

# SOCIALIST AND POST-SOCIALIST URBANIZATIONS

URBAN & LANDSCAPE DAYS XI  
May 8 – 11, 2014 in Tallinn

N

# WELCOME TO THE URBAN AND LANDSCAPE DAYS IN TALLINN!

The international scientific conference Socialist and Post-socialist Urbanizations: Architecture, Land and Property Rights is the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual series of Urban and Landscape Days, a venue for wide-ranging and inter-disciplinary interrogation of 'the urban'. Organized by the Estonian Academy of Arts, Faculty of Architecture, the event brings together urban scholars, architectural theorists and historians, architects, political geographers, sociologists, and others from the related fields of theory and practice.

The present conference aims at critical interrogation of the notions of socialism and post-socialism in three realms: history and practice

of architecture, changes of land use and landscape, and transformation of property rights. Whereas each of these realms has been studied thoroughly, the question how one determines the other has been rarely asked. This holds true about post-socialist studies in particular. Our ambition is to initiate a fresh investigation, in which architecture, land and property rights are looked at in their mutual relationships. We hope that such an inquiry will refresh our understanding and use of the notions of socialism and post-socialism at the same time.

We wish you pleasant and productive days in Tallinn.

*Maros Krivy, Tauri Tuvikene  
& ULD organizing team*



**ESTONIAN  
ACADEMY OF ARTS**  
Faculty of Architecture  
Chair of Urban Studies

## Teaching the red and bad. Representations of post-socialist urbanizations in school geography textbooks of international selection

PÉTER BAGOLY-SIMÓ

The ambition of this presentation is to analyse the representation of post-socialist transformation in formal education. Drawing upon theories of post-socialist transformation, it subjected school geography textbooks to content analysis (c.f. Corbin & Strauss 2008). The sample consisted of textbooks from former post socialist Europe (Romania, Hungary, and the federal state of Berlin, Germany), non-socialist Europe (Switzerland and the federal state of Bavaria, Germany), and outer-Europe (USA and Mexico). The results show diverging constructions of the post-socialist urban space. While post-socialist textbooks dedicate little attention to (post-) socialist urbanization, most textbooks

discuss specific urban structures and processes of urbanization. Further differences emerge from the degree of generalization and the non-continuous text material used to represent post socialist urban space.



*Prof. Dr. Péter Bagoly-Simó holds the Chair of Geography Education at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His PhD focused on post-socialist suburbanization in Transylvania. His research interests are geography education with an emphasis on post-socialist transformation and its representation in school geography.*

# Factors contributing to 'naked marriage' and women's home ownership in China's post-socialist cities

CHAITAWAT BOONJUBUN

This research critically examines the inter-connectedness between 'naked marriage' and changes in the housing market, particularly the home ownership of women in China's post-socialist cities, Beijing and Shanghai.

'Naked marriage' could be defined as a marriage that happens when the bridegroom, or bridegroom's family, has no significant assets prepared for the newly married couple. The term 'naked marriage' seemingly stems from an online novel entitled *Naked Marriage* (裸婚) which was published in 2008. Nevertheless, it is believed that marriage without a house and/or land may not be a new phenomenon as this practice has occurred since the collectivist period, continuing today.

In search of explanations for the relationship between 'naked marriage' and women's home ownership, the research looks at the housing and land reform policies regarding how they facilitate the increased housing prices, commodified land and properties. It also takes into account women's labour force participation and gender wage gap which have apparently affected women's housing affordability.

Aside from the aforementioned, the research pays attention to the one-child policy. This is because a large body of literature points out that in some cases married women still receive financial support from their parents as a result of the one-child policy. Furthermore, particular focus is extended to a social stigma embedded in the popular term, 'leftover women' which is

used to classify urban, educated women who remain single/unmarried in their late twenties and beyond. The research explores how the fear of becoming a 'leftover woman' has an impact on the decision to marry among women living in the city.

This research gathers data through surveys and interviews with 'naked' married women and men who live in urban Beijing and Shanghai. The research aims to unpack factors contributing towards the decision for obtaining 'naked marriage' and the extent to which owning a house is, or is not, important to them.



*Chaitawat Boonjubun was born in Thailand. He graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with a Master's Degree in Gender (MSc). He also studied Cultures and Development Studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Between 2005 and 2013, Chaitawat worked as a development practitioner, with geographical focus on East and Southeast Asia, in the areas of women's human rights, women's migration and women's economic empowerment for a cross-border project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and several development programmes of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Currently, Chaitawat is studying for a Research Master's Degree in Social Sciences (Social and Public Policy – Urban Studies) at the University of Helsinki.*



# Subsuming post-socialism. The 'Real Estate/Financial Complex' in Moscow City

MIRJAM BÜDENBENDER

This paper presents an interdisciplinary study of the 'Real Estate/Financial Complex' in the urban context of Moscow. By shedding light on the role of international finance and real estate in constructing post-socialist spaces it contributes to the literature on post-socialist cities. The paper posits that the subsumption of (post)-socialist spaces into the workings of capital produces 'strange geographies' where socialist-era legacies have been alienated from their ideological, institutional and economic history, now functioning in line with the requirements of capital. This theoretical argument is furnished by the investigation of Moscow City. So far, the extant scholarship has argued that the persistence of a dominating state – as a remnant of socialist political practice – in projects like Moscow City makes 'mimicry' of the market, undermining a true capitalist trajectory. Instead of viewing these practices as distortions, this project enquires into the ways this hybridity allows Moscow to position itself within a global capitalist economy. To account for the distinct nature of

the 'Real Estate/Financial Complex' in Moscow this project draws on a variety of literatures that grapple with the proliferation of financial practices across space, the drivers of institutional differentiation and homogenisation; and finally with the question of historical legacy. The concepts of structural power, subsumption and hybridity serve as analytical lenses to elucidate both the geopolitical dimension of real estate/financial practices and their specific meaning in post-socialist spaces.



*Mirjam Büdenbender is a doctoral candidate at KU Leuven. Her work examines the relationship between finance and the real-estate sector in Russia and Ukraine, as part of the research project on the Real Estate/Financial Complex (REFCOM). She graduated with a BA (Hons.) in International Relations from the University of Sussex and a MSc (Distinction) in Political Economy from the University of Manchester.*



## “State” beyond the “state” State-owned enterprises’ diverse space-making behaviors in China’s post-socialism urban transformation

TING CHEN

During the past three decades of China’s post-Mao reform, although numerous private builders have participated in the game of urbanization, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), that used to be the only builders in the socialism past, are still taking the leading role. They benefit from the deep-rooted dualism of land allocation and accumulate large pieces of newly prepared land with extremely low land-use-fee. In the frenzied urban renewal movement, they can easily obtain redevelopment right in highly valuable downtown areas. Within their own industrial zones, inert SOE landholders are almost free to densify and transform the existing building stocks for more profitable uses without official approval. Meanwhile the local governments, instead of behaving actively, are in fact obliged to legitimize SOEs’ urban behaviours via formal or informal institutional adjustment. Thus although many scholars marked the contemporary Chinese urbanism as ‘state(government)-led’, I argue that SOEs – as another independent ‘state’ force – are actually the de facto main-drivers and decision-makers for many Chinese urban spaces.

Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, a 30-year-old city mainly built in the reform era, is a perfect specimen to examine various urban behaviours of SOEs. This article does not only illustrate dominant landholder SOEs’ aggressive, top-down intervention to urban landscape and their

competition with local governments for land control, but also introduces an alternative procedure of gradual, bottom-up transformation within the territories of passive, counter-balancing SOE landholders. Based on documentary analysis and empirical survey, their extremely differentiated urban impacts and the hidden mechanisms on land accumulation, programmatic distribution, spatial arrangement and urban governance will be demonstrated for further comparison. The author argues that when the ‘state’ power is in general so dominant in the Chinese urban economy, in order to increase the spatial resilience of Chinese cities, it is necessary for the planners and policy-makers to rethink the institutional defects of the mainstream SOE-led patriarchal urbanism, and try to re-guide SOEs’ urban behaviours via creative strategies in planning, property and land administration.



*Trained as an architect, Ting Chen received her B.Arch & M.Arch degrees in Tsinghua University at Beijing, worked on fields of architectural and urban design, monument preservation and neighborhood revitalization. She used to work as junior researcher for the chair of urban design history in ETH Zurich. Currently she is a doctoral researcher in Future Cities Laboratory, Singapore ETH Center.*

## Post-socialist city. Remembered anew

NERMA PRNJAVORAC CRIDGE

As it is often remarked, our urban environments are becoming less and less distinct, making it perhaps pertinent to recall the times when this wasn't the case. The 'sameness' plaguing our cities seems nowhere more acute than in the areas of so called 'social housing'. Repetitive architecture makes pictures of such areas taken almost from any city in the world which contain very few visual cues that could distinguish them or reveal their actual location. It seems that not just the differences between East and West, between socialism and capitalism, are being blurred and even erased, but that the capitalist city could be incapable of recognizing and acknowledging its socialist traits. This paper will enquire whether this failure to accept the socialist legacy is to be at our own peril. One of the following questions could be that whilst we can consent there not to be a socialist city, should we appreciate more aspects of socialism present in world cities? If all cities ought to be considered capitalist, we need to ask when did post-socialism start? The search for clues will take place in mirroring and copying effects on each side of the long-erased divide. In apartments sizes, uniformity of facades, the design of the outside spaces, particularly playgrounds. In looking at shared, public spaces, questioning will continue in order to find out

if it would be helpful to understand every city as post-socialist; even those that were never officially under the socialist regimes. Architecturally, this proposition is more plausible than it appears at first, as actually, modernism and socialism have many close parallels, and have been used almost interchangeably, especially by those opposed to both. Whilst asking if it is really so preposterous to proclaim that post-modernism started with Stalin, or with Mao, and not in 1973 as Charles Jenks announced, the concluding remarks will search for values of long discarded ideas being re-discovered again.



*Nerma Prnjavorac Cridge was educated at the universities of Sarajevo and Birmingham, the Bartlett and the Architectural Association. After participating in an Antarctic expedition she became Special Envoy to UNESCO in 1997. Distinguished practitioners Nerma has worked for include Thomas Heatherwick and art2architecture. Nerma's drawing installation 'Echo' featured in 2010 'Drawing Out' festival at RMIT. She is currently working as Seminar Tutor in Histories and Theories at the Architectural Association, London.*



# Unfolding urban planning model for top-down management of urban conflicts in a post socialist city. Case study of Savamala neighbourhood in Belgrade



MARIJA CVETINOVIC, VISNJA SRETOVIC

This paper elaborates on the incapacity of the post-socialist planning to define contextually appropriate and coherent urban management for tracing its chaotic urban development pattern.

The course of merging socialist and the neoliberal urban planning model led to inefficiently operationalized and inconsistently decentralized system of planning with either a rational approach that hardly takes into account economic parameters or a collaborative planning with no substantial consideration of different interests, resources or risks. A multitude of actors, variety of interests and fragmented spatial development caused the post-socialist urban planning to fail substantially through the lack of consensus on priority goals, action-oriented implementation and horizontal and vertical coordination. Consequently urban development most often has exceeded and diluted its top-down regulatory framework.

The case study of Savamala, an attractive, but derelict neighbourhood, identifies how the abrupt shift from a socialist regime to a neo-liberal economy poses a threat of being usurped by powerful business actors. Tracing institutional articulation of post-socialist context through structural analysis of administrative procedures and content analysis of policy agendas, in terms of political, economic and cultural aspects of transition from socialist to neo-liberal urban management, could methodically deconstruct aforementioned system composed of operationally independent urban key agents within the hierarchy of decision making.

The aim of this paper is to indicate opportuni-

ties for altering post-socialist urban planning model by analysing in which manner regulatory framework relates to urban actors and address spatial issues, and what urban patterns and urban impact result from these actions and induce building a spatial and social vision. In lack of official strategies and tactical initiatives, such decision-making structure will eventually expose present urban conflicts and explicate appropriate social practices in Savamala. The identification of relations and influences among different levels of decision making generates flexible and transparent micro context open to alternations in urban planning model.



*Marija Cvetinovic is a PhD candidate at EPFL, her research focuses on urban development, post-socialist urban planning and participatory processes and their potential to reduce the negative effects of globalization and urbanization in post-socialist cities. She obtained her Master degree in Architecture (University of Belgrade), has worked in architectural practices, and been involved in artistic and social activities in Belgrade which gave her a broader picture of current potentials and conflicts in transitional countries.*

*Visnja Sretovic is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Architecture (University of Belgrade). She obtained her Master degree in Architecture at the same faculty and is currently employed there as a research trainee. Her academic work focuses on urban planning, sustainable development and water sensitive urban design in transitional and developing countries.*

# Continuities in urban planning after 1989. Radical changes reconsidered

SLAVOMÍRA FERENČUHOVÁ

This paper develops a discussion about the continuities in urban planning from the 'socialist' to the 'post-socialist' period while focusing on one specific case from Central Europe. It is based on Ferenčuhová's previous (doctoral) research on the city of Brno, Czech Republic. In response to the conference call, the paper attempts to reconsider the common narratives of the recent history of urban planning in the countries of the former 'Eastern bloc', i.e. the period after the fall of the Iron Curtain. This history has been most often explained through descriptions of important transformations in planning practice that occurred since the 1990s. Changes and shifts that move planning of cities in CEE countries away from the socialist past, and the attempts to overcome the unwanted memory, have been underlined in these works. However, besides the changes, there are continuities in urban planning practice that become obvious if we analyse particular cases over a longer period of time. Continuities can be observed in the selection of (re)development projects that are being proposed and fulfilled after 1989 and

that have been thought over (although often left untouched) during the period of state-socialism. Also, some of the basic principles of urban planning and some of the key ideas about favourite development of a city have not changed despite the overall transformations of planning. The paper thus wishes to open a debate about the actual character of the current planning in Central and Eastern European cities and the role of the political discourse on transformation in seeing or ignoring existing continuities.



*Slavomíra Ferenčuhová is assistant professor at the Department of Sociology, Masaryk University. Her research interests include the history of urban sociology and urban studies, (post)socialist urban development, urban planning and policies, and urban everyday life. Her book *Meno, mesto, vec* (Masaryk University Press 2011) analyses the changes and continuities of the socialist and post-socialist urban planning practice between 1950 and 2007.*



## Urban planning and ideology. Three plans for Skopje, Macedonia

LEONORA GRČEVA

From 1944 to 1991, Macedonia was developing under the official political discourse of Yugoslavia, as one of six federal republics. However, the Yugoslav socialism cannot be observed as a homogenous period, as after the break between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union in 1948 it went through a notable ideological shift, from harsh Stalinist communism to a more liberal and internationalized socialism. Since the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991, Macedonia has been going through a slow process of post-socialist transition, in which the issue of the Macedonian national identity has gradually surfaced as a relevant factor in the socio-political transformations.

The paper will analyse three influential urban plans for Skopje that were made in these three periods, under the influence of the societal conditions of the time: a 1948 plan by the Czech architect Luděk Kubeš, proposing drastic reconstruction of the city in a manner much akin to Le Corbusier's Radiant City; a 1965 plan for the city centre by Kenzo Tange, following a catastrophic earthquake that almost completely destroyed Skopje in 1963, suggesting a futuristic vision based on the ideas of the metabilist

movement an ongoing (2007–today) government-promoted plan for the city centre, titled „Skopje 2014“, envisioning a neohistorical image for the city, popularly referred to as „baroque“.

The research is conducted taking into consideration several aspects: the socio-political contexts and the state-promoted doctrines of the three periods, the design aspects of the urban plans in relation to the wider international architectural discourse, and the spoken or written ideological undertones (as promoted by the authors, and as perceived by the people). Essentially, the paper seeks to answer the question: how much were the urban plans a product of the dominant political ideologies?



*Leonora Grčeva graduated in Skopje, Macedonia and finished a Master in Human Settlements at the K.U.Leuven, Belgium. She is currently a PhD student in urbanism at the IUAV University of Venice. Her research focus is the regressive potential of urban planning and design, in planning theory and practical methodology on the case-study of Skopje.*

## The value of land as a fiction

ANNE HAILA

In Mao's China, land was administratively allocated free of charge for different productive and reproductive purposes. Since the 1980s, China introduced a series of land reforms that made possible to sell land use rights. This action triggered rapid urbanization, rampant urban development and speculative real estate investment. This sort of displacement, control and segregation through urban development is called neo-Haussmannization and wasn't typical either for Chinese or for other cities. In these circumstances, planetary urbanism calls for a redefinition of the urban question. It is the question that Andy Merrifield has recently defined as the urban, but not as a spatial unit (as for Manuel Castells), but as a space in which capital productively plunders by valorising urban space as a financial asset. The presentation explains why the urban fabric has become a fictitious capital, and discusses some of the features of this financialized land regime: the value determining the use, the dominant ideology of privatiza-

tion and definition of property rights, fusion of finance and real estate, financial citizens, and radical urban politics to oppose valorizing urban space as a financial asset.



*Anne Haila is Professor of Urban Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She teaches urban studies, urban theory, comparative urban research and urban development. In recent years she has focussed on property rights, property markets and the role of state intervention in regulating property market. Cases of her research have been particularly Singapore (where she taught urban economics for two years at the National University of Singapore), Finland, China and Hong Kong. Her publications include 'The market as the new emperor' (IJURR, 2007) and two now-classic papers 'Land as a financial asset' (Antipode, 1988) and 'Four types of investment in land and property' (IJURR, 1991).*



## Materials' reuse. Aesthetic choices and patterns of usage determined by socialism and their influence on architecture in the post-socialist Poland

URSZULA KOZMINSKA

The presentation provides a discussion on how socialism, its aesthetics and architecture have influenced contemporary sustainable architecture in Poland, especially the choices of materials and aesthetics present in Polish society. The article focuses on problems grounded in the socialist ideology which have affected the ways of using and perceiving architecture in contemporary Poland - to name just a few: the need for solidity, preference for materials of industrial origin or negation of the nature. The article centers on the problems which are strongly rooted in the negation of socialism such as denial of simple forms, local and old materials and traditions, prefabrication technologies, homogenous aesthetics, temporary solutions and collective spaces. Moreover, it highlights the risks related to the profound westernization and capitalization of everyday life in the post-socialist Poland which is also visibly affecting architectural and aesthetic choices and shifting towards new, foreign, "hype" materials applied in contemporary architecture without any regard to the qualitative and ecological aspects. Such problems are becoming serious constraints on developing new sustainable architecture and reusing materials. They also seem not to fit the current fast-changing world with its continuous flows and necessity for constant redefining of social needs and redesigning the structures. Sustainable architecture and the reuse of building materials are two of the principles for

further successful and ecological development. But how is this development possible in a society which is constantly limited by customs, beliefs and superstitions rooted in the previous system? What are the possibilities for a successful implementation of ecological policies from the Western countries without blindly copying their mistakes and without a deep understanding of the local situation? The article tries to establish possible directions for a future change in social customs and furthermore, for future development of engaged sustainable aesthetics and materials' reuse. As post-socialism is a crucial societal condition in contemporary Poland, this change in aesthetics and materials' reuse requires a different, more respectful approach as well as a full understanding of socialism and its social consequences.



*Urszula Kozminska is an architect from Warsaw. She studied architecture and design in Warsaw and Madrid. For 5 years, she has been working in architectural offices in Warsaw and Amsterdam. She is currently pursuing a PhD degree in Architecture at the Warsaw University of Technology with a specialization in sustainable design. Her research project constitutes a social and technological model for applications of reused materials in Poland.*

# NAU, Tange Kenzō, and the Metabolists. The economics and politics of land in Japan's postwar reconstruction

SENG KUAN

Formed in 1947 and dissolved four years later in the advent of the Korean War, the New Architect's Union ("NAU") is a long-forgotten episode in the history of modern architecture in Japan. This organization of young Marxist architects and urbanists counted among its members virtually all of the most important members of the postwar avant-garde, particularly the circle centered on Takayama Eika and Tange Kenzō and associated with the Tokyo University. While the eventual members of the Metabolist group were too young to join, NAU's period of dominance in Japan's elite architectural academy coincided with their formative years. Later in the 1950s and 1960s, Tange, Ōtaka Masato, and Kikutake Kiyonori produced a series of proposals to inhabit and territorialize Tokyo Bay, covering the bay's vast expanse with floating islands of residential communities, office towers, and industrial districts. These visionary proposals were built upon commissions for housing prototypes and infrastructural studies from the Japan Housing Corporation and the Japan Highway Corporation, founded in 1955 and 1956 respectively. Lying underneath is a nuanced and evolving conception of land, precipitated by Japan's rapid urbanization and the erosion of its agrarian economy. NAU's influence and Marxism's appeal among Japanese architects was not merely symptomatic

of postwar political disarray. Shortly after the end of World War II, the American-led Allied Occupation initiated a series of land reforms that fundamentally altered the landscape of Japan's rural society. Yoshizaka Takamasa, one of Le Corbusier's Japanese acolytes, declared "Land is a public good. The underlying assumption of our architecture is that land is something that is artificially obtained." By looking beyond the formal, architectural qualities of these visionary schemes, this paper will situate them in the broader construction industries of Japan during the High-Growth period, especially the proliferation of residential new towns and highways across Japan's suburban landscape.



*Seng Kuan is Assistant Professor of Architectural History at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his PhD from Harvard University. He is co-editor of Kenzō Tange: Architecture for the World (2012) and is curator of several exhibitions including "On the Thresholds of Space Making: Shinohara Kazuo and His Legacy" (2014) and "Metabolism: The City of the Future" (2011). His earlier work on China resulted in two books: Architectural Encounters with Essence and Form in Modern China (2002) and Shanghai: Architecture and Urbanism for Modern China (2004).*





## Property and apocalypse. The judico-administrative anti-urbanism of Warsaw's reprivatization

JOANNA KUSIAK

In 2012, a fertile year for all types of end-of-the-world fantasies, apocalyptic overtones saturated the Polish press, which announced a possible end to the city of Warsaw. This had nothing to do with Maya calendar, but rather with a decree passed in 1945 by the then-socialist government to nationalize the land in Warsaw and therefore to make rebuilding the city possible after a very real apocalypse - the Second World War. As up to 80 percent of Warsaw was destroyed and most former owners were missing, nationalization was essential to implementing the complex plans to rebuild the city. And yet, almost 70 years later the city appears in very serious danger: newspapers speak of a “reprivatization avalanche,” a “tsunami of property claims,” “a ticking reprivatization bomb.”

In my paper, I analyze the legal proceedings connected to the process of reprivatizing Warsaw, showing the different layers of what I call the bureaucratic-administrative anti-urbanism characterizing the current system. I show how the privileging of the property rights over other rights not only leads to the exclusion of certain groups of citizens, but also jeopardizes the city as such. Simultaneously I make visible how reprivatization discourse, which sets both the

“inheritors” and the “evicted tenants” against one another, actually conceals the real game of interest, which is that being played chiefly by lawyers and claim speculators. Last but not least, as Warsaw is the only post-socialist country in Eastern Europe that did not introduce any special unitary reprivatization, I show how the architecture of the legal and administrative system as well as the mechanisms of litigation limit the possibilities of redistributive justice in the city.



*Joanna Kusiak is a member of Berlin's NYLON group since April 2013. She is a PhD Candidate at the University of Warsaw and TU Darmstadt (co-tutelle) as well as an urban activist in Polish right to the city movements. In her PhD she examines the popular notion of “chaos” in Warsaw both as the new master-signifier and as a key point of access to her in-depth empirical study of the actual phenomena that contribute to people's feelings of disorder: processes of privatization and reprivatization, neoliberalization of urban space, and malfunctioning urban institutions. With Monika Grubbauer she has co-authored a book titled “Chasing Warsaw: Socio-Material Dynamics of Urban Change since 1990.”*

# Bronze soldier and Freedom square. Appropriation, conflict and urban design in post-communist Tallinn

PANU LEHTOVUORI, ANDRES KURG, SIRI ERMERT, MARTINA SCHWAB

In Tallinn, the first post-communist decade was characterised by economic growth, building boom and property restitution but also by radical changes in the representational and symbolic structures of the city. This was most visible in the removal of Soviet period monuments. The paper will focus on the 'Bronze Soldier' and Freedom Square, interpreted as one, dynamic case that extended the struggle over symbolisms and right to the city till the 2000s. It will analyse the post-1991 appropriation of the monument by the Russian minority, Estonian state's efforts to remove it, the resulting conflict that became violent in April 2007, as well as the City's work on urban design in the area. While the social, ethnic and political outline of the Bronze Soldier conflict is relatively well documented, the roles of urban design and new public art in the process are only superficially researched. The paper will address the role of urban design both in shaping the commemorative practices in the early 2000s and in the creation of new spaces with new symbolism during the conflict and after it. In this case, the urban conflict on the streets is echoed in the divergent ideas of the City and State on how to deal with the sentiments of the Russian-speaking minority, as well as in conflicting urban and aesthetic ideas. The paper builds on the authors' forthcoming article that compares the Bronze Soldier conflict in Tallinn and the Makasiinit conflict in Helsinki, to be published by Routledge in 2014. The current crisis in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine reminds us, again, about the significance of public urban space and sites of commemoration for identity building and political mobilisation but also about the serious dangers of manipulation of the same sites and symbols. The subject would clearly warrant further critical and comparative research.



*Panu Lehtovuori, architect SAFA, Ph.D. is a professor of Planning Theory at Tampere University of Technology, Finland.*

*Andres Kurg is an architectural historian and researcher at the Institute of Art History, Estonian Academy of Arts. He has published articles in ArtMargins, Home Cultures; Journal of Architecture; Interiors. Design, Architecture, Culture; A Prior Magazine and contributed to exhibition catalogues and books on post-Socialist urban transformations and spatial conflicts. He has coedited and authored Environment, Projects, Concepts. Architects of the Tallinn School 1972–1985 (Estonian Museum of Architecture, 2008); and co-curated Our Metamorphic Futures. Design, Technical Aesthetics and Experimental Architecture in the Soviet Union 1960–1980 in Vilnius National Gallery of Art (2011–2012).*

*Siri Ermert graduated from Estonian Academy of Arts with a MA I Urban Studies in 2013. Currently she is working for the architecture magazine AIT/GKT in Hamburg assisting to organize events for architects, competitions etc.*

*Martina Schwab is currently working for FairFin – a NGO that promotes a critical view on the financial sector and explores alternative ways of doing finance. She received her M.A. in European Urban Cultures, a joint Master program from Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Tilburg University, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Estonian Academy of Arts.*



## On the urban entropy of Tallinn, Estonia

FRANCISCO MARTÍNEZ

The presentation examines the post-socialist transformations in a longer perspective, paying studied attention to traces and multiple frames of meaning rather than looking at single parts in a concrete spot of time. Relying on empirical examples, literature, architecture and visual signs in the cityscape, author presents Tallinn as a city of thresholds. Urban entropy and phantom sutures refer here to the juxtaposition of unfinished projects, bringing about how the cityscape acquires attributes associated with social life (in this case through gaps rather than through layers of sedimentation). Quite different trends are still latent in this post-socialist city, being evidenced in a lack of contextual fit, saturation and redundancy. Author concludes that in the context of continuous radical changes, changeless elements accumulate, adding liminality to processes of adaptation.



*Francisco Martínez is a PhD candidate in Tallinn University. He is co-editor of 'Playgrounds and Battlefields' (2014, TLU Press) and his research has been awarded with fellowships at the Georg Simmel Zentrum (Humboldt University), Moscow School of Diplomacy (MGIMO), Aleksanteri Institute of Helsinki and University of Lisbon. He holds a BA degree in Journalism (Madrid Complutense University), a MA in Development Studies (Higher Institute of Economy of Lisbon), and a postgraduate certificate in Russian Studies (St. Petersburg State University); and has previously worked as a journalist in Germany, Turkey, Russia, Portugal, and Spain, publishing over 500 articles and producing 150 video reports.*

# Land property, from state control to full privatization, where to draw the line?

NABIL MENHEM, ELENA BATUNOVA

Extensive land privatization has become common practice in post-soviet era. In Russia, specific laws have facilitated a hasty transfer of prime public lands such as resort areas, where land acquisition was very attractive in the past due to lucrative speculation. This extreme deregulation trickled down to new planning laws and authorities that sought to promote massive public land sales to private developers in contrast to the previous role they once played in shaping the socialist way of life. This extreme looseness forced sometimes local authorities to repurchase certain plots from the private sector at high market prices to provide necessary public services such as schools and neighbourhood parks.

The meaning of loss of public spaces is not realized everywhere, and the process of privatization continues. Nevertheless, in some settlements this problem has risen so sharply that local governments have started looking for adequate solutions. Today lack of public spaces significantly reduces the quality of the urban environment, the attractiveness of the resorts and, consequently, the value of land. Finding tangible solutions requires joint effort at various levels of government including the amendment of existing legislations on urban planning and land use, the development of various forms of public private partnership, which means the need to strengthen the state's role in regulating urban development.

The aim of this research is to shed lights on the negative outcomes of excessive land privatiza-

tion and developments in post-Soviet transition in traditional resort areas. It will specifically examine the case of Northern Caucasus area where the main challenge today is to find ways to restore a sense of common good through the revision of existing planning laws and regulations. The paper also tries to explore the chances of restoring to certain extents some of the state role as main regulator and guarantor of the public domain.



*Nabil Menhem is an internationally experienced urban and regional planner born in Beirut 1965. He has developed his career in both professional practices and academic activities. He has been involved in planning and development projects in various parts of the world including Russia, China, Sri Lanka, Qatar and Lebanon, working with international organizations (world Bank, UNDP, JICA).*

*Elena Batunova is an experienced urban planner born in the USSR in 1977 working in Russia on major urban and regional development projects. She graduated as an Architect and Pedagogue of Professional Education in 2003. Moreover she is a Deputy Director of the Centre of Urban Education (affiliate member of AESOP).*

*Currently, they are both enrolled as Ph.D. candidates in the DSTU doctoral program at the Politecnico di Milano Italy.*



## From public to private. The case of Bucharest's inner city development

IRINA PARASCHIVOIU

The experience of land restitution and the transfer from state to private ownership in Romania has been, to a large extent, similar to other Eastern European countries. However, the case of Bucharest and its inner city development stands out in many ways – the issues of delayed restitution overlapped with those of poor quality housing stock and lack of financial resources, hindering a coherent, integrated development. As a result, after almost 25 years of post-socialist economy, inner city areas have been in a constant decay together with a relative trend of suburbanization and sprawl.

This paper looks at how the change of property and legal framework in Romania influenced the state of the built environment in Bucharest after 1989. It analyses the way in which the legal framework favoured property rights over the right to dwell, thus creating a safety net in the economic transition period, but posing threats to long-term housing policy and inner city development. The work analyses the local and national policies and the way in which derogation permits made it (deliberately?) impossible to

coherently plan for the inner city's development. Author concludes that inconsistent development is on one hand a result of a legal framework that has not favoured urban regeneration and on the other result of fragmented ownership and agenda which has been dominated by market oriented governance. The work also looks at the role that civil society groups and watch-dog organizations have taken in protecting public interest, in the context of general retreat of authorities from urban planning.



*Irina Paraschivoiu is currently pursuing a Master in Regional and Urban Planning Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has 7 years of experience in education, culture and development and is co-founder and President of the Creative Room/Odaia Creativă, a non-governmental organization based in Bucharest which uses a mix of research, visual tools and new media to increase understanding of urban and regional development processes in Central and Eastern Europe.*

# Entangled backyards of quasi-urban living

TARMO PIKNER

Cities bring people together within imagined and materialised environments where various entities of nature become part of coexistence. Urbanisation influences how people think and do nature along shared terrains. There lies a challenge within approaching nature as co-production in analysing ecologies of place and emergent senses of cosmos.

This paper analyses multiple framings of nature in the context of allotment cottages near cities established extensively during the Soviet period. Post-socialism is modestly discussed here through the question: How do enactments of private property modify multiple durations and boundaries of 'urban commons'? This perspec-

tive can reveal some aspects of peripheries in an on-going urbanisation. The city planning models are brought together with embodied stories of allotment owners which were articulated within ethnographic observations and interviews. The empirical example focuses mostly on cottage cooperatives in the (Russian-speaking) Narva region located in north-eastern Estonia near the European Union's external border.



*Tarmo Pikner works at the Centre for Landscape and Culture at the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University.*





## From camaraderie to detachment. Neighbourhood relations in post-communist Tirana

DORINA POJANI

The presentation examines how relationships among neighbours in Tirana (capital of Albania) have evolved after communism and investigates the extent to which “neighbourliness” has been affected after the regime. The analysis is primarily based on 277 face-to-face surveys conducted in four selected neighbourhoods with diverse physical settings and housing typologies. In order to provide a broader perspective, the author positions the quantitative research in the recent developments in Tirana, with a focus on internal migration and social and physical transformation issues. The communist regime was very successful at creating neighbourhoods of mixed social composition and this social mix has been largely preserved. Communist housing policy also succeeded in fostering “friendship between classes”, with next-door neighbours frequently socializing with one another. Social networks provided ample opportunities for tight societal and political controls. After the demise of communism in 1990, the commodification of social relationships has overridden the concept of community based on physical proximity. The wide availability of paid urban services and amenities has weakened the dependence

on neighbours’ help. The diverse prospects and pressures for financial gain have reduced the amount of time available for socializing. Regional differences and rivalry among new urbanites have contributed to a loss of concern for public space. As a consequence, old values are being eroded. However, while urbanities have developed Western aspirations and are pursuing increasingly Western lifestyles, they still preserve some of the spirit of the small traditional communities, especially in older, more consolidated neighbourhoods created before and during communism.



*Dorina Pojani is a postdoctoral fellow in the Spatial Planning and Strategy group of TU Delft. Her research focuses on urban design and urban transport. She previously taught urban planning in Albania. She completed her graduate studies in USA as well as Albania and worked for several years in urban and transportation planning in California. She has published books and several articles on transport and urban planning.*

## Farewell from welfare?

STEFAN RETTICH

With the return of the capitalist society, the nature of a village, town or city is again determined by marketability. We must not let them be reduced to this quality alone. For 'the good life' we urgently need the relics of the socialist city – and not only its spacious public squares and iconic buildings of the 1960s. The least we need is the reflection on and questioning of the role of private ownership and the discussion of social cohesion. The post-socialist city is like a seismograph that indicates future developments and, just like its predecessor, remains a testing ground.

Regarding architecture, the postmodern dream of autonomy has isolated the discourse on the city from its social roots and from the society itself. Instead autonomy, architecture for us is a tool to organise and to create social relations. Especially in situations of crisis such as urban shrinkage there is a deep need for architectural concepts, that go beyond building itself and the formal aspects of architecture. A special interest of us is the heritage of modernism architecture as form of representation of the socialist city as

well as of the capitalist welfare state. Not purely in the sense of conservation. It is more about the reuse of those ideas and structures in current social and spatial contexts: To deconstruct and to reconstruct architecture, material and signs of the modernist time is a specific technic we developed for our practice. The aim is to offer possibilities for new, self-organised collectives in the post-socialist city.



*Stefan Rettich works as an architect in Leipzig and Hamburg and is a partner of KARO architects. He has taught at the Bauhaus Kollege in Dessau from 2007 to 2011 and since then is the Professor for theory and design at the School of Architecture Bremen. With KARO he was invited to various exhibitions, e.g. the XI. and the XII. architecture biennale in Venice and has been awarded with the European Price for Urban Public Space in 2010, the Brit Insurance Design Award in 2011 and was shortlisted for the Mies van der Rohe Award in 2011.*



## Districts making a difference. Local state urbanization under a socialist market economy

TYLER ROOKER

In 2013, China has determined to continue pushing the urbanization of the country and population forward. Some 260 million migrants are mobile and the urban population has increased from 17.9% to 52.6% in the last 24 years adding some 200 million migrants to a previously stagnant or declining urban population since 1978; China aims to add another 200 million in the next twenty years. The urban fabric has also blossomed, as commercial xiaoku apartment complexes and build outs of urban villages have joined socialist-era industrial residences and pre-1949 traditional housing structures. Yet migrants' social rights to the city are restricted through non-local hukous. Unbalanced urbanization yields differential regimes of urban citizenship and welfare. China's on-going claim to be a socialist market economy finds interesting expression in the counterposing of urbanization in different sub-municipal urban districts (qu) of the local state. More property-led commercial development produces one type of planning outcome that differs markedly from factory-residence zones with apartment complexes built explicitly to house workers from outside (wailai wugongzhe). This paper uses ethnographic research in three Shanghai districts to illustrate the diverse commitments to local or

non-local residents and the variety of approaches to socialism in China's contemporary urban economic systems by examining stakes of property development as well as an alternate model that supports migrant worker inclusion. These debates are crucial in understanding cities at the centre of the emerging post-socialist China. The research also offers regional studies scholars and policymakers an opportunity to understand how the interplay of scales – local planning, regional migration, national drives for industrial urbanization and multinational production networks – forms a potentially sustainable, scalable and preferable synergy of urban development.



*Tyler Rooker is Lecturer at the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham. He was an ESRC research fellow between 2007-2010 in Shanghai for the Goldsmiths College conducting field research on property development, securities markets and migration. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz in the department of anthropology researching on Zhongguancun, the Silicon Valley of China.*

## KEYNOTE

# Postmodernism is almost all right. From Poland to the Middle East, and back

ŁUKASZ STANEK

This paper traces the links between postmodernism in Polish architecture after socialism and the work of Polish architects in the Middle East during the last decades of the Cold War. Since the 1970s, the accelerating export of architectural labor from socialist Poland coincided with the disappointment of many architects with “real existing modernism”, dominated by state bureaucracy and construction industry. While the exchanges with the West were restricted and increasingly uneven, it was the work in Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Syria that furnished many Polish architects with the experience of postmodernism as the new mainstream in architectural practice and discourse. By tracing these transnational exchanges, this paper shows, first, how architects from socialist countries, including People’s Republic of Poland, contributed to the current phase of globalization of architecture, for which the spectacular urban development of the United Arab Emirates became a paradigm. Second, this paper questions the impact of this experience on the architectural practice in Poland after its return to the peripheries of capitalism. By revisiting notable postmodern buildings in Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław, this paper shows that Polish architects abroad learned not only about advanced technologies, complex functional programs, CAD, and the organization of the office, but also about the postmodern sensitivity to intermediary scales, recognizable images, and urban complexity. At the same time, the experience of practicing architecture outside of the public debate facilitated the architects’ renouncement

of their social obligation in 1990s Poland which only most recently began to be questioned.



*Lukasz Stanek is lecturer at the Manchester Architecture Research Center, University of Manchester. He graduated in architecture and philosophy after studies in Kraków, Weimar, Münster, and Zurich. After his doctorate at the Delft University of Technology, he received fellowships at the Institut d’Urbanisme de Paris, the Jan van Eyck Academie (Maastricht), the Canadian Center for Architecture (Montreal), and the Center for Advanced Studies in Visual Arts (CASVA), National Gallery in Washington D.C., where he was the 2011–2013 A. W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow. Stanek authored *Henri Lefebvre on Space: Architecture, Urban Research, and the Production of Theory* (University of Minnesota Press, 2011) and he is currently editing Lefebvre’s unpublished book about architecture, *Vers une architecture de la jouissance* (1973). Stanek’s second field of research is the transfer of architecture from socialist countries to Africa and the Middle East during the Cold War. On this topic, he curated two exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. He also published “Miasto-projekt Goes Abroad. Transfer of Architectural Labor from Socialist Poland to Iraq (1958–1989)” in *The Journal of Architecture* (17:3, 2012) and the book *Postmodernism Is Almost All Right. Polish Architecture After Socialist Globalization* (Fundacja Bęc-Zmiana Warsaw, 2012). Stanek taught at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and at the ETH Zurich where he was junior faculty.*



## The relativity of a criterion. Urban density

MIRUNA STROE

The presentation proposes an overview of density as a very versatile criterion in describing the urban realities of socialist and post-socialist towns. Density had a relevant history during the socialist regime but it is also a criterion used to describe contemporary phenomena that affect the post-socialist towns (such as sprawl or shrinkage).

During socialism density was a core concept of urban planning, having an a priori status in the design process. Together with other parameters, density became an ideological and economical vehicle and less a professional instrument. Thus it was subject to frequent changes in definition, in order to accommodate the desires and understanding of the political decision hierarchy. Though the architectural milieu tried to preserve the utilitarian characteristics of the definition (in order for it to be a useful planning instrument), the changes together with the imposed numeric values stripped this concept of all its significance.

The post-socialist urban planning redefined density as a qualitative evaluation instrument, giving it its proper space in the assessment of urban space. This is rather true for theoretical approaches but in reality there is a challenge to use this criterion to evaluate the built environ-

ment. The post-socialist privatization of multi-family housing together with land ownership disputes poses questions as to the relevance of urban density assessment.

This brief history of density and its definitions shall be illustrated based on the Romanian case, with parallels drawn with other former socialist countries where information is available.

Having this history in mind and looking at the contemporary phenomena that affect towns, one must look for ways to re-evaluate density. The presentation shall attempt to investigate the directions needed to devise an instrumental definition of density that is relevant to post-socialist towns.



*Miruna Stroe is teaching assistant in the History and Theory of Architecture and Heritage Conservation Department of the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest. In 2012 she has defended the thesis “Housing – between design and political decision. Romania, 1954-1966.” Her major fields of interest are architectural theory, post-war architecture in Romania and Eastern Europe, as well as the nature of urban housing.*

# Finders, keepers. A third landscape for a third generation city

ANNA-LIISA UNT

Fallow, ephemeral urban green spaces are featured all over the globe, but the essence of all these places is different, depending on the reasons for their interim status. The vacant lots of former Soviet cities are the result of a series of events, decisions, chances and statements – suddenly they became abandoned and were left for anyone to claim.

Some of these places have still maintained their provisional status. Over more than 20 years they have become hardy islands of “something else” among the other, more normal and everyday urban patterns and processes. These places can be seen as the third landscape: space that is suspended and in reserve and where action occurs with, not against its internal order. The nature of this third landscape differs from the conventional image of urban green space that tends to be overly controlled and manicured. The loose character of the third landscape corresponds to the reasoning of the third generation city where processes follow the logic of nature and the harmonic interrelationships between man and his environment. In this light, the unregulated character of ephemeral spaces appears as the

flagship of a contemporary and responsible city. But...

To illustrate these terms, sections of the waterfront of Tallinn, Estonia, will be approached as a lively example of a third generation city's third landscape. Nevertheless, a majority of the post-industrial waterfront is considered as untidy and offensive in public opinion. The collective memory of citizens that have a direct Soviet experience refuse to recognise the unregulated features as an asset. The current young decision makers' generation with little or no direct knowledge of the Occupation is bringing along a significant shift in paradigm.



*Anna-Liisa Unt is a practicing landscape architect, a teacher and a PhD candidate at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, department of Landscape Architecture. Her thesis concentrates on the ruderal features of urban landscapes: their porosity, looseness, resistance and receptivity to manipulation refer to unregulated space as a healthy and honest type of space.*





# The systemic transition in the production of built environments in socialist and post-socialist cities of Poland. A Geelsian approach

ALEKSANDRA ZAREK

The fall of communism and the following complicated transitory mechanisms entailed significant changes in the political systems across Central and Eastern European countries, including Poland. During the socialist regime, the ideological ideas of the system could be observed not only in the political, economic or social organization of the society, but also in the appearance of built environments in the cities of the time, especially in the case of housing. Besides the visual expression and imagery of architecture, the communist concepts also shaped the manners of building production, ownership, and patterns of occupation and property rights. Therefore, the processes of privatisation, implementations of capitalist investments and rapid globalisation considerably affected urban landscapes of Polish post-socialist cities.

The presentation investigates how the systemic changes in the production, perception and occupancy of built environments in Polish cities, with a particular focus on housing, could be theoretically explained using the conceptual framework on technological transitions defined by Frank W. Geels. Geels views technologies as heterogeneous configurations of societal and technological elements that fulfil their prescribed yet changing and interconnected functions. Thus, technological transitions are seen as

evolutionary reconfiguration processes of these sets of components. Moreover, Geels proposes an integrative multi-level perspective on these transitions. This consists of three levels: technological 'niches' as platforms for innovation, 'regimes' as sets of niches and finally sociotechnical 'landscapes' – a structural context for the interaction of niches, regimes and other actors. This theoretical framework provides a holistic and multi-level perspective for understanding the changes affecting the built environment in post-socialist cities.

Using the above framework, this presentation will show how the changes in built environments in Polish cities before and after the collapse of communism have been part of structural processes of evolutionary reconfiguration from one sociotechnical network to another, entailing substitution of various technological and societal elements.



*Aleksandra Zarek is a final year Master's student of Architecture at the Tampere University of Technology, Finland. Zarek completed her Bachelor architectural studies at the University of Sheffield, UK, in 2011. In between her studies she worked at architectural practices in Berlin, Lisbon and Bydgoszcz, Poland.*

# OSTER SESSION

## Between bogs and villas. The ruins of socialism and capitalism in Pääsküla

ANDRA AALOE

This is a historical ethnography of a seemingly unremarkable site wedged between forest bogs and single-family houses in Tallinn's district of Pääsküla. The birth, freezing and afterlife of the double-site is characteristic to the era of transition from socialism to free market capitalism.

The site under investigation is a former Estonian Consumer Cooperatives Republican Union's central base. In the melting economical climate of the 1980ies, an extension for the area was to be developed, including building a new central freezer and packaging storage. Construction works were halted with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the development continued in the new value system of free market capitalism. The packaging storage was put into the first hypermarket in the Baltics, "Tihniku Maksimarket", that pulled in visitors from all over the Baltics and Finland. The construction of the freezer was frozen and the half-built skeleton of a building functioned as a load-bearing wall to a giant roof that covered part of the vast scrap metal yard and metal processing centre of the early 90ies.

Scraping and selling the remains of Soviet Estonia (metal) and building the first hypermarket that started the first shopping-boom in Estonia, were the first mimicries of the new future using

the assets of the bygone system. When the assets were exhausted, the activity ceased. Currently the double-site is in partial desolation: The former hypermarket turned into an electronics outlet store and the Dom-Ino-like structure of the freezer is crumbling under the oncoming nature.

The negligence of the double-site is carrying the memory loss of the collective shock of transition times. Thus celebrating the site as le lieu de memoire, the officially recognised monument for the opportunists/survivors/losers of the turbulent adolescence of a nation takes us back to the dreams and failures of the people of the era, lives that are currently not written into the success story of a tiny Post-Soviet nation.



*Andra Aaloe is a freelance urbanist, artist, idealist from Tallinn, Estonia. She obtained her BA in Fine Arts in the Estonian Academy of Arts, currently moving towards finishing her master studies in Urban Studies. She has been actively involved in Tallinn's independent culture scene (running the Ptarmigan project space, Tiib Gallery) and is collaborating with several other art and urban initiatives of Tallinn.*



## Post-socialist brownfields. Different scale, different options

ALENA BINDZÁROVÁ

The paper on brownfields is trying to approximate a focal point from several sides, taking into consideration three differently sized towns in Slovakia. This country has passed complicated political, economical and ideological stages – as well as many Central and Eastern European countries – since 1945. Long years of planned economy and then the rise of democracy in the field of business and of private ownership led towns and enterprises to collapse. This has sort of been a trend in most Slovak towns. Hectares of derelict industrial, traffic, military and even cultural and dwelling areas became vacant or underused. A typical town that grew strong and big during the era of socialism and communism was a small one (or even a bigger village) before the plans of the government decided to create a site of local centers in the country. Many cities – already with the historical background or not – were established nearby rivers and mountains, others benefited from the planar environment. We could also compare the development process of towns taking into consideration the former use of brownfields. But the interesting factor that can be traced is the process, the dynamics. On the example of three towns – Veľký Krtíš, Banská Bystrica and Bratislava – the paper is

supposed to show how something on the rise got in the stop point and how it copes with the situation when being left alone. Furthermore, each one represents more or less a set of towns. The small ones with about 10 to 20 thousands of inhabitants that are “close to extinction”, the middle ones which are – in some way – stabilised or slightly decreasing / increasing in the field of production and urban life. And finally the unstoppably growing cities with suburbs and commuters, huge industrial grounds with a dead past laid inside the living system and with a traditional historical core in the middle.



*Alena Bindzárová is a PhD student at the Faculty of Architecture, Slovak Technical University in Bratislava since September 2013 and focusses on the issue of brownfields, searching for the appropriate viewpoint and approach. In April 2014, she will present a paper on the problem of defining and perceiving the word brownfield at the Water and City – Brownfield conference with the support of the International Visegrad Fund, taking place in Bratislava.*

# The transformation of the social housing sector after the change of regime in Hungary, especially in Pécs

TIBOR ZOLTÁN DÁNYI

Dramatic changes started to take place in the social housing market in the 1990s in Eastern Europe. Since then, in Hungary, the proportion of state-owned dwellings has decreased from 22.7% to 3%. In contrast, the same proportion in Western Europe in 2012 was 13.8% (Alice Pittini, Elsa Laino: Housing Europe Review 2012). In Hungary, the state's burden is recovered by the sale of most housing owned by the local governments. On the other hand, the situation has not become easier for local authorities because of the low quality of homes remaining. The tenants purchased the high quality flats at a higher rate than the low quality ones. The lower quality homes typically have remained under slum-like circumstances. This does not exclude the risk of developing segregation. Rental rates are very low in the social housing market in Hungary. In Györgytelep, Pécs, the monthly rent of a 28-square-meter apartment with no comfort is 2.000 Ft. The investors, confronted with such low rates, of course, do not take part in satisfying the demand for social housing. That is one reason why the city has been looking for a solution to rehabilitate the segregated district for decades – unfortunately, until now, with not much success. The financial situation of Pécs

does not allow for the construction of new housing to replace the low level of buildings. According to the latest data of the Bureau of Statistics, the population of Pécs has dropped significantly in the last decade: What is primarily needed is the transformation of existing housing, rather than the construction of new homes. This can be achieved by joining the neighbouring apartments in Györgytelep, modernising architectural physical features, and lowering maintenance costs. This talk will elaborate on the opportunities inherent in the tight cooperation between the Faculty of Engineering of Pécs University and the city officials.



*Tibor Zoltán Dányi is a PhD student. He began his architecture studies in 2006 at the University of Pécs, Hungary. He became interested in social architecture during his undergraduate academic education. The doctoral school's professors and his fellow students founded the Research Group for Solidarity in Architecture in 2013. Finding solutions to the problems of social housing represents a core field of their research.*



## UNESCO and Tallinn Old Town. Acting at a distance

MARIA DERLÕŠ

Both tourists and locals take UNESCO's tag on the Old Town of Tallinn as a self-evident fact without really giving a thought about its influence on the city and heritage management processes. UNESCO's presence in local decision-making is not really comprehended or considered. The common perception sees it as a peace-promoting organisation that promotes equal education rights and preservation of world heritage sites. In reality, the inscription into the World Heritage List involves establishment of different obligations and restrictions and that have direct influence not only exclusively on the heritage site itself, but also have an impact on the management of the surrounding area as well and the city in general. Although, UNESCO as a global international organisation acts at distance, it still has a consistent and long-reaching effect on the local planning development.

The work concludes that there is more to UNESCO than meets the eye. It is not only a cultural organisation that promotes world peace; it is also a powerful marketing tool. Therefore when it comes to the inscription of some site into World Heritage List it is never only the question of heritage acknowledgment, it is also a conscious political and economic decision.

Once a site is inscribed into UNESCO, tourism industry and other business starts to take advantage of it which could then lead to the

deterioration of the historical site and its surroundings. UNESCO triggers and fuels many contradictory issues in the Old Town of Tallinn. The juxtaposition of public and private use, the locals and tourist's needs, commerce and residential functions.

The following research work brings into focus the relationship between the actors behind Tallinn Old Town management and the international organisation of UNESCO. The main goal is to illuminate and analyse important problematic topics of the specific historical urban context that arise from this collaboration. Although the problems grasp city planning aspects that greatly affect the state of the heritage site itself, its surrounding landscape and the living environment of people, the importance of dealing and solving them are often underestimated, ignored and under-discussed.



*Maria Derlõš holds a Bachelor Degree in Landscape Architecture of Estonian University of Life Sciences. Right now she is enrolled as a Master student of Urban Studies in Estonian Academy of Arts. She is also an active member of Linnalabor (Estonian Urban Lab) in which she currently deals with a community building initiative in a post socialist environment of Lasnamäe district in Tallinn.*

# New forms of ownership in large scale housing estates. User control theoretical framework and design research. The case of Riga's microrayons

ALEKSANDRS FELTINS

This is a design research project — a study of the unknown object in a given context. It came to light in Delft University of Technology as a Master thesis at Faculty of Architecture, as a graduation project at the Urbanism Department. The study addresses large scale housing estates focusing on Riga; commonly known as microrayon.

It is now possible to see emerging forms of the ownership in the microrayon: the signs are new fences, retrofitted facades, blocked paths and new housing typologies. As we can see, the transformations of the built environment tell us something about the emerging forms of the ownership. It is hard to predict exactly where the new forms of ownership will emerge but we can study the possibilities. This is the core difference of the chosen methodology in comparison to (empirical or historical) research.

The main research question and the objective of the study are: "Are there conditions for the ownership in large-scale housing estates and what form can they take?"

The theoretical framework of user control can be explained in relation to the users and the built environment. According to Lynch, user control is "the degree to which the use and access to spaces and activities (...) are controlled by those who use, work, or reside in them."

Commonly we associate control with ownership. However, it is neither permanent nor total. There are five spatial rights: right of presence, right of use and action, right of appropriation, right of modification, right of disposition. It's a fact that these rights are separable, thus making control a variable with a wide range of resultant qualities. Thus, from the user control perspective, ownership has a variable value.

Possible application in research and design study, on the one hand, is understanding the current form of the ownership in two microrayons in Riga; and second, a design study which defines possible ways of emerging forms of ownership.



*Aleksandrs Feltins is an urbanist and architect from Latvia. He studied Urbanism at the Delft University of Technology in 2013, where he received a Master's degree with distinction at the Faculty of Architecture. His Master thesis "Research on How to Diversify Microrayon" is a research and design methodology, aiming to accumulate understanding of the reality and possibilities of post-socialist living environment. Currently he is working for the Riga City Council's Agency "Office of the Riga City Architect" as a project manager.*



## Phenomenon of mass housing in Slovakia

KAROL GÖRNER

We can find the examples of mass housing in the whole Europe. While in Western Europe it primarily was a kind of social housing, in Slovakia about a half of the population of all social classes lives in such housing estates. Since the beginning, housing estates have been connected with problems. It is due to misconceptions of the former urban planning based on the principles of the Athens Charter and the fact that housing estates were not finished according to the plans. Only the priorities, housing and basic amenities were realised. After 1989, the situation did not change. Master plans with their scale and methodology failed in regulation of new investments. Investors focused on “safe” investments in housing and the areas intended for amenities and urban greenery disappeared. The higher and middle strata of the population began to leave an unattractive environment, so the threat of social segregation occurred. Settlements today face many problems – they miss a main urban structure (skeleton), traditional patterns of squares and streets, public, semi-public and private spaces, functional complexity and diversity of types of residential buildings. There is a lack of parking places, an

insufficient quality and maintenance of urban greenery, playgrounds, roads and housing itself. We still have an opportunity to develop a new strategic conception to perfect the remaining parts of housing estates and to avoid uncontrolled densification. Our research focuses on the establishing of principles and methods of intensification of housing estates depending on the time of their creation, the nature of their urban structures and their location in the body of the city. We are searching for appropriate areas for densification according to the principles of the compact city and we are establishing areas where one should not build.



*In 2013, Karol Görner graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava in the field of Architecture and Urban Planning. Currently, he is a doctoral student at the Institute of Urban Planning and Land-Use Planning at FA STU. His doctoral thesis deals with the intensification of residential complexes, led by Ľubica Vitková, Doctor in Architectural Engineering.*

# Control and nationalism in post-socialist urban spaces. Sarajevo's BBI centre

KRISTEN HARTMANN

This research examines how privatization and transnational capital flows affect the multicultural, post-conflict urban fabric of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Specifically, it will investigate the consequences of the privatization of Sarajevo's central commercial centre – the 'Sarajka' department store – and the construction of a luxury shopping centre in its place. Occupying one of the main city squares, Sarajevo's Unima or 'Sarajka' department store became a fixture of the urban landscape. After the Siege of Sarajevo, however, it closed its doors and stood abandoned for over a decade. In 2003, Bosna Bank International (BBI) – an investment bank founded by the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia, the Dubai Islamic Bank, and the Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank – bought the 'Sarajka' department store, and between 2006 and 2009, they constructed a new luxury shopping centre in its place. This new development, the BBI Centre, an investment estimated at over € 35 million, began operations in April 2009. As a whole, the project has been touted as an example of successful foreign investment in BiH, but the development of the BBI Centre has also been controversial. Once a truly secular public space, all activities in the BBI Centre and on the square that it occupies are scrutinized and strictly controlled. Additionally, the building serves as a

vehicle for transnational identity formation. As a development project conceived of and realized by investors from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the BBI Centre operates under shari'ah law. No alcohol or pork may be sold or consumed on the premises, and gambling is forbidden within the building and on the square. Thus, the BBI Centre can be seen as a manifestation of the transnational ummah in Sarajevo's urban landscape, organizing solidarities within Bosnia and Herzegovina's fragmented, yet still multicultural, urban fabric.



*Kristen Hartmann is an MPhil Candidate at the University College London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Her research investigates how interventions in post-conflict urban environments affect peace building in plural societies. Specifically, she is analysing the impact of new sacred and secular Islamic building constructions on the plural social fabric of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Her research will examine ideas of transnational identity formation and capital flows from countries in the Islamic world and the negotiations and contestations surrounding such new architectural constructions.*





## Post-soviet utopia

MIGLE MELANIE KUNDROT

The post-Soviet Baltics are in desperate search for new identities. A reorientation to western societies followed the fall of the Soviet empire. In parallel, this resulted in an adoption of increasingly neo-liberal regimes of governance, which came under challenge only recently as a by-product of the financial crisis. Focusing on the built environment of Baltic capital cities like Tallinn, these developments can be examined in a very concrete way. The objectiveless manner in which, for instance, Linnahall remains, can be read as a symptom for the overall difficulties of the country. In the new, increasingly neo-liberalising city of Tallinn with its shopping centres, there is neither room nor money for maintaining a public space like this. It is a politically overloaded monument of a passed time and at the same time it represents a contrary concept of public space: free of consumption and accessible for everyone. How to deal with this built heritage? This question can be answered only if we know how our future should look like – in architecture as well as in society itself.

Whereas looking at the global future, it seems hopelessly dystopian nowadays, due to the lack of an overall vision of how we could solve occurrent problems. The apocalypse keeps waiting if we fail to rescue the world. But actual alternative global tendencies are also showing, that a better, more sustainable life is possible. Start-ups believe in sharing systems, protesters

are challenging capitalism and communities are living an alternative way of life.

Those examples illustrate an alternative, visionary future based on common sense instead of interest-driven investment. Common sense needs a common ground – in a digitalised world more than ever. The future of Linnahall could be developed by a visionary future society based on its apparently gloomy past. Comparing current visions towards a better future with the ideas behind the initial concept of Linnahall reveals some analogies. Society manifests itself in the built environment. To design our future within Linnahall's history, imagine our aims and define the public space needed in a post sovjet utopia, is the challenge of my final diploma project.



*Before studying architecture and urban planning at the Stuttgart University, Migle Melanie Kundrot worked for Deutsche Bank from 2005–2007. Born in 1985 in Lithuania, he emigrated to Germany in 1989. In 2010, he studied in Vilnius and worked in 2012 for the magazine ARCH+ and the architecture office june 14 Meyer-Grohbruegge & Chermayeff. Through workshops in Tanzania, Moscow and Cairo Migle Melanie Kundrot's growing interest lies in the built environment with its historical and social background.*

# The imaginary spaces of socialist housing estates in Tallinn

PILLE KOPPEL

The poster focuses on representation of panel housing estates in Tallinn, Estonia as unique milieus. The socialist housing estates Mustamäe, Lasnamäe and Väike-Õismäe are studied throughout their forty years of cinematic representations. The work aims to expand the way we see panel housing estates and our understanding of the term “milieu” by approaching the imaginary side of these areas in Tallinn.

The work has been inspired by a milieu discourse in the context of Estonian building regulation and Tallinn urban planning that concentrates on spatial part of milieu, leaving out other aspects such as the human factor in the environment. Therefore, the poster presents a visual study of the cinematic depiction of Mustamäe, Lasnamäe and Väike-Õismäe in twelve movies, which have made between the years 1968 and 2013, to prove that there is a complex of aspects that form a milieu, using the example of panel housing estates.

In the poster, those imaginary spaces of Tallinn's housing estates are stripped of their narrative movement. The sequences of still images is suggesting how the environment of panel housing, people and their activities situated in this specific environment are used and represented

in movies. Analysing the screenshots it appears that the images could be categorised into certain groups and on the poster images are arranged into a regular grid according to the categories.

Those cinematic depictions are showing milieus of panel housing estates in many aspects. The images provide the opportunity to trace human experience of the environment of panel housing estates; its changes and the most commonly represented situations from these areas.



*Pille Koppel is currently a second year Master's degree student of Urban Studies at the Estonian Academy of Arts. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Architecture from the TTK University of Applied Sciences of Tallinn from 2012, while she was also studying at the Brno University of Technology. Having taken up the path of becoming a professional architect, she has practiced architectural design and urban planning in offices in Tallinn and Ljubljana, which have greatly widened her perspectives of urban processes. Pille is most intrigued in the architectural world and she hopes to improve the dialogue about architectural design and urban issues.*



## Reactivating former Pääsküla landfill

MARTIN LEPPLAAN

Infrastructure's, as a man-made landscape's, expansive impact on ecosystems is more and more publicly acknowledged. For sustainable functioning, blending with surrounding environment and to be accepted, it is important for infrastructure to enhance existing landscape's value.

The solution could be a hybrid landscape that is created by connecting ecological processes, infrastructure and social needs of community. By combining different functions, forms a landscape that is delicately integrated with existing biomatrix, operating as an infrastructure, carrying out technical and ecological tasks and at the same time functioning as public space that has re-creative nature.

The project tries to find functions for former landfill in Pääsküla - the largest landfill in Estonia from 1970s until its sealing in 2007. These new functions would together operate as self-sufficient symbiosis and would create a self-managing and sustainable complex. Activities situated in this territory are based on production circulation method – it means that output produced on territory is possible to re-use and applied on site. Following principles of “cradle to grave” it is possible for material to change its shape, substance and thereby be consumed in many further uses and finally could

end up as fertiliser for new life cycle.

Dealing with constant ecological and social changes, it is important to understand the significance of time-line and process that affect concepts of time-space values in design stadium. As a result, the Pääsküla former landfill re-activating process is divided into stages through 50 years. Strategies have been developed that attempt to make ecological processes operational in design, harnessing natural phenomena such as erosion, succession, or water cycles in the generation of landscape.

The result will be a synthetic, integrative nature, simultaneously wild and cultivated, emergent and engineered. In this way, the plan seeks to change how we experience reclaimed landscapes in the city and demonstrate new potentials for closed landfills and other post-industrial sites around the world.



*Martin Lepplaan holds a BA in Architecture from Tallinn University of Applied Sciences, MA in Landscape Architecture from Estonian Academy of Arts. At the moment he is working as an architect at ConArte design office, dealing mostly with public-use buildings.*

# Interpreting the void. Post-socialist urban planning after monument removal

RAINA LILLEPÖLD

Every major city in the world has its monuments. The idea of having a memorial to somebody's honour is as old as the idea of urbanity itself. Post-Soviet countries have had the layers of monuments placed more thickly than anywhere else. These layers in addition to physical manifestations have also been places of national memory.

The French historian Pierre Nora has claimed that sites of memory (*lieu de mémoire*) have a purpose: To stop the time and to keep us remembering as these sites are places where (cultural) memory crystallizes and secretes itself. So what happens to an urban site when its monument is removed and the symbolic meaning and memory were removed with it?

Estonians have been keen to re-interpret the sites of former Soviet monuments in many different ways. How the void that was created by the removal of symbolic Soviet statues has been interpreted since, was the main question of my study about post-socialist urban planning regarding the sites where these monuments once stood. During the Soviet occupation all over Estonia, our memorial places were redefined by removing or destroying the old Republican monuments and the town centres had numerous Stalin, Lenin or other communist monuments erected instead.

After the newly gained independence in 1991, these monument sites have been transformed. Some of these sites were redesigned as if nothing has ever been there before, the Balti Railway Station Park being an example. Some sites were designed with a new layout and setting of new urban axis (Tartu), some places still seem undefined since many of these sites were originally designed with a certain monument in mind. For example, in Tallinn, the urban landscape (streets and buildings) was designed according to Lenin monuments previously placed in Rävala Avenue.



*Raina Lillepöld Gaydon is currently studying at 2-year Master's program of Urban Studies in Estonian Academy of Arts. She has BA in Interior Architecture and Furniture Design from same university. She has made urban planning projects such as designing the central square of former Art Academy building (in co-operation with L. Kivimägi and H. Lindberg) as well as taking part of TAB 2013: Recycling Socialism workshop, where she in co-operation with P. Koppel compiled a basic study of TOP (Tallinn's Olympic Yachting Centre). She has been working in marketing communication, real-estate as well as currently being freelance interior architect.*

# Residential architecture built in precast systems. A concept of forming landscape in Belgrade in the second half of the twentieth century



DRAGANA MECANOV

In the post World War II period, mass housing has been developing in Belgrade. According to sources, in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in Yugoslavia, there have been developed 22 different prefabricated construction systems, and with variations more than 30.

Conceptually, as opposed to the traditional, all industrialized systems, can be divided into complete and partial prefabrication systems. Depending on the technology of their assembly and construction on the site, the process of preparatory work has meant organization of site in a specific way. This site organization has influenced the positioning of the residential buildings in residential complexes and blocks which can be found now within the Belgrade urban matrix.

In one part of the paper, the most characteristic prefabricated industrialized construction systems are presented, in terms of construction, assembly and review to the extent in which they affect the disposition of urban residential buildings on the city block level. Based on the research of several characteristic residential complexes in Belgrade, in modernistic blocks, suburbia settlements, and several apartment complexes in the extended Belgrade urban central zone, the paper provides a few conclusions and analyses the possible similarities in terms of their urbanistic disposition.

Along with that, this paper connects systems of prefabrication and the manner of their imple-

mentation, and defines potential concepts for forming dispositions of city blocks in Belgrade, developed during the second half of the twentieth century.

In addition, the paper gives a proposal typology of such conceived and executed city blocks. Possible directions for further research are numerous – Whether it is possible to connect the systems of prefabrication and certain areas of housing projects with the social segregation of their tenants. Or whether a particular type of settlement and certain social group may be connected to the specific prefabricated building systems.

At the time of their creation, prefabricated settlements were the pinnacle of technology and they represent the current social development. Today, among other things, they are architectural heritage and a cultural resource worth to research and study.



*Dragana Mekanov (1980) was educated at the Architectural Faculty, University in Belgrade. She has graduated in 2003 finished her postgraduate studies in the field of preservation of modernistic heritage in 2006. She works as an architect with ten years of experience in the fields of design, contracting, engineering, supervision, and energy efficiency. Currently, she works on her PhD thesis in the fields of residential architecture and history as well as technologies in the period of modernism.*

# Industrial streetspace. Street focused planning in Kroodi industrial area

KERSTI MILLER

This Master's thesis started out from an interest towards a city called Maardu. It is a place where different industries were set aside from Tallinn without taking care of the space where people worked. Author declares that industrial space should be more human friendly than they are at the moment. Space where people work should be equally focused on both in city centres and in industrial areas.

The Master's thesis is about generating guidelines for creating civil street space in the historical area of Kroodi. Along with combining historical buildings with new ones author has also created three street types, which are retail, boulevard and industrial. In the proposal, originated from the Symbiotic scenario, author sees an opportunity to have cooperation between existing industry and high-technological manufacturing.

In order to use the potential from this location author believes it to be wise not only to continue with existing industries (such as car selling, producing building materials and paints, waste management and liquid fuel transport) but also to add science-based fields of operation. The new identity of Kroodi area could be made out of combining traditional and new industries, a symbiotic identity.



*Kersti Miller is a Master's student in the Architecture and urban planning department of Estonian Academy of Arts. As an exchange student she has also studied in Stockholm, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Sustainable Design Studio.*



## My notebook from 2043. A fragmented study on the possible outcomes of the community movement in the estonian context

JOHANNA RANNULA

“My notebook” is a one semester project that was created during a studio-course “Scenario Planning Project” under the guidance of Maroš Krivy and Toomas Adrikorn. The assignment focused on the Tallinn Old Town bastion belt the investigation of which started already in the previous semester. The aim was to use the method of scenario planning to find various future outcomes for one specific locality by analysing the social, political and economic forces that influence the urban canvas.

The work concentrates on the surroundings of Aia street. The changes of this area are mapped in thoghout three decades in different scales (local-global) and different themes (communities, economy, Old Town, Kaubahall shop etc). Author took the role of a fiction writer and created a story by analysing tens, maybe hundreds of linkages and connections, and finally put them into a logical web. As writers do, the author didn't want to reveal core ideas right away, so she only stated them, so to say, between the lines. Like most stories, the tale of Aia street area balances on the verge of reality and fantasy,

sometimes leaning on one and sometimes on the other side. But altogether, it turns into an utopia. In addition to the measure of a story-like narration, the author used another method of expression – it is weaved into her own diary that has been compiled from a few dozen cut-outs from newspapers, internet, books etc. Each of these have their own voice and perspective.. Author have been collecting these fragments of information and put them into this diary throughout many years, one after another. And now it is the year 2043. But the clock keeps ticking and the story will not end.



*Johanna Rannula is a Urban Studies Master's degree student at the Estonian Academy of Arts but is currently an exchange student in St. Petersburg. She gained her first degree in Liberal Art and Sciences in Maastricht University College including a semester in Waseda University, Tokyo. She takes interest in the re-use of old industrial heritage and urban communities.*

## The beach. Opening lake Ülemiste for the public

EVELIN REIMAND

The biggest lake in Northern Estonia, Lake Ülemiste, located Tallinn has been inaccessible for people for decades since it serves as a water reservoir for the city. Belief that opening the lakeside for public use would contaminate the water is strongly rooted in the people's consciousness. At the same time, ironically, the lake is situated in such close proximity to the city's airport and big transportation nodes that taking the area into recreational use wouldn't actually cause drastic changes in the existing level of pollution. Observations have showed that the landscape of the lake is already in quite active use - people go there despite the forbidding signs and fences. Therefore, there seems to be no strong arguments against opening up the lake for public use while combining the two – existing function of drinking water production

and recreational use. Lake Ülemiste has great potential to turn from a physical border and divider into a uniting landscape element. Opening up the lake and its activation could also improve ecological situation of the eutrophic water body and return the lake into the public consciousness as a prominent and exiting landscape.



*In 2009 Evelin Reimand graduated Estonian University of Life Sciences with Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. In 2011 obtained Master's degree of Estonian Academy of Arts in Urban Landscapes. At the moment she is working as an exposition curator at the Estonian Museum of Natural History and collecting material for the upcoming master thesis in Urban Studies.*





# Central heating station's landscape architectural transformation in Tartu

HENN RUNNEL

The location of former central heating station forms a node connecting different major urban elements that shapes the identity of different urban districts. The opening the riverside area, that has been fenced off for the last fifty years, hides a potential of reconfiguring the public urban space of the entire city. The project is about the intermediate phase between old and future uses offering step-by-step transformation plan through landscape architectural means.

The spatial layout of the plot has been derived from the logic of (industrial) process. The similar idea of “form follows process” will be used for the intermediate phase, where the industrial use is reduced and the “park functions” increased during few years, step-by-step. The project aims to re-use the strategic potential of the location, re-work the current structures, emphasize the hidden importance of the “ugly” infrastructure.

Each following stage of the project is of more temporary character and therefore established increasingly robustly. First stage of the “park-function” will re-use the railway line, which opens a major new axis of public urban space along the riverbank in the centre of Tartu. In this and each of the following stages the redesign of former industrial structures will be done using minimal means by cutting, deconstructing and only adding basic “park-elements.”

Second stage will use the rest of the outdoors of the project area. The main aim in this phase is

to make the area more esthetical and remediate the not-so-good connotations residents have. Also, concept of “productive landscape” will be used through 1) establishing a local nursery for the future development; 2) cleaning the polluted soil through landfarming and phytoremediation and 3) slowly and inexpensively deconstructing some of the former elements (i.e. asphalt through crack garden).

In third stage the indoors of the boiler house itself will be added to the outdoors through removing the walls. A spatial atmosphere calls for several big events (raves, concerts, etc). Valuable elements from the intermediate phase will be re-used in the following redevelopment phase.



*Henn Runnel is a landscape architect in Kino Landscape Architects since 2010 after earning his master's degree in Estonian Art Academy. His most essential projects include urban squares in front of Tartu's railway station and The Finance Ministry in Tallinn and developing the park project of The Estonian National Museum.*

*In addition to projects Henn has given lectures in contemporary landscape architecture in the Academy and is a GIS-specialist in Estonian University of Life Sciences. While not working he is most probably spending time with his three kids, heating smoke sauna or growing tomatoes in his veranda. Check out Henn's digital portfolio at [www.henn.runnel.ee](http://www.henn.runnel.ee).*

# Bratislava as a post-socialist metropolis

VLADIMÍR ŠIMKOVIČ

If we understand Bratislava according to the intention of the conference as a demonstration of the post-socialist city, its development can actually be divided into the mentioned phases with the addition of local characteristics. First phase is the natural (pre-socialist) development of the city until around 1948 with a population of about 150.000 (1946). Ideal state, still studied on historical postcards (Facebook: Slovensko na historických fotografiách). Second phase is the socialist stage of rapid growth in population of about 400.000 (1989, an increase of 270%), living mainly in panel housing estates on the outskirts of the historical part. The deflection of the pendulum of history on the one hand – the disintegration of the traditional city (Google search “petržalka paneláky”). Third, political change (1989) with the opportunity to reconsider previous development remains unused, socialist urban planning methodology was not changed more essentially. Fourth, post-socialist phase (after 1989), characterised by a change in ownership of land, practically absence/collapse of public investment and public transport, rapid development of unrestrained construction of oversized developer scales, aimed to maximise profit. Disappearance poorly maintained houses, residents protest against excessive new construction, especially in contact with the historical town. The deflection of the pendulum of history to the other side. The final stage can be named “Questions remains”; a Czech philosopher and dissident Egon Bondy moved to Bratislava at

the end of his life and his reflections on the city were pessimistic. Will the town return into his natural historic boundaries? Until that happens, will the nice buildings of the past period remain untouched or will they be gone forever? Is it possible to integrate all past large-scale mistakes to a new meaningful whole or has it all crumbled now? Or is the new synthesis already impossible, leaving only fragments of the environment in urban/regional porridge without a deeper sense?

Maybe it is still not too late to deepen this reflection and the use of new methods to approach planning which is experiencing Prague, for example. Perhaps a deeper understanding of the causes will tell us more about ourselves as well as the possible basis for creation of a better and more stable world.



*Ass. Prof. Ing. arch. Vladimír Šimkovič, PhD is working as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture Slovak Technical University Bratislava since 2003. He was born in 1953 in Bratislava, received his Architectural Engineer degree at the FA STU Bratislava in 1977, active at the Stavoprojekt Bratislava and an authorised architect of the Slovak Chamber of Architects from 1991-1997. In 1997, he started his career at FA STU Bratislava.*

# Kostivere landscapes.

## The new identity of a former sovkhos central settlement



KARIN TÕUGU

A great part of Estonian cultural landscape has been formed by farming in kolkhoz and sovkhos system during the Soviet times in 1940s–80s. The collectivisation of farming created huge fields and new type of countryside settlements. The new way of living was in a central urban-like settlement with block housing and big industrial buildings. Large scale collective farming has created a clearly distinctive layer in the landscape with its massive structure that stands out from the traditional image of rural landscape. Nowadays the socialist landscape has been transformed by post-modern disunity, hasty variation of functions and search for new identity of the typical settlements.

This thesis is being engaged in a typical soviet farm settlement – Kostivere, a small (sub)urban settlement laying 22 km from Tallinn. During the past 20 years the typical agricultural centre has gone through a change from being the centre of an economical unit to a hinterlands satellite suburb of Tallinn. Therefore one of the most important questions about Kostivere is – what is the new definition of local identity?

The main characteristic of Kostivere is the typical central settlement structure. In addition, the site has its own distinguished richness in nature, landscape and history which creates a multi layered background for the urban settlement and is the starting point for creating new landscape identity. The dominant landscape influence is the river with its unique natural conditions. The other relevant feature is the road passing through the middle. These two elements create the central axis of Kostivere and are related to

the spatial and social structure of the town. The river as a whole represents the slow space axis and the road as the centre of public functions represents the active social axes.

The proposal is to develop a new landscape identity, which is based on the existing structure and the character of the surrounding nature. The aim of the project is to strengthen and develop the existing landscape features by defining them and adding new functions. The handling of the delicate region with landscape protection and cultural heritage areas consists of a large scale concept of connections, different usages and some localized architectural interventions.



*Karin Tõugu has graduated architecture and urban planning in Estonian Academy of Arts in 2010 and has also studied in Oslo School of Architecture and Design. She is one of the founding members of b210 architecture office. With the b210 collective Karin has been involved in the urban installation Ping Pong – Friendly Match that was presented in the annual exhibition of the Estonian Architects Union and Tallinn Planning Guide that explains the local planning system to the citizens. She has given lectures and workshops in the Estonian Academy of Arts and in the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Together with b210 she has won awards at architecture competitions for the Anne Youth Centre in Tartu, Viljandi Singing Festival Grounds, and the design of Seminari Street in Rakvere etc. In 2013 she was one of the curators of the Tallinn Architecture Biennale with the topic Recycling Socialism.*

# Kindergartens and cultural values. Soviet educational infrastructure under new conditions

MARIA A. USTINOVA

By the age of 3, children in Russia still enter the same aesthetic and spatial environments of pre-school educational centers as their parents and grandparents did many years prior. An outdated typology of kindergarten buildings, the labyrinths of the corridors, formal and uniform playrooms focused on frontal forms of tuition, group bedrooms and halls dividing children according to age, restricted mobility and of communication within the building – all these patterns of the socialist educational space have a strong influence on the learning abilities and behavior of the children. The spatial organization of an educational institution shapes the teaching practice, the interaction between adult and child, as well as a transfer of cultural norms. Modern concepts in pedagogy and architectural design call for flexible open learning environments, orientation towards the child's needs and on focus on multi age group communication. This article observes several attempts to introduce new international experiences of kindergarten design to various Russian cities and it aims to discuss the importance of space and architecture in early childhood development systems in Russia. Specifically, it analyses how the current spatial education infrastructure can be adapted to the requirements of a modern

urban culture. What are the main reasons for scepticism and conservatism expressed by the architectural and urban planning community which mostly grew up and were taught in Soviet times? How can the existing construction regulations be adjusted in order to accommodate the international experience into Russian practice and what are the main barriers in the regulatory sphere? How can the educators be taught to work in these new learning environments? What does a “good kindergarten” mean to both parents and the city mayors?



*Maria A. Ustinova holds a dual Master degree in International Cooperation and Urban Development from Technical University of Darmstadt (Germany) and University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy). Since 2010 she has been working as a consultant for the various international development organisations dealing with the projects in the area of transport, migration and education. In 2012 she has joined Russian office of the World Bank, where she is involved in different projects implemented across Russian regions in the area of education and social protection.*



# The Land Value Tax (LVT) as arbiter between market mechanisms and social liability

FABIAN WENNER

In most legislations, property taxes are calculated based on the value or size of buildings rather than on the value of the land a building stands on. This has social, economic and ecological disadvantages from an urban planning point of view. Estonia is one of very few countries in Europe that pursues a different approach, established during post-socialist emergence in 1993: It uses a Land Value Tax (LVT) system, in which property tax is purely based on regularly and independently assessed land values. Theoretically, this should encourage landowners to maximise the use of their land within the scope of existing land use regulations, discourage land speculation or leaving plots idle, and in the long run contain urban sprawl. One of the most prominent advantages is, however, that increases in land value induced by a communal investment, e.g. a new road, train station, etc. do not come as windfall profits to the landowner but instead are regained for the community through automatically higher taxes, a strong form of social liability for private ownership.

Even though a LVT has been proposed at various times in different countries during the last century, only very few introduced it. Estonia thus constitutes an interesting example to investigate LVT effects after 20 years. For my Master

dissertation, I focus on the relations between Land Value Tax and sustainable urban development in Estonia, such as effects on brownfield and building gap redevelopment, but also on urban form in general.

This paper presents initial results of my research together with a general introduction in the intellectual history of the LVT, linking it with the unique conditions, it met in Estonia after the demise of socialism. It invites to see LVT as a way to link market mechanisms and social liability, a unique approach to combine the best of market-liberal and communitarian approaches.



*Fabian Wenner holds a B.Sc. in Urban Planning from TU Dortmund University, Germany, and has five years of work experience as a researcher and urban planner for the architecture firm AS&P, Frankfurt am Main. Since 2013, he is pursuing the Master's programme in Regional and Urban Planning Studies at the London School of Economics, United Kingdom. His research interest is focused on property and land economy, transportation, public administration, and comparative international and historic urbanism.*

# CONFERENCE RIPS

*Both trips start on 11<sup>th</sup> of May at 10AM.*

*Meeting point is the Writer's Union House (Harju street 1).*

## The Väike-Õismäe housing estate

Väike-Õismäe is one of Tallinn's main housing estates. It was planned in 1970s by architects Mart Port and Malle Meelak. Its symmetrical, circular shape, crowned by a central pond, is a vivid embodiment of the state socialist utopia of form. Today, critics and planners suggest that Väike-Õismäe is only a bedroom suburb and new diverse functions should be found for the place. The question of future planning of Soviet-time housing estates, however, is a hot topic that few claim to know the answer to. What are the pluses and minuses of this place? To what extent should the modernist form be blamed for the shortcoming? Is the criticism justified? What has been the role of post-socialist planning in transforming the place and its representations? During the urban walk we'll have an opportunity to observe Väike-Õismäe's characteristic spatial patterns and relate them to the social ones.

*Duration: 2h (foot, public transport)*

*Tour guide: Anu Kāgu*

## Urban landscape of restitution

The re-establishment of Estonia's political independence in 1991 was surrounded by an almost religious devotion to market reforms, 'historical justice' and the reunification of the Estonian nation. The backbone of the 'de-Sovietisation' process was the Ownership Reform Act. The act gave right to pre-war owners or their heirs to claim properties which were nationalised during the first years of the Soviet occupation. The city of Tallinn has witnessed the widest variety of moral and physical conflicts in the course of property redistribution. The tour will reveal physical and mental traces of restitution in Tallinn and shed light on the controversies embedded in the process of applying the symbolic act of 'historical justice' on the actual lived and geographical space and its inhabitants half a century later.

*Duration: 4-5h (bus)*

*Tour guide: Andra Aaloe*



## linnalabor

Urban walks are organised by NGO Linnalabor (Estonian Urban Lab). If you have any questions then don't hesitate to get in touch via [linnaretked@linnalabor.ee](mailto:linnaretked@linnalabor.ee).

# ORGANIZING TEAM

Prof. Maroš Krivy  
Head of the Chair of Urban Studies  
*maros.krivy@artun.ee*

Tauri Tuvikene  
Researcher, PhD Candidate  
University College London  
*tauri.tuvikene.10@ucl.ac.uk*

Maria Derlõs  
Conference coordinator/ Master Student  
Estonian Academy of Arts  
*maria.derlosh@gmail.com*

Evelin Reinmand  
Conference coordinator  
*ereimand@gmail.com*  
+372 52 411 56

Katrin Koov  
Head of the Chair of Landscape Architecture  
*katrin.koov@artun.ee*

Prof. Panu Lehtovuori  
Professor of Planning Theory  
Tampere University of Technology  
*panu.lehtovuori@tut.fi*

Anu Piirisild  
conference secretary  
*anu.piirisild@artun.ee*

VOLUNTEERS  
Urban Studies students of  
Estonian Academy of Arts:

*Jaak Sova*  
*Raina Lillepõld*  
*Toomas Verrev*  
*Elina Kask*  
*Kadri Lind*  
*Juro Slivka*  
*Cynthia Wagner*

POLIS students:  
*Raf Pauly*  
*Bastiaan Prickartz*  
*Georgios Chatzinakos*  
*Iskra Vuksic*  
*Jessica Cheung*  
*Mathieu Buelsen*  
*Melanija Tacconi*

Estonian Academy of Arts  
Faculty of Architecture  
Pikk 20  
10133 Tallinn  
tel. +372 642 0071  
*www.artun.ee/urban*

Conference web-page  
*www.artun.ee/uld*

[illegible]

Evelin Reimand +372 52 411 56  
Maria Derlõš +372 51 102 90  
Maros Krivy +372 55 710 75

*Conference dinner will take place in restaurant Sesoon, located on Niine 11, near the Balti Jaam train station (15 min walk from the town hall square). From the city center you can also take trams 1 (Kopli-Kadriori) or 2 (Kopli-Ülemiste) and step off at Põhjapuistee tram stop.*



N

# ARCHITECTURE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS



ESTONIAN  
ACADEMY OF ARTS  
Faculty of Architecture  
Chair of Urban Studies



European Union  
European Social Fund



Investing in your future

