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INTERACTION BETWEEN URBAN PLANNING AND TRADITIONALLY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE  
(some examples from Yugoslavia)

The essential motive for writing this paper emerged from the desire to draw attention of this gathering also to the problems that occur during development and implementation of new urban plans and designs, in the course of which the tradition and heritage of the vernacular architecture are being transformed and degraded at an accelerated pace or entirely eradicated. The fact is that the large number of the vernacular architectural samples in Yugoslavia exceeds the scope of the legally protected cultural monuments, whereas these very "remains of the past" should be perceived as the basic elements of the modern urban planning concept. The scientific interest in individual structures, that considerably preceded establishment of the organized service for protection of the vernacular architectural heritage, is largely to blame for the failure to awake consciousness of the importance of preserving architectural complexes that encompass objects of different values. Truly enough, the people has fostered the tradition of preserving individual buildings, mainly of sacred character, but the other structures of the vernacular architecture have been subjected to the omnipresent tendency toward modifications, repairs, mendings, and additions to meet current needs of the owner. Those, naturally, have led to an irrevocable loss of the freshness and strenght of the original master's idea.

A distinctly smaller number of experts is engaged in the studies and protection of the heritage of this kind than in the activities associated with the urban planning. The above mentioned factors have negatively influenced the general attitude toward the vernacular architectural heritage on the whole and its efficient protection in Yugoslavia. The problems are particularly pronounced in:

1/ the villages where inadequate building practices have caused individual parts thereof to acquire urban characteristics, inspite of their being planned to remain at the village level,

2/ the settlements that existed as villages for a long time before they have gradually undergone planned urbanization,

3/ the towns that in addition to the historically formed core include large areas of explicitly rural architecture.

1. There is a large number of villages in Yugoslavia which, until recently were characterized by a continual development in terms of the household layout at the farm, location of the main building, household functional organization and particularly external decorations.

The process of the homogenous development of such villages is usually two-fold. On the one hand, wealthy peasants, who used to possess the most valuable samples of the rural architecture, start to compete in the construction of new apartment houses. In doing that they do keep the fundamental form of the structure, but by enlarging it several times with respect to the previous dimensions they make all the proportional relationships absurd and lose the original aesthetic value. The practice also disturbs the horizontal rhythm of the arrangement of the structures along the communication, with the vertical regulation neglected altogether (Fig.1).



Fig.1- Striking example of inproportional new structure built beside a typical old building at the village of Nova Pazova

On the other hand, the continual rural development is ruined by the insistence of the few administrative workers employed in the public services to live in urban houses. Thus, one or two multistory apartment houses are built for municipal authority clerks, postmen, medical workers and the like. There is no need to describe the chaos created in the overall appearance of the village.



Fig.2- Apartment house built for administrative workers in the centre of the village Žabalj

The situation is similar if a village inhabitant wishes to build his family house in the spirit of the contemporary international architecture, Le Corbusier's ideas or forms typical of some foreign country (Fig.3).

2. Numerous settlements were founded and existed a long time with all the features of a cosy rural life. Many of them, however, have been subjected to a process of urbanization without an indepth investigation and their physical

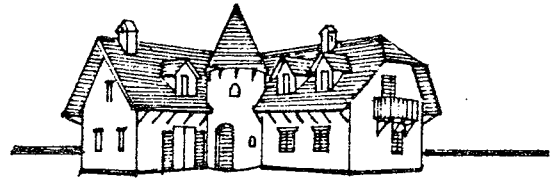
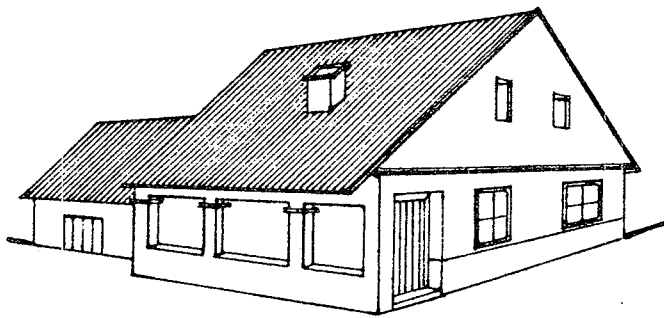


Fig.3- Comparative examples of a typical Vojvodina farmstead and a new structure built in the French tradition at the village of Srbobran

structure being prepared for the transformation. The reasons of the process have been manifold: natural resource finds (coal, oil, minerals), the construction of a large industrial complex in the neighbourhood, or fast expansion of a nearby town up to the village boundaries. The sudden inflow of population with urban habits and planned construction of urban structures have entirely degraded the surrounding rural tissue. In principle, the detailed urban plan is first developed for the village's centre. The centre is usually the most explicit architectural entity, with the church and parish building in the square which serves as the cross-roads of the main communication routes and the site of rural festivities. The plan replaces these buildings with urban architectural structures of the serial, impersonal type. Further steps of the urbanization concept are carried out with much more difficulty because of the protests of those inhabitants tied to the land and rural way of living. Quite contrary, some of their fellow-villagers are eager to exchange their homes and homesteads for apartments in multistory apartment houses built on the land they have ceded and become town dwellers. Used, however, to the rural lifestyle they gradually become dissatisfied with living at a height higher than groundfloor, and by resuming the old habits (such as sitting in front of the house and keeping domestic animals) they vividly illustrate the mistakes of transforming the villages to towns without exploring their entire history. Visually indistinct, urbanwise and architecturally heterogeneous, further development of such settlements means complete departure from the vernacular building tradition, resulting in a strange neither-town-nor-village mixture. The remains of the vernacular architectural structures, surrounded by urban elements and deprived of the historic background of their origin, have no chances of survival. Sometimes, the urban plan pro-

vides for an oasis that is supposed to illustrate the one time image of the village, but creation of such an ensemble, that remains lifeless and reduced almost to an artefact, does more harm than use to the general concept of the architectural heritage protection.

3. The third example of the irrevocable loss of the vernacular architectural monuments is concerned with the towns that tend to eradicate the areas of exceptionally valuable vernacular architectural samples because they do not fit into the urbane context. A lot of towns in Yugoslavia today have grown out of the core (established in the Middle Age or at some later time) that expanded beyond the town walls. Therefore, throughout the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century towns contained both urban and rural types of houses. The both types equally included structures and sites that deserved to be labeled as cultural monuments. At the initial stage of its work, the service for protection of the cultural monuments extended legal protection only to individual structures of exceptional value and groups of structures that constituted a whole. The remaining objects were only recorded. Fast development of the towns and the authority enjoyed by urban planning experts have led to the negligence of the fundamental protection principles (preservation of the immediate neighbourhood of the protected structure, compliance of the new structures with the old ones, etc.). A great many exceptional structures of vernacular architecture have found themselves surrounded by giant buildings, lost in the urban landscape and left to the dent of time and quiet decay.

As a last resort, pending upon financial resources, there is the possibility to dislocate the structure to a new site. Such examples have been but few, and in neither case was the outcome worthwhile the funds invested. The saddest, and for the protection service almost unallowable solution is to lift legal protection under the pressure of urbanists. Installation of the plate saving that a structure has been erected at the one time site of a valuable ethnographic monument is a grave defeat for all the conservators of Yugoslavia.

These empirical experiences clearly speak of inadequate attention paid to the protection of cultural monuments in the urban planning practice. The analysis of the aforementioned issues indicates that any intervention within a historic site has had an adverse impact upon the survival of the vernacular architectural object. In neither of the examples has it been possible to pursue a combined approach that would offer a more favourable solution. By all means, the difficulties largely stem from insufficient knowledge regarding the interdependan-

ce of the architectural branches. Therefore, our efforts should be aimed at the education as the initial stage in searching for appropriate solutions. The experts, whose decision on whether to work for a urban planning institution or a monument protection institute depends upon quite irrelevant factors, often fail to communicate and advocate divergent opinions. Most probably, various conflicts, great and small "wars", rash decisions and socially unjustifiable moves have been caused by inadequate emphasis on the educational and historic dimensions of the vernacular architecture (and the other branches) during the first stage of their education (the faculty).

Only recently (some ten years ago), the architectonic faculties in Yugoslavia introduced multidisciplinary courses that synthesize these heterogeneous subjects. The incentive came from the architects-conservators who suggested that based upon all relevant assumptions and scientific and deductive methods attempts should be made to revitalize the search for the architectural meaning and symbolism, invent more intimate ways of expressing the architectural system of values, and arouse concern for the architecture and urban planning in the context of social development. In the conditions of accelerated urbanization, mass construction of deficient apartments and desire to create "better and nicer" object than before, it has taken quite some time and effort to explain to the students that the objects and sites of the vernacular architecture are not mere real estate items that can simply be erased from the drawings and reality, but indicators of the civilization and development of a country and its people. New generations of architects and urbanists, adequately educated and prepared for cooperation, will, by all means, solve the problems in a different and more appropriate manner.

In addition to those purely professional problems, the solution of which is, fortunately, perceived in the near future, over the last few years there has occurred a new practice in which the traditional vernacular architecture is destroyed by common citizens. This statement calls for certain clarifications. Namely, due to the geographical, political and other reasons, Yugoslavia, like some other countries, is the home of several different cultures that coexist and intertwine. As a consequence, the architectural heritage is not characterized by uniform development and features.

In some instances, the number of which is on the rise, migrants from entirely different part of Yugoslavia insist on building houses in the tradition of their native country, disturbing thus the harmony of the historically roun-

ded entity. Or even worse, compelled by the desire to permanently settle in the area, the newcomers do not use authentic materials, but concrete replica (Fig.4). With the inspection service not fully developed, once erected the houses are hard to remove and the court proceeding take a long time. Similarly, some people start inventing architectural details that have never existed in the local architectural tradition. This results in fantastic, elaborated forms that stand out of the architectural context, degrading it, and misleading a less observant onlooker (Fig.5). It seems that in the long run the euphoria could be prevented only by the reconstruction of several outstanding historical structures and patient education of the population so that they may perceive the relationship that exists between their way of living and the autochthonal architecture.



Fig.4- Concrete version of the oriental timber-frame house type from the south transferred to the very north of the country, to the ambient of the rural version of baroque style of the village of Sremski Karlovci

Fig.5- Islamic decorative elements that have never belonged to the Balkans oriental tradition are today regularly applied in the Carsi of Novi Pazar

It is fashionable, nowadays, to speak and write about the identity of the vernacular architecture and the continuity of its development. However, to a much less degree do we investigate the ways in which it may influence the contemporary architectonic and urban planning concepts. The architects of the present age should adopt appropriate and creative methods of interpreting the architectural philosophy and logic of the old masters who had inherited them from their predecessors and improved them. Only in that way would we be able to conceive the role and importance of the vernacular architectural tradition in the historic context. Otherwise, all the efforts will lead to passive passing over of the vernacular architectural remains to the future generation to destroy them in the architectural zeal.

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The paper considers the problems arising during the development and implementation of urban planning programmes, in the course of which vernacular architectural heritage undergoes accelerated transformation, deterioration and eradication.

Most of the vernacular architecture structures do not explicitly belong to samples of protected monuments. However, they call for investigation as initial elements of the contemporary settlement planning concept.

The number of experts engaged in the investigation and protection of the vernacular architectural heritage is strikingly smaller than the number of experts employed in urban planning activities. This fact has a negative impact upon the general stance toward the architectural patrimony and the efficiency of its protection. The problems are particularly visible in:

1/ the villages where inadequate building practices have caused individual parts thereof to acquire urban characteristics, in spite of their being planned to remain at the village level (Fig. 1, 2 and 3),

2/ the settlements that existed as villages for a long time before they have gradually undergone planned urbanization,

3/ the towns that in addition to the historically formed core include large areas of explicitly rural architecture.

Including into these problems migrations of the population fractions having different architectural traditions renders the reconciling of the existing vernacular architecture and the new, often anarchic and speeded up, urbanization even more delicate and difficult (Fig. 4 and 5).

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Надя Куртович-Фолич

ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЕ ГРАДОСТРОИТЕЛЬНАЯ ПЛАНИРОВКА - ТРАДИЦИОНАЛЬНОЕ НАРОДНОЕ ЗОДЧЕСТВО /Некоторые примеры из Югославии/

В настоящем труде рассмотрены проблемы, возникающие при составлении и реализации планов застройки, благодаря которым наследие национального зодчества ускоренными темпами трансформируется, деградирует или полностью подлежит уничтожению.

Югославия является одной из стран, в которых стечением географических, политических и прочих условий, происходит непрерывное слияние различных культур. Поэтому, зодческое наследие не отличается едиными национальными чертами.

Большинство народного строительства нельзя отнести к группе выдающихся памятников подлежащих охране, однако их несомненно нужно исследовать, как исходный элемент современной концепции создания населенных пунктов.

Число специалистов занимающихся изучением и охраной этого вида наследия значительно меньше, чем число экспертов по строительной планировке. Настоящий факт отрицательно отражается на общем отношении к зодческому наследию и на эффективность его охраны.

Проблемы легко заметны:

- в городах, которые помимо прочно образовавшегося городского ядра, обладают и более крупными районами с явно руральной архитектурой,
- в селениях, долго просуществовавших как деревня, а за последнее время планонаправленно перерастающих в города, и
- в деревнях, некоторые районы которых, благодаря несоответственной застройке, приняли городской вид, вопреки тому, как были запланированы с учетом сохранения своего деревенского облика.

Если к упомянутым проблемам включить и миграцию населения с различными традициями народного строительства - усогласовать существующее наследие с новой, зачастую анархичной и ускоренной урбанизацией, становится еще более затруднительным и деликатным.

Настоящее рассмотрение этого своеобразного и актуального положения, в котором находится организация по охране, сопровождается примерами из разных областей Югославии. Они приведены либо как этап исследований, либо как комментарий предлагаемых решений.