

# GLOBAL VILLAGE 2



Conference proceedings  
GLOBAL VILLAGE - SHELTER FOR RESILIENT LIVING 2  
On-line version

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Conference proceedings  
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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 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 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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**THEMATIC SESSION I**

**ARCHITECTURE OF/FOR ICONIC NOMADS: PATTERNS, FORMS, SYSTEMS**

# GLOBAL VILLAGE IN ARCHITECTURAL THEORY AND PRACTICE: SOFTENING LIMINAL CONDITIONS

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## ABSTRACT

The term global village first appeared in literature around 1960s and continues to develop in various scientific disciplines as a spatial phenomenon that is not defined by borders, but by global culture and the development of contemporary techniques and technologies. Considering the presented concept, the principle of "disappearing borders" is problematized within architectural research through offering an alternative claim about the softening and layering of existing barriers. Barriers in architectural theory have not disappeared, but their existence is continuously transformed from a static element into a permeable and unstable barrier, following the complex needs of modern-day society. Taking into account the previous statement, it can be concluded that the border phenomenon develops typologically and semantically, introducing new classifications of border areas into the theory of architecture. Global culture development can be interpreted as almost dehumanizing through the diminished merit of individual identities, thus creating a specific need to modify the environment and make it personal through the establishment of architectural (physical) boundaries. The proposed hypothesis will be examined by the method of case study and graphic analysis of the meander building facade in New Belgrade's block 23. The facade is the subject of analysis because it represents a permanent, tangible and recognizable physical barrier between inside and outside, private and public, personal and collective. The paper presents an alternative view of the concept of global village borders, their manifestation and transformation in architectural theory and practice.

*Key words: border, barrier, globalization, New Belgrade, meander*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In the modern-day we are witnessing the intense connection of people, cultures, and concepts that represents the global village. This framework becomes a tangible reality that constitutes the McLuhan claim and the evolution of our perception and experience of the world (Federman, 2003). Although the global village concept was primarily related to the effects of mass media on the quality of social communication and the erasure of borders between people, nations, and cultures, we cannot ignore the impact of these rapid changes in the 21st century on architecture and the boundaries of physical space. The way we live and understand the world around us actively affects the physical space through the interventions we introduce in order to adapt our personal space to the needs of modern life.

This paper explores the meaning and character of built borders in architecture, transformed through contemporary concepts and principles of everyday life, influenced by the global village development. Examining the impact of our everyday life on physical space will be done through a case study of a residential building, more precisely its facade as a fixed, clear and striking physical boundary. The chosen meander building in block 23 in New Belgrade is considered suitable for researching the presented topic, because it is a representative of the residential architecture of the 20th century, built on the modernist principle of designing "from the inside out", which also challenges the character of boundary conditions.

Drawing upon the case study of block 23 in New Belgrade, we examine the meander facade overall development as the result of "local" and "global" forces. This assumption is elaborated along three lines of inquiry. We first acknowledge borders as a transformable, ephemeral, and complex phenomenon; in the second part of the paper, we recognize the diagram as a tool for mapping border conditions, while in the final segment of the paper we discuss the results of the graphic study. The theoretical discussion in parallel with the case study results in the definition of 12 concrete visual determinants that represent the "breaking" positions of the solid facade boundary, making it permeable and layered. The contribution of the research is in the understanding how the modern pace of life affects the residential architecture of the 21st century, as well as the affirmation of drawings as an important research tool for architects in understanding contemporary urban landscapes.

## **2. CONTEMPORARY BORDERS: SOFTENING LIMINAL CONDITIONS**

Following the development of modernism during the 20th century until today, a new conception of space is evolving relative to the relationship between different border conditions, which Siegfried Giedion defines as the idea of permeating space (Giedion, 2012). According to architecture theorists and sociologists of the second half of the 20th century, early modernism boundaries defined through principles of standardization, proportions, and modules begin to weaken becoming zones of negotiation woven from overlapping materials, programs, or functions. The observed zones of negotiation are further softened by the changing

pace of life in the 21st century. Architecture becomes a product of the interaction of spatial ideas and the movement of individuals or objects in space (Hays, 1998).

The subject of the case study are facades of the meander building in New Belgrade's block 23, facing to the street of Antifašističke Borbe and inside the block. The wall is one of the elementary forms of border manifestation in built space, as well as the only element that determines the border in the horizontal plane (as a vertical element). The boundaries of the built space are known as floor, wall, and ceiling (Noberg-Schultz, 2009). Wolfgang Zucker wrote about the importance of a boundary element, primarily one that determines the division between being inside and outside, emphasizing that raising the boundary line that divides the interior from the exterior is a primordial act of architecture (Arnheim, 1977). In the context of the analyzed meander building in block 23, the boundaries are determined by standardized semi-prefabricated elements, dimensional analysis of the man-centered living space, the construction and building systems, as well as the needs for increasing the quality of life (etc. light penetration, formation of atriums and additional open spaces). Facade wall not only creates a boundary on the inside-outside relationship at the object level, but also forms a clear border at the block level as a wider spatial instance. This is both the boundary of the block and the boundary of the object.

### **3. DIAGRAMMATIC REASONING: DRAWING AS A RESEARCH TOOL**

Diagrammatic reasoning is a research technique that uses drawings and visual tools to gain new knowledge. This principle of analog and/or digital representation allows the researcher to illustrate zones, elements, and states that are not visible in other research techniques and formats (Kulpa, 1994). The diagram is an important analytical tool for architects because it establishes an unambiguous connection between thought and space. Architect Peter Eisenman argues that we can observe the diagram as a tool through two basic modalities: (1) the diagram as an analytical tool and (2) the diagram as a generative tool (Eisenman, 1999). Generative diagrams allow the researcher to further abstract the analyzed problem by illustrating it in order to further interpret and verify the research question. In the process of research problem abstraction, we approached the use of a combination of two drawing techniques in order to adequately depict the factual state and interpret the facade that is the subject of the case study - a diagram and a map. The instrumentalization of mapping in the architectural discourse allows us to translate places, concepts, states, processes, or events into a spatial plan (Schoonderbeek, 2021).

The mapping process is carried out in the following order: (1) data collection, (2) cartographic abstraction, (3) map reading and analysis, and (4) map interpretation (Muehrcke et al., 2016). In the data collection phase, a realistic image of the analyzed facade was obtained through the use of a combination of research methods; the archival technical documentation obtained from the Historical Archives of Belgrade was supplemented by a tour of the location and the method of direct observation. Through the cartographic

abstraction (shown in Figure 2), the zones of interest and the positions of changes in the state of border conditions are illustrated, which become the subject of analysis in the discussion phase of the paper (Figure 1). By element abstraction, they become the legend of the map, which enables us to see the cause-and-effect relationship and interrelation between the recognized determinants. The result of the graphic analysis is the detection of 12 visual determinants that become places of change in the otherwise fixed border which build a defined rhythm and blur rigid boundary areas, changing the overall dynamics of the brutalist facade (also known as concrete baroque). The diagram (Figure 1) detects visual determinants that are key to softening facade boundaries. The observed determinants are: (1) changing the color of the existing joinery, (2) replacing the joinery, (3) presence/absence of sun protection (blinds), (4) changing the dimensions of the facade openings (transformation of the interior space), (5) painting the facade with keeping/changing the relief plastic of the primary facade, (6) replacing the fence on the balcony or loggia, (7) adding an air conditioning unit, (8) adding different antennas, (9) flowers, (10) partially/completely closing the loggia, (11) drying and hanging laundry, and (12) adding a canopy.

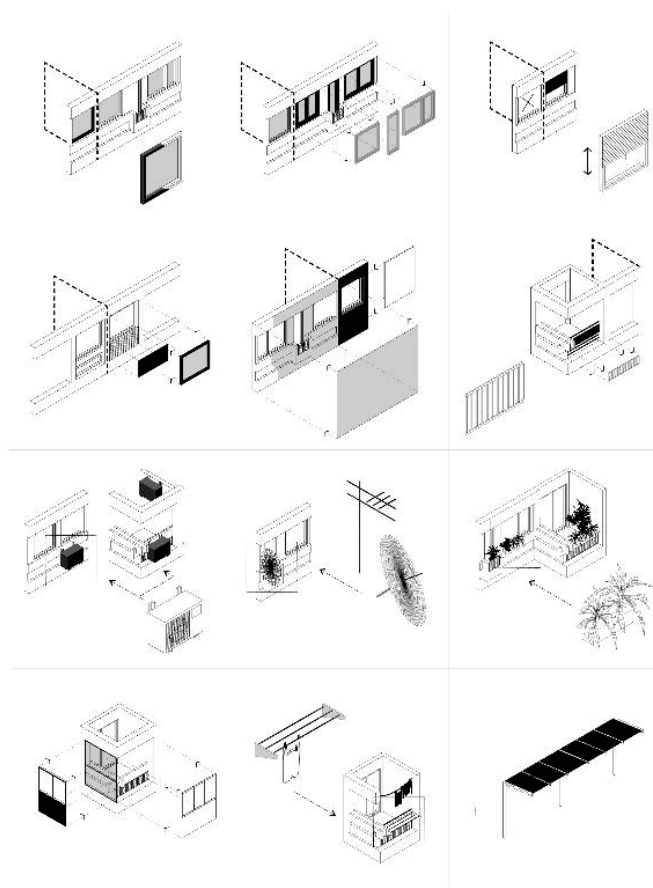


Figure 1: *Visual determinants of border transformation*

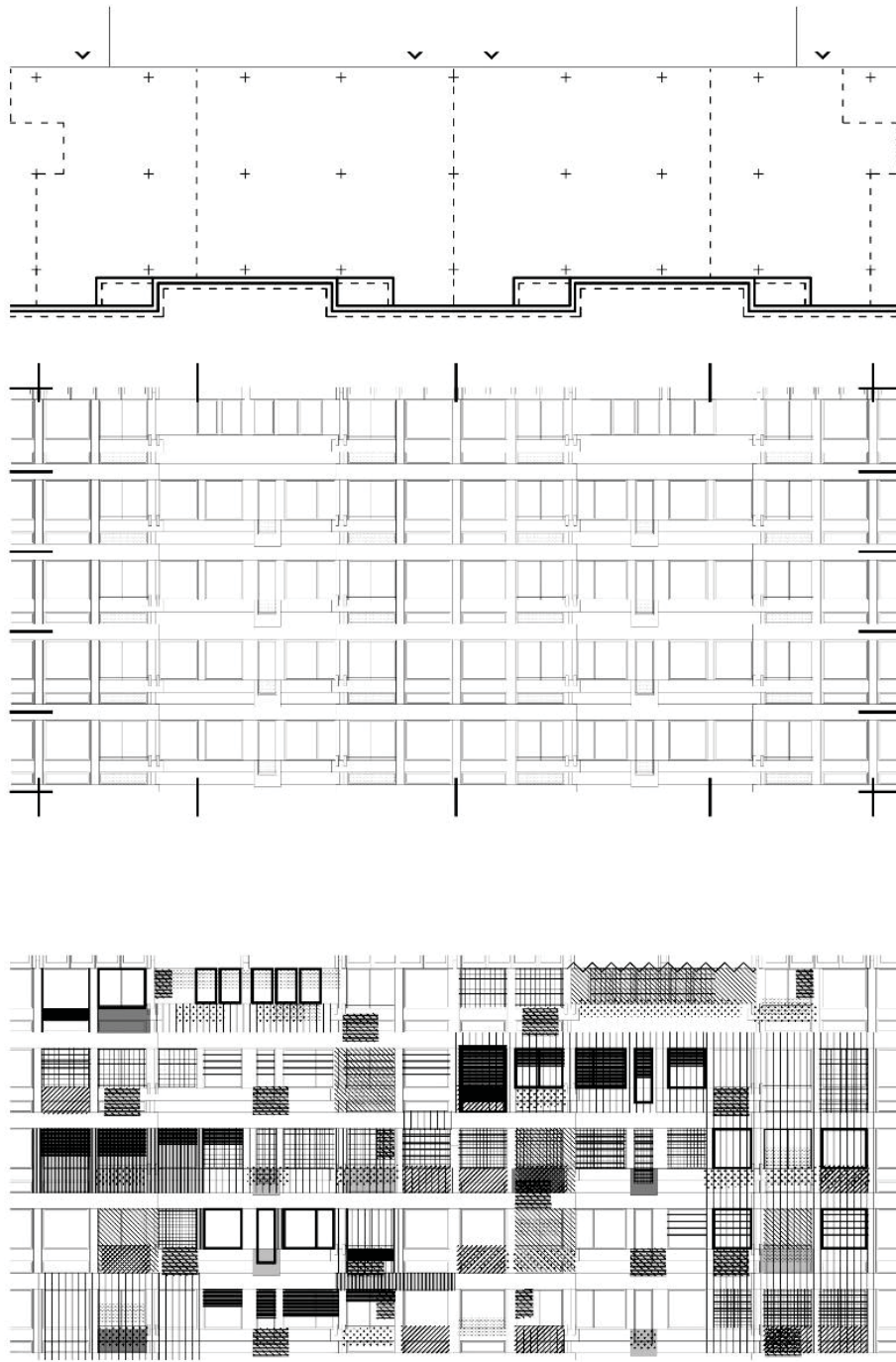


Figure 2: *Mapping border conditions*

## 4. DISCUSSION

As a result of the previously shown graphic analysis (Figures 1 and 2), 12 types of changes were observed on the facade of the meander building in block 23. The previously presented positions of border transformation can be divided into two groups according to the degree of modification they provide on the initial facade: (1) the first group of elements performs a partial or complete intervention on the existing facade elements, while (2) the second group introduces new elements to the facade membrane. Additional elements are most often arranged as single points, while the visual determinants of the first group appear in linear geometry, often following the area of one residential unit, leaving the possibility that this clear division of apartments can be read even with direct observation from the outside environment. The added elements are most often found in the loggia area. In addition to the previous conclusion, it is important to note that the observation of these changes offers an insight into a broader understanding of the sense of community and interpersonal relations; verticals that are uniformly painted can be observed, suggesting that it was an agreement at the level of one entrance community. Using the method of direct observation, we can distinguish that the most frequent alterations are the change of the joinery color, as well as the installation of windows with smaller openings (elimination of the second, floor window). The division between floors remain as the horizontal surfaces with the least change. This conclusion is very important, because it shows that the horizontal concrete elements, as one of the carriers of the concrete baroque, remain recognizable despite the major changes occurring in the facade area. Through a comparative analysis of archival drawings and direct observation, it can be concluded that smaller apartments are subject to larger changes and more radical transformations compared to two-and-a-half-room and larger residential units.

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Graphic analysis confirmed the initial hypothesis that modern man in the global village tends to personalize his living space as much as possible, which leads to the softening and layering of otherwise rigid boundaries. The global currents of "space without borders" influence architecture through the aspiration for the same change to appear at the local level. The outcome of the research is the formation of 12 visual determinants and their characterization with the aim of better understanding the impact of modern life on the built space.

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