

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 08.02.2018

Title: The position of nature in urban landscape.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. Khakzand, Mrs. Z. Mansouri and Mr. S. Gholampour.

The first speaker was Mr. Khakzand who began his speech saying that landscape as a separate field in urban planning appeared in 1996-2006. It has been considered as the best order for historical arguments in architecture, urban planning and urban programming, criticizing the incapacity of architecture and urban planning to give the appropriate answers and solutions to the existing problems. Reporting the definition of an American lecturer of Princeton University Mr. Khakzand said the landscape is increasingly considered as a model for urban planning. Landscape as a traditional concept is defined the art horizontal surfaces' organization. Considering these conditions of the surfaces, the designers can produce and activate the space and urban reflections , without the use of traditional heavy tools and solutions.

Mr. Khakzand reporting James Corner said that the idea of landscape as a model for urban planning will be possible through the combined reorganization of natural and creative environment, avoiding boring bureaucratic and professional programming. He also stressed on the fact the relationship between nature and urban areas (cities) must not be considered a contrast but a combination of two realities.

Mr. khakzand says that the landscape is a mediator that not only serves to give a form to urban areas, but is also a model for the process. Talking about the revitalization of big spaces and also industrial dismissed areas, he says how 470 participants from over 70 countries, presented solutions based on green spaces and parks inspired by traditional cities history. Talking about the role and position that the parks can have in the cities' everyday life, Mr. Khakzand agrees with R. Kulhaus when he says that because of its continuous use and service, it will always be subject to material and conceptual transformations.

Continuing his speech Mr. Khakzand arrives to the reality that our cities becoming huge conglomerates are in fact ruined, because of mismanagements and wrong solutions, making this sad reality in many aspects irreversible. He thinks that if a solution is possible and available it will be only consist in the reinterpretation of the role that nature can have in the urban life. The whole concept expressed by many experts is that in the urban areas the role that once played architecture is not anymore possible and the landscape recreation and reinterpretation will be a key solution. In this context the large scale constructions like shopping centers, administrative complexes and parking complexes must be transformed in their role and forms, following landscape interpretations.

What is considered of primary importance is that the new cities must not be a concentration of construction, but they must be a thin extent of habitations and small areas foresaw for different purposes. The trend is to see the cities through the vision of landscape content that is the combination of natural opportunities completed by engineering and scientific knowledge. This approach will make possible to correct the problems created by the industrialization and irresponsible use of the cities and urban areas.

Presenting different successful experiences, Mr. Khakzand affirms that the solution consist in the participation and use of different modern professional expertise , which having a look to what happened after the industrialization era in the cities, created unbearable conditions for humans in the urban areas. The new landscape based solution will permit to avoid cost based activities and solutions, that acted as a suffocative factor in the cities and where the citizens didn't gain in wellness under its different forms.

Talking about concrete solutions Mr. Khakzand believes that if the designers and experts abandon solutions that aim to transform and cancel the natural forms, materially and spiritually, trying to be less aggressive in the content of the natural landscape, than may be we have the chance to introduce a new concept of environmental concept, where the various components that must offer possibilities to improve and facilitate our life in the urban areas, using both natural opportunities and scientific technological achievements.

The second speaker was Mrs. Mansouri. She began her speech talking about the evolution of nature's visual attractions in the cities, that are a factor that attract and help the citizens to forget the everyday problems and stresses that are a characteristic of the life in the cities. The realized studies show how people that live in areas with considerable green spaces, are less subject to illness, physical and spiritual problems. The presence of natural areas and green space are a guarantee for a superior and healthier level of life. Talking about the historical process of how natural components (like the gardens and green spaces) were introduced in the urban areas, Mrs. Mansouri explained that the process began in the renaissance era in the Italian city of Florece, where it was consequently reflecteced also in painting and literature.

Mrs. Mansour explained how the relationship between nature and landscape design can have positive effects on the natural structures of the cities and how landscape architectural patterns can affect positively the ecologic aspect and content of the cities. It is clear that the existence and presence of green spaces and pleasant landscapes and panoramas how can influence the citizens and their physical-spiritual balance, reducing stress and anxiety, that are a characteristic of the life in the cities.

Landscape architecture has the duty and the capacity to put order and a sense of calm in the urban spaces, creating the conditions to reduce the density of the built areas in the city that are the principal reason that make difficult the life in the big cities. The creation of green spaces give

the possibility for the revitalization of social contacts between the inhabitants, that can be considered the base of a basic and sane life in the human society.

Talking about successful projects, Mrs. Mansouri presented the case of a neighborhood in the Swedish capital, where through the use of multifunctional spaces, landscape design and sustainable applications in architecture and urban spaces, the management of the project achieved the best results in order to improve the life quality of the inhabitants.

Talking about the possibility of a new concept introduction of the natural components in the urban structures, Mrs. Mansour explained that it will be possible if it is well programmed and organized, creating sustainable ecosystems, helping the reduction of air and noise pollution, ensuring the rest and recreational areas and spaces.

Mrs. Mansouri explained how in a global scale the urban planners and urban management group are focusing on the reduction of the gap that has been created between urban areas and natural structures and components, that if continues, will make impossible the life in the cities, because of different limitations that it creates, especially regarding social activities and relationships.

In this regard the biggest challenge in the future will be the creation and organization of unified and integrated system of management that will permit to coordinate and improve the final results of different urban management activities. Landscape design is the main tool that is called to introduce natural components to help to give a solutions that modern cities have, giving the possibility and opportunity for a sustainable development. Mrs. Mansouri explained how such targets and projects can be achieved and basically the process must be based on a study and analyze based path.

Talking about what actually urban planners think and do regarding the urban problems and challenges, Mrs. Mansouri said that the present trend on urban planning regarding the cities, is to refuse the continuous growth of the cities, trying to create concrete links between social and natural life of the citizens and cancel the social isolation that is truly the negative key for the alienation of the relationship that must exist between the citizens and the natural environment.

Concluding her speech Mrs. Mansouri stressed on the fact that programming, management and real participation of all citizens is the solution for present and especially future problems of the cities.

The third speaker Mr. Gholampour talked about the position of the nature in the urban landscape. He said that first of all the cities are made by men in a mental scale and level. They try to create a relationship between man and nature, so it can be analyzed to see how they interact on bilateral ties that exist regarding the architectural structure and the position that nature has in this context.

Mr. Gholampour explained that men have always tried to establish a particular relation with the surrounding environment and nature, that in some case it causes damages and destruction of the

environment. He said that what happens is directly related to different climates and geographical conditions and positions.

Mr. Gholampour has also presented what theorized different researchers and lecturers regarding the matter and of course all of them are characterized in base of their social, cultural and geographical position.

Talking about the Iranian case, Mr. gholampour said that in our country we are trying to maintain the heritage that we have, where geometrical order can be considered the base of our structures. At the same time Mr. Gholampour said that in our rout of civilization we have tried somehow to conquest the natural environment that we considered as a property.

Concluding his speech Mr. Gholampour focused on the fact that the natural values have their content and messages for the human society, ensuring us a balanced life, free of anxiety and stress. In this context the position of the nature in the urban landscape experiences an upgrade of position, becoming and having a central position. Mr. Gholampour presented also the role and production of painters and writers in East and how they understood and felt the role of the nature in their material and spiritual life.