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Book of Abstracts

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**Rehabilitation of
Mass Housing
as Contribution to
Social Equality**

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Social Equality**

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RE-MHN Project

The project entitled *Rehabilitation of Mass Housing as Contribution to Social Equality* (RE-MCH) is implemented a part of the DAAD-East-West-dialogue program (University dialogue with the countries of the Western Balkans) in the period from January to December 2022. The project was initiated by TH OWL in collaboration with researchers from UB-FA and UKIM.

Mass housing neighborhoods (MHN) represent the largest share of urbanity and morphological image of the large-scale cities in the Balkan region, that is, the leading pattern of urban transformation and expansion in the second half of the 20th century. Moreover, they have a significant share in total housing stock across Europe and have a huge significance in ensuring access to affordable and appropriate housing, reducing socio-spatial polarization in cities, and finally contributing to social equality. MHN were built on a cross-section of multifaceted influential factors that equally include feedbacks between social structure, ie. demographic, social and economic characteristics of the housing community reflected in the lifestyle of residents, on the one hand and the physical structure, on the other. These neighborhoods embody multiple levels of material and immaterial values and are an inseparable part of the local collective memory and urban identity.

One of the main purposes of this project is to discuss the potential that MHN have for their region and community, the possibilities they provide spatially, and to evaluate and further develop inspiring ways to maintain, re-use and revitalize them, based on selected case studies. Furthermore, it proposes enhancing and testing of innovative research practices for rehabilitation of MHN, through the involvement of students, academics, and professionals from the field, introducing them into local communities' processes. It strives to enhance the competence and motivation of both academics and civil society to become real actors of the environmental and social change.

Editors Note

The context of RE-MHN project has largely influenced the thematic framework of the interdisciplinary research event organized in collaboration between the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture and the TH OWL and UKIM. The event has included various formats and levels of discussion in order to experiment with knowledge-sharing and knowledge-building structures in the academic context. Our objectives were twofold – thematic and pedagogical. The open processes of questioning the contemporary issues of rehabilitation of mass housing is navigated through different debate structures. The event is perceived as a creative and critical arena for international researchers, invited lecturers, debate, phd talks and workshop results discussions. The event also included pre-activities throughout the spring semester 2022 in the form of student workshop – “ISO-SCAPES” – which resulted in Exhibition prepared as a part of the seminar. This Booklet is conceptualized as a diary of abstracts structured in two main parts: **Thematic Lecturers** (Invited Speakers) and **PhD Talks** (PhD Students and Candidates).

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URBAN MORPHOLOGY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF TRANSITIONAL TERRITORIES AND TRANSNATIONAL SYSTEMS - SUBOTICA IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE XX CENTURY

This paper examines the evolution of modern architecture during socialism in medium-sized cities in former Yugoslavia through large urban area development, with an emphasis on multifamily residential architecture, which is the bearer of urbanization of the period, on the example of the city of Subotica.

Medium and small-sized cities are characterized by the implementation of plans in the existing urban fabric in order to maintain their character in terms of size and functioning, but due to the enthusiasm that marked the socialist period, these cities were often planned with the same ambition as the former capitals, but with fewer resources, which causes a gap between plans and their realization. These unfinished urban developments, from today's point of view of the post-socialist city, pose a challenge to planners due to **the change of the planning paradigm** and especially due to **the current wave of protection of modernist heritage**.

The research focuses on Subotica, a city located in northern Serbia in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and is best known for its architecture in the style of the Hungarian Secession. The city morphology largely follows the layout of Central European Cities and was mostly formed while it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. However, in the 1950s, now as part of Yugoslavia, single-family houses were demolished to make way for socialist housing blocks, creating a conflicting situation between the new socialist planning agenda and the historic urban fabric. Historical documents indicate that the city aspired to transform into a modern socialist city by building several modern settlements: Prozivka and Radijalac.

The methodology consists of mapping turning points in the city morphology over time in relation to primary sources, such as urban plans and orthophotography, which are then afterwards analysed through the method of space syntax. The resulting diagrams are then intersected with the socio-economic changes, detected in the textual parts of planning documents, newspaper clips and old photographs, that were happening simultaneously with morphological ones in order to obtain a more complete picture and the consequences that the two have on each other.

This paper has two goals – pointing out the importance of understanding all stages of development of a city as a basis for its planning in the future, especially when reacting to large urban areas developed under one planning paradigm from the position of another and **to draw attention to socialist heritage of medium and small-sized cities** and inscribe it on the international map of modernity.

Keywords: residential architecture, socialist heritage, urban heritage, urban regeneration

