

**CHALLENGES IN
ARCHITECTURE,
URBAN DESIGN
AND ART**

PROCEEDINGS

**CHAPTER #1 MODELING THE FUTURE
– MODELING OF THE FUTURE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

**CHAPTER #2 GOING DIGITAL
– INNOVATIONS IN THE CONTEMPORARY LIFE**

**CHAPTER #3 ARCHITECTURE AND/OR ART
– INSPIRATION FOR CREATING**

**CHAPTER #4 NEW IDEA OR PROJECT REALIZATION
IN ARCHITECTURE, URBAN DESIGN OR ART**

ON ARCHITECTURE

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Belgrade, Serbia
2019

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PREFACE

There is a large number of political and economic forces within cities all over the world, which influence the manner of development and functioning of new urban micro- and macro-environments, specific by the same or similar shaping. Those forces form a new, internationally led urban paradigm. Politicians, designers, urban planners and architects together create this new image. Still, the shaping of cities is apparently significantly influenced by the powerful forces of intellectual and financial globalization – that should be neither underestimated nor dismissed. The role of planning and urban design in that hierarchy can be potentially highly ranked, but also denied.

We are experiencing an unprecedented era in the history of urbanization. Some of the defining challenges of the 21st century dictate the pace of urban growth, create new approaches in architecture, increase the quality of living spaces, and control the environmental quality. At the same time, they also present an opportunity to create living spaces that are smarter, more efficient, more sustainable, more equal and safer. Architecture and urban Design in the small are the key for improvement and quality of urban and living space.

The themes of the Conference and Exhibition are promoting quality design in different scale, which improves the life of resident citizens and visitors, with attractive living places. Creation of quality design is important for individual living in architecture object as the micro scale of significance - as well as for the design in a wider macro scale, which emphasizes the advantages of a city and potentials for more attractive business, qualified manpower, attraction of students, tourist potential, and events of wider significance. It is what makes an exciting, vibrant city that offers knowledge about new trends in art, architecture and urban design.

The new methodological approach is also focused on pioneering research on interactive graphic design at the time of unprecedented data abundance, such as research designer programs that redefine the production tool, applicable for further development of other designer participants as open source. Or other methodological approaches that explore drawing as a tool, in different ways, or mapping the space or processing data diagrams.

Modeling the Future combines analogue and digital modelling technologies to create a realistic, live-time mapping tool.

The game represents a database of information on the City's architecture and public space which could become an invaluable tool for architecture and urban planning, even the basis that multiple disciplines (designers, architects, urban planners, artist) can work with in order to learn how to transform cities.

One of the conference topics is innovation and creativity in the digital era, with focus on art, architecture, technology, and science as being among the leading proponents of innovative change. Innovation is not new, nor a privilege of the digital age. It has always been present in human endeavors to solve problems, organize community better, improve the quality of life, work more efficiently, and so on. The digital age, however, has brought about unprecedented and ubiquitous possibilities of innovation in all spheres of life.

In the digital age, perhaps more than ever before, there is growing need for multi-disciplinary approach in the research on Arts, Architecture, Design, Science and Technology to deal with challenges of modern society.

Conference will discuss complexity and various meanings of architecture, urban design and art. Interdisciplinary approach is a milestone in defining thematic blocks:

- Modeling the Future - modeling of the future architecture and design with implications for environment and society,
- Going Digital - innovation in contemporary life in digital era,
- Architecture and/or Art - inspiration for creating
- New idea or project realization in Architecture, Urban Design or Art.

Editor

DOMESTICATING GARDENS

EXCAVATING NEW PATTERNS OF GROWTH FOR THE CITY

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ABSTRACT

Urban growth is a generic condition inherited in contemporary metropolitan reality, embracing various programmatic constraints: from housing and the very idea of domestic space to the public realm and urbanity as a practice of collective experience.

In the prevailing ongoing discussions around urban growth, space is generally perceived through its built structure, whereas the empty (un-built) space is rather neglected or misused as mere building asset.

Acknowledging the urban consequences and the spatial effects that urbanization and globalization have on the public space and life in the contemporary city, we call for a critical reassessment of city's unbuilt resources and potential. Therefore the task of this paper is to reveal the hidden dimension and potential of *gardens* as resource for urbanity, juxtaposing the notion of architecture and dwelling with cultivated landscapes, both being seen as interwoven experiences that create the beauty of living.

In order to challenge the perpetually accelerated building activity on the territory of the city of Skopje, we examine the relationship between the built and the un-built space by exploring new narratives that emerge in re-appropriation of the concept of a garden as urban entity and the potential of the productive landscape as a collective endeavour.

The global phenomenon of rapid urbanization with a certain tendency to continue over the next few decades has become a major focus in political, planning and design discussions worldwide. Furthermore the process of urbanization is reflected in the need of reutilization and appropriation of the core urban instigators such as: urban population growth, relationship between the socio-political system and the economic structure, spatial issues and programmatic allocation of land - all of them aiming to reveal the existing urban dynamics. Additionally this situation asks for redefining the role of the urban physical structure through issues that engage distribution of population within the cities, land use appropriation, wealth and development of urban and national economies and the social infrastructure of the city itself (Cities in Transition 2000, p.49).

GROWTH AS IMPERATIVE FOR THE CITY-BEING

Whereas the term urbanization refers to the increasing proportion of a population residing in urban areas in comparison to rural areas, the term urban growth reflects a general increase either of the population, of the land area, or the intensive land-use (and all of them together) in an urban environment. It encompasses the general perception of growth as an act of development and progress, mainly relying on quantitative measurements, all of which orient towards economic growth as a key objective in the contemporary culture driven by market economy.

Although over the last two centuries, increased economic growth has provided many forms of prosperity, in the last decades the world has approached its limits, facing the effects in the realm of non-material measures of success such as: social equity, health and wellbeing, quality of life, and happiness. The destabilization driven by resource extraction, greenhouse gas emissions, waste and toxicity, constant increase of temperatures, rising of sea levels, extreme weather conditions, and other indicators of climate breakdown on daily level, make it clear that the course of a worldview based on never-ending production and consumption of goods and resources needs to be reconsidered.

All of the above mentioned issues refer directly to a wide range of assets and their relevant societal absorption, thus constituting the urban complexity. It clearly means that urbanization comprehend strategic involvement of water and energy resources, food production, infrastructural connectivity of transportation corridors, cultural issues that include education and public health, as well as spatial organization of private and public space. In response to that, the level of the living quality is being defined, where the relation between private and public space has a vital role in creating the so-called "lived space", one that amalgamates the real and the imaginary experience as historical, social and spatial cross-section of society (Soja 2000).

The general condition of "lived space" challenged by rapid urbanization and pervasive globalization, and the context of growth and transformation in dense and contested urban environments will be described later in this paper on the case of the city of Skopje.

DEGROWTH AS ALTERNATIVE FOR THE CITY-WELLBEING

The spatial effects the paradigm of modernity and progress have on the city are manifested in the process of densification and sprawl- both being quantitative properties of the built environment: the first one- as a direct response to the beginning processes of modernization and technology, and the second- as a contemporary upgrade because it is purely an effect of today's culture of consumption. In either case the imperative of urban growth turns any free space into increasingly contested and densely built grounds. Under the pressure of intense privatization of space driven by the vibrant market relations, the free space as truly open and public asset of the urban life is becoming endangered or extinct.

Having in mind the above stated processes, contemporary societies find themselves at a very critical position, a possible bifurcation point in the line of cultural progress, where the growth paradigm could make a radical shift in priorities, moving away from ever increasing material growth toward new immaterial references, ones that challenge human evolution as a culture of growth and project themselves onto the environmental wellbeing creating new ethical, special and social construct of society.

Among the emerging alternatives within social and cultural movements that stand against the idea of the economic growth as principal basis of society, architecture as well has a chance to explore new economies based on human and ecological flourishing. So, it is up to architects and urban practitioners to rethink the elements and the means to create a city that is not so much a commodity as a capitalist idea, but rather an

integration of true values and real meanings of space and living. If the quantitative imperatives of growth are put aside, a crucial question arises of how and by what kind of means could architecture transgress its stage of commodity into an act of cultural ritual?

In that manner, this paper aims to challenge a sustainable, healthy and liveable urban environment, where growth is being tested through the potential of the collective realm of urbanity as a dialectical amalgam capable to bridge public and private interests within metropolitan territory. By means of identifying and inventing social relationships, spatial possibilities, and testing the capacities of the unbuilt, the city is to reclaim the role of a political act of the urban collective. The examples included further in this paper objectify this intention to oppose the intense and extensive building activities on the case of Skopje, using architecture through a wide range of typology of open spaces. Thereto, the openness of the space is understood and applied both literary as an open-air (unbuilt) space, and metaphorically as a free space that is accessible and possible to be experienced by many. Additionally, the notion of de-growth is being deconstructed within new possibilities for growth.

GARDENS AS CITY'S RESOURCES

Although cities are generally perceived, explored and planned through their built structure, this paper is trying to shed a light on the unbuilt as equally, and even more important element upon which the quality of life could be traced. The quantitative measures of the built environment are not entirely omitted, but simply moved back to give the priority to the qualitative ones. Therefore, the goal of the urban projects presented in this paper, is to look and examine the potentials of the empty spaces situated in the dense urban areas of Skopje. Whether they represent a scrap of nature within the urban tissue or a cultivated landscape supporting the urban environment, they revisit the basic notion of the garden, not only as a landscape but also as an architectural archetype.

According to the dictionary explanation, a garden is *a plot of ground where herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables are cultivated*. Whereas this definition defines rather the landscape aspects of the garden, in architectural terms the plot (area it covers) is spatially defined by precise boundaries, usually partition walls that enclose and captivate space and by that (meta) physically create and represent a world in its own. The concept of *hortus conclusus* as enclosed garden adds yet another layer of meanings- a literary archetype of a paradise that *preside over the interpretation of its landscape and architectural imagery, degenerating a tensionality between representation and reality* (Aben and de Wit 1999, p.22).

Gardens as constitutive part of the city

In the broadest (historical and geographical) sense, cities have involved landscapes in a form of spatially and programmatically defined gardens ever since the first known settlements (according the earliest historical evidence of urban productive gardens indicating system of small plots of land for farming and irrigation within the walls of the cities in Mesopotamia in 3500 BC). Through time, the form and the connotative significance of the gardens in the city have taken different levels of meaning: from subsistence in times of food insecurity to mere enjoyment in times of prosperity. Additionally, the productiveness of such landscapes has evolved in the concept of *urban gardening* as a tool for social reform, exceeding in recently emerging hip-movement even in the most densely built and populated cities.

A whole new discipline and understanding of space, entitled Landscape Urbanism, is in the process of establishing, *in which landscape replaces architecture as the basic building blocks of contemporary urbanism* (Waldheim 2006, p.11). The origins of landscape urbanism could be traced in the postmodern architectural culture pointing to *modernism's inability to produce "meaningful" and "livable" public realm* (Lynch 1981). When speaking of the notion of gardens in the modern urban conditions, one actually tends to refer to various types of parks that have been planned as open public space through which natural elements have been inserted into the built tissue. Such 'public' perception of gardens can be related with the first forms of urban parks emerging in the early 19th century, with first examples of allotment gardening interpolated into the city, intending to save green spaces and bring nature closer to the urban inhabitants ("Schreber Movement" in Leipzig and similar ones in London). In each case, the modern notion of urban gardens tries to answer the long period of intense industrialization that instigate emergence of slums, poverty, and inequality (Holmes 2018). In such conditions, the role of allotments and public parks was double folded; first, they were introduced as condensers that maintain adequate amounts (reservoirs) of unoccupied land within the city, and second, being socio-economic formations that provide

residents opportunity to use and cultivate small portion of that land for a symbolic financial compensation.

The latter understanding of urban open space, especially during the 20th century, dismiss the dichotomy between living and cultivating as a way to understand relationship between nature and city substituting productive gardens with large-scale urban parks i.e. places to be visited, admired (that is, consumed) and eventually left. In such processes, landscape becomes just another commodity of the city, an exclusivity (taken) apart from the social performance of everyday life.

Gardens as constitutive part of city living

In present-day society, the public space, understood as genuinely open and accessible, is facing different kinds of threat: alongside the pressure of intensive and extensive building developments, comes the processes of privatization. The garden might be considered a symbol of privatization of land, since, in its origins, it is exactly a demarcation of territory by cultivating land in the natural environment. On the other hand, since the garden is commonly understood as a piece of land adjoining a house, it is closely related to the domesticity and the everyday life. Therefore, *even when gardens are public spaces they retain certain domestic character* (Aureli and Giudici 2018).

A small scale garden that is part of the everyday life not only provides the link to nature in an ever more built and technology governed lives, but its appropriations go along the need for control and manipulation of nature inscribed in human position of supremacy. It also enacts the pleasure both as labour and in the delight of the experiences, culminating in hedonism as an ultimate goal and ideal of the human being and as an ultimate symbol of the human wellbeing.

Looking into the garden as an influential architectural archetype in our civilization and acknowledging its vital role in the private domain- dwelling and working, this paper points to the potential of these **cultivated landscapes** to active a relation between the user and the space, but also to instigate **social encounters** as activator of social interrelations among different users within a defined space. As such they serve as a base for an **urban strategy** that aims to produce a new ecology of multitude where the codes of individuality such as demarcation, jurisdiction, and land property would be retraced in the context of co-existence and sharing. The intention is to set up new social formations that would implicate on the existing formations of economic power of developer driven society and transgress them in a new typology for the city.

NEW GARDENS FOR SKOPJE'S URBAN GROWTH

In general terms, the city of Skopje is a product of 20th century processes of modernization. As such, Skopje is an urban field conceived by the cross-breeding of various social, political and economic intensities that superimpose and juxtapose the natural, the artificial, the fake, the real, the social and the speculative character of the city-building.

The specific modernity of Skopje was initiated and influenced by four major events as key moments in history that have created and modified the socio-spatial character of the city in the last hundred years:

- The first is the extensive migration of people from rural areas toward the city, a phenomenon that lasted during the entire 20th century and conditioned various intensities. The population influx started at the brink of the century, when the first modernization happened with the newly emerged railway line, parks, squares and public buildings that went along the existing local vernacular of the old bazar and oriental neighbourhoods. This pre-modern period emerged at the end of the Ottoman Empire and significantly developed just after the WWI when city of Skopje started to develop according the artistic principles of city planning by Camillo Sitte implementing the circular encapsulation of the city centre and street axes connecting newly established squares.
- The second is recognized by the intense wave of modernization that the city underwent following the end of WWII when Skopje became the capital of the Republic of Macedonia as part of the Yugoslav federation. The CIAM urbanism and the international style were taken as basic models for the new socialist urbanity literally transgressing Corbusian dictum that house is a machine for living towards the city as a living machine. Although short in terms of Skopje, this period opened possibility for the city to be

perceived as ground for experimenting the social aspects of space accepting the condition of producing newness as operating principle of city-building.

- The third key event that initiated a profound transformation of the city followed by additional socio-spatial changes was the devastating earthquake in 1963 that destroyed more than two thirds of Skopje's built tissue. This are the years of intense internationalization of the city when the notion of solidarity was set as a contributing social principle of the everyday urban living. The space was perceived as essentially social construct. In terms of spatial culture of architecture and urban planning, the post-earthquake development has left impressive mark, a legacy, knowledge and idea that clearly challenge the qualities of each of the new visions for the city in the following decades.

- The fourth and the last milestone in Skopje's socio-spatial transformation refers to the shift (after the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1990) of the political and the economic system: from socialism to capitalism and from state-ownership within state-government to private ownership within liberal market economy. In this shifts the collective realm of shared socialist authority over production and goods, transgressed towards privatization of each segment of reality emphasizing individual commodities instead of collective well-being. In terms of urban dynamics this conditions prompted introversion which limited and almost completely erased the concept of urbanity as shared experience.

Implications of the urban growth in Skopje

Acknowledging the fact that the city is closely related to the social, political and economic conditions of the society, this paper reflects their influence on certain aspects in the processes that determine the spatial structure of the city. On the case of Skopje, that is evident in various terms such as: the change of typology when turning single family houses extensively into multi-storey buildings, the change of morphology when houses with yards become sprawling built mass of hybrid/enclosed de-humanized blocks in scale and density, and the relationship between the built structure and its immediate surrounding with many empty green spaces being rapidly in-filled with new buildings (photo.1). The accelerated privatization, along with the urban planning and urban development concentrated on the singular (privately owned and individually governed) plots, result in imbalance between the built and unbuilt space on a larger scale, evident in the rapid loss of greenery on the territory of Skopje, which is most extreme in the central parts of the city.

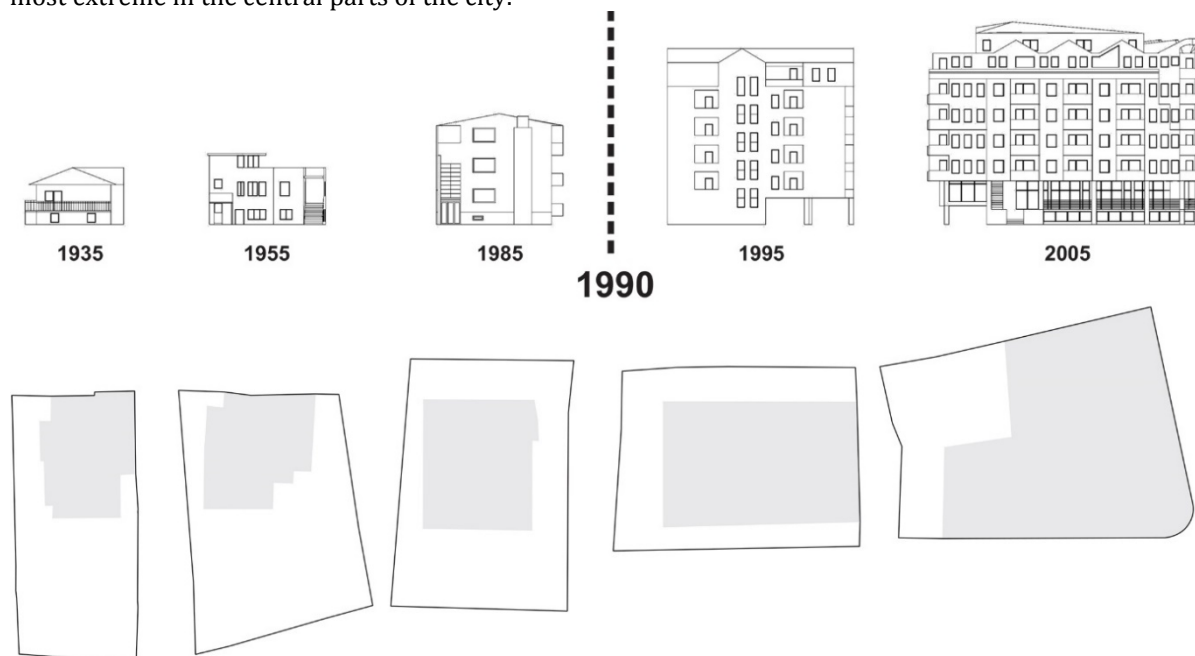


Photo 1. Typo-morphological transformations of the housing units

Rethinking the patterns of growth in Skopje central residential areas

Skopje is a city that occupies more than one third of the country's overall population and just 2% of its overall territory. This condition provokes continuous spatial and demographic sprawl and densification that exhausts the natural resources and the quality of the living conditions.

This paper follows several case studies, design projects, which use gardens as tools that trace patterns for new urban growth introducing a hybrid concept of *domesticating gardens* that produce new relationship between the private and collective domain of the city. The proposed new urban quality on the level of everyday life is to instigate new forms of social encounters within the community by means of spatial aggregation of built and unbuilt. The concept of *hortus conclusus* (an enclosed garden) is used as a potent spatial element that unites architecture and landscape, and becomes a strategic tool for city-building that links the scale of architecture and urbanism.

Each of the projects presented in this paper understands the open, free space as equally important structural element in the process of creating the very narrative of contemporary urban living. The free, open space is perceived as physical and symbolic act of 'liberating'; a design asset and tool that resist perpetual pressure of speculative building activities and the loss of qualities of space. Therefore the projects superimpose the 'green' almost therapeutic conditions provided by the gardens with the meaning of domestic space not necessarily understood as private space but as a living condition, a concept, that hybridizes the performance of space on the level of collective, and bridge the gap, balances, between the private and public domain of life. Even more, in terms of dense urban areas the meaning of garden is extended with the concept of *contained/confined landscape* in which garden is reinvented as design, programmatic and physical prosthesis of architecture and urban design, a tool that develops its own methodology when aggregated with the idea of domestic space because their spatial qualities are enriched with the collective performances of everyday life. On formal and operative level, by captivating and containing the landscape as collective and shared space the idea is to free/liberate the domestic space to be solely seen as private, and vice versa, the new hybrid understanding of domestic space strengthen the 'soft' spatial qualities of the garden making them constructive assets for the city-building. As a result, this co-act become a social condenser that on micro level overlaps the performances of living, natural landscape and the idea of contemporary city as a shared space and generate flexible open-end conditions for critical insertion of small scale interventions in the city as a design but also a planning method.

The chosen sites of interest (photo.2) for each of the projects are set in a complex build environment that reflects the physical specificity of each of the spaces and its immediate surroundings, land property, spatial permeability and existing planning documents. Namely, the sites are predominantly private properties, but each of them is physically accessible from the public areas of the surrounding streets, and it is highly devastated and out of use. Although situated in one of the most market valuable area of Skopje, the negligence of the sites comes mostly because of their formal and physical fragmentation; first refers to unresolved ownership statuses in terms of many inheritors or difficulties with the processes of denationalization, and the second is directly influenced by the urban planning regulatory plans that since the 1990ties relies solely on speculation and profit, producing enormous spatial leftovers with no real possibility to contribute to the quality of the build environment. Therefore the projects are re-reading the abovementioned situation in order to set a bottom up, small-scale strategy for improving the existing situation. It literally means that private property is not exclusively connected with the use and appropriation of space only for the land owners, but in a process of 'domesticating' it includes sharing and use of space beyond the formally determined borders between plots and between much bigger numbers of users on the level of neighbourhood. Although the legal demarcation and clear jurisdiction of land ownership remains as a cadastral document/survey, this blurring effect of 'no man's land' provides outcome that offers many different possibilities for spatial organization and programmatic sharing that includes open space (gardens), the use of semi-private facilities and public and semi-public activities in a very generic manner such as social clubs, office rented space, urban gardening/agriculture, educational facilities and workshops, shops, cafes and many more.

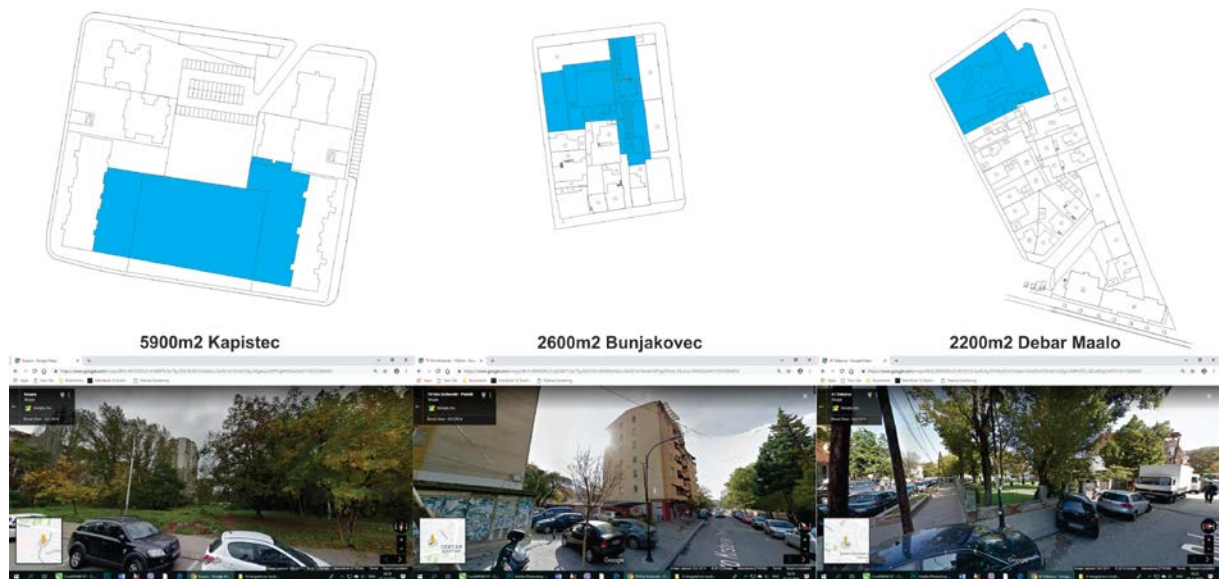


Photo 2. Three different sites of interest representing the existing urban conditions

The following projects show three situations that test the 'domesticating methodology': first when the desolated open space is practically completely public, second being in between public and private, and third almost fully enclosed and private. They share common objectives to juxtapose the value of spatial configuration (as a manmade construct that is embedded at the very foundations of urbanity providing comfort and security), and the elements of landscape (as inseparable entity of contemporary urban living that enables essential quality of life, work and leisure), i.e. gardens in dense urban areas.

HORTUS COMMUNI VIVENTIUM – or garden as a communal living room

The project starts from very precise recording of more than 200 hundred plants, shrubs and trees existing on the site. The broader area is designed as part of big construction activities in the late 1980ties and the site itself is consisted of two massive social housing blocks that are separated with highly neglected green area. In spatial terms, through the years this open space became rather a barrier, detached from any use and social encounter. Additionally, some fragments, irregular cut outs of the park have been denationalized recently. The mixture of public and privately owned land furthermore contributes to a greater complexity of the site.

Therefore, the design task takes the spatial aggregation of empty and built space as basic notion from which to derive and set up social agenda as an instigator for achieving right and just urban environment. Namely, on conceptual level the design proposal reinforces the existing programs of the buildings as places of 'private life' – bedrooms, and public services and shops on the ground level, but encode the devastated park with new programmatic layer that designates it as collective communal living room. The open space becomes rhizome of interconnected semi-opened pavilions which encapsulate groups of existing and formations of newly planted vegetation in one compact spatial construct, at the same time taking care of the land ownership as much as possible. On strategic level each of the pavilions must be capable to perpetually reinvigorate their social activity. Therefore they accommodate various generic but shared activities providing condensed urban life and foreseeing social exchange. The project provides specific equipment and scenario for each of the pavilions supporting 'domesticating' performances as basic attributes of space but also anchors urban green gardens as constitutive and performative element of contemporary urban life.

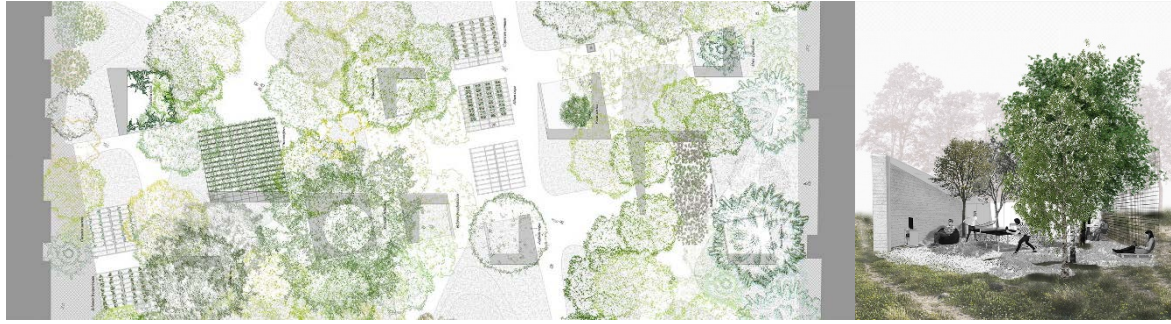


Photo 3. Garden as urban communal space

HORTUS LABYRINTH – a field exploration for an urban flâneur

he design approach on this site, based on pragmatic and sensitive extrapolation and reduction of the obsolete, along with rational addition of basic architectural elements, aims to re-examine and re-write new social narratives for a dense built environment where free space is exclusively private but also fragmented, useless and separated in many spatial entities, Although physically permeable enough, the site itself is not in a direct connection with the surrounding public street corridors and is positioned in the backyards of the existing buildings.

Therefore, the first design protocol the project takes is to expand the operational field of the site by erasing some of the existent but obsolete spatial elements (barracks, fences, and traces of prior structures) in order to open place for interpolation of new spatial and programmatic components. Further, the design procedure takes the ‘wall’ as primary element by which new programmatic juxtapositions are established in-between the labyrinthine perception of space. The different tactile materiality of the ‘wall’s used to re-conceptualize the space reflects the sensibility and programmatic specificity of each of the rooms it creates.

The process of their domestication is done by establishing narratives for diverse groups of users: from different age groups up to different social and cultural habits of people practicing their everyday life. Namely, the proposed project exacerbates the experience of social cohesion through the process of simultaneous overlapping of spatial fragmentation and deliberately accelerated programmatic diversity which includes: collective performances of learning and gaining knowledge through the workshop and exhibition spaces, places for practicing hedonism such as picnic areas and playgrounds, productive landscaping of gardening perennials so typical for the domestic courtyard, up to the joint cooperative of practicing urban agriculture. On the level of micro-spatial strategy for everyday life, those seemingly disparate relationship between space and function is being solidified in one operative entity, by merging public, semi-public and private understandings of space enabled by the idea of semi-enclosed, permeable and diverse gardens and shared open spaces.



Photo 4. Exteriorization of on enclosed space in new collective appropriation of living

HORTUS NIMBUS or a garden as flying carpet over the city

The last case study shows the symbolic and performative character of the concept of 'domestic gardens' with an aspiration to become part of the public sediment of the city. Namely, the last site observed in this paper is actually a park in addition to an existing governmental building. The site is situated in a very dense urban area, visible and fully open to the public but unfortunately fenced and thus physically semi-deprived and functionally completely detached from the existing context.

The project makes two fundamental operational tactics that convert the relationship between the built and unbuilt. First, it proposes new formal and programmatic interpolations by which it extends the existing building into the park, and second it 'elevates' the garden above the site by using the specific appearance character of the birch tree (*betula pendula*) as ontological feature for the project. The spatial and programmatic inserts enable domesticating processes of the whole territory of this generally public site introducing distinctive spatial features embedded in dense tissue, while the 'green floating cloud' of the birch trees clearly demarcates and spatially structures the whole entity. The 'social' opening of this site that includes youth hostel with small camping site, café-restaurant, performance stage with small auditorium and art residency, as well as birch tree products shop and amateur laboratory, together with the all-encompassing greenery instigates formation of hybrid assemblage of built and un-built as one entity.

The proposed inhabitable structures together with the collective open space (the birch garden) are staging new urban condition that create dynamic island with well-adjusted 'social' intensity and deliberate programmatic 'instability'. Bridging the gap between public and semi-public towards semi-private spatial experience, such intervention takes the neighbourhood beyond the mere concept of 'belonging' as basic principle and instead use architecture as a tool to generate multitude of social meanings that overlap in a cohesive urban palimpsest.



Photo 5. Domesticating space as aggregated programmatic carpet embedded in a dense urban forest

CONCLUSION

This paper with each of the abovementioned elements, does not intend to promote a singular and all-encompassing 'grand idea' for resolving the demographic, social or infrastructural problems of urbanity today. It just indicates the possibility on how polemical thought of rather small idea, precisely implemented on a right scale project, and by subtly imposing right questions could make change even in quite contradictory profession of architecture and urban design. In this way, as major disciplines of the built environment they might establish context for rethinking social and environmental challenges and hazards of our time as body in which the search for fair, inclusive and just city could develop concurrently with the speculative life of neo-liberal developer reality.

The work demonstrate how architecture and small scale interventions are capable in building the capacity to adjust in a context of limited spatial resources of dense urban environments. The paper generally refers on a relational model that ground itself in finding the bottom up processes of establishing relationships among various constraints embedded in the contemporary urban environment within the professional discourses. As such, the relationship between the built and un-built, and private and public constraints as rather traditional aspects of the architecture and urban design disciplines, are additionally inform with the semantic and operative possibilities of spatial, juridical and programmatic re-balancing of the basic notion of space with contributions of domesticity and contained landscape of the *hortus conclusus* experience. Therefore, a seemingly light and modest polemical thought, triggers radically different perception of urban space introducing the idea of sharing as a new principle for city-building. On a theoretical level this approach recalls on formal aspects of space and promotes ideas of urban construct as collective idea but it also aloud introduction of open end concepts that include aspects of ephemeral, temporary, and unfinished as counterparts of understanding of space as permanent condition.

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