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2nd International Conference on Urban Planning

PROCEEDINGS

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1st International Conference on Urban Planning ICUP2016 was successfully held in Niš, Serbia on 18th and 19th November 2016. Main topics of the Conference were: *Urban theory and practice; Development and planning problems; Links between planning, building and land; Urban regeneration; Land readjustment; Interaction between the natural environment and urban areas*. Conference gathered together a large number of professors, researchers and many professionals working in practice. As a result of the Conference, Conference Book of Proceedings was published with 41 scientific papers. During the Conference, round tables were organized where all participants could discuss the current issues in the field of urban planning and design. Urban planning process was contemplated on by professionals and researchers from both theory and practice. Different points of view and topics related to urban design, planning and its implementation, urban landscape, public–private partnership and smart cities were developed and discussed.

During two days, 10 Keynote speakers from different parts of the world gave lectures which were open for all participants. Keynote speakers and their affiliations at the time of the ICUP2016 Conference included: **Dr Ali A. Alraouf**, head of Capacity Building, training, research and development unit at Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) Qatar; **Prof. Dr Zorica Nedović-Budić**, Professor at Chair of spatial planning in the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin, Ireland; **Dr Alessandro Busa**, Center for Metropolitan Studies at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany; **Dr Hossam Samir Ibrahim**, working with municipal government of Qatar and consultation firms in Regional and Urban planning projects in Egypt, UK, Qatar, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Prof. **Dr Francesco Rotondo**, Associate professor of Urban planning and design at the Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy; **Dr Cristian Suau**, funding director of STUDIO POP, Scotland; **Dr Demetrio Muñoz Gielen**, IHS Institute for Housing and Urban Development Study of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands; **Dr Kosta Mathéy**, lecturer at different Universities in Germany, Cuba, Algeria and Egypt; Prof. **Dr Derya Oktay**, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey; and **Dr Teo Keang Sood**, Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore.

Thanks to different experiences and to different scientific and research fields of keynote speakers and participants, Conference themes were analyzed from different points of view, which resulted in interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach of complex urban planning issues. Beside professors and researchers at the Conference, numerous professionals were present. Therefore, one of the conclusions was that cooperation between science/research and professional practice is necessary in order to adopt and implement innovative solutions and to create and plan human friendly spaces according to anthropometric scale. Niš as the "host city" of the conference was an excellent research polygon for discussion, because it represents an example of the city with complex urban structure. It includes rich heritage areas but also new developing areas, thus providing a very attractive and vibrant ambient. Thus, the next conclusion was that inherited sites and built heritage can be used as a tool for city branding and can also help to improve development by learning on past mistakes and achievements. The following conclusion found that cities must be observed as the home to all residents, which must actively participate in its development and planning process, in order to present their real needs and to stop illegal constructions. Finally, it was concluded that public-private partnerships must be encouraged and promoted because it is not possible to develop and implement projects without mutual cooperation. By developing public-private partnership it is possible to achieve community wellbeing through encouraging investors to develop public spaces and community facilities.

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FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the following Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Urban Planning ICUP2018, held in Nis on November 14-17, 2018. This is the second conference organized by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Nis and Urban Planning Cluster, with the aim of bringing together scholars, researchers and students from all areas of Urban Planning. The ICUP conference explores a broad spectrum of Urban and Spatial Planning issues from both theory and practice. The main topic of this year's Conference is Nature - Urban Planning - Architecture.

These topics are discussed in more than 40 conference papers from various study areas and diverse places in the world, and therefore provide a valuable insight into contemporary urban policies and approaches. They also make good grounds for discussion at the conference and a good basis for further research. The authors are professors, researchers, PhD students and planning professionals. We are especially proud of our keynote speakers and the members of our Scientific Program Committee, who are eminent experts in their fields from all over the world.

We considered that it is very important and responsible that a group of connoisseurs gathered in order to contribute to integrate sustainable principles into urban design and fostering the principles of nature protection. The set of messages presented in this publication represents a contribution to the extremely important debate about the introduction of nature in the urban environment. Some of researches, whose results are presented in this proceeding, bring to our attention that the quality of urban life in ever-growing cities depends on the ecological principles applied in urban areas, from the symbiotic connections between green and gray surfaces and the sustainable use and renewal of natural resources. The crucial mechanisms of supporting sustainable and healthy lifestyle, principles of protection of inherited natural resources, are exposed. Historical and contemporary examples of good practice have been considered, which have improved the quality of life, both in the family micro-space of residential houses and in urban cores of the metropolis. We hope that this knowledge base will become an inspiration to professionals and public to improve the standard of living on the local as well as at the international level; to compete in treating quarters belonging to citizens, cities that develop in accordance with nature and state policies that contribute to the protection of the planet.

Urban structure is a complex and multidimensional system that is prone to change. Therefore, it requires to be closely monitored by continuous research, which brings up some entirely new issues or sheds new light on the old ones. Given the importance of the planning topics elaborated at the conference and numerous questions that are raised here, we firmly believe that it is our task to continue exploring this matter. Hence, we are proud that the ICUP conference establishes itself as a traditional manifestation of the University of Nis. I take this opportunity to thank all of the authors and co-authors of papers, reviewers, keynote speakers, members of the Scientific Program Committee, as well as teachers and associates engaged in the technical preparation of these Proceedings.

And finally, I am pleased to invite all authors from the academic and research community to participate and give their scientific and professional contributions to the future Conferences, for the benefit of all of us.

***Petar Mitkovic**, PhD, Full professor*
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Nis
Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee

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international conference on urban planning

HOME BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND THE CITY – ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT THAT USES URBAN PATTERN FOR HOUSING DESIGN

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ABSTRACT

When talking about the relationship between the residential architecture and urbanism, one can find a huge range of design concepts and ideas that deal with this ever-actual issue. Interior – exterior connection, i.e. the connection between the inside and the outside space, as well as the house and its surrounding, is in almost every architectural task must-appear demand. In modern Japanese architecture, among many interesting and original approaches in architectural design of single-family houses that tend to unify open and closed spaces, it is possible to find one particularly unique, where the living takes place in the space that cannot be considered as a house, at least not as a house described by conventional definition, but somewhere between the house and the city. This design approach observes the house not as one unique and compact building, but rather as a set of a group of structures unified in a fluid composition, allowing inside and outside space to overlap and integrate, with the main idea that the room takes over the role of the building and the building is organized in a form of a city. Such a concept, which is the subject of the paper, can be considered as a potential tool in connection of the urban planning and the architecture. It uses urban pattern as matrix for housing design. In order to find out its characteristics, potentials of use and other important elements which would contribute to better understanding of the conceptual idea, the concept will be researched through four case studies (Moriyama House by Ryue Nishizawa, House in Buzen by Suppose Design Office, Light Walls House by mA-style Architects and House before House by Sou Fujimoto).

Keywords: home, house, city

1. INTRODUCTION

Talking about design, i.e. shaping the space, architecture and urbanism cannot be separated. Although they are, in theory, two different activities, in practice they are never mutually exclusive, although the operation area of each can be clearly defined. Just as an example, to design a house would be a task mainly for an architect, while to design a residential block in city area is considered to be urban planning. But what

happens when the house and its surroundings could be found on the narrow border, i.e. when the home is located between the house and the city?

1.1. The subject, the goal of the paper and methods applied

In this paper is examined the architectural approach to the organization of residential buildings which is based on the scheme of city organization, i.e. organization of the part of the city. In this approach, residential unit is not observed as a whole split into rooms by walls, but as a group of different spaces in a specific place – smaller constructive units, volumetrically independent, but functionally conjoined into a construction. Urbanistic elements such as building, street, park or square are metaphorically translated into architectural elements of a room, hallway, garden (according to the principle: building=room, street=hallway, park=garden, square=living room). Architectural assembly of the building, observed from the point of form, is based on the loose structure made out of smaller elements scattered in space, randomly or by a specific scheme, whereby instead of composition, decomposition comes to the fore. Mentioned design approach, beside original, unique solutions which are in a constant interweaving of residential and urban, offers numerous possibilities that in architectural sense, primarily, could have a great influence on the residential comfort and improvement of life qualities of occupants, such as more pleasant microclimate and positive psychological influence due to penetration of greenery into the building, encouraged by the connection between open and closed areas. This paper's goal is to examine those possibilities and through analysis of the characteristics, determine the degree of applicability of given design approach in the organization of residential buildings, as much as to test potential limitations. In regard to that, in this research are done individual analysis of referential architectural designs which are taken as representative examples of the concept - four short case studies, which are, later, through comparative analysis, with modelling as an auxiliary method and observing method, used to determine some synthesized solutions.

1.2. Main principles and conceptual ideas

Principles on which the theory analysed in this paper is based on, are shown through forms adopted from urban structures by the architecture, in order to create matrix for spatial-functional organization of a building. In that manner is created a space that lies on the connection of opposites, in the domain of interweaving of inner and external, private and public, residential and urban, i.e. the house and the city (Figure 1). Commonly known case, in which the house if formed inside of a city, now is turned upside down, so the city is formed inside of a house. Individual rooms are taking the role of the buildings, free spaces between them are transformed into common areas, and communications are equal to city streets. With a variation on the topic, a large number of diverse solutions was obtained, and the main idea could be observed through the example of the architectural competition solution of a German architect Oswald Mathias Ungers, for the residential settlement *Neue Stadt* from 1963, through typology known as The house in towers, in which the layout of the building in the district is mapped into the floor layout of the apartments, and further, into the room layout in that apartment [5], through which the scheme of the organization is following the same template through three levels of spatial structures, from complex (urban) to simple (apartment) ones. The architect is perceiving the structure of a house equal to the structure of a city, just in a different scale [6], which is a proof that this idea has a wider use and it is not limited only to small individual residential buildings.

Figure 1: Main principles of conception (Illustrations by authors)

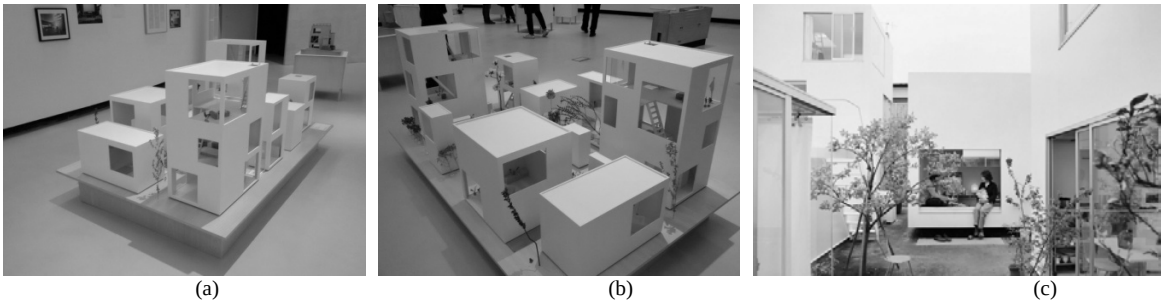
2. CASE STUDY REVIEW

For the purpose of this research case studies were analysed on the following projects: Moriyama House by Ryue Nishizawa, House in Buzen by Suppose Design Office, Light Walls House by mA-style Architects and House before House by Sou Fujimoto. In this paper are not presented detailed analysis which are done, but only the particularities which are of significance for the researched concept. Eligibility criteria is oriented

towards the connection with the original idea of conception and is based on the similarity of the organization schemes, with the limit to family residential architecture.

2.1. Brief description of projects

Moriyama House (Ryue Nishizawa, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 2005) is a project of a residential building for a client with an unique decision – to quit his job [4], which led to a design solution in which the accent was on a building that can make profit, so the architect instead of a common approach, had the idea to divide the house into fragments which would carry specific content units, interconnected, but separated by garden spaces, which can be combined into independent functional parts, adaptable to different users – landlords and current tenants. In that manner, the potential compact building is divided into ten smaller units, scattered without any strict order, inside of the rectangular area. Each of the units is conceived as an orthogonal cube and contains certain contents. The high of cubes is various, from ground-floored to ones with three floors. Cubes are spatially independent, but functionally they are complementing each other and are combined in order to make a residential unit whole. The unique thing about these cubes is the way of their connection, which, in the lack of hallways, is not clearly defined, but left to users. In a relation to that, open green spaces between units are taking the function of horizontal communications (Figure 2.).



(a) (b) (c)

Figure 2: Moriyama House, Ryue Nishizawa, Tokyo, 2005 – (a),(b) model, (c) house

Sources of illustrations:

a, b – photos from private collection;

c – http://architecturenow.co.nz/articles/not-really-of-this-world-moriyama-house/, Accessed 17 Sep 2018.

House in Buzen project (Suppose Design Office, Buzen, Fukuoka, Japan, 2009) is developed by the idea 'to make equal the relationship between inside- and out by using courtyard as a part of everyday life and bringing inside activities outside' [2], i.e. ' to make a house with a courtyard that would become a playground naturally' [2]. In order to make this possible, architects are changing the conventional perception of a residential space and perceiving a house not as 'collection of rooms' [2], but as 'collection of constructions' [2] – six independent volumes connected with the glazed corridor of dual function (which is at the same time horizontal communication and playground, space for a break and a garden), creating in that way 'an interior space that feels exterior, a private space that feels public, a hall that feels like an avenue' [2], e.g. the space in which 'the children can run around' [2], the space in which 'you can enjoy a breeze while you eat' [2], 'read under the sun' [2] or 'fall asleep watching the stars' [2]. Formally, the building is of a simple form, where free-standing cubes scattered around the space play the role of rooms, unified by the transparent communication which represents the metaphor of a street – the place of connection, meeting, the space for play and relaxation (Figure 3).

Figure 3: House in Buzen**,** Suppose Design Office, Buzen, **2009** – photographs

Source of illustrations:

https://www.archdaily.com/50701/house-in-buzen-suppose-design-office, Accessed 17 Sep 2018.

Light Walls House (mA-style Architects, Toyokawa, Aichi Prefecture, *Japan*, 2013) is, initially, response to unfavourable location conditions with a lot of shadows, conditioned by narrow distances between opposite buildings [3], which further influenced the closure of the building to their surroundings and their opening to inner worlds. Introvert object with its side cover dissociates itself from the immediate surroundings, and makes connection with external world, e.g. lightning, through roof, and symbolically through spatial-functional organization, which copies the scheme of a city block. Conceptually, the object is formed by the principle space within a space, where inside of one cube (a larger space) are located smaller cubes which form the residential areas made of a sequence of 'opened' – 'public' and 'closed' – 'private' areas (Figure 4.). The larger cube is creating the general area of a house (the city) with, conditionally speaking, opened spaces (squares, plazas, streets) designed in a purpose of common family activities (living room, kitchen, dining room) and closed spaces (buildings) in which are located private (sleeping, bathroom) and utility functions (storage rooms), featuring in that way the idea of the architects which is preserved in their report on the building compared with the city bathed in light: 'Considering each box as a house, the empty spaces in between can be seen as paths or plazas, and remind us of a small town enclosed in light' [3].

Figure 4: Light Walls House mA-style Architects, Toyokawa, Japan, 2013 – photographs of the exterior and interior
Source of illustrations:
https://www.archdaily.com/433260/light-walls-house-ma-style-architects, Accessed 17 Sep 2018.

House before House (Sou Fujimoto, Utsunomiya, Japan, 2008) is experimental residential project with design based on the idea that people live not only in the inner, but also in the external spaces, so the house is not considered as a confined area, and it is developed as a structure which unifies individual objects, opened spaces and communications (stairs) [1]. Composition of the object is developed in the small rectangular area where the mentioned elements are intertwined. Inner spaces, i.e. rooms, are defined by the ten prefabricated metal boxes scattered horizontally and vertically, stacked one on another to the chaotic pile, from which the greenery grows, creating in that way a compact frame of opened and closed spaces. The connection between the rooms (the boxes) is enabled through stairs and ladders, and inner paths are mostly continued in the exterior. The user is offered a wide spatial diversity made by combination of spatial categories, which are in constant permeation (Figure 5).

Figure 5: House before House, Sou Fujimoto, Utsunomiya, Japan, 2008 – photographs

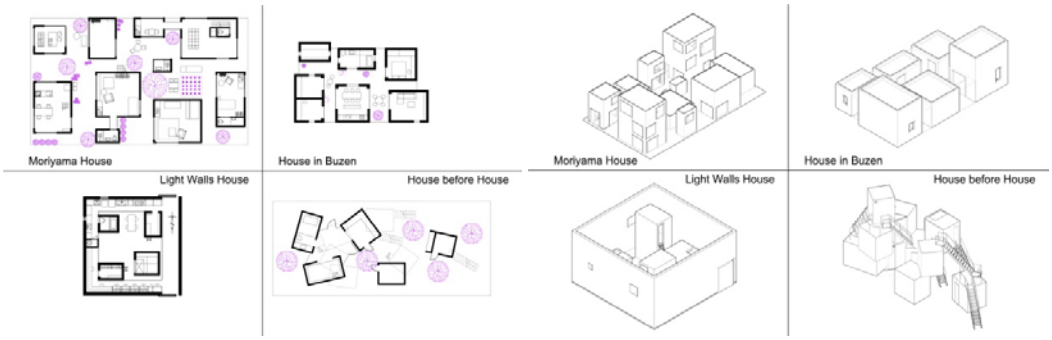
Source of illustrations:

https://inspiration.detail.de/house-before-house-in-utsunomiya-103440.html?lang=en, Accessed 17 Sep 2018.

2.2. Comparative analysis

By the comparison of the case study results determined in the projects of *Moriyama House*, *House in Buzen*, *Light Walls House* and *House before House*, the mutual similarity was established in a matter of spatial

organization of architectural compositions of these projects, which is schematically pointing on the connection with city area (Figure 6). However, the fact is that they have almost identical architectural approach, despite the initial similarity, indicates to indisputable originality and uniqueness of every single solution, to which also refers the diversity of design tendencies and final goals to which the architecture is tending to. Since the basic purpose of all analysed buildings is the same (they are family residential houses), functional contents are similar, so the analysis criteria is orientated mainly towards the spatial frame, spatial-functional organization and modelling.

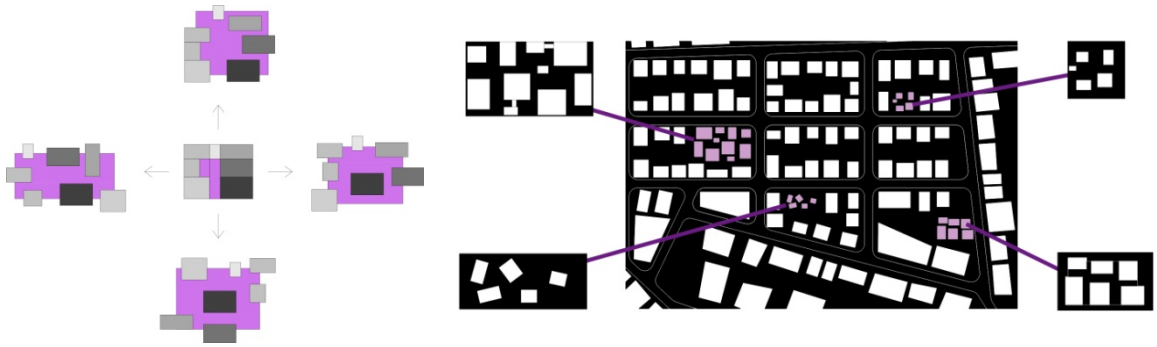


(a) (b)

Figure 6: (a) Floor plans of the analysed objects; (b) axonometric views of 3D models

(drawings are authors' interpretations of the drawings of the architects)

In object's spatial organization the decomposition is noticeable, which is the first important element characteristic for the analysed design approach. Instead of compact unity, the object is divided into a bigger number of units, freely positioned within the boundaries of space purposed for housing (Figure 7b.). Unified functions are divided in spatial frame of the composition, which is from the compact whole divided into fragments (Figure 7a.). These smaller spatial units are closed areas that in their interior combine certain contents. The number of contents varies, but qualitatively and quantitatively points to the fact that these partial units are non-existent by themselves, i.e. that they cannot support all needs user has, but that their functioning is complemented by the combination with other units. Usually, the one, smaller unit is functional equivalent to a single room, and spatially and formally to one object. The connection of the areas is not strictly determined, but rather defined by opened spaces created by its position in space and it is in a larger amount left to users.



(a) (b)

Figure 7: (a) The example of decomposition of compact object, displayed through various schemes,

(b) Decomposition of the architectural composition by the scheme which defines the similarities in the organization of the objects with a city – illustration (Illustrations by authors)

Therefore, the disposition of smaller units defines interconnections and relations, and relative to that the connections through and inside of architectural composition, which are more free, chaotic and frequent than in conventional residential structures (Figure 8.). The lack of borders, i.e. any kind of a wall or fence towards the neighbours, in projects of *Moriyama House* and *House before House* leads to the question of dividing private form public domain, which could create a conflict, because the paths through the object are often not just ones by tenants that lead from one space to another inside the house, but also the ones by neighbours and random passers-by. In case of projects *House in Buzen* and *Light Walls House* that problem does not exist, because the smaller units are located into a larger closed area, which defines the borders of the objects, or at least it is not evident in the same context, since here there can also be discussed about the conflict of the public and the private. Transparent cover in case of object *House in Buzen* creates the closed area which is visually opened and available to the surroundings, so the level of its privacy is significantly dropping. Similar to that, the space

designed for daily activities in the case of *Light Walls House* could be literally considered public, in the transmitted meaning of this term, when are observed its location and purpose in entire composition.

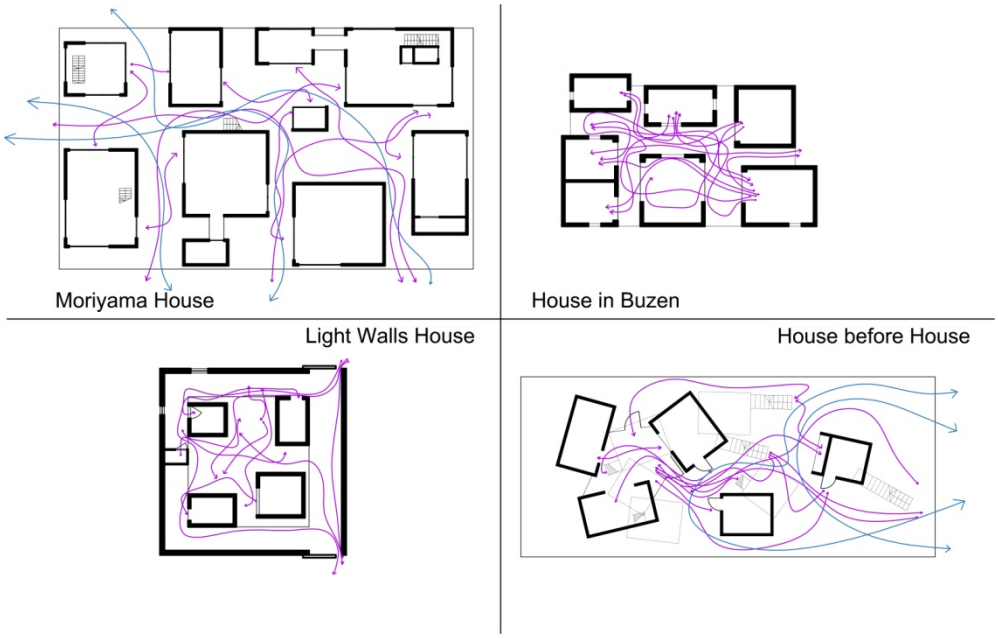
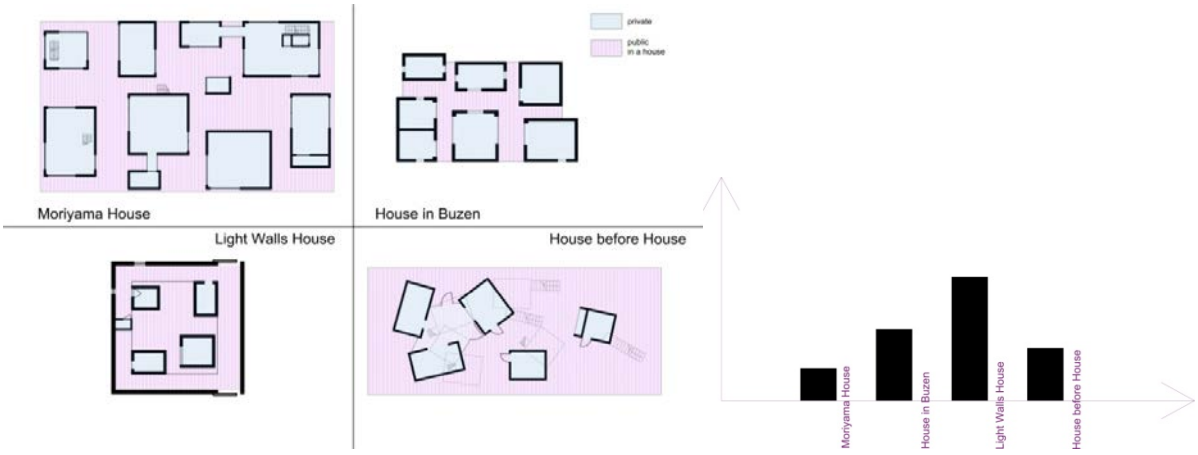


Figure 8: Schemes of the circulation through objects

(drawings are authors' interpretations of the drawings of the architects)

Accordingly, as one more feature of the analysed concept, stands out the presence of constant interweaving of the private and public. The level of pleasantness of the projects varies, and depends on the type of the border which separates the closed and the opened areas, i.e. the object from its surroundings. The highest degree of privacy is reached in the project of *Light Walls House* by introvert design of solid external cover, by which the object is completely closed to its immediate surroundings, while the lowest degree of privacy is in case of *Moriyama House*, due to the lack of any borders towards neighbour objects and streets or physical indications of private propriety, which is also noticeable in the case of *House before House*, although in smaller amount, regarding the context of its micro-location (Figure 9.).



(a) (b)

Figure 9: (a) The private and public domains in projects; (b) The degree of privacy in regards to surrounding

(a – drawings are authors' interpretations of the drawings of the architects, b – Illustration by authors)

In the sense of free spaces inside of a structure, a conclusion could be made in which they are not without purpose. They are actually the most significant elements of architectural composition, because their function is multiple. The primary and basic one is of horizontal communication, and the second, but not less significant, are green areas, garden, playground, space for rest and relaxation. In the project of *Light Walls House*, the free area is the most important, central area, in which are located the activities of eating in the dining room and

socializing in living room. Multiple purpose of these areas and imprecise defining in the sense of belonging to the interior and exterior (especially in the projects of *Moriyama House* and *House before House*, then in the project of *House in Buzen*) are indication to richness of spatial domains and transient forms of spatial categories recognized as interspaces or *in between spaces*– areas that cannot be defined as inner nor external, but as a combination of each and depending on the angle of observation can be the part of both the interior and exterior [7], which is the next important element, characteristic for this concept (Figure 10).

Figure 10: (a) Free areas as in between categories; (b) Free areas as focuses of the gathering and random contacts of users, which are metaphorically compared to squares (drawings are authors' interpretations of the drawings of the architects)

3. ADVANTAGES AND DEFICIENCIES OF THE CONCEPTUAL IDEA

By the comparison of the analysed projects, the advantages and deficiencies of analysed design concept could be established.

As advantages, the following characteristics stand out:

- Good connection between people and nature / good connection between exterior and interior (examples: *Moriyama House*, *House in Buzen*, *House before House*);
- Stronger social connections – people are meeting in the common areas, i.e. 'public rooms' (examples: *Moriyama House*, *House in Buzen*, *Light Walls House*, *House before House*);
- Dynamic life / dynamic residential area – the house is following natural courses and is in constant modification with them (examples: *Moriyama House*, *House in Buzen*, *House before House*);
- Convenience of sharing the space with other tenants in the case of renting the part of object.

The connection between the man and the nature is an expressed problem in the modern world. Large number of habitants and high population density, high level of construction are reversely proportional to the level on greenery, which leads to reduction of percentage of green areas in cities, thus to an increase of pollution and bad consequences on the life and health of habitants. The architecture is constantly trying to, through its activity, give contribution to this problem's solution. The design concept in the approach of organization of residential spaces analysed in this paper is potential aspect of participation in the campaign that fights for a healthier environment, in a way of bringing the part of nature inside of a construction and by starting from the smaller unit of urban space – the house, i.e. the room. Through the creation of spatial continuum of residential area and greenery (house + garden= inner + outer space= living area) the strong integration of inner and outer area is created, where the man is closer to the nature, and this unity reduces the negative influences on life in big city. According to the survey done for the purpose of the research (short survey conducted on a group of 41 people different in age and nationality – 20 to 72 years old, from Brazil, Croatia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), where around 88% of the respondent said that would prefer to live in a house more open to the nature and the same percentage claimed that the garden is very important part of the house, it turns out that nature plays significant role in living.

When it comes to social relations inside of objects of this conception, spatial-functional organization itself accelerates the social contacts between the residents, or family members. Large and collapsed corridors, i.e. free spaces between the structures inside of objects are meeting points, as much as places for gathering and socializing. Also, individual units are visually more opened, because of their free position in space, and by that they are more expressed and exposed in the structure of the object and available to visual connections of tenants, whose sights are in constant intersection what is keeping the on close relations.

The dynamics of the objects is a characteristic that is mainly the quality of conception, in a case of interweaving of opened and closed areas, as in the projects of *Moriyama House*, *House in Buzen* and *House before House*, where it is manifested by constant outer influences and changes that happen outer natural and constructed environment. The life of object follows the cycle of natural changes, so it is in a constant flow of activities. The snow, the rain, the sun or the wind are not kept outside, but they are part of residential space. Their influence on happenings inside of the object depends on a structure itself, i.e. on level of exposition the object has towards the exterior, so it can be limited to only visual (the transparent cover in the case of the *House in Buzen*) or complete (*Moriyama House*, *House before House*).

The new trend in modern society is profit from the real estate. Renting objects for a short or a long period turned out to be a good investment (proof: the large number of internet portals where the users are offering their apartment or the part of an apartment with financial compensation, which are usually the cheaper, and often more comfortable option than the hotel). That would lead to a conclusion that the cost-effective house – the objects that is itself a way of profit, is current topic, and the researched concept could, in architectural sense, be considered as an option of finding the most acceptable model in this domain. Fragmental frame of the object is convenient because it offers greater freedom to its users, freedom that is achieved through the creation of various zones inside of the objects, which are, due to their disjunction and larger distances than in compact structure, more intimate and personalized to domestic and new users. Practically, everyone has its own part of the object and there is no interweaving of divided areas. Results of the conducted survey, mentioned above, also gave the data that 42% of the respondent find their house not so convenient for sharing with others in regard to renting it and 46% think that the houses based on this concept could maybe be more appropriate for that purpose.

As deficiencies the following characteristics stand out:

- Sustainability of the concept is based on lifestyles of users, i.e. their subjective attitudes – not every person can accept living in this kind of object;
- Wider use of the concept depends on natural conditions of the area – it is not convenient for every climate zones (This refers to the case that concept is based on radical matrix as in objects *Moriyama House* and *House before House*. *Light Walls House* and *House in Buzen*, on the other hand, are offering variants of potential overcoming the problem);
- Disjunction of space's structure can be critical in the sense of energy efficiency.

The biggest deficiency of this concept is its obvious dependence on subjective attitudes, on which also depends the fact if the concept is going to be accepted in the practice or not. Generally speaking, every architectural conception, which is primary the decision of an architect, is subjected to the judgment of the ones in a role of users. More conventional approach in the residential architecture is always safer alternative, when it comes to satisfaction of personal needs of users, because it is, as a verified solution, already adopted as a type of a standard. Nevertheless, the development of the architecture does not stop, and searching for new technologies spreads the horizons in residential architecture and is achieved through new ideas and concepts, in order to outdo common principles and habits. That is the reason why this concept could be observed as an aspect of prediction of futuristic residential models, which, in current time, appear radical to a large number of people. It is interesting that only nearly 10% of the people that participated in the above–mentioned survey, between different types of houses, that were offered in the question, choose to live in those similar to one from case studies. Most of them decided for conventional and more traditional (36%) or contemporary (54%) houses. Analysed projects are coming from the area of Japan and could be connected with often tendencies of contemporary architecture towards Japanese traditional architecture which strives to make a harmony between natural and built environment, and which is in direct relation with lifestyle conditioned by religion and culture of this nation. Approval or rejection of the concepts in other cultures cannot be precisely determined, but it can be predicted that the concept would be accepted in a smaller amount in Arabic countries, which can also be predicted in case of all western cultures that are used to a common house model. Social structure and willingness towards accepting new ideas is crucial moment for the successfulness of this concept. Generalization is not possible, but it is important to keep in mind the fact that the conception is depending on social context.

Inconvenience in a case of energy efficiency could appear due to increased area of the building's envelope. Disjunction of the structure is increasing the surface which should be isolated, so in that sense the investment is potentially larger. Nevertheless, this deficiency is not the final feature in the concept, because it does not

refer to all cases and methods of application (the example is *Light Walls House*, where exists only one unique envelope which is in contact to the environment and with rectangular shape, and of favourable shape factor).

4. FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Emblematic connection between the city and the house, displayed through the organizational scheme, presents itself as an interesting design approach which is evaluated as a search for new solutions, conceptions, lifestyles, forms of housing and spatial connections. People do not only live in their homes, but also in the streets, parks, squares, promenades, where they are spending a part of their time. Researched conception is trying to unify all of these areas and to limit them to a basic level in the hierarchical scale of the space, to transfer and modify something that originally belongs to a city, as a larger spatial society, to a home, a smaller spatial unity, basic cell in the final mechanism of urban organism. The urban public life is through architecture, transferred to a family life, and the habits which exist after the leaving a house are no longer abandoned on the entrance.

The research based on the comparative studies of projects, gave the results which defined the principles for the architectural concept of a subject. The common feature is expressed through minimalistic modelling which results the complex functional relations in the organization of residential objects. Basic characteristics are displayed primary through decomposition – fragmental unities, consolidation of open and closed parts and spatial multiplicity. External borders in the composition are indication on the possible classification in design approach to the closed, partially closed and opened structures. In the case of partially closed and opened structures, the equal importance is given to the inner and outer areas and the mix of green and built spaces is created, which leads to overlapping of the spatial domains of opened and closed area, while in the case of closed structures the whole city scenario is happening in the closed area.

The lack of clear border in the design of a space is creating a home located somewhere in a range of house and the city. There is no strict definition of a domain. In the boundary of residential architecture and urbanism, a place where people live is formed.

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