

GLOBAL VILLAGE 2



Conference proceedings
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ARCHITECTURE — INFRASTRUCTURE — LANDSCAPE ASSIMILATION IN THE POSTINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DANUBE WATERFRONT IN BELGRADE: *RESEARCH-BY-DESIGN APPROACHES*

Dr Bojana Jerković-Babović, University of Belgrade — Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture,
bojana.jerkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the research of the typological frameworks loss between architecture, infrastructure and landscape in research-by-design results in a decade of work on the Master's final thesis and projects with the topic *Making of a City: postindustrial development of the area between Dunavska Street and the Belgrade's Danube waterfront*, under the mentorship of professor Nebojša Fotirić, with assistant Dr Bojana Jerković-Babović. Phenomena such as globalisation, hyperproduction of information, virtual interactions, etc., lead to specific social and cultural fragmentation within the framework of fluid exchange networks on a global and local level. The new relations between the local and the global are manifested by the separation between the symbolic meaning of the location, function and new forms of appropriation of space. Accordingly, the research questions in the context of the post-industrial phase of Belgrade's Danube Waterfront include the understanding of modern, hybrid programming settings and new models of spatial use. Such approaches, considering the needs of the contemporary aesthetic experience of the city, modernise architectural programs and transform typologies in inherited contexts. In this paper, out of 80 projects, 10 projects from the previous 10 generations of students were selected, which meet the criteria of (1) realizing the continuity of urban movement that connects architecture, infrastructure and landscape, (2) forming a dynamic perceptual experience in motion and (3) erasing clear boundaries between the interior and exterior. New urban landscapes are created, in which clear boundaries between architecture, infrastructure and natural landscape are lost in the conventional typological sense. This paper aims to show and expand the operational scope of architectural creativity, through results that actualize and operationalize the aforementioned changes in architectural thought and practice.

Keywords: architecture, urban design, architectural education, industrial heritage

I. Introduction

This paper focuses on the specificity of the spatial framework of the former First Industrial Zone of Belgrade, which in the modern context, devastated and abandoned, is explored in the post-industrial and contemporary needs of Belgrade urban life. The context of the area of Belgrade between Dunavska Street and the Danube is a large space where solving the distances of infrastructural city networking of movements is one of the main parameters (Figure 1). The coast is limited in its course by a sudden break at the "Dorćol" marina, intensively used as a promenade. Dunavska ulica, as a transit, defined by a built structure in a state of partial or complete devastation, represents another big challenge in the aspirations of "lowering the city to the river" (Fotirić, Jerković-Babović, 2023, p 26).

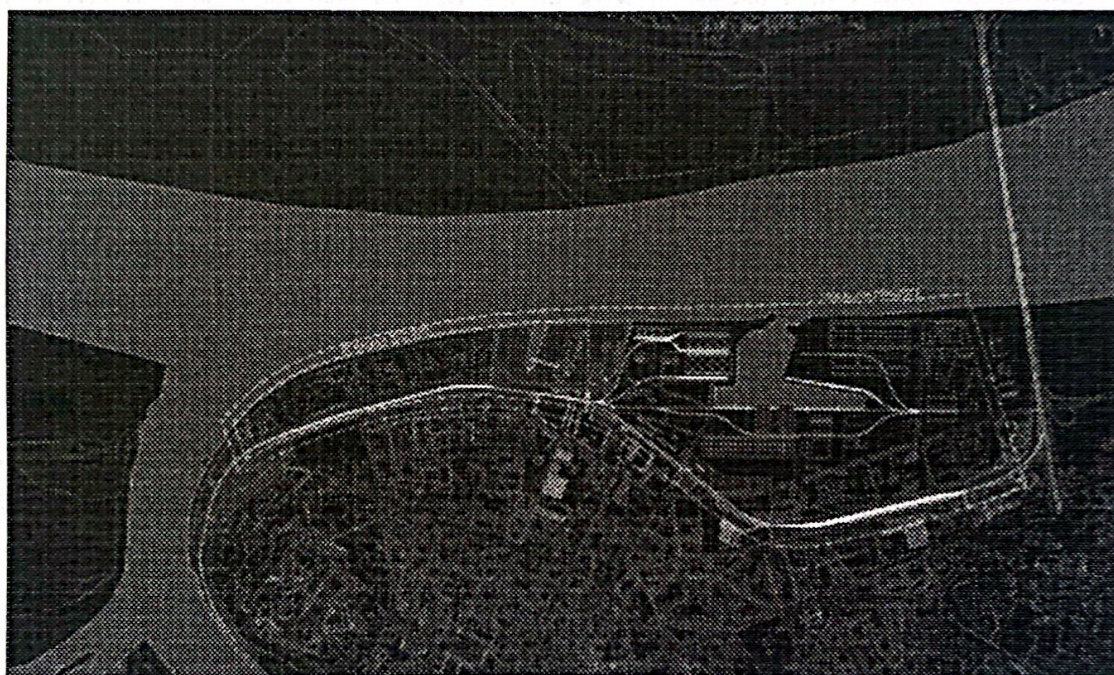


Figure 1 — Research area — Danube waterfront in Belgrade

This paper presents research-by-design approaches as a result based on a decade of work with students, where 10 representative projects were recognized over 10 years that meet the 3 basic criteria of assimilation of architecture, infrastructure and landscape. The research-by-design process consists of five main parts: conceptualization, defining the individual project task, program structure, design structure and presentation. The main theoretical research frameworks and recommended literature include theories of architecture and urbanism, contemporary architectural theories and theories of architectural design, along with theoretical sources from bordering fields of architecture, such as cultural studies, architectural philosophy, aesthetics, art, history and technology, as it will be presented in Chapter 2. The research process applies the results of theoretical research in practical architectural work, to critically analyze theoretical conclusions during architectural design and to operationalize theoretical conclusions into design tools such as diagrams, assemblies and conceptual models.

2. A-I-L ASSIMILATION: SHORT THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The contemporary context of multidimensional flows transforms the contemporary socio-spatial context into a continuous network of constant dynamic processes based on movement, transfers, transit, communication and information systems. Interactions of new information technologies and exchange processes simultaneously increase the mobility of people and the speed of information exchange (Jerković-Babović, Fotirić, 2019, p 211-217). Urban areas are measured by the range of infrastructure systems, power networks, communications and connections that enable continuous flows of exchange (Castells, 1996; Graham, Marvin, 2001). Technical-technological innovations that enable new typological, functional and disciplinary intersections open numerous innovative creative possibilities in architectural design, through softening of former rigid divisions between architecture, infrastructure and landscape. The networking paradigm of the 21st century has contributed to new ways of connecting relations in cities and the theory of architecture explores the needs and possibilities of uniting infrastructure, architecture and landscape into a unique dynamic system (Koolhaas, 1998; Allen, 1999; Easterling, 1999, Pawley, 1998). The infrastructural character of contemporary architecture is related to the development of networked infrastructural systems, which open up new potentials for understanding and reading urban spaces (Pewley, 1998; Graham, Marvin, 2001). Accordingly, public city spaces, especially spaces of infrastructural purpose, neglected or seemingly undefined, are explored as the main connectors of aesthetic experience and socialization of society. Dispersions of disciplinary and typological frameworks in hybridity become potentials of architectural creativity, and cultural and aesthetic identifications with the values of the contemporary context of networking, globalization, fluidity and dynamization (Jerković-Babović, 2022).

3. A-I-L ASSIMILATION: RESEARCH-BY-DESIGN OUTCOMES

Based on theoretical analysis, the main design potentials are recognized in dynamic aspects such as communications, exchanges, transfers, transits, movement, circulation, retention, acceleration, deceleration, etc., where the main research and design task is their translation into architectural and urban design elements.

This chapter focuses on this paper's aim to present the creative potentials of the dispersion of typological definitions in the modern city, as a reaction to the constantly changing conditions of the context based on the following criteria: (1) forming the continuity of urban movement that connects architecture, infrastructure and landscape, (2) forming a dynamic perceptual experience of space while in motion and (3) erasing clear boundaries between the interior and exterior (Jerković-Babović, 2022, p 104-106). All the

selected projects were conceived according to individual research topics, firstly analyzed theoretically and then interpreted into architectural and urban design methods and projects (Fig. 2).⁶


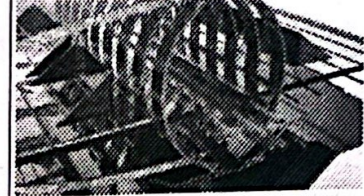
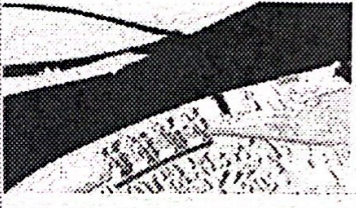






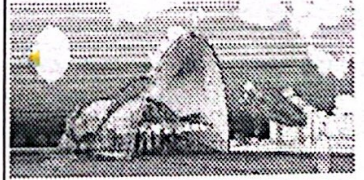
CRITERIA	SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS	
	<p>[1] "Decelerating the Flow - Shaping the railway corridor into a new urban landscape" (Bojana Jerković)</p> 	<p>[6] "Dual cycle of the marketplace - preadaptation of an abandoned infrastructure corridor" (Mijana Marić)</p> 
<p>(1) forming the continuity of urban movement that connects architecture, infrastructure and landscape</p>	<p>[2] "Border Territory - Production of Dunavska Street as an autonomous city territory" (Jelena Stojić)</p> 	<p>[7] "Architecture of consumption - terminal and shopping centre" (Marko Milanović)</p> 
<p>(2) forming a dynamic perceptual experience of space while in motion</p>	<p>[3] "To and through - Designing a system of moves and junctions by forming the experience of space about the speed of movement" (Jovana Mihaljević)</p> 	<p>[8] "Free Zone / Zone of Control: Transit Spaces and Surveillance in the 21st Century" (Aleksa Bekić)</p> 
<p>(3) erasing clear boundaries between the interior and exterior</p>	<p>[4] "Old marker - new landscape: the possibilities of using a crane in the new architecture of the Danube coast" (Jovana Vidaković)</p> 	<p>[9] "Dort-jok: Re-articulation of railway transit flows" (Vid Savić)</p> 
	<p>[5] "Wave front - Artificial River Landscape" (Jovana Pavlović)</p> 	<p>[10] "Built Sound - Sonic Potential of Architecture" (Pavle Mikolić)</p> 

Figure 2: 10 selected research projects according to defined criteria

⁶ for more detailed information about projects at: Fotirić, Jerković-Babović, 10.10, 2023.

The following Fig. 3 presents the research outcomes – synthesis of the main assimilation design methods, divided into formative and functional categories, in research architectural design.

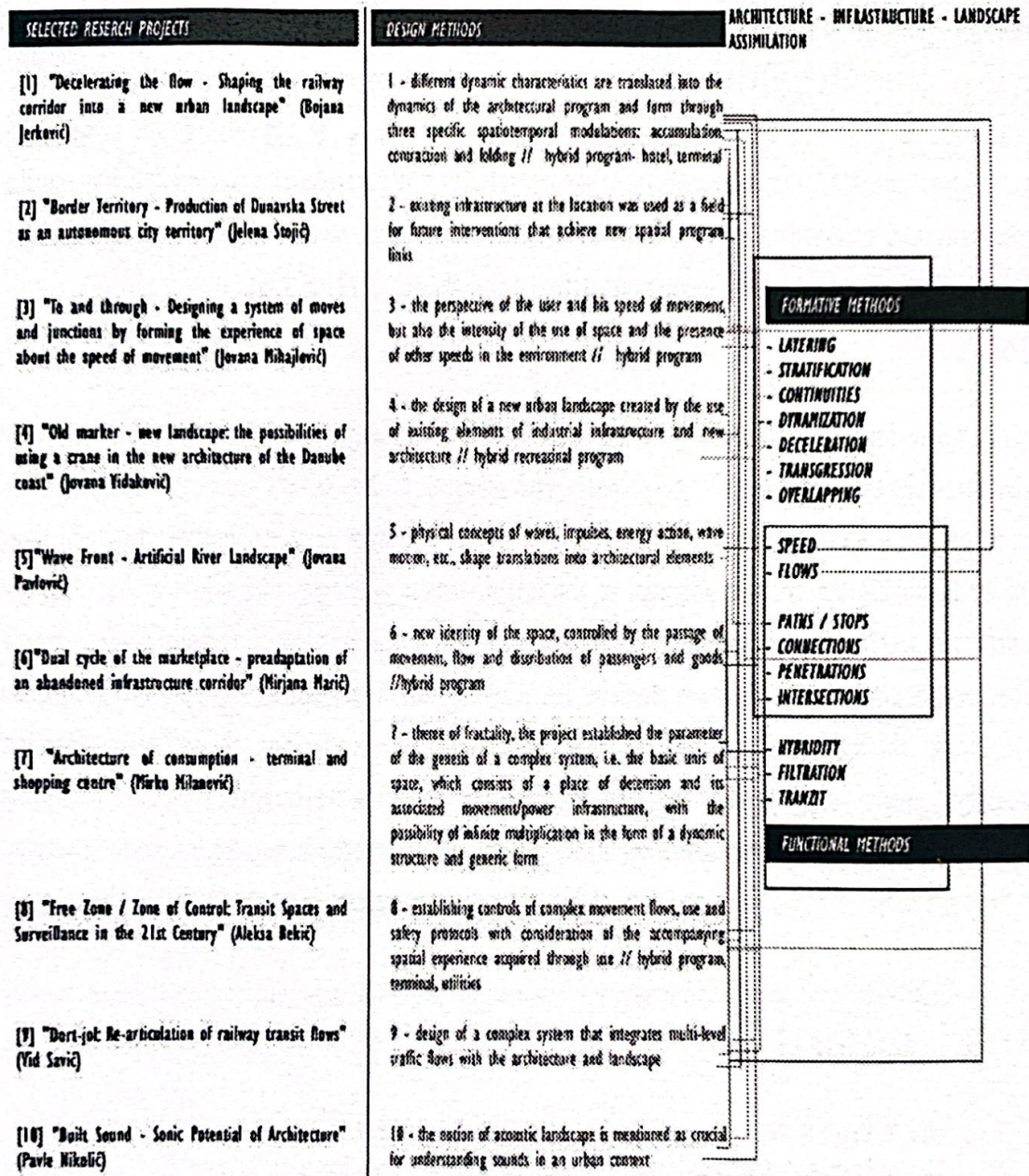


Figure 3: Synthesis of the a-i-l assimilation design methods – formative and functional

Following the understanding of architecture as a "discipline of circumstances and situations" (Allen, 2009, p 11), the complexity of the contemporary context and the need for a dynamic, active role of the architect goes beyond mechanical procedures ", so the project becomes a larger theoretical construct, defined outside the studio or construction site, expressed through a medium that goes beyond the object and the drawing" (Allen, 2009, pp 12). In this way, the architectural and design reactions to the fluidity of the contemporary context are reflected in the rejection of the repetition of established concepts, rigid rules and solutions, affirming the individualisation of each design procedure, process and project (Jerkovic-

Babovic, 2022, pp 135). Subjectivity, as a consequence of post-structuralist interdisciplinary influences on architectural thought from the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, affects the authenticity and specificity of each design process and the loss of big narratives in contemporary architecture (Jerkovic-Babovic, 2022, pp 134). Therefore, "practice is not a static construct, but is defined by its flows" (Allen, 2009, p 13), which is why there is not one narrative, one theory, or one principle, so the architectural design is based on their pluralism and differences, as potential qualities. Unlike purely discursive practices, the material aspects of architectural practice evolve by operating with translations, transpositions and transcoding of various forms of presentations and media, which constantly develops new concepts in the dynamics of the design process (Jerkovic-Babovic, 2022, p 135).

4. CONCLUSIONS

Referring to the theoretical framework on the topic and the very large and specific spatial context, such as the former Belgrade Industrial Zone, this research presented the criteria and selected representative graduate projects, based on which the creative design methods were analyzed and synthesized. Therefore, this paper highlights the creative potential of the loss of former typological definitions and interdisciplinary approaches in architectural design. The results of the analysis are methods and techniques that are divided into the programmatic and formative domains of achieving the assimilation of architecture, infrastructure and landscape through methods such as layering, stratification, continuities, dynamization, deceleration, transgression, overlapping, hybridity etc. (Fig. 3). Formative processes are creative, subjective interpretations of the main landscape-infrastructure-architecture assimilation through shape, referring to contemporary theoretical positions of subjectivity and loss of big aesthetic narratives in contemporary cities.

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