

#### TOURBANISM.

6th Conference of the International Forum on Urbanism

January 25th to 27th, 2012, Politechnic University, Barcelona.

### SUBTHEME: I. ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM AND TOURISM

# Covadonga Martínez-Peñalver

Arquitecta, profesora asociada de proyectos arquitectónicos en la Escuela Politécnica Superior de la Universidad San Pablo CEU, en Madrid

### Abstract:

# From Holiday Way of Life to Everyday Rutine

At the moment, in many cities, and even in whole regions, the tourist areas have been stumped so that the limits between habitual inhabitants' houses and the holiday ones are not already legible in the space. For renewing the existing tourist areas or for developing new ones, the strategy could be to erase the borders between regular and touristic house, so differences between persons could disappear, understanding that everyone is a potential tourist. In this way, the values that motivate domestic tourism project could invade the general domestic project, to convert everyday home into a place of refuge and off of the concerns of everyday work. It could also reverse the terms of the domestic speech in order to incorporate quality as an essential element in the development, and sale, of any promotion, surpassing the single speech always referred to how many square feet or the number of bedrooms.

### Keywords:

Domestic, habitable, hedonism, daily life, identity.

Paper:

# From Holiday Way of Life to Everyday Rutine

# Covadonga Martínez-Peñalver

Arquitecta, profesora asociada de proyectos arquitectónicos en la Escuela Politécnica Superior de la Universidad San Pablo CEU, en Madrid

### cova@aparquitectos.com

Considering that 14% of the global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is tourism, achieving 25% in some countries like Jamaica, and that the offer is enormously diversified, we can conclude that tourism is everywhere, and that all the territory is affected by its presence. In our country the tourism is an essential element in the balance of payments, which is demonstrated across all our geography; from rural houses to big cities, from fair centers along the different suburban landscapes to the enormous coastal extensions covered by second homes. In this invasive scenario, housing for second homes is gaining importance and it's starting to be natural to find them infiltrated among usual/everyday residences. Although the second residence is recorded regularly, so we know that of the 22 million residences registered in Spain, 3.8 are second residence, tourism is becoming so large that the differences between first and second home are blurring or even disappearing completely.

But really, what should be those differences? Or rather, what were those differences that now are diminished? In this work we are going to focus on spacial and programmatic differences that define the daily life, touristic or regular.

At first the leisure house, yet understood as a second residence, has allowed more freedom when it came to experience new distributions of uses that affect everyday life. For example, imported american kitchen, which unfortunately is not the huge kitchen that we are used to see in American households, but a simple and little kitchen opened to the living room, was incorporated much earlier and with greater ease to the holiday home than to promotional housing aimed as first home. The same happened with circulations, which have traditionally been more open in holiday homes where it seemed perfectly acceptable that the rooms connected directly to the living, rather than to a closed corridor, or that the terrace reached relevant proportions in relation to the inside, or that a patio was one more room, a green room. This has allowed that many houses, unconventional in some way, have been introduced in the tourist market as holiday rental accomodation. They all offer something special, something particular. Sometimes it is the environment, or architecture, as can happen in an Ibiza payesa's house; sometimes the view, for example in an apartment in San Sebastian; and other common facilities, as with gardens and swimming pools of so many developments in the Costa del Sol.

The tourist type of people seek holiday off of their daily lives, and it's in this context that makes sense for them to willingly admit alterations in their repeated behaviors that occur in the usual day to day. However, the home is beginning to be understood in the same way as the refuge where there's no stress, and that's the reason why millions of people move to the periphery of cities and beyond, looking for more contact with nature, greater relaxation in the day to day, and greater distance from the city understood as a workplace. Thus, certain recreational and leisure activities are not reserved now for the holiday period but are trying to be implemented at all times of the year. Therefore, it would seem logical that the same openness to new forms of everyday life that is supported on the holiday home will be introduced in the new residential developments. But, on the contrary, the transfer has been rather the opposite. Tourism promotions are those that have adopted more conventional modes of spatial organization, thereby contributing to distributions of standard free-story whose only difference is the number of bedrooms.

Today, the crisis in housing market, leads to a reflection on the product. It will no longer work the formula in which it does not matter what you do because everything is sold. We now have the opportunity to rethink what home projects go forward and what they can offer. And in this line is proposed to erase the boundaries between residence and tourism, bringing the argument to the total extreme in which we can ideally live everyday as if we were on vacation.

In modern architecture California images, recorded on the collective retina, with outdoor social night scenes with the view of the city in the background, or modern kitchens, efficient and open, bring us the feeling that life is to enjoy it moment by moment. Leisure time has crossed the borders that confine you to set periods (summer, winter holidays, Christmas ...) to enter the domestic everyday of the contemporary subject that once surpassed the conquest of free time, wants a quality free time.

The individual is crucial for this proposal to make sense. The majority generic man has his job and his responsibilities limited in time, so he has guaranteed a daily time of personal dedication. This contemporary subject, when it comes to his domestic enclosure, is a man of open mind, ready for recreation and enjoyment.

The goal of this proposal is that the values that motivate domestic tourism project invade the general domestic project, to convert everyday home into a place of refuge and off of the concerns of everyday work. It has also tried to reverse the terms of the domestic speech in order to incorporate quality as an essential element in the development, and of course sale, of any promotion, surpassing the single speech always referred to how many square feet or the number of bedrooms.

The objective is therefore to re-describe the project home of the future, allowing us to erase the borders between tourism and urban life, so we can talk specifically about the territory and its management, and the different strategies that can be developed. While this work focuses especially on the home itself, the overall proposal also refers to its environment and its cluster systems, meaning that the values of hedonism, joy and beauty that are searched in the beach resorts could perfectly be part of the everyday life envelop, in any regular residence.

In short, the proposal that begins with this work tries to use the tourist domestic space to feed a more than necessary rethinking about living in general and about what domestic architecture project can bring. In this line, and trying to be accurate at all times, we will analyze four spatial and organizational proposals, which have the power to transform conventional housing patterns and give scope to the development of the individual's own identity, who finds in his personality the keys to his day to day.

# **Double circulation**

How do we measure the hierarchy of the different rooms of a house? Should this be in square feet? The larger, the more important, or can we add new parameters? Should the most private rooms dump all into a dealer space or could they communicate with each other?

The normal distribution in the new promotions that inhabit our suburbs undergo a main hall which is accessed from either the kitchen or the living room or the from the dealer space that leads to the rooms. This organization, although it is very rational, forces us to pass compulsory by the lobby in any travel around the house. This way, there are no straight communications between the different rooms. And also, the different levels of privacy that anyone wants to establish are perverted as a guest wants to visit the toilets.

Another version of the prior distribution is a hall, usually very small with a single door that leads into a hallway. From this corridor we accede to everything: living room and kitchen on the first doors, then bathrooms and bedrooms. With this release, the privacy filter is in the very doors, which suddenly acquire a relevant role. The circulations are still indirect with an intermediate space of obligatory passage, as if we had a kind of wind stop before each room. Given the protagonism acquired by corridors in any conventional or regular house, one would think that they should have some space quality, but virtually they never have daylight and are almost always spaces of 90 cm in width and 230 of headroom, less than the usual 250 in the main rooms. Taken out of context and thought coldly, this narrow place, dark and full of doors, should seem terrifying, but we're used to it.

In any holiday home, circulation schemes are much more open. Any space can be perverted for the passage while any space may have a use. The linkages between spaces not always depend on doors, sometimes there are caused by the location of furniture, others for turning a corner or due to sliding panels that transform the space. A corridor exceptionally wide permits us to turn a circulatory space into a library with a bookshelve, a closet can separate the hall from the bathroom, a kitchen worktop can be a dining room sideboard.

More particularly, if there is a double movement, relations between rooms lose the unidirectional character marked by pre-established hierarchies. The invidividual can decide where to emphasize, wherever he feels it is most appropriate. It is a resource that allows a maximum enrichment of space with minimal investment and is consistent with the more contemporary concept of identity, which recognizes that there's no single version of the order or a unique way to use the rooms. Developing creative thinking towards the relationships between rooms is something many people do naturally in a holiday environment. Something that is denied to them in the internal developments of urban neighborhoods where homes are differentiated only by size.

# The room without a name

In the rules of Spanish public housing is especially forbidden to include any area without an established use. It is a symptomatic fact of what has happened to the housing program: every room has its pre-assigned function.

Therefore, secondary programs, such as studying, surfing the internet, library, reading, playing, etc. are relegated to the corners of the different rooms, when they could be accommodated in different areas even if they were not specifically provided for it. And even beyond that, there is non-program that is non-quantifiable as use, but it is not less important; it is no more than space, room, a few empty meters, where there is nothing. This holiday marvel is not going to be recovered if every square meter has to have a functional predetermined sense.

The incorporation of a space that has no pre-defined programmatic use, isolated or not, is considered fundamental for the individual to develop his own identity through the way he uses space. It may be linked to the movement of the house, reconsidered in the size of distributors, halls or entryways, which clearly can overcome their functional status, or be another more room, which by its position, situation, or shape, does not fit initially in any basic need.

# Room kitchen opposite to functional kitchen

It seems that long ago society has overcome the traditional domestic roles that every member of the family traditionally had, women always in the kitchen. Today, cooking is not a domestic work done by one person alone in the corresponding room. Today, especially on holidays, cooking is a leisure activity, a hobby for many. And more specifically, cooking is a shared activity.

But kitchens are still being assigned a minimum size, meaning the bare minimum that corresponds to the concept of functional kitchen for cooking. While for a living room it is always considered that several people should fit comfortably, in the kitchen corridor schemes are perfectly allowed, which are very functional for a single person, but forces two people to keep on bumping into each other.

In most cases the worktops are against the wall, so the one that is cooking is placed backwards to the conversation. An island is considered an unnecessary luxury, but it may be a place where you can work on a shared basis.

The kitchen is still an isolated and closed place, where communication with the outside occurs via a clothesline with sheets that prevent you from seeing the landscape. What sense would this make in a holiday home? Probably none. Surely it would be more desirable to enjoy a nice view from the kitchen.

But unfortunately the kitchen is understood usually as the place where you go to cook. Nothing more. In a holiday home cooking would likely be an activity to relax and enjoy a space in which hospitality flourishes towards the gathering and interaction while preparing food. Why not move these wishes to the most ordinary everyday? We just need to understand that the kitchen is much more than a functional space. It's a primordial everyday space to be in.

# **Outdoor spaces**

As a final proposal, we consider essential to include an outdoor space. This is another room inside the house, but non-built room that causes an accordion effect, the house grows on warm days. The proposed space is not merely symbolic, it's one more habitable room where you can do multiple activities such as eating, or reading, or sitting in company, or watch a movie, or sleep like in the sleeping baskets of the Schindler house.

This space, enjoyable and to enjoy, must have a straight relationship with other living spaces. If there is visual continuity, those will be enjoyable square meters throughout the whole year, even on cold days.

It is a space that connects the house with the environment, makes it a living organism, changing with the seasons and the weather, becomes wild if it is not cared after, it covers with snow, or it is protected under a canopy. Requires that we manage the refurbishment of the house, opening, or closing or covering ... according to the environment. It also allows us to have a small haven of nature and a direct contact with the cold or the sun. Enriches the room experience.

The four points developed here are intended to be quite specific and concrete proposals to allow the domestic project look to other vacation lifestyles and introduce new housing parameters. The goal is to introduce quality as a measurable element, to overcome quantity (of square feet or number of rooms). We are not talking about the quality of materials, but the quality of life, which is ultimately what we seek in the idyllic and hedonistic dream of vacation life.