

Scholarship within the framework of cooperation between the
Vienna University of Technology and Lviv Polytechnic National University

REPORT

Research topic : *«Utopie und Realität in der Architektur am Anfang des 21.Jh»*

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INTRODUCTION

My monthly research scholarship from the Institute of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture - TU Vienna, has been devoted to the subject of «Utopie und Realität in der Architektur am Anfang des 21.Jh». This subject is the basis of my dissertation research since 2018 at Lviv Polytechnic University. The subject of the thesis «Utopia in architecture and urban planning: its concept and mechanism of implementation», - supervisor, doctor of architecture, prof. S. Linda.

The definition of the concept states: «*Utopia is an ideal commonwealth whose inhabitants exist under seemingly perfect conditions*». Utopias in architecture and urban planning come from socio-political ideals and pursue the implementation of utopian images and goals through architectural and urban planning projects. Such ideas often become myth-making, are a source of inspiration for artists and reformers and are reflected in the latest projects and programs. The desire to improve the world and living conditions, which is a feature of utopias, is reflected in the latest projects and programs.

Utopias, according to their definition, are perceived as solely theoretical concepts that are not eligible for implementation. Some utopian researchers agree with such an interpretation of possible implementations of utopia. For instance, the philosopher K. Popper criticises utopias and treats the process of their implementation as violent actions against entire generations which are sacrificed for the sake of the imaginary happiness of those who will live in future ideal states. While analyzing the scientific literature on utopias, several fundamental ideas were highlighted regarding the false interpretation of the concept of «utopia» as something that is not possible to implement. For instance, K. Mannheim in his comparison of utopias and ideologies states that some utopias have been reflected in the models of social and political systems of the subsequent eras, and thus, can be implemented, at least partially (Mannheim, 2008).

The main issue that arises in the implementation of the utopian idea is its legitimatization, namely the spread of the utopian idea among larger groups of people and affirmation of the proposed ideas to be followed by the inhabitants. Architectural and urban planning features of the utopia are an integral part of the depicted societies.

At the same time, they can be implemented accurately as in the description (or image) in utopia, though provided there are no people ready to live according to the established norms and regulations, the utopian nature of the project will be lost.

An example of the implementation of the architectural features of utopia, with the loss of the relationship between the «idea - the confessors», is the construction of phalanstery, which was developed in accordance with the ideas of the French philosopher and utopian Charles Fourier. The author stated that specially constructed buildings were the best solution to organize the proposed model since historical buildings did not meet the requirements. The philosopher described the phalanstery model as a complex of autonomous buildings forming the letter «p» in the plan; proposed to use the spaces between the buildings as squares for parades, places for walks, etc.

It is worth mentioning that the phalanstery model became widely spread and was quite often used by utopians of the following centuries. The attempts to implement self-sufficient housing units were quite popular in the first half of the 20th century. The architect Le Corbusier adapted the concept of phalanstery in the design of the autonomous commune «Unité d'Habitation» in Marseille, France, 1947-1952. Some municipal residential buildings, built in Vienna in the first third of the 20th century, are examples of such commune houses.

AIM OF THE RESEARCH

Within the scope of the monthly scholarship, the following research purpose was set: to determine the peculiarities of the implementation of utopian ideas in Vienna architecture from the late 20th - the early 21st centuries.

THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH

Municipal residential buildings that were built in Vienna in the first third of the 20th century, namely: Karl-Marx-Hof, Schüttauahof, Bebelhof, Fuchsenfeldhof, Karl Seitz-Hof etc.

TASKS

In order to achieve the purpose, two main tasks are defined:

- research the theoretical data about utopia in architectural and urban planning projects in Vienna
- find out the features of implemented architectural projects, which are interpreted as utopian, based on the example of residential quarters in Vienna.

METHODS OF THE RESEARCH

General scientific and special research methods are used. In particular, such general scientific methods are applied: methods of studying textual documents; generalization; analysis; comparison etc. The special methods used are on-site observations of implemented objects; photo recording; graphic method for depicting significant features of architecture and urbanism.

THE PLAN OF THE RESEARCH

To fulfil these tasks, the following research plan has been formed:

1. *The first step* was to research the theoretical data about utopia in architectural and urban planning projects in Vienna. I visited TU Vienna Library, Architekturzentrum Wien, Wiener Hauptbücherei am Gürtel, where I had a chance to work on volumes of literature related to my research. It is worth noting the following works:

Tafuri M., 1979. *Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development*. MA: MIT Press;

Tafuri, M., 1968. *Toward a Critique of Architectural Ideology*. In book: Hays K. M. (ed.), 1998. *Architecture Theory since 1968*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 6-35.

Rowe, C. & Koetter, F., 1984. *Collage City*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, and London, England: The MIT Press, 192 p.

Reppé, S., 1993. *Der Karl-Marx-Hof: Geschichte eines Gemeindebaus und seiner Bewohner*. Wien: Picus-Verlag, 108 p.

Jenks, C., 2002. *The New Paradigm in Architecture: The language of Postmodernism*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Van Schaik M. and Macel, O (eds.), 2005. *Exit Utopia: Architectural Provocations 1956-76*. Prestel Pub;

Coleman, N., 2005. *Utopias and Architecture*. London: Routledge. 334 p.

Chavaroché O. and Billioud J.-M., 2019. *Atlas der utopischen Welten*. 82 Visionen der Menschheit. Kosmos.

Besides, I have worked upon internet sources and publications in modern magazines (e.g. the article by Porotto A. *Utopia and vision*. Learning from Vienna and Frankfurt. 2016. DOI: https://doi.org/10.14195/1647-8681_7_7).

2. *The next step* was to define main locations in Vienna that could be interpreted as utopian ones, for instance, the projects of residential districts of Red Vienna (Karl-Marx-Hof, Schüttauhof, Bebelhof, Fuchsenfeldhof, Karl Seitz-Hof etc.), modern residential quarters (Seestadt Aspern etc.). Prof. Andreas Hofer gave me useful information about these building, and suggested where to look for information about them.

For example, the municipal residential building Karl-Marx-Hof was built in 1927-1933 according to the project of the architect K. En. First of all, the project was designed for 1,382 apartments. Besides housing, the building should have been also used for different public functions. Consequently, such planning turned the building into the autonomous structure, and two big patios served as the parking zone. Moreover, two kindergartens, a laundry, a pharmacy, a mother and child consultation, a library, a common recreation area, etc. were planned in the Karl Marx Hof, (Reppé, 1993). The autonomy of the housing estate makes it similar to the utopian phalanstery model by Sh. Fourier. The modern residential quarters of Seestadt Aspern were also selected according to the corresponding principle, and can actually be interpreted as a utopian model of a city within a city.

3. *On-site observations of selected locations*. I have made several trips to different residential districts built at different time intervals. The ones I visited are Fuchsenfeldhof (1921-1924); Siedlung Friedensstadt (1921-1927); Reismann-Hof (1924-1926); Siedlung Hermeswiese (1924-1925; 1928-1929); Bebelhof (1925-1926);

Karl-Marx-Hof (1927-1930); Hugo-Breitner-Hof (1947-1951); Seestadt Aspern (2007 – till present). On-site observations included photo-fixation of the object, analysis of urban planning maps, and partial graphic reproduction of the morphological features of the building. Diagrams and photographs of some of them are included in this report.

CONCLUSIONS AND THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

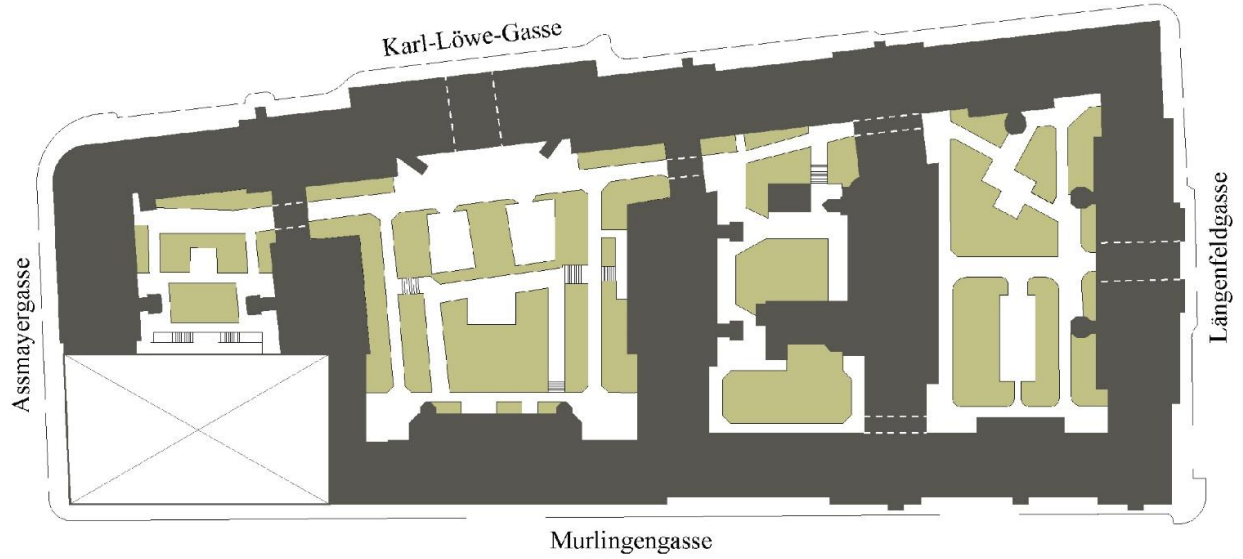
Within this month, contemporary literature on utopia in architecture and art, which is available in Vienna's libraries, was read and analyzed. A significant number of architectural objects were observed, and some that could be interpreted as utopian were found.

It has been detected that the municipal buildings of Vienna, built in the first third of the 20th century, were formed as autonomous units, providing the residents with everything necessary. Many researchers interpret such an approach as the feature of utopia that is similar to the utopian phalanstery model by Sh. Fourier. As a result of the research of the districts, it was concluded that there was a loss of connection between the «utopian idea» and the residents, which led to a shift in the emphasis from the socio-political component to the architectural and urban planning one. The peculiarity of this approach lies in the reproduction of most characteristics of the urban structure, and free interpretation of the socio-political system, which was foreseen by the author of the project.

The results obtained during this research will be included in my dissertation «Utopia in architecture and urban planning: its concept and mechanism of implementation», in particular in the part devoted to the peculiarities of the implementation of utopias.

PLAN SCHEME OF THE FUCHSENFELDHOF

Drawn by Anna Fedak



PHOTOS OF THE FUCHSENFELDHOF

FACADE (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



FACADE (Photo from June, 2022)

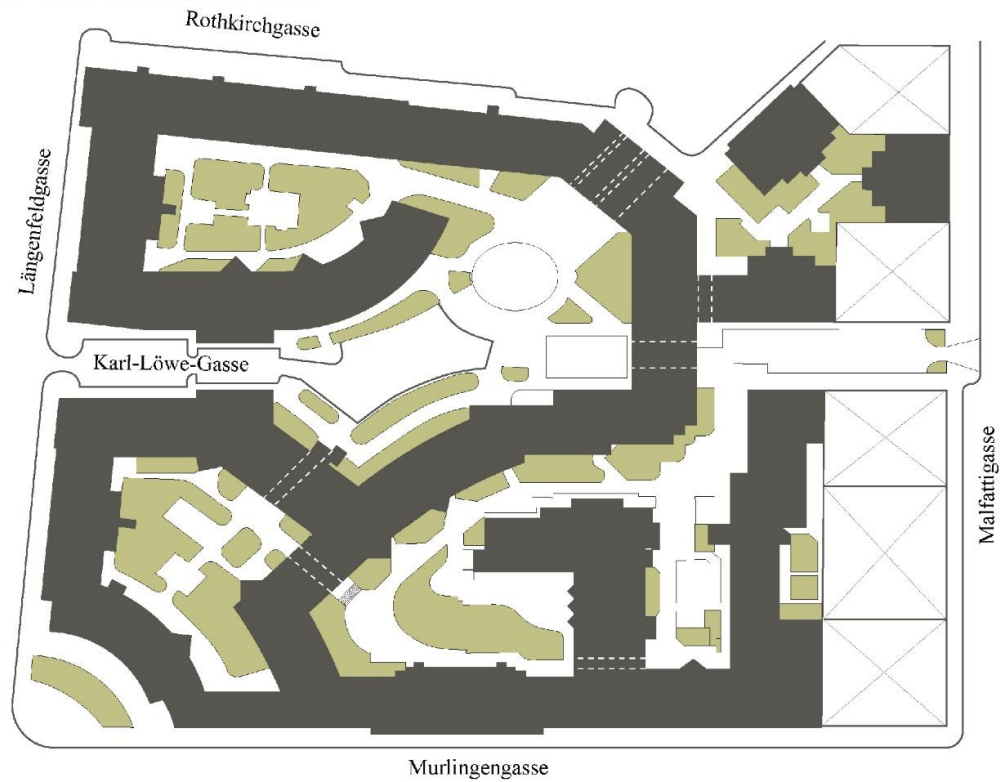


COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



PLAN SCHEME OF THE REISMAN-HOF

Drawn by Anna Fedak



PHOTOS OF THE REISMAN-HOF

FACADE (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)

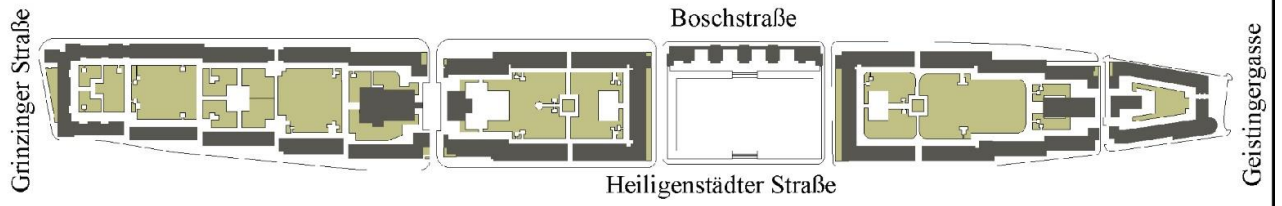


COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



PLAN SCHEME OF THE KARL-MARX-HOF

Drawn by Anna Fedak



PHOTOS OF THE KARL-MARX-HOF

FACADE (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



ENTRANCE TO THE PORCH (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)



COURTYARD (Photo from June, 2022)

