

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 05.01.2017

Title: The city, an ecological approach.

Speakers and panel members: Mrs. A. Malek Marzban and Mrs. M. Fattahi.

The first speaker Mrs. Marzban has begun her speech talking about the balance that existed between the human evolution and its habitations, in other a balance between men and nature. In 19th century because the technological progress the existing balance and relationship of the cities and the nature was broken, endangering the life of the humans like other species. So the life in the cities became one of the biggest challenges in the actual century. The cities are the main source of unsustainability. Today the %75 of the global population is living in the cities, in high concentrations, so new approaches to reach the sustainability are needed. Initially the solutions treated just one dimension of the problem, ignoring the details and their feasibility. Because the sustainability and organization of the cities is a must, many movements and organizations are working to find global solution to ensure the sustainability of the cities. Because of the complexity of urban ecosystems the comprehension of sustainable development and their application in the cities is difficult, this is the reason of the creation of different movements that aim its successful realization through their practical application. The final goal in this activity is to reach balance and correction of the ecosystem. It was in 1972 the concept of “sustainability” was introduced, fearing for the disintegration of the world, if new economic and ecological approaches are not introduced.

Continuing her speech Mrs. Marzban talked about the different movements and conferences that faced the problem of human environment, like the conference in 1968 in Stockholm, the conference in 1972 in Cornell university, the seminar in Berkley university in 1978, the European manifest in 1990 for the quality of urban environment, the conference for environment and development in 1992, the declaration of Rio 21, regarding the atmosphere, the oceans, the agriculture etc. The declaration of New Urbanism in 1996, the presentation of building stability evaluation system in 1997 and 1998, also the conference on landscape urbanism and ecological urbanism in Chicago in 2003.

Mrs. Marzban presented the main topics regarding the matter like new urbanism, smart growth, green development, landscape urbanism, eco urbanity/ ecological urbanism, to help the participants to the session to better understand the argument.

During her speech Mrs. Marzban presented different study cases like the project of landscape urbanism in the project of Don river in Toronto, Canada where the workgroup had to reestablish the endangered nature and ecosystem in the area of the river. She explained how and through which elements, like natural and urban elements, use of updated technology etc. they achieved the fixed goals.

Talking about ecological urbanism she explained that it's an approach that includes architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, hydrology, geography, physiology, climatology etc. She reported that the ecological urbanism it's not just a complex of views and meanings, like the sustainability, but it comprehend recycling, energy saving. In general its final goal is the knowledge of ecological systems. Mrs. Marzban presented the decisions made in 2010 in Canada regarding the framework of ecological city, presenting in continuation the study case of Tianjin ecological city project in China, and the goals that they pursued to achieve, in base of the problems that the fast growing Chinese society is facing.

She concluded her speech saying that the ecological city is a place where the citizens enjoy a healthier life, having better economic and social conditions, harming less the environment. Of course to achieve this goal many problems must be considered and solved

The second speaker was Mrs. Fattahi who has begun her speech focusing on the topic of social ecology and exactly when this new concept has been considered by the experts.

The very beginning is in 1841 when considering the position and conditions of the cities experts like Robert Park and Mac Kenzy began to speak about ecology that included different fields, like plants, animals and humans that obviously the last one is the most important. During the next period the human ecology experiences its initial progress, including social, economic and population components, because all these aspects influence directly the ecology. During the third period when the criminal acts and social harms push the experts to consider the matter of ecology more seriously. In This period the experts believe that social unity could cancel the social disparities and ensure social justice. Then culture and economy are considered factors that tease the request and offer for consume, so because the human component plays an important role, so the environmental psychology is added to the initial arguments. In this period man is not considered as a singular component but a representative of a social group. The experts look for social justice, economic problems, organized visions and collective values.

Through the urban ecology the theorists try to coordinate and improve the social life of the inhabitants, fixing parameters and standards, living untouched the social structures. The ecologic order is formed by components that are: the population, the environment, the technology, social and psychological structures and the housing that is probably the most important component.

The final goal in the ecological city is to reach a sustainable and secure space, that can different spiritual and physical aspects, that can change in case new factors are introduced or imposed.

Mrs. Fattahi talks about the concentration of the population in the 1980-s when the cities grow up in an undesired way, cancelling the hope of a better life. What is missing in these cities are different, like the social, economic and political security for the inhabitants, that cannot find the appropriate conditions for an ideal life. In this context the most important problem that people feels, is the lack of security in its different aspects. Many people prefer to live their lives isolated from the rest of the society that is expressed in different ways and manners.

She explained and presented the principal components of the ecologic city that are: the social capital, the structural gap and the social sources and material, and how these components can influence the process of development in the ecologic city.

Concluding her speech Mrs. Fattahi presented different theorists like Kuleman, Fukuyama and Pier Verdi that had about the concept and idea of ecologic city.