Research Paper Arts

URBAN SPACES BY ROB KRIER- REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This paper gives brief review of book 'URBAN SPACES' By Rob Krier. This book gives an historical summery of town planning & how it has been miserable failure in the contemporary town planning. Author want to bring in notice how traditional concept of urban space & its structure has been lost within modern cities.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

The Rob Krier was born in 1930.He is known as one of the most influential urban planners & architects of the post modernism.

In this book, he considers art of architecture as a combination of continuity & aestheticism. He feels it has lost its way in modernism. The main purpose of this book is to search how traditional understanding of urban space has been lost within modern cities. He has always considered historic contents. He has explained the terms of urban space & its structure. He also tried to find out the reasons on which ground contemporary town planning is based.

THE SPACES

He analyzes the typological & morphological elements of urban space. Urban space can be described as external space in town. He has seen it as open unobstructed space for movement in open air, with public, semipublic & private zones.

The concept of urban space has been elaborated as space between buildings in towns & other localities. After taking consideration aesthetic criteria, he observes that urban space has been organized according to its socio political & cultural attitudes.

Urban space has been applied to interior spaces like corridor & rooms. He has considered square & streets as basic elements of urban spaces. The only difference is the dimensions of the walls which bound & characterize them. Square has been illustrated with grouping houses around an open space & street. It is described as a product of the spread of settlement when houses are being built along the available space.

Typology of urban space

Different forms & modulating factors

Author has considered three basic geometric shapes-square, circle & triangle. These three shapes are affected by modulating factors like angling, segmentation, addition, merging, overlapping & distortion. These factors can produce regular & irregular results of these spatial forms. Another thing is large no of building sections which influence quality of space. He has described 'closed space' that is surrounded by buildings & 'open space' partially surrounded. Scale is also considered one of the factor which plays important role in all spatial forms. Different scale gives different effects on urban scale.

Morphological elements

He has illustrated different examples for morphology of urban space. Range of possible form can be find from historic towns. He has illustrated it with different examples.

Hanover Square in London from 18th century

It has orthogonal regular ground plan with four central intersections.

Piazza Novona in Rome

It is geometrically complex form. It is combination of several spatial forms & many streets which enters the square.

Dauphine in Paris

It is regular triangular square. This is rarely seen in history of town planning. The triangular Square can be formed generally by two roads forking.

Author feels- in town planning history, in our modern cities these spatial forms are criminally neglected even though they are obvious & common.

EROSION OF URBAN SPACE

The observation has been done regarding erosion of urban space in 20th century. Erosion is ongoing process & it is with us for long years with technological progress. This era has started with invention of new military technology. Progress in weaponry neutralizes the defensive systems of the cities. As armies were allowed to walk into the cities for safety, city walls acting for protection were demolished. The need of protection had come up with new discipline on every town. The activities like construction, rebuilding & expansion grew in cities. Pressure for expansion of cities led planners to think about rapid decisions. Architecture was on lower priorities as decisions were rapid. The influence of industrial buildings on urban planning was one of the disasters. These things led to many misconceived developments. Control by concept of urban space & architecture had been taken away by proposals from planners during 19th & 20th century. Illustrations have been given by Krier's thesis in which modern town planning dominates over concept of urban space. This domination led to disuse of urban space.

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIES

This is author's view point for redeveloping city. The example of Stuttgart is given. Various possible approaches have been considered to reconstruction of various parts of the Stuttgart. During the Second World War the former coherent urban structure of Stuttgart was destroyed. The heart of city was broken up into a large number of small islands battered by heavy traffic.

In this proposal, he tried make downtown pedestrian friendly without excluding cars. He tried to use redevelopment to

weld isolated areas. Significance of pedestrian's awareness was eroded during the post war years because of costly civil engineering programs & it was focused in Krier's scheme. Particular attention was given on restoring the continuity of spatial experience within urban context. The streets, squares for pedestrians were designed to keep harmony with existing structures.

REFERENCES

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