

## SQUERS IN NOVI SAD AS UNRECOGNIZABLE PUBLIC PLASECES

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**Summary:** *Squares and streets are the oldest urban elements of any settlement. The function of the square as an open space of the city from its first appearance till nowadays is essentially not changed. The squares are the areas of socialization which host a variety of activities from sharing information and resources, through the organization of various secular and sacred ceremony to spontaneous gathering of citizens doing everyday meetings during which they exchanged ideas and shared tips. During development of the city apart from the main square (which was by its logic and character usually placed in the center of the settlement) new squares out of central core began to be formed holding a new specific tasks. The settlement size and the way of life in a particular social system conditioned the number of squares their size, shape and function. To identify an open public space of the city as a square it is necessary to have architectural structures as a frame. Without this natural "scenes" open spaces are difficult to perceive as a closed and limited structure of the public space of the city. While the perception of a space and the creation of identity, observer is looking at a set of sequences which, with its fragmentation affect the formation of the overall picture. In order to identify the individual with the place it is necessary to be conceivable within its borders because that is the only way to be identified with the locus. In this paper we explore the open public spaces in Novi Sad, which are recognized as squares only by their names where the citizens are perceived them as parking spaces, traffic nodes, green areas or marketplace - bazaar. Research highlights the weaknesses of the elements that in the perception makes them as the most important parameters of the urban area of the square. Analysis of influencing issues such as position in the urban pattern of the city, the size, the shape, the proportion, arrangement, accessibility, availability and quality of life on them have to indicate which of the factors are positive and should be retained and which distort and obstruct the experience of space as a square. The aim of the paper is to investigate the parameters that affect the identification of public space so that it could be perceived as a square.*

**Keywords:** *Square, public space, identity*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

History of public open space settlements can be seen through the analysis of two key elements: the linear space - street and surface area - square. Numerous archaeological sites indicate equal importance of both spaces. While the streets are the linear path of movement through the settlement, squares are areas for stationary stay and various social events. The essence of these two elements is very vividly explained by Zuker "If one visualizes the streets as rivers, channelling the streams of human communication - which means much more than technical measures "traffic" - than the square represents a natural of artificial light." [1] Squares as open public spaces in each settlement have their own specific functional programs that are directly connected with public buildings which physically frame them. Square should represents the most specific element of urban structure towards which we are moving, as the final point and place with a variety of events. Regardless of its size, to experience an open free space as a square it must meet certain parameters that in the perception enable easy readability and visibility of the entire space. During a process of development and growth, each settlement spreads and forms a new network of physical streets' and blocks' frame. Depending on the spreading of settlement - planned or spontaneous, squares can be of different shapes and sizes and specifically can occupy positions in the urban tissue. According to Zucker squares may be classified as: closed, dominated, nuclear, grouped and amorphous squares [1]. In this paper we explore examples of Novi Sad public open spaces that are typical representatives of the group of amorphous undefined "unlimited spaces." They are only by their names representing a square, but people do not see them as squares. The analysed areas are: Square Carice Milice, Neznanog junaka and Square Republike in Novi Sad. Based on the results of the survey respondents pointed to the problem of identifying these "squares". Systematization of parameters on which these public open spaces of the city can be identify, in conclusion we are pointing to the essential elements of the identity of the public space of the city that can be identified as squares in Novi Sad.

## 2. IDENTITY OF SQUARES

For an area of the city, in order to have its own identity, it is necessary to satisfy the basic criteria of uniqueness and distinctiveness. They are reflected in the legibility of elements which physically defined a space. Architectural buildings are the most dominant elements in the formation of the urban environment. The perception of each area is primarily based on subjective experience, but is often incurred in the common consciousness that reflects the specific environment. Generalized image of a space is coded with universal reading system and cannot be excluded in the process of perception and experience of a space. Probably the most famous theorist in reading towns Kevin Lynch emphasizes the elements of visual quality and identity of a space which are defined as readability, authenticity, individuality, uniqueness and orientation in space. [2] To makes one feel safe in a place and to make identity of that place in ones' perception about a space, a place must be recognized and previously experienced. The size, shape, equipment, availability and security are indispensable elements of an

experience of public space of the square. Even Vitruvius wrote about squares pointing out the importance of adequate size and position of squares in the settlements, in order to respond to the needs of citizens, for whom this space has to be formed [3]. The shape and boundaries of the square are usually the first elements of the physical structure of the square, which is perceived. Two main categories of squares' form have been distinguished: regular geometric and irregular, amorphous form. In order to classify the area of the square in one of these two categories a frame which is usually composed of architectural objects is obliged. When the borders are formed with different elements such as bank river or lake or open spaces of wide streets - roads, physical boundaries of the square is hardly seen on the other side of these visual barriers. Arrangement and order of streets' interflowing in a square are also important factors in a perception of size and shape of a square. Krier displays, in his research, a detailed analysis of the combination of the square shape and position of the interflow of streets. [4] The results of the survey, conducted in Novi Sad in three squares point to several key issues. The first is reflected in the experience of space as too undefined framework, amorphous and without clear boundaries. The majority of respondents (75 %) were not able to define the boundaries of squares. The same amount of respondents did not know the name of the area where they are. Typical indicators were the reason of being in the square, which for the same respondents were just passing through the square. It is clearly evident that the observed three squares have not recognizable function of the public space that is by definition designed for pedestrians. Missing benchmarks and identity of architectural buildings that connect them with this space are evident problems that have to be solved. Although relatively decorated and maintained these spaces need more adequate facilities and equipment.

### 3. CASE STUDY

At the western part of the Street Maksim Gorki, by intertwining two urban matrixes the Square Carice Milice was formed. The current rectangular shape of the Square, cuts the Boulevard Maksim Gorki, and shares it on two approximately equal triangles. Third part of the square is platform in front of the north entrance in to SPENS (Sports and Business Center). In the southern part a Street Dimitrija Tucovića flows into the square and vehicular access is available to the south side of the building SPENS, while in the northern part Sremska and Vase Stajića streets flow into the square (Figure 1, Figure 4). The position of this square has an important place in the matrix of a broader core of the city center. Maksim Gorki Street connects Danube river bank with Bulevar Oslobođenja running east -west, and also a very important pedestrian passage in the north-south direction is connecting Bulevar Oslobođenja (Futoška pijaca-market) along Sremska Street with SPENS and continues to the University campus. Stadium "Vojvodina" and mega structure SPENS represent the most important urban landmarks not only for the square but for the city too. However, the space of the square is not clearly defined, which significantly contributes to the roads along the Maksim Gorki, intersections with streets Sremska and Dimitrije Tucovića and two large parking areas on the south-western and north-western part of the square. Sights are semiopend, decoration and equipment is satisfactory but with inadequate vegetation mostly along the traffics.

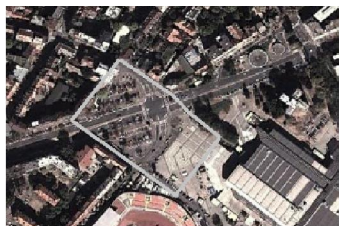


Figure 1. Square Carice Milice [5]



Figure 2. Square Neznanog junaka [5]



Figure 3. Square Republike [5]

In place of the compound „Rainbow” bridge and Boulevard Mihajlo Pupin trapezoidal square the Neznanog junaka is formed (Figures 2, Figure 5). This square as same as the previous is physically divided into two parts with a traffic road running in the east-west direction. Vehicular lanes for entry and descent from the bridge further divided this area into smaller units. The square varies in height with the lower part on the eastern border arranged as shore promenade along the Danube. In the northwest street vojvode Putnika flows into the square and in the southwest that would be street vojvode Mišića. Pedestrian connections are organized around the perimeter of the square, with no possibility of crossing the Mihajlo Pupin Boulevard. Thus fragmented public area is not recognized as a square. Each green area - flower bed, at the top level, has one monument in its central part. Grassy areas with high vegetation on the lower level are not equipped with a park or urban furniture elements, apart from the bus station positioned under the bridge. Views from the bridge to the square, as well from the upper part of the square to the Danube and Petrovaradin fortress are open. Perceptions of building facades that define the square of the northern to the southern part are partially screened by high vegetation of deciduous and evergreen trees. The identity of the square is buildings of "DTD" (Danube-Tisa-Danube), „Rainbow Bridge” and memorials of musician Janika Balaž and victim of the bombing in 1999. Oleg Nasov.



Figure 4. Square Carice Milice „flower market” [6]



Figure 5. Square Neznanog junaka, view to the north part of the square [7]



Figure 6. Square Republike, view to the west part of the square [8]

At the end of the pedestrian zone and on the crossing of the Danube and Zmaj Jovina Street is the Square Republike. Extremely elongated rectangle aspect ratio 1:4, square is defined on all sides with the buildings. The western part (one third) is a parking space, till recently it was a turntable for the city bus service. The western part of the area is occupied with a temporary buildings and stalls of "fish market." (Figures 3, Figure 6). The east Street Žarko Vasiljević is a one-way traffic road with the green belt along the

sidewalks and buildings. The northern part of the square is also traffic road with longitudinal parking along the sidewalks on a both sides. Parking space can be accessed from Kosovska Street that is only two-way road. Two streets flow into the square on northern part Šumadijska and on the western corner Daničićeva. The square is without street furniture, benches and canopy. The sign of identity is Gymnasium Jovan Jovanović Zmaj on the western edge and Archives building in the eastern part of the square. Three-storeyed Military Headquarter in the south-eastern corner is the dominant building on the square. Views are very close with a dashed series of sequences that are constantly shifting and horizontality position and length of the square as well as the length of market stalls and facilities prevents perception of the square as a whole.

#### 4. DISCUSION AND CONCLUTION

Regardless of the technological advances of the modern era, and virtual reality in which the younger generation are beginning to live, a need for staying in the open spaces of the city such as streets, squares, parks, shorelines, etc. will remain a fundamental need of every social being. These areas of socialization and gathering in order to meet the different needs in the modern way of life must undergo some changes. As the physical structure of the settlement is slowly changing due to a number of mostly economic factors, the intervention on the open spaces can be easily applied in the field of functional modes such as the organization, equipment, availability and security of residence. In this sense, changes of use of the researched squares could be one of the starting points in their revitalization. The design of a feature is one of the most complex issues in the transformation of three researched squares. Although the surrounding objects in each area have individual values and signs of identity (SPENS, „Red signal”, DTD building, Military Headquarter, Gymnasium Jovan Jovanović Zmaj) the areas are less well defined, articulated and without clear and readable boundaries. Traffic calming is imperative for the transformation of all three spaces. Radical changes in the form of relocation or termination of traffics should be gradually introduced. The construction of the underground garages, by taking into account a significant position in the urban matrix of the squares in Novi Sad, would contribute to improving the quality of public spaces for wider core city and enable the extension of the pedestrian zone to these squares. Ground landscaping would have to follow the functionality on the square as well as the contents in the ground floor of surrounding buildings. Special issue of solving the problems is emphasized in the area of the Square Neznano junaka, because of the river bank as a specific urban element, which has to be the place for the connectivity of the city with the Danube. In any case, functional organizations and programs in the ground floors of buildings as well as on the square impose the user type – citizens, precisely it will form a target group that would occupying some space. Since the squares are public areas by their nature they must meet the needs of all citizens, regardless of their age, ethnic, cultural, economic or any other affiliation.

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## ТРГОВИ НОВОГ САДА КАО НЕПРЕПОЗНАТЉИВИ ЈАВНИ ПРОСТОРИ

**Резиме:** *Трг је уз улицу најстарији урбани елемент сваког насеља. Функција трга као отвореног простора града од првих појава па до данас се суштински није мењала. То су простори социјализације, на којима су се одвијале разноврсне делатности од размене информација и добара, преко одржавања различитих профаних и сакралних церемонија до спонтаног окупљања грађана ради свакодневног сусрета и виђења приликом којих су се размењивала мишљења и делили савети. Развојем градова осим главног градског трга, који је по својој логици и карактеру обично био смештен у центру насеља, почели су да се формирају и други тргови који су добијали специфичне намене. Величина насеља и начин живота у одређеном друштвеном уређењу условљавао је број тргова, њихову величину, облик и наравно функцију. Да би се одређени отворени јавни простор града доживео као трг неопходно је да омотач трга буду архитектонски објекти. Без ових физичких „кулиса“ отворени простори се тешко перципирају као затворене и ограничене структуре јавног простора града. Приликом перцепције одређеног простора и стварања идентитета посматрач има пред собом низ секвенци, који својом фрагментацијом утичу на формирање целокупне слике. Да би се појединац идентификовао са простором на којем се налази потребно је да он буде сагледив у својим границама, јер се само тако може поистоветити са местом. У овом раду се истражују отворени јавни простори у Новом Саду, који само својим називом представљају тргове, а код грађана се доживљавају као паркинг простори, саобраћајно чвориште, озелењена површина или пијаца - тржница. Истраживање треба да укаже на недостатке у елементима који би их и у перцепцији класификовали као најзначајније параметре урбаног простора трга. Анализа утицајних фактора као што су положај у урбаној матрици града, величина, облик, димензије, уређеност, доступност, опремљеност и квалитет боравка на њима треба да укаже који од фактора су позитивни и треба их задржати, а који нарушавају и онемогућавају доживља простора као трг. Циљ рада је испитивање параметара који утичу на идентификацију јавног простора како би се он могао доживети као простор трга.*

**Кључне речи:** *Трг, јавни простор, идентитет*