

DIMITRIJEVIC TIJANA

TEMPORARY USE AS ANTI-SEGREGATION TOOL

The case of Budapest's Magdolna quarter
and the parallel of Berlin Neukölln's Reuter quarter

DLA DISSERTATION - ABSTRACT AND THESIS STATEMENTS

Budapest University of Technology and Economics,
Faculty of Architecture, Doctoral School of Architecture

Supervisors: Péter Klobusovszki DLA

Consultants: György Radványi DLA, Béla Kerékgyártó PhD

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For Béla Kerégyártó



ABSTRACT

Key words: temporary use, urban ghetto, spatial and social segregation, gentrification, social urban rehabilitation, community involvement, participatory architecture design, Budapest 8th district Magdolna quarter, Berlin Neukölln district Reuter quarter.

Temporary use as an urban development tool is a well-documented and experimentally researched topic. However, there is no comprehensive research yet that would deal with the special case of segregated, ghettoized urban neighbourhoods. The first goal of the dissertation is to fill this gap. Second, it examines how the temporary use can help to overcome spatial and social segregation. What possibilities can be found in the intersection of these two topics, and what questions does this interplay raise? What is the potential role of the architect in this context?

The research departs from the existing theoretical literature, and it looks specifically at the intersection of the two topics. Its empirical focus is the case of Magdolna quarter in Budapest. Here I examine the quarter's social context, potential, contemporary local temporary use experiments, and my own fieldwork (CivilHalo, Negyed, Micromagdolna projects). The theoretical and practical results of the research in Budapest are compared with the experiment of the temporary use in Berlin Neukölln's Reuter quarter (Coopolis Temporary Use Agency). The dissertation offers three main findings: first, it proposes a temporary use strategy for the Magdolna quarter;

second, it offers generally applicable thesis statements on the question of the temporary use; third, it identifies the main critical aspects of the researched topic.

The dissertation shows the potential of temporary use strategies as anti-segregation tools, but it also points out the constraints of this endeavour. It emphasizes the importance of critical perspectives when dealing with the correlations of temporary use, social urban rehabilitation and gentrification. It also underlines the necessity of a responsible approach to the temporary use strategies in segregated urban neighbourhoods. I highlight the role of the architect in the process, and the significance of community involvement and the development of creative and alternative participation design tools. Finally, the dissertation offers possible guidelines for further inquiry.

The goal of the doctoral dissertation, both its thesis statements and its critical questions, is to serve as the basis for further discussion and dialogue on the topic of the temporary use in segregated, ghettoized urban neighbourhoods - not only amongst architects.



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GESUNDBRUNNEN

Schönhauser Allee Arcaden

Berliner Unterwelten e.V.

Hamburger Restaurant The Bird

Gethsemanekirche

Volkspark Humboldthain

Max-Schmeling-Halle

HELMHOLTZKIEZ

Zeiss-Großplanetarium

PRENZLAUER BERG

BRUNNENVIERTEL

Mauerpark

Cultural Center KulturBraueri

MACHmit! Museum für Kinder

Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer

Park Kolwitzplatz

WINSVIERTEL

KOLLWITZKIEZ

Yorck-Kino Filmtheater am Friedrichshain

Volkspark Friedrichshain

MITTE

Cemetery Dorotheenstädtisch-Friedrichswerderscher Friedhof

Charité - Universitätsmedizin

Friedrichstadt-Palast The One Grand Show

Hackescher Markt

Hofbrau Berlin

ALEXA

Movie Theater Kino International

Monbijoupark

Pergamonmuseum

Deutsches Historisches Museum

Komische Oper Berlin

Gendarmenmarkt

Märkisches Museum

Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden...

Elektronics Store Sony Store Berlin

Potsdamer Platz

Checkpoint Charlie

Modern Art Museum Berlinische Galerie

Jewish Museum Berlin

Prinzessinnengärten

ST. AGNES

Kater Blau

Tresor

Night Club Y&AM

East Side Gallery

The Wall Museum

Spielbank Berlin

Tempodrom

Deutsches Technikmuseum

KREUZBERG

ST. AGNES

SO 36

Markthalle Neun

Schwules Museum

Park am Gleisdreieck

Snack Bar Curry 36

BERGMANNKIEZ

Passionskirche

Reuterplatz

State Park Gditzler Park

Park am Gleisdreieck

Viktoriapark

BERGMANNKIEZ

Columbiahalle

Huxleys Neue Welt

Volkspark Hasenheide

Flughafen Tempelhof

Flughafen Tempelhof

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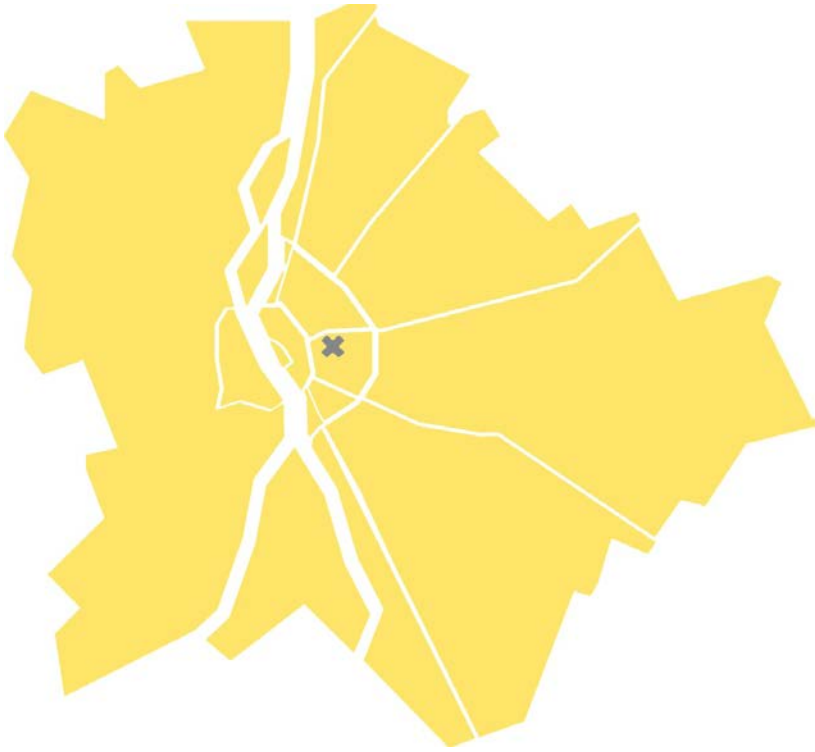
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THESIS STATEMENTS



1 THESIS: THE TEMPORARY USE STRATEGY.

From the point of view of temporary use the inner city's segregated urban neighbourhood is decidedly a so called "undesirable area". In this case the phenomenon does not occur spontaneously and a planned temporary use strategy is required. The main features of the anti-segregation temporary use strategy are: it is connected to the social urban rehabilitation programmes; it involves the local authorities; it builds upon the already existing spatial and social networks; and it appeals to both local inhabitants and communities, and potential urban pioneers.



2 THESIS: GOOD TEMPORARY USE GROUND. / IT WORKS.

The inner city's segregated urban neighbourhood, that features a variety of vacant spaces and an active social urban rehabilitation programme, is potentially a good ground for the launch of a temporary use strategy. The planned and strategic implementation of temporary use – through its positive effects on the city – can help dissolve the spatial and social segregation and stigmatization of the area.



3 THESIS: THE WEIGHTED ROLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

If the local municipality is acting simultaneously as authority, real estate owner and rehabilitation management centre, then this multi-layered, weighted function plays an essential role in the temporary use strategy. In this case the municipality's support and positive attitude is the required condition for the launch and operation of the temporary use strategy.



5 THESIS: THE ROLE AND CHALLENGE OF PARTICIPATION.

The basis for a successful temporary use strategy is wide community involvement in every phase of the process. In the case of the segregated urban neighbourhood there are no established practices and tools for community involvement and participatory architecture design. The main challenge is not the implementation of the methods itself, but the establishing of common ground and dialogue needed for the participatory process. It requires a creative and collaborative research and design attitude based on open-ended communication, to take up this complex challenge. It is unequivocal - but in practice not at all obvious, and thus deserves to be highlighted! – that in this special case the participatory methods can and should be applied and bring good results, in spite of the initial difficulties.



6 THESIS: THE ROLE OF THE ARCHITECT.

The architect plays an important role in the mediator team of the temporary use strategy. His main objective is to support the collaborative, participatory architectural research and design processes and develop alternative and creative methods and tools.



7 THESIS: GENTRIFICATION AS A REALISTIC SCENARIO.

In the case of the inner city's segregated urban neighbourhood – due to the area's social and physical facilities, its spatial situation in the city core, and last but not least the positive effects of temporary use – gentrification is a realistic tendency. Even the social urban rehabilitation programmes offer no immunity. If the goal of the temporary use strategy as part of social rehabilitation is to cut down the segregation, then in this case the gentrification processes (with displacement and eviction as their defining features) are contra productive to this goal. Gentrification in this context is a professedly undesired (yet realistic) scenario. Analysis of this issue is the accentuated task and responsibility of both urban pioneers and mediator teams, including architects. This analysis involves the so called pioneer-dilemma, that is to say the critical evaluation of one's own role in the gentrification process.

STRUCTURE OF DLA DISSERTATION

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MASTER WORK

"IDESÜSS" KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY, BUDAPEST

Site: 10th district, Budapest. Architects: MICROarchitects, Borsos Melinda and Dimitrijevic Tijana. Design and realization: year 2015. The building was awarded the Architectural Niveau Prize (Építészeti Nívó Díj) of Budapest in 2016.

The most significant result of the doctoral research for me as an architect is the sensitive architectural attitude that I developed throughout the doctoral research process. This gradually discovered professional and personal approach is today the foundation of my architectural practice. The search for common ground between social and classic architecture, as well as between design and research is in the focus of the architectural studio called MICROarchitects I co-founded with my partner Melinda Borsos. The master work of the DLA dissertation is an excellent example of our architectural approach. In the design process of the "IDESÜSS" Kindergarten and Nursery we applied the collaborative participation methods developed during the work in the Magdolna quarter (MICROMAGDOLNA project). The so called "dream-collecting" participatory design method was the basis of trust and communication between us as designers and various project participants. It resulted in a well functioning building loved both by its occupants and designers.



