



**/FACING/////////
/POST/WAR/////////
/URBAN/HERITAGE/////////
/IN/////////
/CENTRAL/EASTERN/////////
/EUROPE/////////**

FACING POST-WAR URBAN HERITAGE IN CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPE

Doctoral conference organised by the Department of Urban Planning and Design,
Faculty of Architecture, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME).
www.urb.bme.hu

chairwoman: Melinda BENKŐ PhD
secretary: Domonkos WETTSTEIN

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Docomomo / ISC Urbanism + Landscape

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, VI. Section of Engineering Sciences, Committee on Architecture: Standing Committee on Urban Sciences
Csonka Pál Doctoral School, Faculty of Architecture, BME

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/ BOOK OF ABSTRACTS // // // // //

// FOREWORD //

// MELINDA BENKŐ //

// PhD //

// Department of Urban Planning and Design, Budapest University of Technology and Economics //

The Department of Urban Planning and Design at BME (<http://urb.bme.hu/>) wishes to promote cooperation among Central-Eastern European (CEE) architectural doctoral institutions, building up a network for future generations of scholars through their specific fields of research. Throughout Europe, current urban challenges are posed by large-scale ensembles of modernity as a result of post-war development on both sides of the Iron Curtain. The doctoral conference is dedicated to the post-war urban heritage in Central-Eastern Europe, and this theme is divided into four sub-topics which are common and relevant phenomena in this part of Europe: prefabricated mass housing as the Communist living norm, abnormally high amounts of former industrial sites, recreational areas that have transformed nature into urbanized landscape, and the (in)formal components of urban networks. The urb/doconf 2015 is the first in a series of doctoral conferences to be organised on a bi-yearly basis, which will provide a comparative overview of current doctoral research into the physical – built and natural – environment within CEE. The invited chairs of the conference are from the four Visegrad countries – Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. The selected lecturers – doctoral researchers, PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers (maximum five years after obtaining the doctorate degree) – specialise in architecture, urban design, urban planning or landscape architecture and represent ten CEE countries. In addition to theoretical questions, we would like to find pragmatic approaches when responding to the new challenges of sustainability and when determining what kind of protection tool-kit is capable of addressing large-scale ensembles problems. Our aim is to discover special similarities and dissimilarities within the Central-Eastern European physical environment, to discuss a wide range of options (from preservation to sustainable renewal processes) and to create a network of architectural PhD researchers. We are also interested in different research methodologies used in architectural doctoral studies: theoretical frameworks, comparative studies, morphological case studies, research by design methodology, etc. We hope that the conference is an important step towards recognising our common field of research, reconciling our Central-Eastern European knowledge with that of the West and defining new ways of thinking about urban heritage.

MELINDA BENKŐ //

holds a PhD in architecture and is an urban designer, associate professor and (since 2012) Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). Her research, teaching and professional activities focus on contemporary urban design in relation to sustainability and urban heritage – for example, the future of large prefabricated housing estates, energy efficient renewal of historic city centres, different aspects of public space design and use, etc. Benkő participates in international scientific and educational networks (Erasmus, REA, AUF, URBACT, COSTTU1203), as well as organises workshops and conferences in Budapest (namely, 2010 Urban Renewal, 2012 Renouvellement urbaine, 2015 Design and Management for Safer Public Spaces, 2015 Housing Estates in V4, and 2015 Facing Post-war Urban Heritage In Central-Eastern Europe).

/ FOREWORD //

/ TAMÁS MEGGYESI //

/ DSc //

/ Department of Urban Planning and Design, Budapest University of Technology and Economics //

/ Csonka Pál Doctoral School, BME / Hungarian Academy of Science //

It is a special opportunity and a great honour for me to welcome all the participants to Budapest on the occasion of this conference on post-war urban heritage in Central-Eastern Europe. As a professor emeritus and former head at the Department of Urban Planning and Design, I have spent all my life here in the university. I always fall victim to facing people of the same age group all the time, and I fail to recognize the age difference. I do not feel the passage of generations. That is why I am happy to welcome all the newcomers as my colleagues! Everyone has arrived from Central Eastern European countries in order to survey and re-evaluate our post-war urban heritage under four topics: mass housing, industrial sites, recreational areas and urban infrastructural networks. Having been actively involved in the creation and formation of post-war urban developments in my country, I feel a bit responsible for the result and the burden of the past. At first sight and in retrospect, this heritage seems to be very similar to that of the Western sphere of the continent. In spite of different historical background, our different ideological and economical context, we all went through the same phases of urbanisation and committed the same errors in the past 70 years. At the end of the past year, I took part in an international seminar in the ETH in Zürich concerning post-war correlations between Western and Eastern methods, and I returned with the superficial impression that comparing urban heritage, there are really no essential differences. Yet, facing the rehabilitation tasks of today, the alternative ways of interpreting and evaluating this heritage, with special regard to the different potential character of the new environmental context, I think the similarities are superficial. I am convinced there is an important reason to focus now upon our own regional identity, since this topic cannot be exhausted by mere statistical data. Urban heritage is basically a qualitative term. It is deeply rooted not only in the past, but in the geographical, historical, cultural, social and spiritual context of the countries. We are different nations in Central Eastern Europe; however, we do belong to the same region. It is my conviction that we are not simply condemned to be a transition area between East and West, our urban heritage is not only a modest or humble version of the West, and we are not destined to assimilate to the West-European way of life or thinking. Perhaps the most important topic of this conference is to try to identify our Central-Eastern Europeanism in the evaluation and rehabilitation of works from our post-war urban heritage. Instead of modelling the future of our environmental culture on some Continental ideal, it is our task to find the character and the spirit of our region. My generation and my father's generation were deeply involved in the process of European integration, but the generation of our sons and daughters already possesses the historical distance to confront the identity of our region. I wish you much success in this work.

TAMÁS MEGGYESI //

holds a DSc in architecture and urban planning. He was Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design between 1988 and 2000 at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). He has worked as a professor emeritus since 2006. His research interests covered a wide range of professional topics – e.g., a systems view of planning, the theory and praxis of urban design, history of town planning, traditional environmental patterns in Hungarian settlements, and a theory of public space. He has worked actively on urban renewal plans for Hungarian towns and villages. In 1992, he established a new faculty and organised a Department for Urban Planning at the High School for Technology in Pécs. He has also held lectures for the Faculty of Landscape Architecture at Corvinus University since 1968, and he is the author of several books and publications about urban design theory and Hungarian case studies. As an elected member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, he used to be the Head of the Sub-Committee on Urban Science within the framework of the Committee on Architecture.

// FOREWORD //

// MILES GLENDINNING //

// PhD //

// Director of Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies, University of Edinburgh //

// Chair of Docomomo International Specialist Committee on Urbanism and Landscape //

This very welcome symposium of the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Budapest University of Technology and Economics (urb/bme) , organised with support from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Visegrad fund, is the first event in a new partnership between urb/bme, the Department of Urban Planning and Design at BME, and DOCOMOMO's International Specialist Committee on Urbanism and Landscape (ISC U + L). My short presentation has two objectives: firstly, to outline what DOCOMOMO is and what it stands for; secondly, to sketch out potential collaborations between U + L and urb/bme. DOCOMOMO, founded 1988, is a non-profit organization dedicated to DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the MOdern MOvement – goals which, significantly, stress documentation as much as conservation. From the beginning, DOCOMOMO has been oriented towards voluntary enthusiasm rather than official bureaucracy, and it stresses a mixture of networking, information sharing and public proselytising, especially at international conferences, the next being in Lisbon in September 2016. DOCOMOMO is structured in a combination of national and regional working parties (totalling 69 to date) and trans-national activities – focused in DOCOMOMO's International Secretariat in Lisbon and its Specialist Committees (ISCs), including our own ISC U + L, whose special mission is researching modern ensembles and environments. Building on this foundation, I envisage two potential areas of collaboration between U + L and the urb/bme: first, conferences and symposia, which we can publish about afterwards in our series of e-proceedings; second, the specific area of mass housing – one of the most emblematic but also ubiquitous programmes of the modern movement, tackled recently in the urb/bme workshop, 'Housing Estates in V4 – What Next?' In U + L, we are pursuing an extensive global research programme on post-war housing, stemming ultimately from the 1994 book Tower Block. (see <http://fields.eca.ac.uk/gis/TowerBlock.pdf>) This is now driving forward a project to develop an international online image bank of Modernist mass housing. Consequently, the potential collaborations with the Department of Urban Planning and Design at the BME are obvious!

MILES GLENDINNING //

is Professor of Architectural Conservation at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Director of the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies. He has published extensively on modernist and contemporary architecture and housing – books that include the award-winning Tower Block (with Stefan Muthesius); Modern Architect, on the life and times of Sir Robert Matthew; and Architecture's Evil Empire, a polemical evaluation of contemporary 'iconic modernism'. Most recently, an international history of architectural preservation, The Conservation Movement, was published in January 2013 by Routledge. His current research projects include an in-depth historical investigation of mass housing, both globally and in Hong Kong and Singapore in particular, as well as a book on the relationship between architecture and Scottish nationalism from c.1600-2000.

/ SESSIONS & CHAIRS ////////////////

/ MASS HOUSING ////////////////

/ DAVID TICHÝ ////////////////

/ PhD ////////////////

/ Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in the Technical University in Prague ////////////////

/ INDUSTRIAL SITES ////////////////

/ LUBICA VITKOVA ////////////////

/ PhD ////////////////

/ Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava ////////////////

/ RECREATIONAL AREAS ////////////////

/ ANDRÁS FERKAI ////////////////

/ PhD, DSc ////////////////

/ Professor at the MOME University in Budapest ////////////////

/ (IN)FORMAL URBAN NETWORKS ////////////////

/ ANNA AGATA KANTAREK ////////////////

/ PhD, DSc ////////////////

/ Associate Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in the Krakow University of Technology ////////////////

/ MASS HOUSING 

/ MASS HOUSING //

/ DAVID TICHÝ //

/ PhD //

/ Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in the Technical University in Prague //

HOUSING ESTATES: TRANSFORMATION APPROACHES

Mass housing represents specific parts of cities in the Visegrad region, which undoubtedly require a coherent approach regarding urban planning and municipal management. Their spatial structure with oversized public spaces lacks economic as well as environmental sustainability. Because of general public perception, they are at strong risk of social decline. Therefore, seeking paths to future development for these specific areas represents one of the most important topics in terms of local planning and communal policies. Housing estates represent a specific system of built environment with several important differences when compared with the structure of the traditional town. Public spaces often occupy more than 75% of their area. The unregulated traffic and technical infrastructure often do not follow the spatial logic of buildings themselves. Local identity of sites and areas is often shaped not by public (shared, open) spaces, but by independently standing, privately-owned objects. All this indicates, at bare minimum, the need for a specific approach and increased care for public spaces on the part of municipal administration. In the last two decades, a gradual transformation of housing estates has been taking place. Proprietary and social structures are changing, the population is ageing, etc. In some regions, social problems are concentrating in these areas and occasionally even social exclusion is found here. In still other regions, sociological studies and real-estate prices indicate that the more successful members of the community are, in the long run, abandoning these areas. Every town structure is, of course, subjected to changes over time. Rooted in societal changes, changes affecting functioning, structure, customs, requirements, overall culture, living habits and the buildings themselves come into existence. As a result, the built environment captures the image of its time as it reacts to new demands and needs. It is hard to imagine that housing estates could escape such tendencies, that they would be ready and finished once for all and that, since the time of their construction, only house maintenance would be needed. Thus, it is necessary to address them with possible means of development, transformation or revitalisation.

DAVID TICHÝ //

is an assistant professor in the Studio Kohout – Tichý in the faculty of architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague, as well as a lecturer in the residential buildings course at the same institution. Additionally, he is a member of the Real Estate Advisory Group of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, Geneva; co-founder of non-profit organisation Housing Quality Centre; a partner in the architecture office UNIT architekti; secretary of the Housing Policy Committee, Czech chamber of architects; an organiser and co-guarantee of the project "Housing Estates, What Next?"; and a member of the Advisory Committee for the National Program on Ageing. He is co-author of Prague building regulations (Prague Institute of Planning and Development, 2014), co-author of the book My House, Our Street: Individual Housing and its Coordinated Construction (Zlatý řez, Praha 2014), and co-author of number of realisations mainly related to housing environment – e.g., Housing Complex Vackov, Prague 3, CZ; Housing Complex Jeseniova, Prague 3, CZ; Housing Complex Jahodnice I, Prague, CZ; and Apartment Building Troja, Prague, CZ. He participates in scientific research and lectures at conferences mostly focused on the quality of housing, social housing, senior housing, community housing and housing estates.

/ THE ILLUSION OF BETTER LIVING: /// / COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PREFAB /// / HOUSING ESTATES FROM THE 60S WITH THE / / CONTEMPORARY REALISATIONS IN KRAKOW /

**/ DAMIAN POKLEWSKI-KOZIEŁŁ ///
/ architect, PhD student ///
/ Department of Architecture, Krakow University of Technology ///
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Estates of prefabricated blocks of flats, which sprang up all over the planet after the Second World War, have also dominated the cityscape of most Polish cities. Despite the passage of 25 years since the political transformation and liberation from the shackles of central planning, prefabricated residential buildings still make up 45% to 70% of the urban housing stock. The process of architectural and urban transformation, despite periodical fluctuations, continues. At the beginning of the 90s, there has been a decline of large local cooperative apartment corporations controlled by party apparatus gradually replaced by the private sector – individual and professional property development companies. The departure from the international style and the obligatory architectural and urban canons has unlocked creativity in architects. In the end, it was possible to break with the generally dominant dullness and monotony. The natural sense of otherness and the need to demonstrate an individual aesthetic, social and cultural preferences that had been suppressed for many years, finally found a means of escape. Another side effect of political transformation was material inequality. Disadvantages of the construction system based on prefabricated elements are commonly known. Low standards in finishing and equipment and a high rate of energy consumption in building processes tended to result in open areas without special-purpose, low-quality public spaces and, what Jan Gehl especially points out, a lack of life between the buildings. Nevertheless, we must not forget that the housing of that period was based upon principles of modernism which, by opposing centuries-old urban canons, appealed to elementary human needs in terms of space, light and greenery. Have the housing estates built in Krakow for the last 25 years drawn the right conclusions from the previous era? Have we managed to reject the bad and retain the beneficial techniques? Finally, can we speak of a general improvement in the quality of living space? The aim of the article is therefore to answer to the abovementioned questions. The author will comparatively analyse selected housing estates, in their respective periods of time, based on objective criteria (related to the actual quality of the space) such as the size of living space per capita; access to daylight in the apartments; density; mutual distances between buildings and resulting acoustic comfort; proximity of service facilities aimed at meeting the needs of inhabitants; quality of public spaces and their role in shaping social ties; proximity of recreation areas and playgrounds; a sense of safety; and finally, efficiency, flexibility and complexity of the communication system. The article also aims to answer the following question: to what extent are wrong solutions the result of specific, chaotic and inherited plot patterns; or, are they rather the result of urban planning decisions issued by the local government institutions?



Recently built housing development. Krakow, ul. Grota-Roweckiego. (photo: Google street view)

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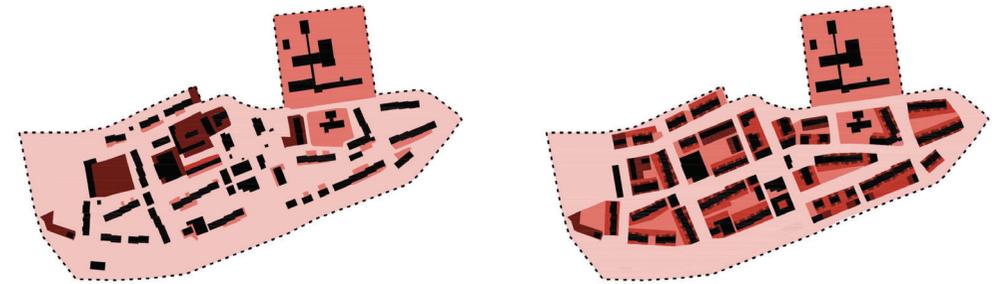
DAMIAN POKLEWSKI-KOZIEŁŁ ///

is a PhD student at the Department of Architecture at the Krakow University of Technology. At the same time, he is an active architect. In 2008, he co-founded Mado Architects, a design office that specializes in public and residential buildings. His area of research is best defined by the question: how can one build a vibrant and people-friendly city? He has shared his passion for this topic, speaking at many conferences organized by major research centres in Poland. He has also participated in several student workshops. Of the latter, worthy of special mention are the workshops organized by the school of architecture at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, BarcelonaTech, which were held in Frankfurt am Main and devoted to the revitalisation of Nordweststadt, a housing estate from the 60s.

// LEGIBILITY OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT // AS A KEY ASPECT OF HOUSING ESTATE // REGENERATION

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Modernist housing estates represent specific morphological structures where identity on the urban level is generated by solitary buildings instead of public spaces. Public space occupies more than 2/3 of the land and is often designed as an open space without any specific content, with uniformity devoid of any social meaning. This setting can easily lead to disorientation and a lack of inhabitants' identification with the environment, as well as difficulties in day-to-day administration of urban development within these areas. This paper presents the results of both analysis and study from the comprehensive research project "Housing Estates, What Next?", which took place at the Faculty of Architecture CTU in Prague. During the process, six specific modernist neighbourhoods in the Czech Republic were analysed, and more than 20 model solutions were produced and evaluated. The working method was based on comprehensive analysis of housing estates, taking into account both their local and general characteristics. This analysis also helps to define means used to transform these areas: primarily improvements in the legibility of their spatial structure, establishment of a hierarchy among open areas according to their level of privacy, promotion of functional and typological diversity, and the handling of traffic issues including parking. The paper explores these tools and their impact on the overall residential quality of housing estates' environment and the adaptability of their urban pattern. It shows how reorganisation of public space can change the nature of urban layout without necessitating massive changes in built mass. Legibility of urban layout is presented as a key aspect of housing estate transformation and a tool for the long-term stability of urban environments. It can work as a natural guideline for all participants in urban development: public administration, inhabitants, developers and architects.



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soukromé / polosoukromé / poloveřejné / veřejné
private / semi-private / semi-public / public

Possible rearrangement of housing estates' urban pattern by introducing new types of spaces with different levels of privacy (Růžový Vrch, Karlovy Vary, one of the case-studies in "Housing Estates, What Next?" project)

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FILIP TITTL

is an architect and urban designer with a master's degree from CTU in Prague. He also studied in Eindhoven in the Netherlands. His master's thesis, focusing on urban patterns, was selected as the best graduation project in the Czech Republic in 2010 and nominated for the Archiprix Award. He has worked at MVRDV in Rotterdam. In 2012, together with Michal Kohout and David Tichý, he founded the architectural office UNIT architekti. His practice is mainly concentrated on housing, urban design and planning. Since 2013, he has collaborated with the Prague Institute of Planning and Development on building legislation. He teaches in the faculty of architecture at CTU in Prague, where he also collaborates on several research projects. In 2011, he was invited to participate in an international workshop at MIT, Boston, concerning visions for the future of New York.

/ SOCIALIST SELF-MANAGEMENT CITY: /////////////// / FROM UTOPIA TO DYSTOPIA AND BACK ///////////////

/ RENATA MARGARETIĆ URLIĆ ///////////////

/ art historian, PhD student ///////////////

/ Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb / Croatian Television ///////////////

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Back to the future: Beside the health care and education for the entire working class, conferring the right to an apartment was undoubtedly the most important humane achievement of the Communist self-management era. As a part of such a prosperous social policy, New Zagreb was the largest urban extension under Communism in post-war Croatia, conceived on humane, Arcadian visions of a healthy, sunny city with a huge amount of recreational areas, parks, lakes, greenery and all the possible services that make contemporary living ultimately agreeable. Under the powerful leadership of Zagreb Institute for Urbanism, it was a pragmatically organized area, with an orthogonal network of traffic arteries between the housing settlements that functioned as self-managing units and housing cooperatives. During the entire construction period until the late 1980s, the New Zagreb settlements were criticised as the city's "bedrooms", or a Communist "crane-urbanism" product, without regard to the city's comprehensive plan from 1962. This was fuelled by the dearth of economic support for all the proposed services. Once the state experienced the transitional, post-Communist era, the so-called dystopian settlements came to be considered a pleasant part of the city with luxurious quality and quantities of public space, not to mention competitive prices on the property market. Hence, this paper examines and evaluates the ambivalent positions of New Zagreb's heritage, both urban and architectural, within the context of ideological and economic changes – not only after the fall of the Iron Curtain, but also from current perspectives of poor building maintenance and the lack of preservation of public spaces. From humane functionalism to a re-humanised community: The paper investigates models, strategies and experimentations with new building technologies, structural innovations and prefabrication, but also with new building policies that changed throughout the construction era. Initially, settlements were realised in strict modernist syntax, as a Corbusian functionalist city; yet, later ones were actually planned in terms of a theoretical and materialised re-humanization critique of the earlier, functional ones. This re-humanisation, the humane version of functionalism, was actually implemented in almost all post-war Croatian architecture and urbanism projects. Through urban plans and architectural designs, the paper, therefore, reveals the post-war continuity of the Zagreb School of Architecture, an influential educational centre created by masters of the pre-war Modern Movement. That continuity is substantiated by video interviews with three architects who began their practice within the most progressive Jugomont Building Factory. Bogdan Budimirov, Vinko Uhlík and Đuro Mirković recount their methods of innovation, experimenting and using the most advanced architectural, social and hygienic guidelines for designing both urban landscape and housing units. Thus, the paper presents their results of cost-effective, rational and expedient solutions for dealing with pressing housing needs and creating better living conditions for the new working class. Each architect presents a different period of New Zagreb's construction – the 60s, 70s and 80s – marked by the radical housing reforms that changed the housing policy from centralised to market economy. Consequently, the paper responds to the key query: Have New Zagreb's estates endured the test of time, providing an efficient living environment for their residents today?



ZAGREB



Arcadian postcard from New Zagreb (author's private collection)

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Renata Margaretić Urlić, Karin Šerman: Workers' University Zagreb: Team10 Ideas in service of Socialist enlightenment in „Team 10 East: revisionist Architecture in real existing Modernism“, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, 2013
"Interview of the week", documentary interviews with the new Zagreb's architects (Bogdan Budimirov, Vinko Uhlík & Đuro Mirković) by Renata Margaretić Urlić, Croatian television, 3.channel, 2015

RENATA MARGARETIĆ URLIĆ ///////////////

MA, MSc, is an art and architectural historian specialised in the field of post-war architectural modernism. She works as an editor of cultural programs and architectural documentaries at Croatian Radio-Television. She has served on editorial boards of major Croatian architectural magazines and participated at international conferences (ETH, Zürich; Museum of Contemporary Art, Warsaw). She is the author of the book Slavko Jelinek (2009), covering the housing projects of the prominent post-war architect. She graduated in art history from the faculty of philosophy at the University of Zagreb, where she received her MSc. Her master's thesis elaborated on Radovan Nikšić's Workers University, a masterpiece of Croatian modernism. Currently, she is working on a doctoral thesis on the mass housing architecture of Novi Zagreb as a broad post-war urban extension.

/ COMPARISON OF POST-WAR SPATIAL / PLANNING AND REALISED CONSTRUCTION / IN BRATISLAVA

/ PETER HORÁK & PAVLÍNA KOLCUNOVA

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From an urban perspective, Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is a diverse city serving as a model for understanding the formation of urban structure and the application of various political and economic principles in Slovakia in the period between the World Wars and after them. Specific geographical conditions for urban formation (the Danube and the Carpathians) have limited the development of the city. Post-war industrialisation meant a further limit to development and prospects. On the other hand, industrialisation stimulated great development potential. The first post-war urban plans concerned development of the eastern city. New residential areas on the other side of the river and the Carpathians had to be found to support dynamic new construction technologies (namely, prefabrication). The master plan of the city from the 60s laid patterns for future development, not to mention the current concept for the transportation system and functional zoning. This plan was followed by the international urban competition for Petržalka District, one of the largest-scale Communist housing estates of the later period. Modernism in Slovakia underwent several significant changes during the 20th century. During the inter-war period, world-class functionalist formation experienced a surge. Nonetheless, this progressive line of architecture almost came to a complete halt with World War Two. After WWII, with the subsequent onset of Communism in Slovakia, the political and economic objectives of the USSR influenced the field of urban planning to a considerable extent. The emerging urban planning and design system in the early years of the 20th century did not enjoy a sufficiently strong position in Slovakia. Lack of experts and schools during this period in Slovakia undermined the importance of the young urban discipline. The advent of Communism enabled the realisation of urban visions that could not be built beforehand. This was due to its political and economic objectives, but also on account of the nationalisation of construction enterprises. Nevertheless, dogmatic ideas versus national-economic reality introduced several inconsistencies into the urban structure under formation. This caused contradictory perceptions of architecture and urban planning and design on the part of the public and architects alike. This discrepancy is reflected in the structure of Bratislava, which underwent intensive formation in the period after WWII. This article emphasises the basic economic and technical factors for the better understanding of this construction process. The outlined stages of the construction process and its comparison with urban planning indicate to a large extent the effects of this process and its impact on the current functioning of the city.



Perspective of master plan of Bratislava in 1956, ink drawing

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PETER HORÁK

a student in the faculty of architecture at STU in Bratislava since he started his bachelor-degree studies there in 2008, Peter Horák began to focus on urban planning and design in his third year. In the first year of his engineering studies, he graduated from an Erasmus exchange programme in the United Kingdom at the urban design department of Newcastle University. Since completing his engineering studies, he has begun his doctoral work and is currently in his first year. The topic of his dissertation thesis is urbanism in 20th-century Slovakia, advised by Prof. Bohumil Kováč, PhD.

PAVLINA KOLCUNOVA

having been a PhD student at the Faculty of Architecture STU in Bratislava since 2013, Pavlina's research focuses on the completion of mass housing estates, with the focus on discrepancies between formal and informal housing developments.

/ URBAN PLANNING IN ROMANIA UNDER ////////// / THE EFFECT OF SYSTEMATISATION ///////////////

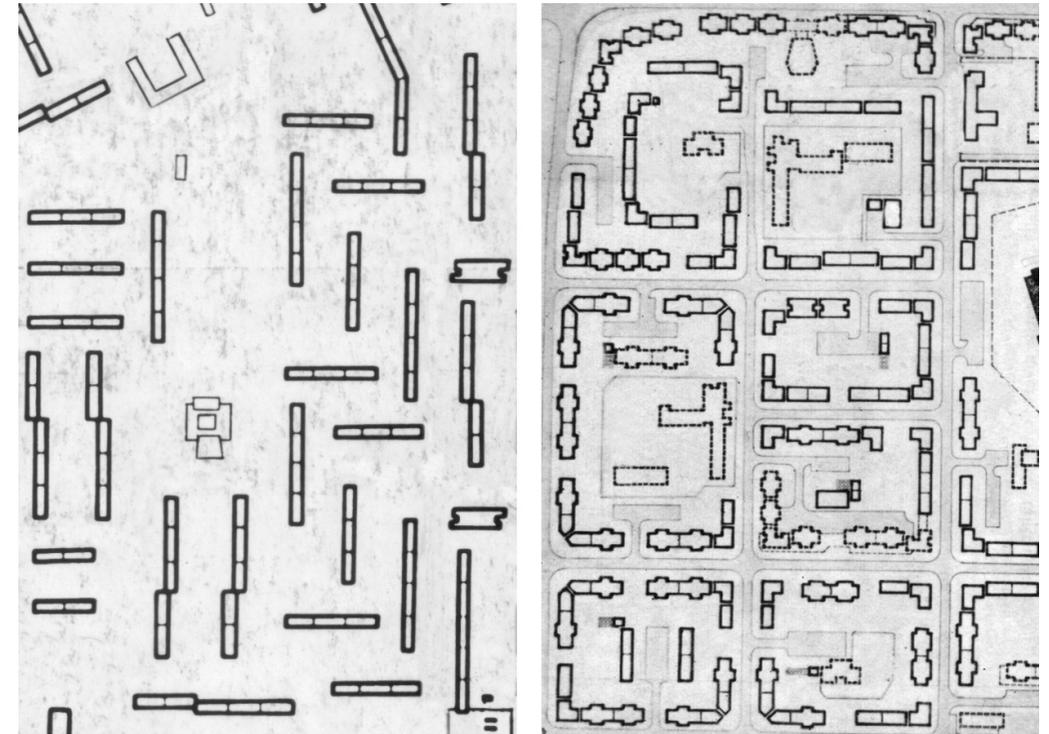
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The Romanian Planning Law (literally, "Systematisation Law"), passed on October 1974, is commonly regarded as a turning point in the country's city and territorial planning. Alongside a whole set of different acts dating from the same period (the first half of the 70s), it brought about significant and long-lasting effects on Romania's cities, towns and villages, particularly on the mass housing areas built in the last 25 years of the regime. The new regulations dramatically increased densities, most visibly in the built shape; and, in order to achieve this goal, they transformed both building and urban typologies. Above all and most relevant today, they affected inner-city qualities of life that can still be appreciated and approached. Officially aiming to reduce expenses of the exclusively state-owned building industry and to preserve building land, the Planning Law is far from being an urgency measure of its time, as it is has often been considered. A series of economic, political and cultural circumstances, both within and outside the planning realm, came together in a process of discontinuous changes that finally led to the passing of the law. Starting in the mid-60s, criticism of the newly completed post-Stalinist housing estates grew in strength. Once praised as glorious achievements of a new era, they were increasingly seen as bloated, monotonous, nondescript (lacking national identity) and, foremost, expensive experiments by their creators. In typically absurd fashion, criticism voiced by the leading spokesman of the Party was soon echoed in most official professional discourse. Under the self-inflicted pressure of rapid population growth and industrialisation of the cities, the political decision-makers increasingly "took over" urban planning, using normative acts and urging architects to lower costs. An oversized central structure of state commissions and committees regulated and oversaw city planning submissions and even architecture, holding them to an almost prohibitive set of economic criteria. The institutional build-up culminated in 1974, with the appointment of the party leader himself, Nicolae Ceaușescu, as the final word on approval for urban land use plans. The emerging concept of "systematisation" aimed at the further centralisation of decision-making and the extension of economic, spatial and social planning countrywide. Acting simultaneously on all planning levels and scales while using "scientific" methods, systematisation was expected to level the still significant discrepancies between cities and the largely underdeveloped rural areas. Despite being enthusiastically embraced by both the regime and the leading professionals as a holistic, integrative approach "serving the welfare of all people", systematisation has never been applied as such.



Typical mass housing areas. 1960, 1972

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TIBERIU CIOLACU ///////////////

living and working as an architect and planner in Cluj, Romania, Tiberiu Ciolacu began his collaboration with the local planning group Planwerk in 2001. He graduated from the Technical University of Cluj in 2004. Since 2005, he has served as an external teaching assistant in the architectural design department of the faculty of architecture and urban planning of the same university, in addition to being a PhD candidate there. Today he is a junior partner at Planwerk, where his activity focuses on communal land use planning, urban design and public space.

/ INDUSTRIAL SITES //

/ LUBICA VITKOVA //

/ PhD //

/ Dean of the Faculty of Architecture in the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava //

After World War Two, the concept of industrialisation was the key issue in the former Communist countries, especially in ones that were mostly agriculturally oriented. Industry represented a major way to develop a country, and it embodied the leading position of the working class. Industrial development and the industrialisation of the country were the main ideological attributes of communism. In the cities of the Visegrad region, as well as cities throughout Central-Eastern Europe, industrial heritage originates mostly from the era between the 50s and 80s, and it occupies a fundamental position in the urban fabric. From the urban design point of view, the construction of industry was realised in several ways:

- through the development of existing, historically-based industrial areas,
- through the planning of new, distinctive and integral industrial zones (within the framework of the city or in the countryside), and
- through construction of new industrial cities.

Conception of industrial development planning was based on modernist, functional principles, the rigorous segregation of industrial areas from other elementary functions. The fall of Communism in 1989 and socio-economic changes prompted a revision in industrial production, both in terms of its importance and its role in the economies of former Communist nations. The quality and competitive requirements of industrial production were also changed in the context of the open-market economy. Analogous to the developed countries' progress decades earlier, industrial production began to decline. Factories were closed down, and either deterioration or transition ensued. The most important issues related to the transition of post-war industrial zones and buildings in Central European countries after 1990:

- strategies of industrial area transformation on the level of government and municipalities,
- determinate factors of industrial area transformation,
- legislative conditions supporting industrial area transformation,
- urban-architectural principles of industrial area transformation,
- locations of industrial area transformation realised in different countries, and
- successful realisations.

LUBICA VITKOVA //

PhD associate professor, researcher and current Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, STU Bratislava (since 2010), she is an architect, professor and researcher in the field of urban design and urban planning. She has authored research papers and headed international conference proceedings on topics related to the quality and quantity of urban fabric. She served as project leader for seven national research projects, coordinator for four international research and educational projects, while participating in several others. She applies her knowledge and expertise in advising government agencies and international professional institutions. She has worked on numerous urban and architectural studies, projects and proposals.

/ DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY STATION AREAS / / IN BULGARIAN CITIES AFTER /// / THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN //

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Railway station areas in Bulgaria underwent major development in the post-war years, and the majority of them bear the characteristics of heritage – not only in terms of architectural design, but also as comparatively homogenous parts of urban tissue. As a specific urban territory, they represent an intersection between industrial site, railway network (being a formal urban network) and a public space which distinguishes them from other public or industrial sites and strengthens their significance in the urban structure. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, these areas entered a period of almost constant decline due to general changes in social and economic context which were reflected in the structure of railway funding and management, in the change of techniques for spatial development and in the measures for identification and protection of heritage. This report focuses on present opportunities for development of railway station areas. It presents a general overview of the present status of railway station areas in two Bulgarian cities, a short analysis of the evolution of these areas in periods, and characteristics of the architectural heritage in these areas when viewed as comparatively homogenous urban zones subject to ongoing projects and initiatives. Starting from the international level, through regional and local levels, down to the specific characteristics of the selected station areas' territories, the investigation of the contemporary context that influences opportunities for approaching heritage is recognised as an important necessity for indicating a path to the revitalisation of these areas. The various historic layers and the wide range of contemporary processes affecting possible development goals, combined with the priorities of urban planning and governance, create a large complex of factors that should be considered from the very outset of the development process. Thus, a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the problem should be considered. The main objective of the report is not only to underline the importance of the railway station area as a gate, a public space and a transportation hub in the city, but also to emphasise the necessity of identifying and registering more post-war buildings from these sites as heritage. Exploring the potential of this heritage will foster development and facilitate the integration of these areas into the urban network.



Sofia Central Railway Station under reconstruction

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VENETA ZLATINOVA-PAVLOVA //

holds an MSc in architecture and is a PhD candidate in urban and spatial planning, while serving as an assistant professor at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia. This author is interested in spheres of urban mobility, urban regeneration and heritage integration. The main focus of her PhD thesis is on railway station areas and their development in Bulgarian cities. As an assistant professor, she currently teaches disciplines related to urban and landscape planning, spatial composition and design in cities, as well as urban zoning to students in architecture and urban planning programmes.

/ POST-WAR URBAN DISPOSITIONS // **/ THE CHANGING CORE OF OUR //** **/ SOCIALIST NEW TOWNS //**

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The years 1989-2000 brought a change in the dynamics of urban space transition in Hungary. Our socialist new towns, the 'children of heavy industry', were amongst the first to take a new lease on development. The urban structure of these cities shows many similarities, as they all began their rapid growth during the 1950s as a result of mining and industrial activity. The hearts of these cities took shape during the 1970s, and they were similar in character, since they did not follow the traditional, organic process of development. Rather, they are civic engineering works of art, modernist ideologies forced into practice. As the change of regime took its toll, these formerly thriving towns had to face new challenges of urbanisation. Previously unknown values and inarticulate needs suddenly had to be addressed through the redesign of their centres. This research investigates the cases of Ajka, Dunaújváros, Salgótarján and Tatabánya in detail by applying a two-fold methodology, both on their central areas and main squares. Firstly, morphological case study research has been carried out to help visualise attributes like position and extension of the town core, layout and spread of functions, etc. Secondly, the comparative analysis of the open space design of their main squares in both periods – in the 1970s and 2000s – sheds light on the key factors of flexibility in terms of form and function. While in post-WWII modernist theory, functionality overshadowed the collaborative, municipal aspects of the city and its open spaces; the advent of professional synthesis decades later resulted in new areas of expertise in urban design. Keeping this in mind, this research collaboration has managed to overlap the experience of two urban design fields: architecture and landscape architecture. At the turn of 21st century, the socialist towns paved the way forward by carrying through an open space renewal initiative. From a landscape architectural point of view, all of their strategies demonstrate a new approach. In the four cases analysed, local governments were the first to realise the functional inadequacy at the heart of their cities and its long-term effect on the towns themselves. Then, they decided to implement a wide-ranging and complex rehabilitation programme of the central open spaces. This functional and formal disposition in the urban structure of socialist new towns led to the need for us to show what role these old-new town centres have to offer these days. The paper will introduce the result of this multi-layered case study research. Also, it will provide an answer to the question of how new open space design proposals and implemented features managed to balance the changing role of our socialist town centres.



The functional change of the socialist city centers after the end of communism

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BALÁZS GURDON //

graduated as an architect from the faculty of architecture at Budapest University of Technology and Economics in 2012. Since 2013, he has studied for his PhD at the Pál Csonka Doctoral School of Architecture in BME. As a researcher, he investigates the morphological character of Communist-Era industrial towns in Central-Eastern Europe. Balázs is a visiting lecturer at the Department of Urban Planning and Design. Since 2014, he has contributed to the course "Hungarian Cities". Also, he is co-author and creator of a website that collects and displays the architectural heritage of Communist new towns in Hungary. Since earning his degree, he has worked in various collaborations as an architect. Now he possesses a portfolio of several architectural and urban design projects (master plans, regulation plans and subway reconstruction plans).

GYÖNGYVÉR SZABÓ //

having obtained a first-class honours degree in landscape architecture from the department of garden and open space design at BCE in 2010, she is now completing a doctoral programme in landscape architecture at Corvinus University. She has three years' experience as a university lecturer, teaching critical understanding and creative strategies in urban design. In her PhD research, she investigates the relationship between landscape design, locality and urban development policies. From 2012, Gyöngyvér has served as a project and policy officer at the Society for Urban Planners, in addition to coordinating the Hungarian Urban Knowledge Centre's key projects. In 2014, she contributed to the Civic City initiative of KÉK, the Contemporary Architecture Centre. She has also worked as an assistant planner on the Rural Development Operational Programme of Hungary, 2014-2020.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL SITES FOR IRON PRODUCTION IN SLOVAKIA

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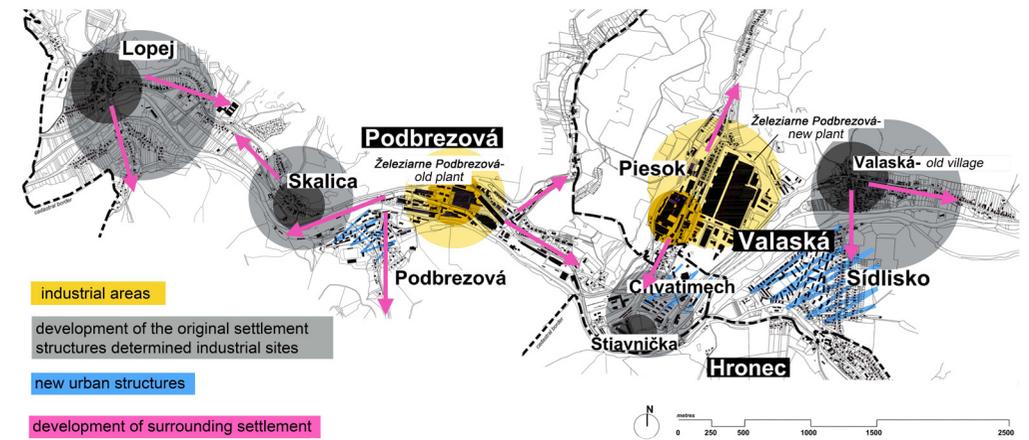
The paper compares the post-war urban development of several selected historical industrial sites for iron production with their surrounding urban context in Slovakia. The paper will mainly focus on three iron industrial sites and their urban areas: Podbrezova, Prakovce and Krompachy. These three locations were identified by previous research and represent the same categories according to the degree of technological progress, in addition to the functional and urban composition of their industrial sites. In particular, the impact of industrial production on the architecture and urban development in these towns is indisputable. The paper will also present the influence of changing conditions after the fall of the Iron Curtain on the urban and architectural development of these historic industrial sites. Iron has a long tradition in Slovakia. For many centuries, iron production has contributed to the economic and social development of the population and the entirety of contemporary state formations in our country. Although the history of this industry in Slovakia is relatively well-explored and published, the architectural and urban characteristic of these industrial sites is practically unknown. As a result of the cessation in production, the status of threatened historic buildings and sites of industrial iron production in Slovakia pose vexing questions in terms of conservation and use of this segment of the nation's industrial heritage. A necessary condition for the positive resolution of these issues is thorough knowledge and comprehensive evaluation of its cultural and socio-economic potential. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to identify specific features of urban structures characteristic of these selected iron-producing industrial towns. Selected areas are subject to supplementary archival and field research. The acquired knowledge of these three selected industrial sites, representing the same category of historical development of ironworks in Slovakia, will be processed in a comparative analysis which will observe the criteria detailed below. Architectural and urban characteristics of the area in relation to land and surrounding urban area:

- Position of the industrial site to the built-up area
- Position in terms of the country (the subordination of the terrain's topography, resources, raw materials and production flow)
- Common architectural features of the industrial site and surrounding urban area

Architectural and urban features within the industrial site:

- The scheme of composition and arrangement of the industrial site (the main production facilities, warehouses, auxiliary buildings, road construction, energy stations and service buildings)
- Short description of the production flow within the complex

This comparative study will aid in the understanding of Communist urban ideology in association with pragmatic and purposeful industrial sites. It will also specify the impact of industrial sites on the development of surrounding urban areas and the impact of changing conditions after the fall of the Iron Curtain on this development.



Scheme of the urban development of Podbrezova in the second half of 20th century

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is a third-year PhD student in the faculty of architecture at STU in Bratislava, Slovakia. She received her master's degree in architecture from this university in 2013. Since her first year of master's training, she has worked closely with several architectural studios. She currently is at work on her dissertation: "The Architecture of Historic Industrial Areas in Slovakia, Iron Production Sector". Her thesis focuses on the identification of potential and conditions of industrial heritage regeneration. She also deals with the relationship of materials and the appearance of historic architecture, as well as the identification of heritage values in the historic architecture of ironworks. She has presented the results of her research at several national and international conferences.

/ POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION AND ITS / INFLUENCE ON SMALL INDUSTRIAL CITIES / IN POLAND

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Political transformation, which led to increasing legal and formal restrictions, caused significant changes in the industry. The restructuring of companies in the manufacturing industry resulted in noticeable transformations in the urban structure and its organisation. This article presents those changes to the food manufacturing industries by use of a sugar refinery and the territorial units built around it as an example. Sugar refineries are perceived as units which define the character of a city. Thus, they provide an analysis of a city regarding its ideological, social, cultural, economic and spatial aspects. The breakthrough, which took place after 1989, is clearly noticeable in small cities and their industrial areas. Transformations, perceived from the local perspective, are treated more personally, since they do not affect one part of the city (for example, one district or a particular social group) exclusively. They have an impact on the city and society as a whole. The analysis was performed on the basis of the town Kazimierza Wielka. The sugar refinery “Łubna”, built in 1845, was the main ‘city-forming’ factor. Moreover, it was of significant importance with respect to the development of the city and its neighbouring towns. The sugar refinery was established by Count Łubieński, and it was the largest workplace in that region. Count Łubieński specified clearly the profile and the development guidelines for the town of Kazimierza Wielka. Ultimately, political transformations and poor decisions regarding the management and financing of the sugar refinery weakened its production and processing capacities, finally leading to the plant’s closure in 2006. Consequently, as the sugar refinery was closed and there were no appropriate tools for urban spatial planning, Kazimierza Wielka lost its clear development strategy. The case study and analyses of the existing state of the factory, history of the city and the potential of its architectural and urban legacy clear the way for the discovery of new potential for the city. The influence of the sugar refinery on the city and the region throughout history constitutes an important object of research. Hence, the narrow gauge railway located around the sugar refinery will be used as an example. The railway was used not only as a means of transport, but also generated a system of relationships and a network of cooperation within the whole region. The author aims to improve the image of the city, taking the issue of sustainability into consideration. The principal idea for improvement includes the following aspects: the importance of the refinery’s history itself, as well as local relationships, knowledge and dependence, which appear to be indispensable when creating appropriate urban spaces within a city. The objective of the article is to highlight the importance of industrial plants, perceived as the spiritus movens of a city’s development. Analysis of the most current condition, with an eye towards upcoming developmental stages in the city and the region, will provide the author with a conscious opportunity to discover the city’s potential and determine a future course of action.



Kazimierza Wielka from a bird's eye view. Photo by: T. Kościółek.

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Kazimierza Wielka- a town located in Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, borders with Lesser Poland Voivodeship; the administrative seat of Kazimierza County
T. Stryjeński - architect of the main body of the sugar refinery. The following buildings were also erected according to his project: residential tower, two urban palaces, Primary School No.1; it is said that the architect designed two urban arrangements of residential areas along the sugar refinery as well as some residential houses. The most significant recreation area in Kazimierza Wielka: Łubieńskis Urban Park (18ha), complex of 6 lagoons (12.5ha), a reservoir on the Małoszówka River (20.93ha) completed in 2013
The narrow gauge railway called 'Ponidzia' was built in the middle of the 1920s; the railway station was opened in Kazimierza Wielka in 1924 (from Pińczowa, through Kazimierza to Posądzą); Under construction: bike lanes leading through the former railway tracks from Kocmyrzów to Kazimierza Wielka, a new route is planned in the direction of Jędrzejów i Kielce
Spiritus movens Lat. driving force, guiding spirit.

JOANNA CZARNY

graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Tadeusz Kościuszko University of Technology. She defended her diploma thesis entitled "Multi-family Residential Architecture within Urban Open Spaces" (Department of Architectural Composition) in 2011. One year later, she completed her MA and successfully defended her thesis entitled "Housing and Service Complex in Kazimierza Wielka". The project was presented in January 2015 during the exhibition "Architecture in the Realm of Art" at the Palace of Fine Arts in Krakow. A first-year PhD student at the Krakow University of Technology (faculty of architecture and urban planning), she runs her own architectural firm in Kazimierza Wielka. She is a regionalist, passionate about the heritage of the local environment, which inspires her projects and research.

/ RECREATIONAL AREAS 

/ RECREATIONAL AREAS //

/ ANDRÁS FERKAI //

/ PhD, DSc //

/ Professor at the MOME University in Budapest //

Recreational areas, such as city parks, playgrounds, sports grounds or holiday resorts, are places for spending leisure time. If one investigates the post-war heritage of Central-Eastern Europe, it turns out very quickly that the scope is far wider. This subject was first brought to scholars' attention in 2003, when DOCOMOMO gave national working parties the task of collecting data on recreational and sport buildings. The 2012 conference of EAHN devoted a whole session to the theme 'Holidays after the Fall: History and Transformation of Socialist Holiday Resorts'. Some speakers pointed to the effects of privatisation in Bulgarian, Romanian and Yugoslavian seaside resorts; while others explained the peculiarity of company holiday homes, or the reasons for building more luxury hotels for Western tourists at the expense of local populations. Earlier this year, another conference on 'The Black Sea in the Socialist World', held at the University of London, featured a panel on health resort urbanity, partly with the same speakers. Still, recreation is not necessarily confined to the trendy subject of seashores. It may extend to the riversides, with all kinds of aquatic sports, and the weekend movement, to health and spa resorts, areas and facilities for hiking, tourism with maintenance of nature reserves or historic sites, and, of course, public spaces in the city whether green or of an urban character. Papers in this session represent a scope as wide as that. We shall hear why the excellent Regional Plan of Lake Balaton has ultimately failed. We will see plans for the rehabilitation of green areas in Stalinist towns and multi-sensory parks for the disabled. Other speakers will point out the transformation of summer resort places – agglomeration, when attached to the city; or changes in the rural cultural landscape, after the forced migration of its inhabitants. Divergent though these subjects may be, participants in the session are invited to consider some common issues. How does the research shed new light on post-war phenomena? What is new about the methods used in the investigation? Are there any suggestions for the preservation of post-war urban heritage, or is it more important to provide remedies to already obsolete solutions?

ANDRÁS FERKAI //

MSc in architecture from BME and a Dr. Habil DSc in art history, he is a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Studies at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest. After a decade of architectural practice, he became editor of the magazine Hungarian Architecture and continued as an independent research fellow ever since. From 1993, he has taught architectural history on the graduate and post-graduate levels and acts as an instructor in doctoral schools. His field of research includes themes of the Modernist Movement, mostly from the inter-war period of Hungarian architecture, but also from the post-war years. He takes a special interest in residential buildings, housing and housing estates. As a former member of DOCOMOMO International (ISC-Registers, 1996-2002), he deals with problems and tasks of documenting and preserving Modernist Movement buildings. His scientific publications are 140 in number with about 250 citations, including 13 books and 36 contributions to edited books.

/ CHARACTER CHANGES OF SUMMER RESORTS / BUILT ON THE EDGE OF BUDAPEST ////////////////

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From the second half of the 19th century until World War I, on the outskirts of Budapest, outside the administrative border, summer resorts were formed (e.g., Zsófia-telep [later Rákoshegy], Mátyásföld, Pestszentlőrinc and Lónyay-telep). The population of these resorts was typically made up of the middle class, who longed for peace and good air. Some of them were so fond of the pleasant rural environment that they shortly became permanent residents. Characteristic of these summer resorts were detached, mostly one-storey houses standing on large plots. Bombings aimed at strategic points on the peripheral areas of the city during World War Two affected summer resorts as well, causing major damage to their buildings. After the war, because of the housing shortage, the villas formerly used for recreational purposes were converted into permanent housing. The majority of them were divided into parts. The war also caused sociological changes, which subsequently affected the development of the resorts' image. A portion of the middle-class, which had fuelled demand, had died during the war. Others were displaced or fled and replaced by refugees. In 1950 – with the creation of Greater Budapest – the summer resorts were officially annexed to the capital. In the 50s, however, the attention of urban planning had not yet turned to the outer districts. First and foremost, planners sought to equip interior, vacant spaces with good transportation. Development of peripheral areas was only considered important along major highways (e.g., Üllői, Váci út, etc.). On the other hand, development of working-class areas was prioritized. There were some measures which wished to increase the area of parks and forests significantly within the city; however, they stated that “inefficient and unnatural extensive settlements are to be phased out” (10-year urban development plan outline of Greater Budapest, 1950, 1st main criteria). To this end, they constructed, for example, housing estates. The overall settlement plan, “Budapest and its surroundings”, created in 1959-60, speaks of giving urban character to centres in peripheral districts. After World War Two, but mostly in the 80s and 90s, detached residential areas were almost fully built up, to the maximum extent permitted by the building regulations (or often more than permitted), which was unsuited to their original character as summer resorts. During the construction work, a portion of woody vegetation on the parcels was cut down. These changes can be thoroughly observed in the case of the Mátyásföld summer resort. Other processes took place in some areas along the Danube (e.g., Római-part), which kept their recreational function, but were densely built up with weekend houses and later with gated communities as well.



View of Mátyásföld at the beginning of the 20th century and now (Source: local history collection of the XVI. district, Budapest and Richárd Széman)

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/ RECREATIONAL PUBLIC SPACES //

/ URBAN EXPERIMENTS //

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*“The chief function of the city is to convert power into form, energy into culture, dead matter into the living symbols of art, biological reproduction into social creativity.”
Lewis Mumford*

Regeneration of degraded urban spaces in the cities of Central-Eastern Europe, especially those with strong historical and socio-political references, is extremely important, particularly in the context of ongoing urbanisation and globalisation. Nowadays, many activities are undertaken which aim to replenish, regenerate or form connections with those parts of the city which lack urban legibility, frequently following the concepts of sustainable development and the compact city. This way, creation of attractive public spaces with high-quality human-scale natural values and a wide variety of recreational zones, which successfully invite inhabitants to visit and participate in social life, is one of the methods of effective urban regeneration. It is also a way to create the identity of these particular spaces in the complex urban fabric. Additionally, this approach reflects social tendencies that arise from the modern lifestyle and changing ways of spending free time. Undeniably, it is necessary to create attractive recreational spaces located especially in the vicinity of post-war large-scale housing ensembles – for example, green spaces situated between apartment blocks with zones dedicated to children, teenagers and elderly people; cosy block interiors filled with lush green cover and places for relaxation; and urban community gardens or public parks with a rich variety of functions located in the centres of particular housing districts. The post-war large scale ensembles are good examples of the concept that established the proximity of open green spaces available for inhabitants to allow for social activities. This is especially true of those built between 1960 and 1980. Nowadays, however, these spaces do not exist as a source of public activities; which, paradoxically, is one of the main failures of Communist ideology applied to architectural and urban solutions. Attractively designed recreational space is no longer understood as just a green space without any functional program. Nowadays, it should be an architectural response to the needs of today’s residents. That approach requires original, unconventional and modern solutions which take into consideration urban context and historical heritage. In light of these conditions, the proposals for the architectural competition to revitalise public space – namely, 1) in the axis of the Avenue of Roses and the Central Square in Nowa Huta, 2) the Romanian urban experiment called Triangle in Câmpia Turzii, and 3) the Masterplan of the Petrzalka District called Green Urban Axis – can serve as particularly interesting examples. All of these projects, on different scales, face the same issues of dialogue between the new qualities and the tough post-Soviet heritage. The aim of this analysis is to identify contemporary approaches to designing attractive recreational spaces within modern cities, as well as to answer the question: what role does post-war heritage play in the formation of their identity? On different scales, given examples represent the original formal, functional and spatial solutions and technological progress. Moreover, this research also constitutes an attempt to indicate the new meanings of traditionally perceived recreational public spaces in large-scale housing ensembles, which are undeniably the consequence of urbanisation.



Authorial proposal by Atelier Loegler for the architectural competition for the revitalization of public space in the axis of the Avenue of Roses and the Central Square - the unique urban composition in Nowa Huta, Krakow.
(Source: <http://www.loegler.com.pl/aleja-roz-krakow-nowa-huta>, retrieved on 08.07.2015)

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// READING EROSION: ////////////////////////////////////// // THE EFFECT OF CHANGING TOURISM ON ////////////////////////////////////// // THE LEGACY OF BALATON DEVELOPMENT //////////////////////////////////////

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Lake Balaton is the common subject of ambivalent memoirs from the 60s – not only among the wider public, but among architects as well. The controversial perception of the period’s built legacy requires new interpretations. Utilising historic writing and comparing research reveal nostalgic recollections and recent criticism. The development of Lake Balaton began in the late 50s, just as the ideological pressure of Social Realism was ending and modern architecture was acquiring legitimacy. Therefore, the new recreation facilities provided opportunities for inventive formal experiments in the special context of an urban-rural situation with a low budget and limited technical possibilities for the young generation of architects who emerged after the war. Charles Polányi, chief planner of the south shore of Lake Balaton and a member of Team 10, presented the first results of the development as a needful “primitive” approach to modern architecture at the CIAM Congress in Otterlo in 1959, and the plan won the UIA Abercrombie Prize in 1965. In the discussion of architecture historians, only the first five years of the plan was investigated. However, if we contemplate its entire legacy, from the award-winning planning project to recent times, a change from the historical focus to the latter would help us to understand the ambivalent results. The subject of this paper is the development progress in the frame of the first Balaton Regional Plan (1958-1978). The study aims to compare the initial planning idea and its later realisation project (Balaton Central Development Program) after the introduction of “The New Economic System” in 1968. The paper demonstrates the constantly changing tourism policy that forced an increase in the scale of tourism and led to the differentiation of the integrated planning concept. This paper offers a critical interpretation of the Regional Plan. The politically forced planning process was fast and schematic, giving rise to blurred boundaries between regulation and development, amplified by the lack of financial sources and missing time horizons. Dividing the execution process into established periods, we can observe the effects of conflicting interests between regional and local policy that led to the termination of regional powers. Enclosed gardens with cottages spread over the historic vineyards, and central development projects were realised on a larger scale with lower aesthetic quality. Deterioration has continued since the change of regime. The economic and political alterations led to the spread of urbanisation and resulted in the even more ambivalent appearance of the scenic framework for recreation. The concluding portion of the paper examines the legacy’s recent position as a functional and aesthetic metamorphosis in the context of contemporary media interpretations searching for new connotations and special means for rehabilitation. The lightsome and abstract regional modernity was eroded by a local-vernacular mixture of elements reflecting the changing interests of tourism and the disappearing regional idea as both institutional and aesthetic conceptions.



Balaton Regional Plan, 1958

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is an architect, his doctoral research theme being “Recreation and Architectural Identity of Lake Balaton”. He graduated from the faculty of architecture at BME in 2010, then attended the University Lichtenstein in Vaduz in 2008. In 2009, he won first prize at the National Student Scholars Conference. Between 2010 and 2013, he was a doctoral candidate of the Csonka Pál Doctoral School at BME. In 2013-14, he was a visiting scholar at the GTA Institute of ETHZ in the framework of Swiss Government Excellent Scholarships Programme. He usually publishes the results of his research in scholarly journals and at conferences. Moreover, he considers it important to present them to the wider professional community and in educational forums for the civil public as well.

// CONTEMPORARY MULTI-SENSORY SPACES /// // FOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ////////////////

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The number of people with disabilities is steadily increasing – it is estimated that it affects more than 500 million people worldwide. According to data of the National Census of 2002, nearly 5.5 million people with disabilities of every description live in Poland. People who are visually impaired, due to the nature of their disability, are the most discriminated group. It is far more difficult for them to obtain a complete education and employment. Moreover, the vast majority of public spaces (including space for recreation and education) are inaccessible and not adapted to their needs. In Poland, the problems of recognising people with disabilities in society and adapting public spaces to their needs have been neglected for years. It was considered inconvenient in an ideal socialist world, where everyone was the same: healthy, happy and prosperous. The political transition of 1989 gave evidence of systematic and critical reflection upon the issue of universal design in Polish public spaces. Nowadays, the recreational areas dedicated to children and youth with visual impairments are far more common. They not only inspire them to play and learn, but are also considered a valuable aid in rehabilitation, since they affect all senses and foster learning of spatial orientation. What is more, these spaces are also therapeutic areas for people with physical and mental disorders. Playing educational games helps them to build interpersonal relationships and social skills. The issue of ensuring comprehensive development for children and youth with visual impairments through proper education is one of the most essential. Modern typhlopedagogy is still primarily focused on general education and socialisation. Rarely does it address issues of recreational areas dedicated to blind and partially sighted children. This article aims to determine direct links between spatial planning and its impact on daily functioning and rehabilitation of children and youth who are visually impaired. The author's intention is to recognise how people with disabilities were perceived – first, under the period of actual Communism in Poland (up to 1989); then, after the political transformation. Additionally, one of the aims of the article is to recognition the change currently motivating this trend in the design of open multi-sensory science and recreation areas through an analysis of the examples. Some of them were created before 1989, and now they are being modernised and transformed in accordance with the principles of universal design. Others represent the latest approaches to the issue of accessible spaces. The paper will utilise not only theoretical research and case studies, but also interviews and consultations with the employees of centres for the handicapped and visually impaired people themselves.



Stanislaw Lem Garden of Experiences – aerial view

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PAULINA TOTA ////////////////

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/ (IN)FORMAL URBAN NETWORKS ////////////////

// (IN)FORMAL URBAN NETWORKS //

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Post-War urban heritage in Central-Eastern Europe is enormous. In the case of Poland, which after the Second World War changed its borders and lost 38% of its national wealth, we can discuss the fact that the post-war years shaped the Polish landscape and urban environment of our lives today. Restoration of the country means not only the construction of housing and residential environments, as well as reconstruction of industry and transportation systems; it is also the reconstruction of destroyed city centres. This had an added symbolic meaning – in the case of Warsaw, for example. With Warsaw reconstruction, we wished to show that the Polish capital was alive despite the devastation and that any other post-war Polish capital was unimaginable. Thus, conservation became one of the important fields of architectural and urban activity after World War Two. Today we examine the post-war legacy with mixed feelings. On the one hand, there is the beauty of the historic centre, now even more manicured thanks to care efforts of the state and private investors. On the other hand, there is the reality of housing estates built in flawed prefabrication systems with a lack of road infrastructure and services, with minimum standards in terms of residential areas and neglected recreation facilities. Furthermore, there is the vast industrial heritage, which resulted in isolated areas of underinvestment and outdated infrastructure. We must not forget structural change in the concept and use of space that took place in the theory of urban planning. Along with modernism and criticism of street corridors, the construction of open spaces began with free-standing, detached shapes. Policies were conducive to such understanding of space. Depriving people of land ownership led to a situation in which large building complexes were created according to the compositional ideas of planners and, over time, by the economics of moving equipment and construction cranes. Today we suffer from the lack of regulation that would have been able to protect the heritage of post-war architecture and urbanism effectively. Preservation of historic urban complexes is not enough. Neither is it enough to consider only the preservation of modernist buildings. It is necessary to reflect more deeply upon the possibilities of a protection and transformation of urban space as a whole. From the formal and functional point of view, buildings and open spaces are indivisible components of this organic whole. A concept of tissue, taken from the vocabulary of urban morphology, seems to be useful here. Tissue means a whole piece of spatial and urban cultural structures (buildings, open spaces and roads). Together with the idea of a place, we can start talking about the proper beginning of a theoretical background to a discussion of post-war urban heritage. The most important issues related to conservation and proper maintenance of this legacy (in terms of post-war urban planning issues in relation to public space) are the following: 1/ Transformation of transportation systems (car, rail, mass and individual, cycling) 2/ Transformation of transportation systems (transit and local) 3/ Transformation of transportation systems (parking) 4/ Transformation of land ownership system and public space 5/ Legal protection of public space 6/ Mass media advertising in public spaces 7/ Standards of public space in historic centres 8/ Standards of public space in housing complexes 9/ Man and community within the urban space 10/ Formal and informal – combined for better solutions.

ANNA AGATA KANTAREK //

with a DSc and PhD, a creative architect and engineer (SARP, MOIA, TUP, PAN) with SARP status, she is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Urban Design, Head of the Urban Spaces Division, Vice-Dean in the Faculty of Architecture at Krakow University of Technology CUT, responsible for teaching programs and school accreditations. Author of the books *Contemporary Idea of the Urban Block in Town Structure* (one example of realisations in Paris, 1977-1997), published in Polish in 2004; and *On Orientation in Urban Space*, published in Polish in 2008, and in English in 2013; she is also the author of a number of realisations, mainly related to housing environment – for example, housing estates in Krakow (Plastowska-Reymonta, Slomiana) and Mielec (Smoczka, Ks. P. Skargi, Akacyjowa, Jaworowa, Sienkiewicza-Drzewieckiego, Zygmuntowska). She participates in scientific research and urban and architectural competitions, winning first prize in the competition for Guidelines for the Local Revitalisation Program for Krakow in 2006. Scientific interests include urban composition, typology of urban form, contemporary city space and structure, and housing.

/ ALTRATION IN THE AWARENESS / OF ESTONIAN CITY SPACE / FROM INDEPENDENCE TO STALINISM

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Background: Soviet occupation, beginning first in 1940, then again in 1944, altered awareness of Estonian city space as a materialisation of ideology. Similar to totalitarian Italy and Germany, Soviet Stalinist town planning seemed anachronistic, but paradoxically it embodied harmony, functionality and effectiveness. While traditional town planning most strongly appeared in totalitarian states where strong ideologies were crystallised into grandiose and ensemble-like carriers of memory, in architecture and town planning, the new trend was quite similar both in authoritarian and democratic countries. City space as the quintessence of town planning, concerning especially the representative city centre, carries on knowledge in the city, while representing both contemporaneous ideology and functional needs. // Results: When comparing the town planning of independent Estonia from the 1930s to the practice of post-war, Soviet-period Estonian in the 1940s and 1950s, Stalinist principles brought by Soviet occupation appear rather similar to local ones, the main discrepancies being in quantity and methodology. However, on a couple of occasions, Estonian architects faced quite unexpected instructions issued by the occupying regime in terms of city space practice, up to and including the replacement of a city and its inhabitants. After World War Two, Estonian architects were gradually forced to abandon former city space centres and also their projects to restore the wrecked centres of Pärnu and Narva. Paradoxically, regardless of the war wreckage and the terrorism of the occupying Soviet regime, Stalinist town planning principles generally matched Estonian architects' city visions. Some existing towns (for instance, Tallinn, Pärnu and Narva) acquired new centres on account of war damage, but also for ideological reasons. Meanwhile, new industrial towns as models of Stalinist utopia were built in East Estonia during the 1940s and 1950s, so the Soviet regime could exploit local mineral resources. Compared to small, independent Estonia, the Soviet Union, encompassing 1/6th of the whole planet, proved a much greater subsidiser. Though suffering irrational demolitions (Narva and Pärnu) after World War Two, Estonian towns acquired functional plans – axially arranged, imposing, sometimes enormous, but with decent prospects (Sillamäe and Kohtla-Järve). // Implications: In Estonia, there seem to be quite effective examples of town planning, executed with rather enterprising methods. On the other hand, such imperial town plans prove quite challenging to the local authorities and the state nowadays. The ideology of the defunct state and local visions of ideal cities are recorded in completed town plans. These have become carriers of memory and have yet to be used to their utmost potential.



The Stalinist centre of Sillamäe that dates to the early 1950s (Lengorstroyprojekt) (photo by author)

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// WHEN FORMER SOLUTIONS // BECOME PROBLEMS // POST-WAR MASS HOUSING IN SLOVENIA

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Nowadays architects in Slovenia have to deal with many renovations of former architectural practice in Yugoslavia. The country of Slovenia belonged to the former Republic of Yugoslavia for more than 50 years, until the year 1991. Right after World War Two, most of the countries in Europe had to deal with considerable housing problems, and Yugoslavia was no exception. The capacity of the remaining structures was not large enough to satisfy all the people's needs, since many buildings were destroyed during the war. Yugoslavia dealt with these problems from two approaches: either by building special neighbourhoods, or by investing in its own real estate in the form of single-family houses. Especially in the countryside, this was the most common way to deal with housing problems. That led to mass housing also in Slovenia. Most houses were built 1970 – 1980. Most were built by owners themselves with the help of friends and relatives, although the design was still carried out by professionals – i.e., architects. These were professional products with all the legal documentation, but executed with no special interest or architectural inspiration. Moreover, catalogues of plan types were printed, so people could pick whichever plan suited them, though built into different architectural landscapes. Over the years, this caused degradation of the traditional landscape and plenty of unprofessional work. The problem is mostly visible nowadays. We are increasingly aware of the fact that new solutions must be proposed, and new urban strategies must be prepared and presented to the general public. This article deals with the problems thus exposed and offers some solutions for the future. It is intended to raise awareness of future architects' work among the public, who in most cases are investors in architectural documentation. Nonetheless, the article will also deal with problems of responsibility when dealing with space interventions.



View on the rural part of the region of Prekmurje/Slovenia (photo by author)

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/ SPATIAL ASPECTS OF INFORMALITY: // / ANALYSES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT HUBS // / IN BUDAPEST //

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This research intends to explore how everyday usage transforms the perceived identity of the public spaces along Metro Line 2 in Budapest, regarded as one of the most important urban infrastructural developments of the Communist Era. Hence, the study presents an investigation which aims to reveal the spatial characteristics of informality that mainly come into existence as a 'side effect' during the production of formal architectural structures. Metro stations, subways and adjacent areas on the ground level are designed to serve human motion. They are spaces to be passed through. They are spatial tools that help us reach our destination faster, but in themselves are not endpoints of any journey. Nonetheless, there are users of these non-places (Augé 1992) whose activities are not connected to motion and transport at all: illegal or semi-legal vendors, street musicians, homeless people and ticket inspectors. Because of the duration (and other qualities) of their stay, these people actually inhabit the existing infrastructure and fashion tiny hidden – or, on the contrary, quite visible – new spaces. Vendors produce temporary markets, inspectors create hidden storage and leisure space, homeless people make sheds for sleeping, musicians fashion temporary concert halls, etc.. These mostly spontaneously produced informal spaces are negotiated from an architectural point of view. Their physical characteristics and their functionality are investigated. Informal, sometimes eventual, individually formed spaces are analysed as pieces of architecture. The research seeks answers to the following questions: What are the functional consequences of the presence of informal inhabitations within transit spaces? What kind of spatial arrangements of the urban infrastructure foster the production of informal spaces? What are the written and unwritten rules that shape the usability of such spaces? What are the limitations of public space in Budapest? What is allowed and not allowed? The investigation into the above-mentioned questions is carried out through the analyses of a case-study area: Baross Square in front of Keleti Railway Station. It is one of the most complex transport hubs in Budapest, transformed several times throughout the 20th century alongside developments in public transport and motorisation. The most extreme intervention took place in the 60s with the construction of a metro station, Metro Line 2. All pedestrian traffic was placed underground. The square's function as a transit space has intensified ever since. During the summer of 2015, Baross Square became a temporary, spontaneous, semi-legal camp for masses of refugees and migrants from abroad. A space for motion was informally transformed into temporary accommodation and a hub for humanitarian aid. The research will show how spontaneous architectural elements that are produced by the basic need for space alter the existing formal post-war urban heritage.



Baross Square, Budapest, 2015. (photo by author)

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// THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL SPACES // // IN THE MASS HOUSING OF KRAKOW //

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Social space in architecture can be understood as territory, the purpose of which is not only to design separate urban areas for local societies, but also to create urban interiors with a clear hierarchy of spatial continuity and function. Social relations, expressed in ratio of public space, have become in recent years the primary criterion for the legibility of social organisation within a city. Today, attention is drawn to the need to maintain social ties in a comfortable space with appropriate environmental conditions, where open space among the multi-family housing units should meet the needs of residents. In light of the above requirements for the environment, 21st-century housing should create conditions which tend to satisfy often contradictory needs: silence and noise, traffic and peace, loneliness and participation in the community. At present, social spaces play a role which affects the functional and spatial composition. The need to locate such space depends on multi-family housing units and should therefore be variable - depending on the time, the economic level and conditions of a cultural centre. Over time, the spatial systems will require flexibility in use and amenability to changes. The shape and quality of social space also affects the architectural and urban planning: water, greenery and small-scale architecture. Good settlements are characterized by a revitalisation of open areas, restoring the function of public and social spaces lost in recent years. On the basis of selected settlement examples from the years 1950-2010, we can examine how residents have influence on the arrangement of space in terms of factors and elements influencing social ties. The arrangement of space and the aesthetic may lead one to the conclusion that the basic social space conducive to the integration of dwellers is one that realises their needs and undergoes transformations over time. Relevant to the above problem is to rely on surveys conducted with users of the social space. The results show how diverse the needs of residents are and how designers address problems of social integration.



Public space in Nowa Huta (photo by Benko, 2015)

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/ EXCURSION // 10102015 //

/ RÓMAI BEACH //



////////////////////////////////////// UJPALOTA HOUSING ESTATE /



////////////////////////////////////// TELEKI SQUARE /



/ CSEPEL WORKS //



/ CSEPEL WORKS / STOP#1 //

/ guide: ÁRPÁD SZABÓ //

/ DLA, architect //

The Weiss Manfréd Steel and Metal Works (or Csepel Works) was one of the largest machine factories in Hungary, located on the northern part of Csepel Island next to the Danube in an area that was once outside Budapest. It played an integral role in the heavy industry and military production of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. By the time of World War I the company was one of the largest defense contractors in Austria-Hungary, producing all types of equipment, from airplanes and munitions to automotive engines and cars. Badly damaged by Allied air raids and eventually pillaged during World War II, the company continued in existence until 1950, when it was nationalized and renamed to Rákosi Mátyás Iron and Metal Works National Company and grew into one determining element of the centralized industrial structure of the country. During the years of the enforced centralizing of industrial structure until 1954 the production of machines heavily grew while in the following years somewhat fell. Since the 1960s production grew again and became more diversified. Since the 1970s around 50% of the production went to the Western markets. After the political changes of the 1990s the factory went through dramatic transformations and is still awaiting a comprehensive renewal.

/ TELEKI SQUARE / STOP#2 //

/ guide: DOMINIKA TIHANYI //

/ DLA, landscape architect //

Teleki Square is one of Budapest's urban center's oldest and storied squares, located in one of the city's most profoundly disadvantaged neighborhoods. The aim of the inclusive community-based planning process was to help residents living nearby to take part in developing the design of their own Community Park in the place of a barren, ill-reputed, crime-ridden and functionless space. The series of workshops spanning 10 weeks were open for anyone interested to join. Posters with the question „What Should Teleki Square Look Like?” were placed around the neighborhood. The design method used was the same as a professional one, hence it can be said that the people taking part had truly become design partners, and finally had the chance to envisage a better future for themselves. Not only the meetings, but an onsite exhibition and a Facebook page served as the main modes of communication. Apart from reaching the goal of realizing a common ground for the design, Teleki Square Association was formed by local residents taking part in the design process to be able to continue to contribute to the square's management and ongoing improvement once the renovation is completed in spring 2014. For a landscape architect working with a community it is an equally illuminating experience, where authenticity and responsibility become more tangible opposed to when designing for the 'unknown public'.

/ ÚJPALOTA HOUSING ESTATE / STOP#3 //

/ guide: LÁSZLÓ CSÍZY //

/ architect //

Újpalota (“Newcastle”) is a housing estate in the 15th district, built on a former agricultural land between the old settlement of Rákospalota and an industrial zone near the Szilas Creek. The estate was built from 1968 to 1977, the first residents settled in March 1971. By the time of its completion it was one of the biggest housing estates of Budapest: it had 15,454 apartments with more than 60,000 inhabitants in the 1980s, mostly young pairs with two children. Today only around 36,000 people live here, because former children grew up and left the area. It was planned by a team lead by Tibor Tenke and is the most important urban ensemble in Hungary using the spatial organization methods connected to the Team 10 group of architects. Its layout was directly influenced by the Toulouse le Mirail district designed by Candilis, Josic and Woods. The building technology was mainly using one-storey high prefabricated concrete panel elements, assembled on the site. The tall, prefabricated housing blocks are typical of the socialist era, but the rich vegetation has made the district friendlier in the past decades. The regeneration of prefabricated houses has started in the early 2000s.

/ RÓMAI BEACH / STOP#4 //

/ guide: BÁLINT KÁDÁR //

/ PhD, architect //

Római-part, or Roman Beach is a 10 km long section of the Danube riverside in northern Óbuda. Its name refers to the Roman ages when fresh water had been carried on aqueducts to the roman city Acquincum from its springs. Today Római-part is well known as a recreational area, having several possibilities for water sport, many casual restaurants and bars by the riverside, and a promenade by the most natural Danube shore in Budapest. Római-part became famous as a water sports and beach area with many restaurants. The area had three sandy beach sections, while the 23 boat-houses made it the centre of rowing-boat sports at the end of the 19th century. After the Second World War modern resorts were built for state-owned companies, some having six to 8 storeys. The water of the Danube was suitable for beach activities until the 1960s, but in 1973 all legal beach sections were abolished due to the heavy pollution of the river. After 1989 many of the resorts and boat houses were privatised, but most of the investment in the area aimed to create exclusive housing estates instead of public recreational functions. Some developers could play out the regulations of the recreational zone, often demolishing boat houses, therefore only five of these are still operational. The once famous hotels and resorts stand empty, many in decaying conditions. The promenade and the river bank lacks maintenance since many years. The area awaits revival, but it is still a preferred recreational area for many. Also the quality of Danube's water returned to be excellent in the last years. Today a recent conflict connected to a new flood protection system causes uncertainty in the future and in the role of the area...

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