

ARCHITECTURAL NOTION OF FREEDOM AND PARTICIPATION AND ITS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACES

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Abstract

The application of social plan and vision, whether it is written utopias or their models, is achieved through a system of norms and limitations. The society or the state propounds such systems by law, while the architect or planner applies them through design. The use of freedom and control in order to manage design and its contextualization is the central aspect of the system of norms. They represent the main tools used in the strategy of thinking of settlements, cities and states. The concept of freedom and control in philosophy is observed in relation to two different views. The first point concerns the metaphysical condition of the human being, while others consider their political status. (May 2011, 71) According to Todd May, metaphysical freedom denies full determination of human life and in a sense recognizes the existence of certain control of thoughts and behaviours. The second type, according to May, analyses the freedom that an individual has (or not) in relation to a particular society. (May 2011, 73) Participatory design, most commonly associated with the concept of freedom of decision-making, possesses specific methodological processes but also specific typological determinations. The most common use of participation is in urban planning and housing architecture, which demonstrates its link to private and semi-private spaces and mainly individual rights, while preserving the community. This relationship changes in public architecture, where the decision-making process is predominantly realized at the macro level (or the top-down principle) in the form of projective reality. What spatial character should public spaces have, especially the civil service whose purpose is to apply democracy and achieve equality? Does the reduction of control of a macro social level achieve the requirements of a particular user or community, and what are the public physical structures that determine the spatial quality of freedom?

Keywords: architectural design, freedom and control, participation, politics of space

1. Notion of freedom and control

The question of freedom in architecture is present in theory and practice. Just like all other concepts of alternative or paracentric architecture its usage brings a kind of ambiguity in the final explanation. Although the term is misused due to its current specific importance and its particular character, it is often not certain what its actual meaning is. What is freedom in architecture? What is actually the real participation in the construction of our cities? What are the specific spatial elements of architecture and urbanism that bind to the given term? Is there actually a free, democratic architecture, or is it a purely aspatial concept? The same concept in philosophy is observed in relation to two different views. The first point concerns the metaphysical condition of the human being, while others consider their political status. (May, 2011, str. 71) Apart from problematization of limitations in relation to human existence and its living, some philosophers analyse the questions of human control of the environment, nature or reality. According to Henri Lefebvre, nature divides mankind into a controlled and uncontrollable area, a part of the reality that man has failed to master. This uncontrolled area, according to Lefebvre, still includes almost all human natural and biological life and its almost complete psychological and social life. (Lefebvre, 2009, str. 126) Fear of an uncontrolled area of reality has, according to Lefebvre, become pronounced in the modern concept of living and modernity. "The existence of an uncontrolled area is more enchanting and scarier to us than it was for a primitive man. Our authority is undermined, our rationality is compromised. It seems that we have to win this uncontrollable area at any price and in any way." (Lefebvre, 2009, str. 128) Control is a product of modernity- a concept that proves our ever closer connection with system and abstraction, the same as our distance from reality.

The application of social plan and vision, whether it is written utopias or their derived models, is achieved through a system of norms and limitations. Society or state orders such systems after they are provided by an architect or planner into design. The use of freedom and control is the central aspect of the system of norms representing the main tools used in the strategy of considering settlements, cities and states. Their duality, the

dichotomy, is also visible on architecture of vernacular settlements where it is noticed that even unmonitored models of spatial development are subject to different restrictions. Cities, settlements and neighbourhoods equally present the nature of collective relationships as well as individual interventions. Relationships between individual and collective, whether in terms of their coherence, suppression or conflict, are manifested in the architecture and spatial planning. Historical examples differentiated public and private architectural typologies are showing differences in levels or/and type of social order and control. From the period of modern architecture, recognition of this relationship to space is diffuse. Whether it is technological progress, the emergence of new media of communication, globalization, or different socio-political context, physical structures in contemporary cities show a change of individual freedom and social limitations. One of the paradoxes of democracy (which recognizes differences and different) is the uniformity of appearance and spatial typology. Variety is regulated to such an extent that it has become homogenous.

Discourses about freedom and control and its relation to space are expressed in complex systems theories, planning and architecture. The theory of self-organization and emergence is based on complex systems that exclude the existence of centralized control. Freedom is most present in the subjective concepts of social self-organization, which, according to Christian Fuchs, are based on self-determination, democracy, and participation. (Fuchs, 2002) Control in relation to spatial limits is often analyzed in contemporary urban and architectural theories. The research highlight is placed on the management and control of the architecture and its limits. The connection and condition of certain architectural and urban types with the state, economic or political motives of their construction are particularly seen in historical models and their cities, as well as in the contemporary capitalist context. According to Pier Vittorio Aureli, the city is the most explicit indicator of the relationship of power. Walls, squares and streets are not only meant to support the functioning of the city, but they also form an extensive governmental apparatus." (Aureli, *City as political form*, 2011, str. 32) According to Aureli, in the modern city, the former political impulses in architecture are replaced by dominant economic motives. (Aureli, *The possibility of an absolute architecture*, 2011, str. 13) "Urbanization indissolubly and structurally links the motivation for upgrading human life in the urban environment to the possibility of enabling a fertile ground for the reproduction of the labor force and its control, or *governance*." (Aureli, *The possibility of an absolute architecture*, 2011, str. 11) This relationship arises as a result of the economic capitalist accumulation which in urban territory is used for exploitation, control and organization of work and its conversion into profit. (Aureli, *The possibility of an absolute architecture*, 2011, str. 26) Whether it is an antique agora in Greek polis or *çarşı* in the Ottoman Empire, their emergence and existence are linked to state policy and its control. Equally for contemporary cities, some authors, such as Richard Sennett (Sennett, 2004), associate the city with the political and ethical codes of culture in which they arise. So, whether it comes to control issues in relation to philosophy, the theory of complex systems or the theory of conditionality of politics and management of spatial forms, man and his relation to society or reality implies a certain level of control and a certain degree of freedom. According to N.John Habraken, it is always a matter of control. According to the author, every form of spatial activity implies the transformation of the existing state, and thus controls systems of the given environment. (Habraken, 1998, str. 8)

The process of architectural design implies the application of certain limits because the nature of the management of the process. This would mean that the level of control, in relation to design, can be equated with the level of project completion, or the number of defined limits in the overall process. In relation to the given observation we can separate two opposing approaches: *total design* of the period of modern architecture, and *open projects* from the late fifties and early sixties. These projects differ from each other at the level of authorial decision-making or so-called "completeness" of the project. While designing in the modern period involved all levels of professional decision making, open projects are trying to leave a certain level of decision-making on the users. The lack of freedom in decision-making process in architecture is most striking in modern architecture. Functionalism reduced to economic utilitarianism influenced the creation of doubt in control and uniformity. (Jones, 2005) Emphasizing freedom of the user in architecture first appears as a reaction to authoritarian directions in planning and design. Contrary to them, open concepts, such as participatory design, self-help, public interest architecture and planning from the bottom, are characterized by a change in the role of architects or planners in the decision-making process, contrary to one-level economic utilitarianism. The specificity of the change is that the user freedom is basic concept of the design process, while permeating individual freedom and control of a community which is related to a normative society. By observing these two levels of spatial action their qualities can be differentiated: the closed model represents a clearly determined system with clearly determined final stage, and the open type, because of its uncertainty it cannot be called a model, which primarily concerns about the principles of action. Therefore, closed intervention is related to the object- form or product, whose qualities is abstractly defined and as such conflict the real context, while open spatial activities primarily observe the process trying to complement the projective reality with everyday life, and to adapt to the context and the user. Its goal is to approach the original building process of those who are involved in reality and everyday life, with the result of a consensus of micro and macro social level spatial intentions.

According to Richard Sennett the problem of modernity in relation to planning is in its predetermination-whether it's visual or social forms of the city. "Technologies that enabled experimentation were subordinated to a power regime that requires order and control. Urbanists, globally, anticipated the New Labour 'control madness'

for half a century; holding firmly for rigid images and precise descriptions urban imagination has lost its vitality.” (Sennet, 2007, str. 26) According to Jane Jacobs, every art means selectivity, organization and control of certain segments of abstracted reality and life. Instead of a strictly controlled form of the city Jacobs proposes a tactic of “suggestions that help people create, for themselves, order and meaning, instead of disorder, from their own personal perspective.” (Jacobs, 1961, str. 378) According to Jacobs and Sennett control tools in planning and architecture conflicts with the concepts of vitality and life. Due to the crisis of the social states in the 1960s members of the populist movement in architecture and planning considered that the previous control and management systems should be replaced by “new models that would represent individual differences express subjective values and reflect the diversity of a truly democratic society.” (Alexander C.Tzonis, 2005, str. 300) Equally in relation to the design and planning professional control, regardless of the motives of its creation, is opposed to the freedom of the user. Consequently, determination of the level of spatial control should be defined in relation to the mere participation of users in architecture.

2. Architectural notion of participation

The evolution of the idea of the user participation in design process relates to a series of upheavals in the architectural thought of the 1960s and '70s- the international student protests marked 1968 as a social and political milestone. The suspicion of control and functionalism in the late sixties led to a new, open, utopian and optimistic approach to architecture. The concept of participation implies democratic principles, which is why the phenomenon of user involvement emerged in historical periods of change of centralized authority, or even its fall. Participation views differ from two characteristic contexts and their problems: the first, which relates to the strictly regulated and uniform urban space of economically developed European and North American countries, is characterized by the lack of individual freedoms and the dominance of corporations in planning; the second one contains problems of economic scarcity, unplanned development, the expansion of cities and the needs of the population for basic existential conditions, and is spread on all continents in economically underdeveloped countries. In both contexts, under the dominance of private interests and the restriction of human freedoms, there is an increasing need for participation in building process. Participation of users mainly arises from the framework of traditional design methods, where the drawing tools are replaced by social network, communication and exchange, with the final goal of empowerment. The idea of civic initiative and participation in America in the late 1960s and early 1970s was political, and it was modeled on movements for civil rights and social equality.

According to Zeynep Toker, the problem of contemporary usage of a term of *community design* in its interpretation can be already seen in different definitions in the most relevant sources. (Toker, 2007) Of particular importance for the definition of the term is its “abandonment of the original principles of spatial action, such as: advocating those with lower incomes and politically disorganized groups within the volunteer organizational structure”. (Toker, 2007) After analyzing contemporary practice Toker concludes that in all cases the concept of participation is emphasized, with the difference that current practice focuses on groups that are not politically or economically vulnerable. (Toker, 2007) Other problem of contemporary practice is manipulation of user participation, which is why it is especially important to define the real participation. Manipulation of the term is manifested as a result of building speculation in neoliberal spatial production. *Superkilen Urban Park* in Copenhagen, designed by *Bjarke Ingels-BIG* and *Superflex* in its media campaign used participation as presented concept, while details and information about process can't be found. Brett Bloom in his work¹ demonstrates connections of private organizations and corporations with final public square design, while the involvement of users (in this case of immigrants) was actually only formal through their representatives. Even after this minimal participation, the design team eventually forms the most optimal solution. According to Bloom, “Superkillen is a monument of globalization, oil and neoliberal construction.” (Bloom, 2013) The former movement of community architecture was drawn to self-financing architectural practice, which because of the question of existence is equal to every other practice. (Toker, 2007)

The root of the problem of participation in architecture, according to Till, is in the democratic theory in relation to which it arises. According to the author, the classic democratic political theory, such as Rousseau's participation of individual citizens in the political decision-making process, is contrasted with contemporary democratic theory, such as Pateman's. Carole Pateman argues that the amount of used participation is only the one that will not disturb a stability of a democratic system, meaning that its only function is protection. (Pateman, 1970) The change of the classical transformative character of participation into its contemporary form of protection, according to Till, is reflected in architectural examples where the participation of users is used in the form of passive inclusion while the real decision-making remains to be left to experts. For this reason, according to Till, participation can be divided into: transformative participation and placatory participation. This division is made in relation to Pateman's classification to: pseudo-participation, full participation and partial participation. (Till, 2005)

The problem of defining the real participation in spatial planning was problematized by Sherry Arnstein in her article *A Ladder of Citizen Participation*. Arnstein classifies citizen participation in relation to the level of power by examining the actual level of decision-making in many social upgrading programs, urban renewal and the

¹ *Superkilen: Participatory park extreme!*

empowerment against poverty in the United States. Her classification consists of eight ledders of citizen participation: *manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control*. These changing levels of citizen participation in decision-making start from the first two non-participatory degrees: manipulation of civic signatures for realizing imaginary interests or shaping citizen opinion through education and campaign. The next “degrees of tokenism” is one-way communication of informing the public, consultation without the need for its implementation, and participation in the planning process without affecting the decision-making process. At the top are the final three degrees of so-called *citizen power*: community partnerships in decision-making by financial participation; achieving influence in the decision-making process through community representatives; and civilian control of certain public institutions or settlements through determination of their program. (Arnstein, 1969) Hamid Shrivani, also in city planning, identifies two basic types of participation: supporting (facilitative) approach and political activist approach. According to Shrivani, the goal of the supportive approach is to provide users with insights into possible alternatives using various techniques such as: training, graphic communication, surveying etc. The second approach involves advocacy with the aim of organizing and activating certain groups and involving them in the planning process. (Toker, 2007) Fredrik Wulz defines his “degree of participation” with seven levels: *representation, questionnaire, regionalism, dialogue, alternative, co-decision and self-decision*. According to Wulz, the levels start from expert autonomous architecture to user autonomous architecture. (Fox, 2000) Levels with the dominant professional autonomy are: the level of *representational architecture* in which the architect gives his subjective interpretations of the user, *questionnaire architecture* arising in relation to generalized data of anonymous users, and *regional architecture* that arises in relation to the historical and cultural assumptions of certain locations then collects data mainly related to symbols, forms, and spatial behavior. (Fox, 2000) The following levels contain a certain user participation and are graded according to their user autonomy: a *dialog* based on non-formal conversations between users and experts, an *alternative* in which users have the option of choosing prepared architectural variants, a *co-decision* that involves equal participation of users and experts, and final level of *self-decision* where the user controls the overall design and construction process (Toker, 2007).

3. Problem of architectural typology and participation: case studies

For the classification, in order to simplify the research results, the following principles of spatial action are taken: *bottom-up planning, incremental design, contemporary vernacular principles, economically efficient design, and participatory design*. Using *principles* instead of *typology* addresses the problem of limited operation of traditional tools of architecture and urbanism. Numerous contemporary architectural examples that can not be classified under the common stylistic classification, typology, program, or the context within which they work possess common attributes that are based on intangible premises and their research.

Bottom-up planning	Incremental design	Contemporary vernacular architecture	Economically efficient design	Participatory design
Asiye eTafuleni/ Neformalna ekonomija	Elemental/ Quinta Monroy	Anna Heringer/ Meti Handmade school	Estudio Teddy Cruz/ Manufactured sites	Giancarlo di Carlo/ Terni
Urban Think Tank/ Metro Cable	Vastu Shilpa Consultants/ Aranya Community Housing	Francis Kéré/ Primary school Gando	Rural Studio/ \$20K House	Lucien Kroll/ La Mémé
Interboro Partners/ Improve your lot!	PREVI LIMA	Hassan Fathy/ New Gourna	Lacaton&Vassal/ Mulhouse	
Sarai	Urban Think Tank/ Torre David	Hsieh Ying-Chun&Atelier-3/ Sun Moon Lake	Nader Khalili/ Cal- Earth	John Habraken
Marinaleda	Charles Correa/ Belapur Housing	Eko Prawoto	Superuse Studios	Ralf Erskine/ Byker Wall
Shack/Slum Dwellers International	Walter Segal	Simon Vélez and Marcelo Villegas	Morar de Outras Maneiras	Vandkunsten/ Tinggården

Table 1. Classification of principles of spatial actions with selected case studies

Planiranje odozdo	Inkrementalno projektovanje	Suvremeno vernakularno projektovanje	Ekonomski efikasno projektovanje	Participacija
Asiye eTafuleni	Elemental	Anna Heringer	Estudio Teddy Cruz	Giancarlo de Carlo
Urban Think Tank	Vastu Shilpa Consultants	Francis Kéré	Rural Studio	Lucien Kroll
Interboro Partners	PREVI Lima	Hassan Fathy	Lacaton&Vassal	Asiye eTafuleni
Estudio Teddy Cruz	Estudio Teddy Cruz	Vastu Shilpa Consultants	Asiye eTafuleni	Urban Think Tank
	Lacaton&Vassal		Elemental	Interboro Partners
			Vastu Shilpa Consultants	Elemental
			PREVI Lima	Vastu Shilpa Consultants
			Anna Heringer	PREVI Lima
			Francis Kéré	Estudio Teddy Cruz
			Hassan Fathy	Rural Studio
				Lacaton&Vassal

Table 2. Representation of principles in the analyzed cases. Principles are not limited to specific cases, they are a framework of action that indicates the character of an action but doesn't determine their application. The most common principles of participation and economic efficiency are because their use of social resources within the context of scarcity.

Bottom-up planning is an answer to different economic constraints and administrative inefficiencies resolving problems of citizens or community. It implies singular solutions to individual initiatives and their gradual realization and expansion. As a basic method they use a social organization to improve the existing context. The involvement of different interests and their coöperation directly affects the success of the project itself. The initiative of the project mainly comes from architects, users or associations, but it does not exclude official planning and administrative authorities from the overall design process. The very success of the project depends directly on the coöperation and the involvement of many interests. The role of the architect and the tools used extends to research, involvement of users and the public, management and representation.

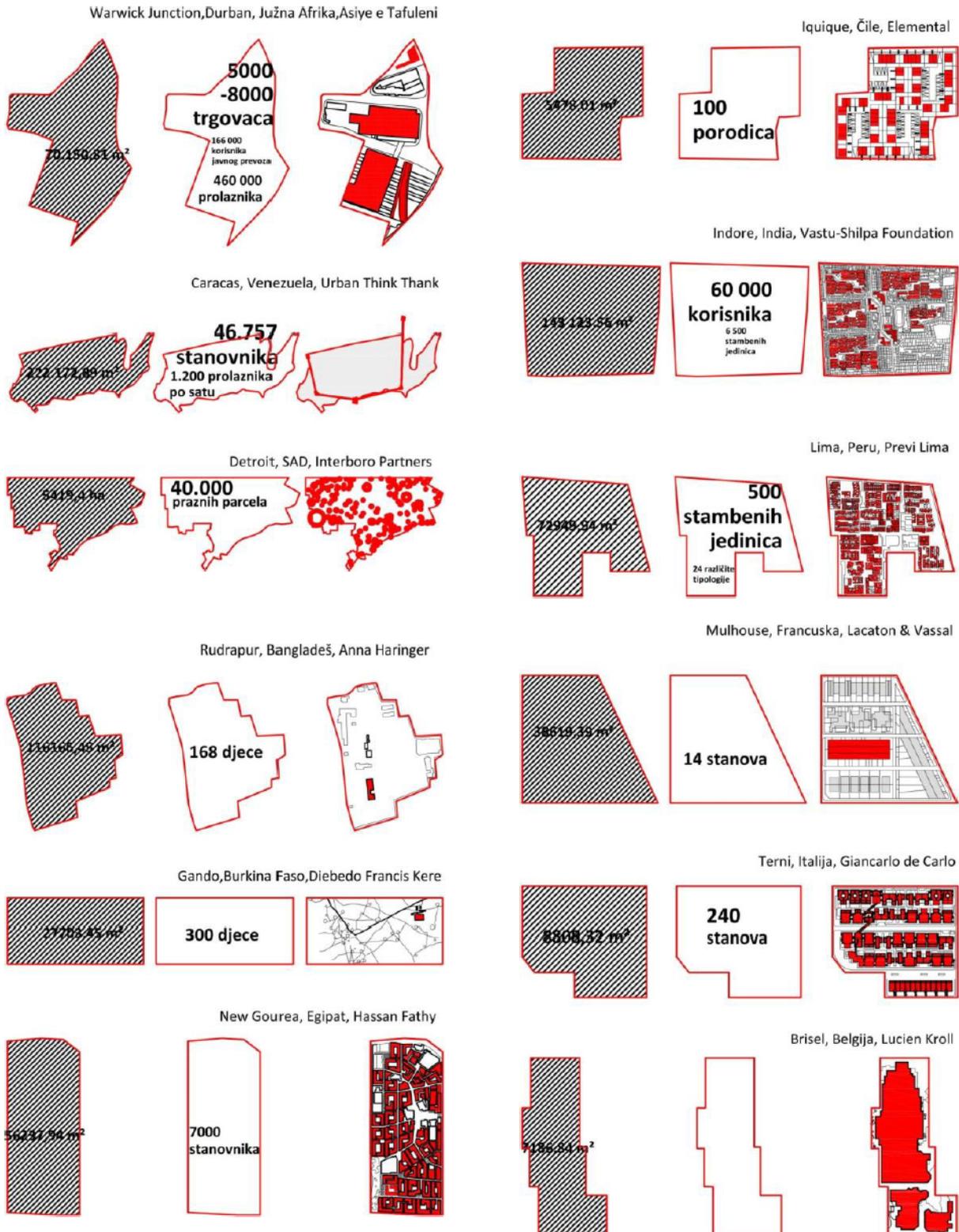


Figure 1. *Bottom-up planning*: (1) Asiye eTafuleni, Warwick Junction, (2) Urban Think Tank: Metro cable, (3) Interboro Partners: Improve Your Lot. *Incremental design*: (1) Elemental: Quinta Monroy; (2) Vastu-Shilpa Foundation: Aranya Community Housing; (3) PREVI Lima. *Contemporary vernacular principles*: (1) Anna Heringer: Meti school; (2) Diébédo Francis Kéré: Elementary school; (3) Hassan Fathy: Rural housing New Gourea. *Participatory design*: (1) Giancarlo de Carlo: Nuovo vilaggio Matteotti; (2) Lucien Kroll: Student residence La Mémé; (3) Lacaton & Vassal: Socijal Housing Mulhouse.

Incremental design is a principle implies individual housing adjusted to the financial participation of users. It is formed on the potential of illegal housing, but in the same time overcoming its shortcomings, such as: land and construction security, site inadequacy, informal divisions, and lack of building permits. This principle implies partial designing through defining certain spatial limits, and a partial strategy for potential development. Important for

the success of the project is the method of social organization of users, nongovernmental organisations, state institutions or even private investors.

Contemporary vernacular principles are based on traditional building methods used for empowerment and improvement of the context. Considering the use of traditional techniques, local materials and workforce, architects seek to achieve an economically and ecologically efficient way of building in order to empower the community, employ the local population, and improving the conditions of the conceived local context.

Economically efficient design, which also implies low-cost solutions, does not only apply to low investment. All examples of the given principle see the economic limit as a framework within which the ideal conditions must be achieved. In analyzed cases, architects do not accept the lack of financial resources to justify poor quality solutions, and try to achieve greater quality by optimizing site conditions, construction or materials.

Participatory design involves the involvement of particular stakeholders in the design process to meet their needs and ultimately improve the spatial conditions. Participatory design is more based on design processes and procedures than on style and design. This method is primarily political and employs a system of collaboration, improvisation and negotiation as a complement or even replacement of traditional design tools. Through the participation of numerous communities, organizations and individuals, they have an insight into the spatial proposal in which at various levels they can participate: from the very beginning of the spatial intervention to the final stage of its implementation. This can be achieved at different levels: from initial research and definition of problem, design process and its evaluation, to the very performance.

4. Defining the true level of participation

For the definition of pseudo-participation and manipulation of user involvement were used formerly elaborated classifications of Sherry Arnstein, Fredrik Wultz, Hamid Shirvani and Jeremi Till. Main goal of this comparative analysis is to discover the true level of professional and user autonomy, and their differences to private and public functions. The Wultz division, which arises in relation to the level of user or expert autonomy, is most important for analysis that besides the level of user involvement treats architectural notion of freedom and control. Due to the strong dependence on the context of economically developed countries, Till’s classification was used as a secondary one. The Arnstein classification is used as a basis for demonstrating the real participation of citizens in the decision-making process as a tertiary: for explanation of the character of participation in particular examples. Shrivani’s classification is dominant in relation to the motives of action and implies a higher level of user participation so can be used for the clarification of a particular phenomenon.

Sherry Arnstein (1969)							
manipulation	therapy	informing	consultation	placation	partnership	delegated power	citizen control
	Anna Heringer	Elemental(urb)	Rural Studio	Urban Think Tank(urb)	Elemental(arh)	Asiye eTafuleni	Interboro Partners
	Francis Kéré	Vastu Shilpa Consultants(urb)	Giancarlo di Carlo		Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)		Estudio Teddy Cruz
	Hassan Fathy	PREVI LIMA(urb)			PREVI LIMA(arh)		
					Lacaton& Vassal		
					Lucien Kroll		

Table 3. Classification of analyzed cases in relation to civil rights

Classifying selected examples, some principles show certain consistency in relation to participation while others completely differ in terms of used participation. Other examples, due to the different levels of user participation at different levels of spatial action, had to be divided according their architectural and urban intervention for the proper display. The coherence of principle and participation level is observed on examples of contemporary vernacular design and incremental housing. The contemporary vernacular design implies the dominance of architectural autonomy over user intervention, and as such becomes part of the level of “regionalization” in the Waltz table. All three examples according to Arnstein’s table can be classified under the scale of “therapy” due to the importance of projected reality and the insistence on education and training as a method of “curing” citizens and their problems. Because of its lack of real participation in Shrivani’s table do not display at all. The consistency of participation level and classification principle is also observed on incremental housing. The urban level of incremental housing in the Wultz table is at the beginning of “professional autonomy” at the level of “representation”. All analyzed cases in this stage of spatial action do not involve users in the decision-making process but simply inform them about the planned action. In the same time, the architectural phase of the given principle is classified under the level

of “joint decision-making”, only one degree lower than the user’s autonomy. The same range and consistency appear on Arnstein’s table as a gradation of the user participation from the level of “information” to “partnership”. It is important to note that only incremental housing, as a principle that is categorized as Shirvan’s “facilitative approach”, equally appears in Till’s classification as “transformative” participation. This means that this type of spatial activity, regardless of the motives of the action of the expert, achieves a high level of participation.

Fredrik Wultz (1986) - control and autonomy						
representation	questionnaire	regionalism	dialogue	alternative	co-decision	self-decision
Urban Think Tank(arh)		Anna Heringer	Urban Think Tank(urb)	Rural Studio	Asiye eTafuleni	Interboro Partners
Elemental(urb)		Francis Kéré		Giancarlo di Carlo	Elemental(arh)	Estudio Teddy Cruz
Vastu Shilpa Consultants(urb)		Hassan Fathy			Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)	
PREVI LIMA(urb)					PREVI LIMA(arh)	
					Lacaton& Vassal	
					Lucien Kroll	

Table 4. Classification of analyzed cases in relation to project controle

Other examples don’t have same level of participation in relation to the architectural principle. This inconsistency in the case of economically efficient design is namely because principle encompasses a wide range of examples that arise in relation to different motives. Because of this, Estudio Teddy Cruz and their Manufactured sites are equally classified in all tables as well as Interboro partners and their Improve your lot, because equally belonging to principle of “bottom-up planning” and its methods of social organization and production of knowledge. These two examples are included in the maximum table of participation in all four tables attached. In both cases, designers notice a certain phenomenon that arises “from below”, and attempt to legalize it to empower users. In these cases spatial agencies act exclusively for the benefit of the user defined problems and goals, and to Wulz scale, they are ranked as “self-determination” with high level of user autonomy, in relation to Arnstein’s table as “civil control”, in the Shirvan’s scale as “advocating” and in Till’s as a “transformative participation” in relation to the realized communication. Another case of equal participation with various applied principles is the examples of Rural Studio and Giancarlo de Carlo, where \$ 20K House and Nuovo vilaggio Matteotti with respect to the design of variant solutions equally appear in all classifications. Special importance to research is found in different application of participation in relation to “bottom-up planning” principle. Despite the high ranking of the analyzed cases of Interboro Partners and Asiye Etafuleni on user participation scales, the possibility of action within a given principle with lower forms of participation can be noticed on the example of Urban Think Tank. At the Metrocable project, architects are trying to make a transport solution adapting to the form of a settlement built up from the bottom and consulting future users, but at the same time leaving decision making to experts and authorities. The only consistency of all the analyzed cases of the given principle is noted in the Shirvani chart, where they are classified as examples of “advocacy”. Therefore, the bottom-up principle implies different user participation, but in all cases it arises to the same motive: advocating those who are disempowered and have no access to planning and design tools.

The participation of users according to the Wulz is excluded only at the planning stages of incremental housing and the architectural phase of a bottom-up design. Another type of exclusion can be seen in Arnstein’s table on the right to decide on cases of contemporary vernacular design. It is important to note that almost all cases are public buildings. The only example of high-ranking user participation for public arhitecture is Asiye Etafuleni and their Market in Durban. Namely, the character of planning and design of public spaces requires a different form of participation in decision making. While individual requirements about housing clearly differ in the smallest spatial forms and their details, the issues of common spaces arise in relation to a certain generalization of the requests of all members are mainly It concerns programming and planning issues. The best example illustrated is the UTC’s Metrocable project in Caracas. The citizens presented their demands on the solution of transport problems and joined the process of planning spatial interventions, but were completely excluded when the design of public buildings was initiated.

Hamid Shirvani (1985)- motive		Jeremi Till (2005)-comunication	
supporting (facilitative) approach	political activist approach	placatory participation	transformative participation
Elemental(arh)	Asiye eTafuleni	Urban Think Tank	Asiye eTafuleni
Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)	Urban Think Tank	Anna Heringer	Interboro Partners
PREVI LIMA(arh)	Interboro Partners	Francis Kéré	Elemental(arh)
Lacaton& Vassal	Estudio Teddy Cruz	Hassan Fathy	Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)
	Rural Studio	Rural Studio	PREVI LIMA(arh)
	Giancarlo di Carlo	Giancarlo di Carlo	Estudio Teddy Cruz
	Lucien Kroll		Lacaton& Vassal
			Lucien Kroll

Table 5. Classification of the analyzed cases in relation to the motive and the realized communication

The second occurrence of user exclusion is noted in urban phase of incremental housing. Due to the different results of the non-participation of the given phase to the final improvement of the context, the question of the conditionality of these two factors must be raised. Namely, on the example of Aranya Community Housing in India, the exclusion of target groups in site and settlement planning has largely affected the project’s collapse, while on the example of the Previ Lima settlement in Peru, the same exclusion didn’t reflect on the satisfaction of its future users. Meanwhile Quinta Monroy in Chile uses participation in its urban solution, meeting user requirements in site choice, which was considered crucial in the user interpretation of the quality of spatial intervention. It can be concluded that, despite the possible success of the project regardless of the involvement of future users, their inclusion guarantees the fulfillment of their requirements and ensures and improves their architectural context. Issues of special interest for users for this level of spatial activity are site and program issues.

A particularly problematic design in relation to customer satisfaction is Hassan Fathy’s New Gourna. The project is according to Wulz’s table on the scale of “regionalization”, which is the same as for other examples of contemporary vernacular design implies architectural interpretation of user needs and local context. In all three projects, the goal is training and educating users to improve their conditions of life. While contemporary examples are not criticized, New Gourna village met many criticisms. A special problem was the relocation of the population to better control its tenants. Fathy, however, imposed a new form of housing that confronted the traditional principles and their adopted housing typology. The exclusion of users in the case of Fathy’s settlement resulted as the failure of the entire project and final abandonment of a village. In contemporary architectural cases the results are not so dramatic. Both projects are created as the initiative of the architects with the support of non-governmental organizations and noted a significant improvement in the local context. Partly because of the school facilities, which don’t need to adapt to a culture of space, such as housing, their great impact on the existing context is not connected to its minimal used participation.

5. Conclusion

Participation and freedom is a complex issue that requires detailed study for its real valorization. Because of its complexity, as mentioned above, the term is often abused. The long duration of the process, it’s hardly provable valorisation, and the complexity of the various applications contribute to manipulation, which is equally occurring in planning, designing, and its final implementation. On the other hand, the application of participation in any form, whether it involves financial participation, participation in decision-making or in the form of a workforce, at any stage of the project, significantly influences the improvement of the context of economic scarcity and its sustainability.

Case studies and their professional freedom and the use of communication action		
Sherry Arnstein (partnership, delegated power and citizen control)	Fredrik Wultz (<i>co-decision and self-decision</i>)	Jeremi Till (transformative participation)
Asiye eTafuleni	Asiye eTafuleni	Asiye eTafuleni
Interboro Partners	Interboro Partners	Interboro Partners
Elemental(arh)	Elemental(arh)	Elemental(arh)
Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)	Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)	Vastu Shilpa Consultants(arh)
PREVI LIMA(arh)	PREVI LIMA(arh)	PREVI LIMA(arh)
Estudio Teddy Cruz	Estudio Teddy Cruz	Estudio Teddy Cruz
Lacaton & Vassal	Lacaton & Vassal	Lacaton & Vassal
Lucien Kroll	Lucien Kroll	Lucien Kroll

Table 6. Classification of analyzed cases using the theoretical model of communicative action

Observing communication in participatory design the conclusion would be the selection of levels of participation which contain elements of professional and user freedom and participation. Other cases are different types of strategic communication, and as such are potentially used for the system. Manipulation of participation in each example is evidence of domination of a certain social level and its exploitation of users and their context. The displayed levels of the Arnstein, Wulz and Till classifications are practicing consensus-oriented communication - a dialogue for achieving consensus among all participants. This type of communication is only guarantee that the real user participation in the decision-making process would be accomplished. Inclusion of community is reducing the level of control of the system- the experts. The assumed application of moderate control was clear at these levels: eight cases of real participation have been identified which, within spatial action, recognize the user autonomy and their freedom. The dominant principles are participatory design, incremental design and bottom-up planning. Within these principles, only the cases of Urban Think Thank and Giancarlo de Carlo were excluded, because their sign of domination and manipulation. Incremental design in all cases achieves a high level of participation, while for bottom-planning and participatory designing, despite the high percentage of user decision-making, it is necessary to conduct a verification of the real user participation. Controversies that show manipulation appear at the micro level, and was necessary that each intervention has to be checked in micro and macro social levels.

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