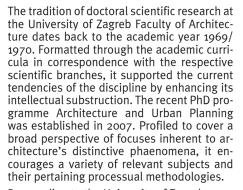


Mojca Smode Cvitanović

DAN DOKTORATA / PHD DAY / 2023 University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture

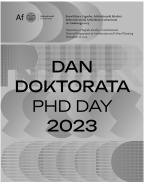
Doctoral Programme in Architecture and Urban Planning November 16, 2023



Responding to the University of Zagreb overall initiative to enhance collaboration and strengthen academic debate, the first PhD Day at the Faculty of Architecture was held on 16 November 2023, in the premises of the Zagreb Society of Architects. The event was organized as a full day programme, the course of which was guided by Kristina Careva (head of the Doctoral Programme in Architecture and Urban Planning) with support of Ana Mrda (Vice Dean for Science) and Mia Roth-Čerina (Vice Dean for International Relations and Art). A total of 24 doctoral candidates participated in the PhD Day, mandatory for students enrolled in the third semester of the current academic year and elective for others. The main part of the programme was aimed at the doctoral candidates and their research, which received comments and suggestions for potential further directions implied within the critical review and developed through the poster section. A special attention was thereby paid to the awarded works and the research scope of their authors, Nina Bacun, Marin Duić, Nikolina Raguz-Lucić and Karlo Seitz. An additional part of the programme included a forum with alumni moderated by Jana Horvat and participated by Svebor Andrijević, Dubravko Bačić, Sanja Matijević Barcot, Filip Šrajer and Nikolina Vezilic Strmo. It was aimed at the recognition of mutuality between scientific work and various aspects of disciplinary practice. The final

part of the programme was dedicated to the presentations of doctoral courses in related curricula, instituted and ongoing in other internationally relevant centres. For this purpose, guest lectures were held by Tadeja Zupancić (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture) and Alessandro Rocca (Polytechnic University of Milan, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies).

Considering the orientational latitude of the respective doctoral programme, the presented research topics significantly encompass different aspects of the discipline – from locally to globally positioned phenomena, from historical to recent and future perspectives, from spatial planning to interior spaces, from theoretical considerations to applicable guidelines. Nevertheless, by addressing the essentiality of recent issues, the plurality of opposed research focuses and diverse methodologies shares common substantial layers. An omnipresent awareness of the Anthropocene post-industrial society at odds with sustainability requirements is, for instance, manifestly or latently intertwined within a noticeable number of works. A world, in which the adaptation of existing material resources renders a more acceptable solution than the construction of new ones, places a new set of demands on architecture. It is precisely in this regard that the subjects are positioned to promote the value of reduction instead of growth, adjustment instead of demolition and renewal instead of new, by shifting approaches to architectural design, urban and spatial planning, and even to intervening in evaluated historical heritage. Optimized relationships between cities and landscapes, preparedness for the possibilities of natural cataclysms, reconstructions of the abandoned city areas, performative qualities and energy efficiency of buildings, are altogether harnessed in pursuit of the sustainable living frameworks. The wisdom of traditional construction methods, on the one hand, and digital technologies, on the other, are thereby two opposed and possibly simultaneous



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applicable pathways for achieving the same objectives. In addition to the ecological, an equally important social component of sustainability is addressed through the issues of identity and co-existence, inherent both to the individual and the community. Research into the relationship between architecture and the city, private and public, changing and fixed, history and the present, space and time, altogether reveal the architectural space as not merely a quantitative, physical fact, but also a qualitative, cultural substance with its meanings transferred through a variety of media.

Finally, the flexibility of positioning research focuses resulted in views on the discipline of architecture set from different standpoints. Young doctoral researchers gained experience and took a step towards their affirmation within the academic community, and vice versa, the academic community was informed and enriched by the fresh cognitions contained within their scientific contributions. The full contributions are yet to come in the form of expected doctoral dissertations. The overall exchange of information and experiences undoubtedly provided an impetus for their future progress. In that regard, it is hoped for the first PhD Day at the Faculty of Architecture to become a stimulus of its own tradition.