

STJEPKO GOLUBIĆ

OPEN URBANSCAPE OF SEGREGATION AND EXCLUSION – CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION, REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT

OTVORENI GRADSKI PEJSAŽ SEGREGACIJE I ISKLJUČIVANJA – KRITERIJI ZA PREPOZNAVANJE, REHABILITACIJU I UNAPRJEĐENJE



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Date of public defense: March 13th, 2025

Dissertation data

Book I (main text): 253 pages, 9 chapters, 98 illustrations, 93 tables, 38 footnotes, 147 bibl. units; Book II (catalogue appendix): 361 pages, 13 tables, 84 footnotes, 14 bibl. units

Open urbanscapes represent key elements of the urban environment enabling social interaction, recreation, and access to nature. Nevertheless, they are often insufficiently accessible and dysfunctional.

For this dissertation, four types of open urbancape types with varying degrees of public accessibility have been investigated: squares, parks, garden squares, and public gardens. The research includes examples from multiple cities in Europe and the United States, encompassing open urbanscapes of different characteristics. The geographical areas of Europe and the United States were chosen due to their specific historical heritage and cultural differences. Placing open urbanscapes in the context of segregation and exclusion opened the following research questions: How can we recognize segregation and exclusion in open urbanscapes? How does the design and management of open urbanscapes contribute to segregation and exclusion?

Is it possible to rehabilitate open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion? The objectives of the research include establishing a framework for defining open urbanscapes affected by segregation and exclusion, as well as investigating approaches to their rehabilitation and improvement.

Open urbanscapes data was collected using scientific and professional literature, primarily books and articles, documents, drawings, and photographs, as well as resources available from online sources, and some of the examples were visited personally. The data was systematized by the method of synthesis and included within catalog units separately through three catalogs: Catalog 01/A with sixty examples, Catalog 01/B with thirty case studies, and Catalog 02 with twelve case studies. The smaller the number of investigated open urbanscapes in the catalog, the more detailed the analysis of the examples was. The research is divided into two parts. The first part of the research is based on catalogs 01/A and 01/B. It includes the investigation of general data (Catalog 01/A) and design and management elements (Catalog 01/B) in the selected examples. This part of the research relates to research questions linked to

recognizing open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion through the analysis of design and management elements. The second part of the research is based on Catalog 02, which represents a comprehensive research and methodological tool that emerged from the results of the analysis in Catalog 01/B, but on twelve selected examples of open urbanscapes as multi-case studies. The examples have been analyzed to determine whether exclusive design and management elements affect the attributes of open urbanscapes. Attributes are characteristics that make open urbanscapes inclusive: accessibility, usability, comfort of use, unrestrictiveness, safety, identity and publicness. Approaches for rehabilitation and improvement are proposed with the goal of preserving, creating, or enhancing attributes affected by exclusion. In the second part of the research, criteria for the rehabilitation and improvement of design and management elements are established, also serving the rehabilitation and improvement of open urbanscapes.

The results of the research lead to the definition of existing and new criteria for identifying, rehabilitating, and improving open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion. The new criteria for recognizing open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion are criteria of limited accessibility, limited usability, reduced comfort, limited movement, reduced safety, reduced sense of belonging and ownership, and as well as the limited right to stay. New criteria for rehabilitating and improving open urbanscapes are also defined through the rehabilitation and improvement of their design and management elements: introducing new elements, transforming, removing, relocating, contextualizing and reinterpreting existing elements, as well as temporary interventions.

In the introduction, the problematics of the research related to open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion are presented. Here, key terms related to the topic are defined, and the importance of this research is emphasized in the context of contemporary urban challenges.

The literature review analyzes existing theoretical frameworks that deal with the themes

of segregation and exclusion in urban spaces. Various approaches used in previous research are presented, and the need for new criteria that will enable a better understanding of these phenomena is emphasized. Historical examples from which today's open urbanscapes have developed are also considered, as well as the influences of social, economic, and political factors on their accessibility.

In the methodological approach, the research tools and methods used are described in detail. They include qualitative analyses, field research, and comparative case studies that enable a deeper understanding of design and management elements that contribute to segregation and exclusion. The process of selecting examples for analysis and the data collection method on open urbanscapes is described.

The research results in the definition of new criteria for identifying open urbanscapes of segregation and exclusion. These criteria enable a better recognition of spaces that are exclusive to certain people. The dissertation also offers recommendations for the rehabilitation and improvement of open urbanscapes. The analysis shows that existing practices often favor certain groups of users while marginalizing others, leading to further social fragmentation.

In the conclusion, the importance of integrating new criteria into future planning of open urbanscapes is emphasized to ensure equal opportunities for all users.

This doctoral dissertation contributes to a broader understanding of urban planning and design problems through the prism of inclusiveness, offering practical guidelines for urban planners, landscape architects, architects, and policymakers to create more just and accessible open urbanscapes. The developed frameworks can serve as further research that will deepen the understanding of the relationship between open urbanscapes and social interactions within the urban context. The proposed criteria can serve as a guide for designing new open urbanscapes or rehabilitating and improving existing ones to make them more inclusive.