

# CONNECTION & RENEWAL

THE MUNICH MODEL FOR ARCHI-TEXTURAL CHANGES

Budapest University of Technology and Economics · **Doctoral School of Architecture**

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„...the architect with sufficient intelligence unveils the surroundings  
and continues that.”

György Jánossy

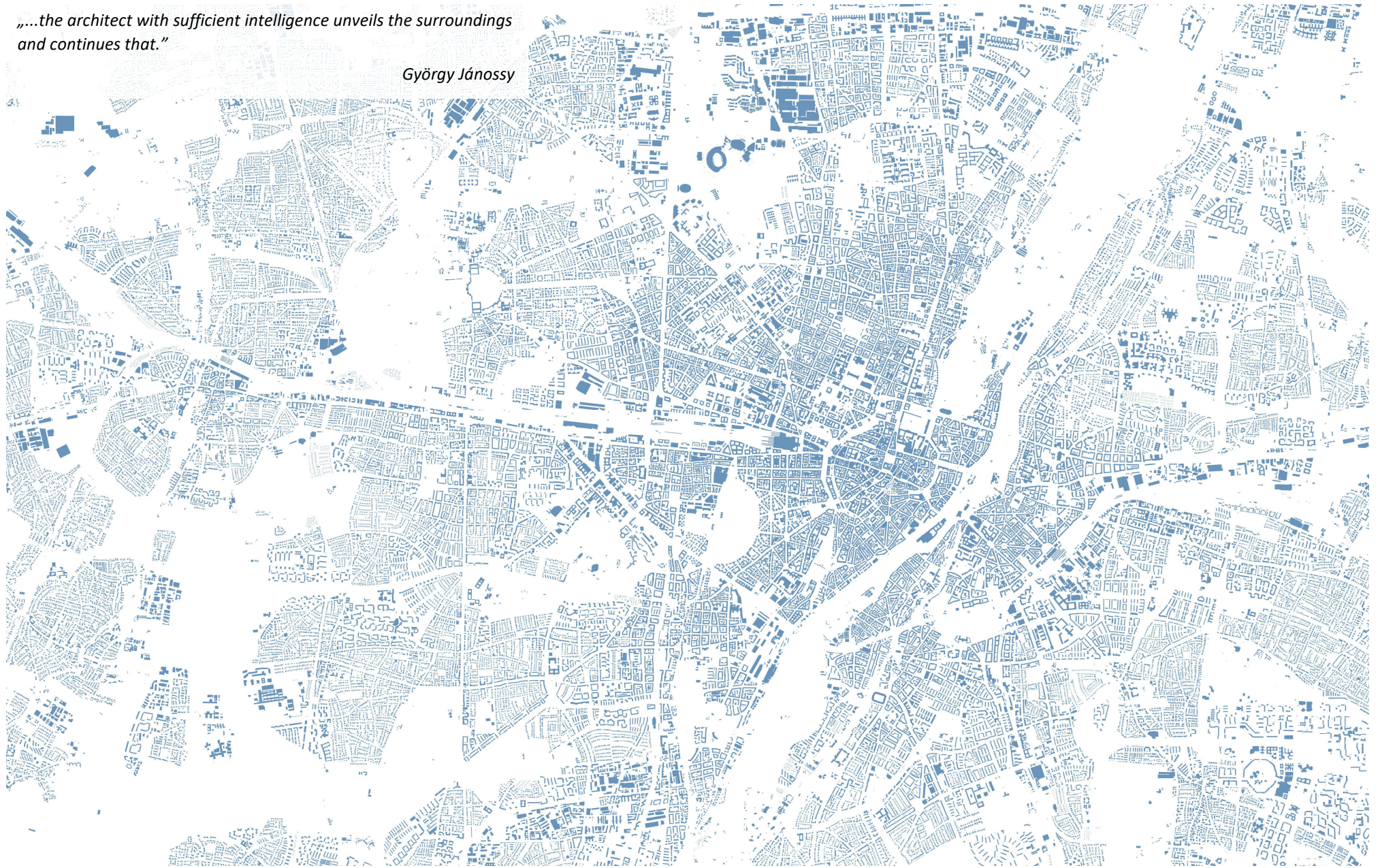


figure 1. figure ground plan – Munich (source:schwarzplan.eu)

## ABSTRACT

*Built cultural heritage can be well observed in the structure of a historically formed settlement. Cityscape-wise dominant buildings and edifices form a common identity, make a connection with our roots and assure regional diversity. Balanced settlement development parallel with taking care of and further building our built cultural heritage is a challenge with a changing level varying according to the actual era and zeitgeist.*

*In the built environment of 20th century Europe it is impossible to make a 'fresh start' that involves situations with no matching, in line with the 'tabula rasa' principle of modernism. An architectural texture [archi-texture] with local identity, authenticity and capability to operate can be created by connecting to the intellectual and physical characteristics of the already present architectural context. This architectural fabric can be continually complemented, refreshed, even broken up and rewoven in a wide variety of scales.*

*The present thesis investigates the role, quality and different levels of connection and renewal in the archi-texture of the so-called 'European city' by analyzing the conservative-progressive dual tradition examples of the Munich model.*

## ARCHI-TEXTURE [I]

### 1 · Layering

Different historical eras leave different marks on our physical and intellectual surroundings. Among all the creative activities, this can be seen most evidently and profoundly in architecture. Every new building connects to an already established environmental structure. If it connects with regard to the context, a continuity is formed in which the fragments of different historical layers form a heterogeneous texture.

**The heterogeneous texture of architecture [archi-texture] formed by historical layers can have a coherent identity independent of style and age if the layering is affected by constant reinterpretation, an ever-present dialogue between past and present, reflection and contemporary self-expression all together.**  
(Thesis 1)

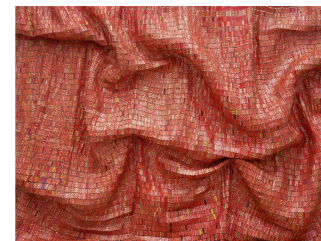


*figure 2. Munich city pattern 2020  
(source: schwarzplan.eu)*

## 2 · Scale

From the buildings smallest details to the structural level of a city's street-network, the texture of architecture consists of different components on a varied level. Their transformation, renewal, replacement or possible absence can be seen on every scale. A change affects other, differently scaled components as well, which influences the character of the whole city fabric.

**The archi-texture is mainly characterized by how the differently scaled elemental components connect to the physical aptitude and historical-cultural roots of the encompassing media during their metamorphosis. (Thesis 2)**



*figure 3. El Anatsui: Triumphant scale  
(photo:G.Radnai)*

## CONNECTION [II]

### 3 · Attitude

The system of the archi-texture can be repaired, complemented and enhanced by interventions of different scale and quality.

**During the architectural interventions the attitude towards existing values characterizes the method of fitting and affects the continuity of the archi-texture. (Thesis 3)**

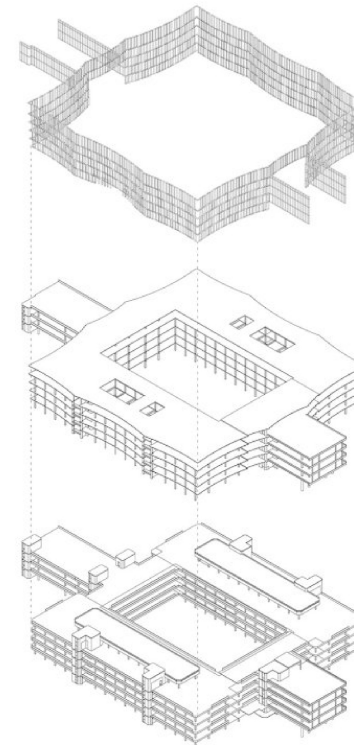


*figure 4. Haus Der Kunst, Munich  
(source: davidchipperfield.com)*

## 4 · Integration

The archi-texture of settlements is more than the aggregation of buildings from different ages and stylistic eras. Some of its parts integrate into their environment and become its integral part depending on their position in the texture and pattern of use.

**Integration can be realized on a deeper level and on the long run if the architecture that manifests at the given place and time has a strong intellectual or significant physical content, and if it possesses the level of freedom needed for renewal and transformation. (Thesis 4)**



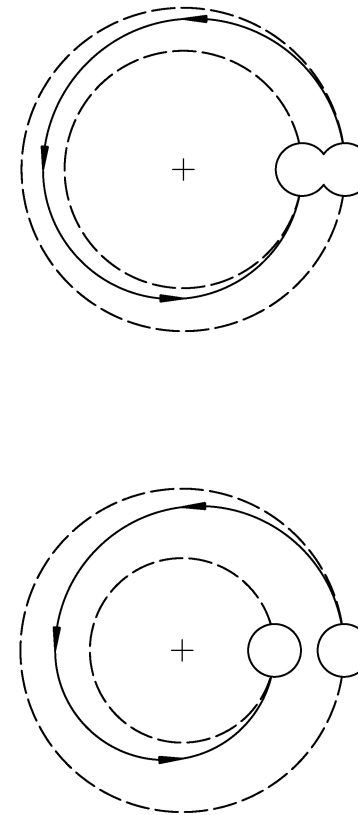
*figure 5. München RE [Sauerbruch Hutton, 2014]  
(source: [www.sauerbruchhutton.de](http://www.sauerbruchhutton.de))*

## RENEWAL [III]

### 5 • Innovation

In order for the renewal to take place, a search for the existing values and their evaluation is needed first. The next step is the stripping down and deconstruction in a physical and intellectual sense to the depth that can give a solid foundation for connectivity. The level of renewal depends on what level it is possible to connect to the existing architecture material-wise (with structure and constructing material) and intellect-wise (with ideologies, concepts and style).

**The level of renewal can only be interpreted in relation to the existing architecture, and it is defined by the level of connectivity to the intellectual-material contents. (Thesis 5)**



*figure 6. Modell of change  
[Aylward-Laphorne, 1974]  
(graphics: G.Radnai)*



## 6 · Relevance for the future

The changing and renewal of the archi-texture is a process that never ends: not only the historical, but also the newest contemporary architectural constructions have to be developed after a while. In this thesis I see the capability of the heterogeneous historical city's archi-texture to be continued as the token of development and subsistence, in short the relevance of the future.

**The potential of continuity lies in the heterogeneous archi-texture of the historical city, and this ensures the relevance for the future on every scale.**

**(Thesis 6)**



*figure 7. River and the city 1704, 1808, 1891, 2011  
(source: contourjournal.org)*