

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 14.12.2017

Title: Beauty in city, social and environmental reflections.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. Salari Rad and Mrs. H. Amakchi.

Mr. Salari Rad who was the first speaker began his speech, talking about the concept and the history of aesthetics. He explained that first he will historically approach the argument and then what regards beauty in architecture and urban sphere. He would conclude his speech talking about the actual situation, challenges, approaches and possible solutions.

Mr. Salari Rad explained that from the very beginning humans realized that beauty in the environment that they were living three items are present but separated in their everyday life. They were the useful, the goodness and the beauty. They simply understood that not in all cases these characteristics can be present in the same argument. Talking about ancient civilizations like Greek, Persian, Chinese and Indian, Mr. Salari Rad explained that the first step taken in these civilizations was the introduction of the concept of Gods and their role in the humans everyday material and spiritual life. These spiritual beings helped the humans to explain some of the concepts that they had to understand and justify in their material life. The easiest way to create a connection and continuation of Gods' existence in the humans' life.

After explaining what the Greek philosophers like Socrates and Aristotel thought about the concept of beauty, he continued on the same way, asserting beauty is a personal argument, and everybody can interpret it in the way it is convenient to his needs and conceptions. He said that in almost all times our concept and application of beauty are related to the social principles that in each society have been introduced, in base of the characteristics of each society.

Reporting what Aristotel said about the concept of beauty, Mr. Salari explained that the Greek philosopher believed that there is a interrelation between the concept of beauty and bounty, but in some conditions and situations they experience a separation. These two concepts are reflected in the relations that regulate the human relationships. Aristotel believes that we can define the rules regarding the definition of beauty. The idea is to define the proportion, symmetry and coordination, that give us the total comprehension sense of the beauty

Talking about architectural arguments Mr. Salari talked about to the golden number and the concept of beauty. Mr. Salari expressed the idea that the concept of beauty can be differently interpreted by different persons, in different conditions and in different eras. What Mr. Salari believes that regarding the matter many things can't be classified under the same table of evaluation and appreciation by the majority. This is the principle reason that a reality that is considered interesting and nice somewhere by some people, is considered useless and ugly

somewhere else by other people, because of their different social, climatic, historical ... belongings.

Mr. Salari continued his speech presenting the historical process of the evolution of the philosophical spiritual transformations, arriving to our days and how the historical and practical knowledge can be used and introduced in the everyday life of the city in order to improve the quality of the life, minimizing at the same time the problems and the negative aspects of the phenomenon that we know in the urban life. He concluded his speech asserting that the duty of the opinion makers and urban management staff is to think, present and find solutions for the problems that create difficulties for the inhabitants of the cities.

The second speaker was Mrs. H. Amakchi who presenting the content of her speech said that she would talk about the argument related to the city and the relationship that exists with the nature as the environment where we live. In her opinion a city is nice to live in when the natural capacities and facilities are introduced and present in the everyday life of the inhabitants, who use but at the same time respect the natural resources that they use, in order to permit its continuation in the time.

Mr. Amakchi divided the relationship between men and nature in three historical important phases.

- 1.The first phase is when the nature has the absolute hegemony on men and they have to realize their incapacity to face the total supremacy of the nature, understanding their position and the necessity to live with it.

- 2.The second phase is when men live using the resources of the nature in harmony and coordination, living in living spaces like the cities.

- 3.The third phase is when men realize their infinite capacity to use the resources of the nature and in many cases to defeat it, creating and recreating the products they need, ignoring the historical role of the nature.

Mrs. Amakchi expressed the desire that it would be very nice to live in the second phase, where our life is in harmony with the nature, meanwhile the actual situation is very worrying, because of our wrong impression that we are stronger than the nature and we can defeat and submit it to our needs and believes. Talking about the historical process of the human civilization's development relationship with the nature, she explained how the provision of the food was directly related to the possibilities that the nature offered. So the ancient civilizations born and developed where the nature offered the possibility to provide the feeding needs, like in places near the rivers or seaside, in other words where men had access to water sources as the principal element for the survival. She brought the examples of the rivers like Nile, Gang, Sand... where the famous and ancient civilizations were formed. The process continued also in the modern era when cities like New York, London, Paris, Moscow, Rome, Prague, Baghdad, Istanbul, Bohn...

are based and formed near water routes and rivers, showing that the basic need for water was not changed during the centuries.

Talking about the Iranian reality, Mrs. Amakchi explained how the same rules were valid also in Iran, especially that our country is situated in an area that year after year is becoming an area with increasing deficit of water resources.

Regarding to the Iranian situation and climatic conditions Mrs. Amakchi pointed on the fact the Iranian rulers and lawmakers can't ignore the continuously changing conditions, that affect the life quality of the citizens and if not controlled can reach dramatic dimensions. Talking about the necessity and scarcity of water resources, she explained that in many cases in Iran the rulers don't consider the matter and if in a city there is need of water supply, the water is supplied anyway and with any cost. She stressed on the fact that in the past centuries the Iranians trying to satisfy their needs, found sustainable solutions, like the water transfer through underground well engineered channels, permitting the development of life in areas considered impossible for living conditions, using the natural resources like water in a diligent way to permit the continuous use for the present and next generations.

Mrs. Amakchi criticized the approach of the rulers on the matter regarding the possibility of facing and solving the incoming problems with the use of technological achievements and tools, meanwhile in this approach the existing and necessary balance between natural resources and their users is completely improper. She explained how the people that live especially in the cities, has forgotten the chances that nature and specifically water sources offer conditions to improve our life, especially spiritual conditions. In many case the reason is that for the urban management the priority is to solve economic problems through the use of natural indiscriminate use, forgetting that a city without the appropriate natural backup can't offer ideal conditions for the citizens.

As in other cases of our present reality, Mrs. Amakchi believes that the roots of our dramatic situation can be found in the misinterpretation of western philosophy regarding the relationship between men and nature and the wrong believe that through progress and technological achievements men can solve their problem subduing nature for all their needs. Talking about the actual situations, Mrs. Amakchi explained how our unlimited desire to consume is pushing us to destroy the environment where we live, obliging the urban management to apply the less expensive but the worst solutions for the problems that our wrong lifestyle creates in the cities where we live, forgetting that the continuation of such behavior bring us to the final destruction.

Concluding her speech Mrs. Amakchi expressed the idea that for a sustainable life in the cities we must stop the introduction of manmade gadgets to substitute it with natural elements. We must stop to watch the urban environment as a space that permit us to gain and create incomes. If we continue to ignore and underestimate the capabilities of the nature, thinking that the technological and scientific achievements ensure our supremacy as the winning race, the mother

nature has show many times and in many occasions that despite the unbelievable transformations and achievements we still depend on the unlimited power and rules of the nature.