

The Processual Method in the Analysis of the Anthropic Space and in the Architectural and Urban Project

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ABSTRACT

The suggested reproduction that we intend to explicate shows, in short, the results of a project research carried out within the framework of the Architectural Design courses in the Department of the Polytechnic of Bari dICAR, assigned to the writer, based on a theoretical view that is based on the method of “operating history” as a instrument for interpretation of a built and pre-vision of transformation of reality in relation to the cogito projection idea. It is based on the fundamental concepts of the architectural organism and the building type.

Such methodological conception refers to a current of thought that studies the architectural and urban events in their essence of organisms made up of interdependent parts and in continuous transformation, processual examined with reference to phenomenal husserlian array that allows you to understand their concrete nature of variable structures not “*a priori*” existing beyond the experience of the becoming.

Only for illustrative purposes and as proof of the usefulness and indivisibility of the concepts in question, some didactic examples are proposed that explain the method used.

Each sample shown is intended as a result of a process of “re-design” that considers the present city and, therefore the one which modification is proposed, as provisional terms of ongoing “transformation” processes where, as always in the history of cities, urban trails, housing, specialized construction are linked.

KEYWORDS: typological method, architectural organism, building type, urban fabric, architectural and urban project

1 INTRODUCTION

As indicated, this is based on some crucial theories, founded on fundamental typological – processual / design assumptions (partial and completed by other subjects), is based on the notion of *Organism* and *Building Type*. This theory recognizes the city as a place where the socio-typological differences, as buildings show during the time, are related to human necessity to obtain space to use as individual or collective employment.

This objective is pursued through a process idea with the purpose of representing the development mode of activities produced by man, whether in the urban organism, and the aggregation and the organism buildings of which it consists, representing the minimum element of the collection.

Moreover the ways that “being” shows itself (with its contradictions), is considered in a conceptual “shape”, are the beginning of the planning thinking. This attitude express our capacity of being able to be

active in our epoch, through a critical and not parasitic exercise breaking with the past but in continuity with what has been historically transmitted and inherited.

The basic concept that initiates a reflection on recognition of man-made structures is as shown among this, with no doubt, the modernity of *concept of organism* being in strict relation to the living space and, most importantly, to the cultural heritage and as part of our living space indeed. Concept, this, that expresses the bond with the so called *architectural language*, and that identifies with a construction culture in a specific place, and that furthermore denotes the need for an update. Identity, this one that embodies the image of a reality in continuous evolution.

No less indispensable for its targets, too, the *notion of architectural type* as a *synthetic concept* space intended to accommodate the anthropic activities, covered in its progress of specific transformations, recognizable and collectively (spontaneously or critically) taken in a spatial and temporal sphere.

The reading of urban, aggregative, buildings transformations, based on quoted notions, clarifies in particular that all different scales are linked by needing relationship and joined in relationship among each parts (*organism*). For each anthropic structure realized in a place is always possible recognize a previous one (historical) that identifies the differences of types, the action in that historical moment (type).

Recognition of their formation and transformation process and relativity of their value that allows dialectics of changes and integrations.

Returning to the basics that has been covered, it is noted that the combination and indissoluble terms of *organism* and *type architecture* was investigated, and educationally transmitted in its meaning-*system* consisting of independent units. This has allowed to structure, is a method of *critical reading* based on the indivisibility of these notions, with which it is interpreted the evolutionary process of the basic building and special type, both, the *project* set entirely congruent with the principles originally adopted.

2 DIDACTICAL EXERCISES

At the end of the deep analytical study of the theses, consistent with the methodological premises, was launched the second phase coincides with the <conjectural hypothesis> of project. The intent of these hypothesis has been directed in search of ideas, reviews, views, formulated with the intention of building a supposition of the project. It is not born of a pure speculation based on critical exercise unrelated to the results of the analysis, on the contrary has been launched in line with the objective of joining (*cum-jacere*, indeed) idea of design and context. Goal pursued by the careful observation of the dialectical relationships that develop between the results of the research and estimates of mutation exists, based on the specific vocations of "place". The latter is understood with the meaning (extended and more general) of cultural area. And then, referring to the concept of self-determination of a culture that has, over time, consolidated its characters. Understandable only through their own "interpretation" in order to identify, in a territorial reality composition, the historical moment of maximum growth of those unique characteristics; coincided with the Mediterranean-organic architectural identity (in this case Apulian and Maltese), no doubt new and original, which I believe the project should begin.

It is for this reason that the design considerations, the following proposals have not given up to maintain the orderly structure of the building "archetypal" own of the study areas, manifested by a declared massiveness stand in relationship / partnership with the dialectical system of a lightweight roof.

1.1 Urban planning exercises carried out in the laboratories for the Degree courses

The exercises in urban fabric scale are drawn from the experiences of elaborate design in AA. AA. 2011-2013 with undergraduate Final workshop of Malta and Gozo.

The research thesis, which preceded the stage dedicated to design experimentation, made it possible to clarify the architectural characteristics of the maltese archipelagos, highlighting two different moments

that have marked the diversity: the stage before the arrival of the Knights of St John and the Turks besieged post.

The 16th century represents, in fact, for the Maltese Islands, an important transitional phase which started the gradual, but wide, occupation of the island territory.

The study focused in particular on the city of Mdina, Birgu, Valletta of Malta and on Gozo, Victoria which were reconstructed the phases of formation and transformation, construction and housing types.

For designing considerations an initial attempt was made for the critical recognition of the character of the maltese architectural "language" which appeared heavily contaminated and determined by the injection of external linguistic codes. It shows, in fact, an architectural structure of speech that depends on the character of the dominant cultures that have influenced over time built structure, which appears to be conditioned by a readability at the same time, Arab / Norman medieval, Renaissance and the late Italian Renaissance / Iberian / French and then neoclassical and modern English.

Moreover, the peripheral location of the Islands than continental European developments, concomitantly to wanted posting by cultural outcomes from North Africa, have caused the absolute cultural margins resulting in a lack of identity characters.

The project accepts these conditions and reasons, critically, on the meaning of modern architecture in a place where everything is transient and whose individuality can be sought in that architectural value qualified by a massive/opaque casing, but not directly representative of the masonry-plastic identity typical, for example, of the southern Italy. The urban operating history and the character of the built have represented, in reflections here proposed, the prerogative of method that has inspired the "speculated" design solutions.

The planning assumptions was performed on samples of actual fabric chosen in the area of the Grand Harbour of Valletta and Gozo Island.

1.2 Manoel Island's Project (Malta)

Manoel Island, a small island in the Harbour, has some buildings that have assumed a vital role in the history of the place, including the ancient Lazzaretto (from 17th century), now in disrepair, the piazza D'Armi of Fort Manoel (18th century), the Yacht Yard (19th century), the building currently used for the storage of boats, the Cattle shed once used for shelter animals.

The project aims to give to the island, and the buildings of which it is formed, a new and more coherent specialization, recovering and/or restoring these structures but also by inserting a new "specialist pole" consisting of a large multi-purpose building. This is part of the excavation carried out by the British and sits along the slight incline that reaches the sea, hosting a boatshow with services necessary to the rational organisation of nautical activities, from an existing survey, are conspicuous while insufficient structures appear likely to keep them. Along with a new hypothesis of Lazzaretto educational structure, in place of demolished buildings, was designed a conference room which is, at the same time, polarity of island and specializing of Divisions.

The waterfront of the organism takes up the readability of the contiguous rhythmic Division lesene (pilasters strip), but changes use leaving the water level plan with access to a hypostyle area upon which stands the Hall. It actually consists of an all-metal structure, it detaches from the body and shows his recognition of element that defines the "knotting" internal Court space. The remaining parts of the original reconquer island status of naturalness, where stands the different role of parts through a marked geometric organization of the West and a concept from nature reserve to the East around the Fort Manoel.

1.3 Ta-Xbiex Peninsula's Project (Malta)

The peninsula of Ta-Xbiex, also part of the Harbour, has a large part has not yet been built, although recently affected by speculative intent to urbanize the area free; moreover, ongoing phenomena for decades on much of the waterfront.

Through the historical survey was rebuilt and dated the existing town. The urban fabric consists primarily of single-family housing units, like villa, and embassies built along the coast since the 30 's of the last century.

The project was intended as a sewn up of the existing urban fabric. As the mechanics that have created the current urban order, based on a modular system rotated by 45° with respect to the North-South axis, axis has been proposed, nestled along the watershed of the promontory, which define housing structure ending on a specialist building in direct contact with the sea.

It intersects mesh paths by defining a precise hierarchy of built. The intersection of these paths raises some significant "nodes", including a main square, on which overlook buildings housing and specialized, and more organisms (market, small Hall for meetings and shows, etc.) that role and function, are as centralizing although major subordinate in relation to polarity.

It is noted that the forecast of that axis, polarized at the end of the peninsula of Ta-Xbiex, is the result of a dialectic-critical operation in which merge reading and project.

A typical ingredient of maltese architecture the "galerijas" was introduced –reinterpreted and updated- to define the readability of façades. It appears in the residences at spaces for living, while proposed serially and continuously throughout the front mezzanine level used as offices and services, to highlight the presence of a public building internal travel.

1.4 Little Town of Victoria's Project (Island of Gozo)

Rising on a natural plateau, the "*Citadel*" represents the maximum expression of the center of the island for the role developed to territorial scale and the continuity of use that has been more times interested by defensive setups of which evident traces still stay, especially of the last sixteenth-century phase. Fortification system which, however, has not prevented the destructive actions produced by the 1551 siege of Turks, as a result of them, but also because of the devastating earthquake in 1693, the walled city was almost totally abandoned. In fact, the few surviving buildings include specialist pole formed from the Cathedral, the Palazzo di Giustizia and Bishop Palace, and some residences. For the rest there are little high walls that define the boundaries of the original buildings. Having reconstructed the likely planned structure and the process of building types has been proposed, together with the restoration of the Episcopal Palace, the sewn up of two contiguous blocks in one of those originally survivors that was a small folklore museum.

The experimentation, like a pilot project with which to start the full recovery of the Citadel, is a hypothesis of reconstruction of residential buildings based on a concept of autochthon house updated along Triq Zenqa and recasting of all residences that expose on Triq Melita Bernardo and Triq-Fosos, aimed notorious hosting area. Each room of the facility, as well as carrying out their own autonomous function, participates in the distribution of the entire set through a continuous route taken in the foreground. This can be reached through a main staircase, situated in buildings of tested together with the collective functions, and more stairs placed in the inner court of each home, according to the types of the maltese archipelago.

1.5 Victoria's Rabat Project (Island of Gozo)

The project area, marginal *Rabato* but not peripheral, it is included in the Church of St Giorgio and the convent of St Francesco include. Currently left un-built, it allowed some important facilities for the city but they are devoid of organic nature, both in the way of organize between them, both in establishing relationships with the surrounding congruent urban fabric. These services, including the bus station from which arise the links throughout the island and Malta, two large car parks, the 19th-century Garden of Rundle Garden, give the whole area a character of anti-nodal point.

The remarkable difference in height area, the hypothesis of transformation requires the arrangement of the work for the transit and parking in an underground plan, organizing the area through terracings which have, on the surface, a multifunctional building and several residences on Triq Putjrial. The

adopted plan configuration determines a "polo" square comes to establish a connection (even Visual) with churches in which the area lies and, at the same time, it gain a wide public audience, partially terraced, which offers organic relationship with the urban fabric and the garden. The main function of the outstanding building is exhibition (Museum of maltese and Gozitan) and includes a school of restoration for archaeological and architectural heritage. Sideways to it, set up a large urban court and in relationship with the residences, was included an auditorium and a library.

The readability of the ensemble retains the idea of opacity typical of maltese architecture but does not give up the update through a external casing and non load-bearing housing with a series of small horizontal cuts that restrict the entry of light in museums. The school of restoration and the last level offices are opening wider and protected, while a light Tower on the building follows the order to report to distance the polarity, evoking the symbolic value of the characteristic towers of Gozo.

1.6 Planning exercises of the Sacred Space

The design study of the parish centre was led by considering a sequence of relationships links ranging from architectural body scale to that of aggregation and urban organism.

The reports were of various nature and scalar type because the parish Center in itself implies the existence of relationships between the different parts needs, formed by the building of worship and outbuildings (Parish Hall, classrooms for catechesis, priest's House, etc.); then you need reports with the existing urban fabric with which to establish a relationship. Is this initial choice has been sought to critically understand what choices due to adopt by reforming and updating the chosen planning type. Therefore, do not uniquely defined and accepted plant but fruitful reasoning aimed at an attempt to propose a type enrichment through its renewal. Theoretical assumption which accompanied the choice of construction techniques.

While designing the study of the parish centre we were led to consider a sequence of relationship links ranging from architectural organism scale to that of aggregative and urban organism. The reports were of various kinds and scalar sort because the parish centre in itself implies the existence of relations of necessity between the different parts of the building of worship and outbuildings (Parish Hall, classrooms for catechesis, priest's House, etc.); then relationships need with existing tissue with which to establish a relationship.

Made this initial choice was then sought to critically understand what choices due to adopt by reforming and updating the chosen planning type. Therefore, not a layout scheme uniquely defined and accepted, but a fruitful reasoning aimed at an attempt to propose a type enrichment through its renovation. This is the theoretical assumption which accompanied the choice of construction techniques.

2 CONCLUSIONS

Design experiments shown give an idea, evidently partial and the synthetic method used. Whose theoretical procedure, in relation to the principles on which it rests, try tying inseparably analysis of reality and prediction of transformation of it. "Operating history" is, as indicated, the primary concept that governs the relations generated between the "individual critical act" (subject) and the concrete expression of reality (object), both dependent on an "interpretive basis" which, though inevitably limited, strained to capture authentic and inalienable values transmitted from history.

Concerned in its intrinsic values more closely, which procedural outcome-diachronic, reality shows "in power", theoretically, the right solution to the expectations of the place. The causal relationship between "what it is" and "what could it be" in the future is in the proactive activities of the operating subject (*Machenschaft*) as passing and updating of results.

It is, therefore, the architecture understood as "language", identifying the characteristics of identity (spatial and temporal) of a civil culture, expressing a presupposed communication manages to secure the deep connection with an actual and real strategy according to a postulate of continuity.



Figure 1: Manoel Island's and Ta-Xbiex Peninsula's Project (Malta). Stud. A. Camporeale, E. Caneloro, C. Chimienti, M.A. Fedele, P. Gorgoglione, A.P. Sancinetti



Figure 2: Manoel Island's and Ta-Xbiex Peninsula's Project (Malta). Stud. A. Camporeale, E. Caneloro, C. Chimienti, M.A. Fedele, P. Gorgoglione, A.P. Sancinetti



Figure 3: Little Town of Victoria's and Victoria's Rabat Project (Island of Gozo). Stud. V. De Leo, G. Germanò, S. Intini, A.M. Mauriello, A. Nuzzi, S. Sciannameo



Figure 4: Little Town of Victoria's and Victoria's Rabat Project (Island of Gozo). Stud. V. De Leo, G. Germanò, S. Intini, A.M. Mauriello, A. Nuzzi, S. Sciannameo



Figure 5: Project in Corato, stud. I. Di Gennaro



Figure 6: Project in Bisceglie, stud. N. Simone



Figure 7: Project in Corato, stud. M. D'Aprile



Figure 8: Project in Bisceglie, stud. V. Zecchi

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