

TOPOS & KHÔRA

Territoriality as a cultural creation of human being

Abstract:

This work talks about sustainability and man's capacity to contribute for a better life. It is about Social Sustainability, which is seen to be completely indispensable for the effectiveness of both environmental and economic sustainabilities. Human bonding is such a strong force that it is capable of creating a built environment highly sophisticated as the one where we all interact every day, and it is also capable to provide it with beauty. But even though beauty is not necessarily a human creation, man has learned to contribute on it actively since long time ago. Nature contains a high dose of aesthetics independently from human beings' performance and from long before their outbreak in the world, but over the years man has learned to participate on beauty production. Classic Greek culture discovered a way to express man's relationship with his physical environment that grants him with existential sense and dignity. They introduced Poetics first and then Rhetoric, and with the interdependent relationship between the two of them appeared a group of components and key positions as living expression of the enormous human artistic production, out of collective events, since it was based on diverse perspectives and points of view, as well as from individual voices that make up the interpretive concert of common facts. Then life was garbed with all kinds of new contours and ingenious new meanings out of human imagination and exploration of creativity's assorted means. Ancient Greeks actually had a clear notion of space, territory, region and land, but it was necessary to differentiate two unlike significances of them according to their sense and deepness, so they distinguished clearly the physical land (topos) from the sensorial land, the social and historical meaningful land (khôra). Territory meanwhile adopted strong new connotations besides possession and exploitation, and then there was developed the concept of Territoriality as a cultural value beyond superficial interpretations. From Territoriality derives the Sense of Belonging notion, which in turn leads to Social Cohesion and Solidarity, and these last have being included lately as crucial facts while dealing with Social Sustainability.

Key Words:

dialogic, sense of belonging, social cohesion, topophilia.