

## BIO-ARCHITECTURE AS A POLICY FOR URBAN PLANNING

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As we approach the 21st century, research must be linked to the solution of environmental problems. In this context, I will present a research synopsis, along with, outcomes and recommendations. It is my opinion that the destruction of the bio-environment can be prevented only through the creation of concrete proposals.

Humanity changes its environment as it is motivated by its needs. One satisfied need gives rise to another. The continual human needs and the demands on the environment give a dynamic dimension to relationships between humanity and its environment. Interaction, change and harmony create a dynamic and mobile process over the course of time. The environment changes as a result of man-made products which we ourselves introduce into the environment. All man-made products are based on organic and inorganic appearances, utilising imitative, harmonising, selective, additive, reforming or creative approaches.

In the past, a smaller population created fewer man-made structures and mainly using natural and regional materials, and primitive technology. In addition, humans took an active role in the building process, and thus, in environmental change which was achieved in harmony with nature, so distorting it less. Industrial and technological developments and population growth have caused the environment to change as a result of existing situations. In general, our cities comprise the most densely populated areas, most affected by these changes all over the world, as well as in developing countries.

The effects of the personal decisions of individuals on their own environment, considering the changing needs of human beings over time, is the most important factor of forming environments. Trying to change the man-made environment has created a meaningless and inadequate situation. Growing populations and industrialism have caused the unique character of many of our cities to be eroded. The way to solve these problems is not to apply a weak imitation of traditional solutions but, to try to find valid principles which can still be used.

A common vernacular design process is shared by everyone with the same cultural and traditional background. It can be clearly distinguished from conventional design processes as not being limited to linear drawing and including craftsmanship recognition. Architectural theory and history deal with the monuments and masterpieces of well-known figures, but the physical environment of humankind is not limited to these factors exclusively. A vernacular environment generally consists of a settlement of houses in which the majority of the population lives. However, this fact has been ignored in architecture for many years. Today, vernacular architecture has become a very popular field of interest and its living potential for the creation of the future environments should not be ignored. Defects in environmental design decisions are caused by:

- an insufficient number of design teams representing the inhabitants
- the search for meaningless modernism, in opposition to the desires and tendencies of the inhabitants
- subjective, sensorial or intuitive approaches, and the political interests of administrators
- the use of outdated master plans and applications lacking functionality
- failures arising from decisions not taking into consideration the wishes and needs of the inhabitants

Environmental and semiological values occur within meaningless and inadequate dimensions, have their unique character eroded and ignore local and vernacular character. It is, therefore, necessary to use the evaluations of people, about their own natural and cultural-physical environment, as input data for environmental design and, to discuss ways of establishing communication between vernacular and modern architecture.