



”Urbanity throughout Density? “ The Ability of Urban Overall Concepts - Manifestos of Architectural Modernism - to Transform

Markus VOGL, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria
m.vogl@akbild.ac.at

Metropolitan transformations, “shrinking cities”, “urban renewal east” and the interest in avant-gardes in the era of modernism are of mayor interest in the urban field the last years. This presentation intends to investigate the processes of transformation and the processes of adaptation of huge post-war housing neighborhoods that follow up the global vision on the city promoted by CIAM (congrès international de l’architecture moderne) within the last 40 years. Initial point and historical background of the research was the debate on a new “charter for housing” to succeed the “Charter of Athens”, that band together Team10 and led to the end of CIAM in Otterlo in 1959.

The trans-disciplinary analysis of three housing-estates in Berlin and Budapest, which were designed and built in three different political societies, will help to understand the importance of context in the built urban space. The focus on transformation processes from the urban vision, the first initiatives and sketches towards the completion of the housing estate - mostly in the 1960ies and 1970ies - and the actual life situation within the estate will create a characteristic biography for each neighborhood. These processes are always related to two overall concepts: on the one, the overall concept of habitat, which is based on cultural, economical and social developments in the specific society, on the other, the urban overall concept of architectural modernism, based on cultural, technological and social ideas of an avant-garde in the 1920ies. As a second column the research will have a close look to the everyday life in these neighborhoods to understand the appropriation of the built space by its inhabitants. This close look will be presented by qualitative interviews that were analyzed with a hermeneutic approach in order to contextualize the narratives of the inhabitants within the built environment.

KEY WORDS: Transformation processes, architectural theory and history, urban geography, CEE.