Residentialization of Public Spaces: Bratislava Example

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Abstract. The housing estates in Bratislava saturated the housing needs of a large number of inhabitants who come after World War II to the city. Design of public spaces often did not have priority in the process of designing. The solutions for mentioned exterior spaces had been planned after blocks of flat realization, but many of them are not realized to this day. The article analyzes the example of the unrealized public spaces in existing housing estates Devinska Nova Ves and Petržalka (city districts of Bratislava) and offer practical solutions in relation to residencialization method. Residencialization of missing public places is an effective method of adding identities to settlements. It improves the quality of residential environment and public spaces. The main aim is to create better conditions for social activities in public areas, which are missing on the present. The research will be focused on the examination of the urban, cultural and construction potential of the existing residential environment in Bratislava. The main aim of residencialization is not only to enhance the quality of spatial and building structures in the selected residential area and maintain long-term sustainability in the pertinent programme area, but mainly to improve the quality of living for the residents. The outputs of the project are proposals and practical procedures developed with regard to planning documents for local municipal authorities and regional organizations. The solutions will have a positive impact on the enhancement of the quality of public spaces, attractive social activities and of a conceptual link – residencialization.

1. Introduction

Residential environment care is a permanent activity for architects, urban planners and sociologists. It is important that interventions will bring positive changes and reflect current requirements of inhabitants. Architecture has to serve the people. This is its main mission. Its extends into public space is an increasingly important and in relation also increases the social role of architecture. Good architecture is always one that is not just any cultural event for a select few, but one that has not fully become part of the street and the life. [1]

Perhaps more than ever, the need for social communication of people is growing, and it requires suitable space inside buildings but also outside of them. If we change usual point of view on the architecture as the composition of objects, we can start thinking about the space between houses as
"Weisse Mappe", that is for socialization processes and quality of living extremely important. A historical example is Nollis map of Rome (1748) – the major historical work that puts emphasis on public spaces in the exterior but also the interior of public buildings. Even then it was obvious that architecture could not fully exists without a direct relationship with the environment. Interest in the role of public space in the living environment is reflected in the recent period in many urban-architectural concepts and projects. Research at Faculty of Architecture (Department of residential buildings) has been engaged progressive scenarios housing (Regiogoes research project, published in New models of housing) as well as a new method of residentialization, which have been continued in the wider international research carried out in France.

2. Another section of your paper
Residentialization process is the next degree of humanization and revitalization of residential areas. It should be rehabilitation process for settlements with the application of active participatory methods. The goal of this method is to identify the population with its own residential environment, using influence of ownership. Residentialization gradually changing the features of the housing estate and residential housing complex with a distinctive atmosphere and character. The process of residentialization is evaluated by a mental sight of the settlement, also is proposed new scenario of complex utilization of the principle of the stories and wishes of their people. One task of the architect is to wake up public interest in its living space. The living space should be created in the way to push up attraction for moving there, to start using it, literally to establish a personal relationship with it. [2] The aim is to create a sustainable environment with clear conditions for economic and social development of the community, meeting the needs of the present generation with improving conditions of life for future generations. [3]

Urbanism is not necessarily a question of population size, but rather a disposition which itself results from a certain way of dealing with space as a factor of social interaction. [4]

It has been necessary to support targeted interventions, in exceptional way to change the nature of life and affect social structure as well as increase the real environment value. Architects, planners and designers need to change routines, put more emphasis on increasing the user the quality of the built environment and products that any user will feel discriminated against. [5] Only this is not enough. These empty areas need to be clear defined in term of ownership and then you can push the real successful restoration projects. Methodology of the residentialization is based on principle of residential environment humanization. The aim is to develop residential identity for empty areas - this means that users identify themselves with environment and receive it as their own.

![Figure 1. The central square of public space in a housing estate in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) – contemporary condition](image-url)
One model example of residentialization is to restore the central square of public space in a housing estate in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava), which was realized in the 70s of the 20th century in Bratislava. The urban structure of the settlement has not been delivered and urban upgrading of core functions and facilities, which is clearly evident on Jan Kostra’s Square that still has the character of the square and now serves only as a clearway supermarket with parking. Square, as a full public space, and following pedestrian promenades and pavements totally absent in this area. Local residents have no place to meet. Square of Jana Kostra fails to fulfill its main task. From this point of view, the territory offers the potential to form the core to set locations where the carrier multifunctional social space the direct contact of the original and the new structure of Devínska Nová Ves. Solved territory is along the main street Eisnerova, defined by a buffer zone in the west of the cemetery with traditional houses on the opposite east settlement, characteristic with clean lines of prefabricated blocks of flats. The site contains two strongly objects - building a supermarket on the square of Jana Kostra and opposing dominant height apartment building. Eisnerova Street is formed substantially homogenous spatial structure of residential buildings, but no significant identifiable public spaces. Large open spaces at the end positions spatial settlement patterns offers the potential to create a missing active public spaces.

3. Results and discussions

Architectural project of architects Vráblová-Majcher-Jablonsky-Puskar is focused on the basic principles of residentialization. On coherent urban - architectural composition of buildings and premises of facilities, safe and controllable inputs, adequate lighting, physical demarcation of individual areas - separation by changing the surface material, greenery, water bodies. Urban and architectural design of the square is subject to the specific problems of the existing settlement pattern, increase the quality of living environment related to the optimal solution of the original symbiosis and proposed construction. The proposal applied expressive and compositional elements typical of the solved locality, the “genius loci” (stream liner settlement patterns with small size of the family home). The entire main area of the square is visually multiply divided with regard to the scale of the neighbouring small-scale building and adapts to the use of colours and materials, the nature of the site (green refers to the adjacent mountains Malé Karpaty, surface water reflected on the flow of the river Morava, colour sand and grey is a reference to the top sandstone Sandberg. The view of nature induce human evolution developed friendly feelings that reduce the stress of depression. [6]

![Figure 2. The central square of public space in a housing estate in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) – proposal](image-url)
Unique character and atmosphere - important aspects of the residentialization embodies in itself the central pavilion. It is situated in the eastern position of the square, because its main facade opens to the core space while itself body makes an optical barrier to the existing facade by unaesthetic supermarket. The surface of the pavilion is a clear symbolism with combination of traditional building houses a single net area of roofs – reflected clear design of settlement. The pavilion is used for thematic actions: summer markets, exhibitions, as a Christmas market are integrated in it rentable space "houses", it also includes a coffee shop that is opened all year round. The main area of the square is seen as a stage belonging to the wood-panelled amphitheatre (which is a stage for events, it provides relax while overlooking the site Sandberg) partially overlapping the necessary parking. Walking lines directions and the surface material in the individual areas are set for sub-activities. In touch with the greenery of the adjacent cemetery is integrated grassland with green mounds and trees, as an area for children's games and eco-climbing. On a model example, it is possible to point out that the appropriate intervention operations and projects with well-chosen functional purpose may be initiated recovery of previously unused or unsuitable tool "affected" area. To do this it is necessary to clearly define the scope to include who manages it and what is (or will be) the mode of its use. Peculiar moment is the physical definition - delimitation of the area and to ensure its protection, which varies according to whom it is intended space.

Public areas are in principle accessible to everyone, but this may be a physical barrier, which direct and regulate its use. The situation is different in the case of semi-public and private, requiring a higher level of protection. Such a reorganization of space in place the necessary legislative support - in the identification of new ownership, the reorganization of private and public ownership. In the front garden apartment in a residential building, as well as a playground and greens available in the building or pool on the roof of a residential building and a gymnasium in the parterre need transparent definition of ownership and management responsibilities. Only in this case it is possible to ensure the smooth functioning of these facilities or operations.

Figure 3. The central square of public space in a housing estate in Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava) – proposal
4. Conclusions

In public environments, it is necessary that architects and planners bring positive change and reflect the current needs of the residents. Architecture has to serve the people and not fully function without a direct relationship with the environment. [7] The aim is to identify the population with its own residential environment, using action of ownership. The method of the further degree of humanization and revitalization of residential areas is residentialization. It is the settlements rehabilitation process with the application of active participatory methods. The research results have shown that appropriate intervention operations and projects with well-chosen functional purpose may be initiated recovery of previously unused or unsuitable tool "affected" area.

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