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Book of Abstracts

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**Rehabilitation of
Mass Housing
as Contribution to
Social Equality**

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May 11-15, 2022
University of Belgrade -
Faculty of Architecture

Title of the publication |
**Book of Abstracts:
Rehabilitation of Mass
Housing as Contribution to
Social Equality**

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Publisher |
**University of Belgrade -
Faculty of Architecture**

For publisher |
Vladimir Lojanica

Number of copies |
100

Print |
**University of Belgrade -
Faculty of Architecture**

Place and year of issue |
Belgrade, 2022

ISBN 978-86-7924-256-3

Funded by

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

**University dialogue
with the countries of
the Western Balkans**

Hosted and
organized by



In cooperation with



RE-MHN Project

The project entitled *Rehabilitation of Mass Housing as Contribution to Social Equality* (RE-MCH) is implemented a part of the DAAD-East-West-dialogue program (University dialogue with the countries of the Western Balkans) in the period from January to December 2022. The project was initiated by TH OWL in collaboration with researchers from UB-FA and UKIM.

Mass housing neighborhoods (MHN) represent the largest share of urbanity and morphological image of the large-scale cities in the Balkan region, that is, the leading pattern of urban transformation and expansion in the second half of the 20th century. Moreover, they have a significant share in total housing stock across Europe and have a huge significance in ensuring access to affordable and appropriate housing, reducing socio-spatial polarization in cities, and finally contributing to social equality. MHN were built on a cross-section of multifaceted influential factors that equally include feedbacks between social structure, ie. demographic, social and economic characteristics of the housing community reflected in the lifestyle of residents, on the one hand and the physical structure, on the other. These neighborhoods embody multiple levels of material and immaterial values and are an inseparable part of the local collective memory and urban identity.

One of the main purposes of this project is to discuss the potential that MHN have for their region and community, the possibilities they provide spatially, and to evaluate and further develop inspiring ways to maintain, re-use and revitalize them, based on selected case studies. Furthermore, it proposes enhancing and testing of innovative research practices for rehabilitation of MHN, through the involvement of students, academics, and professionals from the field, introducing them into local communities' processes. It strives to enhance the competence and motivation of both academics and civil society to become real actors of the environmental and social change.

Editors Note

The context of RE-MHN project has largely influenced the thematic framework of the interdisciplinary research event organized in collaboration between the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture and the TH OWL and UKIM. The event has included various formats and levels of discussion in order to experiment with knowledge-sharing and knowledge-building structures in the academic context. Our objectives were twofold – thematic and pedagogical. The open processes of questioning the contemporary issues of rehabilitation of mass housing is navigated through different debate structures. The event is perceived as a creative and critical arena for international researchers, invited lecturers, debate, phd talks and workshop results discussions. The event also included pre-activities throughout the spring semester 2022 in the form of student workshop – “ISO-SCAPES” – which resulted in Exhibition prepared as a part of the seminar. This Booklet is conceptualized as a diary of abstracts structured in two main parts: **Thematic Lecturers** (Invited Speakers) and **PhD Talks** (PhD Students and Candidates).

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THEMATIC LECTURES

Jelena Ristić Trajković, PhD, Associate Professor,
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IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT- BEHAVIOR KNOWLEDGE IN REHABILITATION OF MASS HOUSING: CASE OF BELGRADE

The relevance of this topic reflects the need for redefining the approach to rehabilitation of mass housing as a contribution to social equality in accordance with the current environmental and social issues, as well as with **the current environmental and social issues**. Recent decades have seen a constant emphasis on the importance of behavioral knowledge and interpretation within architectural theory and practice in order to achieve environmental and cultural sustainability. The assumption is that **environment-behavior knowledge can continuously improve architectural response to aspects of the environment**, as well as

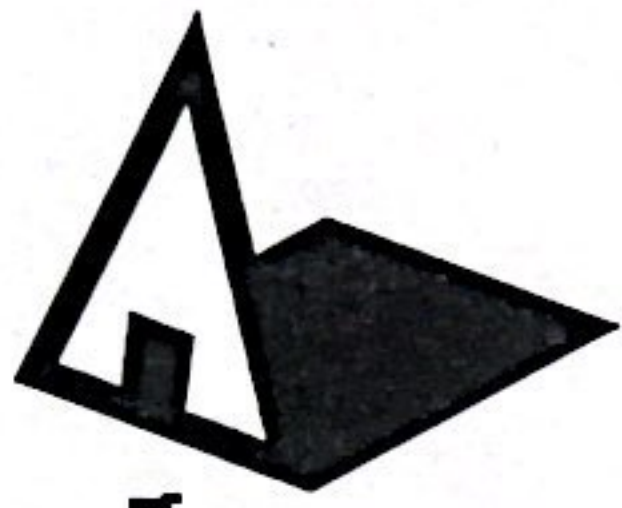
to the needs of contemporary society and culture, the unpredictability of human behavior and the characteristics of the local context.

The selection of Belgrade mass housing settlements as the case study is chosen considering the complexity and specificity of mentioned relations in constantly changing political and cultural conditions (from self-management socialism to capitalism). Rehabilitation of Belgrade mass housing settlements is particularly challenging and important considering their large urban scale. The socialist system provided a systematic implementation of CIAM principles on a large urban scale, in contrast to capitalist countries where these principles are carried out on a smaller scale. Due to the transition process at the end of the 20th century, Belgrade experienced significant spatial and functional transformation. Today, when Belgrade is undergoing a post-socialist transition, the issues related to various city planning problems have arisen because of urban densification and open market economy processes.

What this elaboration shows is that the role of the environment-behavior knowledge in the rehabilitation of Belgrade mass housing settlements is reflected in understanding the complexity of applied architectural and urban approaches, and also in the **understanding of user needs and the overall complexity of the environment and culture**. Mentioned relations are considered at different spatial scales, from the level of the housing unit to the level of neighbourhood and block, both in the inner and outer space. Further, the lecture shows that the residential mass housing architecture of Belgrade has a rich environmental history, which is due to specific historical conditions, resulting in complex, hybrid forms of approaches to the design of the environment. Ultimately, the lecture shows that the rehabilitation of mass housing presupposes the establishment of a sensitive relation to the specific environmental, social and cultural context, as well as shifting the focus to **the adaptive logic of architectural practice**, revealing the possibilities of transformation, expansion and improvement of social equality.

Keywords: environment-behavior relations and knowledge, architectural design, environmental and cultural sustainability, mass housing, Belgrade





CERTIFICATE

Presented to

JELENA RISTIĆ TRAJKOVIĆ

In recognition of outstanding contribution as
invited speaker of the presentation entitled

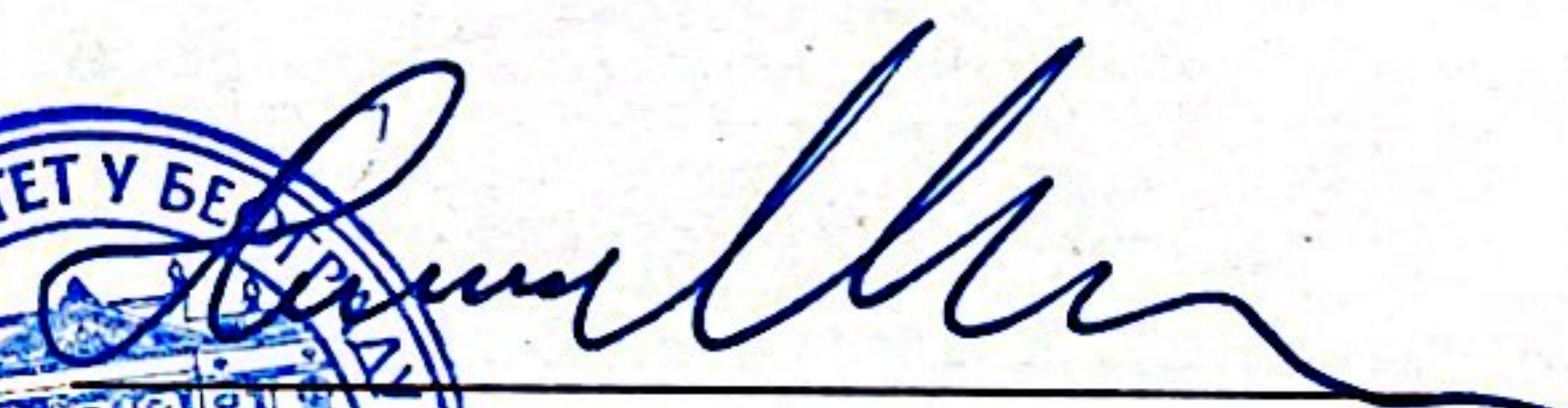
**IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT-BEHAVIOR KNOWLEDGE IN
REHABILITATION OF MASS HOUSING:
CASE OF BELGRADE**

at the International RE-MHN Seminar (Rehabilitation of Mass Housing as
Contribution to Social Equality) realized as a part of the DAAD East-West project and
organized in collaboration between the UB-FA (Serbia) and the TH OWL (Germany)
and UKIM (North Macedonia).

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture

13th May, 2022




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