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MODELS OF PUBLIC PROGRAMMES' ARCHITECTURE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MODERNISATION OF RIJEKA FROM 1868 TO 1974

ARHITEKTONSKI MODELI JAVNIH PROGRAMA U KONTEKSTU MODERNIZACIJE RIJEKE OD 1868. DO 1974.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION [SUMMARY]

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The dissertation investigates the public programmes' architecture in Rijeka and Sušak in the period from 1868 to 1974, when cities underwent radical modernization driven primarily by instrumental interests, resulting in the urban structure marked by conflicts of disparate programs and dysfunctional spatial relations.

The period under consideration began in 1868 when Croatian-Hungarian settlement assigned the formal-legal status of a "provisorium" (*Provizorij*) to Rijeka and the city *de facto* became a semi-autonomous territory under the jurisdiction of the Hungarian Crown. This marks the beginning of a vigorous urban and economic expansion of the city, on which shall continue for the next hundred years within the context of various political and administrative constellations. A common denominator of all administrations is a rejection of fixed urban planning which is why the city developed based on spontaneous processes and loose regulations. A huge infrastructural-industrial complex was built on artificial land in front of the entire "civil city". In such conditions, the public programmes' architecture had to overcome the lack of strategic urban planning and fight for the public domain. The research concludes with the year 1974 when the first truly operational General Urban Plan of Rijeka was adopted. However, a growing social and economic crisis in Yugoslavia significantly slowed down the development processes in Rijeka.

The dissertation deviates from the interpretation of architecture focused on form or style and interprets how the public programmes' architecture informed the creation of community spaces and strengthened the public domain in Rijeka. The turbulent social circumstances and the pragmatic character of the modernization of Rijeka led to cultural discontinuities, conflictual spatial usages and the lack of suitable locations for public programs. Architecture had to compensate for the shortcomings of the conflicting urban structure and the reduced public domain. In this confrontation, architecture went beyond the usual design principles and created new models that are specific to Rijeka and Sušak but are also instructive for other comparable situations. The dissertation defines architec-

tural models as a reaction to various crises in Rijeka and Sušak. These crises were used for experiments and transgressions of conventions and programmatic requirements. Each model is elaborated on a case study.

The first set of crises refers to finding suitable places for the implementation of public programs within the structure of the city in which the domain of the public is reduced, and contact with the sea and nature is prevented. The model of activation of modernization's spatial by-products locates public programs in areas that are an integral part of the infrastructure or were sources of materials for its production. The mono-functionality of infrastructural elements and other forms of artificial land is transgressed, and hotspots of modernization become bearers of collective urban identities. Bathing establishments and rowing clubs were situated on infrastructural elements of Molo longo, Brajdica and Delta, and Brgudi so certain locations of the "industrial-infrastructure complex" were won over for the public. The Kantrida and Preluk quarries were spontaneously adopted for sports and socialization. The institutionalization of these actions created "un-designed" city symbols. The unrealized project for the Combined Swimming Pool on the Delta proposed the conversion of artificial land into a sports park that would bring public space to the sea.

The second set of crises refers to the implementation of public programs which resolved conflicting trans-local political constellations and did not necessarily fit the local needs. The model of typological experiments responds to the challenge of articulating programmatic combinations that did not exist before, or if they did exist, then it was the case of known programs taking on a completely new urban role and growing to a new scale. Typological experiments transgress typological givens, create provocative program composition and assign new urban roles to the architectural complexes. The Emigrants' Hotel provided a more humane framework for social segregation within the context of state-organized emigration in Hungary. The project of People's Home in Sušak diminished the divisions between "high" and

"popular" culture, between citizens and tourists, between culture, sports and leisure whereas the large programme of Ri Department Store was used as a departing point to develop a pedestrian platform that connected the main street Korzo and the port.

The third set of crises refers to the discontinuities of the dominant nations and ideologies. Urban morphology, symbolic meaning, and the specific purposes of historical ambiances were either no longer satisfactory or they were even considered undesirable. The model of radical transformations of historical heritage transgresses cultural conventions as well as tests a liberal and experimental approach to historical architecture and ambience. Radical programmatic and symbolic transformation of the Trsat Castle was carried out with relatively modest physical interventions. The interpolation of the Museum of the People's Revolution building into the Governor's Palace complex introduced formal dialogue and an ideological competition. The reconstruction of the Old Town tested a creative, but also a controversial method of simulating the historical ambience which preserved only the most prominent monuments and completely altered the programmatic structure of the historical core.

Conclusions suggest that the public programmes' architecture in Rijeka showed determination to use the creative and destructive energies of modernity as driving impulses for the creation of a more stimulating city and society. Some of the original intentions of the case studies have not been realized, some remain unfinished, and some have been short-lived, but it is important to recognize their inherent potentials. The researched models show architectural procedures that destabilized seemingly completely concluded dominance of instrumental modernisation on urban structure and led to more favourable relations between the separated "civil" and "port-infrastructure" city. Based on a critical approach to the historical experience, further urban transformations of Rijeka should lead to the reconfiguration of existing urban elements, face stagnation and decline, and create new partnerships between disparate programs and conflicting uses of space.