

Habilitation thesis

THE CITY AS ARTIFACT

- architecture as structuring element of reference -

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Summary

This paper summarizes the activities of the candidate in the period following the defense of a doctoral thesis entitled "Urban Evolution of Cluj in the XIXth century" on the 10th of November 2000 at the University of Architecture and Urbanism - Bucharest.

The activity of the candidate is presented by scientific professional and academic achievements. The research belongs to the field of architecture and urban planning and is materialized through books, articles and scientific studies, research projects / design made in the economic integration activity / research of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca and participation in national and international project competitions organized by European profiled institutions belonging to the architects and urban planners guild.

The original contribution in the research activity is the interdisciplinary approach of urban modernization, this being the current trend, specific for the activity of the architects, urban-designers and urban planners .

Thus, it is considered as being original, the fact that the historical investigation of the development, specific to urban history, must be extended to social act (see the volume "Modern Cluj - urban issues" - and scientific articles, "Urban Identity and Modernization - Cluj in the 19th century" and "Substantiation Survey - Analysis of Urban Structure"), and then completed with that of "reading" the historical plans in morphological approach. In the studies made by the candidate, the urban structure of Cluj in the XIXth century is considered, noticing its fulfillment in time through a sequence of reactions and developments related to a previous state, as socio-spatial structure. Fundamental elements of the urban

structure are the street network, typology of the blocks, public buildings and monuments, which are distinguished by their appearance, their symbolic nature and their function and are important as a memory of the place and the perennality of its significance.

The city is considered artifact because it is the physical result of aspirations of urban society, created by them.

This method of research is important to define a way of studying the existing urban situation, necessary in urban projects, from detail-fragment, to the whole-everything, from local to global, in order to detect the fair and possible decisions and at the same time specific, conferring identity, the correct insertion is also required and proper to the adequate inclusion in the environment for any architectural project.

Applying this method of approach, belonging to this research, are illustrated by candidate's urban history studies ("Study of urban-historical substantiation to update PUG Cluj-Napoca", 2009, and "The establishment of protected construction areas with special value- cultural, historical, architectural to update the PUG of Azuga city") conducted as projects with third parties in the economic integration activity within UTCN. The historical-urban studies approach started from specific determinants of urban life: the number, density and population heterogeneity. Assimilating the city, in its historical approach, with a set of complex interactions facing conflicting logics - a result of ambitions, needs, desires and struggles of social classes living here, one highlights, reflecting upon the concomitant illustration of social interactions, the city concreteness as artifact inscribed in history (with memory and, therefore, never completely subordinated to the will or the needs of a social class) by illustrative morphological landmarks and by its own logic, autonomous, of changing the appearance of the urban structure. "Reading" morphologically the city's physical structure – the urban structure was achieved by city plans, illustration and images that allow identification rules in the same time at global and local level.

Another research direction on which the candidate focused in her activity is the urban design - a new term, used after the Second World War to define the process of conception and realization of physical arrangements. The candidate conducted urban development projects with third parties at the level of town

fragment or towns, in significant areas or in areas with significant identity; created a first research structure in the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning (FAU) / research and design group in urban planning ; participated in national and international competitions of urban- design and architecture, achieving significant results, winning important national and international awards. An original method of integration in context, both in terms of relief, social characteristics and built artificial elements was developed, with the explicit goal of achieving a remarkable identity and preserving/creating of an urban specificity at local and global level. The importance of participating in competitions of urbanism is illustrated by awarding some of them with national and international awards and demonstrated the validity of my concepts and methods of understanding and developing architecture in an urban context, and illustrating the originality of the undertaken actions.

Scientific articles published in Acta Technica Napocensis, Section Civil Engineering-Architecture, presents the conceptual approach method that should fundament the urban design projects. These examples are at the same time a very useful educational material either for the courses taught by the candidate, or also as documentation for the implementation in design - projects in the specialized design planning.

An important direction, applied and original in research was carried out by the candidate in the Urban Planning Department of FAU and then in FAU, by initiating an international workshop called Questions, held annually since 2011-2012 academic year. This demarche has stimulated research and exchange of ideas especially among young PhD students, proposing to debate specific aspects of the education in architecture and urbanism at Cluj, both in terms of teaching and research issues. In this activity, the candidate organized, coordinated editing publications, was reviewer and chairman.

Plans for development of the future academic career target research topics in the area of urban history and spatial planning management works undertaken by PhD and continue organizing international workshops that allow the exchange of ideas between specialists from the fields of architecture and urban planning and in related areas: urban engineering , civil engineering, sociology, etc. Awarding the PhD advisor to the candidate, would enhance the creative capacity in the

Department of Urban Planning and improve the results in the field of teaching-learning architecture.

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