

HOUSING, THE CHALLENGE OF THE PRESERVATION OF THE URBAN IDENTITY (CASE-STUDY TIRANA)

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Abstract

The need to increase the density of urban development is becoming widely recognized - a recognition stimulated by two areas of concern. The first is the growing demand for new housing in developing countries. This is partly due to increasing wealth and partly to the growth in small households. In Albania it is estimated that an additional 0.5 million homes will be needed in the first twenty years of this century. Tirana over the years has been influenced by different cultural. This has led to an urban and architectural diversity forms. Different urban tissue layers appear in our area. Some of them appear regularly, and the rest organic, created by the need of the people. Whatever may be the development of both of these topics, what is important is that they are part of our history, as citizens of Tirana. Literally these urban and architectural forms identify us. Relation to urban and architectural space creates with the people who live it, a mutual relationship. The urban tissue is created automatically due to the conditions and needs of the people (this is very evident in our case). An attempt in this exercise is that a deeper knowledge of the reality can help us to preserve the historical and culture baggage expressed in urban and architectural forms. The recent developments, from 1990 till nowadays, brought different and at most alien, urban tissue development in the historical one. This study attempt to discover how we through densification can preserve the historical tissue. The main answer is: "Can we, through densification, preserve the urban tissue and at the same time create a development interest?" To respond to this question I operate with the analyze of the reality in a case study in the city of Tirana. I analyze the property (in formal way), the house typology existent in the area, see other case in the word. The final step was to see how we can combine the property with the house typology. To see if my proposal was not utopic I try to give some architectural solution. To conclude, the solution presented, based on the reality of Tirana, will not have the support and interest of investors.

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