

Gal Kirn & Lukasz Stanek,
in collaboration with
Dubravka Sekulić

AFTER

Symposium:
After the Self-Managed city?
Urbanism in Yugoslavia and the
Post-Socialist Condition

THE

SELF

MANAGED

Organized by:
Jan van Eyck Academie,
Maastricht,
Berlage Institute,
Rotterdam

CITY ?

October 28th 2009
at Jan van Eyck Academie,
Academieplein 1, Maastricht

2 - After the self-managed city?

TIMETABLE:

9.30	14.45 – 15.30
BREAKFAST	Milan Rakita – Belgrade (SRB)
10.00 – 10.30	Withering away of Socialist Self-Management and Postwar Urban Transformation
Lukasz Stanek – Rotterdam (NL)/ Zurich (CH)	15.30 – 16.15
Introduction: After the self-managed city?	Luciano Basauri + Marko Sančanin – Zagreb (CRO)
10.30 – 11.00	How the City builds the City?
Gal Kirn – Amsterdam (NL)/ Ljubljana (SLO)	16.15 – 16.45
Introduction: Self- management and post- socialism in Yugoslavian context	BREAK
11.00 – 12.00	16.45 – 17.30
Eve Blau – Cambridge (USA)	Dafne Berc – Zagreb (CRO)
Beyond Self-Management: Hybridity as Condition + Strategy	Architecture and Technocracy (Croatian Construction Industry - Influences and Implications)
12.00 – 13.00	17.30 – 18.15
Vedran Mimica – Rotterdam (NL)	Emil Jurcan – Pula (CRO)
Urban Aspects of "Socialist Modernism", Life and Art in the Workers Self-Managed City	Pula: A Flight from Post-Socialism to Post-Capitalism
13.00 – 14.00	18.15 – 18.35
LUNCH	Dubravka Sekulić – Maastricht (NL)/ Belgrade (SRB)
14.00 – 14.45	Comment: Planning and Un-planning
Vladimir Braco Mušić – Ljubljana (SLO)	18.35 – 19.15
Civil Society in Urban Planning, Between the State and the Local Self-Government	DISCUSSION

ABSTRACTS

Eve Blau
Beyond Self-Management:
Hybridity as Condition + Strategy

In recent years, a discourse of transitology has emerged, that theorizes the unregulated urban landscapes of postsocialist cities as the improvised formations of a spontaneous 'unplanned' urbanism that operates in terms of 'self-organizing systems'.

But, just as we have discovered that transition is not a predictable passage from one stable condition to another, so it is clear that improvised urban formations do not 'naturally' move toward order, and that the city is not, and never was, a self-organizing system. Instead, the planned and the unplanned, the formal and the informal operate in 'an amazing collaboration between the one and the other' as Rem Koolhaas put it recently. They cannot and should not be separated. This hybridity, Blau suggests, might not only describe the urbanism of the Yugoslav 'city of self-management', but also provide a strategy for projecting its future.

Vedran Mimica
Urban Aspects of "Socialist Modernism",
Life and Art in the Workers Self-Managed City

This talk will address the radical political and cultural changes in the beginning of 1950s in a relation to the urban legacy of construction of New Towns. Political and theoretical concepts of state regulated workers "self management" by means of a reading of the writings of Edvard Kardelj and of political documents from the Communist party congresses. It will be argued that urban aspects of "self management" policies are to be understood by grasping the relationships between politics and society on the one hand, and, on the other, between art and creation of the new urban culture. Novi Zagreb (New Zagreb) will be read as a test ground for an attempt to declare the "amnesty" for the socialist modern city and its legacy.

4 - After the self-managed city?

Vladimir Braco Mušič
Civil Society in Urban Planning,
Between the State and
the Local Self-Government

Starting with some questions on definition of the Civil Society and references on Davidoff's pioneering contribution with the concept of Advocacy Planning, and on Arnstein's 'Ladder of Citizen Participation', the Author gives the European perspective of Slovenian historic urban development, concluding with an observation of contemporary legal disorders. References to the past include the period of hypertrophic planning, and a short account of forms of civil initiatives in urbanism. They appear as activities of professional and 'guild' associations, administratively non-formalized but also formalized deliberations in local communities, spontaneous movement against certain political decisions, and 'green movement'.

In evaluating the relationship between urban planning and civil society of today, the Author criticises transition from Planned Unit Development concepts to less demanding regulatory measures. The second important point of criticism is addressed on the division of responsibilities between the States and the Communes, where the first is becoming more and more centralistic and the second more and more fragmented, thus being non-conforming with the trends in the European Union and other developed countries. Critical references are made to 'urbanization of the rural places' and to 'ruralization of the cities', as well as to the slow processes of adjusting the urban planning legislation to new conditions.

Milan Rakita
Withering away of the Socialist
Self-Management and the Postwar Urban
Transformation

The paper investigates specifics of socio-political and economic shifts in post World War Two Yugoslavia that brought about structural changes in architecture and urban planning, and could be most clearly traced in the postwar urban development of New Belgrade as well as in development of other industrial towns in the rest of SFR Yugoslavia. What were the main characteristics of urban spatial changes in SFR Yugoslavia and its capital Belgrade after the WWII regarding unique concept and practice of socialist self-management system?

Giving the fact that the new revolutionary Yugoslav government has made a deliberate break up with previous cultural model of social realism by turning the state-governed economy into market-oriented economic model, by introducing modernist concepts in architecture, and by allowing workers directly to participate in the decision making processes, the paper is also aimed at revealing the specific role of figure of the new Yugoslav self-management worker who, by contrast to Stalinist deviation of the original Marxist-Leninist doctrine on withering away of the state, was presumed to gain democratic control over decision making processes on different levels of everyday life, including the issues of spatial planning and urban development of socialist Yugoslavia.

This insight, in turn, rises another important issue – whether there was really something that could be described as genuine direct democratic participation of socialist workers in urban planning and in shaping of urban space, or was it that predominant influence of the state and its urban planners eventually turned the entire concept and

5 - After the self-managed city?

practice of workers' self-management into socialist myth while attempting to transform the Leninist concept of "Withering away of the State" into the entropic process of withering away of socialist self-management?

Related to this question is the issue of measuring the point of intersection between these two different levels of self-management decision making framework, the one coming "from above" (experts and higher echelons of state authority), and the other one coming from a lower levels (workers councils), and also whether they separately or conjointly shaped architectural interventions within the existing social/urban context which was directed to constitute and shape the new urban social space for the new socialist country.

Thus, the evolution of urban planning in Yugoslavia and Belgrade throughout the different stages of its development attests to the changing nature of socialist self-management system.

In the same time, in retrospect, five decades later when the rule of private property overrides all the positive aspects of progressive historical heritage of Yugoslav socialist self-management project, this visionary social management model and its influence in the urban domain seems quite unique and extraordinary.

Key words:

Yugoslav socialism, self-management, urban transformation, urban planning, decision making, modernism.

Luciano Basauri and Marko Sančanin
How the City Builds the City?

The study is a critical overview of Zagreb's urban planning history. It seeks to distinguish qualitative planning from mediocre development. While a Master Plan represents a territorial structure, planning directs urban growth and gives it a meaning. In this sense, planning always had a certain level of integrality or an idea of what the city should be. In the last 150 years two examples showed divergent understanding of how the city should be managed and developed. Socialism's approach was ideologically based and more comprehensive in its integrality, giving a more complete vision of totality. The current approach is rather based on strategic focal points of development able to coexist better with simultaneous market forces and real estate tendencies. The study compares these two models to understand better their qualities and negative aspects regarding their capacity to govern the city and represent its citizens. It also extends to look into the ways how planning was institutionally organised and managed.

In ex-Yugoslavia, self-governance was one of the important ideological instruments of social participation - specifically providing a sense of being part of the development and management of housing quarters. Could part of this socialist legacy be used in an era where the current model constantly weakens the state welfare system, and housing policies by extent?

6 - After the self-managed city?

Dafne Berc
Architecture and Technocracy
(Croatian Construction Industry
- Influences and Implications)

This is a critical assessment and selective overview of the Croatian construction industry, with its many folded architectural, urban and, consequently, social influences and implications. Building of utopia in the socialist Yugoslavia, where Croatia was one of the six constitutive republics, was a group project. Architecture performed as one of the collaborating parties in this group project, in terms of technical, technological and aesthetic expertise. The profession had all the freedom to perform autonomously, without the need and, in the same time, without the right to question an overall ideological discourse.

Already in architectural education the predominant accent was put on technical-technological aspects of the profession, which favored architect's prospective employment in the big construction organizations/corporations. While in the beginning architects were taking leading roles in the self-governing structure of those companies, their role weakened as the market orientation of the firms grew stronger. Bureaucratization of the management gradually led to complete depersonalization of the designer's contribution, what is equally readable through architectural representation of the construction companies and the way they contribute to the city development.

Emil Jurcan
Pula: A Flight from Post-Socialism
to Post-Capitalism

Pula, which was an important military port, was heavily bombed and almost abandoned in WWII. In the early 60s it received the first master plan in Yugoslavia which implemented ideas of self-management in urban planning. Basic idea of the plan was to decentralize city into self-managed political cells called "rajon" (rayon). Rayons were planned as neighbourhoods that needed facilities to make them autonomous from the existing center of the city.

Decentralization was a tool in urban planning which disabled segregation in the city. The second master plan came in the late 70s and it explored the idea of urban self-management further. It focused more on a pragmatic level and tried to make self-management more operative. Important aspect of the plan was "social contract" or "self-managed agreement" signed by all actors in the neighborhood, which then became responsible for realisation of the plan.

This was the period in which urban self-management was most developed. Although the method was conceived as democratic, the major obstacle was that there was no real political autonomy of the actors and neighborhood assemblies. Due to the fact that they were economically and politically depended on the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the federal government, which remained a centralizing force in the self-management.