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## RESEARCH REVIEWS ON ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING

### ISTRAŽIVAČKI OGLEDI O ARHITEKTURI I URBANIZMU

BRANKO KINCL



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In 2016, a representative monograph entitled *Kincl* was published. Its intention was to present Branko Kincl's oeuvre, covering all of his activities, oriented towards architecture, space, design, science and teaching. Alongside Kincl's authorial involvement in the preparation and selection of the illustrative material for the monograph, *connoisseurs* of his oeuvre wrote factographic and analytical texts included in the book. Subsequently, in the same edition by the Department of Prints and Drawings of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a second comprehensive book by Branko Kincl, F.C.A., was published under the title *Research Reviews on Architecture and Urban Planning*, including the author's selected theoretical and scientific tributes.

It ought to be mentioned that Branko Kincl is one of the few Croatian architects whose comprehensive work has successfully linked intellectual thought with creative, artistic, project-planning and urbanistic work throughout their research and publicist activity. Kincl's vision of architectural activity is a step ahead of the contemporary, both in terms of his expression and in terms of the acceptance and promotion of the virtual and digital, visible both in his teaching and in his creative work. In his opinion, space and people count as value, whereas developing and contemporary options of using digital tools are merely support, and, thus, may not be an end in itself.

The monograph has been divided into three well-structured theoretical units – *Research and Theoretical Tributes; Expert Studies and Notes; and Public Acceptance and Professional Reflexions – Interviews and Surveys*. These units provide insight into Kincl's continuous interest profiling. The editorial by Prof. DSc Zlatko Karač on Kincl's theoretical oeuvre offers detachment from the chrestomathic genre, since it includes, quantitatively and qualitatively, all the information on the monograph and its concept, thereby, respecting the author's expressive personal viewpoints.

In all three units, the author's personality is present; it shows an exceptionally creative architect and engineer, whose artistic creativity is based in research. The texts written

by Branko Kincl reflect the possibilities of time and desire, and present an architect whose work is a testament to both time and space. Throughout many years, he has grown in excellence, questioning and searching for what would be best to apply in particular space and time and within the framework of contemporary architecture. With maturity came new and different forms of creation: he shaped his own recognizable style – both in design and in writing. Designer's works dominate Kincl's oeuvre – ranging from studies and urbanistic plans to numerous realized and non-realized competition entries – whereby a major portion of the overall work marks his fascination with fine architectural drawing.

Kincl intensified his research upon employment at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb, with his predominant interest located in housing architecture, to which numerous theoretical tributes are linked. Their importance lies in combining active designer's practice with work on scientific projects that have become a basis of systematic profiling and drafting guidelines for designing both housing estates and organization schemata for buildings and flats. Added here to are interest and innovativeness in the research domain through plans and projects, in entirely new forms and shapes accompanying the new, digital time. Innovativeness is additionally reflected in teaching, thanks to using an experimental approach to project leading through stimulating interdisciplinarity by applying contemporary virtual tools.

Expert studies and notes, for the most part made available to the public for the first time, speak of an architect who has been engaged in writing in addition to planning, drawing, designing, teaching and leading a studio that conducted major projects. Here enters the third topic – public acceptance and professional reflections – through surveys, other authors wrote about Kincl's work, as well as his interviews given on diverse occasions over many years.

The monograph has been designed as the author's and the editor's selection of the most prominent scientific and expert texts Branko

Kincl has written during nearly sixty years of his activity not only about the Croatian, but also about the stage of international architecture; it has thus become a theoretical retrospective of his writing. The book numbers 523 pages, though it includes a selection rather than the entire oeuvre of Kincl's works created in the domains of architecture and urban planning. The selection includes author's 44 texts written in the period between 1973 and 2020, as well as 22 characteristic texts by other authors, tackling Kincl's work. The 32 texts tackling the topics of expert studies, projects and notes, and most of which have thus far not been published, are especially important. Previously published texts were printed in the original form, with no subsequent language revision, which brings us nearer to the context via linguistic expression. The unpublished texts, as well as those originally published in the English language, have been translated and edited. The benefit in this context is the fact that the texts have been united and made available, considering that there are only a few architects who have been so theoretically informed and at the same time actively involved in project planning, research and education. This offers a specific and entirely individual approach to the problems at stake.

Prof. DSc Zlatko Karač and his associates selected and prepared around a hundred of the author's most important texts for the second book, they made the concept of the book and the introductory study, whilst Nedjeljko and Kristina Špoljar are its graphic designers. The promotion of the book took place on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at the Library of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts on 14 Strossmayer Square in Zagreb. The organizer was the Scientific Council for Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscaping of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The speakers were Velimir Neidhardt, F.C.A., President of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Andrija Mutnjaković, F.C.A. and Prof. DSc Zlatko Juric, reviewers; Prof. DSc Zlatko Karač, editor; and finally, very briefly and emotionally, the author Branko Kincl, F.C.A., himself.