

Transition and Public Spaces

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Abstract

Like in many other countries, one of the most harmful, unstoppable and irreversible force shaping urban environment in cities like Tirana, is construction. It became imminent especially during the entire period of the development of market economy in Albania. The habitat in which people live is being threaten to become unlivable, and the public domains people have organized have become structurally so complex that they are losing their functions. Still, there is no solid, complete, implemented or unified planning model to tackle these challenges of urban development, the most prominent of which is the protection and development of the habitat.

By considering the key factors driving the orientation of development, there are three distinguished categories of active agencies. First, there is the State which ensures rights and obligations for every citizen to consume. It is structurally based and respects the freedom of market, thus restraining itself from leading or promoting development. Secondly, there are private enterprenuers, which are the main (dominant) form of formal organization in the field of territorial development. By being subjected to the rule of the market too, they are usually left with no other motive besides that of increasing revenues. And thirdly, there is the community which is the main source for labor, economic, proprietary and authoritative power, but which rarely enjoys freedom of act and thought as a self-determined agency. Mostly because of representational issues, this agency is limited into a mere state of being, in which to preserve and identify the state of the situation. It is considered active by the rule of the market only as a consuming and expending agency, i.e. a “universal consumer”.

A process develops as a transition from one state to another. By considering urban development as transition in space from one state to another, and the three above agencies as key factors for planning orientation, we seek the trail of the following questions:

What is the effect of transition in the development of urban space?

What other possibilities do the agencies have for the orientation of contemporary urban development trends?

How and how much can “community base development planning” contribute to preserve and at the same time develop the habitat?

How can such form of planning help to improve the conditions of life on earth?

Keywords: *Public space, community base development, transition, function, orientation of development, preservation and development of the habitat.*