



OBSOLESCENCE and RENOVATION

20th Century Housing in the New Millennium

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Patina or Dirt? Transformability of Terraced House Typology of the Booming Years

2. Format: Written paper and verbal presentation

3. Author(s) Name: Claudia Volberg

4. Email contact details: volberg@tugraz.at

5. University or Company Affiliation: Institute of Architecture Technology – Graz
University of Technology (TU Graz)

6. Abstract (300 words):

European's housing stock is mainly marked by the residential production of the 1960s/1970s. After fifty years, ageing of this legacy reclaims renovations and updates to face changed necessities for habitats. European housing policies are supporting new construction to face this demand, undermining considerations to include the residential stock of the Booming Years in their planning strategies for future resilient living. Missing maintenance and holistic renovations deteriorated the buildings conditions and downgraded raw concrete, label of the 1960s/1970s, favoring its stigmatization. However, the terraced house typology of this era proves just the opposite. Marked by a significant structural language, generating "lively variety" in homogeneity, this habitat is clearly an identifiable "mind map" while allowing interrelations between individual and community spaces embedded in green areas. As *Siedlung Halen* in Bern/Switzerland

(atelier 5, 1961) and *Mühlehalde* in Umliken/Switzerland (Team 2000, 1971) demonstrate, positive valuation by inhabitants has sustained over decades, reflecting the potential to take up society changes while community spirit and identification have passed on to future generations. As examples reflect, after more than five decades, *Terrassenhäuser* (terraced housing typology) are still valued but suffering of severe construction problems. Faulty construction, environmental impacts and material ageing relate to them, due to their, at that time executed, innovative but untested technologies. Confronted with these ongoing problems, standardized renewal and energy concepts are mainly the available solutions offered to the inhabitants, provoking the loss of space quality and identity. As constantly discussions of *Halen's* situation show, patrimony protection has not provided expected viable strategies to support transformations. The paper will discuss the terraced house typology as resource for resilient future habitat by analyzing renovation and transformation strategies; thereby reflecting upon the significance of ageing in form of patina, not seen any more as "dirt" in Booming Years' housing stock, underlining its character as "mind map".

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors): Claudia Volberg (Lima, 1975) graduated from the RWTH Aachen (Aachen University of Technology) in 2002. In 2010, she finished successfully her master thesis (Tutor: Prof. Antonio Pizza) of the postgraduate master program at the Institute of Theory and History of Architecture at the ETSAB (Barcelona School of Architecture), UPC de Barcelona /Spain.

After her graduation as an architect in 2002, Claudia Volberg worked as a project-leader in offices of urbanism and architecture in Valencia and Murcia (Spain), and from 2006 – 2008 and 2010 – 2014 she worked at Diener & Diener Architekten in Basel (Switzerland). In 2009-2010, she enriched her experience in architecture communication and critics as PR - Director in the office Dellekamp Arquitectos in Mexico City/ Mexico. During her work experience she was responsible for competitions and realization of public building, office buildings but focussing more on housing projects and refurbishments of residential buildings of patrimony value.

Since 2014, she is member of the teaching and research team of the Institute of Architecture Technology (TU Graz) as *Universitätsassistentin* (assistant professor). Recently Claudia Volberg is working on her PhD – thesis, titled "Concrete in its plastic originality – potential of terraced housing of the Booming Years" (Tutor Prof. Roger Riewe).

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