

URBAN ANALYSIS AND QUALITY EVALUATION OF SOCIALIZATION SITES WITHIN CITY BLOCKS Case study: city blocks in Liman I and II in Novi Sad

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Summary: *As a member of society, every person is an entity who, in addition to individual development, displays the need for social belonging regardless of age, gender, economic status or interests. Meeting the existential minimum, and often with extended contents in housing units, an individual has satisfied the primary needs, and the subsequent gradation at the sociological, cultural, psychological, educational, and at many other levels, is the key to prosperity in a healthy community. Daily encounter with other people allows the development of society which, from the urban and architectural perspective, affects a large number of factors that lead to a modern and healthy development of the settlement. Limans are parts of Novi Sad, formed methodically as an evidence of the great prosperity of the city, its residents and the entire community, as an excellent representative of an era and the state of mind in the second half of the twentieth century. The characteristic of these parts is the high culture of living, different subtypologies in residential architecture, morphology and genesis of freestanding and objects in a row, as well as the large number of contents in the virtually regular, orthogonal street scheme. Spatial distribution and organization of areas inside the city blocks are conditioned by the urban concept of object orientation, but their safety, facilities, attractiveness, entity and the age category of potential users as well as the level of maintenance and attendance largely varies. The paper will analyze the city blocks in Liman I and II, similar in their size, shape and contents represented in them. The selected aspects according to which the comparative analysis will be carried out, aim to show the real situation and accentuate the current problems encountered by the residents and visitors of these blocks. The objective of the study is to establish adequate solutions that can provide a more enjoyable stay in these areas, enable the gathering of various categories of the population and contribute to the existence of a large number of activities that would enrich the sociological life and affect the quality of the micro ambience in the interior of the subject blocks, at the local level.*

Keywords: *socialization, inner space of block, outdoor activities, Novi Sad*

1. INTRODUCTION

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At the time of general alienation which governs at the modern time, it is very important to provide adequate incentives for social contact in one's daily life. The rapid lifestyle and a number of requirements characterizing modern urban life, imposes the need for a detailed consideration of ways to encourage people to socialize, especially in the immediate environment of the place of residence which is a point of random daily encounters between tenants of a certain area. New informational technologies and a sense of false connection provides to man, makes the situation worse and require a significant and creative investment in the common areas to awake the interest of the target group for gathering and socialization. The social aspect of residential neighborhoods has already, in design practice, become an imperative in planning the wider context of the urban settlement. Because "man's relation to the environment is in a dialectical relationship: the people according to their powers organize and form a space and cities that those then influence the social relations and social framework." [1] The city entities shaped by the dominant function of multifamily housing, must meet the demands of the concept of an extended residence, which implies a significant step forward in quality of life compared to the mere satisfaction of the basic purpose of the residential function. Available block surfaces, with the primary purpose of multifamily housing, should meet the needs for social interaction of all its inhabitants. The possibility of socialization in the immediate vicinity of the housing is one of the greatest qualities of the concept of extended residence and therefore conditions for a quality stay in the common area of the block must be methodically secured. It been shown to the very existence of free and green areas is not sufficient to spontaneously form a focal point. There are many requirements that must be met in order to have some area to attract customers to spend their free time just in it. The overlap of many conditions, social, environmental, traffic, ambient and functional leads to the formation of high quality and utilized places of socialization that suit a wide range of users as it exists in blocks of multifamily housing. The paper discusses the criteria based on which it is possible to give a quality assessment of the open space of multi-family housing blocks in terms of socialization conditions, in order to approach analysis of concrete examples and make recommendations for the transformation and improvement of social conditions of the micro-ambient of the given urban element. Limans in Novi Sad represent areas built in the period of rapid progress of the city, in which, during the designing phase, attention was payed to the satisfaction of optimal numerical indicators such as the percentage of availability, distribution of vacant space, green and areas the other in order to achieve a higher quality of life. However, the current state of these areas and the degree of their utilization for the purpose of socialization indicate the needs of analysis and evaluation of their condition in order to determine the necessary measures of transformation for improving the quality of these spaces.

2. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF THE SITES WITHIN CITY BLOCKS

The mere existence of a space provided for the gathering of the tenants does not automatically constitute a fully formed place of socialization. Very often, the various

shortcomings of the physical space lead to not recognizing a certain place as a focal point, which is why it remains abandoned by the users.

The diversity of users is an important factor in the consideration of the requirements that a space must meet. Age groups, physical and mental abilities, interests, represent only a few of the basic differences that require specific spatial responses. Children, senior citizens, teenagers, parents, are just some of the user groups for whom common areas of blocks should be designed in order to enable each of them to exercise their right to an open space and interact with people in their immediate environment. They all have different physical and mental characteristics and abilities, interests and needs, which should find an adequate spatial response in the spots intended for gathering.

The number and nature of activities that can be performed in one area affect the frequency of its use and the number of people who will stay in it. Since multifamily housing implies a generational overlap of its residents in common open spaces required to organize activities that will fill the leisure time of all, from the youngest to the oldest person.

The existence of functional places for playground, sports, sitting, walking, talking, and therefore more dynamic and more peaceful content, meets the needs of all stakeholders. For quality evaluation of social conditions in the residential block, it is important to determine the character of the existing focal points in terms of length and frequency of staying which is possible in them.

Open spaces are exposed to weather conditions and seasonal changes and thus tend to become periodic places of socialization. If a space is formed in a way that enables certain spatial elements to neutralize climate variations and provides a wider range of conditions under which the active area can be used, the existence of such space becomes important for all potential users.

Indoor socialization offers the possibility of continuous active use, and in combination with a functional extension in an open area of the block, additionally provides a place for mutual social integration of the tenants. Closed spaces that are well positioned and designed and customized according to their contents provide an opportunity to connect users in interest groups.

Well positioned and content designed and customized indoor spaces on the ground floors of multi-family facilities and oriented towards the interior of the block, provides the possibility to connect users in the interest groups, and when it is possible to perform the same activities in the open air, when weather conditions allows, it provides adequate space for socialization.

Spatial elements include all factors that make up the framework of a free space block. The largest amongst them are certainly the buildings whose positions define the morphology of the areas within the city blocks and set clear boundaries of space. Also, thanks to them, certain surround effects are achieved, such as transparency, security, a sense of closeness/openness of space and the quality of the view observed from a given spot. The architecture of buildings, the level of maintenance of facades, aesthetic expression influence the recognizability and contribute to the comfort of the whole space.

Position of buildings directly affects the formation of ambient units and the ability to differentiate into several different micro-spaces in which it is possible, thus introducing a variety of facilities and activities adapted to different user groups. Also, the arrangement of buildings is important for the safety of stay in free block space, which is especially important for parents of young children. The impression of closure which is formed by surrounding buildings gives the impression of semi-public space, so residents can no

longer identify with their personal space as they affect the pleasantness of staying and stronger relationships that are created among a group of users because they share a common area, and it increases the feeling of belonging and responsibility for a site. Architectural orchestration has an important role in the formation of microclimate conditions of open space, because it directly affects the intensity of ventilation, isolation area and the noise coming from the surround streets.

Natural elements, primarily affect the favorable ecological conditions, securing protection from excessive insolation, gusts of wind, they purify the air, reduce high temperatures and reduce noise. All that indirectly creates a pleasant environment for spending time in the open and an opportunity for a prolonged stay while performing a certain activity in the open. Likewise, the effects of greenery and water can contribute to the aesthetic expression of space, provide it with a recognizable identity that users can connect with. "If we pay attention to the selection and arrangement of plants and materials, if carefully manipulate intimate outlook and perspective, we can achieve, even in very small circumstances, that man has a sense of calm that gives him spending time in nature." [2] The orchestration and deliberate placement of these elements, their diversity and maintenance are among the key factors in forming a quality area within the city blocks.

Lack of maintenance of green areas, whether they are shaped with tall, medium, undergrowth or floral foliage, undermines the look of the area which thus becomes less attractive and further neglected by the users.

Urban furniture represents a big and diverse group of elements and using them can improve the quality of the area and enable diverse activities in it. A wide specter of functions, dimensions, compositions, colors and design is suitable for almost every area and all the users and methods of use of public spaces.

The selection of city furniture and its positioning affects the different aspects of space quality increases its options, while its absence can cause a total vanishing of a focal point. A profound selection, in accordance with the needs and planned activities will contribute a frequent use of the space, while its absence and lack of maintenance can completely block the possibility of room laden in the block. The equipment of playgrounds, courts, possibility of sitting, lighting, sun protection, maintenance and aesthetic details like jardinières, fencing of traffic are secured with the help of urban furniture, so a large number of different in one room is graded as high quality.

The contention of open areas and ground floors of the surrounding objects are important aspects of quality of free space within the block, because their diversity makes the area more attractive and more interesting to stay and thus, grows its gravitational power.

The larger variety of surface area use and ground floor increase the frequency of use of focal points, and thus, the inner block space revives.

3. EVALUATION OF URBAN BLOCKS IN LIMAN I AND II

Liman areas in Novi Sad are city units that have expanded the city area directly by its creation. Formed in a completely undeveloped area, there were favorable for the planned construction which takes account of the provision of open space intended for tenants.

Built after the Second World War, a time of rapid expansion of the city and using technologies that were a reflection of prosperity, Liman areas were personification of the planned construction and spatial organization. Orthogonal network of streets, blocks and

morphology of architecture are designed townbuilding concept, very modern for the time of their occurrence.

Liman I and II are areas limited by the Danube, on the one side and significant, high-frequency traffic on the other. Liman I have less residential construction area, because it housed a Novi Sad university campus, while Liman II is predominantly residential area, with the exception of the block which has an educational purpose.

Residential blocks of these two urban areas can be characterized as a mono-functional with the dominant function of multifamily housing and accompanying contents that are located in the ground floor of buildings, usually oriented toward the surrounding streets. The morphology of the blocks is very similar, the planned construction of the orthogonal network of streets allowed the proper rectangular shape and approximately the same size of blocks.

Space inside the block, formed by free-standing buildings provided partial closure and more access to block. Open spaces formed by this arrangement of buildings allowed sunlight and good ventilation of blocks, forming a green, open and traffic areas and lower level of privacy than the marginal construction type.

The idea of such an organization was to provide opportunities for residents to stay outdoors in the vicinity of the residence and also connect with their neighbors through various activities and contents. However, today there are very few urban equipment and contents that encourage socialization. (Figure 1)

Purpose of unbuilt areas is varied and mainly confined to green space, stationary traffic and free areas intended for pedestrian communication. Due to the small number of children's playgrounds, sports fields and ambiance for sitting, outdoor activities for residents of these blocks are mainly dislocated to the nearby Danube quay and the city beach where there are numerous recreational facilities and appropriate urban furniture. The combination of these circumstances leads to the disappearance of social interaction within the housing blocks in the area, and consequently greater negligence and neglect of common open space.

On the other hand, according to Ljubinko Pusic (*Ljubinko Pušić*), "psychology of urban tenant" [3] has never been developed in our country, so the question is whether the current state of the interior of the housing blocks result of inadequate space or space is the result of user access. Precisely this psychology of tenant "who knows that the housing is a requirement of decent life, but at the same time it means and responsibility to the environment, neighbors, buildings" [3] encourages the consideration of places of socialization from different aspects.

On one side are placed the needs and involvement of users, while on the other are the creativity and thoughtfulness planners. Only the synergy of the two sides can provide a quality organization of the considered spaces.

The described situation requires a planned approach to transformation of spaces inside the blocks, especially in terms of equipping with adequate urban furniture and contents that promote the area and staying in it.

Raising the level of ambience, maintaining surfaces and facades, well-thought design and natural elements and creating of space identity, users would be given the opportunity to various activities in the immediate environment of apartments, in a familiar, secure and easily accessible environment.



Figure 1. Space inside the residential blocks (a-Liman I, b-Liman II)

4. CONCLUSION

As it is known "cities are the imprint of society in space" [4], socialization is an important aspect of human life, and a man's living space just as his immediate surroundings need to encourage mutual interaction in common space. The most optimal place for frequent meetings and connecting communities is the space around residential buildings because it is easily accessible and familiar. The need for socialization is equally important for users of all age, physical and mental abilities and interests. The space within the blocks of residential buildings needs to secure adequate places for social activities for all generation groups living in the buildings.

Spatial characteristics and open space content around multifamily housing directly affect the environment, attractiveness and appeal of the place. Diverse land use, environmental micro units, built temporary structures allow the organization of multiple activities functionally separated from each other. That way a simultaneous stay of young and old, little children and parents, sportsmen and artists is made possible so that everybody can meet the needs for pastime, hobbies and recreation, without bothering other tenants.

The subsistence of greenery, lighting, places to sit, play, recreation followed by adequate equipment and details brings quality to the area in sight of comfort, identification and amenity during the reeling of a specific activity. Each group of urban and natural elements has a multiple function in microambients and their planned placing and use contribute to quality not only social conditions, but also all conditions needed for good sociological conditions, such as safety, transparency, accessibility, microclimate conditions.

Liman I and II in Novi Sad are areas that were created methodically with secured sufficient undeveloped surfaces for the organization of space intended for social interaction of the citizens. These surfaces are functionally divided on the basic needs of traffic, green and free surfaces, however, this primary division is not more profound with the organization of specific needs on them. Because of that, areas within blocks in this part of the city are missing content and urban equipment which would enable the attractiveness and ambience, what brings it to a very poor use of space. There are very few places in these areas that are successfully established focal points, because the lack of spacial contents' is leading the tenants to practice their outside activities in the nearby coastal area of the Danube river, which contains all the missing elements of their blocks.

It is necessary to transform the areas within the blocks with an orchestration of the needed details on free areas and to create recognizable ambiental unities and microspaces interesting for all tenants that way. A large number of focal points would be formed on every block in such conditions, where each user could be able to find suitable content and activity, where interest groups would be formed casually among which would appear the sense of affiliation causing social integration between tenants.

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УРБАНИСТИЧКА АНАЛИЗА И ВРЕДНОВАЊЕ КВАЛИТЕТА МЕСТА ЗА СОЦИЈАЛИЗАЦИЈУ У УНУТАРБЛОКОВСКИМ ПРОСТОРИМА

Студија случаја: блокови на подручју Лимана I и Пу Новом Саду

Резиме: Као припадник друштва, сваки појединац је јединка која поред индивидуалног развоја има потребу и за друштвеном припадности, без обзира на доб, пол, економски статус или интересовања. Задовољењем егзистенцијалног минимума, а често и са проширеним садржајима у стамбеним јединицама, појединац је задовољио примарне потребе, након чега је градација у социолошком, културном, психолошком, едукативном и на многим другим нивоима, кључна за

здрав просперитет у заједници. Свакодневни сусрет са другим људима омогућава развој друштва, што урбанистички и архитектонски посматрано утиче на велики број чинилаца који воде модерном и здравом развоју насеља. Лимани су делови Новог Сада, настали плански као доказ великог просперитета града, становника и читаве заједнице, као одличан репрезент једног периода и стања свести у другој половини XX века. Карактеристика ових делова јесте висока култура становања, различите поттипологије у стамбеној архитектури, морфолошка генеза слободностојећих и објеката у низу, као и велики број садржаја у приближно правилној, ортогоналној шеми улица. Просторни распоред и организација унутарблоковских целина је условљена урбанистичким концептом оријентације објеката, али је њихова безбедност, опремљеност, атрактивност, целина и старосна категорија могућих корисника, као и одржаност и посећеност веома различита. У раду ће бити анализирани блокови на подручју Лимана I и II, приближни по величини, облику и садржајима који су у њима заступљени. Изабрани аспекти према којима ће се радити упоредна анализа имају за циљ да прикажу стварно стање и акцентују тренутне проблеме са којима се становници и посетиоци ових блокова сусрећу. Циљ рада је да се формирају адекватна решења која могу да пруже квалитетнији боравак у овим просторима, да омогуће окупљање различитих категорија становника и допринесу постојању већег броја активности што би оплеменило социолошки живот и утицало на квалитет микроамбијента у унутрашњости предметних блокова, на локалном нивоу.

Кључне речи: социјализација, унутарблоковски простори, активности на отвореном, Нови Сад