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„Participatory design as a chance to improve the housing environment in the era of globalization”.
mgr inż. arch. Katarzyna Kosk

Summary:

The main purpose of the work was to prove a thesis contained in the title of this PhD dissertation, i.e.: **Participatory design is a chance to improve the housing environment in the era of globalization.** In order to better understand the issues regarding the work, it was necessary to examine two instances, that could be regarded as tasks or intermediate aims. The first of them, was the definition of the issues regarding architecture in the time of globalization. The other was to define the evaluation criteria, necessary to prove the established theses. It was found, that the issues regarding architecture amount to: its unification and the forfeiture of its local identity and social contacts. Therefore, apart from the main thesis, two particular theses were formulated into replies to the aforementioned problems.

Thesis no. 1: The involvement of future users in the design process, results in a positive impact regarding the expression of residential architecture, and contributes to its individual character.

Thesis no. 2: The residential architecture, created as a result of participatory design, supports the emergence of social contacts, as well as, of the identification of the residents with the place of residence.

The method is based on the three analyses, presented in the first three sections of the work. The first, called as the "pre-preliminary", consisted of the analysis of the available literature sources. The results of the analysis served to formulate the main purpose, the scope, as well as, the method of research adopted in the following dissertation. The second analysis, called as "preliminary", consisted of specifying the research aims and finding for the evaluation criteria necessary to prove the adopted theses. The criteria were based on the properties of architecture and inhabitant space, allowing people to better identify with own habitat and be more efficient in encouraging in new social contacts. The author searched for these properties, first in different residence theories, based on the established architect-urban projects, accomplished at the beginning of the 19th century. Secondly, theories of sociologists, psychologists and architects, were analyzed, regarding the properties of architecture and space allowing to establish social contacts. Additionally, the preliminary analysis consisted of a review of theoretical studies and projects conducted by the prevalent representatives of participatory design, established in the 20th century. The third analysis, called as "essential", consists of comparative case studies, analyzed from two different perspectives in order to prove two different theses. It draws upon contemporary projects regarding residential architecture, created in Berlin, Vienna, Netherlands and Poland. The characteristic feature of the chosen projects is that they were accomplished within the participatory design and they are linked to the urban or semi-urban context. The data, provided to prove the adopted theses, was collected on the basis of own observation, photographic evidence, as well as, interviews with: architects, inhabitants of the residential buildings and the architectural design coordinators. The fourth, and the last section of the work, consists of a synthesis of the conducted analytic studies, along with detailed results, grouped in analogy to the presented aims of the work. The section also includes a conclusion on proving the truthfulness of the adopted theses with references to the appropriate portions of the dissertation, as well as an evaluation of the achieved results, that would contribute to the expansion of knowledge on the subject.

Keywords: participatory design; residential architecture; expression of architecture; social contacts

K. Kosk *M. Bobczyk*