Abandoned opportunities

Many important European cities have historically developed from monumental national capitals, have been recently transformed into globally integrated open cities, where transnational flows of people, goods, capital and cultures shape their present development.

Yet the transformation of a particular city depends not only on the construction of new monumental architecture and urban spaces but also on different discourses, which give meaning to those changes and which directly influence the understanding and the relationship citizens develop with new spaces in their everyday life.

Skopje, on contrary, has a rather different history. It seems that in comparison to other European capitals, which have developed from grand national capitals into transnational open cities, Skopje has actually taken almost an opposite path. As a result of the current "development" of North Macedonia cities intense negative processes are taking place: from an architectural point of view, also in the demographic, social, cultural sphere. This processes are dynamic, interrelated and interdependent and often characterized by highlighted contradictions. Lack of clear development policy towards cities leads to many regions lagging behind…

North Macedonia has a large number of abandoned and not properly used spaces, which in the past they defined the entire development of our settlements and neighborhoods. Today and in the last decade are left out of the urban development. Crucially, what these spaces require is a research that does not exist at all, and a redefinition of everything that already exists.

Here i find several issues:

What is the role of these „remains" and what is their relation with the past and the present?

How to intervene the relation between the populated areas and the abandoned spaces („abandoned opportunities")?

Intriguing is their connection to the past, this „remains" help us to define the character of our society, they also play an important role as an integral part of the city's collective memory.

Whether by analyzing certain existing forms , I would add here one of many examples, such as abandoned spaces, industrial buildings, which are part of our society-cities, what can be ascertained by analyzing the internal and external space they offer?

What is the strategy and plan on how and what these areas could become?

Lack of analysis, lack of research… These spaces have huge potential to grow into something that would make a huge contribution to our cities. From the cultural, social, and architectural aspect.

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