

GLOBAL VILLAGE 2



Conference proceedings
GLOBAL VILLAGE - SHELTER FOR RESILIENT LIVING 2

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PREFACE: GLOBAL VILLAGE — UTOPIA OR REALITY?

res. ass .dr Tatjana Mrdjenovic, Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade
Conference concepor and Editor in chief

The discussion will start debates about the diverse paradigms of suburban, rural, and urban places in today's global society, and it will do so by comparing these three types of locations. The primary point of contention is whether a Global Village should be categorized as an idealistic utopia or a feasible possibility for the foreseeable future. This debate will explore the advantages and disadvantages of each type of location, considering factors such as population density, infrastructure, and access to resources. Additionally, it will delve into the cultural, social, economic, and environmental implications of striving towards a Global Village concept. In the conversation that will bridge hierarchical and network viewpoints, we will investigate the idea of needs. Let's investigate some alternative ways of living to the one we are now accustomed to, on the presumption that we ought to consider the requirements that have been produced. These alternative ways of living may include sustainable communities, eco-villages, and self-sufficient neighborhoods. By considering the requirements that have been produced, we can explore how these alternative living arrangements can address issues such as energy consumption, mobility, built environment, waste management, and food production more efficiently and environmentally friendly. Furthermore, examining the cultural, social and economic implications of these alternative ways of living can shed light on the potential benefits and challenges they may bring to individuals and society as a whole. The core beliefs and identities held by people all over the world help to foster the growth of a diversified socio-economic and cultural network that spans a variety of geographic regions. This network serves as the basis for a worldwide community that is referred to as the Global Village. Within the context of our increasingly interdependent global community, this idea stands as a singular example of new communalism. As a result, Global Village would like to draw your attention to the following topics, most of which are also being explored in the thematic sessions of the conference:

1. ARCHITECTURE OF GLOBAL VILLAGE: PATTERNS, FORMS, SYSTEMS
2. PLANNING AND ARRANGING THE GLOBAL VILLAGE: INSTRUMENTS AND MODELS
3. MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN RISK MANAGEMENT OF TERRITORIES
4. FORMS OF MOVEMENT AND MOBILITY MANAGEMENT IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE
5. THE ROLE OF URBAN PLANNERS IN MANAGING THE CLIMATE TRANSITION
6. NEW MODELS OF ARCHITECTURE IN TRANSITION
7. RESILIENT CITIES IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION: URBAN INTERVENTIONS TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
8. HEALTHY city HEALTHY people: designing future cities for "mind body and soul"
9. RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIES - IDEAS AND POSSIBILITIES

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THE DISAPPEARANCE OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CONTEMPORARY ERA: INTERIOR SPACE AS SPACE OF PUBLIC INTERACTION

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic represents a trigger that has led to social transformations whose consequences are yet to unfold. Noticeable changes can be observed in behavior patterns, as well as in communication, and space usage, particularly in public areas. The advancement of technology in the 21st century is rapidly altering communication patterns, while the built environment fails to support the spatial requirements of the newly formed lifestyle in the urban context. Increasingly, face-to-face encounters in physical environments are being replaced by interactions in virtual realms. Open public spaces, as places of interaction and public life in the city, are being replaced by the comfort of the user's personal space of indoor habitat. Human interaction with nature is diminished, thereby influencing low public health and well-being. The benefits of being in a natural environment are overshadowed by the need to fulfill social interactions that take place in virtual spaces within the contemporary context. The aim of this paper is to problematize the qualitative aspects of an interior space of a residential unit as a surrogate for open public space. These tendencies reflect the necessity of interior space changes creating new standards of architectural programming to create new forms of the natural environment to support the health and well-being of users.

Keywords: urban context; contemporary lifestyle; health; well-being; build environment; virtual space

1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted humanity represents a turning point in the acceptance of technology as a new medium of human life. Two years of restricted movement and physical contact have been sufficient to tether people to the “warmth” of their homes and demonstrate that it is indeed possible to work from home or regularly chat with friends via video calls. Noticeable changes in lifestyle in urban environments and overall space usage can be observed through behavior patterns, as well as the transformation in communication (Languillon-Aussel, 2021). The consequences of the isolation period transformed the perception of social interaction and the meaning of open public spaces. Open public space, as a place of public life in the urban context, is being replaced by the comfort of the user’s personal space of indoor habitat. Previous research, based on the survey, showed that the overall state of the pandemic had the greatest effect on the frequency and duration of public open space utilization by all age groups of participants (Đukić et al. 2021).

The indoor space of the residential unit becomes a surrogate for open public space as a space for social interaction. However, the lack of benefits of being outdoors remains. This paper aims to emphasize lifestyle transformations in the newly formed situation and suggest the enhancement of qualitative aspects of indoor space. The behavioral patterns changes reflect the necessity to create new forms of the natural environment to support the health and well-being of users.

2. REAL VS. VIRTUAL REALM

The very essence of public space has undergone a profound transformation throughout the latter few decades of the 20th century, the idea of public space has become a fluid and elusive one (Prodanović & Krstić, 2011). Even the interpretation of public spaces carries certain semantic ambivalence. These spaces can be viewed from different perspectives: as Euclidean physical environments or, conversely, as public spheres wherein spatial networks are forged, creating the convergence of the public with the private and the virtual with the physical (e.g., social networks, conference rooms, shopping centers, cafes, etc.) (Languillon-Aussel, 2021). Contemporary perceptions of this type of space suggest its main objective has allegedly changed to being the simple satisfaction of individual (private) preferences. Public space transcended its role, as a place for the expression of civic freedoms and a backdrop for leisurely activities, and become an essential part of the working environment itself. Every act of work is situated *somewhere*, and that location's characteristics greatly influence the scope and nature of the action itself (Prodanović & Krstić, 2011). To fully realize the potential of public space as a hub for social interaction and civic participation it is necessary to rethink the contemporary meaning and purpose of public space through the dynamic relation between the public environment and human activity.

Nowadays, our work is increasingly conducted from home, so the nature of the aforementioned *somewhere* is the interior of our homes, while, in fact, we are simultaneously situated in a virtual space. After the pandemic in Serbia, there has been a noticeable increase in people's isolation and a decrease in the amount of time spent in physical, open spaces. Instead, individuals are allocating more of their time to virtual realms. From this point of view, what will be the shape and nature of our future cities if our conventional, tangible public spaces are replaced by virtual alternatives? (Đukić et al. 2021).

From the standpoint of technological development, the way humans communicate is in a state of continual enhancement. Consequently, the introduction of innovative technologies and the fusion of various new advancements have led to the development of Internet applications. On the user's side, there is a growing desire for greater freedom in the virtual realm, as well as an ongoing expansion in the range of internet content and interaction methods. (Ning et al. 2021). However, we cannot escape our physical reality. While we conduct tasks through avatars on various social networks, we still need a haven for our bodies on this Earth. What emerges as the main connection to the external world is the interaction between humans and nature. For the purpose of this paper, we aim to take a typical element associated with the exterior and consider its influence on the comfort of the interior space.

There is a close relationship between man and nature. Interaction with nature is important for enhancing the quality of life and providing people with a range of measurable benefits (Dijkstra et al. 2008; Pretty 2004), including psychological benefits and cognitive performance (Keniger et al. 2004). However, relatively little attention has been paid to the role of indoor natural environments compared to the number of studies on the role of outdoor spaces (Rakonjac et al. 2022). In an urban environment, the majority of inhabitants spend their time indoors and the public is increasingly aware of the risks posed by poor indoor climates (Deng, & Deng 2018). Therefore, a natural indoor climate is important for human health and well-being (Claudio, 2011). The behavioral patterns based on past experiences with COVID-19 imposed the necessity to re-examine physical space and consider the natural element of open spaces in indoor spaces to improve users' well-being.

3. SCENARIO OF THE NEW NORMAL: HOME ALONE

The lifestyle of people before the pandemic, due to the busy daily schedule, and lack of time to spend in the home environment, led to the neglect of the comfort of the user's personal space of indoor habitat. All of this added to the shock we experienced when domestic isolation was inevitable. The spaces we inhabit fail to adapt to new lifestyles in an urban context.

Lifestyle transformation during and after the pandemic defined a new pattern of users' behavior creating the *Scenario of the New Normal: Home Alone*. Working from home initially seemed like a more relaxed solution, but today there is an increasing sense of confinement and isolation. Avoiding going outside and

leaving the house can lead to loneliness, stagnation, and lethargy. The central question that this work seeks to address is whether the transfer of certain elements from the outdoor environment into the indoor space in residential units could (to some extent) enhance our experience of our intimate living space.

If there is not enough time spent in nature or the opportunity to pursue hobbies in a garden, the idea that comes to mind is finding a way to transfer that experience into the indoor habitat. For the purposes of this work, we will refer to this hypothetical living unit as the *Green Room*. The conceptual framework of *Green Room* is based on Farago's (2007:95) statement — *Early interior painters already noticed that in order for the inside of a room to rid itself of a sense of confinement, alienation, and insecurity, it must carry within itself the concept of the external, a possible narrative of the outside.* The idea of a “green” character lies in spatial interventions aimed at creating a succession of environments, programs, and contents that all have the nature elements (plants) as a common thread, with the assumption that all these interventions should enhance mental and physical well-being due to the new circumstances. Combining users' daily activities — work, rest, recreation, entertainment — in one (indoor) space forms a New Normal daily rhythm in an urban environment. The multifunctional residential unit adopts the concept of implementation of external (outdoor) nature qualities into interior space ensuring users achieve physical well-being and engage socially in the virtual realm within the confines of indoor habitat.

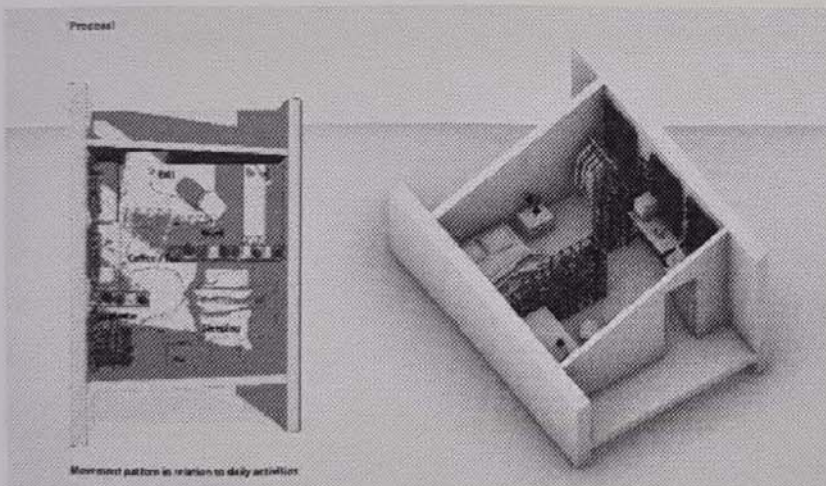


Figure 1: *New Normal – Green Room Concept* (illustration: Petrović, R.)

4. CONCLUSIONS

Even if the pandemic has long since receded, it is clear that society will not return to the norms it once established. In the face of sporadic global crises such as epidemics, pollution, or war, people tend to retreat into zones of comfort and safety, as the digital age allows them to engage socially within the confines of their indoor habitat. In other words, some aspects of public space are being migrated into our homes through technology. Beyond social discomfort, the emergence of virtual communication is also supported by practical benefits, such as the ability to multitask or increased accessibility to different content. The described societal aspirations lead us to the conclusion that the future will undoubtedly shape

hybrid solutions that combine virtual and physical spaces. Future research should explore possibilities of architectural design in the post-pandemic period to prevent the disappearance of open public space under the influence of the virtual realm.

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