

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Mass Housing Estate Location in Relation to its Livability: Budapest case study

2. Format:

Written paper and verbal presentation

3. Author(s) Name:

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5. Abstract (300 words):

In post-Communist countries, the large prefabricated housing estates, constructed between 1960 and 1990 have remained a dominant type of housing for a long time (Kovács and Herfert, 2012). These estates are often referred to as 'panel' housing, a name derived from the precast modular concrete components, from which the buildings were constructed. In the Hungarian capital city of Budapest, 26 mass housing units were built during the panel housing construction period, in which 30 per cent of the population now live. However, there is a growing quality concern and health implications around these panel housing estates (Bonney et al., 2003), some of which are beginning to see their previously popular appeal wane. Numerous studies have explored the potential future of panel housing from the communist era. Some authors advocate for upgrading and renewal of these buildings (Muliulytė,

2013); yet, others see them as a mass of aesthetic and socioeconomic burden reminiscent of the past, centrally planned economy, and therefore propose gentrification and/or urban regeneration to replace them (Marcinićzak and Sagan, 2011). However, economic realities often dictate the social housing policy of the day. In this respect, two principal issues that define today's housing market situation of the panel stock in Budapest are location and accessibility of some micro-districts (Benkő, 2015). While some neighborhoods can achieve several livability goals by renewal processes, accessibility can only be changed through large scale urban development over an extended period of time. To work on the criteria of livable future, this paper explores the conflicts between micro and macro scale development through the case of Budapest prefabricated housing estates.

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6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

¹Melinda Benkő

Melinda Benkő holds a PhD in architecture and is an urban designer, associate professor and (since 2012) Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). <http://urb.bme.hu/> She graduated from the BME in 1994, but thanks to international scholarships she studied also in Marseille and Milan. Melinda twice earned the three-year Bolyai research grant of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2009 and 2013). Her research, teaching and professional activities focus on contemporary urban design in relation to sustainability and urban heritage – for example, the future of large prefabricated housing estates, energy efficient renewal of historic city centres, different aspects of public space design and use, etc. As the designer of Archimago Ltd., she has received several awards for architectural and urban competition projects. Benkő participates in international scientific and educational networks (such as knowledge ambassador for the Urbact Re-Block project, Hungarian member of the COSTTU1203 Action, visiting professor in architectural schools), as well as organises workshops and conferences in Budapest (Urban Renewal, Design and Management for Safer Public Spaces, Housing Estates in V4, Facing Post-war Urban Heritage In Central-Eastern Europe).

Regina Balla

Regina Balla does her PhD in architecture at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), specialised in urban planning and development. She graduated from BME in 2016. During her M.Sc. studies she worked as a junior architect in different architecture offices and thanks to international scholarships she spent some months in an architecture studio in Madrid. Since 2013 she has participated in several scientific student conferences and competitions, where her recurring topic was prefabricated block of flats architecture. Accordingly, in her PhD she examines sustainability of city blocks, especially prefabricated housing estates in small to mid- sized town that is a very problematic and widespread topic in Eastern Europe area. She is interested in how to balance sustainability and quality of life, and in how urban planning could help to merge these issues into a likable future city. These issues are much more relevant in the post-war urban heritage areas that are in bad conditions

and have equivocal opportunities for rehabilitation. Regina is also working on other sustainable development projects, including the European Foundation Project for Danube transnational community development and participates in an UNESCO course for a sustainable future.

³Isaiah Oluremi Durosaiye

Mr. Isaiah Oluremi Durosaiye is a researcher at University of Central Lancashire, UK. His area of research interest is enhanced accessibility of the built environment, with a focus on age-friendly environments. Isaiah holds a PhD in healthcare facilities design, which examined how hospital ward design influences nurses' health and work ability. This PhD project was conducted in collaboration with the National Health Service (NHS), in the UK. There are two main outputs of this PhD. A matrix was developed that supports the evaluation of nursing tasks on hospital wards. In addition, a ward environment assessment tool was constructed that is used to administer post-occupancy evaluation of hospital wards. The matrix and the tool together form a framework that is used to assess the suitability of the design of the ward environment for ward nurses. This PhD study contributed to the knowledge base of research and practice in age-friendly environments. Isaiah is also experienced in EU-funded housing research projects, has published in peer reviewed journal articles, served as a member of scientific committee on peer reviewed journal conference publications, and as an associate fellow of UK Higher Education Academy, has teaching experience at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.