

INTERSYMP 2008
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Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics

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Markgraf-Ludwig Gymnasium, Hardstrasse 2
Baden-Baden, Germany

Announcing
First International Symposium on
Architecture of 21st Century:
In Search of New Paradigms
July 25, 2008

Chair: Prof. Greg Andonian, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Co-chair: Prof. Craig Anz, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA
Liza Medek, Architect, ITA, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

Preamble

The New Age of Migration, accentuated by the collapse of the USSR at the end of the 20th Century, is beginning to crystallize with the expansion of the European Union towards the Continental Eastern States at the beginning of the 21st Century. The post 9/11 events in the Middle East are compounding issues of safety and security in host countries of Western Europe and North America, and the globalization of outsourcing work of the G7 in guest countries of India, China and elsewhere is adding suspense regarding the future of this Age. At the same time, war and shifting economic priorities have left many places without cultural solidarity. The long-term effects are seen in the reallocation of control from local inhabitants to those with proxy, indifferent, and unaccountable agendas of domination. On one hand, communities have been progressively pecked away until no longer having a strong sense of place, identity or symbolic 'center'. On the other, forced movements of peoples from place to place, leave weakened cultural traces behind, only to reseed themselves in places-of-the-other. In addition, natural disasters imposed upon urban areas, many of which reflect economic impoverishment and neglect, force diasporas that decrease the critical mass to physically sustain urban well-being, while increasing density, amplifying cultural instability, and creating undue stresses on surrogate urban places. In brief, the western, modern agenda depicts tenuous or disembodied identities for many places in the world, fundamentally brought on by reductivist and disabling modes of globalization, with little evidence of mediation or rapprochement between entities. The consequences of such dramatic change brought on by varying forms of disparity are both intellectually dynamic and potentially acrimonious.

If the flow of migration further accelerates due to international conflicts in the former Soviet Republics, the Levant, Indian Sub-continent, Indo-chinese Peninsula, Central Africa and South America, it will have tremendous consequences on world's host cities and neighborhoods. They will eventually be accommodating the ethnic-social, religious-cultural, and political-economic multiplicity of newcomers. Then, as the question has always been, how could the dwellers coexist – in all of guest-host differences – in these increasingly transnational cities? And what should the mission of city authorities be in articulating public policy pertaining to architectural design and urban planning in sustaining such cities?

The global intercultural exchange for the educated first generation new citizens has been emphasizing on working together, exchanging views and collaborating on joint projects and mutual concerns, but not reciprocally integrating with the wider society. Even sharing a political agenda for multicultural community is still isolationist in action oriented thinking. Indeed, transforming the focus from the nation-state to cities and neighborhoods where a transnational society is in the making has had many challenges. The emerging society has been raising issues pertaining to architectural design and urban renewal by revitalizing urban planning, social policy governance, and sustainability. Democratic Governments, Independent Private Institutions, and Universities representing all levels of civil society have long been struggling to make the integration issue less painful for the newcomers since the host and guest divide has remained the sour point in the accommodation of multicultural community.

Symposium Intention

The intention of this symposium is to articulate debate in search of new paradigms for the architecture of the 21st century, as they relate to issues of *designing for urban revitalization and social sustainability* from the transnational or transcultural perspective. The debate will inquire beyond protecting the genuine character of the architectural content for host dwellers and ethno-cultural identities for the newcomers, while revealing mutually co-enabling modes of being.

At present the inquiry of city core transformation is the foundation of world's integration project. It aspires to be the collective endeavor of host society and newcomers, transnational politicians and multicultural policy analysts -- yielding a new civil society. To develop a common ground for an attitudinal shift toward host and guest cultures for critical understanding – is unquestionable. However, a transcultural dimension must be added to the inquiry to make the complementarity integration a mutually enriching enterprise. This will eventually yield a new model of identity for individual agency within a transcultural city setting. It will enhance, promote and signify the personal and the spiritual, beyond the cultural, where the invisible divide will be a mark of distinction.

Focus of the Symposium

This special focus symposium will provide a forum for high quality discussion of recent advances in architecture and urbanity pertaining to designing for urban revitalization and social sustainability. Of particular interest are papers referring to case studies that investigate new pedagogical models, innovative application methods, and integrative design processes of the historic city-core transformation to produce indicators and parameters for the selection and management of urban

revitalization projects. Papers are invited combining novel approaches to historic district sustainability, functionality and adaptivity to provide creative solutions to important and complex challenges of gentrification, globalization, and urbanization.

Topics include (but not limited to):

- **Housing for Social Sustainability in Historic Districts**
- **Globalization & Urbanization of City-core Architecture**
- **Cooperative Design Methods in Urban Revitalization**
- **Computer Simulation of Gentrification in Historic Districts**
- **New Content of Transnational Urbanity in Historic City-Core Context**
- **VR Visualization of New Social Perspectives in Downtown Spatial Setting**
- **Artificial Intelligence & Social Infrastructure Projects**
- **Information Space in Historic District Re-modeling**
- **Interactivity & Inclusivity in Systems Design of Social Survivability**
- **Simulated vs. Augmented Reality of Historic Architecture**
- **Genetic Algorithms & Infrastructure Sustainability**
- **The Visual, the Physical and the Virtual in Historic Architecture**
- **Redesigning the Historic Urbanity for Globalized Virtuality**
- **New Spatial Layouts for Digital Lifestyles in Historic Districts**
- **Green Architecture in Historic Urban Environment**
- **New Media & the Language of New Architecture for Social Sustainability**
- **Ethics & Morality of Sustainable Architecture in Historic Districts**
- **Heritage Development & Urban Conservation**
- **Integrative Conservation & Social Sustainability**
- **Social/Cultural vs. Environmental/Economic Sustainability**
- **Mediating Place and Identity within Global Urbanity**
- **Critical Regionalism, Critical Environmentalism, and Universal Modernism**
- **Nano Technologies and Architectural Paradigms**

Who should be interested?

Architects and architecture educators, urban designers and city planners, sociologists and public policy specialists, transnationalists and multiculturalists, systems design theorists and neighborhood survivalists, politicians and technocrats and others should be interested. This includes those who realize that democratic inclusivity of stakeholders in the integrative process of urban revitalization of city core historic sites is *the* modernizing factor and that, to fully understand the transnational issues in historic settings, we must develop *comprehensive criticality* based on advanced scientific and literary knowledge.

Call for Papers

Papers within the scope of the focus symposium are welcome. Abstracts of approximately 200 words should be submitted for evaluation. All proposals will be judged based on scholarly quality, originality and potential for further discourse. Papers must be written in English. Abstracts may be submitted electronically (Microsoft Word preferred), by mail, or by fax by March 30, 2008 to:

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Review Process and Conference Proceedings:

All submitted papers and abstracts will be peer-reviewed. Final papers should not exceed 5 single-spaced typed pages. Conference Proceedings will be published and selected papers may be published in book format.

Important Dates

- March 30, 2008 Abstract due
- April 9, 2008 Notice of Acceptance
- May 9, 2008 Final Paper due

General Chair

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Symposium Chair

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