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Διαχείριση Κινδύνου στο Ιστορικό Κέντρο της Θεσσαλονίκης (Risk Management in the Historical Center of Thessaloniki. methodology, urban planning)

Tech. Chron. Sci. J. T.C.G., ΙΙ, Jan. - Dec. 2002, vol. 22, no 1-2, pp. 7-19, fig., tab., 12 ref.

In the Greek territory, the destructive events with the most painful consequences in casualties and damages to the built environment are related to seismic activity. Urban changes after a destructive eventuality are rapid, random, unpredictable. The result of such eventualities is the immediate transformation of areas of the city, without regard to planning, characterized by the acceleration or abandonment of existing developmental procedures, causing dramatic urban alterations and unpredictable reactions in the residents themselves. Built environment management in cases of natural disasters is one of the issues subsumed within the field of urban planning.

The management of the built environment and the analysis of its behavior in cases of earthquake, is contained in the larger framework of urban planning and specially the programming of risk management. Seismic risk management develops along two parallel approaches, that of preventive planning, and that of sustainable development.

For the above investigation, we use the findings of a pilot urban planning study in the historical center of Thessaloniki, which involves the evaluation of planning and architectural features of the city, in combination with risk management data analysis.

The primary goal of the study is to form the framework of an urban planning model for dealing with problems of seismic vulnerability, in the event of a major earthquake.

(Author)

K-W: Risk Management, Natural Disasters, Urban Planning, Thessalonica, Earthquake Protection

Stefanou J. (N.T.U.A., Sch. of Arch. Eng., Div. of Planning and Regional Development)

Stefanou J.

Τα Ψυχομετρικά Μεγέθη του Αστικού Τοπίου. Ο Ρόλος τους στη Διαμόρφωση της Αισθητικής Κρίσης και η Δυνατότητα Εκτίμησής τους. (Psychometric Dimensions of the Urban Landscape. Their role in the formation of aesthetic judgement and the possibility of their potential evaluation.)

Tech. Chron. Sci. J. T.C.G., ΙΙ, Jan. - Dec. 2002, vol. 22, no 1-2, pp. 21-31, fig., tab., 13 ref.

The qualitative aspect of objects, images and impressions has been an object of investigation since antiquity. An object's qualities can either be seen as "intrinsic" characteristics of the object that coalesce and coincide with and object's form, or as a set of unique values of categorisation. In this second sense, quality is linked with the notion of the "good" as an aspiration of forms. But are forms measures? What we require in attempting to identify a "good form" is essentially the concretisation of a set of values that can define and evaluate "good" as a property. But can a measure, even,

provide a rate, a measurement, of its own presence?

A place is inextricably connected with the life of the forms that simultaneously generate it and are contained by it; the forms which humans perceive, interpret, define and, also, create. Thus, a place constitutes a prototype of the qualitative framework within which our lives unfold. The image of a place constitutes an impression that breathes life into the place itself, through the interaction of forms with their creator, their observer and their user. The creation of forms, as well as their definition and, crucially, the necessity to experience and communicate a sense of "good place", urge us to investigate the relation between value and quality; such an investigation is attempted in the present study.

(Authors)

K-W: Urban Landscape, Urban Design, Aesthetic Judgement, Artificial Intelligence, Psychometric Dimensions

Kousidonis C.

Κοινόχρηστοι Χώροι του Οικισμού: Η Οσμωση των Χρήσεων και η Ευελιξία στο Σχεδιασμό (Public Open Spaces: Osmosis of Activities and Flexibility in Design)

Tech. Chron. Sci. J. T.C.G., ΙΙ, Jan. - Dec. 2002, vol. 22, no 1-2, pp. 33-45, fig., 26 ref.

This paper deals with the so-called dual-use areas or shared surfaces and their potential for town planning in Greece. The concept of the dual-use areas is analyzed with regard to the division of urban space in functional units and the accommodation of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Emphasis is given to importance of the geometry of the pedestrian priority areas. Then, the paper focuses on two crucial factors that are characteristic of town planning in Greece: the scattering of land ownership over a highly complex mosaic of small properties, and efforts to turn each property into a plot allowing free standing development. Dual-use areas, through the osmosis of activities and their geometric requirements, allow not only the obvious savings in terms of space but also a significant degree of flexibility in design. These elements contribute to the probability of public acceptance of planning proposals. The paper reviews the plans for Giannitsa and Lofos, in Northern Greece, that embraced dual-use areas as main tool. These plans are then used to test the performance of the dual-use approach in terms of operational efficiency of the planning procedure and functionality of the plans themselves.

(Author)

K-W: Urban Design, Public Spaces, Pedestrian Ways

Mitoula R.

Ανθρωπολογία της Ελληνικής Πόλης και Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση (The anthropology of the Greek City and the European Union)

Tech. Chron. Sci. J. T.C.G., ΙΙ, Jan. - Dec. 2002, vol. 22, no 1-2, pp. 47-54, 35 ref.

This paper deals with the so-called dual-use areas or shared surfaces and their potential for town planning in Greece. The concept of the dual-use areas is analyzed with regard to the division of urban space in functional units and the accommodation of pedestrian and

vehicle traffic. Emphasis is given to importance of the geometry of the pedestrian priority areas. Then, the paper focuses on two crucial factors that are characteristic of town planning in Greece: the scattering of land ownership over a highly complex mosaic of small properties, and efforts to turn each property into a plot allowing free standing development. Dual-use areas, through the osmosis of activities and their geometric requirements, allow not only the obvious savings in terms of space but also a significant degree of flexibility in design. These elements contribute to the probability of public acceptance of planning proposals. The paper reviews the plans for Giannitsa and Lofos, in Northern Greece, that embraced dual-use areas as main tool. These plans are then used to test the performance of the dual-use approach in terms of operational efficiency of the planning procedure and functionality of the plans themselves.

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K-W: Greek Town, European Policies, Anthropology of Space, Urban Environment and E.U.