

**‘Identity formation of Large-Panel  
Housing Estates’**

# Report

**Vienna University of Technology,  
department of Urban Design**

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# Report

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by Natalia Mysak, first-year PhD-student of the department of Design and the theory of architecture, Institute of Architecture, Lviv Polytechnic National University about results of scientific scholarship at department of Urban Design, The Vienna University of Technology from 1.-31. March 2013.

Research theme – **"Identity formation of Large-Panel Housing Estates"**.

Scientific supervisor – Dr. Arch., Prof. Bohdan Cherkes.

Scholarship at department of Urban Design, The Vienna University of Technology was held under the guidance of Ass. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Dr.h.c. Andreas Hofer and Univ.Ass. Dipl.Ing. Dr.techn. Elisabeth Leitner.

During the scholarship at the department of Urban Design, The Vienna University of Technology materials for the theoretical basis of the research "Identity formation of Large-Panel Housing Estates" were collected. On the basis of a number of studies, conference materials and exhibitions devoted to the development of mass-housing areas development in Vienna, Bratislava and Berlin were familiarized with new methodological approaches and research methods of urban fabric transformations, social and cultural aspects of the city architecture. The photo documentation was made and materials about the key urban areas due to research of estates of 1960-1980 years transformation were collected.

Also, within the scholarship lectures on «International Urbanisation» (Rudolf Giffinger, TU Wien), presentations and architectural exhibitions, including an exhibition in AzW Österreichische Architektur im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert, as well as lectures and presentations within the architectural festival 'Turn On' 2013 were visited.

The objectives of the scholarship were: (1) to learn from the Austrian experience of Large-Panel Housing Estates development and transformation, (2) to create a general theoretical basis for the research "Identity formation of Large-Panel Housing Estates", (3) to collect information, containing photo documentation and visit important urban areas due to the research theme, (4) to get acquaint with the new design concept of housing in Vienna.

Am Schöpfwerk





About the Austrian experience of modernization and transformation of Large-Panel Housing Estates I familiarize myself from the following sources:

1. Baasch H. Sanierungsgrundlagen Plattenbau. Wohnwertverbesserung/ Baasch H., Institute fuer Erhaltung und Modernisierung von Bauwerken e.V. (IEMB), - Stuttgart: IRB Verlag, 1995, 23 p.
2. Bretschneider B. win wi[e]n: blockentwicklung erdgeschosszone/ B. Bretschneider. – Wien: Haus der Zukunft, Impulsprogramm Nachhaltig Wirtschaften, 2008, - 163 p.
3. Fleischmann P. Die Schlafstadt aufwecken/ P. Fleischmann, Technische Universitaet Wien – Diplomarbeit. – Wien, 2008, - 131 p.
4. Gollner Ch. Befragungen zur Wohnqualitaet und Wohnzufriedenheit. Plattenbausiedlungen in Wien/ Ch. Gollner, V. Mayer. - Wien: PWB-Schriftenreihe, 2007, - 10 p.
5. Hillemeier B. Wohnungsanpassung in Block- und Plattenbau/ B. Hillemeier, H. Baasch, H. Paap, G. Allisat, Institute fuer Erhaltung und Modernisierung von Bauwerken e.V. (IEMB), - Stuttgart, IRB Verlag, 2002, 108 p.
6. Horner S. Des Panelenblocks neue Kleider / S. Horner, Technische Universitaet Wien – Diplomarbeit. – Wien, 2004, - 125 p.
7. Huemer H. Bautechnik des Wiener Plattenbaus/ H. Huemer, V. Mayer, - Wien: PWB-Schriftenreihe, 2007, - 73 p.
8. Jiru V. Einhausung eines Plattenbaues durch Membranen/ V. Jiru, Technische Universitaet Wien – Diplomarbeit. – Wien, 2012, - 133 p.
9. Joldzo S. Adaptierung und Generalsanierung von Plattenbauten/ S. Joldzo, Technische Universitaet Wien – Diplomarbeit. – Wien, 2011, - 98 p.
10. Kapeller V. Plattenbausiedlungen. Erneuerung des baukulturellen Erbes in Wien und Bratislava/ V. Kapeller. – Stuttgart: Fraunhofer IRB Verlag, 2009, - 253 p.
11. Kleindienst G. Bebauungsformen fuer die Stadterweiterung Beispiele und Staedtebauliche Kennwerte/ G. Kleindienst., E. Schatzer – Wien: Eigentuemer und Verleger: Magistrat der Stadt Wien, 1991, - 100 p.
12. Kleindienst G. Bebauungsformen und ihre Staedtebaulichen Kennwerte anhand von Wiener Beispielen/ G. Kleindienst. – Wien: Eigentuemer und Verleger: Magistrat der Stadt Wien, 1985, 2. Auflage 1991, - 101 p.
13. Kuzmich F. Bebauungsformen fuer die Stadtentwicklung. Staedtebauliche Kennwerte von Wohnhausprojekten der Jahre 1991-1996/ Kuzmich F. – Wien: Eigentuemer und Verleger: Magistrat der Stadt Wien, 1997, - 87 p.
14. Kuzmich F. Patterns of New Urban Development/ F. Kuzmich, S. Kernstock, G. Kleindienst, L. Neudecker. – Vienna: Municipal Department 18 of the City of Vienna, Urban Development and Planning, 2011, - 167 p.
15. Mayer V. Plattenbausiedlungen in Wien und Bratislava: zwischen Vision, Alltag und Innovation/ V. Mayer. - Wien: PWB-Schriftenreihe, 2006, - 275 p.
16. Mayer V. Studentenwettbewerb. Plattenbausiedlungen – modern Wohnstaetten von morgen/ V. Mayer. - Wien: PWB-Schriftenreihe, 2007
17. Mayer V./ Plattenbausanierung in Wien und Bratislava: Neues Leben in Alten Strukturen/ V. Mayer. – Wien: PWB-Schriftenreihe, 2006, - 223 p.





Following theoretical works and practical examples of modernization, transformation and development of Large-Panel Housing Estates in several countries, with which I have familiarize during scholarship, will be useful in creation of the theoretical framework of my research:

1. Andrusz G., Cities After Socialism/ G. Andrusz, M. Harloe, I. Szelenyj. – Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1996. – 340 p.
2. Bartetzky A., Marc Schalenberg Urban Planning and the Pursuit of Happiness. European Variations on a Universal Theme (18th – 21th centuries)/ A. Bartetzky, M. Schalenberg. – Berlin: Art Pub Incorporated, 2009, - 223p.
3. Engel G. Marzahn/ G. Engel. – Berlin, Konig, 1999, 131 p.
4. Gausa M. Housing. New Alternatives, New Systems/ M. Gausa - Barcelona: Actar Publischers, 1998, 269 p.
5. Geschichte des Wohnes. Band 5. Von 1945 bis heute. Aufbau. Neubau. Umbau. – Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt GmbH, 1999, - 1071 p.
6. Heimat Gross-Siedlung. 50 Jahre Gropiusstadt. – Berlin: Nicolaische Verlagsbuchhandlung GmbH, printed in the EU, 2012, - 264 p.
7. Kliems A. Post Socialiastic City/ A. Kliems, M. Dmitrieva. – Berlin: JOVIS diskurs, 2010. – 271 p.
8. Prudon H. M.. Preservation of Modern Architecture/ H. M. Prudon. – Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley&Sons, 2008, – 305 p.
9. Rieniets T. Open City: Designing Coexistence/ T. Rieniets, K. Christiaanse, J. Sigler. – Translation from German into English: E. Turcker, W. Hoban, translations from Dutch into English: P. Mason. – Amsterdam: Uitgeverij SUN, 2009. – 464 p.
10. The Spontaneous City Urhahn Urban Design, translation C. Edens, B. Nolan. – Amsterdam: BIS Publishers, 2010, – 172 p.
11. Visionary Power. Producing the Contemporary City: International Architectural Biennale Rotterdam, Berlage Institute. – Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2007. – 295 p.
12. Volume The Block. – 2009. – #3





The emergence of Large-Panel Housing Estates was a response to the urgent need for housing in postwar period and took place in the absence of private property and the state monopoly. Being more or less typical in 1960th-1980th, after the fall of socialism and the transition to the capitalist system and in terms of social transformations, the situation changed considerably and Large-Panel Housing Estates began to take their individual traits and transform differently. Therefore, an important aspect is to study the direction of development of areas of different cities and countries, and also research perception of this phenomenon and the formation of its identity.

The factors of successful modernization and development of such estates as well as factors that influence on the large-panel housing estates identity formation are need to be studied and are very urgent. The total number of people living in prefabricated homes on the Earth already reached 900 million. Large-panel housing estates can be found in every former-Soviet city and in large industrial cities up to 80% of the population lives in so-called "dormitory communities, that do not meet the current needs of its residents. Therefore, it is important to show how complex projects operate in different cities and countries today, what makes them successful, and, on the contrary, learn what makes them less relevant to today's realities.

Opportunity to explore areas of mass-housing development in Vienna is very important also for Lviv experience, since these two cities have much in common in architectural and historical aspects.

What occurs at the intersection of deferent fields - forms the most stable gestalt in our minds, as well as in case of large-panel housing estates - at the intersection of architecture, policy, sociology and culture in socialistic cities.

Nevertheless, the development of the perception of these areas gradually changed over the past 50-40 years, from appreciation of urban structures during their construction to highly critical perception today, which is very difficult to change despite their modernizations and transformations. This bias also does not allow to appreciate the benefits of such areas.

Despite the stereotypes, most Viennese large-panel housing estates that I visited still have a high level of identity, which manifests itself through architectural and urban solutions. This identity affects the quality of the housing. Moreover, such identity is more stable, it does not change dramatically over time, but rather it is supplementing with new aspects.

Development of large-panel housing estates in Lviv, particularly, 'Sykhiv' district have different scenario of transformation and creating identity. Socialistic district 'Sykhiv' in Lviv start changing its image and gradually losing association with the Soviet settlement through the active formation and development of religious component, manifestations of capitalism and expressed in visual housing and social collage.

So at first glance there are different ways of development of those housing estates. Naturally, but rather unregulated and sometimes



Wohnpark Alt-Erlaa





chaotic development of 'Sykviv' is opposed to the complexity of projects in Western Europe.

In my opinion, it is important to explore these two scenarios. Each contains necessary components of successful development areas. Gradual development of 'Sykhiv' provides strong engagement of residents in this process and contributes to one's identification with estate, street, house. But at the same time it is also very important to modernize area at the higher level, that can assemble this collage in a single cohesive system.

Therefore to get acquainted with the research materials and projects of modernization of the large-panel housing estates in Vienna and Bratislava was an interesting experience, to which were dedicated conference, student competitions, exhibitions, published articles and books (INTERREG IIIA - Projekts "Plattenbausanierung in Wien und Bratislava", Publikation "Plattenbausiedlungen. Erneuerung des baukulturellen Erbes in Wien und Bratislava ", 2009;

Wanderausstellung" Plattenbausiedlungen in Wien und Bratislava zwischen Vision, Alltag und Innovation ", 2009, 2010; Katalog zur Ausstellung" Plattenbausiedlungen in Wien und Bratislava zwischen Vision, Alltag und Innovation, 2009).

Viennese experience suggests that the flexibility of large-panel housing estates is very favorable for structural and power innovations projects; spatial characteristics of neighborhoods allow to intervene additional functions and uses of the territory. Typically, large-panel housing estates have advantages in location: ecologically clean areas with big amount of greenery and mainly good infrastructure. Large-panel housing estates - are areas with big potential.

Also, problem of large-panel housing estates is a topical subject for study today, one of the aims of which is to prevent problems in the future. Especially in the former Soviet Union it is becoming one of the most popular topics for discussion. In this case in Vienna I have an opportunity to learn from new housing estates with new strategies and complex concepts of multifamily housing, which focuses on sustainability, soft mobility, universal design and various social aspects.

During the scholarship under supervision of Ass.Prof. Andreas Hofer and Univ.Ass. Elisabeth Leitner, who directed my research in Vienna in effective way and provided by many sources of information, I was able to implement main objectives of scholarship, namely: I had the opportunity to get acquainted with the Austrian experience of improvement of large-panel housing estates, to create a framework of theoretical basis, also I gathered information about Viennese large-panel housing, and visited important in terms of research housing estates in Vienna, made photo documentation, and get acquainted with new Viennese multifamily housing concepts.

With support of Ass.Prof. Andreas Hofer and Univ.Ass. Elisabeth Leitner, this scholarship became effective initial stage of my research, helped me to broad understanding of the phenomenon of large-housing estate, to explore new approaches and opportunities that can be applied also in Ukrainian cities. Also, I hope that my further research on the transformation process of urban tissue in Lviv and Vienna can accumulate good common result.

13.03.2013

