

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

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Flexible domesticity. Adaptable structures: Two case studies. Madrid and Berlin.

2. Format:

Written paper and verbal presentation

3. Author(s) Name:

Virginia de Jorge-Huertas

4. University or Company Affiliation:

Department of Architecture. University of Alcalá. UAH. *Alcalá de Henares*. Madrid. Spain.

5. Abstract (300 words):

This research analyzes the idea of domesticity and the space existing "*in-between*" the public and the private spheres. In addition, it focuses on the participative process by taking into account different agents in its development. It values some parameters, such as the "*hybridization*" of housing types, by mixing types of homes in terms of space and time, depending on the budget available. The "*infrastructure*" analyzed is therefore flexible in terms of the changeability of spaces, generating "*livable spheres*", lasting months, years or decades. The study focuses on three strategies: Firstly, the search for flexible open systems and structures to support new living concepts; secondly, it looks at new ways to manage project construction. Finally, it examines the ecology and changes in domestic practices.

The research presents two existing case studies in Madrid and Berlin from the period 1970-1980. The first, a cooperative housing building in Arturo Soria constructed between 1974 and 1980 by Jose Miguel de Prada Poole, Emilia Bisquert and Ricardo Aroca, with the involvement of the community of owners. The second, developed in 1979, is a participative ecological housing located near Tiergarten in Berlin. This case study is contextualized within the IBA 1987, developed by the architects Frei Otto, Katherine Kanstinger and their team, and proposed in collaboration with the future community neighbours.

In order to come up with possible strategies, the project analyzed the key points the case studies had in common in terms of experimental living and the possibility of re-developing new living typologies in the same adaptable "infrastructure". This point is possible thanks to the differentiation of two systems, a fixed system and the personalized one. The second key point is the relationship between the context climate properties and the development of new ways of living in community. This could perhaps be an approach that could help shape future livable cities in terms of a sense of community and new and changing housing needs.

6. Author Biography (200 words each):

Virginia de Jorge Huertas is Architect and PhD candidate. She is student number 1 of the 2009-2015 generation at the Higher Technical School of Architecture in the University of Alcala. She won the special Award for the most outstanding Alumnus 2016. She was finalist at the competition Pladur 2013. She won the third Schindler competition local prize 2014. She has obtained two research fellowships of competitive concurrence of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports during her master degree of Architecture related to housing projects (2013 and 2014). She won a grant of collaboration and Initiation to Research 2015. She had an 10/10 honourable Mention in her Final Project 2015 "Urban reactivations strategies. Fuencarral. 1960 -2015". She was speaker with the Final Project in the IV International Creative Cities Congress, in Madrid, in January 2016. She won an ARQUIA Fellowship at the Architecture studio of Miralles Tagliabue in Barcelona in 2016. She realized a collaboration with FICARQ in the London Design Biennale, September 2016. She was speaker at the III International congress of Architecture and Gender in Florence, University of Firenze 2017. She is currently research staff and teacher with a pre-doctoral contract FPU - MECD (2016) at the University of Alcala.