

Mimesis of Types

Exploring urban Types and Metamorphoses through Theater

Abstract

Archetypes are *patterns*¹ realizing as types, in specific times and cities. Through the practices of everyday life, activities, moods, and atmosphere, types re-save their unique meaning and constitute the experience of urbanism at that time and place.

¹ Alexander, 1977, 1979.

Theater, as a genre of the performing arts, maintains a direct connection with urban space in its broader sense, and carries cultural and symbolic meanings regarding the city. These meanings are interpreted by the audience, which reads the theatrical urban space according to their acquaintance with the city in everyday life.

Assuming that the very choice of theater creators to emphasize a certain aspect of urban life, points to urban key issues inherent in this aspect, this paper suggests a study of the archetypes emerging from the theatrical event and the examination of the specific urban experiences, i.e. types, as an x-ray to the city at the time under consideration.

Notably, in the 1970's Tel-Aviv was known as 'city of balconies' – a concise expression pivots on the 'balcony' as a local pattern. An examination of Hanoach Levin's theatrical work reveals the local meanings of the balcony, as part of a unique spatial network.

Later, Levin's work demonstrates the metamorphosis of urban experience over time and illuminates the change in the meaning of the "balcony" with the change of historical-cultural constellations of urban daily life.

Theater is proposed as a powerful tool that provides a profound examination of architectural-urban typology in its socio-cultural and aesthetic-poetic context, as well as critical interpretation of urban everyday life.

Keywords

Archetypes, Patterns, Theatre, Balcony, Tel-Aviv, Hanoach Levin