

IFAU`19

November 21-23 | Tirana

3rd INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

MODERNISATION AND GLOBALIZATION

Challenges and Opportunities in Architecture, Urbanism, Cultural Heritage

ABSTRACT PROCEEDINGS BOOK



Faculty of
Architecture
and Urbanism

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA

IFAU 2019 – 3rd International Forum on Architecture and Urbanism aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Architecture, Urbanism, Cultural Heritage within Modernization and Globalization trends of XXI century.

The third edition is expanding the horizon by introducing a series of overlapping visions spanning the recently institutionalized Adriatic – Ionian Euroregion, now extended to the Balkan and South-East European region. The Forum will concentrate on Architecture, Urbanism, Cultural Heritage located in contexts and territories that reveal their tendencies to Modernization and Globalization.

Themes of the Research Abstracts

- Global / local modernizations
 - XXth Century modernism and the question of cultural heritage
- Phenomena of re-generation, revitalization, recycle, reuse
 - Modernization / globalization of urban planning / design and landscapes
- Modern housing
- Modern designing and daily life / universal design
 - Utilization of future technologies
- Sustainability on the era of modernization / globalization



IFAU¹⁹

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LA-TIPO DELLA CITTÀ CONTEMPORANEA

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Faced with increasingly complex contemporary cities, with extremely complex communication systems, architectural spaces tend to level out to a single “a-type”. The trend towards abandoning typologies, witnessed in recent years, can be seen as a crisis of models, which have been given precedence over architecture, or as the birth of new models, possibly using hybridization. Model production occurs when hybridization is consolidated after frequent repetitions in different contextual conditions. Hybridization arises from the coexistence of different functions and typologies. In consolidated cities these produce a stratified complexity; in more recent cities they give rise to horizontal sequences of combinations.

In the past, when the concept of “place” was studied, research focused on identity and uniqueness and highlighted differences. Today, an identity is always sought for non-places, but it is no longer unique because non-places are designed by analogy and similarities.

It should be noted however that uniform, repetitive building types also correspond to the homogeneity of how and when space is used, so we can deduce that the identity of these places is to be attributed to the uniqueness of the contained behaviours. On an urban scale, these attitudes take shape in the poetics of the object: this explains why we understand the construction of the city as a set of objects, why we underline the symbolism of the building and the inter-relationships between the buildings. The city is seen as a nebula in which to insert poetic objects. It is characterized by disorientation, change of scale and de-contextualization but also by superimpositions, a search for the aesthetic character of the common object.

In the past architecture confronted the heroic intentions of representation and of political projects, but today it has to confront the banality of everyday life: architecture has passed from the need to represent, to the constraint of metamorphosis.

Architecture that renounces becoming a city, to be a witness to itself, has generated a massive quantity of recent construction that overwhelms the few existing quality projects. Architectural projects, evermore dramatically related to cities that no longer have rules, can no longer relate to cities in a structured fashion.

Keywords:

**a-type, hybridizations,
identity, contemporary
city, homogeneity**

THE SELF-REPRESENTED CITY

In the past the importance of a city was measured in terms of its size or political importance (for instance being the capital of a nation) but in the present-day context the prominence is to a large extent measured by the importance and vigour of its economic life and the extent to which it serves as a centre of command and control for global capitalism (so the more important urban settlements tend to become non territorialized).

So the idea of the city as a cultural accumulation able to infuse its physical nucleus with the power to organize a large portion of subordinate territory enters into crisis since the overall cultural structure is no longer physically identified with the city, but with de-materialized information, the new symbol of power. A power that no longer requires a physical location, albeit elsewhere, because it has no need for a physical centre in which to settle and present itself.

Recognisability is linked to difference, to the non homogenization of all places. So urban identity is determined by the correlation between differences, from which derives unrepeatability. The relational space of the contemporary city is a sort of flexible territory, devoid of figurative recognition, but full of potential for service. This means that contemporary social complexity generates the proliferation of a multitude of identities. These identities generate an enormous number of specific interest groups, a typological “explosion” that increasingly evades classification configuring cities as the sum of independent and often conflicting elements.

But contemporary cities also see the search for their identity in continuous and ever more rapid change, provisional in nature, which represents a sort of “programmed chaos”. Cities express the culture of those who live there and those who lived there in the past: it cannot be denied that globalization homologizes, but it also pushes to accentuate diversity and identity. The ties binding business and cities have become weaker: the city’s role is now limited to providing simple managerial and infrastructural assistance for activities that are largely based elsewhere. On the other hand, the increased need for cities to establish themselves as poles of attraction, for both capital and individuals, should lead to the accentuation of their specific characteristics: the image of the city being promoted becomes more important than its reality.

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