Ledita Mezini, Irina Branko, Andronira Burda and Andi Shameti for their technical support for the preparation and coordination of the Forum.

CONFERENCE THEMES

SUSTAINABILITY

- *Urban Planning & Urban Design for Sustainability*
- *Design for Sustainability – Low Energy Architecture*
- *Climate Change Versus Sustainability*

FORMAL AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- *Culture, Informality and Informal settlements*
- *Housing ‘modern’ and ‘traditional’ types*
- *Modern housing*

MEMORY OF PLACES

- *Architectural history and historic preservation*
- *Identity Memory*
- *Architecture Surveying and Representation*
- *Analysis, Diagnosis, and Monitoring*
- *Techniques, Conservation, Restoration*
- *Cultural landscapes*

SUBMISSION AND REFEREE

The texts published are first examined by at least two members of the Scientific Committee, who evaluate whether the contribution meets the Forum lines of research if it is based on an adequate literature review concerning the topic proposed, and if it offers a careful examination about sources and/or trends about the proposed theme. After this preliminary assessment, the texts are subjected to the international criteria of Double-blind peer review from two anonymous reviewers, including at least one external to the Scientific Committee. The reviewers, or faculty and researchers from universities and research institutes, with recognized competence in the specific study fields, constitute the refereeing committee.



ORGANIZER:

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM (FAU) – POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA (PUT)

FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”

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- **POLITECNICO DI BARI – DIP. DI SCIENZE DELL’INGEGNERIA CIVILE E DELL’ARCHITETTURA (DICAR)**
- **UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELLA CAMPANIA “LUIGI VANVITELLI”**
- **UNIVERSITY FOR BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (UBT)**
- **POLIS UNIVERSITY**
- **EPOKA UNIVERSITY – FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING**
- **ARCHITECT ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIA (AAA)**
- **INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS (ICM)**
- **CENTRAL TECHNICAL ARCHIVE OF CONSTRUCTION (CTAC)**

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INVITED SPEAKERS



ALCIBIADES P. TSOLAKIS

Professor, and Dean of College of Art and Design, Louisiana State University, USA

Alkis Tsolakis is a professor of architecture and dean of the LSU College of Art + Design. He earned a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon. Tsolakis was a founding faculty member of the Hammons School of Architecture at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, where he held several administrative posts and was acting director of the art department. He has practiced architecture and sculpture in Greece, France, and the United States. He was a founder and director of the Drury University Center in Greece and the head of the Department of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

His international collaborations as dean of the College of Art & Design include exchange partnerships with universities in Europe, China, the Middle East and the Caribbean. During his tenure, the College has seen significant technological advances with the additions of state of the art digital modeling and fabrication facilities. Tsolakis is also responsible for establishing the Doctor of Design in Cultural Preservation program. This advanced multidisciplinary degree gives practicing design professionals the opportunity to blend interests in design and the art for scholarship and research to expand their professional capacities into new, emerging, and related fields.



ALENKA FIKFAK

Assoc. Professor, University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Architecture, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr, MA in Architecture, Ph.D. in Architecture and Urban Planning; senior lecturer. Head of Chair of urbanism UL FA, Head of management board UL FA, member of Chamber UL FA. Leading process of accreditation – urbanism study program, 2010–2012 (Bachelor and Master), re-accreditation of architecture (Unified Master) study program, 2012–2013. Research experience: spatial and landscape planning, planning of small settlements, ruralism and rural architecture, regulatory plans for the regulation of non-urban settlements, evolutionary constants of a settlement culture undergoing renovation, with particular reference to the coastal region, models for the revitalization of degraded landscape areas, analysis of trends of spatial development. EU projects/Programmes: Sustainable settlement models and typologies for trans-border territories (2004); ALPTER – Terraced landscapes of the alpine arc, INTERREG III B Alpine Space (2005–2006); Cultura 2000 Virtual museum of the European Transhumance (2006–2007); Competence Centre – Sustainable and Innovative Construction (2010–13); ESPON-Train (2012–2013); Restructuring of Study Programme in Architecture to Long-cycle Integrated Master in line with EU standards, Tempus, (2012–2015). Organised more than 30 architectural and urbanistic workshops (presentations of the work and exhibitions) for different local communities in Slovenia – population of the students work on the local level. Organised International conferences of Spatial Planning development and Urbanism: Smart urbanism 2012, 2013, 2014; Symposium Men and space; Theory and critic in Architecture: 60 architectural reviews in Europe, Member of different national and international scientific and art committees. Active in professional work in the domain of urban planning and design. Participated in many national competitions, with first awards as “Urban design of the city center Ravenna Koroškem, 2009”.



ANNA BRUNA MENGhini

Assoc. Professor, Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy

Architect, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Architectural and Urban Design at Politecnico di Bari, Italy. She graduated in Rome, "La Sapienza" in 1990. Since 1997 she is a teacher and researcher at the Degree Course in Architecture at the Politecnico di Bari, in the Laboratories of Architectural and Urban Design of the Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ingegneria Civile e dell'Architettura (DICAR). She is the coordinator of the Ph.D. course "Architecture: innovation and heritage" of the Argonauti consortium between Politecnico di Bari and Università degli Studi Roma Tre. From 2011 to 2013 she has been visiting the professor in the Doctoral School in Architecture and Urbanism at the Polytechnic of Tirana. She is a member of the Research Group "Urban Form Grammars" (UFG) at Politecnico di Bari. Since 2004, she is the coordinator of LLP/Erasmus and Erasmus+ Programmes and rector's delegate for internationalization of the Politecnico's research.

Her research includes architectural studies on Mediterranean areas, especially those in the South of Italy and the Balkans, disseminated in numerous publications, meetings, conferences, lectures, and exhibitions. The main topics are: recognition, enhancement and recovery of historical, anthropic and natural landscapes; the knowledge and renovation of architectural and urban heritage, in particular the modern Italian architecture; the conversion of Brownfield sites, refurbishment of industrial archaeology and recovery of disused productive areas; the enhancement of archaeological sites and architecture for exposition.



BESNIK ALIAJ

Professor, and Rector of Polis University, Albania

Graduated in Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Tirana in 1990. He received a 'Masters' degree at Erasmus University and IHS-Rotterdam Holland in 1996, and later in 2007 upon successful completion of his Ph.D., he was awarded the title 'Doctor of Sciences', from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania. Dr. Aliaj has extensive academic experience at the Polytechnic University, University of Fine Arts, University of Tirana, and at POLIS University in Tirana, not mentioning international exposure. He has a solid experience of 15 years with the civil society. He is the co-founder and former Executive Director of Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (1995-2005). During 2000-2003 he was General Secretary of the Albanian Association of Architects, and at present time is one of the initiators of the AUA, the Albanian Union of Architects.

Professional qualifications comprise training and research experiences in Denmark, Italy, Norway, Holland, USA, Germany, Kosovo, Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Peru, etc. In addition, he has solid consultancy works in Albania and Western Balkans countries. He is the author of several professional and academic publications in Albanian and English languages. He has good experience as a trainer in Albania and Kosovo and has held many international lectures and presentations. Dr. Aliaj has also a solid professional practice as an architect and urban planner starting from grassroots initiatives in community level, up to local and national governance, as well as in academic and research institutions. Since 1998 to nowadays he has been working also with international bodies and institutions, such as World Bank, UN, UNDP, FAO, USAID, GTZ, EU, SOROS, and several diplomatic missions accredited in Tirana. The initiator of participatory projects in the field of urban planning, environmental management and regional development; including housing, infrastructure, formalization of the economy, good governance and decentralization, as well as higher education. Former advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania (2005-2007); 'Citizen of Honor' in Kamza Municipality; an elected member of the Tirana Municipal Council since 2009. At present time he is the Rector of POLIS University.



CARLO BIANCHINI

Professor, and Head of DISDRA, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Architect (1991), Ph.D. in Rilievo e Rappresentazione del Costruito (1995), Carlo Bianchini is Full Professor at “Sapienza” - University of Rome, Department of History, Representation and Restoration of Architecture (DSDRA) of which is Director since November 2016. He teaches Architectural Survey and Descriptive Geometry at the Faculty of Architecture, and has been involved in several national research projects (COFIN 2002, FIRB 2003, PRIN 2004 and 2007) and EU funded projects (UCH2 – Euromed Heritage 2 Programme, HECDP – Tempus 2003, ATHENA - Euromed Heritage IV UE Program) often being author and scientific responsible.

Author of more than 80 scientific works his research main interests focuses on Cultural Heritage (tangible, intangible), on Survey and Modelling and, lately on Virtual Museums and BIM. He has been participating as an invited speaker in several conferences in Italy and abroad often chairing specific sessions (CAA 2009 - USA / CAA 2010 – Spain / CAA 2014 Paris /CCA 2016 Oslo) and as keynote speaker at 2007 Leica Geosystems Worldwide HDS User Conference (USA). Carlo Bianchini is also a member of some cultural and scientific associations: HERIMED (amongst the founders he is a member of its Steering Committee), ASSIRCO (deputy president since 2011) and Unione Italiana Disegno – UID.



DERYA OKTAY

Professor, and Dean of Faculty of Architecture, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey

Derya Oktay (BArch, Gazi Univ / MSc, Middle East Technical Univ / PG DipUD, Oxford Brookes Univ / PhD, Yıldız Technical Univ & Oxford Brookes Univ) is currently a Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture and the Founding Dean at the Faculty of Architecture at Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey. She was the Founding Director of the MS in Urban Design Programme at Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus, and the Founding Director of the Urban Research & Development Center (URDC) at the same institution (1999-2013). In addition, she has served as the President of the Society for International Development (SID) Lefkosia (Nicosia) Chapter in Cyprus. Her areas of research and teaching are architectural design in urban context, sustainable architecture/urbanism, cultural-spatial aspects of housing environments, urban identity, public urban spaces and quality of urban life. She was a team member in various urban/architectural design projects and was a Visiting Fellow in such universities as UC Berkeley, Politecnico di Milano, University of Michigan, and Oxford Brookes University. She has carried out research funded by the EU, USAID, TÜBİTAK, and EMU. She has authored more than 100 publications including books, chapters in refereed books, refereed journal articles, conference papers and popular press articles, and developed and offered courses. She is on the editorial board of various prestigious journals, and the champion Editor of the theme disuses of *ICE Urban Design and Planning* on “Quality of Life in Cities” (2009) and “Urban Identity in the Era of Globalisation” (Part One, 2016; Part Two, 2017). She also spoke in various international and national platforms as an invited speaker.



Elisabetta Rosina

Assoc. Professor, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

Elisabetta Rosina, the associate professor at Politecnico di Milano, is competent in design, planning, and execution of nondestructive investigations and degradation surveys on buildings, for preservation and maintenance. Her major competencies are in preservation technologies, specifically for historic buildings, performances and degradation of building materials, diagnostic methodologies, and techniques such infrared tomography, gravimetric tests, micro-climatic monitoring, psychometric maps, video-scope, iron/steel structures search inside masonry and instrumental surveys.

She is scientific responsible for the Experimental mobile laboratory of ABC Dept. Polytechnic of Milan. She has been a consultant and project manager of Investigation for the conservation planning and maintenance; sustainability strategies for supporting analysis and investigation; know how to transfer to the enterprise, professional societies, public administration staffs.



FRANCESCO VALERIO COLLOTTI

Professor, University of Florence, Italy

Francesco Collotti (Milano, 1960) is a full professor at DIDA of the Florence University, promoting not only the research on architectural identities but also involved in the international programmes of scientific and cultural cross-fertilization supported by Unifi. His activity is a link between research, professional work and teaching (all together: learning). Engaged for a sustainable, site-specific and responsible contemporary architecture, thinking that we are what we're doing: and we do know that this work is quite far from the fashionable, global, glamorous, unsustainable and a bit ridiculous star system architect's market. F. Collotti builds at the moment in Italy, Jordan, Oman, Turkey, and Germany. The research and the pilot-projects are particularly focusing the Mediterranean area with selected case-studies from Balkans to Northern Africa, from The Alps to Middle and Near East. FC promoted exhibitions, symposiums, and conferences related to the didactics inside the Faculty and outside. Contributor review Domus (1985-1995), Fondazione Masieri in Venice and in the editorial staff of Phalaris (1989-1994). A teacher at International Design Seminars "Naples, architecture and city" (Università degli Studi di Napoli, DOMUS, D.A.M. Frankfurt). Since 1997 member of the Scientific Committee of the Swiss reviews Rivista tecnica and (1998) Archi. His articles and essays are published in the most important international architectural reviews (Werk bauen+wohnen, Domus, Casabella, Archi). Member of the editorial staff of Firenze-Architettura edited by the DIDA Dpt. of the Florence University. Visiting professor ETH Zürich in architectural theory – Institut GTA (1994-1996). Since 1998 to 2001 professor in Theories of architectural contemporary at Architectural Design Dpt. of the Florence University. 2000/2001 visiting professor for Entwerfen und Städtebau, Faculty of architecture, Universität Dortmund. Professor at SSEAU Naples and at Politecnico di Milano-Facoltà di Architettura Civile for Architectural Composition. Visiting Professor in China at Jinan University 2012/2014. Professor also in the 2nd level master promoted by Università Federico II in Naples and by the review DOMUS focused on the design for the historical heritage in the Mediterranean town. Full professor at EMADU Ecole Euromed d'Architecture, de Design et d'Urbanisme/Euromed University of Fès - Université Euroméditerranéenne de Fès.



HEINRICH HAASS

Professor, Hochschule Anhalt, Abbot Bernburg, Germany

German scientist, architect BDA, city planner, tourism expert and expert for urban waterfront planning and marina design, nautical tourism and amphibic/floating structures. Since 1993 full Professor at the University of Anhalt, Abbot Bernburg, Germany. Chairman of the research group of nautical tourism. He has been Visiting Professor at the Politecnico di Milano, the University of Pescara, and University La Sapienza, Roma.

He authored different publication like "TourismusArchitektur München 2017"; "Neue Wege für künftigen Hochwasserschutz, in: Stadt und Gemeinde, Heft 7/8 2013 Bonn 2013"; "Stadt am Wasser, Neue Chancen für Kommunen und Tourismus, Frankfurt/M. 2005"; "Wassertourismus, Handbuch und Leitfaden zur Entwicklung wassertouristischer Angebote, Gerlingen 2012"; "StadtWasser Wasserkonzepte für die Stadtgestaltung, Stuttgart 2010". Professor Haass is President and CEO of DEUTSCHE MARINA CONSULT, Hannover/Germany, Expert and Vice president of Internationale Bootexpertene.V, Chair of PIANC WG 183. Research interests: water-oriented urban development, Tourism architecture Urban Design.



LORENZO PIGNATTI

Professor, Università degli Studi DI Chieti e Pescara “G. D’Annunzio, Italy

Lorenzo Pignatti Morano is Full Professor of Architectural Design at the Dipartimento di Architettura – University “G. D’Annunzio” in Pescara (Italy) and Associate Professor (Adjunct) at the Cambridge School of Architecture of the University of Waterloo (Canada). In Pescara, he is Academic Coordinator of Studies, Responsible for the International Relations and Erasmus Coordinator for the Dipartimento di Architettura. At Waterloo, he is Director of the Rome Programme that the University of Waterloo operates annually in Italy.

He has been involved in various international academic exchanges and research projects between Italy, Canada and East-Adriatic countries, where he has promoted a large number of research projects, cultural initiatives, and exhibitions. Most of this work has been published in monographs and articles in various magazines, including *Domus*, *Piano Progetto Città*, and *EcoWebTown*.

More recently he has been working in developing joint research projects within the Euro-Adriatic Region together with other Universities in Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Greece. All these experiences are related to the definition of new urban design strategies for vacant sites, where cultural programs could be effective in their regeneration. Some of this work has been published in *“Transforming the Landscape: Il progetto di trasformazione nei luoghi della produzione”* (Gangemi, 2011), *“Projects Along the Coast Line: Adriatic Identities”* (List Lab, 2014) and *“Sguardi Incrociati/Crossing Sightlines Atlas of the Adriatic”* (Aracne 2017). He intends to further investigate the development of modern architecture in the Balkans.

His architectural practice is centered on the role of public space within urban contexts. He has developed several projects for public spaces, including the design and construction of Piazza San Cosimato in the old center of Rome.



MANFREDO DI ROBILANT

Ass.Professor, DAD, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Manfredo di Robilant is an architect. He has been researching associate to the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale and visiting scholar at the CCA Montréal after completing a post-doc at the Turin Polytechnic University from which he holds a Ph.D. in the history of modern architecture. Among his recent publications, the books dedicated to *ceiling* and *window* (Marsilio and Rizzoli International, 2014) of the *elements of architecture* research project for the 14th Venice architecture Biennale (with Rem Koolhaas, AMO, Harvard GSD). In 2015-2016 he worked as a teacher and an advisor for the school's cultural policies at the Domus Academy, Milan, and he is currently an assistant professor of architectural design at the Turin Polytechnic University. In 2012 he founded with Giovanni Durbiano and Alessandro Armando the office DAR.



PAUL LUIS MEUNIER

Professor, École Spéciale des Travaux Publics, ESTP Paris, France

More than 250 International Patents filed in Hi-Tech industry, numerous Publications within famous International Physics reviews (APL, EL, JAP, Magnetic TL...), former expert for selection EU projects during Research Lab career at LCR Orsay, and Innovation officer at Multinational companies for 13 years: this is in a few words 25 years of Industrial career. Then Professor MEUNIER has been assigned as Professor of Physics and Industrial Research Projects at ESTP-Paris (France) in 2007. Ever since, Pr. Meunier fertilizes theoretical knowledge with Field Applications in the Building, Civil engineering, and Architecture following students at Master levels. He is part of the ESTP team which has been nurturing the cooperation with UPT for the last five years with the support of French embassy at Tirana.

His experience in the highly competitive Industry crossed with Academic knowledge position him as an actor for innovative turn-key solution projects in Building Industry among Urbanism and Architecture.



PAOLO GIORDANO

Professor, Università degli Studi di Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Italy

Ordinary Professor of Design ICAR / 17 "DRAWING" at the Department of Architecture and Industrial Design "Luigi Vanvitelli" of the Second University of Naples. Since 2013 he is Coordinator of the Ph.D. in "Architecture, Industrial Design, and Cultural Heritage". Dal 2012 is Coordinator of the Ph.D. in "Representation, Protection, and Security of the Environment and the Structures and Territory Government". From 2009 to 2012 he was deputy director of the "Department of Culture of the Project", directed by Prof. Arch. Carlo Manzo. From 2001 to 2014 he was Associate Professor of Design of Architecture and Architecture and Architecture

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PAOLO DI NARDO

Professor, DIDA, University of Florence, Italy

Paolo Di Nardo graduated in architecture at the University of Florence in 1985 and obtained a Ph.D. in Architectural Design at the same university. The architect Di Nardo coordinates a team that has been involved in numerous architectural competitions in Italy and abroad for over fifteen years and has been awarded different prizes. Performing his professional activity in the field of architectural and urban design with a particular focus on the themes of perception and visual communication in architecture. In 2003, founded the company "ARX srl" with the aim of overcoming the single design logic (architectural, structural, plant and estimate - management and safety on site), guaranteeing the management of architectural design through mutual exchange between research and realization. ARX is therefore born as a synthesis of all those professional skills involved in the realization of architectural organizations from the design of the project to its realization. Design involves interventions on various scales, from single building to large-scale architectural complexes.

Paolo Di Nardo has a strong university activity at the Faculty of Architecture in Florence where he is a professor of the Architecture Laboratory II. He is a Contract Professor at Kent University, a contract professor of History of Italian Design at Roger William University. He was Professor of Urban Morphology at Stanford University. He is also Editorial Manager of the four-monthly magazine AND "Rivista di architetture, città e architetti" with editorial staff in Florence and edited by the publishing house of DNA, as well as manager and director of workshops on architectural and environmental sustainability.



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The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping hexagons and dashed lines. The hexagons are rendered in a light gray color, some as solid outlines and others as semi-transparent shapes. Dashed lines of the same color connect various points across the composition, creating a network-like structure. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and technical.

Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN WATERFRONTS -A MODEL FOR TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

The Urban Development of the 60/60s was oriented with the „backside“ to waterfronts and occupied the landsides more and more. Renaissance of waterfronts starts at the end of the 80s and begins waterfront development worldwide (Toronto, Boston, Genoa, Barcelona, etc.). This brings new ecological and economic benefits to towns.

9 Recommendations for a successful waterfront development shows what are must-haves and no-goes. The relationship between this recommendation to the Tirana Masterplan identify some aspects which should be important and attractive for Tirana. Waterfront developments is the only and last opportunity for next generations to work with urban planning in a bigger context/scale. For this the waterfront areas should not alone green-areas, they must be developed in an economic sense. Waterfront development activates new capital for economic business, create new jobs and optimize the urban society.

Keywords: urban waterfront, recommendations, Tirana Masterplan, Green-areas, ecological and economic benefits, creating jobs, optimize urban society

A REVIEW OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BIM IMPLEMENTATION IN AECO EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Beyond a large number of articles published for used types of BIM software, a comparative review of articles is presented in this paper to provide a wider understanding and critical reflection on integration and synthesis of BIM developments into Kosovo education system. Thus, the aim is to provide important guidance for BIM to academic researchers, students, and practitioners, to be used towards Sustainable Development of Kosovo in general and life cycle consideration of buildings in particular. As the effectiveness of BIM has been widely accepted in the worldwide AECO industry, there is an urgent need to establish a synergy between BIM educated and practitioners in Kosovo likewise. This necessarily leads towards finding more intensive and suitable approaches and tools, for an integrated solution through the education system; in particular, to offer worldwide BIM's practices into sustainable Architectural, Engineering, Construction, and Operation (AECO) education programs, curricula and/or courses.

Through conducted questionnaire to students was surveyed the current state of BIM integration at higher education curricula of AECO programs. Based upon their answers, came out the recommendation to increase the appraiser's knowledge for BIM in curricula, followed up by new sustainable didactical concepts and awareness, which will energize the commencement of BIM into AECO programs and establish graduates, equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for BIM software before they get promoted in professional calling, hence Achieving Sustainable Development of Kosovo AECO Industry.

Keywords: building information modeling (BIM); architecture, engineering, construction and operation (AECO) education; life cycle; sustainability

CULTURAL VOIDS IN TRANSITION IN THE URBAN MULTICULTURAL CONURBATION OF NOVA GORICA – GORIZIA

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ABSTRACT

The research into “cities in transition” presented in this paper focuses on exploring border environments. Namely, the expansion of urban economies in Europe is experiencing an asymmetric process of regional integration and metapolitisation. This phenomenon has created a “new geography of centrality and marginality” (Bayat, 2000), which is characterized by contestation and continuous transgression between “formal vs. informal systems” in Borderlands and border settlements. Border conditions are connected to the establishment of isolated urban voids and (dis)connections, which defines the occupancy of every-day spaces in cities and their spatial features. They are presented as zones of transition, significant to explore via historical maps and data as cultural landscapes and heritage, as a connection or disconnection between two or more nations. These environments in conflict can be analyzed through trans-urban (between various towns or cities) and trans-regional (between more regions, states, or countries) levels. Border conditions are manifestations of the complex dynamics of the built environment: transformation, mobility, transition, and interconnectivity between urban and rural, formal and informal, dense and vast, and existing and future morphology/typology of urban forms.

This paper discusses the cross-border context of a multicultural urban conurbation made up of Gorizia in Italy and Šempeter - Vrtojba and Nova Gorica in Slovenia. This adjacent urban tissue in the cross-border area forms an urban multicultural conurbation, which represents the regional center of the Goriška region. Nova Gorica was established after Second World War; in 1947 Božidar Gvardijančič drew up its first master plan. This young city was the first part of Yugoslavia and since 1991 it has been part of independent Slovenia (with Slovenia an EU member since 2004). The Europe Square was opened at the border. The discussion is focused on spatial changes in border environments and questions of cross-border cooperation regarding connectivity of spatial voids.

Keywords: border conditions, transition, culture, voids, Nova Gorica, Gorizia

RENEWABLE MICRO-ENERGY: WHICH IMPACT FOR THE CITIZEN, HIS BUILDING AND URBANISM?

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ABSTRACT

Electrical energy is a “must” for any citizen of our planet. Whatever the location, electric energy is seamlessly inside the life of each of us. The production of electricity evolved in the XXth century from city limits too far located plants deploying thousands of kilometers of wired grid network to reach cities and homes trying to match existing urbanism. Not as a criticism, but let’s admit this model is poorly efficient (High energy loss- great deal of maintenance) and has been stiffening the urbanism model for more than several decades.

Disruptive renewable electrical technologies bring the opportunity to re-shape or shape the urbanism rules and the buildings rationale. This conference will show which the impact is of these new technologies into buildings and urbanism. Taking into consideration from existing building and cities to new buildings and architectural setting up, thanks to these new technologies.

Not only these disruptive technologies are local, seamless for the buildings and urbanism alike but also can also be pervasive for citizens within their “mobility” and “transit” decades of professional and family life.

Would a “local”, “efficient” and “low-carbon” model apply to feed energy to citizens and architecture housing and their organization? Shall we step into the XXI century?

Keywords: renewable technologies, disruptive technologies, housing, energy loss

CROSSING SIGHTLINES

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ABSTRACT

The privileged view from Pescara is undoubtedly that which faces east. Toward the space of the Adriatic, an enclosed basin of water, contained and familiar, effortlessly crossed by navigators, merchants, pirates, and fishermen through the centuries. This sea is the deepest gulf in the entire Mediterranean, once the Gulf of Venice. A contained and “small” sea that in many maps is represented with the form of an ellipse, whose vertex is Venice, enclosed at the bottom by Leuca and Buthrotum. An ellipse does not have a center, but instead features two focal points; it transmits the concept of a dynamic form in a process of becoming, which is not absolute. The ellipse creates equality between any point and the sum of the distance between it and the two foci. In an ellipse, any point positioned along the curve and linked by two straight lines to the two foci generates two points on the opposite side of the curve. The points are thus doubled with respect to a normal circle, creating a dense pattern of reciprocal correspondences, where one corresponds with two on the opposite side.

The ellipse is the virtual geometric form that contains the Adriatic and functions as a connection between its two coasts: the western coast, home to one nation, language, culture and religion – Italy – and the eastern coast, home to many nations, multiple languages, numerous cultures, and different religions. Thus, the ellipse belongs to the Adriatic. The elliptical form of historic maps depicts a closed space, a sort of “Lacus nostra”, or “Gulf of Venice”. It was dominated by the city of Venice, whose domain extended along the line of the ellipse, primarily along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, and beyond.

The intention is to present a series of case studies that will recollect the memory and identity of a number of eastern Adriatic cities.

Keywords: Adriatic, Balkans, identity

VIRTUAL REALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS

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ABSTRACT

After a long incubation period which was concluded around 2010, with the strong development of CPUs' calculation power, the commercialization of small and cheaper hardware and of high performing software, the Virtual Reality (VR) technology is gaining more and more attention in several and relevant economic sectors of human life. For instance, in the automotive industry, VR is used in the systems-products design process during the transition phase from the concept to manufacturing, with significant cost reduction, whilst in medicine, VR is used to reduce the level of pain experienced by patients. In general, VR has been proved to be effective in all that situations where human experience is a key factor if experienced in advance. Thanks to the possibility to involve the population (e.g. local residents) or other evaluators (experts panel) in the multisensory experience of virtual environments, VR can support efficiently decision makers in the field of Urban Planning & Urban Design, enabling them both, a better understanding of citizens' needs and expectations, helping them increase their participation and trust in the decisional processes, and avoiding unnecessary or unwanted interventions and costs, making only sustainable interventions. Several types of research in the field of Urban Sound Planning and of Environmental Impact Assessment have proved the benefits of the use of VR in several situations: traffic limitation policies, urban renovation interventions, noise barriers installation, wind turbine and highway's environmental impact. The manuscript shows and discusses some of the main results of these researchers.

Keywords: virtual reality, sustainability, urban sound planning, environmental impact assessment

STREETS AS CONFLICT PUBLIC SPACE

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ABSTRACT

Streets are widely accepted as the only public space in the city that accommodates both pedestrians and vehicles. As such, they have always been a space of conflict between pedestrian and cars. The main problem stands in the way and by whom the street is used, mainly focused on the scale that cars and people occupy these spaces.

Despite some recent changes, the planning policies in Tirana have been strongly car-oriented. The car took dominance on the streets and more efficient street (public) space is occupied by cars for parking use, reducing that designated for pedestrians. Thus the street turns to roads and site parking lots, losing its public life function.

There are some questions coming up from such phenomenon as: why is this conflict happening, what are the main factors affecting this conflict and what is the loss of "effective" public space on the streets caused by this conflict.

This article aims to analyze this space of conflicts firstly in the theoretical plan, where two definitions 'road' and 'street' will be faced in terms of public space. Secondly, it will highlight the importance of the street as public space, especially for pedestrians, considering the parking space as an easily replaceable space with other forms. Thirdly, by focusing a case study, this article will review some segments of one of the main street in Tirana 'Unaza' tending to draw some comparative conclusions regarding the scale of this phenomenon, considering parking as an invaded space.

Keywords: public space, street, road, parking, conflicting space

SUSTAINABLE FORMS AND LOCAL IDENTITY FOR MEDITERRANEAN URBAN GARDENS

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ABSTRACT

While today the strong emphasis is on improving the sustainability of the urban environment, 'sustainable urban practices' are still considering natural and built environment as two different and unconnected categories. In most of the cases, indeed, the design of buildings is unrelated to the design of their open spaces, the design of private and public gardens and urban parks is unrelated to urban form, the landscape design is poorly integrated with the local environmental characteristic.

The increasing urbanization of the *Cities in Transition* following this dichotomy between an often globalized landscape design and a technology-oriented sustainable architecture is resulting in morphological urban crises in many parts of the world, including in the cities of the Mediterranean basin.

Therefore, a fresh and holistic approach to designing a 'sustainable urban morphology' of the *Cities in Transition* is required, looking in particular at a more consistent relationship between natural and built environment. At all scales, from individual buildings to the district and city level, this approach could bring back to a more consistent vision of the ratio between 'elements' (buildings and their gardens or pertinent areas), 'structures' (public gardens and parks and neighborhoods) and 'systems' (agricultural areas and urban districts), which make up an urban territory 'sustainable'.

Taking into account examples and case studies of sustainable traditional Mediterranean 'productive gardens', which are consistent with both urban organism and their architectural elements and forms, this paper focuses on the 'urban structures' level, aiming at highlighting the possibility of designing sustainable multi-functional urban gardens and parks, coherent with local agricultural and architectural forms, and with climatic and morphological local features.

These peri-urban open areas, designed following the Mediterranean tradition of the 'productive gardens' and aimed at re-connecting the agrarian fabric with the urban one, can be defined 'sustainable' because appropriate, in their architectural and agricultural forms, to regional characteristics.

Keywords: Productive gardens, Mediterranean regions, Inter-scalar consistency, sustainable urban landscape

EDUCATIONAL APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABILITY IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

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ABSTRACT

Residential building design in the context of contemporary residential culture and pertinent sustainable construction guidelines has been a fundamental professional challenge. Within the various approaches and practices, the Guideline for Sustainable Building (after the German Leitfadene Nachhaltiges Bauen, 2011) has been gradually introduced in Slovenia, analytically defining environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability qualities of buildings. Among these qualities, architects particularly focus on architectural design parameters that are difficult to quantify, unlike environmental and economic parameters. In the educational process at the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana, significant attention has been devoted to the interpretation of *cultural sustainability qualities*, which capture the parameters of functional building design, visual design, living environment perception, and the spatial context. This paper presents a methodological approach that has been systematically developed by educators over the last six years, with a view to *interpreting sustainability*. The working method was developed under study projects in the Design Studio 2 course entitled The House in Context. These projects involve the design of small-scale architectural developments with residential content, located in existing morphological structures, i.e. villages of Slovenian Istria. The traditional context presents a residential alternative to the urban space and an additional challenge to learn the basic steps of conceptualizing buildings. This method is divided into three steps: (a) interpretation of sustainable design principles and the contemporary residential culture, (b) spatial context valorization, and (c) project solution design. In the *sustainability interpretation* segment, this method includes interdisciplinary discussions between students and experts in energy engineering, statics, and economy, while in the creative building design process it includes the use of three tools at the same time: sketches, models, and renderings. Based on the results and promotion of preliminary design projects to the general public, we find that in implementing sustainability in a wider sense, it will be necessary, along with educating architects, to further the promotion of contemporary architecture (educating users) and administrative procedures concerning the preparation of implementing spatial planning documents (educating public administration officials), which, in fact, allow for implementation of projects.

Keywords: architectural design, sustainability, implementation, education, interpretation

METROPOLITAN CITIES FROM BOTH SIDES. APPROACHES AND TRAJECTORIES TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME

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ABSTRACT

In a contradictory panorama, in which the large cities of Italy and Europe are experiencing the structural phenomenon of stagnation or declining growth, although soil consumption is any way increasing, on the other side of the Adriatic in the Balkan countries, large cities grow by population and extension and live, in an amplified way, the conflicts and contradictions between wealth and poverty, tradition and projection to the future.

So geographically close but far from each other in terms of urban and political history, shape and character, the large cities on both sides are facing the same challenges: fragility towards natural phenomena, climate changes, soil consumption, the transformation of the population and its needs. Both need a renovated projectuality and new infrastructures, not grey, but green and blue, based on new projectual ingredients to rethink the metropolitan and urban system: water management, landscape and open spaces, history, and heritage; and also new densities, new utilities, new ways of living. These are new ingredients compared to the urbanism of the 1900s, which are nowadays necessary for both stagnant and growing cities.

Starting from the comparison between two case studies of the metropolitan cities of Tirana and Bari, characterized by spatial situations, urbanistic and institutional histories that are profoundly different, we want to analyze and compare the specificities of the territorial and institutional contexts, and also the differences and convergences of the approaches and methods of intervention - where they exist - concerning the problems that metropolitan cities today have to face. The paper, therefore, aims to analyze the ways in which planning tackles these challenges in the two metropolitan cities, trying to outline new approaches and possible projectual trajectories and to define the new ingredients of transformation projects at different scales.

Keywords: Metropolitan areas, green infrastructures, regeneration

RESPONSIVE SKINS

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ABSTRACT

What if we could design a building that, at any given time, was optimized for the environmental conditions around it? And what if, by doing so, we can obtain better performance and enhance the aesthetics of our design?

The sustainable revolution has based its studies, on the topic, in nature itself. As during its lifetime, nature changes and adapts its skin, in the same way, the building should act as a movable, responsive and changeable mechanism when confronted with different indoor and outdoor conditions.

In the last years, the world of engineering has experimented with different types of dynamic, intelligent systems. We can mention “User Control Dynamic Facade” – where users can control individually each motor for lightning; “Light Control Dynamic Facade” – where different geometries of sunshades rotate or move according to the needs of the building for light or according to the sun movement; “Wind Responsive Dynamic Facade” etc. We can find a lot of other examples inspired by and using of natural factors. After all, can any self-working mechanism be more perfectly sustainable than nature itself?

Innovation solutions like these, allow us to design self-optimizing buildings, which make architecture more sensible to the climate and culture of the space. At the same time, they bring a new quality of life to the users of the buildings, by engaging them more with the surrounded environment.

There are a lot of discussions and questions whether these types of facades are our final destination to sustainability, but for the moment let us be also like nature – change, adapt, reinvent again.

Keywords: sustainability, environment, facade, innovation, dynamic



URBAN WALKABILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CITY: PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS AS A MECHANISM FOR INCREASING URBAN OPEN PUBLIC SPACE CAPACITY FOR WALKING

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ABSTRACT

An important indicator of the sustainability of any city are the patterns of urban mobility. Scholarly work shows that walking as a form of an urban transportation has environmental, health and economic benefits, therefore improving the urban conditions for walking is a highly reasonable urban (re)development agenda. However, some statistics show that despite the unambiguous advantages of walking-supportive urban environments this concept has been mainly implemented in some selected urban areas so far (e.g. historic city cores, other central areas with touristic potential, regenerated areas of up-scale housing etc.) while large areas of the cities have not entered the processes of improving the walking conditions yet. A typical example is the housing areas in the cities' suburbia, where many people live and where the move towards more sustainable ways of transportation would considerably improve the sustainability index of any city. The obstacles for a slow introduction of urban measures to support walking are partly based in the limited human resources and managerial capacities of city administrations and partly in the financial consequences that major comprehensive improvements have for the cities' budgets.

The paper discusses possible steps towards a wider spread of walkability improvements in cities by considering a tighter cooperation between public partner (city authorities) and private partners (e.g.

local communities, local businesses, local interest groups, and organizations etc.) in both organizational and financial terms. The roles that each partner could take in the joined endeavors to achieve more walkable urban environments are discussed and possible solutions are proposed. The discussion is based on the insights of a 2016-2017 research project commissioned by the Slovenian research agency and Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning focusing on the way to support a sustainable development of Slovenian cities with the usage of public-private partnerships.

Keywords: sustainable urban development, mobility, public space, public-private partnership, Slovenia

NEW PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACE OF COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

The increasing sprawl of urban land uses is generating, all over the world, numerous negative externalities that affect quality of both natural and built environment (from the degradation and fragmentation of natural ecosystems to the sharp growth of energy consumptions and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; from the more and more frequent climate-related hazards to the increasing vulnerability of urban areas to natural and technological hazards), hindering the achievement of sustainability objectives both at local and at global scale.

This contribution will focus on these externalities by emphasizing, on the one hand, the key roles of cities, acting as responsible and meanwhile main targets of them; on the other hand, the relevance of urban planning strategies to improve cities' capacities to cope with these more and more complex and interconnected challenges they have to deal with.

In detail, the potential of the more and more widespread urban Metaphor of Resilient City used to depict a city capable to withstand, absorb and recover from sudden events and chronic stresses, caused by heterogeneous pressure factors (resources scarcity, economic crises, natural hazards, climate change, etc.) will be explored. Firstly, the advances of the resilience concept in the last decade, when the concept entered the urban studies domain, will be outlined; then, the opportunities arising from the idea of 'evolutionary resilience' (Davoudi et al. 2012) for better guiding planners in developing proactive and tailored to the site responses to current environmental challenges, with specific attention to traditional and climate-related risks, will be discussed.

Keywords: risks, climate change, urban resilience, land use planning strategies

THE VENTILATION EFFECTS AND HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN URBAN SPATIAL MORPHOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

City centers are evolving continuously and there is high demand for large structures derived also to a high-rise building. On the other hand, pedestrian comfort depends also on the wind conditions which is strongly guided by these man-made multistore structures inside spatial morphology. The main objective is to explore the relationship between airflow and high-rise buildings in a dense urban context. A 3D model was used to perform simulation analysis to evaluate the effect of wind around the simulation domain. For this simulation was used a Computational Fluid Dynamics software which was compatible with the 3D model. Results show that high rise buildings can prevent at large the ventilation. Also, high rise structures with considerable straight surfaces should be analyzed otherwise they can turn in extremely unfavorable to natural ventilation. Architectural volumes and urban corridors should be examined considering comfort ventilation perspective, otherwise, they can turn to unpleasant experience especially to pedestrians at the ground level. The prediction of the wind effects should be assessed during the design phases, where changes in projects are frequent. Poor ventilation effects coming from turbulence except for outdoor effects can cause several problems even to indoor activities.

Keywords: high-rise buildings, man-made structures, CFD, air flow, air tightness, infiltration, ventilation, packed architectural shapes.

"CIRCULAR ECONOMY" AS AN IMPERATIVE INDICATOR OF A SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT DERIVED BY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY – CASE STUDY PRISTINA

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ABSTRACT

Construction field is an important industry for improving resource productivity and with impact on urban development and GDP of the Country (actually in Kosovo, as calculated on the level of 15.76%). The intention of the system promoted by the European Union as “Circular Economy” is to keep the added value of the products for as long as possible and virtually eliminate waste from urban spaces as a fundamental guide of urban sustainability. The process of turning waste into a resource of new modes seems to reshape the development of construction industries, especially now when the need for building materials is increasing focus on the rapid growth of urban areas. The overall objective is to minimize the critical impact that the industry has in the urban environment such as Waste Generating, Greenhouse, Gas Emission, Noise and Dust Generating. The six actions that rule the “Circular Economy” profoundly improve environmental benefits for the urban area are: Regenerate, Share, Optimize, Loop, Virtualize and Exchange.

Understanding the fundamental needs of Pristina (using qualitative and comparative methodology) to catch up with the actual European trends of sustainable economic development and sustainable urban development, trigger the question raised by this research to analyze the construction industry development vs. rapid urban growth in Pristina and give recommendations on feasible actions to comply with international standards of “Circular Economy”.

Keywords: circular, economy, construction, industry, waste, environment, sustainability, urban, area.

SUSTAINABLE MULTIFUNCTIONAL APPROACH IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN LANDSCAPES

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ABSTRACT

Integration of agricultural areas into urban landscape is a current issue of great interest as marginality, fragility, fragmentation of spaces constitutes the premise of linking government policies and territorial management aimed at enhancing heritage cultural activities, with the support of sustainable multifunctional farming practices and awareness raising initiatives on *food safety*, *food security*, territorial governance and the improvement of the competitiveness of autogenous resources linked to food policy, rural space and landscape.

The contribution aims at analyzing possible strategies for enhancing subsidiarity and cooperation between the various actors involved in the territory, the use of intrinsic resources and the development of partnerships between stakeholders such as local and non-local enterprises, research and universities and territorial representations in order to describe innovative strategies useful to promote sustainable economic growth in the Apulia Region, by encouraging projects aimed at innovation and the enhancement of landscape, cities and territory.

Keywords: urban farming, agro-biodiversity, food policy, multifunctional agricultural parks, productive urban landscape

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS' STOCK IN KOSOVO AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

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ABSTRACT

Buildings are responsible for large portion of the global energy consumption. In Kosovo, the household sector consumed about 38% of the total energy consumption in recent years (MZhE 2013) and this mostly for their heating purposes (UNDP 2007). Public awareness for savings in energy is rather low and the government has to invest more in supporting and encouraging energy efficiency in the building sector. Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture at the University of Pristina "Hasan Pristina" with the project LEMMENS looks at the issue of energy efficiency renovation of existing buildings. Toward this end, we have examined the characteristics of the existing buildings' stock in Kosovo and its potential for energy savings. This paper reports with the corresponding statistical data and initial estimations of energy savings both in terms of the individual households as well as on the national level.

Keywords: energy efficiency, energy savings, existing buildings stock, Kosovo

VIRTUAL REALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS

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After a long incubation period which was concluded around 2010, with the strong development of CPUs' calculation power, the commercialization of small and cheaper hardware and of high performing software, the Virtual Reality (VR) technology is gaining more and more attention in several and relevant economic sectors of human life. For instance, in the automotive industry, VR is used in the systems-products design process during the transition phase from the concept to manufacturing, with significant cost reduction, whilst in medicine, VR is used to reduce the level of pain experienced by patients. In general, VR has been proved to be effective in all that situations where human experience is a key factor if experienced in advance. Thanks to the possibility to involve the population (e.g. local residents) or other evaluators (experts panel) in the multisensory experience of virtual environments, VR can support efficiently decision makers in the field of Urban Planning & Urban Design, enabling them both, a better understanding of citizens' needs and expectations, helping them increase their participation and trust in the decisional processes, and avoiding unnecessary or unwanted interventions and costs, making only sustainable interventions. Several types of research in the field of Urban Sound Planning and of Environmental Impact Assessment have proved the benefits of the use of VR in several situations: traffic limitation policies, urban renovation interventions, noise barriers installation, wind turbine and highway's environmental impact. The manuscript shows and discusses some of the main results of these researchers.

Keywords: virtual reality, sustainability, urban sound planning, environmental impact assessment

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The paper provides an insight into the research conducted by the Faculty of Architecture (University of Ljubljana), and the Urban Institute of Slovenia committed to the assessment of the efficiency related to the management of local resources at the level of neighborhoods. The reduction of energy consumption and energy efficient built environments are key objectives of many sustainability agendas, which is followed by suitable assessment methods in urban analytics. However, there are two important hesitations occurring: first, traditional assessment methods that focus solely on the energy reduction and efficiency are often too narrow in their analysis and limited in their scope of impact. According to the “Jevons Paradox” and “energy rebound effect” paradigm, energy efficiency alone will unlikely lead to an effective reduction in resources’ consumption or rise the living quality. These results point out the need for a radical shift toward the development of new approaches in the assessment and management of the built environment for a long-term sustainability. Second, to date, the majority of the evaluation methods - whether focusing to energy consumption or broader sustainability issues – are building- or household- oriented, thus systematically examining separate spatial and social entities, but neglecting the spaces between (connecting infrastructure and services, mobility, public and inter spaces, and urban design solutions etc.), the holistic aspect and the community aspect. The research develops structured evaluation model, this is, neighborhood sustainability performance index, which provides the foundation for targeted actions. To establish the described assessment model two main research pillars are addressed: 1) the development of the structured and modular system of indicators; and 2) the development of the methodology to interpret the resulting values. The paper presents first two stages of the research process and subjects the outcomes to the debate.

Keywords: Sustainability assessment, neighborhood, community, sustainability performance, decision-making

PLANNING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE: IDEAL CITIES MODELS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DURANA CITY, THE CASE OF SHIJAK

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ABSTRACT

The sustainable urban development determines and focuses the research on the properties and attributes of urban planning infrastructure and land use components of urban spaces. The postulate: "Access is what cities are all about. Man invented cities as an economic and social tool to create easy accessibility through co-location" (Schaeffer and Sclar, 1975) is the motto for the future planning of case study. During years the urban proximity between Durres and Tirana is reducing, this makes all experts and urban planners concerned about what will be the proper urban joint between those two existing big cities. Durres will be connected to Tirana through "the proper urban and landscape joint" giving birth to the Metropolitan city called Durana city. The urban strategies and the urban designer will deal with the relation between the physical form of the city and the social forces, which that usually create it. The objectives of this paper will highlight and reflect the concerns of the residents living in the core area of the new Durana City, with the focus of the sustainable urban development. The objectives will be based on understanding the ideal city models; understanding the indicators for Sustainable Urban Development; understanding how to apply the relevant ideal city models for sustainable urban development.

The conclusion of this paper, based on an empirical methodology, will be the exposure of the guidelines into the sustainable urban development planning, applied to the chosen case study, demonstrating that this approach will not stress or decrease the city's fiscal, social, and environmental resources.

Keywords: sustainable urban development, ideal city models, urban planning, urban design



SPATIAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS FOR COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION, CASE OF ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

Rapid changes in the economic and social development of Albanian society have left deep traces in the territory, in many cases transforming it and its surrounding environment irreversibly. Albania is being classified for 25 years now as a country still in transition: with a continuing difficulty to capture the pace of development as well as the social, environmental and economic stability that other countries in the European Union already have. During this period, the transition phase is also expressed in the planning legal framework and consequently also in the planning and development instruments of the territory. This situation has resulted in a series of transitional as much as permanent phenomena that have modified the territory, the cities and consequently people's lives on it. Urban sprawl, informal settlements, mismanagement of water bodies, coastline overexploitation, urbanization of agricultural land, deforestation etc. are some of the worst outcomes these years. In order to successfully overcome this always changing and transitional state, which is often used to disguise the above-mentioned phenomena, in 2013 initiates the process of drafting the National Spatial Plan "Albania 2030" which was approved as a Decree of Council of Ministers Nr. 881, on 14th December 2016? This is the first document of this kind for Albania, which addresses planning issues in an integrated way, looking at the Albanian territory, its problems, and potentials under one framework. This document marks an important milestone in the efforts to overcome the transitional situation of urban development in the country and to place the development of the territory on the tracks of sustainable goals. The paper will show the specific case of the drafting process and key elements of the first National Spatial Plan of Albania 2030 that mark its role in building a sustainable future for the country.

Keywords: spatial planning, country in transition, sustainable development, Albania 2030

EVALUATION OF HYGTROTHERMAL PERFORMANCE OF THE EXTERIOR INSULATION AND FINISHING SYSTEM APPLIED IN MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

The building's hygrothermal performance is based on how its envelope reacts to the outdoor conditions to provide indoor comfort. Thus, the same building envelope will perform differently under different outdoor conditions.

The aim of this study is to evaluate, through computational analysis, the widely used exterior insulation and finishing system (EIFS) in residential buildings in Albania (the 'Kapotë' system, plaster-polystyrene-masonry-plaster). Most of the new constructed multi-familiar buildings have an envelope composed of masonry (20-25cm) and 5cm of polystyrene for thermal insulation. This study is driven by a major concern: can this type of wall envelope be applied for all climate types?

The comparative analysis is conducted for the same theoretical room, with the same outdoor EIFS, in different positions of the floor plan perimeter, in different stories. Each of these scenarios is analyzed under four different climatic conditions. Climate data used for this study are obtained from Meteoronorm database, for four different cities in Albania (Shkodra, Tirana, Korça, and Vlora). Hygrothermal performance evaluation is conducted through computational simulation, under variable conditions, by using Energy Plus software. Results of the envelope's performance are compared to literature. On a successive step, improvement recommendations for each scenario are provided. Proposed improved scenarios serve as a basis for the development of standards and norms of design and construction for energy efficient and climate responsive buildings in Albania.

Keywords: climate responsive envelope, computational analysis, hygrothermal performance, exterior insulation and finishing system (EIFS)

SURFACE TEMPERATURE OF URBAN TEXTURE IN CENTRAL SQUARES

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Recently in Albania, public squares are redesigned and have changed their morphology. This article discusses the surface temperature of urban texture in two central squares in Albania. Hence, “Skanderbeg” Square in Tirana and “Iliria” Square in Durrës are taken as a case study. At the beginning of this research, is provided an assessment of the existing urban texture. Then, weather data such as air temperature, relative air humidity, wind speed, dew point and field measurements with the thermal camera are obtained for both squares with different urban texture. After that, the findings are evaluated in terms of urban thermal comfort.

In conclusion, the findings indicated that on 26-28 August 2017, thermal radiation of surface material is highly present in the afternoon in both squares. The well-studied use of different pavement materials, green areas, and water reduces the thermal radiation in public squares. In terms of urban thermal comfort, the results have shown that the arbitrary use of urban texture influences the outdoor thermal comfort, consequently the use of public squares.

Keywords: urban texture, thermal radiation, surface temperature, heat emission, urban heat islands

TOWARD DETERMINATION OF COST-EFFICIENCY IN THE RENOVATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN KOSOVO

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ABSTRACT

Energy use in the building sector is a worldwide problem. In Kosovo too, only the household sector consumed about 38% of the overall energy consumption in recent years (MZhE 2013). Most of this energy consumption in the household sector is dedicated to the needs for heating in housing spaces (UNDP 2007). In Kosovo first projects for the application of energy efficiency measures in new and existing buildings have begun. The government too has started completing the legislative framework which supports and encourages energy efficiency in the building sector. Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture at the University of Pristina "Hasan Pristina" with the project LEMMENS aims to address the issue of determination of the cost-efficiency of the measures for energy efficiency renovation of existing buildings. Toward this end, we have monitored the implementation of the measures for energy efficiency in a number of existing buildings. This paper reports on the initial results of the study and the challenges in this process.

Keywords: Energy efficiency, cost-efficiency, renovation of existing buildings, Kosovo

NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN AND COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the article is to assess the influence that neighborhood design has on the community buildings and strengthening. Each residential unit has two spaces: the private space inside the apartment and the public one shared out of the apartment. The second play an important role in connecting people between them and hence in creating and strengthening the community feelings. To assess the level of the influence of neighborhood design and urban planning features in the creation and strengthening of the community's perception we have referred to the function of common spaces provided in the urban design case studies and their respective size, expressed in $m^2/inhabitant$ or $m^2/construction\ surface$. Case studies are three neighborhood in the Tirana city with different characteristics in terms of the construction period, the typology of buildings and the position in the city area. From the study is found that the common spaces have tended to be reduced in terms of surface and function, from time to time. This study brings to the attention of urban designers and urban planners the fact that in addition to the technical elements in the design of urban projects also is necessary to be considered the social factors that usually remain hidden behind the technical ones. In this way, the planners can formulate clearer objectives for neighborhood design and community and strengthening.

Keywords: neighborhood design, community strengthening, social interaction

PRESERVATION OF COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE: ADAPTATION OF N.SH.R.A.K. FACTORY INTO MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACE

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ABSTRACT

In Albania, monuments of industry and technology have been underestimated during the recent years. Re-use of the old buildings might be the best strategy to preserve the city by an overpopulation of the new constructions. In this paper, the possibility of adaptive reuse of non-functioning industrial buildings is explored using the case study based in Tirana. N.SH.R.A.K. factory is an industrial building, which had lost its function and currently is abandoned despite its attractive location, which is closed to the city center of Tirana. Spatial and physical conditions of the factory are examined in order to find and propose the set of new functions, which are suitable to its location and needs of the citizens. The research starts with the study of archive materials, site observation, and informal conversations with the present occupants of the building and the neighborhood inhabitants. The physical conditions of the building are examined and the main spatial, construction and environmental quality problems are found at the second stage. All this process leads to the establishment of the proposal of a multifunctional center serving the neighborhood citizens. In the complex building, there are designed the spaces, which can host local activities missing in the post-communist era, such as the library, sports hall, common garden with amphitheater, cinema, art studios and exhibitions.

Keywords: industrial heritage, adaptive reuse, revitalization

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING IN ALBANIAN CLIMATIC ZONES. AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

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ABSTRACT

Designing housing that is economical, environmentally and socially sustainable has become one of the major challenges in the urban development process in Albania. As a signatory member of the Energy Community Treaty, Albania is obliged to implement The Energy Performance of Building Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU). On the other hand, buildings that apply energy efficiency standards have relatively high market value to be afforded by families with a low-income budget. Therefore, the challenge is to provide new and creative approaches that help to reduce the energy and construction costs throughout the entire dwelling operation cycle, while maintaining thermal comfort.

The experimental research focuses on the analysis, verification, and proposals for the design of the dwelling features necessary to achieve minimum energy consumption and thermal comfort conditions for all three types of climates in Albania. The experiment is conducted through the thermodynamic simulation engine "Energy Plus 4.0", integrated into the Design-Builder interface with meteorological data obtained from Meteonorm V7.1.8. For this experiment are selected three cities, one for each climatic zone in Albania.

The experimental research results highlight effective solutions for the geometry of the residential unit, the optimal orientation of the living and sleeping areas, the position and the size of the openings, the thickness for thermal insulation layers. Recommendations are given by using as a comparative basis the total energy consumption per year per unit of surface.

Implementing energy efficiency design approaches in new buildings provides a significant reduction in energy consumption, improves indoor conditions of thermal comfort as well as environmental impact.

Keywords: energy efficiency, housing design, thermal comfort, climate, Albania

PUBLIC SPACE-THE OWNERSHIP ISSUE: REMOVING THE OWNERSHIP BARRIERS

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, sensitivity to the treatment of public spaces has increased, as it plays an important role in the formation of cities. In Albania, due to the problems caused by the rapid and uncontrolled growth of cities, this issue has remained untreated and today we face the consequences. Only recently public space has become an element in urban design experiences and debate. As such, it is essential to provide a more open concept around public space.

One of the most important contemporary debates, 'Public space is declining or is just changing shape', addresses a very important question towards the concept of public space, especially to the ownership issue: Can a private space that generates public life be considered a public space?

This article intends to elaborate this concept based on public space primary function that is 'to generate public life'. Through an analytical review of literature and practice, it will argue that the concept of public space should be seen disengaged from the ownership element. Referring to the network of city spaces that generate public life today, in social and physical terms, it will explain that the main element defining a space as 'public' should be the accessibility. Furthermore, focusing on a case study in the old city center of Durres, it will argue that removing boundaries, but not the ownership status will increase the accessibility of spaces toward the public use. This methodology to create spaces with strong public features (public space) can be used as a management tool regarding urban regeneration process.

Keywords: public space, private space, public life, ownership, accessibility.

INDOOR POLLUTION

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Living in a world where indoor pollution creates devastating issues becomes eventually a continuous challenge. The article's goal is to investigate the problematics arising from indoor atmospheric pollution. This phenomenon is composed of enormous outdoor pollutants in combination with internal sources. The majority of potential contaminants sets out: passive tobacco smoke, nitrogen dioxide, asbestos fibers, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, radon decay products together with allergens and microorganisms. This effects various health problems which relate to indoor air pollution and demands a complete strategy in order to control sources adulterates indoor contaminants and enforces distinct regulations.

Keywords: indoor atmospheric pollution, control sources, health problems

A HEALTHY HOME - RADON RESISTANT NEW CONSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and chemically inert naturally occurring radioactive gaseous element. It comes from the disintegration chain of uranium and thorium. Therefore, it is released into the air from rock, soil, and water. Its increased levels expose health hazard to humans residing or working in old and new houses and buildings, well-sealed or drafty homes, residences and working places with or without basements. In general, its high levels in the air are hazardous to all humans, but young people, in particular, are most vulnerable to its radioactive effect. Based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates, lung cancer due to radon exposure claims about 21,000 U.S. lives annually. In every country, based on national average levels of radon and prevalence of smoking, it is estimated that around 3-14 is the percentage of radon-related lung cancers. In Europe, radon in the home accounts for about 9% of deaths from lung cancer and 2% of all deaths from cancer.

In Albania and Kosovo?! As it is a global problem, our countries, without being any exception should deal with this issue in order to reduce the risk of cancerous and other diseases stemming from radon inhalation or contact. A technically effective, easy and low-cost way of radon concentration reduction is presented in this paper. New homes can be built with radon-resistant features. This new approach to building new homes with simple and cost-effective radon-resistant features can reduce radon entry in the living environment. In the United States and many European countries, the radon protective measures in new buildings have become a routine; in some even a mandatory measure. It is the contribution of this paper to establish an applicable engineering method for constructing a building with reduced hazard from radon hazard for two our countries.

Keywords: green building, radon, lung cancer, risk assessment, construction techniques

IMPROVING URBAN MOBILITY FOR THE CITY OF DURRES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PLANNING, MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

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ABSTRACT

Transport and traffic are one of the greater problems in our cities that affect directly the quality of life and health of the inhabitants and has a significant impact on the environment, while transport is a major driving factor for the economy. On these contexts, improvements in the mobility and accessibility systems have been main issues for planners. The main objective is to create, sustainable urban mobility, more efficient, affordable safe that offers a choice of transportation modes, giving priority to pedestrians, public transport, bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles. The Goal is to change the travel behavior of car users by offering good public transport or other sustainable mobility modes, to improve the use of space and quality of life in the city. In this context, a lot of strategies and theories are developed in different countries, considering different flows of transportation and giving integrated solutions. The city of Durres, unlike other cities in Albania, has two big development potentials, being a touristic destination, and being the main node in Albania for a national merchandise exchange. The environmental consequences of road transport are particularly important. The air pollution of Durres is almost two times larger than the EU standards. (INSTAT) In order to improve this situation, the citizens must use alternative modes of transportation to private cars, such as walking, cycling, collective transport, or combining them during their everyday journey. The research proposes measures to improve this situation. The public network results to be inefficient and with low-quality standards, encouraging people to travel by private cars. Social segregation is noted in certain suburban parts of the city such as the Keneta zone and the coastal area.

The research proposes: the integration of public passenger transport through new lines; reorganization of the current public transport lines, integration of individual modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling and public transport operations; new measures and policies for achieving the main goal. Improving urban mobility should start by improving the personal mobility of each citizen, making them aware of all the effects irrational personal mobility has on the overall environment and its effects on our everyday lives. This awareness campaigns can influence in the mobility behavior of residents, working together for achieving better urban and suburban mobility, promoting walking and cycling, while improving their infrastructure, by making it more safe and attractive.

Keywords: sustainable urban mobility, traffic, public transport, transportation modes

TYOLOGICAL URBAN PATTERNS: BETWEEN TOTALITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY

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ABSTRACT

The urban layout of Albanian cities is a direct derivative of Albania's history, especially during the last century. The urban interventions decisive for the majority of buildings in cities and their massive urbanization are historical totalitarian periods of fascist during the 1940s, communist after World War II and it's after the fall of communism. In these periods, urban centers begin to periodically review their urban planning plans. Each of these periods has left clear signs in the territory with specific urban and architectural features distinct from each other.

This research attempts to analyze the current state of the typology of the typical urban paternity of both periods of totalitarianism and that of the late nineties so-called "democratic". This study will focus on the city of Tirana as the most common example of interventions of the Albanian urban centers, where all periods are quite evident. The analysis of the urban typologies of different patterns will be passed on to some filters that have to do with:

- Their composition and their spatial organization
- The system of motion and public space
- Analytical data on urban construction indicators

The research findings, after knowing the above elements, will attempt to extract positive and negative features for each period. These features have already become part of the historical background in Albanian cities, which will certainly be part of professional debates in the future.

Keywords: urban patterns, Tirana, totalitarianism, democracy

THE INFLUENCE OF DIFFERENT AGE BUILDINGS: IN KRUJA'S PEOPLE LIFESTYLE

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the people behavior in different age buildings and different buildings typology. In the city of Kruja exist mostly three types of buildings: the historical ones (medieval), the socialist ones and the contemporary buildings. Each of them has different characteristics, different energy exchange and different building materials. The influence of all these characteristics in the exchange of energy and how they reflect in changing the Kruja's people lifestyle is going to be analyzed.

A questionnaire will be undertaken to understand the way of life of Kruja's people and to draw conclusions. A comparative analysis of all these typologies of buildings will be undertaken in order to understand better the behavior of Kruja's people lifestyle living in these buildings.

Although the conditions are not good people tend to get a high level of place attachment and loyalty to the building they are living.

Keywords: people lifestyle, different age buildings, people behavior, an an energy exchange.

ECO-TIRANA: ECOLOGIZING THE CITY FROM THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

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“The city does not stand at the point where nature and artifice meet nor are human settlements consequences of culture modifying and imposing its needs on natural or wild places.” [Genovese et. al., 1998] As a matter of fact, the city of the 21st century is under attack because of its rapid urbanization and industrialization. What resurfaces is the concept of the eco-city - a city built and living within the means of the environment, a breathing ecosystem. Tirana is currently on the precipice of this issue: it is growing steadfastly, and with more problems than ever. It is so far away from being ecologically healthy. As such, one of its prevailing and damaging issues is the formation of urban heat islands. This phenomenon is considered as one of the major problems in the 21st century as a result of urbanization and industrialization of human civilization. The urban structures generate a large amount of heat from solar radiations and other sources (i.e. anthropogenic heat). This study evaluates different UHI mitigation strategies in an urban neighborhood in Tirana, selected due to its building intensity. The existence and extent of the UHI phenomena are documented in this case study. Different variables of the urban environment are hypothesized to influence UHI and the urban microclimate conditions. To support the process of design and evaluation of UHI mitigation measures, simulation-based applications are explored. The results show that implementations of different strategies can reduce negative impacts of hazards in cities, including overheating due to elevated temperatures, air pollution, and associated public health effects. Such strategies can also lower the demand for air conditioning-related energy production. Finally, this research supports new policies for promoting sustainable urban development in Tirana and suggests design strategies for a more resilient urban planning.

Keywords: urban heat islands; mitigation measures; modeling; evaluation; policies

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE DESIGN OF A GREEN BELT FOR TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

In the light of the increasingly recognized need to orient planning, management, and development of cities, which are constantly changing, towards a sustainable approach, this contribution aims to focus on the application case of Tirana. Nowadays we are witnessing at a global level the severe effects of unregulated and unsustainable environmental exploitation, the high oil consumption and sealing, factors that contribute to global warming and therefore lead to increasing energy consumption, compromise and depletion of natural resources. In addition to these consequences, there is also an increased risk of flooding, the lack of absorption of atmospheric pollutants, the removal of land from agriculture and, last but not least, the fragmentation of habitats, which constitutes a threat to biodiversity, compromising the functioning of ecosystems.

Tirana presents the critical aspects of large metropolitan areas that have grown up with discontinuous planning and are affected by recent, sudden and informal development processes that have led to an urban sprawl phenomenon, resulting in the lack of recognition of a relationship between urban spaces and countryside. To combat, control and restore this condition, the planning of a green belt can represent both a tool for landscape and urban regeneration, as well as an opportunity for environmental and ecological protection. This projectual device, belonging to the history of urban planning, must be integrated with the latest innovations in the field of sustainability: ecological networks and green infrastructures. The paper aims to describe a green belt project proposal for Tirana, defined through a strategic, multidisciplinary and multi-ladder approach that works on the historical, cultural and landscape heritage, on sustainable mobility and pursues the objective of building a green plot that is perfectly integrated with the urban context, while at the same time dealing with water management and recovery, waste disposal and the promotion of renewable energy.

Keywords: green belt, ecological network, green infrastructure, strategic approach, Tirana
TIRANA GENERAL LOCAL PLAN END THE DEFINITION OF A KALEIDOSCOPIC METROPOLIS

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ABSTRACT

As cities grow in importance, so too does architecture. Architects are playing a leading role in thinking about the future of cities and building structures that will define urban life for years to come. The “sustainability concept” is virtually the only possible model of land development under pressure of the global market that is able to secure a balance between higher living standards, environmental needs, and economic demands. Urban development is an important aspect of the global marketplace and will affect the future of Tirana as well as other eastern European cities in the coming decades. The new Tirana General Local Plan namely TR030 is part of a historical Albanian territorial reform started in 2014 with a new national administrative reorganization. Following the territorial reform where administrative boundaries of the Municipality of Tirana underwent radical changes, with an expansion of its administrative border by about 25 times, the consultants and the municipality developed the Plan which defines a framework for strategic and spatial development perspective for the city of Tirana. The Plan deals with a fundamental issue of reprocessing the entire city as a spatial structure within a transitional socioeconomic environment. Paraphrasing Raymond Hood and translating it into the territorial scale “the plan is the most important thing in architecture because it is where all human activity takes place”. This paper will explain on one hand the methodology applied for drafting the new general local plan of Tirana (the vision, the charter and the atlas) and on the other addressing the fundamental issue of how to turn quantity into quality through mix-use and cluster principles and subsequently turning Tirana from a “mono” to polycentric city.

Keywords: metropolis, design, architecture, territory, politics

EVALUATING RETAIL SITE-LOCATION ANALYSIS TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS ACCESSIBILITY: USING GIS AND THE GRAVITY MODEL IN TIRANA, ALBANIA

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Abstract

This study investigated how the neighborhood accessibility was reflected in the site-location by examining retail markets and shops viability of urban environmental factors supporting walking activities. A few attentions are given to the urban configuration and how that supports the retailing activity and their viability site-location in the neighborhood. Accessibility and pedestrian traffic are the most important factors that are considered when selecting a site area. However, the hypothesis of the retail viability have a linked to neighborhoods accessibility and set out to define a statistical relationship. The proposed methodology is demonstrated using a case study based on the city of Tirana. We analyzed the socio-economic data in the block area and the spatial data supported by GIS (Geographic Information Systems), which evidences the physical parameters of the retail site-locations urban environment and also the employment and business activity. The analysis of the site-location was led by the usage of GIS to locate where future Retail Store could be located. As well as a comparative analysis between GIS and the gravity model was done and combined techniques of the site location analysis were matched to produce results of the areas with the highest market potential. The results suggest the potential locations area in urban and suburban for the better viability of retail to the pedestrian-friendly orientation and proximity to housing. The paper concludes with the evaluation of the neighborhood configuration determining the business viability by various parameters and a better understanding of accessibility for recommended site locations and future potential areas to stores and expand the market.

Keywords: retail viability, site-location, neighborhood, accessibility, GIS spatial data

THE USE OF NATURAL LANDSCAPE AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY FOR TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

Tirana is positioned in a very particular topography surrounded by hills and mountain Dajti on its east side. The city from its creation, although going through different historical periods has always maintained mainly a horizontal development, letting this natural landscape serve as a background and therefore frame the city skyline.

The very dynamic demographic movement in this last 25 years, the quick and not controlled densification, the change from horizontal to vertical development has its impact on this scenery. The city itself has lost many of the spaces, or their dimensions are reduced at a point where perspectives are lost. Tirana is growing as a compact artificial development and is not only losing the natural relationship with the surroundings; it is also losing the environmental qualities.

The aim of this study is to highlight the landscape values of the natural environment in the city, and especially its surroundings, considering them a strong identity element. The city as a lifelong organism will develop, grow, and change together with all the other aspects but should the city change its identifying elements or should the planners try to emphasize their values, and moreover use them in the city design process? The study goes through an analysis in understanding the (1) evolution of the city boundary and skyline (2) the use of natural values in the city planning through its lifetime as per the demographic dynamics and needs. This study is being proposed as an attempt to develop theoretical strategies such as re-evaluations of city spaces, the creation of communicative perspectives, development of a natural network, communication and interaction of build and natural environment and their use through the design process as a contribution towards a more sustainable development.

Keywords: landscape, skyline, city boundary, sustainability, identity

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN KOSOVO

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ABSTRACT

The need for environmental protection and sustainability has increased worldwide, including developing countries such as Kosovo. Considering the development of the construction practices through time, such concerns are of vital importance. Kosovo is a newly developing country depending on unsustainable and insufficient energy sources, such as electricity generated from fossil fuels. The need for energy is very high, especially in the residential sector, due to inadequate building design and systems. The largest share of total electricity consumption in the country (57.6%) is due to residential buildings, from which around 35% is used for space heating. A significant impact on energy use is accounted for user presence and behavior. Given this context, it is necessary to address, amongst other things, the indoor climate conditions and comfort and as well inhabitants' awareness regarding the importance of their behavior and potential building retrofit.

To explore some of these issues, three multi-family residential buildings are selected for the study. Located in Pristina, the capital city of Kosovo, these buildings share similar climate conditions and socio-cultural background. The aim of the study is to evaluate the buildings indoor climate based on occupants' perception, including their opinion on the potential benefits of energy retrofit of the buildings and willingness to financially support such interventions. The results allow identifying the occupant's level of satisfaction regarding the energy performance and respective indoor air quality and climate conditions. Moreover, the study indicates in general low awareness on the impact of building design, systems and urban settlement on the total energy performance of the building. However, they are conscious of the importance of a thermally insulated façade and windows. The study concludes with a discussion regarding the potential participation of the owners of the building units in energy retrofit of the buildings.

Keywords: energy performance, energy efficiency, user behavior, user awareness, residential buildings, Kosovo

DISABILITY AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS – A STUDY ON PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF PRISTINA

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ABSTRACT

Eliminating architectural barriers in the city to enable the free movement of citizens with mobility difficulties is the cornerstone of equality and democracy in a city. Every sector of society and government should offer a barrier-free access. Local governments should set an example by providing full physical access to public buildings they administer. The benefits of providing access to these buildings are substantial to empowering all citizens regardless of age, gender, ability, and financial situation.

The built environment in Kosovar cities continues to be extensively inaccessible for people with disabilities. Though in the past decade the existing stock of public buildings has seen mandatory improvements by providing minimal accessibility, in the majority of cases these technical interventions haven't improved to a greater extent the accessibility of these buildings whatsoever. To confirm the above-mentioned situation, in July 2016 a study of accessibility of 195 public buildings in the municipality of Pristina was carried out. The main objective of this investigation was to highlight the major problems persons with disability living in Pristina face with buildings and services managed by the local government.

The study shows that the extent of inaccessible public buildings in Pristina continues to be a disturbing phenomenon demonstrating the persisting segregation of disabled persons in the Kosovar society. However, Administrative Instruction 33/2007 regulating barrier-free design and construction has been in power since 2007, public buildings constructed subsequent to this document's approval continue to have architectural barriers and as such remain to a great extent inaccessible to the needy ones. Among many factors making this phenomenon persist is incompetent and unethical design practice of Kosovar architects, lack of will of local administration to enforce regulations in power. The described situation with pertinent legal setbacks seems to be liable for the unimproved accessibility of the built environment in Pristina.

Keywords: persons with disability, architectural barriers, public buildings

EMERGENCY RECONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AFTER THE 1999 WAR IN KOSOVO

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ABSTRACT

The post-war situation in Kosovo in 1999, in most cities and especially in rural settlements, was immensely difficult. Living in most of the settlements, completely or partially burned, was impossible. To recover such a state, emergency interventions from many international organizations were first focused on housing. Along with the reconstruction and rebuilding of residential buildings, the most important factor for the return of residents to their settlements was the improvement of the infrastructure of primary school buildings. Design and construction principles were based on international standards, combined with JUS or DIN standards which were used before the war. In terms of reforming the educational system, as an immediate necessity was the developing of some own unified standards. Therefore, in the year 2000, Urban Planning Office of Pristina (EUP) developed the “Design guide for a Primary school in Kosovo” and later the “design guidelines for school facilities norms and standards” were developed by Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST). The purpose of this study is to analyze the process of emergency design and construction of primary schools in the post-war period in Kosovo, from 1999 and afterward, also to investigate the impact of the used standards on the reforming of the educational system. The study was performed on following case studies: primary school "IdrizAjeti" - Shalë (Lipjan), "Ramiz Sadiku" - Gllarevo (Klinë), Abri e Epërme in Glogovac, "KongresiiManastirit" – Studençan (Suharekë). Outcomes have shown that post-war Kosovo design standards, used for the design and emergency construction of primary schools, have contributed to the easy and informal transition from traditional school to new school architecture and were suitable for application of new teaching methods.

Keywords: emergency reconstruction, rebuilding, primary schools, standards and norms

REDEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION OF LIN'S VILLAGE WATERFRONT IN THE OHRID LAKE

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ABSTRACT

Redevelopment and regeneration of the waterfront sites are not a new phenomenon in Albania. It has been the keyword of the territory reform in the last five years. The paper presents the urban and architectonic study of the Lin's Village Waterfront. Through deep analyses of the actual situation, it has been evidenced needs for waterfront regeneration and the revitalization which will bring to the village attractiveness for tourism and economic development.

The case study was chosen related to the strategic location in the Ohrid Lake and rare touristic potentials, including ancient history and other cultural heritage values. In order to go through valuable solutions, the study of the urban cell genesis in the village is done. This study proposed the creation of two main centers; the new modern one and the historic center. Following that, more detailed functions are proposed in each of them. In the historic center, it was proposed a linear square before the church, oriented toward the lake, to highlight the values of that cult and to emphasize its role in the square. On the new center, this study is focused on restoration of the existing buildings and adding a new mole and a contemporary square with functions that generate more tourists and consequently economical incomes, such as; traditional retail shops, bars, restaurant, paint atelier and hotel. The proposed architecture solutions are sustainable, minimal interventions that are respecting the urban morphology of the area.

In the conclusions, are presented urban and architectonic solutions for the regeneration and revitalization of Lin's lake shore and the development of tourism. Some recommendation for the fund generation and community participation are given.

Keywords: waterfront regeneration, rural development, sustainable, revitalization, lakeshore

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping hexagons. Some hexagons are solid light gray, while others are defined by dashed white lines. The overall effect is a textured, geometric composition.

Formal and informal settlements

WITHOUT ARCHITECTS?

SPONTANEOUS ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE IN POST-SOCIALIST TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

Buildings not designed by architects, but simply built by their dwellers, are seldom considered in the architectural literature. Bernard Rudofsky's *Architecture without architects*, published in 1964, addressed in a manifesto-style the issue of spontaneity in the built environment. Most of the cases illustrated by Rudofsky are referred to buildings entirely built without a project by a professional. Rudofsky implied the mutual extraneity between buildings by architects and buildings by non-architects and exhorted his architectural audience to instill the vitality he found in the latter into the first. Though what happens when buildings designed by architects are radically modified by their dwellers? Is radical modification a reaction to lack of design that needs to be compensated, or to over-design that needs to be moderated? What can architects absorb from the tension between designing and dwelling, professionalism and ingenuity? Is this tension generated by symbolical values clashing with utilitarian needs? And if yes, do architects stand for symbolism and dwellers for utilitarianism, or vice-versa?

This talk addresses these questions using as a case study the "*shtesa*", extension built by dwellers to add rooms and functions to Albanian communist, prefab multi-apartment residential buildings, after the regime's fall. *Shtesa* is built literally "against and within" communist architecture, as well as it embodies the anti-disciplinary stance that architects have always to expect from the inhabitants of their buildings. *Shtesas* are not merely architecture without architects; they are counterattacks against the invasion of space by politics and of architecture by ideology. The theoretical and methodological background is offered by the *elements of architecture* research project, led by Rem Koolhaas for the 14th Venice architecture biennale to which the proponent was associate.

Keywords: *shtesa*, elements of architecture, Rudofsky, dwelling



BETWEEN VACUUM AND ENERGY! THE CHALLENGE OF TURBO-CAPITALISM FOR ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

This presentation and article will be focused on the challenges of urban and territorial developments in Albania after 1990 up to date. The main focus will be given to:

1. Quick historic overview of the nature of developments in Albania before and after change
2. Explosion of informality, reasons, and factors behind, pioneering formalization, legal actions, success, and failures
3. Informality as part of life: demystifying informality, typologies, and quantities, turbo-capitalism, turbo-culture, turbo design and architecture, turbo urbanism.
4. The need for a social-political pact to move ahead, and the role of architects and planners to change.

The lecture will be based on personal experience with analyzing informality in Albania during early 90-s and 2000-s in Albania. Pilot and improvement actions with pioneering organization Co-PLAN, and later on with World Bank, UNDP, and Albanian Government. Moving to national strategies and countrywide reforms: special government task force with Hernando de Sotro and ILD Peru; as well as drafting new legislation on formalization and territorial planning, etc. The ideas are further elaborated at "Misteri 6" published by Polis-Press.

Keyword: Urbanization, Informal, criminal, illegal, extralegal, formal, formalization, reforms, demystification of dead capital

LACUNARITY AND ROAD NETWORK DENSITY AS INDEXES FOR MEASURING SPATIAL IDENTITY. INFORMAL PATTERNS VS. VERNACULAR URBAN SETTLEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

The paper tends to further expand the theory of fractal indexes applied in urbanism, more specifically in measuring spatial characteristics of urban morphologies. The paper deals with two main questions: Can we build a method for comparing urban morphologies only relying on fractal dimension values? Are there relations between the fragmentation scale of the built form and mobility within a specific urban pattern?

For answering the above questions, experimental measurements of fractal indexes are done on binary images belonging to two distinct families of urban patterns; informal settlements and vernacular ones. Due to the similar fragmentation scale of their built form, the fractal dimension values are comparable. This fact requires references to other indexes for describing the spatial characteristics. The hypothesis elaborated in this research proposes a method based on two additional parameters; lacunarity and road network density.

The outcome shows that informal urban patterns perform in higher values of lacunarity and lower values of road network densities compared to vernacular ones, even though they appear to have similar values of the fractal dimension. In the first case, the mass is more dispersed, by consequence the movement less redundant compared to vernacular patterns.

Keywords: lacunarity, spatial identity, road network density, informal patterns, vernacular patterns

NEW FORMS OF DWELLING: LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER WITHIN THE NEOLIBERAL CITY

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ABSTRACT

The research aims to the definition of new forms of collective living against the classical housing model within the recent real estate crisis. The contemporary way of life passes through new forms of *cognitive* labor on which the new workers class is defined by the social individuals of *digital production*. In this transformation, *from the factory to the metropolis*, work becomes the main daily activity extended also into domestic space. This condition declares an individual way of life, separated from the public sphere of political participation, based on self-exploitation and personal schedule for better performance within job's market.

The thesis investigates the historical paradigms of *co-living* focusing on two important aspects: first, the archetypes of (chosen) forms of living together sharing a communal rule (a way of life) which directly corresponds to architectural forms; second, architectural composition principles divided by categories of co-living spaces types. The main paradigms are defined by monastic architecture, the utopian architecture of XVIIth-XIXth and by soviet communal-house experience. In those examples, chosen way of living arises as an alternative to the existing society starting from the medieval monks, through the utopian phalanx to the apogee of soviet communal ideology.

These reflections lead to rethinking new forms of *living* and *working* together where architecture itself could be a political project for social emancipation. The new paradigm can be defined starting from contemporary experiences within some main European metropolis (Berlin, Wien, Copenhagen, Maastricht etc.) where, mostly, groups of people (individuals or smaller families) chose to live together in a sort of *res gestae* against neoliberalism. Here the inhabitants' way of life can be no more imposed by current social system but a shared way of living and working together where architecture, in its different declination of the dialectic of individual and collective space, determines the scenario of this form of living.

Keywords: communal, living, working, way of life, neoliberalism

SUSPENDED IDENTITIES - READINGS ON THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL LANDSCAPE OF TIRANA AFTER THE FALL OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME

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ABSTRACT

The research investigates the spontaneous transformation of the architectural landscape in the city of Tirana after the collapse of the communist regime, with a special focus on the transformation of residential buildings.

The study captures the evolution of Tirana during the 20th century, where the dialogue between the great transformations brought by totalitarian regimes and the original Ottoman architecture marks the overlap of western architectural influences with the fundamental characteristics of the city.

Tradition, as understood through the study of the Albanian house with Ottoman influence, in light of the continuous and spontaneous transfiguration of socialist residential structures, is interpreted in a metaphorical sense as an attempt of the city to recover the architectural identity that was constrained by the monumental constructions of totalitarian regimes.

The analysis of the transformations of the housing system after the collapse of communism highlights how, in a total state of anarchy, the strict continues façades of socialist residential buildings overlap with a multitude of ephemeral constructions. The study of the transformation processes, through a morphological reading of the buildings, is centered in one of the most representative districts of Tirana (district 1st of May in Tirana).

The aim of the research is to highlight the possible compositional strategies underlying the spontaneous practices analyzed, in order to serve as a supporting reference in a possible attempt to recover the communist-era residential structures of Tirana.

The study of the spontaneous transformation of the architectural heritage of Tirana, together with the interpretative analysis of the types of dwellings and the characteristics of Ottoman-Albanian tradition, represents a starting point in understanding the identity of Albanian architecture and aims to serve as a reference point for any future project focused on transforming the city's socialist housing heritage.

As a conclusion, a project is proposed as a possible compositional scheme for a part of the city analyzed (district 1 Maji). The concept of the project, starting from the original conformation of the residential buildings, accepts the spontaneous additions already made and reconfigures the spaces by entering forms and typologies of the Albanian tradition - for example, the fire room - responding to the problem of expanding the city with an operation to re-writing the existing one.

Keywords: spontaneous architecture, Ottoman architecture, identity, socialist housing

RAREFY/DENSIFY. STRATEGIES FOR THE REUSE OF DROSSCAPES

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ABSTRACT

The shared vision of tomorrow's European city is that of a dwelling, ecological or environmental regeneration where balanced economic growth and territorial organization of activities are based on a polycentric settlement structure, consisting of a network of compact urban nucleuses alternating with natural spaces and cultivated countryside to counter urban sprawl and ensure a high level of environmental and living quality.

Brownfields, waste areas, *drosscapes* have become the occasion to redefine the form of cities, assuming as a paradigm a renewed relationship between open and dilated nature spaces and dense, internal properly urban spaces.

This allows to concentrate the attention to the environment not only in ecological but above all morphological terms, raising the reflection on the issues of densification, rarefaction, morphology, and *vacuum* of nature: any modification can be an ideal continuation/transformation of the existing one according to various techniques such as building replacement through *demolition/reconstruction* of buildings that have run out of their lifecycle; the *restoration* through the restructuring of buildings or groups of buildings; *densification*, or construction in the residual spaces of the urban fabric (*infill*) or in the growth of the volumetric dimension (*build on* and *retrofitting*) of the existing; the *rarefaction*, that is, the emptying of some incongruous and obsolete parts to realize the *renaturalisation* of the open field.

Taranto, an industrial city in deep decline, strongly linked to the ILVA steel industry events, is a complex and paradigmatic case study for experimenting with *drosscapes re-use* strategies and new *settlement/dwelling* models to redefine the form of the city and the activities that these new spaces can accommodate by offering the city new urbanism of greater collective value and new opportunities for economic revival.

Keywords: Drosscapes, densification, Brownfield, re-use

HARMONIOUS ARCHITECTURE AND SPACE THROUGH AUTONOMOUS ARCHITECTURE: KOSOVO MODERN IN COMPARISON WITH ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE

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ABSTRACT

The contribution to a better understanding of Kosovo's architecture and design history, with emphasis on one of the most important and dynamic periods of the 20th century, namely the years which in the region were considered more "liberal" pertaining to various spheres of life, 1970s and 1980s, will be in focus while memorizing the capital city of the time. In the case of Kosovo, this term could be understood differently, depending on the side it is looked at, social or the design one. Anyhow, from the design perspective this intention could very well be considered a positive factor. From the architectural viewpoint, design intends to follow technological advance, the trends, and movements of the time. Consequently, the erection of few specific buildings, the National and University Library (Fig.1), Youth and Sports Centre (Fig.2) and "Rilindja" offices building (Fig.3) in Prishtina, surrounded by symbols related to different types of identity and leading towards regional modernism, is an important aspect. This leads towards possibilities for transforming architectural styles, but only to a certain degree that lets the contemporary play the major role. After all, the above-mentioned structures could and should be considered valuable examples for the years of general transformation in Prishtina and in all of Kosovo. To some extent, these transformations had a negative impact if the reality that so many traditional buildings were destroyed, is taken into consideration. However, even with all the contemporary way of thinking, the traditions and other regional aspects were not entirely disregarded, especially in the case of the Library building. Comparison styles and structures elsewhere in Europe, designed and constructed during similar years and period of time, will intend to give an argument of inline or aligned architectural developments.

Keywords: modern architecture, identity, regionalism, tradition

THREE DECADES OF (UN)PLANNED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE EVERGREEN QUESTION OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

Fall of the Berlin Wall triggered the begging of a long transition for the Western Balkan's Countries implying significant social, economic and political transformations. Since the early 90's, the boom of (every kind of) informality, has been silently accepted by every government in Albania. Furthermore, the prevailing of private initiatives, more precisely the *laissez-faire*, with the consequent "vanish" of public interest awareness, redefined informality as a hegemonic economic principle. Spatial planning in Albania has been perceived as a mere technical tool by technocrats to control the territory, but completely powerless to contrast informal settlements developed in outskirts of the urban centers. This phenomenon, resulting from the high internal migration developed regional disparities and inequalities, highlighting the lack of opportunities and living conditions in the rural centers. Actually, these settlements are undergoing into a gradual legalization process, representing a clear political intent to recognize and afterward start their urban integration which is threatened from the private market transformation once the legalization process is over. As long as the private (legally and illegally built) housing market has prevailed toward social housing, the recent global crisis recalled to the public opinion the importance of this common good. From this perspective, the recent changes regarding spatial planning as an integrated approach: the adoption of Social Housing Strategy 2016-2025; introduction of the law for the energy efficiency and the ongoing legalization process, represent a historical momentum to re-establish the focus on (sustainable) social housing. On these bases, the contribution is divided into three parts. Part one, giving a critical overview of the main drivers of the (un)planned territorial development. Part two, shedding light on the tradition of social housing in the region and in Albania. Part three, interlacing the question of social housing to the main domestic planning questions.

Keywords: Albanian spatial planning, informality, sustainable social housing

HISTORIC AND POLITICAL TRACES IN URBAN STRUCTURE OF EX YUGOSLAV CITIES

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ABSTRACT

In the history of ex Yugoslav cities, there are only three different structural units that can be observed as regular and designed urban tissue entities and there are other, irregular urban structural forms. The regular structural forms are remains of planned city history and the irregular structural forms are remains of political permissive attitude towards city planning in a late 20th century. The paper is based on my doctoral thesis “Similarities of ex Yugoslav cities” that is being finished. The observation of around 100 cities in the ex Yugoslav area has been conducted in order to define if the socialist state of Yugoslavia, founded on the borders of two European empires (the Habsburg and the ottoman) has affected the cities in a way that could result in similarities of their urban structure. The basis of this comparative study was an observation of satellite images of cities. The main result of the study is that similarities exist, but they have to be interpreted “cum grano salis”. Main cities that have been thoroughly observed: Split (CRO), Belgrade (SRB), Sarajevo (BIH), Priština (KOS), Maribor (SLO).

Keywords: ex Yugoslavia, urban structure, urban development, urban history

PROSPECTS OF EMERGENT SETTLEMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: NEIGHBOURHOODS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE, CASE OF TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

Transformations in settlements occur as a direct consequence of socio-political processes a community goes through. This research tries to inquire into these patterns, helping us define some first clues regarding the connections between values and environmental form.

It commences as an attempt to tackle the challenges of city transformations, break down the concept of emergence and focus more in detail on emergent settlements in Tirana; the reasons behind their formation, its current state, and potential regeneration strategies. Emergence in Tirana acquired the shape of informal settlements, a phenomenon that began in the 90s. As a result of a change of political systems from a centralized system to a liberal one, in small cities, people were left with no stable job opportunities. Consequently, they moved to bigger cities like Tirana and Durrës. Newcomers started building structures in the peripheries of the major cities, invading the former agricultural land. Tirana, Albania's capital grew immensely in a short period of time and was not able to sustain these major changes. The newly generated urban areas are now facing difficulties related to land tenure acquisition along with the lack of social and physical infrastructure.

As a first step, the research will study the historical developments of emergent settlements worldwide, present reference case studies. This study is strongly based on a thorough background analysis of previous approaches, followed by a hands-on site survey on each of the informal settlements in Tirana. More specifically, these settlements are examined conducting an inclusive analysis and elaborating one neighborhood as a case study in order to illustrate a potential strategy as a model for tackling these settlement's challenges. The qualitative aspect of this research is extremely important, reflected in the meticulous surveys, interviews, and questionnaires developed on site. The main aim consists of developing policies and actions that could regenerate these areas physically as well as socially, including both top-down and bottom-up strategies, an approach which has not been fully addressed in Albania.

Keywords: emergence, informality, neighborhood, regeneration, sustainability

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES AND EVOKING MEMORIES THROUGH REGENERATION PROJECTS

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ABSTRACT

The switch of the political system, as in many aspects, has by default influenced in land development due to the return of private property rights resulting thus in a dynamic, and mostly chaotic because of lack of proper legislation, the process led by the continuous demand for housing. Such process has introduced informal development in the inverse of ‘the hole in donut’ where majority tends to occupy the empty land as near with the cities’ centers as it could be or to intensify without certain rules the building density. Despite the economic effects the process might have had, it has neglected the public spaces and their impact on the vitality of the society.

There has been an initiative from the central government to stop the further development of informality through compiling and approving the urban planning documents for most cities and to requalify the occupied public spaces especially cities’ centers. This study focuses on the analysis of the top-down initiative and the evaluation of bottom-up process in the implementation of certain investments on public spaces. The aim is to understand the result of the meeting point of these two processes and to figure out the real impact of physical improvements of spaces in the empowerment of the community, and the role in sharpening the city fabric as catalysts for further public or private investments.

The case study of this paper is the regeneration area of the central park and its surroundings in the city of Fier, which will be examined according to spatial, professional, and local knowledge through research, in-situ observation, interviews, and questionnaires in terms of a social experiment. The examination takes into consideration both the phases of pre- and post- implementation of the project.

Keywords: collective memory, public spaces, regeneration projects, bottom-up and top-down processes

THE SOCIAL AND URBAN CONSTRUCTION OF COLLECTIVE MEMORY: TIRANA'S OLD VILLAS AS SOCIALLY MEDIATED SPACES

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we present findings resulting from cultural landscape surveying carried out to envisage a series of psycho-geographical walks with relation to the sensorial components of Tirana's built environment. Our research concentrated in municipal units number 8 and 10, and partly 3. The methodology we employed consisted mainly of diagnostic exploratory walks and interviews with inhabitants on their collective urban memory. We focused on villas built before 1945 to explore their sensitivity and intimacy. To this purpose, we traced the historical development of the urban landscape in: Kristo Frasheri's *Historia e Tiranës: Historia e Tiranës si Qytet deri me 1920*, Emin Riza's *Qyteti dhe Banesa Qytetare Shqiptare Shek. XV-XIX*, and Dhamo, Thomai and Aliaj's *Tirana Qytet i Munguar*.

Taking into consideration the development and transformation of Tirana's villas and the creation of neighborhoods before the socialist period, we encountered our study objects having expanded within given spatial unities, from generation to generation, vertically but mostly horizontally. We also noticed that these expansions resumed through the appropriation of public neighborhood spaces again from the early 1990s. We noticed, thus, the rise of a series of cul-de-sacs. Due to the fact that the cul-de-sacs had on their own preserved the sensorial attributes that render the specifics of a socially mediated built environment, - such as the evocative painting of porches and walls in white and red, the cultivation of roses and small vase blooming plants, fig trees, old wooden and metal gates - these intricate dead-ends became our leitmotif.

The cul-de-sacs are very present in Tirana given that the villas have developed on their own as spatial unities. The social and urban nature of the cul-de-sac in Tirana has developed in two specific historical periods: the first one, before 1945, when the villa assumed the characteristics of settlement; and the second phase, after 1992, at a period when public space appropriation was normalized and the cul-de-sac entrenched between its initial informality and consequent formalizations by the implementation of urban policies. To conclude, we make the case for the cul-de-sac being a decisive factor to the creation of new notions on public and private spaces, all the while contributing to affects that inform Tirana's collective memory.

Keywords: Tirana old villas, cul-de-sac, collective memory, psycho-geographical mappings, public spaces

TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION, THE DOUBLE HOME AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: FROM INFORMAL TO FORMAL?

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ABSTRACT

Cities in transition economies tend to be hotspots of migration: A massive inflow from rural areas runs parallel with a significant outflow of people that aim to make a living abroad. Yet, those who depart are not simply gone: Transnational migration is rarely permanent, but often involves phases of return; it forges a broad range of trans-local relations, and it triggers the transfer of ideas and capital between the old and the new home.

Within the last decades, remittances, i.e. financial means that migrants transfer to their home country, have attracted significant attention by economics, anthropology and migration studies. Even if scholars from these fields have indicated that a large portion of remittances is deployed for construction activities, architecture and urbanism have only recently started to scrutinize the impact of remittances on the built environment. While there are some studies on single buildings erected by migrants (e.g. Lopez 2015), a systematic appreciation of the nexus of remittances and urban development is still missing.

The aim of the paper is to conceptually clarify the impact of emigration on 'departure cities' (Vöckler and König 2017) by referring to the debate on formality and informality. The paper differentiates between several phases of migration flows and focuses on trans-local actors that contribute to the increasing formalization and financialization of remittances. Moreover, the paper argues that the distinction of formality and informality is related to different temporalities of urban development. Empirically, the paper is based on preliminary observations from Kosovo and Romania.

Keywords: emigration, translocality, remittances, construction, urban development

SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT OF ROMANI SETTLEMENT IN BULGARIA

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ABSTRACT:

Today one of the biggest challenges Europe has to face after its enlargement is the poor socio-economic conditions of the Romani people, which is unacceptable at the beginning of the 21st century. According to the recent statistics, there are around 12 million people, currently spread all over Europe, but predominantly in the South-Eastern part of the continent. Their camps and ghettos are in the cities all over Europe such as Paris (France), Rome (Italy), Belgrade (Serbia), but the largest are in Romania and Bulgaria. Our project in Peschtera shows the complexity of the problem in similar neighborhoods. Our innovative solution is not only by offering new housing prototypes, as a model for sustainable improvement of these vulnerable neighborhoods in Bulgaria and across Europe but used more holistic strategy, recommended by the EU framework for integrating Romani people on the national and international level. The approach, where the physical improvement of the neighborhood, such as housing, is combined with the social and economic integration (employment, education, and healthcare), in order to address and solve the challenge successfully. “Europe 2020” strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, outlines five targets to be achieved by 2020, and social inclusion and poverty reduction is one of them. A strategy which is aligned as well with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the Habitat III UN New Urban Agenda.

Keywords: sustainability, informal settlements, inclusive design

THE CHALLENGE OF IN FORMALIZING ARCHITECTURE TO SERVE THE INHABITANTS OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS OF BEIRUT

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ABSTRACT

While architects are involved with only 2% of the built environment¹, residents of informal settlements are the architects of their own self-constructed houses. The enigmatic architecture of these houses that was born from a critical economic situation of its users poses many problems as result of the weakness in design and space use, the traditional structural systems, the used materials, etc. In Lebanon, informal settlements began appearing at the end of the 1940s when impoverished rural migrants started fleeing to the capital, Beirut, in search of better job opportunities in the newly industrialized city. The architectural design of the houses basically emerges from the scheme of the rural house, while the construction was elaborated incrementally. The aim of the paper is to study and compare the two neighborhoods of Nabaa and Rouweissat within the area of informality in a spatial and architectural context, and discuss how Architecture can improve inhabitants' living conditions. The paper analyses the two neighborhoods discoursing how informal settlements were formed, how they grew, how they are used, and how people are living in. Finally, the paper proposes a strategy for the improvement, while stressing on the involvement of architects and the participation of residents in the process. This strategy suggests some architectural interventions valuable for the amelioration of the quality of life inside the informal settlements of Beirut.

Keywords: informal vs formal settlements, technological regeneration, upgrade process, Beirut.

¹ King, J. 2014. "Introducing "Potty-Girl," The Architect of the Future?". Accessed October 30, 2017. <https://www.archdaily.com/529934/introducing-potty-girl-the-architect-of-the-future>.

MANAGEMENT OF LAND INFORMATION IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the context of management of land information in Albania. It describes the current state of the land information and evolution over the years. After years '90-s the demand for land, especially served with the infrastructure increased tremendously as a result of economic and political changes in Albania, a combination of strategies, poor housing conditions, seeing both as a financial security of this investment, development of private industry and the rapid growth of urban population.

Widespread reforms were made to privatize the land and open the land market in Albania. However, after these years, the most common main problems facing the government and cities are: (i) Lack of land, especially land for urban service; (ii) Lack of planned interventions and norms and urban information system for development; (iii) Non coordination to finance the main infrastructure between its agencies and local authorities; (iv) Delay in returning land to former owners.

The information that our institutions have in our country is fragmented, so difficult to understand and harms resource management. This fragmented information has had negative effects on the management of investment funds. The preparation of this material comes after a long research and experience and has also been supported by major studies by the World Bank, Eurialius in Albania, and other important international institutions related to land administration issues.

The main challenges are the analysis, assessment, and consideration of existing problems affecting the land information, to assess the possible directions towards its institutionalization in a more formal framework and to improve government intervention in their performance.

Keywords: land, information, management, market, administration

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND PLANNING NEW URBAN BLOCKS

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ABSTRACT

Informal settlements are a major problem in the urban life and urban planning in several countries in the Balkans. Poverty, poor planning policies, the disregard of the existing situation while planning, or planning from the office, are some of the reasons which have brought to the appearance of informal buildings and settlements in the past, and continue to appear every day.

In Macedonia, in the recent period (2011), the Parliament has come up with a law to legalize the informal buildings, be it residential, retail, office buildings etc. as a way to solve the formal problem of the buildings as a property. As a result, a big part of the informal building have been legalized, and there were made some announcements that there is going to be a second term for legalization, which will take part in the beginning of 2018. Meanwhile, no account has been taken on providing those settlements/ areas with infrastructure, recreational areas, social buildings etc.

However, even with the law of legalization, the trend of building illegally, even if has slowed down, it hasn't stopped. Which way should we act in order to stop this trend and stimulate people to build properly and legal wise?

This paper gives an insight of the legal matters of the legalization process, a statistical analysis of the trend of building legally/ illegally and the impact of legalization. A case study is taken in one of the largest cities in Macedonia, Kumanovo, where we have proposed planning a new residential block in an area surrounded by informal buildings, as a way to prevent future informal expansion.

Keywords: Informal settlements, legalization, planning, residential, building trend

COHOUSING REMEDY: WHAT CAN THE “CO” BE INCLUSIVE ABOUT?

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ABSTRACT

Contemporary life and social needs are flowing at a different pace. Living in big cities, such as metropolis of Tirana, is getting more expensive, lonelier, unsteady, volatile, baseless. Ownership and individuality related to housing, are moving toward a less-permanent relationship. On the other hand, offices domain is undergoing a sharp deterioration, as new labor morphology rises in our modern area, affecting the spectrum of our social and work relationships. The distinction between living and working is blurry and merged into one, because of the “sharing” culture and embracing of new technologies. While disabled people are hardly seen at work, as they are seen as a deviation to the social realm, dealing with inclusive environments, is more than a slope plane issue for access. Developing inside the membrane of these rigid typologies forges difficulty for the individuals. The hypothesis investigated in this work is the remedy of these typologies by overlapping patterns of living, working and learning of the collective consumer. This can create an outsource for domestic tasks, the opportunity for disabled people to be normal participators in collective processes, socialization, affordable solutions, sustainable life, and decentralization. Starting with some special case studies in Netherland, this universal cohousing research overlooks the Albanian experience of “co” during the communism system, and transformational potential of the traditional lifestyle. The proposed research methodology aims the transformation of prior old traditional houses into environments, where living, working and learning can coexist within innovative space frames. This experimental project applies its intervention instruments in the abandoned multi-familiar houses under a common roof, an old typology developed in the Tirana historical core. This discussion urges thinking about the advantages of these co-working-housing-hoping spaces and the relationship between inclusive co-houses, new forms of labor and effectively urban regeneration.

Keywords: cohousing, working & living, inclusive, lifestyle, typology remedy

DEFINING SPACE THROUGH THE DESIGN PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

The public space or the space between buildings in the Albanian built environment has been treated in different ways. Actually, in the Albanian context can be identified three layouts: chronologically, the first one derives from the so called ottoman era, in which the *public space* was a much more spontaneously created space between buildings; the second one, during the communist era, public space seems to have a little more attention as a means for the education of the *new man*, but the process of space modelling was again underestimated; the third moment starts after the '90s when the process of form and space modelling was mostly imposed by the market forces. In the actual situation of the Albanian society, it seems like building and development are synonyms of the destruction of values of the public space, with architects blaming the market forces for not considering the public dimension of the architectural object.

In this context, our aim in this study is to change the approach of the design process considering the architectural object as urban finality. During the second academic year, the theme which served as a generator for the students' project ideas was the shifting of focus from the object itself to the object as a space boundary, considering it an element for defining the public space.

Due to the coexistence of different urban scales in the same built environment, the challenge of the architectural concept treats the compositional opportunities towards a possible formal balance. Sometimes the object even adds value to the quality of the space in the given context. The aim of this subject is to verify that through a responsible design process it not only doesn't eliminate, but it generates and re-evaluates the quality of the public space, considering defining it the very first step.

Keywords: space modeling, design process, space quality

TYOLOGIES OF ALBANIAN SCHOOLS BASED ON SITE AND LOCATION DESIGN

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ABSTRACT

A school is a place that symbolizes the process of learning and teaching, it's a space that hosts and protects children but it also represents a symbol for the community, city and the landscape. The educational buildings have the challenging role of representing urban or rural sites, the patterns and the texture of the surrounding building as well the historical, geographical features of the place that hosts them. Site analyses, context studies, and investigations on the position of the building's footprint are decisive factors in the conceptual process of design and impacts directly the architects' choices in shaping a building in all its parts, morphology, volumes, materials, colors etc. Even though, this principle is not implemented in Albania where buildings including educational ones were designed and constructed based on a unique typology with the same standards all over the country, neglecting these crucial aspects.

The main objective of the research is to explore which are the main typologies of school buildings designed in Albania during 50 years of the Communist regime, referring to site and location topic and how to have these factors affected the articulations, designs, as also divisions of scholastic typologies. The method used for this investigation is based on primary resources collected at the Central Technical Archives of Construction. It consists of more than 100 school types built in Albania during the course of 50 years.

Keywords: schools' architecture, typologies, standardized buildings, site, location.

APARTMENT TYPOLOGIES IN THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN TIRANA DURING THE PERIOD 1929-1943

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ABSTRACT

The evolution of housing structures from 1929 to 1943 is quite evident not only in shape but also in content. This study, at the beginning, provides the data of housing typologies in the years 1929 up to 1943. The typological classification of apartments is based on the specific qualities by identifying their characteristics in order to establish the differences between them. The investigation of typological transformation and evolution of apartments in the selected case studies of multifamily houses in Tirana applies a multi-layered methodological approach. The study is conducted by graphic analyzing of different types of apartments in order to detect the evolutionary characteristics of each example during this period. The main purpose of this paper is to identify the process of development in apartment plan based on the typologies, functionality, and occupancy. The increase of a number of apartments per building is obvious, from two apartments in a detached house in 1929 to twenty-eight apartments in multifamily buildings designed in the years 1939-1943. The transformation process of the plans analyzed in this paper demonstrates that it is not simply the changing arrangement of rooms inside of each apartment but the interaction between the apartments and shared spaces that define the evolution of apartment plan. In the conclusion, the study reveals the topological transformation of the apartment plan and the exact way in which the residential buildings were designed by architects in each period.

Keywords: apartment typology, residential buildings, occupancy Tirana, multifamily houses

HOUSING BLOCK AND SPACES BETWEEN HOUSING IN TIRANA FROM 1980 TO 2017

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the movement in the streets of Tirana and inside its residential areas is very busy with traffic and noise. Tirana is a city full of light, smiling and welcoming, oftentimes stressful because of the heavy traffic. This is due to a somewhat not well thought, vigorous urban development, with a fast congestion for the last 27-years of the decade. With the change of political system from communism to democracy, all residential areas in Albania had uncontrolled demographic movement towards the capital. The aim of this paper is to identify the problems and to analyze the existing situation during 1980-2017. The Post-communist period in Albania since 1990, is characterized by rapid urbanization. During this transition period, the main feature of the Tirana's urbanization has been the rapid growth of new homes in the suburbs and the densification of the inner part of the city, The period is characterized by the growth of urban density, the alienation of space from relaxing recreational areas, in those occupied by informal buildings, bars, restaurants and car parking. This has led to uncontrolled changes to existing buildings and spaces between them. Comparisons of the urban block from 1980 to 2017, and the changes that the spaces between houses have suffered during this period were brought by the case study of the complex "50 anniversary" in Tirana.

Keywords: urban block transformation, space between buildings, illegal construction

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping hexagons and dashed lines. The hexagons are rendered in a light gray color, some as solid outlines and others as semi-transparent shapes. Dashed lines connect various vertices of the hexagons, creating a network-like structure that suggests movement or connections between different points. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and geometric.

Memory of places

FROM BIM TO H-BIM: A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

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ABSTRACT

About 20 years ago, the so-called digital revolution came forcefully into architectural domain radically changing the way architecture was designed, documented, represented, visualized and even built. Lines traced on paper were first confronted and then quickly overcome by digital mathematical entities (points, lines, surfaces) interactively created, edited and visualized by users using a CAD software on a personal computer.

Something similar is happening right now under our eyes: in fact, the whole architectural domain is quickly shifting from CAD to the Building Information Modelling (BIM), an “all-in-one” environment where the entire construction process can be step by step triggered, simulated, guided, controlled and assessed.

The BIM is thus bound to drastically change our approach to the design, the construction and even the management of buildings but, while its application to new structures is already quite consolidated, on the contrary when it is applied to existing ones (especially when historical) it still reveals not so adequate.

In this framework, this presentation will not discuss the differences between CAD and BIM or the undoubted potential of BIM software from a technical or operational standpoint. It will focus instead on the issues connected with its application to the existing built stock, a problem that is generally regarded as “sectoral” but that, on the contrary, will be crucial for a real development of BIM systems and their generalized adoption as existing constructions represent about 70% of European whole stock.

Keywords: Building Information, modelling, H-BIM, CAD software, applications, existing built stock

PERTURBING MONUMENTS, SLEEPING GIANTS, ABANDONED MACHINES: MEMORY AND RENEWAL OF INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPES

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ABSTRACT

The brownfield industrial areas are a problematic heritage of 20th-century development. Today we have to deal with them because of environmental, economic and social reasons. Industrial sites have transformed territories and built singular sites. Industrial architecture belongs to the history, culture, and memory of the entire community. It is also necessary to consider the "aesthetic" value of landscapes and industrial architectures related to the architectural culture of the twentieth century. Indeed, the industrial settlements and architectures were assumed by the Modern Movement as models for the rational city and as an expression of a renewed architectural conception. If reusing was a constantly present practice in architectural cultures, for industrial sites it is necessary to first recognize the value of "patrimony" of landscapes and of abandoned artefacts; the added value of the recovery operation from the economic, environmental, social and cultural point of view must be highlighted; we need to choose what to preserve, enhance and reuse.

Albania is a very interesting case of study. It has been heavily invested since the early twentieth century by the phenomenon of industrialization. The change of the political and socioeconomic contingencies, along with the obsolescence of the structures and used technologies and the environmental incompatibility with urban, natural and agricultural contexts, has led to the disposal of most of this problematic heritage. Now that Albania is about to enter in Europe, this country is looking for effectual examples and good practices for the re-use of industrial heritage while maintaining its own specificity and enhancing its identity.

A research held at the Politecnico di Bari has dealt with the theme of the recovery and re-utilization of the Albanian industrial heritage, choosing highly degraded but significant places for the historic Albanian industry (Kombinat of Tirana, Elbasan's Metallurgy, Mao Zedong of Berat, Gogo Nushi of Fier). These sites have been studied in relation to the contiguous urban areas and the nearby archaeological, historical and naturalistic sites, with the aim of making them become cultural, social and economic "attractors".

Keywords: industrial heritage, industrial landscapes, industrial archeology, environmental recovery and regeneration, Albanian industrial sites.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS: NEW STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

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ABSTRACT

The recent Cultural Heritage Code (2004) defines Conservation as planned, long-lasting process, passing previous concepts of “restoration”. Therefore, it led to innovate the research of testing and studying works of art, which were oriented to the “one shot in the building life”. According to the new perspective, achieving a preventive conservation makes the continuous application of good practices of maintenance necessary, supported by inspection/checking methods and structures to file the knowledge/assessment data. In the most numerous cases, conservation means also developing planned activities to prevent damage. The turn of perspective from the passive protection of Cultural Heritage to the preventive mitigation of the cause of damage requires also to assess the risk factors due to the environment, location, use of the building, with the support of a preliminary diagnostics.

Integrating diagnostic techniques for the early assessment of damages is useful to:

- 1) Mapping the presence of humidity, especially at severe ambient conditions,
- 2) Monitoring microclimate, by mapping colder surfaces (thermal bridges, different materials of coatings and masonry, etc)

In addition, the analysis of risk factors inside and outside the buildings (environment, use of heating plants, the presence of visitors, etc) have as a result the identification of specific microclimatic conditions and thermal-hygrometrical behaviors which are critical for the conservation of materials. Knowing such conditions, the further step of the plan of conservation is to draw the guidelines for the most effective removal of damage causes, without requiring a complete refurbishment or restoration of the building, control in time the results of preventive action, and to set the threshold values for the maintenance activities.

The new trend of this applied research in the field of diagnostics for Cultural Heritage is to make the use of instruments on-site reliable, feasible and affordable. The obtained information is crucial to evaluate the risks and to plan the necessary actions for preventing further damages and loss of materials, with the results to warrant the permanence of the original and authentic features of the historic buildings.

Keywords: planned conservation, diagnostics, risk factor, imaging techniques, Cultural Heritage

USING, SAVING, LOSING THE MEMORY (IS CONSTRUCTING ANYWAY RE-CONSTRUCTING?)

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ABSTRACT

Could the memory be canceled? Somebody believes that erasing the symbols of the recent past history could be enough to inoculate the present, preventing the rebirth of bad periods.

Chiseling out from the buildings the stone symbols of the fascist period, smashing down the Lenin's statue, destroying the face of Saddam, taking it out on the monuments of the Civil War could be a temporary way to calm our thirst for vengeance, but memory denial – as the psychoanalysts could demonstrate – is the first step to a collective removing which blocks the drawing up process of the question. Memory, and sometimes the tradition itself, could be invented – or reinvented - for specific purposes. There are some cases where the challenge with the past is direct, obliged, site-specific based. For centuries, new buildings have been built on the ruins and foundations of previous works, using these materials in various ways.

Is building not far from re-building? Anyway, as an architect, nor as a historian nor as an art critic who I am not, I suggest considering that the presence of the past projects forming. Architecture is about carrying forward what has preceded us, providing a more advanced version of how we found it. We are not interested in embalming the past. We prefer to recognize its ability to accept the transformation without denying it.

As a personal experience, I bring to IFAU17 the reconstruction of the Dom Römer quarter in Frankfurt. The case history is dedicated to the second reconstruction of the site, destroyed by bombs and by the first afterwar reconstruction.

Keywords: memory, tradition, constructing, reconstructing, identities, reconstructing, identities

MEMORY OF PLACES: HEREDITY AND CONTINUITY

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ABSTRACT

The In its etymological sense, inheritance is a heritage transmitted by one or more predecessors to those who may be the legitimate successors who, in turn, should commit themselves to administering and transferring it further to future descendants. Cultural heritage, in particular, represents the vast inheritance that we have received from a past that is no longer and that, having protected it in our contemporaneity, we rely on a future that is not yet. The enhancement of cultural heritage as heritage and memory is an ethical obligation of our contemporaneity. The continuity between what was, what it is, and what it is will represent, in this sense, simultaneously the concept of inheritance and memory. Urban and territorial sites represent settlements of remote and recent transformative continuities that, over time and as a whole, have shaped their identity characters. The comparison with such characters, the knowledge of the different sedimentary layers, the recognition of witnesses values, the distinction between relevant and irrelevant, the awareness of the amending choice in a logical connection perspective between existing reality and those to come represent the conceptual basis for a continuity project. The completeness of analytical reading of architecture provided by traditional and innovative representation methods, filtered from the rational objectivity of the measurable design and from the ideal subjectivity of perspective, becomes the conceptual assumption of an operational methodology that pushes to confront not only with the knowledge of existing through the relief design but also and above all to measure with its possible transformation through the design of modification. An analytic and propositional path that can be built on the principle of continuity through the awareness that, starting from the knowledge of the architectural testimonies of the past and verifying its state of preservation in the present, it is also possible to project in the future an appropriate modification proposal is able to enhance the natural environment and built, too often, neglected, abandoned and degraded.

Keywords: drawing, heredity, continuity



MUTATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The words “tradition” and “modernity” only apparently express concepts far each other for meaning and historical importance. The first one is related to the past and the second one to actuality and future. Indeed the two meanings overlap themselves just because the tradition, to be and become that, represented modernity and contemporaneity during the times in which expresses itself. So, the words are equivalent in meaning and just the temporal and linguistic factor brings them to a distance which indeed doesn't exist.

The same historical town can be represented as a “stone book” composed by successive chapters of modernity without distinctions of times.

So, CHANGING means, do not totally replace a chapter of the memory, but decline new scenery starting from those rules which designed the city. Compositional examples of this cultural approach will be analyzed.

Keywords: tradition, modernity, contemporaneity, memory

URBAN MEMORY AND THE DYNAMIC CHANGE IN THE CONCEPT OF PRESERVING HISTORICAL HERITAGE

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ABSTRACT

In the transition period, like all the cities of Albania, Tirana has suffered a crisis of urban identity that is presented in four specific situations such as Brownfield, degraded and informal areas, new constructions and historical heritage transformed in the existing city. In all cases, the intervention methodologies for urban development should favor and encourage the principles of sustainability and preservation of the urban memory and historical heritage.

The paper opens with the determination of the sustainability and development of the existing city, landscape conservation, and urban heritage. The evidence of the urban and architectural values of the historical heritage in the city of Tirana and the role of these values in everyday life is done. It follows with describing the main context factors, the historical background of urban development, and the new urban planning instruments for development. In the second part, the study focuses on the analysis the situation of the historic buildings and sites situated in the historical center of Tirana. The four case study projects studied have been part of the dynamic change in the concept of preserving the architectural heritage. Analyzes how this change is managed demonstrates case by case the right and wrong decisions made by architects and decision makers regarding the urban memory and historical heritage transformed.

Responding to the findings, in the recommendations, are proposed several mechanisms for preserving the urban memory and historical heritage based on sustainable planning instruments.

Keywords: urban memory, historical heritage, preservation, historical landscape, sustainable development.



CONTRIBUTION OF BIM TECHNOLOGY TO DOCUMENTING MEMORY OF PLACES

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ABSTRACT

The central point of this study is the implementation of building information modeling (BIM) technology in the process of documenting heritage buildings. Being an emergent technology in the domain of AEC (Architecture, Engineering, and Construction), BIM is an approach to the design process in which a 3D geometry model serves as the main infrastructure for representing various another kind of information, available to all participants in the design/construction process. An important characteristic of BIM is its capacity to theoretically represent a designed building through its entire lifecycle, from its inception, through the design and construction processes, the operation during its usage, until its demolition. The purpose of the BIM model is often to describe all parts of the building that are going to be constructed, as well as all equipment, HVAC elements, furniture etc. Unlike the implementation in designing new objects, where the BIM technology is present from an early stage of design when it goes to heritage buildings the BIM model is based on documentation that is often not up to date and on the various building surveys including the 3D laser scanning. Using the methodology of content analysis, in this paper we review three examples of the so-called historic building information modeling (HBIM) from the international practice. The three examples (Harmondsworth Barn, Manchester Town Hall, and Sidney Opera House) have been completed within the research projects funded by their respective states and publicly reported. Finally, we present the experiment done with the master students at the University of Belgrade, modeling the historic Building of Technical Faculties. The paper concludes with a discussion of a various possible usage of HBIM models and their contribution to the memory of places.

Keywords: BIM, building information modelling, documentation, heritage

DRAWING IN TRANSITION. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CITY OF POMPEII

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ABSTRACT

The research is focused on the built environment documents the ancient city of Pompeii, pursuing the detection methods performed in the nineteenth century and the geometric analysis of the domes'. The methods adopted by the surveyors, architects, draftsmen, landscape artists, testified, regardless of the techniques and the exact match to the actual situation, the progressive cultural engagement in the representation of the works examined. The scientific contribution and technical merit of the drawings of Italian and international artists from the nineteenth century to today testified research in support of further studies to remember how some architects of the Enlightenment age from surveys and graphics of the Vesuvius they drew antiquities and culture the creative activities of villas, theatres, public buildings and street furniture. They are to highlight the drawings and the surveys carried out in order to reconstruct, for analyzing building process of the Pompeian factories. They are graphics that stimulate a direct the architecture and the urban analysis: analysis for the historical and critical knowledge of the architectural role of the static and the visual function, the relationship between the internal and external space and dimensional and aesthetical relations. We can also say that the Vesuvius archaeological events have considerably boosted to synergies from different disciplines; historiography of the ancient world that was developed by interpolating the knowledge of the archaeologist and photographer, the detector and the architect, the draftsman and landscape painter. As regards the survey is to consider the recent acquisition operations through the 3D digital recording, laser scanners or photogrammetric. The latest 3D laser scanner technologies integrate the laser sensor to the photographic so as to acquire from each point of Cartesian and photographic data views that are unique synthesis and representation in the point cloud photo-realistic reality. The integration technology could be completed with the accurate calculation of GPS antennas: the Cartesians data will be referred to as absolute geocentric systems and are no longer on to the field architectural or urban.

Keywords: drawing, city, Pompeii, survey

CULTURAL HERITAGE DIGITALIZATION. CASE STUDY: ALBANIAN ARTIFACTS APPROACH FOR DIGITALIZATION AND 3D PRINTING

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ABSTRACT

Advancements in 3D technology have gained attention in different areas by changing our way of living. This technology has become an indispensable tool in various applications enabling the creation of highly accurate 3D objects. Digital heritage preservation and visualization as one of these applications, has increased in the last years. Different countries around the world are using 3D scanning technology to produce a digital replica of artifacts.

The aim of this paper is showing the implementation of 3d scanning techniques for virtualization, 3D documentation, and physical replica purpose of some archaeological objects in Albania. Image-based modeling techniques enable 3D model reconstruction by 2D images. Results from different archaeological objects taken in different places will be presented. Virtual cultural heritage will not be a new trend, it will be a way to transform culture heritage into the digital age. Their scope 's not an only digital database of cultural heritage but their use is also a deep analyze by measurements, comparison, and assessment of 3D objects. Digitalization of cultural heritage will make possible their availability in websites, enhancing in this way the cultural experience. These will help to increase the visitor's numbers as a new way to invest in the preservation of cultural heritage.

Keywords: cultural heritage, digitalization, 3D technology

NEUROARCHITECTURE AND PLACE MAKING: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND BRAIN

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ABSTRACT

Currently, there is an approach toward modern understanding or designing of the cities in general, including orientation to neuro-architecture principles. Taking into account the principle of the intelligent and sustainable city in general and especially the logic of creating space for the individual as a human being, the aim of the study is to analyze the relationship between the trinomial such as mental wellbeing, brain and built environment in terms of memory. Familiarizing with the theoretical basis that guides principles inspired by neuroscience towards the ideologies of placemaking, the study will focus on the historical center of Tirana. The used methodology will first consist of detecting the connection between well-being, the memory of places and brain and then on the identification of elements that shaped during years the corresponding area. So initially, after analyzing general issues of neuro-architecture and placemaking, local context will be considered and eventually a possible solution in terms of (neuro) placemaking to create a more spontaneous connection between design, the perception of space and the welfare.

As per conclusion, the main outcome would be the creation of human places by preserving from the past valuable concepts of space developments in traditional neighborhoods of Tirana, such as the preservation of neighbors' rituals and mentality.

Keywords: neuroscience, placemaking, brain, mental wellbeing, built environment.

THE FORTRESS IN THE CITY OF SKOPJE IN MACEDONIA. RELAYS AND COMPARATIVE REPRESENTATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The synergy between territory and fortified structures, such as castles, towers, and walls, is of fundamental importance for capturing specific historical and architectural aspects of European, non-European and European cities, regions and nations. The research proposes the peculiarities of a city tragically marked by history, but also "drawn" by humans in its urban structures: Skopje. The capital of Macedonia, the city with a thousand statues, surprises the observer with the colossal sculptures that characterize its urban fabric, abnormal and unusual dimensions, placed along the streets of the center and the various bridges crossing the Vardar River. In the central square of the city stands the most famous statue of Alexander the Great, placed at the top of the column of a fountain, represents the leader on his Bucefalo horse with his raised paws, so captured in the typical pose of the equestrian statue symbolizing the idea of his invincibility. In the old part of the city of Skopje, just above the Old Bazaar, stands the Byzantine Fortress (VI century BC), which for centuries dominated the city. Its strategic position has resulted in numerous destructions until a recent renovation following the massive damage of the 1963 earthquake (the urban plan of the whole city devastated by the earthquake was entrusted to Kenzo Tange). Formed by the main tower and over 100 meters long walls, erected with stone blocks taken from the ancient Roman city Skupi, the fortress is often used for cultural and folk events. The research shows the results of the measurements and surveys - through the Ryobi laser instrument - of the main structures that make up the fortress in order to illustrate the architectural features and capture the relationship with the city.

Keywords: drawing, survey, fortress

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TIRANA CITY

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ABSTRACT

Industrial landscaping is a misinterpreted heritage: *in the worst case*, the rusty urban industrial belt, dangerous, a toxic desert; *in the best case*, an important historical resource that can be reused, reinforcing the cultural identity and creating new prospects. But industrial heritage may also be a living memory of how the world of today came to life as it was when the industry employed entire communities and enabled revitalization for many cities. In this aspect, these historic industrial landscapes deserve our close attention.

In the situation of the today's cities when the remains of the former industrial era are part of the new urban matrix as much as they are part of the memory of society the documentation and preservation of industrial monuments is an issue.

The history of industrial development, in Albania, started in the first half of the 19th century continuing with the expansion of industrial sector during the communist regime. Industrial buildings were the most constructed typology, creating an industrial landscape of the Albanian cities. With the change of political system, after the 1990s, the destiny of the industrial objects was undetermined. The lack of a strategic plan for conversion and reuse of industrial heritage brought degradation. Some of the industrial buildings were degraded, and some of them were occupied. Only a part of them changed the destination.

In this context, the paper presents a study of industrial heritage in Tirana city. Our intention is to document and evaluate the importance of industrial heritage. It discusses the interests and problems through a confrontation of what was a building or industrial site and how is the situation today. The paper also aims to document and make an assessment of what can be preserved to keep alive the historical memory of these buildings.

Keywords: industrial heritage, industrial architecture, historical memory

NEW SCHOOLS, OLD DESIGNS: A COMPARISON OF THE SCHOLASTIC ARCHITECTURE IN ALBANIA IN TWO DIFFERENT PERIODS

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ABSTRACT

The evolution in the educational sector came naturally with the ongoing drastic changes that have happened in Albania during the last three decades. A great number of new schools are being constructed and many are planned to be built in the future, trying to fulfill the necessity for new classrooms and better spaces for children. These new structures which are mostly established in the ruins and stringent territories of the old institutions, surrounded by high buildings, traffic roads, and terrible urban conditions resemble and restore the old organization schemes, morphology and space distributions without considering the drastic changes occurred in the Albanian society, education, architecture, construction and other aspects. Even though that schools' design relates to various pedagogical, psychological, sociological, economical, sustainable factors- the problems related to the architecture of schools, the morphological developments, distributions of modalities, and organizational shapes are the most important issues.

This paper tries to analyse differences and variations of the scholastic organism, passing through two main historical stages of Albania to discover and explore the built environment and the planimetric developments. The focus is on the comparison of two different architectures, political systems, and philosophies of education in two main periods: the imposed and standardized schools of the communist period, and the new buildings emerged during the transformations in the post-communist period (1990-present). This analysis is followed by a discussion of the architecture's developments, typologies, morphologies, space distributions, organizations, structures and shapes of this category of buildings, trying to fill the gap in the history and knowledge on these important group of edifices.

Keywords: schools' architecture, typologies, standardized structures, comparison, schemes

'PHYSICAL' SPACE AS MATTER OF IDENTITY AND PRESERVATION. THREE EXPERIMENTS IN SWITZERLAND'S TICINO REGION

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ABSTRACT

Sometimes the best efforts rise from demanding conditions, producing interesting ideas and solutions. Architecture in Switzerland's Ticino region has provided a remarkable contribution to the debate on historic and cultural landscape preservation since in the 1960s its subalpine territory – once dotted by small settlements on the valley floors – was rapidly transformed into one of the most significant examples of urban sprawl in Europe. This situation engaged a whole generation of architects against territorial deterioration, stimulating singular experiences related to the transformation of historical settlements. Theoretically, they referred to coeval Italian debate on urban heritage - conveyed to Ticino by the ideas of Aldo Rossi. Concretely, they followed an autonomous path, always preferring professional dimension to theoretical sophistication. In this sense, some Italian contents appear even polished, by being simplified and applied in these experiences.

Among the highlights of this culture, there is the centrality of spatial issues, even when concerning the scale of urban or landscape transformation. According to Flora Ruchat, the urban spatial structure is the main depository of cultural identity, and thus it is meant to be the prime object of preservation and revitalization projects. Density and compactness of historic urban fabric, as well as organicity of paths, light and historical memory, shape the real environment in which we live and recognize ourselves.

This proposal aims to explore this specific attitude through the comparison of three different experiences, enlightening their approach to 'physical' space as a matter of preservation.

T. Carloni, L. Snozzi, L. Vacchini, Bellinzona (1962-70)

T. Carloni, P. Fumagalli, T. Lucchini, Lugano (1970)

F. Ruchat-Roncati, Riva San Vitale (1989-99)

The experiences are different for their starting conditions, state of progress, inheritance, and even level of experimentation and partiality. Nevertheless, the disparities show the strength of a common attitude that represents an important Ticinese contribution to urban heritage preservation theory.

Keywords: physical space, identity, preservation, Ticino Region

KNOWING TO ENHANCE: ALTO CASERTANO TERRITORY (CAMPANIA, ITALY) IN THE MIDDLE AGES

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ABSTRACT

The transition from Late Antiquity to Middle Ages is characterized by the spread of new types of settlements that thoroughly modified the landscape. The main change was the progressive abandonment of the valley floor and the construction of defensive structures and towers aiming at the control of the territory. The territory located in the north of Campania region (Southern Italy), included in Caserta province and known as Alto Casertano, appears to be of particular interest. The area is characterized by numerous defensive structures and fortified settlements whose city grid is distinguished by notable peculiarities. Such is the case of the settlement of Pietramelara located in a strategic area: the small town controls the valley and the important road which connects Lazio region with Campania inland. Mentioned for the first time in the tenth century, the town acquired more importance since the Norman age. The peculiarity of Pietramelara lies in its urban layout: it has a radio-centric shape with streets that converge to the highest point of the hill occupied by the tower; moreover, the settlement is surrounded by walls marked by the presence of 15 semicircular towers. Thanks to its particular conformation Pietramelara represents an outstanding example of accurate urban planning mainly aimed at the defensive organization of the surrounding territory, despite the numerous restoration works caused by the continuity of inhabitation of the old town through the centuries. The comparison with other similar settlements and a scientific study of its historical stratifications can be the starting point to increase the knowledge, the preservation and enhancement activities of this medieval fortified settlement which is undoubtedly unrecognized still today.

Keywords: middle age, fortified sites, Medieval archeology

THE ROLE OF COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND PEOPLE-BASED APPROACH IN THE SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC CENTERS IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

Historic centers today face the issue of constant, rapid change of urban functions and slower changing urban form. In Albania historic centers are found as an integral part of entire cities such as Berat, Gjirokastra, Elbasan, Korca, Kruja, Shkodra etc. and as part of rural settlements such as Vuno, Qeparo etc. Albanian historic centers as a whole, are inseparably shaped by tangible heritage such as buildings and urban infrastructure as well as intangible heritage being the socio-cultural values and collective memory that are essential in defining the sense of place, identity, community belonging and social cohesion. Based on the fact that the collective memories are place-specific and highly depend on urban spaces as context for the events to happen, this article explores its role and the role of people-based approach as a driver for an effective conservation and sustainable development. It also raises some questions about the need to define new management strategies and instruments that serve as supports for the protection and conservation of the historic centers. The review in detail of the historic centers of Berat and Gjirokastra (World Heritage Sites) is expected to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the current management strategies and propose some guidelines that enhance the significance of the collective memory and people-based approach in sustainable conservation and management. The aim of this article is to propose a new approach for the achievement of an efficient integrated management plan through which these centers shall be promoted as active sites of cultural values and factors of ethical and sustainable development.

Keywords: historic center, collective memory, people-based approach

EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL SQUARE OF KORÇA: THE IMPACT OF 3 DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

Cities are vital entities and as such their urban form is in a constant transformation process. Political systems have their own role in the course of this transformation. Korça - as one of the most important cities of Albania – has its own traces of the impact of political systems in its urban transformation.

This study will focus on the evolution of the central square of the city of Korça, as an urban space. The time frame of the study will take root since its [the central square] conceptual genesis, until recent times. During this time frame, three different political systems have governed the city and affected its [the city] urban spatial planning and urban space design: the Monarchy (1925 – 1943), the Totalitarianism (1945 – 1990) and Democracy (1990 – nowadays). All the three political systems have influenced differently the urban space of the central square of Korça and all of them have left their traces which are reminiscent nowadays.

This paper will aim to explore the interventions happened during these three periods and building a chronological timeline of the evolution of the central square of Korça through an analytical thinking approach. The methodology will consist of researching historical documents and maps, overlaying and comparing them, reading the urban space through socio-political systems and vice versa. Furthermore, the paper will try to build a chronological timeline of the design of urban space to read through a holistic approach, its content: layered ideologies integrated and overlapped in a complex urban interior, where people live, act and share thoughts and ideas.

As per conclusion, by building the memory of a place, this paper will attempt to fill in, an existing gap and layer a solid ground for the current debates on the contemporary transformations of today's agora of the city.

Keywords: urban space, totalitarianism, monarchy, democracy, evolution, Korça central square

CONSTRUCTING AND LIVING IN AN ANCIENT LAND. SECURITY AND IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

Italy is an “ancient land”. It is a territory rich in history, tradition, and heritage yet at the same time a land very often abandoned to its own devices, damaged and lacking upkeep. Its antiquity represents two sides of the same coin: while its locations do have a great sense of identity, there is an urgent need to act on what already exists. Both the territory and the building work of the past are greatly exposed to risk - both hydro-geological and seismic - and amid the local population there is a widespread call for greater security.

Security and identity would seem to be the outliers of a national problem. We need to pursue a proper balance between the search for those technological certainties able to deal with risk and the safeguarding those features indicative of a particular place where residents feel deep cultural roots. Location identity is based on a stratification of events and their historical memory and also on those forms, enduring over time, which have become consolidated precisely because they are fit for purpose. Here we are referring to forms including landscape, urban fabric, architecture, and construction, which despite undergoing transformation remain unchanged and become permanent features.

The research attempts to narrow the gap between Identity and Security, particularly in historical centers. The goal is to set up preventative measures involving both land and building which are sympathetic to a city’s architecture, indeed incorporating what we know of those features conferring identity. We wish to draw up models and guidelines which take into account interaction between the various parts, meaning between individual building units within the aggregate, between aggregates within the entire urban fabric and between the city and its geological substrate, all with the aim of increasing overall resistance to an earthquake in the historical center.

Keywords: heritage, identity memory, seismic risk, preservation

SURVIVAL OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS, BEYOND THE RESTORATION

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ABSTRACT

The revival of historic buildings is a rather complex issue, directly related to their preservation and protection. In any case, only the use of a building guarantees its maintenance, its survival as consequence and the future transmission of all its values.

Finding a suitable use, for a historic building or an ancient settlement, is a delicate action that should follow not only profound technical analysis, but should come as result of the analyzing of the real needs of our society. The widespread use as a museum, quite often proposed, is an easy solution that doesn't resolve the problem, as demonstrated by the different problems, emerged during the monitoring of the case study. Reuse seems to overcome the protection boundaries, referred to the maintenance and conservation techniques, as it always requires a lot of modifications related to the adaptation of the new use proposal. Every intervention must ensure the continuity of the life of the building, but it just take into consideration, that it, however, remains linked to the creativity, sensibility, and intelligence of its builder, further enriched by later stratification, whose conservation, of course, is one of the hardest limits to be observed and studied in any restoration process.

In conclusion, to have a historic building in good condition, the restoration science should perhaps provide a little more space for its use, creating suitable conditions for the preservation and conservation of all historical heritage, concerning in movable or immovable values.

Keywords: historic building, reuse, protection, preservation, conservation

URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS IN ALBANIA: INTEGRATED OR EXCLUDED?

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ABSTRACT

A significant number of settlements in Albania include excavated archaeological sites, which are completely or partially discovered.

The urban archeological areas are located in inhabited centers (such as Durres, Elbasan, Saranda, Vlora, Lezha, etc.), but the expansion of many cities has included other sites as well [for example: Basilica in Arapaj (DR), Church of the Forty Martyrs (SR), etc.].

Theoretically, important urban elements which should serve as a starting point for urban planning; in practice, these spaces happen to be totally excluded from urban development and in some cases to be seen even as disturbing ones.

Initially, besides preserved fortifications parts on the ground that was known, archeological sites, with few exceptions, were created by archeological excavations during the communism period. Generally, the planned urban development of those decades has not been a problem for these areas, regardless of whether or not there were management and integration studies with urban contexts.

After that, urban development of last two or three decades has made these spaces to face numerous risks, starting from the alienation of their urban contexts to the challenge of their physical survival.

On the one hand, planning of archaeological work, restoration, and valorization interventions has not been raised to the appropriate level to face the new challenges and on the other hand the attention of local municipalities, urban planners and architects was not the one that should have been, in order to turn these spaces into important landmarks of our cities in rapid transformation.

Keywords: archaeological areas, urban planning

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF KAMENICA TYPES AND FORMS OF THE DWELLINGS

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ABSTRACT

The medieval village of Kamenica is situated in the district of Delvinë (southeast of Albania), on the side of the mountain Mali Gjerë. The village lays on the top area of two hills, in their slope and the “neck” created by their join. Kamenica, according to its urban organization, a number of the ruins and their diversity, constitutes a significant settlement with great architectural values. The village from its abandon (the beginning of the XVII century) was no more populated. This fact has made possible, the conservation in a very good state of the buildings and its urban organization. In a base of their functions, there are three types of buildings: the dwellings, the workshops, and the churches.

The aim of this paper is the study of the architecture of the Kamenica’s dwellings, which are the most numerous buildings of the village. The dwellings took in the exam (almost 100), has been documented *in situ*, during the doctoral studies.

Based on the numerous examples studied, it has been possible to draw significant conclusions on the architecture of the dwellings: the types, the functional organization, the architectural elements and the construction technique. A spirit of rational generally characterizes the dwellings architecture, where the emphasis is placed on the functional aspect, without losing the overall aesthetic values.

Keywords: dwellings architecture, architectural heritage, Albanian medieval dwellings, architectural surveying, architectural history.

FROM SOCIALIST CLASSICISM TO SOCIALIST MODERNISM. TRANSLATING IDEOLOGY INTO ARCHITECTURE IN COMMUNIST ALBANIA.

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ABSTRACT

As the Western World followed modernism as its primary choice in art and architecture, the Eastern Bloc had to generate an alternative which would reflect the philosophical and political differences between the two entities. Starting with Socialist Realism, architecture in Albania followed step by step the political course of the country, by becoming an interpretation of the ideology in built form.

The paper focuses mainly in the period covering the first two decades after the end of WWII and attempts to discuss facts and features of Albanian Socialist Architecture, where more than everything, ideology is the guiding norm that shapes the built form. Referring to this period, the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953 and the breaking of the relations with the Soviet Union in 1961 are the key dates that mark the political history. These dates are used to understand the reflection of such events on the architectural ground. Somehow, architecture follows a parallel course to the one of the Eastern Bloc by passing from an eclectic and neoclassical architecture during the rule of Stalin in the Soviet Union, towards a more rational approach after his death, often referred as Socialist Modernism. In both cases, architecture remains a medium for transmitting the proletarian and socialist ideas.

During such transition, it is noticeable a distortion of the creative individuality of the architect, who is transformed into an interpreter and translator of the ideology and dogmas into architectural form, by strictly following the pre-defined political line.

Keywords: socialist architecture, Albania, communism, ideology, politics



IDENTITY AMNESIA OF PUBLIC PLACES

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the concept of identity amnesia related to public places. In post-socialist cities, the rush of urban development signed the loss of peculiar characters of places and of what Pierre Nora called *lieux de mémoire*. The Albanian concept and perception of urban public space have undergone through radical transformations which have affected the identity of a place - neglecting and sometimes canceling it – and the process of place-making. What effect do the recent projects have on memory and tradition of public places? Is the development of amnesia intentional? Are there traditions to preserve or memories to evoke? In this perspective, the paper tries to rebuild the evolution of public places of Tirana – using an interdisciplinary approach - with the aim of understanding the past transformation phenomena and the ones in progress, identifying the specific features of places such as historical and morphological identity, uses and culture.

Keywords: memory, place, amnesia, identity, tradition



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TRANSFORMATIONS OF URBAN MEMORY. WHAT PLANNING DO WE NEED FOR TIRANA'S POLES

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ABSTRACT

The City of Tirana is under continuous and impetuous change which make it a more vibrant and dynamic town every year. There is no need to explain the challenges it gives to urban planners, architects and governing institutions.

The social poles of Tirana have been identified for quite some time already. For their special function, their historic value as places of memory and their position across Tirana, for a long time now they are thought as Poles of social life for the city, spots that would become nodes of communication with special attributes for the community around them. But the real question would be, how to achieve this by urban planning?

During the last year, a group of students tried to give their answer to this question. This text will try to explain the method, the analysis and the challenges to perceive these Poles, by understanding also new patterns of communication in the process of General Plan design, while trying to work with a strategic approach and concrete needs for long-term and near future aims.

It was pure luck to deal with those spots while Tirana was going through the process of approving its latest General Plan. Strategic planning, while redesigning infrastructure networks may turn empty urban areas in new development opportunities; the spatial configuration of an infrastructure node can determine essential conditions, and simple TIRANA AL INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM intermodal connections get transformed into complex synergy nodes capable of bringing new dynamics and socioeconomic development into play.

In terms of urban morphology, I would like to consider these spots not just as isolated Poles of social activity, but also as nodes of a large urban network, connected between them with a wide range of qualitative synapses interlinking them as brain cells in the nervous system.

Keywords: Urban planning, social poles, connectivity

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES FOR A NEW GREY URBAN HISTORY. A STUDY CASE: THE “HIGH CITY” OF ROME, FROM PINCIO TO ESQUILINO

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ABSTRACT

As for cities, can we admit the idea of a *history in transition*? In other words, are the methodological approaches, inherited from the scientific contributions of the previous academic generations, still capable without any challenge or modification to include the new issues and theoretical assumptions proposed by contemporary academic studies? According to an idea of a “*grey theory*”, as Goethe said, by means of Mefistofelis, in his Faust, herein, it’s possible to purpose an idea of a *grey history*, that moves not for addition, but for modification of knowledge, acquired from different reliable interpretations about a common object.

Furthermore, how is going to change, as we agree with this assumption, our way of studying architecture? As a matter of fact, during Ph.D. studies on via Bissolati (1930-1950), the plan of a road by architect Marcello Piacentini (1881-1960), it resulted that the research on a single episode was addressing slowly to a more complex and extended, in time as in place, analysis of an urban area, whose physical and topographical features had conditioned planning decisions. Moreover, the annotation of some grades of continuity and discontinuity between different historical moments of the urban transformation allowed to identify an antique permanent aim of this part of the Capital across the centuries: the memory of the “high city” of Rome.

This contribution, by means of a study case, wishes to stimulate a debate about the need for new *grey* architectural theories, new challenging visions, that above all could preserve the historical heritage, influencing directly future plan choices.

Keywords: urban studies, Rome, theory of architecture

AWARENESS AND NECESSITY. MEMORY OF PLACES

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ABSTRACT

The contemporary architectural scene rests on an approach that is indissolubly bound to unbridled consumption of goods, images, territories, and solely in relation to the consumer society. From this factual situation emerge, therefore, the awareness of a non-sustainable contemporary scenario and the need for a new analytical methodology, capable of dealing with urban reality. Through this approach, we intend to analyze an operational methodology that can be considered as a hypothesis of a new process of architectural production authority: projects and designers united by their specific singularities and their specific cultural references, united by a common sense to the tradition which, unlike the past, is translated into contemporaneity and translated singularly by each of them. A topic of great interest to be addressed by linking to the study of the urban project within the European historical city, trying to outline a language of transformation from the question of continuity and discontinuity. Looking at the issue of cultural references, or the instrument by which each author brings together and connects in a synchronous editing its diachronic cultural debt, elaborates a hypothesis of work addressing the theme of archetypes in architecture with specific reference to natural and artificial places characterizing the specific identity of contemporary European cities. From this point of view, the archetype, in its pure topological and typological essence, could be considered as the innovative element capable of directing the design of architecture to a confrontation with both the pre-existence and the new conditions, both material and immaterial, which the contemporary city should respond in order to reverse the current dissolving process of contemporary urban realities. Advantages considered as continuity and new conditions seen as discontinuities necessary for the renewal of the city.

Keywords: architecture, archetypal, project

FORTIFIED SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORY OF TIRANA, BETWEEN CLASSIC AND HELLENISTIC PERIOD: THE CASE OF PERSQOP AND DORËZ

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ABSTRACT

This article addresses some of the major aspects of population dynamics in the territory of Tirana, the central area of Southern Illyria, during the classic and Hellenistic period, and particularly concerns the fortified settlements of Persqop and Dorëz. These sites have remained sparsely documented, and there's a lack of excavations and especially of stratigraphic data. The scarce theoretical studies and the absence of empirical researchers till now has to lead to weak hypotheses regarding the age of these areas. On the basis of historical review and especially of topographical studies, new reconstructive hypotheses have emerged highlighting the precise choices that were made regarding the management of this territory. Applying new methodologies can permit the advancement of a new hypothesis for the classification of the sites of Persqop and Dorëz, as well as for the definition of the boundaries of their area of development. In this realm, the purpose of this study is to better understand the reasons behind the urban development in the territories of Persqop and Dorëz, through the elaboration of the archeological data and historical literature sources. The further collection of archaeological data can help not only in defining more precisely the chronological and developmental stages of these sites but also to better understand the context within the major centers of the area of Southern Illyria where these two sites were established and developed.

Keywords: fortifications, Illyria, Hellenistic, urban, historical review

THE FORTIFIED SARAYE'S OF THE XVIII-XIX CENTURY IN ALBANIA AND THE INFLUENCE OF FORTIFIED SARAY OF ALI PASHA'S SISTER IN LIBOHOVA

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ABSTRACT

Unlike fortified dwellings (*kulla*) that are more common in different regions and social classes of Albania, fortified *Serayes* belong to the highest levels of feudal society at the time. These kinds of constructions are most often encountered during the XVIII-XIX century mainly in the flourishing of the great semi-autonomous Albanian ruled Pashaliks. One of them is the Fortified Saray of *Libohova*, built by *Ali Pasha Tepelena* for his sister, *Shanisha* which now bear the name *Castle of Libohova*.

Today this tall and majestic building has completely disappeared, its surrounding walls, equipped with defensive towers and fortified gates create the impression of a common garrison of the period of Ali Pasha. In spite of this, this first impression is betrayed by the fact that the walls are thinner and weaker if we compare them with other Ali's fortifications add to this the lack of battlement for artillery on the towers and walls although many parts are preserved to the height of the parapet.

Traces of the Saray within the walls of Castle are depicted and published before. This article reviles the shape and position of the Saray and the relation with the surrounding walls. This identification was made possible by the comparison of the two drawings that show the Saray in the 18th-19th century published by Shanisha's great-grandson, *Ahmed Müfid Bej Libohova* in the book titled "*Tepedelenli Ali Paşa 1744-1822*" as well as traces on the ground identified from the authors in 2015. During these observations, a transverse wall facing east-west was noted that divides the inner fortification area into two parts, of which the largest part belonging to Saray. Authors attempt to make a comparison in a critical way of the differences and impacts that this particular case has to other fortified Sarayes of the same historical period. The article revile results through a analyze how the ways of protection and fortification, do not affect the comfort that a Saray should provide and which was required by this high feudal elite

Keywords: fortified Saray, architectural and military heritage, cultural heritage,

SOCIALISM AND URBAN PLANNING IN ALBANIA 1944-1990

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents, within the 1944-1990 timeframe, the planning skills, the country's developments, achievements and its failures.

The research materials consist of annual statistics, archive materials, such as bibliographies, historical and economic data. This material is discussed analytically and comparatively in relation to the study period, which is divided into several sub-periods, distinguished particularly from political events in the camp of the former communist bloc countries and the economic aid from these countries: 1944-1948 aid from Yugoslavia; 1948-1964 aid from the former USSR; 1964-1974 aid from China; 1974-1980 beginnings of economic difficulties, *"With our own forces"*; 1980-1990 economic depression, financial crisis (the end of socialism). Every sub-period is analyzed in concrete examples in the field of urban planning with relevant comments from expert opinions from that time.

By 1974 the pace of the overall development of the country was quick, thanks to the aid and soft loans from friendly countries. This same rhythm is observed in the fields of the urban planning studies as well as in legislation, in the structure of the administration, and the technical staff. The pace of investments was maintained, until 1990 where this momentum was concluded along with the general socio-economic collapse of the country. As a conclusion, socialism planned, but in Albania, it could not afford to invest in the service of the population with its own budget.

Keywords: urban planning, architecture, socialist city, eastern bloc, Albania

THE SHAPE OF WATER LANDSCAPES: CAMPANIA INLAND BETWEEN MIDDLE AGES AND MODERN PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

The presence of infrastructures related to the exploitation of hydraulic energy has shaped the landscape of Southern Italy from antiquity to the present.

This is the case for many territorial contexts located near the Apennine ridge; particularly the area of Campania region corresponding to the province of Benevento still has considerable remains of medieval structures and hydraulic works.

Mills, dams and artificial canals have changed the appearance of the lower Calore river valley creating a system of water landscapes whose layout is still visible and traceable.

In these areas hydraulic energy powered factories not only used for milling cereals, dried fruits and pressing olives, but also for the production of fabrics or processing other materials (wood, iron).

Archaeological surveys led to the discovery of structures related to canals and mills of different types, dated back from XV to XVIII century, in particular in Cerreto Sannita, renowned for wool and fabrics production, San Lorenzo Maggiore and San Lupo territories.

The water landscapes context of these areas, where the exploitation of hydraulic energy was at the core of local economy, revolved around the engineered control of water sources: the streams control and the creation of a dense network of canals connected to catchment basins, represented an important system of soil management for a territory that is very fragile and subject to landslides and floods.

Reconstructing the medieval urban and rural landscape of this territory is an indispensable occasion for the conservation, enhancement, and fruition of such important testimonies.

Keywords: water landscape, cultural heritage, Middle Ages, archaeology, cultural landscapes

INTEGRATING WATER INTO PUBLIC SPACES, PUBLIC FOUNTAINS IN ALBANIA'S CITIES

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ABSTRACT

Space and people create an organic and symbiotic connection between them, according to their functional requests. Water gathering places (public fountain) are part of the utilitarian functional spaces build several years ago, some of them still functional nowadays but mostly forgotten and ignored by the society. For a long time, sanitary water had been used out of the settlements creating a strong connection between public and private places. The mean purpose of this research is to reveal the positive factors of integrating water into public spaces.

By using the qualitative method, based on different sources like interviews (people experience), small-scale written questionnaires, secondary data etc, this research will have the following structure.

Firstly, by demonstrating the historical development of public fountains in Albanian cities focused on a certain historical period from ottoman invasion to renaissance. Secondly, will come to a historical process from collective experience over time (collective memory, place's toponym etc). Finally, this research analyses the public fountains that are still active in urban spaces and evaluates their roles in social-cultural life.

As a result, there will be a graphic presentation on different maps to show the position of public fountain according to historical periods, comparing them, by photo gallery over time and spaces. Revealing the mean categories of public fountains based on charity properties like water tank with a fountain, column fountains, square- pier fountains, side (wall).

In conclusion, water is not a decorative element in public space, it performs other important functions and has benefits that go away beyond the social aspects. It can be an ideal meeting and relaxation point in the urban fabric. Spatial planning can benefit significantly from the integration of water into urban spaces at an early stage, making a city more liveable and more resilient.

Keywords: fountain, public space, Albania, collective memory, toponyms

ARCHITECTURE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: RENOVATION OF GRAND HOTEL COMPLEX

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ABSTRACT

Copyright in the context of architecture works has started to be practiced quite late and protection of intellectual property of the authors is defined differently in many places. In this research special emphasis is the review of the current legislation in Kosovo, comparing the same with the relevant provisions of the Law in the United States. Furthermore, the research addresses one of the most delicate topics in the eyes of architects in the world, how, where and when copyright infringement is set on the architects to work in relation to the owner and vice versa. How, where and when the copyrights end the owner on the deed. By analyzing and researching the issues related to the situation of Grand Hotel in Pristina, which was once one of the most qualified symbols, a landmark of the capital of Republic of Kosovo, the holes in legislation for copyright are explained. After detailed analysis of the architectural structure of the building, the advantages and disadvantages of the building and the function that it has; and after review of possible options on the changes that needs to be occur to it, the work succinct with conclusions and recommendations towards further refurbishment sustainable steps that need to be taken for the building to continue working and get back to former glory.

Keywords: copyright, urban-architectural context, landmark, renovation

CRITICAL REVIEW OF RESTORATION METHODOLOGIES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ADOPTED IN ALBANIA THE LAST 20 YEARS

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ABSTRACT

The restoration of the architectural heritage is a very complex topic in continuous development. The issue raises interesting questions about the methodological approach to be followed and the objectives from which it must be started for the definition of a correct restoration. In Albania, in academic terms, different normative efforts have been done by means of the production of technical documents that establish how to evaluate the problem with more awareness. In the international field, from a general point of view, it is possible to refer to the ISCARSAH Recommendations that give a preliminary approach, a sort of guidelines about the restoration of historical heritage.

Currently, in this field are being used different approaches: either a criterion based on the restoration, which puts attention to the form and to the basic traditional materials of the building but less in the originality of aesthetic design and architectural elements; or a technical method that is more interested at the building but, in many cases, involves over-dimensioned interventions than the real requirements, altering the original form and history of the artefact.

The research method consists in reviewing case studies and fieldwork especially conducted in Albanian cities with a significant Architectural Heritage during the past 20 years, observations and interviews with the specific restoration experts to better understand their opinion and critics about the adopted restoration methodology. For this purpose, there have been analyzed variable examples like the transformation of the “Vila 14”, designed by S.Luarasi located in st. “Asim Zeneli”, Tirana after the restoration process, the restoration project of the “Babameto’s home”, in Gjirokastra etc, to identify where the architectural heritage sector has received the right restoration methodology to maintain and preserve its aesthetic values. An important part of this analysis is the critical review of the project from the Preliminary identification phase (amnesia and diagnosis), how the structure or the elements that compose it are treated until the Intervention phase.

Keywords: Critical review, architectural heritage, restoration, recommendation

TECHNICAL MEMORY AS A CULTURAL IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

The image of the city is a mental process resulting from the interaction of the individual with the environment where he acts and that he transforms by creating its living environment. It is within this environment that its individual and collective memory is shaped. Memory is our mental capacity to collect and to experience facts, events, and feelings. The social aspect of the memory depends directly on the experience of the public space as a context where events happen. That is why, the place is not an abstract notion, but a fusion of laws and social and natural rules in a given territory instead.

Focusing on the *urban memory* as a collective expression of the process of the formulation of space, we will analyze the element “memory” according to the theoretical aspects:

- Memory is a biological attribute of the individual or social group that expresses the history of its evolution, it has no the ability to produce identity, but it undercover it;
- Technique is what creates form and as a result, it is a fundamental factor in the process of the creation of artistic, spatial and symbolic values of architecture;
- The artistic aspect is an expression of the intimate and subjective side of the individual because, through it, he realizes its artistic aspiration and expectations.

That is why, technical memory is one most important phenomenon carrying culture based on the rational nature, feasible and artistic finalization that can be used in an oriented way for the knowledge and sustainable conservation of the cities. This study aims to explain that technical memory is not a tentative to bring the present to the past but to bring the values and cultural identity of the past to the present. The controversy is not between the contemporary evolution and heritage but between regional cultural and social identity and globalization or internationalization in the process of the urban-architectural creation process.

So, in the traditional cities, conservation and continuity of urban, technical, spatial and symbolic memory are innovative ways for their regeneration.

Keywords: urban memory, technical memory, sustainable development, urban morphology

REINFORCED-CONCRETE PROTOTYPES FOR THE FACTORY IN ITALY (1955-1975) THE FORM AS PROCESS IN THE KODAK FACTORY, MARCIANISE

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between architectural expressiveness and the formal structure was the leitmotif of the Italian structuralism in the second post-war two decades.

The design of industrial structures radicalized this relationship because of the production processes nature that imposed to the architect the dimension of standardization, repetition, and economy of means. This approach reduced the distance between architectural form and informal building.

This research aims to show how this condition transforms the idea of the design process by some Italian authors, in the restricted field of reinforced-concrete structures for the industry. The architectural Form becomes a process that faces all the aspects of the project: the technological content (cooling, ventilation and water-drainage systems), the economic side, the engineering startup. In this way, the project of industrial structures is an outcome of the components design, constituted by structural elements (pillars, beams, secondary systems of coverage), and controlled by the project of a structural bay, as a device of the design process.

In this sense, the proposed paper would show the research on the Kodak factory in Marcianise by Aldo Favini and Gianluigi Ghò as a paradigm of this phenomenon. The paper illustrates how the hollow structural form of the element addresses the problem of the technological content in the architectural design, showing morphological-structural models that isolate the bay as a design device. This aspect defines a specific quality of the industrial prototypes, developed through the professional partnership between the architect and the engineer. The knowledge about this kind of industrial prototypes is useful on one hand to admit these building as an Italian historical heritage that needs to be preserved, on the other hand, to understand how it is possible to transform these buildings through a new adaptive reuse.

Keywords: industrial heritage, structural form, culture of technology

RE-EVALUATING THE FACADES OF APARTMENT BLOCKS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY DESIGN IN TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the opinion and the view of the citizens about the facades of an ex-socialist period neighborhood, which is located between Asim Vokshi and Petro Marko streets consisting of six apartment blocks. The buildings of this quarter were part of a project called “Rebirth of the City”. This project aimed to treat the building facades by painting them with colorful art-works and was implemented by local and international painters. They treated the apartment blocks façades by independent artistic designs themes, neglected the existing design composition and challenged the architectural values of these buildings.

Thus this study aims to reveal the citizen's opinions regarding the building facades which were part of the project “Rebirth of the City”, not only by interviewing them but also by making them part of the design process through participation. The methodology used in the study included: observation, documentation of the selected apartment blocks façades through drawing and visual interview with Tirana citizens, as the main technique of participatory design.

At the end of this research, the results showed that the design of the facades as proposed by citizens included in this study is conducted by compositional elements such as colors, different design patterns, and vegetation, which sometimes fits and sometimes not with “Rebirth of the City” project.

Keywords: façades, apartment blocks, participatory design, Tirana

BUILT ENVIRONMENT VS. MIND: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

“A sick thought can devour the body's flesh more than fever or consumption.” – Guy de Maupassant

Architecture is a multi-sensorial and non-verbal experience that relates us to space and time. It is a tool of transmitting emotions and psychological effects to the public while offering specific functions and services. The perception of space and its components is initiated through our sensorial system while we relate our body to this external world.

The mental state of the human being is complex and unique. It is always under the influence of places, people, and details that are part of its everyday life. So, the environment he lives in is not only physical but it includes many events, interactions, and phenomenon. All of these elements influence the state of mind directly or indirectly. This may bring slowly and unexpectedly the transformation of an individual. If the dialogue between the environment and the individual is harmonious, conformity is reached; if it has a negative notion, it may easily bring dispersion in the emotional state, and as a consequence, affects his behavior and relation to the society. We coexist every day with the built environment, and yet do not know the consuming or healing power of architecture.

This research aims to analyze the relationship: Environment-Individual and Architecture-Psychology through analyzing the everyday habitat.

Keywords: built environment, environmental psychology in architecture, analysis

FROM MODERN TO CONTEMPORARY TIRANA. PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND RE-INTERPRETATION OF THE CITY CENTRE

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ABSTRACT

The subject of this article is part of a long and ongoing study, started over a decade ago, in the context of recognizing, interpreting and evaluating the inheritance of Italian architecture in Albania. The article focuses on the city of Tirana in particular and aims to not only continue the promotion of the city's historical values but also to give a valuable contribution in the field of contemporary architectural and urban design.

Tirana is a relatively new capital, but with a diverse history. Starting from the Ottoman period and beyond, the city has undergone radical transformations, the traces of which can be witnessed today in the urban plan as well as in the richness of the aesthetic styles. Our study includes a compositional analysis of the evolution of linguistic styles of Tirana from the period of the development of the city under the Italian protectorate to the present. The interpretation of this evolution and its translation into the contemporary architecture language are of particular interest to our work.

The Architectural Design Laboratory II course that we held with Prof. Ulisse Tramonti at the Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Council", included different projects that serve this purpose. The work consisted in developing an administrative building located in the city center, on the lot from the Premiership designed by the Florentine architect Gherardo Bosio, to the Institute of Statistics, carried out during the Socialist Realism according to the project of the architect Klement Kolaneci. The examples of the selected projects will demonstrate the presence of a harmonious cohesion between the two existing buildings and the new the structure, though of different periods. Their aim is to bring elements from the previous architecture to ensure the continuity of dialogue between the historical stages: a crucial factor in ensuring the enrichment and preservation of collective memory.

Keywords: Albanian modern architecture, historical heritage, transformation projects

THE MEMORY OF PLACES: THE ROYAL APERIA IN CASERTA

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ABSTRACT

The research work is focused on a wider study of the English Garden of the Royal Palace of Caserta and the surrounding urban context. In the northern part of the English Garden, there is one of the most important structures of the Garden: the Royal Aperia. It was born from the adaptation of the large tank of a tank never used, built by Luigi Vanvitelli, years before Graeter's gardener's arrival, the tank, supported by solid pylons, was located on the top of a wooded hill. The water facility was never used, and French era became a place of beekeeping for honey production, hence the name of Aperia. In 1826 during the reign of Francis I, it was used for flora and used as a greenhouse for trees cultivation. In that era, there was placed the statue of Flora artwork created by sculptor Tommaso Solari in 1761. The special geometrical shape of the reservoir is set to a classic style; an exedra enclosed composed a series of 28 bays with the strengthening of the Visual axis privileged culminating in the large niche containing the statue of the goddess Flora. An architectural element, the royal Aperia, of remarkable historical architectural value, UNESCO's protection, and of fundamental importance for the city of Caserta.

Keywords: drawing, survey, Caserta

MEMORY OF PLACE: THE REPRESENTATION OF IMMACOLATELLA VECCHIA IN THE PORT AREA OF NAPLES

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ABSTRACT

After a long period of neglect in the western port area of the Naples, starting from 1738 Carlo III di Borbone wanted to intervene with works to recover the area, significantly altering the relationship between the city of Naples with the sea. There was a sequence of reordering actions that regarded the construction of Porto Nuovo from Porto Piccolo, *"remained enclosed by the magnificent bridge, which, built on the sea near the palace of the Conservation of Flour, pulled ahead toward the east. To the right of the bridge, a wing of land went into the sea, on which the building of an octagonal shape was elevated, assigned to the residence of the Court of Health"*, another name identifying the building of the Immacolatella Vecchia.

The building is Pompeian red and was originally an octagonal shape. It was *"deturpato dalle molte ampliamenti"* over the years due to the various successive uses that inexorably transformed it from the configuration designed by Vaccaro. Originally, the building built to accommodate the Milizia del Re and, since the early years of its construction the "Deputazione della Salute", a health checkpoint both for the goods and the emigrants leaving South Italy for new lands as well as the immigrants who arrived in Naples. The Immacolatella became an icon of migration into Neapolitan memory, with it now being in a state of total neglect.

The building of the Immacolatella is impregnated with tangible and intangible traces, with it also being a cultural asset of identification charge due to its role in the past that cannot be ignored in this precise historical moment. The eighteenth-century building has to be retrieved so as to both meet the restorative needs as well as the absence of a function compatible with conservation claims, which should first be considered, to restore life to a cultural asset that is waiting to be put into the network of tourist attractions.

Keywords: survey, representation, heritage architectural, memory, waterfront

THE ARTISTIC AND ESTHETIC FUNCTION OF DECORATIONS IN GJIROKASTRA'S BUILDINGS

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ABSTRACT:

This paper treats the ornamental elements elaborated on their basic techniques, in the urban building from the theoretical and practical aspect. The art of decoration displays the symbols of the traditional belief in its esthetical and artistic way. The high level of the artistic masterpieces and their harmonization with the values of the architecture of the Gjirokastra building of that time show a high level of development of the art of decoration. This artistic activity is distinguished for its physiognomy in the whole heritage of the past in this field of the folk art. The techniques of decoration reflect the similarities and differences between the two kinds of the visual art i.e. painting and carving. The paper deals with problems of composition, motive styling and their graphic presentation, particularly in the guest rooms, which appear to be artistically heavily loaded. The way in which artistic compositions are organized, the preservation of the balance between space and decorations, the harmonic adaptation with the living rooms, reinforce even further the specific elements of local ornaments. The traditional masters adapted the artistic forms with traditional motives by giving them coloristic and plastic nuances, based on individual and regional preferences. General ornaments that comprised joint elements were given an artistic profile with local nuances.

Keywords: heritage, decoration, vernacular buildings, artistic techniques, folk art

RENOVATION AND REGENERATION OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SITES A POTENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Industrial heritage sites are an important part of the built environment. They serve as tangible and intangible links to the past and have the potential to play an important role in the future of rural areas and towns.

The transformation that the Albanian economy has undergone after the 1990s has resulted in a large number of unused, abandoned, degraded industrial buildings, some of which are in inappropriate environmental conditions. Nowadays, the phenomenon of industrial heritage that precedes the social and economic development of the country is not fully explored or neglected.

This article aims to introduce the renovation of industrial facilities as a measure of sustainable land use. The goal is to highlight the regeneration and redevelopment of industrial zones as a strategy for alleviating the adverse effects of climate change. Emphasis has been put on the new concepts of the redevelopment of industrial areas, which include land recycling, the application of ecological and sustainable solutions. It is intended to show that the renovation of former industrial zones can have positive effects on the regulation and mitigation of climate change. The analysis and adaptive re-use of four case studies focus attention on the historical values of the industrial heritage of the communist dictatorship period in Albania.

In the end, it is concluded that industrial areas contain the potential to become important elements of the country's sustainable, economic, social, cultural development. The architecture of industrial heritage is worthless, which does not deserve to be destroyed, but through reusing with economic, social, and environmental care must be transmitted today.

Keywords: Industrial heritage, regeneration, renovation, sustainable development

DECAYING ARCHITECTURE VALUES IN GJIROKASTRA

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ABSTRACT

This paper traces the historical evolution of Gjirokastra's cultural heritage continuing with the decay of many historical monuments in the protected area. The results of 13 years of living in this city and 2 years of in-depth studies and surveys present a full view of the administrative, political, architectural and social problems.

The need to intervene is a current situation to many monuments in particular and also to creating new mitigation policies for the whole protected area. The innumerable values of Gjirokastra have been noticed for years by many architects and institutions who praise the good quality restorations but also demand immediate action by the municipality and government institutions to intervene in preserving these values. There are a number of problems linked to the decay of architecture values in Gjirokastra, such as migration, the aging society, modernization, lack of investments etc.

The values of cultural heritage are an immortal feature of a city as they generate life around them, investments and knowledge to the younger generations, but with the passing of time they are becoming mortal and disappearing leaving sad traces to the citizens and stakeholders.

Keywords: heritage, monuments, values, policies, stakeholders

POSSIBLE ALBANIAN SPRAWL – HAPPY VILLAGE, RESEARCH BY DESIGN PROPOSAL

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ABSTRACT

The *sprawl* phenomena are present as a form of recent urbanization of the natural landscape outside the already urbanized Albanian cities, mostly as housing proposals. As a result, different imported models of housing are introduced in the built Albanian context, which express both the euphoria of idealization of such models and at the same time is little concerned with the specific conditions of the contexts in terms of topographic and climate conditions, as well as of social and economic levels. The so-called *villages* consist of mono-functional residential areas which are derived from the repetition of the residential unit. In most cases the quality of public spaces is neglected in terms of composition and the process of space creation is reduced to functionality, not considering the social implication of the inhabitants and the role of the space in the life experience of the users, which helps humans to experience their built environment in a meaningful way.

The aim of the poster is to explore through a *research by design* proposal the possibility to introduce identity elements in the process of creating space. The purpose is to verify the potential of the local culture as a generator in the process of the creation of built form and spaces, reinterpreted in a formal contemporary repertoire. Through the integration of identity elements, we try to verify the possibility of the creation of a qualitative and meaningful space which expresses its potentials as a place-maker space and authentic and identity space as well. Through this approach on the design process, the architectural product tends to guaranty to the users the quality of everyday life and avoids *the reduction of the environment to nothing but a commodity*.

Keywords: space, identity, urban sprawl, local culture

USAGE OF GEODETIC SCANNING METHODS WITH IMAGE SCANNER IN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore the possibilities of using modern survey methods through Geodetic Image Scanner Tools in archaeological frontage surveys. The object being studied is the Church located in the middle of the Monastery of Apollonia in Fier.

These types of surveys carry a large number of analytical, graphical and visual information. Information related to accuracy of the total survey because of the large number of points detected in the surface unit, the accuracy of the survey in particular since the points surveyed are measured perceptibly in the object as a result of the metering method with laser beams and that the surveyed points carry not only their analytical positioning information (X, Y, H) but also the color information being used on the object.

Thus, the graphical material obtained is a 3-dimensional "digital photography" with a certain resolution (a function of the frequency of surveyed points on the field by the instrument). As a result of this 3d material, we can access through special design software not only views of the object from various horizontal or vertical viewing angles but also horizontal or vertical cutting in different height positions or desired element in the object.

The geodetic base used for the survey is a closed polygon around the 4-point polygon object, the coordinates of which are determined by measurements with the GPS Positioning System.

For the object survey, it is used the Topcon Image Scanner tool. Data processing until the final graphic material is obtained is realized with the Image Master Pro program.

We think that the use of these instruments and methods is extremely important in the architectural surveys for the fact that they serve as a complete digital material not only archiving the current state of the object, but also the possibility of performing with high accuracy the restoration projects with the aim to maintain the originality of the object up to the details.

Keywords: image scanner, architectural surveys, visual information, resolution

THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE CITY OF CASERTA

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ABSTRACT

The ancient Palace of Caserta [Casa – irta] is located on the top of one of the hills of Tifatina mountain range, from where it offers stunning views, stretching from the fertile fields in the midst of which Capua, famous for his wealth, for miserable wars, and the most fortunate friendships with the Roman People, is located, to a Contrada, where nature and the ruins reveal the civilization of a great people, now extinct. There are different opinions about the origin of the ancient city of Caserta; some historians suppose that it was founded after the destruction of Suessola, but this is not true, because of Erchemperto, the monk who describes the fire of Suessola, speaks of Galazia and Caserta as they already existed. What is sure is that, after Suessola and Galazia were destroyed, in the ninth and tenth centuries, respectively, due to the barbarian incursions, the inhabitants of those towns took refuge in Caserta. Since the name Casa – Irta is not mentioned in any writing that precedes the Lombard period, we can assume that the city existed under a different name, or that it was built when the Lombards settled in Italy. This second opinion is more likely since no monument or architecture dating back to Roman times was found, and, therefore, its origin can be traced back to the year 570 approximately. It was ruled by the Lombards, the Franks, Lombards-Italians, the Germans, the Normans, the Swabians, the Angevins, the Aragonese, the Spanish, the Austrians, the Kingdom of the Bourbons. Some limestone walls were built to protect the city, and the ramparts, the ancient castle and the cathedral, almost entirely preserved, are still visible. In 1734, Charles III of Bourbon was ready to conquer the Two Sicilies.

Keywords: Caserta, palace, monument, representation, cultural heritage

ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAND SURVEYING IN ORIKOS SITE

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ABSTRACT

Archaeological surveying is a specialized type of land surveying conducted to show the relationship of the archaeological site to the landscape. This report, includes a thorough topographical survey, within the parameters of frameworks of advanced surveys and archaeological studies, to provide an accurate and significant qualitative, geospatial data. While archaeological land surveys are often conducted at the conclusion of an excavation, land surveying methods can actually be useful in identifying the sites prior to excavation. Nowadays, modern technological advances in Geodesy have considerably increased the productivity and quality of data, as well as the execution of the analytical graphic-processing methods in an archaeological context. The study presents the survey of the archaeological site of Orikos where advanced technologies, such as GPS, Total Stations, Tachometers, Geospatial Data Processing Programs (AutoCAD, ArcGIS, etc.), have been applied in order to provide a thorough and accurate statistics. The research includes a map of Orikos urban planning in Orthophoto; it outlines the specific positioning of archaeological objects of the plan as well as providing a detailed survey of the objects including three-dimensional processing and the organization of data in the level of GIS vector formats. The result of an archaeological survey is a high-resolution image of the terrain. This display can take several forms depending on the intended purpose of the survey. It may be two-dimensional, recording the location of the site and surrounding terrain. In this context, this study emphasizes the need and necessity of the application of topographic surveys to support efficient and qualitative archaeological studies for the archaeological park of Orikos.

Keywords: archaeological survey, archaeological site, Orikos, GIS

THE MEMORIES OF THE CRYPTOPORTICUS AND VENUS BATH

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ABSTRACT

The research is structured with relations between the urban context of the city of Caserta and the green and the water of the Bath of Venus in the English Garden of the Royal Palace of Caserta.

The lasting mark left by Carlo in the city of Caserta, this was a request of the Queen Maria Carolina. The English garden plan was approved in February 1785. The idea of the English garden was made also because of a little deviation of the Caroline aqueduct, but also for the new scientific, geographic, but especially botanic interest of the Royal Family. Very rare tropical plants were brought to the English gardens, plants never been seen before in the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily.

A work strongly wanted by Carlo Vanvitelli was the Venus Bath, the name comes from the fact that in the first fountain there is a statue of Venus coming out of the water created by Tommaso Solari.

Another structure with urban fonts on the opposite shore is Cryptoportico, a neoclassical porch creating the atmosphere of the first visitors of Pompei and Ercolano, a Cave-Cripta dug in the limestone. The semi-circular walls have three apses, everything is covered with stucco and fake marble, and it has a barrel-vault with gaps. The cracks, the gaps, and the rubbles are planned so that the visitor gets the idea of the time consumption.

Description, apparently romantic, but concealing, in its intimate architectural structure, a micro thermal system in the natural and urban context of the city of Caserta.

Keywords: Vanvitelli, representation, survey, history, cultural heritage

COLOURED MEMORIES IN RENOVATED OLD BAZAARS IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT:

Bazaar is considered as one of the major economic, social, cultural and structural Basis of the traditional city. After WWII in Albania they were deprived of their spatial importance, partly destroyed and forgotten. Last year's we have seen a rising interest in renovating these urban spaces and making them places of social interaction emphasizing cultural values, traditions, routine life and our individual experiences altogether. Renovating the built space, the authors are helping to revive old memories of the cities. The ottoman Bazaar evolves in the plaza. Wandering through this space color is the first thing catching the eye. Stalls full of a rainbow of products calling out and bright painted facades surrounding the space.

Colour is one of the tools used by the authors to reshape the visual perception of the built environment. This paper aims to analyze the use of color in the rehabilitation of the building facades surrounding the bazaar. Also, the paper will try to draw a line between the painted facades and the recreation of spatial memory of the old bazaar. Case studies will be presented, analyzed by space, color and building facades. Shape and quality of physical and cultural urban space of traditional bazaar have special values, which will be studied to help us find an emotional and visual impact of the redesigning of the space. Human mind perceives color faster than shape and volume. Studying the configuration of the colored facades in the urban space help us understand recreating the traces of colored memory of a forgotten space.

Keywords: color, memory, architecture, renovation, Bazaar, facades

URBAN SPACE REGENERATION THROUGH THE RECOVERY OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY. THE CASE OF FORMER PLANT “DINAMO E RE”, TIRANA

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ABSTRACT

The *topic* in this article is the research on regeneration of urban spaces through retraining inactive spaces and generating, in a certain settlement, not only an immaterial new fabric but also a social one.

The *aim* of this article is to investigate a series of strategies and designing instruments that target the regeneration of urban areas that have lost functionality or never had one, causing this way the malfunction of the entire urban tissue.

The initial *hypothesis* is that through increased permeability, minimal spatial transformation and the creation of several functions, which are consistent to the contemporary needs of the society, the image and the quality of the urban areas can be re-transformed, affecting this way directly the perception of society on a specific settlement.

The *methodology* followed to confirm this hypothesis will be based on the study of two cases of "industrial archeology" and also on extracting from them a series of intervention instruments, which will be applied then to a project. Results and conclusions will emerge from that project. We want to emphasize that the expected results will emerge from an "*in vitro*" experiment and not by direct application of those instruments in a real context. This research is divided into two main parts: the first one investigates how two different areas are recovered – "*il Mattatoio*" in Rome and an industrial area in Roskilde city, Denmark, designed by MVRDV – and the source of instruments and intervention strategies; and the second part will focus on the implementation of these instruments and strategies in a no-longer-functioning industrial reality such as the former "*Dinamo e Re*" plant in Tirana. Through the application of these strategies in a project applicable to the former industrial area "*Dinamo*", the hypothesis put forth earlier should be verified.

The *importance* of this research lies in the effort to provide a solution for the many former industrial areas which have been included in the cities' expansion but have lost their functionality. In this way, they appear as being impenetrable and not useful for society and the city.

Keywords: urban space regeneration, industrial archeology, city expansion.

THE LAKE OF THE ENGLISH GARDEN OF THE ROYAL PALACE OF CASERTA IN THE URBAN AND NATURAL CONTEXT OF THE CITY

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ABSTRACT

The research concerns the naturalistic complex, designed in 1785-1786 by Carlo Vanvitelli on an area of approximately 2500 mq, in the city center of Caserta, also known as the Anglo-Chinese garden. It is born from the harmonious combination of elements with different characters, if not opposed; it's based on principles such as the curved line and interpretation: blocks of plants seem to penetrate one another or emerge from each other. It includes a small hill to the entrance and a flat land that extends for 23 hectares with quota jumps; is dotted with real buildings that provide an articulated sum of images, marked by deep knowledge and refined taste for the ancient that Carlo has absorbed from his father, his first mentor. This set is considered to be a true open-air museum of architect's works. The garden follows a completely free design, the ideal axis of which is a stream that stretches for a long time to become a lake, where two richly vegetated islands appear: the first, the largest, houses a Corinthian Prostilo temple; The second one is characterized by a pavilion intended for the refuge of ducks, swans, and other water birds. The Corinthian temple with false ruins Pronao was made in 1792-1798 in two phases corresponding to a circular system with a dome, then embedded in the quadrangle-shaped temple; The structure is also called "barn" for the cover in shiny straw that spread a warm yellow reflection. Capitals and rows of ancient columns in dolomites, from Pompei, and oriental granite were used; the architrave placed on the columns is in stone. The imitation of constructive and decorative techniques of Roman architecture is here combined with the fake signs of time disintegrating and ruining. This structure represents a true naturalistic heart for the city of Caserta.

Keywords: history, cultural heritage, lake, garden, architecture

THE BAS-RELIEF AND THE MOSAIC, THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT

The History of Architecture shows us the man has preferred to combine figurative art, sculpture, bas-relief, painting or mosaic, with construction volume, giving them a more and more important role in architectural structures.

This enrichment of architectural works with decorative elements is witnessed by a different period in Albania, while today there is a tendency to deny or fade the connection between art and architecture, bringing about the ever-present presence of artistic works in our buildings.

The study aims to identify and evaluate the role of figurative art in architectural facilities in our country and to emphasize its aesthetic contribution to the architectural values of the building. Through the architectural analysis of objects in Durres and Tirana, those who are characterized by the presence of an artistic bas-relief or mosaic, the study highlighted their artistic and stylistic values and emphasize the influence they have on the architectural values of the building. The constructions taken into consideration are buildings from the XX century, witches constructed in different socio-political systems, were influenced in the stylistic language of the bas-reliefs or applied mosaic.

Resulting in the analysis, there are the questions: What is the role of figurative art in today's facilities and why is, its influence in architectural structures, fading? What are the factors that have led to more and less use of artistic elements in today's constructions?

Answering through the identification of a few architectural objects made in recent years, the study brought the examples of the use of artistic work in the architectural objects, and conclude that the interplay of mosaic, bas-relief or mural painting with the architecture of the objects of our cities can increase the artistic value of the buildings, help in aesthetic education, and increase the impact of the architectural building on urban space. According to the study conclusions, this use of figurative art should be well-studied, taking care that the selection of these artistic values to be applied in architectural structures is not left to the case, but to decisions well reviewed by specialist groups.

Keywords: Bas-relief, mosaic, Tirana, Durres, architectural

HOTEL STRUCTURES DURING COMMUNIST PERIOD (1945-1990) IN ALBANIA. ANALYZING THE INFLUENCE OF LOCAL CONTEXT IN THE PROCESS OF FORM-CREATION

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ABSTRACT

This research is intended to achieve an understanding of the accommodating structures during communism in Albania, focusing on the main cities and strategic points of this country. The aim of this paper is to investigate and highlight certain designing strategies and characteristics that have influenced the creation of structures that would provide hosting and hotel services in Albania during 1945-1990.

The initial hypothesis in this context is that these constructions contain in the formally hidden structure a typological similarity which has contributed to creating the original image of the hosting facilities.

The methodology to be followed for the verification of this hypothesis is based on the analysis of several case studies in the main cities of Albania, by analyzing them in iconographic level (based on the concept of Vitruvius) and by investigating the findings of influences that these structures might have had from the local context.

The search will be divided into two initial stages. The first stage would focus on identifying the main projects and analyzing significant case studies. The second stage would concentrate on identifying the elements that have influenced the formal structures of these hosting buildings.

The importance of this writing consists in finding some local influences in building a formal image of the hostel structures and in using these results in projects or future interventions to preserve and emphasize Albanian architectural identity.

Keywords: Hosting-hotel structures, typology, form, local influences

MEMORIES OF AN URBAN LANDSCAPE. THE AURELIAN WALLS BETWEEN SAN GIOVANNI IN LATERANO AND SANTA CROCE IN GERUSALEMME

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ABSTRACT

In 2018, the new metro station of San Giovanni will be inaugurated, creating an important hub of the contemporary Rome in a significant spot of the historic center: between the basilicas of San Giovanni in Laterano and Santa Croce in Gerusalemme and adjacent to an important segment of the Aurelian Walls along Viale Carlo Felice. In the light of the works surrounding the station and according to a comprehensive (and desirable) rethinking of the whole area, the paper proposes a holistic reading of the various transformation phases of this portion of the city, place of stratification of numerous past infrastructures.

This segment of the Aurelian Walls, built in the 3rd century, has a distinctive configuration with a double gallery in order to overcome the orographic depression between the Celio and Esquilino hills; on these hills the two Christian Basilicas were built during the following century; in the sixteenth century Pope Sixtus V included them in his urban plan, but only during the papacy of Benedict XIV, in 1748, the two religious poles were connected by the first public boulevard in Rome, a tree-lined axis sided by black mulberries.

The most radical transformation of the area occurred between the 19th and 20th century after the proclamation of Rome as the Capital, when the urbanization of the Esquilino neighborhood caused the complete filling of the ancient valley and the destruction of the papal boulevard; furthermore, first public tram warehouses were built adjacent to the Walls. In 1926 Raffaele De Vico, the most renowned garden architect of the fascist regime redesigned the entire area retracing the boulevard axis but in complete disregard of the original eighteenth-century asset.

Before today, the latest great transformation happened during the "Great Jubilee" when the whole area has been cleansed by improper and damaging elements - tram warehouses and the dirt filling the ancient depression – leaving unresolved the relation between the past and contemporary identity of the area.

Keywords: urban landscape, Aurelian Walls, Viale Carlo Felice Roma

THE BOTANICAL SCHOOL IN THE ENGLISH GARDEN OF THE ROYAL PALACE OF CASERTA

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ABSTRACT

The research is focused on the study of the School of Botany in the English Garden of the Royal Palace of Caserta. Wished by Queen Maria Carolina of Austria, wife of King Ferdinand IV in 1785, is the first example of the informal Italian garden. It is subdivided into a northern area where a kind of infrastructure acropolis is located, a central part with a strong hydraulic character flanked to the west by a rigid area devoted to botanical gardens and vegetation structures and a lower end that ends with a small temple of the Doric order. Throughout the overall design the only "anomalies" both from an ideal point of view and from the point of view of design, are represented by the Eighteenth Century Greenhouses and the Botanical School. Their presence within the Garden is strongly marked by a sign that divides them from the rest of the context with vegetation: a wall that separates the buildings of the remaining central part and divides three jumps of height. These structures are considered utilitarian buildings as they are suitable for preserving rare specimens and potted collections: it represents the waning part of Queen's interest in the garden and the consequent re-launch of King Ferdinand IV, intending to transform it into a scientific area. The area for the garden is marked by the trace of a small masonry channel used for irrigation, while the greenhouses represent, instead, the garden area for reproduction, acclimatization and study of botanical specimens. Planimetrically more regular than the rest of the garden is a series of terraces connected by a central path.

Keywords: history, cultural heritage, lake, garden, architecture

FROM THE COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORIAL. AN ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY CASES AND A PROJECTUAL HYPOTHESIS IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF AVERSA

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ABSTRACT

Our era is constantly crossed by the thought of the memory. This is a process of elaboration that culminates with the internalization of the tragedies and turns into the culture, because culture is the memory of the past. Memories on which are based new societies, reappointing its identity through semiotic and cultural processes that govern the construction of the collective identity. An attention to traumatic events of the past that is fixed, develops and is processed through places and symbols that define spaces for the commemoration of the community and emphasize, through the memory of the victims, the elements of cohesion and solidarity that push towards equality and belonging to a common humanity. The slaughters of today are not those of the wars of the past, they are to be attributed to different matrices, but they leave, as those ones, indelible signs in the soul of the community and culminate in a ransom request that is not just a need of the victims but of the entire civil society. In the 90's many memorial museums came to birth. In the latest years, the term “memorial” is used to indicate a commemorative typology in some ways similar to that of the museum. There is an evolutionary process of the forms of memorialization that goes from the second after the war to the present, where monuments and memorials set foot to new forms more strictly connected to territory and to the participation of the local communities. The research aims to elaborate a memorial hypothesis within the historical center of the city of Aversa in the region of Campania in Italy, after a detailed analysis of the memorials made in recent years.

Keywords: historical center, memorial, transformation projects, collective history, resilience

ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURES IN BOTANICAL COMPLEX ADJACENT TO THE SALA VILLAGE IN CASERTA

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ABSTRACT

The research proposes the study of the architectural solution, conceived to host the botanist John Andrew Graefer, in the English garden of the “Reggia di Caserta”, a surface of 23 hectares, consisting of exotic plants, tree-lined roads, and buildings inspired to the classical world. Wanted by the Queen Maria Carolina, the garden borns in 1786 from the cooperation between the architect Carlo Vanvitelli and the botanist John Andrew Graefer, came from England on the invitation of the British ambassador Hamilton, a friend of the Queen. In the beginning, Graefer lived in a small house of the adjacent Sala village; in 1789 the King decided to allow him an accommodation inside the garden itself, getting to the realization of “Casino all’inglese”. The works ended in 1793, leading to an imposing building composed of a basement floor, a ground floor, and an upper floor. The architectural solution conceived by Carlo Vanvitelli consists of a continuous stylobate that wraps the openings of the ground floor and a succession of twin columns that consists the second level. The stylobate consists of a fake “bugnato” that wants to imitate the porosity of the bushhammered stone; a Doric columns order consisted of an irregular opus incertum weaving and its cornice, embellished with medallions, leans on the stylobate. The ground floor and the upper floor are composed of eleven living rooms, leading directly from arced rooms. Covered stairs lead to the upper floor and to another floor, the one of the attic. The research proposes the relief of the structures in the landscaping and urban context of the city.

Keywords: history, cultural heritage, landscape, garden, architecture

MONTESARCHIO CITY AT THE FEET OF TABURNO

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ABSTRACT

The research concerns the study of the urban center of Montesarchio in Campania, at the feet of Mount Taburno. The present name of the district dates back to medieval times and is derived from "Mons Arculi" or "Mons Herculis". There are several testimonies dating back to Roman times, such as the excavations of Caudium, the thermal baths, and the Roman aqueduct. The architectural elements emerging from the urban fabric are the Abbey of Saint Nicholas with the two absis chapel on the north side of the village. The castle occupies the opposite side of the valley on which stands the tower for sighting. The access to the castle was through a drawbridge which still has some holes for engagement in the worked stone. The volumetric, articulated in an irregularly elongated plant, had to be contained in a single mural mass, without traces and without predominant elements, since the sighting and extreme defense function was occupied by the nearby tower which the castle was in underground communication. The tower is the oldest nucleus of the fortified complex. It is currently an impressive circular architectural factory made up of two cylinders, with two other bodies, one of which is composed by two floors with a trapezoidal interior courtyard, and the other with an irregular shape, corresponding to the entrance. The structure of the tower, even if compact and massive, has a harmonious and grand appearance. Its forms are engaging in a happy game of volumes, a result of the evolution in the time of the early watchtower in a mighty defensive bastion. The research concludes with manual and instrumental activity and modification proposals related to the city complex.

Keywords: Montesarchio, history, castle, relief, Taburno

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE. A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN ALBANIA AND TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Orikum is situated in the southern part of Albania. This includes in its territory one of most important natural and archaeological park of the country. It is a perfect example of a place between past and future. This area has been generously donated a beautiful and an untouched nature, a magical coastline with a rich underwater archaeology. Archaeological excavations, across the plain of Orikum, revealed elements highlighting the close relationship between human settlement and landscape in which it occurs. Stratification periods of occupation, from antiquity to the present day are clear on the site, including military installations, which last for 2500 years.

Mersin is situated in the southern part of Turkey. Settlement history dates back to the 8000 BC with very rich archaeological remains. Coastal line development is very intrinsic. Contradictory and different developments of planned and unplanned areas/local settlements, very rich integration of natural environment, archaeological remains and urban fabric are worth to study. Mersin is also the very important touristic destination of Turkey.

The paper concentrates on the comparison of Orikum and Mersin. The questions posed by the sustainable development of this natural and archeological heritage have opened the discussion of new ways of planning these tourist territories. The paper is oriented toward practical problems of planning the urban waterfront related to the natural and archeological heritage. Comparing legislation and planning instruments for the protection of these heritage sites, spatial planning, and tourism between two countries Albania an Turkey.

The specific issues which are addressed in the two case studies include changing the waterfront image, improving accessibility and controlling the quality of physical environment. An incremental approach to implementation is recommended, with emphasis upon controlling the quality of the public realm and the role of legislation and the urban design guidelines to guide waterfront development and the preservation of the natural environment and the local culture, as well as to the development of the community.

The results of the research show that the waterfront planning concepts of sustainability and innovation will be highly strategic and operative to reach both the preservation of archeologic heritage and successful tourism development.

Keywords: heritage sites, waterfront, tourism, sustainable planning

AN ENGRAINED JURIDICAL CODE IN ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

“The home of the Albanian is home of God and of the guest” In which Constitute of the world is written such a definition, where the home, is not the property of its owner, but of God and the guest? This is a definition explicitly written since 1263 at “Kanuni I Lekë Dukagjinit” (The Code of Lekë Dukagjini). It is a real encyclopedia, a milestone to understand the Albanian lifestyle and mentality. Which is the interrelation between this Code and the Architecture? How is this Code reflected in Architecture? This can be understood simply, by perceiving the traditional dwelling of North of Albania, in its initial form that has the shape of a cuboid called ‘Kulla’ (Tower). ‘Kulla’ is organized in three levels: a space in each level. At the ground level, there is ‘ahri’ – the place where the livestock are kept. At first level, there is the fire room. At the second level: the room of the guest, where according to the Code, family members are not allowed to sleep.

The paper concluded that the case of ‘Kulla’ is an excellent example to understand a specific social philosophy, which finds its representation in architecture.

Keywords: code, architecture, dwelling, Albania

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