

Spatial Transformations

A Study of the Spatial Consequence of the Socialist Resettlement Programs in Cuba and Georgia

Abstract

Individuals on the micro-level are excluded from the processes of city planning undertaken by urban planners. Since the micro-level is not considered a rigid entity, this top-down planning causes the individuals to take action. Thus, if political power dominates spaces, it will not be able to control the dynamics developed through subjects on the micro-level. Actors will always appropriate the built space surrounding them and identify themselves with it. This phenomenon can be observed very clearly in the studied cases of Pinar Del Río (Cuba) and Tbilisi (Georgia) where governments produced social buildings without considering previous domestic cultures. Elements like staircases and ground floor common spaces in both neighborhoods represent unknown architectural elements and, consequently, it is difficult to define these spaces as private or public: They remain undefined elements within the building.

The following article will focus on the urban contexts of the districts Calero in Pinar Del Río and Gldani in Tbilisi and illustrate the transformation of spatial and cultural practices in the public and private sphere due to the resettlement and the new understanding of semi-public.

Keywords

Self-Build Architecture, Spatial Transformation, Socialist Housing, Residential Districts, Common Spaces