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HOW LARGE HOUSING NEIGHBORHOODS WERE BUILT IN ROMANIA DURING IN THE SOCIALIST PERIOD: DESIGN PATTERNS, PLACEMENT METHODS AND LOCAL SPECIFIC. THE CASE OF TIMISOARA CITY

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Abstract. *Large housing neighborhoods are often associated in the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe with dictatorship and deprivation of a totalitarian political regime. Over this stereotype, in the scientific speech in recent years, we have overlapped critical references, which have intensified in the 1980 s in the West, with the theme of repetitive and monotonous blocks of blocks associated with the real social problems specific to these spaces. On the other hand, many architects recognize that the housing estates are not an invention of the Communist regimes and that this type of construction has been a solution for the housing crisis after World War II, including in capitalist countries. Unlike the free world, socialist cities (where the land was state property) benefited from favorable conditions for building impressive neighborhoods, from the point of view of territorial enlargement and number of apartments. These large neighborhoods blocks built in the socialist period have come to host significant proportions of the urban population of the former communist countries (around 85% of Romania's urban population as of World Bank report). Based on these realities, this article aims to make an honest assessment of the bottlenecks in Romania's building stages, the methods of their insertion and location, with all the successes and the failure of this huge constructive effort. Far from uniform, the stages of building large neighborhoods in Romania include moments of relative freedom of architects, synchronized with the international tendencies in the field, intercalated by periods where the image of the politician has diminished the creativity of the adopted solutions. The case of Timisoara presented as exemplification is relevant to this situation. Timisoara has a polycentric urban structure, and a double gaussian urban profile (as many socialist cities) which encouraged the development of new estates in empty lots inside the existing historical neighborhoods, or on the empty plots of land between them. This mix of urban structure and urban profile makes Timisoara a perfect study area for this article.*

Keywords: *Romania, Timisoara, large housing, design patterns, socialist period*

1. INTRODUCTION

Approaches to the problem of collective housing in socialist countries are very diverse and were studied in different domains. Firstly, in many cases in the scientific approaches (Hirt, 2013) the legitimate question had been concerned if, assuming there was a socialist and a post-socialist city, the features of the socialist city were disintegrated or did they resist after 1990? Without answering this question, many of the articles emphasize the social dimensions of the urban phenomenon in socialist countries with particular emphasis on dysfunctionalities between the traditional city and the urban spaces designed during the communist period. It is often a type of speech that often tries to Europeanize the identity of cities in socialist countries, to conceal the elements of an 'unwanted past', even if in many cases this can distort the relevant narratives of the post-post-socialist city (Young, Kaczmarek, 2008). This is when, while in many cities institutional reforms have been realized, the adaptation of urban space use models to the new conditions is still under way and post-socialist towns can still be considered in transition cities (Bouzarovski, 2011). Even though numerous patterns concerning socio-spatial developments in socialist cities have been formulated, many of the geographical models observed have not yet been fully understood and the complexity and social differentiation incorporated in them are only now at the forefront (Borén, Gentile, 2007).

As the Romanian scientific literature emphasizes the social problems generated by the communist-era blocs, *the aim of this article to identify a typology of urban and architectural solutions that have been used to conceive of these huge homes in Romania's towns.* The objectives to be pursued relate to: *the detection of the main theoretical problems of the socialist city and the specific difficulties in addressing this geographical reality, identifying the essential stages and factors which have influenced the genesis of the urban socialist landscape in Romania,* the housing patterns typical of this landscape and the urban solutions identified to resolve the space conflicts between inherited urban spaces and those designed in the socialist *period*. Far from being uniform, even for a single country (Romania), these solutions (despite official ideology) are dependent to a large extent on the pre-existing geography (topography) and the pre-existing urban structure. The chosen study area - City of Timisoara - a symbol of the anti-Communist Revolution in 1989, is typical of this dynamic of the relationships between traditional and completely different urban spaces, resulting from typical architectural patterns in Romania.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The term 'socialist' city raises numerous questions. On one hand, there was a question of whether there are enough space features, sufficiently different from capitalist cities in such a way that such a name is justified (Smith, 1996, Sheppard, 2000). The theory that urbanization in the 20th century was dependent on two primary socio-economic trends (modernization and industrialization) that were under way in both communist and capitalist countries, so there is only one general model of modern urbanity marked primarily by industrialization. The differences that exist between these two types of cities are only detail or temporary delay (Andrusz, 1996, Enyedi, 1998). On the other hand, many authors found that socialist and capitalist economies worked so differently that their space products (the socialist and capitalist city) became virtually autonomous construction (Turkington et al 2004). Some of the key differences in spatial production processes included the fact that in socialist cities, the state had almost all of the monopoly on urban

development (because the majority of urban land, buildings and means of production) were suppressed, and the structure of the cities as one of the means by which the strong socialist state was trying to create an unnamed society apparently. Ud, Renaud, 1995, Crowley, Reid, 2002, Stanilov, 2007).

If in the case of the socialist city, we can admit that he worked differently from the capitalist city, given the specific developments marked by less urbanization (a lower proportion of the population living in large cities) and the lack of suburban dynamics (Szelenyi, 1996), the term post-socialist city is much more controversial. Is the post-socialist city a final building or only a temporary development/transition (Hirt, 2013) parallel to the transition from socialism to capitalism in Central and Eastern Europe? Numerous urban developments since 1989 are often seen as a series of separate 'events' which have a specific background in the political, institutional, economic and/or social context of transition and not as a set of results which, in a radical and chaotic fashion, have restructured the cities of the socialist period and have stimulated the formation of post-socialist cities. (Ludò K, Bouzarovski, 2012). Should the postsocialist city be treated as a temporary phenomenon which has adapted to the rules and conditions for transfer from socialism to capitalism (Nedučin, Krklješ, 2017) or as a socio-spatial manifestation of different transition processes? In the face of these controversies, we opted for a pragmatic approach that aims to reveal the planning logic of the socialist city and the collective housing models that were behind the huge constructive effort that characterized the communist period.

In Romania, the totalitarian nature of the Second World War regime has not allowed a scientific debate on the real problems of the socialist city. It was only after 1989 that a type of speech started in Romania, stimulated by international concerns in this respect, which disapprove the collective housing system and the values that it is based on. In this way, there is a reassessment of tradition in the context of globalization, and it is considered that this, properly assumed, can be the repertoire of a normal urban life (Gheorghiu, 2002). With regard to the assets of Romanian urban tradition, the references to the two urban (traditional and modern) worlds that mark the post-postsocialist city and the transition that inherit it (Celac, 2002) are eloquent. In the current context, too, it is called 'the synagogue which has already destroyed a large part of the historic city, putting aside the endless blocs' and the opportunity of the egocentric reflex to build' a new world, advocating the rehabilitation of traditional urban housing (Crișan, 2004). At the same time, the experience of contemporary living in block apartments characteristic of the socialist period must be understood by conjugating the historical, urban and political arguments of the urban space defined in the socialist city (Bolt et al.2020). The urban and architectural heritage that each political regime mimics the city's appearance is an urban reality that residents assimilate to living (Dumitru, 2016). Particular attention is paid more and more to the reconsideration of urban public spaces in socialist neighbourhoods, seen as the main attributes of facilitating social relations in an ever-humanised architectural-urbanised framework (Stanilov 2007). In the same register, the major deficiencies which post-Communist countries feel in the context of the 'difficulty in circumscribing, building or simply identifying a public space' (Mihali, 2013). At the same time, it is pointed out that these difficulties linked to the half-century intellectual hiatus in the approach to the spaces are highlighted. Socialist urban, in many cases, is responding with haste, employing a conceptual level from local and confused realities to the dynamics of contemporary world (Sandu, Groza, 2019).

3. METHODOLOGY

From a methodologic point of view, the urban realizations from the socialist period can be approached with different types of possibilities. The historical method looked at the chronological analysis of blocks of blocks, both in the light of the implemented urban models (the cvartal, microrayon, and large housing complex), but also in terms of adapting each model to the existing space (each housing ensemble benefited from a certain method of intervention such as insertion or enlargement). The indicators used in this historical context have shaped an important triangle of important sides such as the support component, human and urban development.

In addition to the historical method, the comparative method considered the examination of socialist housing estates, both conceptually (models used, methods of intervention, chronology), from the perspective (size, servicing, skills) and from the systematic point of view (neighborly relationship between themselves or between their external elements). They method compared items such as modelling patterns, urban models, normative and relationship with functional areas of interest, historical development of neighborhoods, to determine structural differences, compositional and equipment blocks, etc.

The impact between the insertions of the socialist period and old urban spaces could be addressed through the field analysis that resulted in a number of conclusive observations marked by photographs and on-site checks of important parts of the laboratory (City of Timisoara).

Geospatial analysis will have a defining role in exploiting the results of the development of working methodologies based on software related to Geographic Information Systems (GIS).G.I.S analysis was used to facilitate the processing of data and will be used in realization of thematic maps. QGIS was the most used GIS tool. QGIS is an open-source software, optimized for data acquisition and GIS data management, and creation of thematic maps. Also, Google My Map web application and Google Earth 3D software was used for mapping some areas inaccessible in the direct analysis. This analysis also used CORONA project satellite images from years 1964, 1972, 1975 and 1978 were used, mostly to complement the historical and comparative methods. These images expose the historical development of mostly all the neighborhoods in Timisoara.

4. DESIGN PATTERNS AND SITING METHODS OF SOCIALIST RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ESTATES IN ROMANIA

4.1. Design patterns

In the socialist period, in Romanian urban space, several patterns of residential space design and location will be imposed. In many cases, these models were ideally designed, isolated from pre-existing urban tissue and contrast to the urban specificity of the city where they were located and were generally alleged to be the development of a new city or free building zone. There have been Romanian cities that have applied urban models without any restrictions (towns subject to state guided industrialization), but the vast majority of the new housing estates have been adapted to the prohibitive pre-socialist space (Răuță, 2013). The first three models are based on Soviet design, the latter being a typical model for Romania.

a. Garden city housing estates (1948-1950). In the late 1940s and the early 1950s, in many Romanian cities, there are selectively adapting the city of the garden thought of by E. Howard. The model provided for duplex-type housing, level or garden (Marin, Chelcea 2018). The most representative examples of the model are "Steagul Roșu" in Brasov or ”Ferentari” ensemble in

Bucharest, both developped until 1950 (figure.2). The concept has been discontinued in favor of the more economically feasible type of „The Housing Block".

b. The Housing Block (Cvartal) (1950-1960). It was a model developed in the early 1950s, with the aim of developing the urban territory as effectively as possible. These models are characterized by a rigid, geometric grid, arranged around a central plaza, with multiple access to traffic. The apartment blocks were limited to three floors (Rău, Mihuț, 1969). The Housing Block was seen as a formula more suited to the existing situation, through geometric forms. With regard to the area of these estates, space was better exploited in the case of the blocks than in the „Garden City" (Derer, 1985). The Housing Block sometimes has commercial premises at the ground level of the buildings, but lacks other social facilities such as schools and service centers. Another disadvantage of the blocks was the density of access, fragmenting residential areas. All these issues, together with the new views on modernity led to their discontinuation (Mărginean 2013).

c. Microrayon (1960-1975). Because the „Housing Block" did not satisfy all the population's population service requirements, (Zahariade 2011) neither encourages the organic growth of the neighborhoods, the microrayon model was introduced. The organization of housing estates in the form of microrayon was based on the theory of neighborhood units (C.A. Perry), but supplemented with an hierarchic model of planning (urban unit, microrayon, neighbourhood, district, city). The structure of the microrayon is organic and adaptable to the needs of the population and available land. For the first time, an urban model offered diverse community services such as schools, kindergartens, shopping centers, polyclinics or recreational facilities. The facilities were located according to the size of the accommodation and their needs. There are facilities in every urban unit, or there could be a center that serves more urban units. The apartment blocks were mostly made of prefabricated panels, this method being very popular during that time (Malaia, 2020).

Spatial and careful arrangement allowed the surrounding of the neighborhood and limit of driving. The benefits of microrayon models were the high adaptable and could be easily densified. Also, microrayons provided services in the neighborhood, limited transit outside of them and provided vast parking space (Vais, 2017). The model of the microrayon was applied between 1960 and 1975, during which there were several systemic approaches. Initially the first small buildings were designed with buildings up to three levels, either arranged in rows, or simple (isolated).

d. Living complex (1975-1989). The living complex had the advantage that it could adapt much better to the existing space, giving designers more freedom. Densities could be increased by inserting residential buildings in the territory and some services could be integrated into residential buildings. The characteristics of the living complex were not only applied to neighborhoods built after the year 1974, but also to those already built, with new buildings being inserted on existing space (Derer, 1985).

Although the living complex is a development of the microrayon, the geometric design of the housing estates was inspired by the housing estate model. The neighborhoods from this model have well designed street grid, with more designs for the apartment blocks (mostly type projects). Also, the main arteries have high rise apartment blocks, with eight or ten floors. The densification of existing neighborhoods was seen as a means of demographic rejuvenation, through the insertion of a younger population in pre-existing areas. By this means, it was not intended to continue building workers neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the new neighborhoods actually became, because by the reduction of public spaces, they had no role in their own sense.

The living complex has not lived up to the comfort level of the microrayon, the restriction of public space, either recreation or service, was drastically reduced. The buildings were built far

too close to each other, privacy has diminished and recreational space was diminished considerably. The apartments were given to the tenants or owners before the completion of all the work in the neighborhoods, which meant a temporary lack of quality services. The development process of residential assemblies by demolishing existing urban space from the 1980s has led to a worsening of the quality of life in the socialist cities of Romania. The living complex is today the most widespread model for building socialist neighborhoods in terms of the number of buildings made in its approximately 15 years of implementation (World Bank Report 2012).

4.2. Methods of applying the socialist neighborhood development models

The application of communist residential development patterns in the urban fabric required the adoption of specific placement methods. By analyzing the building patterns in the former socialist space, three methods of sitting of residential housing estates were identified, as identified by architect Peter Derer (1985).

The method of greenfield development involved the construction of estates on undeveloped peripheral spaces. Many neighborhoods from the period 1950-1975 were built this way (Balta Albă-Titan in Bucharest, Gheorgheni, Cluj-Napoca or Zona Nord, Ploiești).

The method of insertion into the pre-existing urban fabric involved the adaptation of a pre-existing urban fabric, by adding residential or service complexes in the free space of those spaces such as the gardens of existing houses, street fronts not occupied by homes or even in neighborhoods built previously during the communist period, through densification. Timișoara benefits from many such residential complexes.

The method of replacement the existing urban fabric involved partial or complete demolition of existing space and replacement with new residential estates (the Civic Centre Project in Bucharest, several other projects built in the 1980s).

All methods have advantages and disadvantages. *The greenfield development method* has the advantage of building without restrictions, allowing for clear urban structures. Also, pre-existing urban core was not affected by these new areas. The disadvantage of this method is mostly due to the cost of new infrastructures (public transport, public services or utilities) from the planned estate. In Romania, it also contravened the state policy for conservation of the agricultural land.

The insertion method, although contested for its lack of functionality and esthetics, has some notable advantages. First, the insertion allowed the development of attractive, but very poorly dense urban areas, with existing utilities and services. Moreover, the new estates were easily adaptable to the available spaces. The main problem of this method was the fact that some spaces were not fit for densification, generating neighborhoods with big functional problems.

The method of replacement of existing urban core is by far the most contested urban method. Although it has multiple disadvantages, many of which are obvious, we can also see some assets for using this method. First of all, like in the insertion method, valuable central space is put to use. In rare cases, the replaced houses were considered not worth preserving, but in other some important landmarks were lost by applying this method.

5. RESULTS

The specifics of socialist housing estates in Timisoara

The city of Timisoara is a unique in Romanian city (Figure 1). Its unique character was defined by the specificity of the territorial development (Fortress and other neighborhoods revolving around it), the poly-nuclear structure of the settlement, a specific unity of architectural styles and minimum demolition operations in the historical district (Potra, Ivan, Pavel, Ancuta, 2020). The city space of Timisoara has, above all, distinctive features in particular in relation to

the southern and eastern cities of Romania, that have evolved in completely different political and historical contexts (Pavel, Jucu, 2020). The poly-nuclear structure of the city created swats of vacant land, which were slowly developed during the socialist period. Because of this, the communist housing estates of Timisoara are very close to the city center. The profile of city density of Timisoara became double-gaussian in contrast to the simple-gaussian, specific to the cities that have evolved organic (World Bank Report 2012).

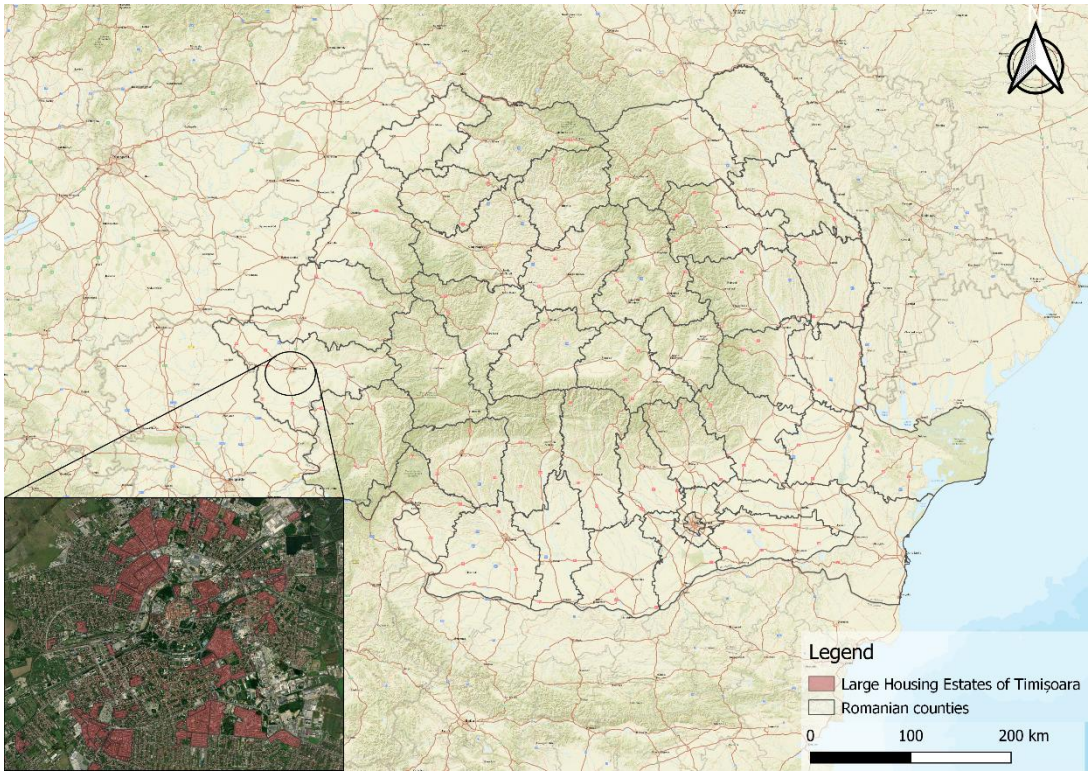

Fig. 1. Location of the city of Timisoara in Romania with its large housing estates (processed in ArcMap, Cumpănas 2022)

Timisoara has experienced all the evolutionary stages of residential estates in Romania, but with a different intensity. While the period 1948-1965 was characterized by a significant urban development of the housing stock in the industrial cities of Romania, in Timisoara there was a minimal development of new housing estates. During this period, no large residential neighborhoods were built, but only *isolated housing estates inserted into the pre-existing urban core*. The main reason was the sufficient existing housing fund, correlated with allocation of a small amount of funds for fast industrialization programs elsewhere. The main reason is the sufficient housing fund and the disinterest of the communist authorities towards a massive industrialization process of the city, in the context in which Timisoara was one of the main industrial centers of Romania since the interwar period.[1].

After 1965, the Timisoara is erecting the first big socialist neighborhoods, by building over available land from the outskirts of the historical center. The method used is both insertion in existing urban core and greenfield development. The main model of these neighborhoods was *the microrayon*. The first developed neighborhoods were noticeable in terms of quality of construction

[1]*Timişoara raised from 13,250 households in 1943 to 30,949 in 1970 (17,699 households). In comparison, only between 1975 and 1980, in Timişoara were built 26,395 households (Opriș, 1987).*

and services. Between 1965 and 1975, the density of the built neighborhood was about 70 units/hectare and distance between blocks of about 60 meters (Figure 2A, 2B).

Between 1975 and 1982, the adoption of the model of the living complex shows significant changes in densification and dwellings. The density of the neighborhoods reached 300 units/hectare and a distance between blocks of about 15 meters (Radoslav, 2010).

Because of the administrative restrictions (backed by new ideological concepts), most neighborhoods built then are characterized by poor housing quality, due to limited space occupied by blocks. For example, the neighborhood of Calea Martirilor in Timisoara (Figure 2C), developed between 1975 and 1982 in a pre-socialist low density residential area which created some mobility issues today.

Although the areas of Dacia (Figure 2B) (built as a microrayon) and Calea Martirilor (built with the "living complex" design) (Figure 2C) have a similar density[2], and a similar area [3], the layout of residential and public utility buildings is completely different. The difference lies in neighborhood development methods. The Dacia was built on the land of a former military base, while the Calea Martirilor area was inserted in a sparsely populated housing area.

After 1982, the 'living complex' model is adapted to new requirements, much more permissive in terms of spatial and spatial quality (Figure 2D). The construction of new residential estates in sparsely populated areas of the city, on undeveloped land, or even in residential areas, is therefore approved (see Figure 4).

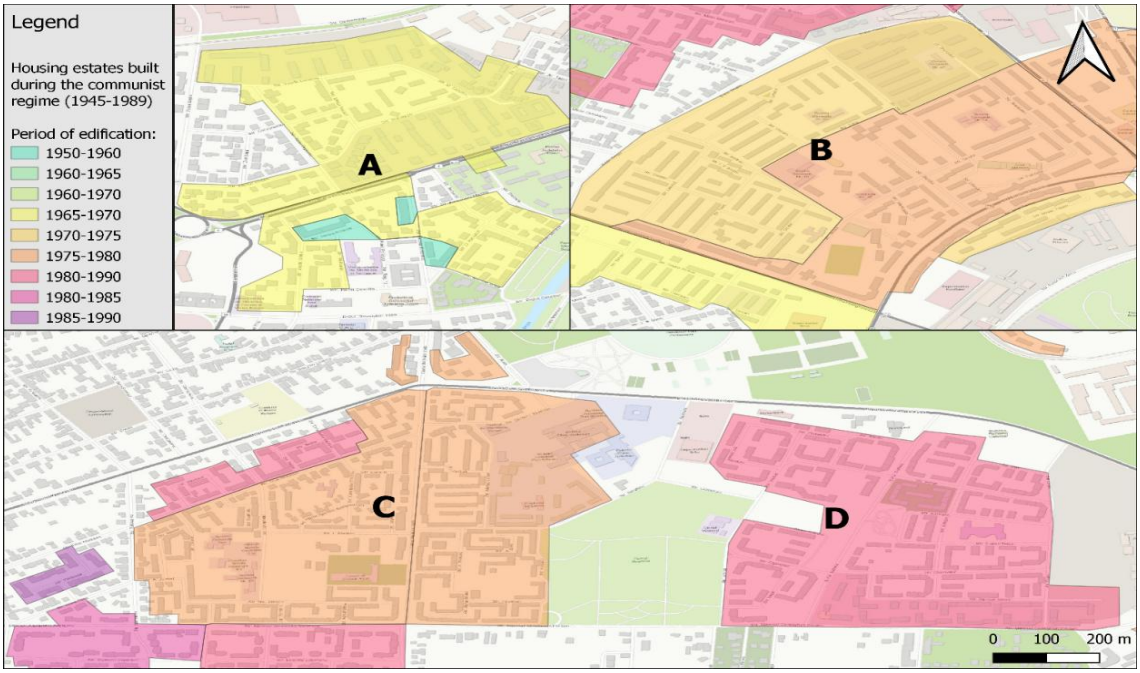

Figure 2. The evolution of the design for the housing estates in Timișoara
(A. Tipografilor District (1965-1970); B. Dacia Neighborhood (1970-1980);
C. Martirilor Neighborhood (1975-1980); D. Soarelui Neighborhood (1980-1990)
Map source: ESRI Topo, Cartographic support: QGIS 3.

[2]*According to the 2010 Barocontrol Barometer, (Radoslav 2010), the two districts have an urban density of 300 inhabitants/hectare.*
[3]*The area was calculated using the QGIS software functions.*

Some estates constructed after 1982 are considered to be fairly qualitative, both in terms of density, distance from buildings, the surface of apartments and service units[4]. While excelling in terms of the quality of the accommodation, the neighborhoods developed between 1982 and 1989 are badly served with community spaces, because of economic austerity. Austerity measures also delayed the construction of commercial, educational and recreational establishments in the new developed estates. Stores in the surrounding area had to cope with more customers, but receiving the same share of supply from the center.

After the December 1989 Revolution, the construction of the apartment blocks stopped, only some estates were finished afterwards. Until 1990, no more 4,700 apartment blocks and 95 residential estates were completed[5].

At present, the largest number of the socialist blocs in Timisoara were developed after the year 1975 (figure 3), by applying the model of the 'living complex'. Several systemic problems (such as congestion, the aesthetic quality of the neighborhood, a shortage of service spaces) appeared especially in the districts between 1975 and 1985, through the insertion method in the existing urban core (figure. 3 and 4). Neighborhoods developed through the other two methods have fewer systemic problems and are more enjoyable in terms of housing regardless of period.

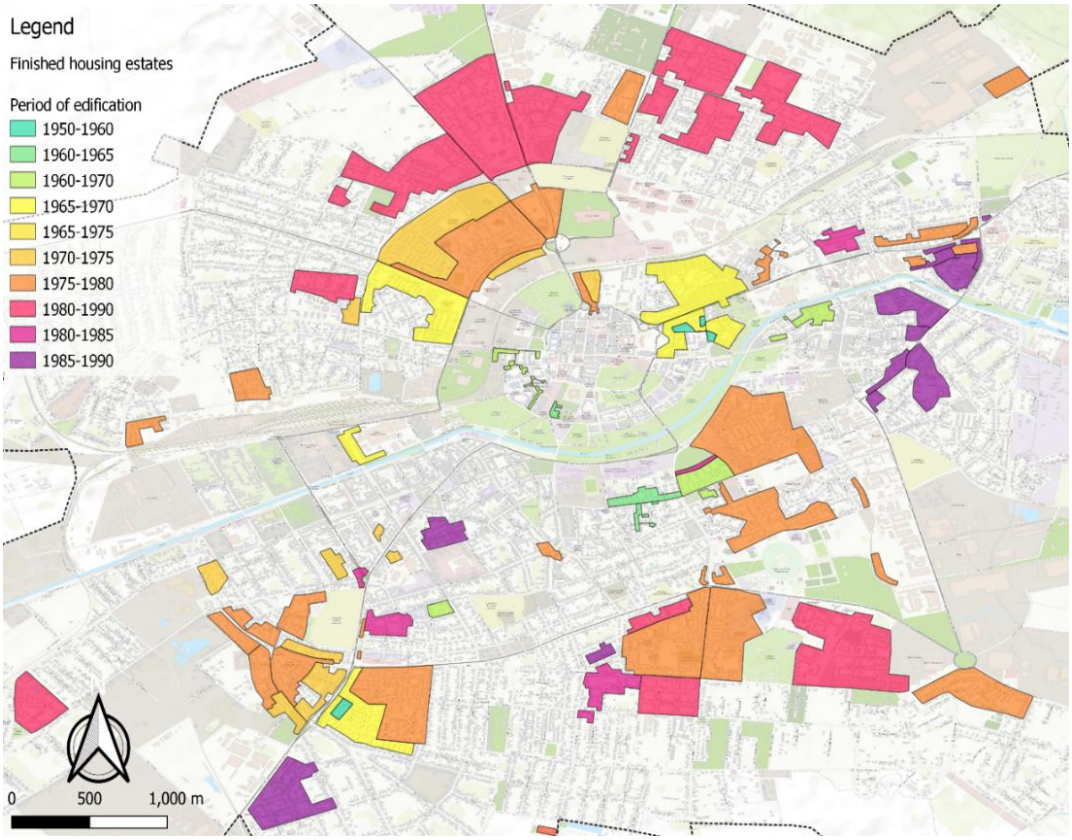

Figure 3. Phases of edification of residential estates in Timisoara (1948-1990)
(source: Google maps, processing QGIS)

[4]*According to Radoslav et al 2010, the density reached 80 inhabitants per hectare, the distance between blocks at 40 meters and the apartments became more spacious, up to 60 square meters.*

[5] *This analysis was made using terrain mapping based on the socialist models of apartment blocks and then processing in QGIS.*



Figure 4. Methods for developing socialist housing estates in Timisoara
(source: Google maps, processing QGIS)

6. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

According to *the National Strategy for Investment Mobilization* (2019), in urban areas in Romania 72% of households are represented by apartment blocks with an average of 40 apartments/block. More than 60% of blocks have a 4 floors format and 16% have a 10 floors format. 90% of them were built before 1989 and it is estimated that 80% of them will be accommodated in 2050[6]. Although these data confirm that an overwhelming proportion of Romania's population still lives in living establishments built in the socialist empire (according to Eurostat data from 2015 to 80% of the urban population of Romania), there are not enough data to be a solid starting point for a thorough analysis of the blocks built in communism and for the formation of a typology in the years; in this respect. Although the media has taken over and presented part of the Communist blocks' social problems, a lot of this information cannot be checked. This study has not proposed, nor would it be able to investigate the vast scope of the social problems of communist-era accommodation, although the analyses of sociologists and architects are almost exclusively centered towards this direction. This should be preceded by a rational analysis of the urban-built urban residential areas, the specific situations in each city that led to some adjustments to the patterns used, resulting in more favorable or less favorable situations in their realization, and this has been tried to do so.

The presentation of issues relating to the application of specific models for the development of the Communist-era blocs and highlighting methods for their location (with positive or non-negative effects) was not an unambiguous approach in the context in which there are only two types of speech on socialist blocks in the press and literature in Romania: a highly fledged communist and other post-communist-era critic.

[6] *Based on Housing of Romania-Towards a National Housing strategy report issued by the World Bank*

The models for the development of communist blocs in Romania have evolved under the influence of the country's economic and political developments, crossing several turning points. The abandonment from the Soviet systematization models through the adoption of the 'living complex', major demolition of urban core to achieve new urban planning programs or the application of traditional reasons on some blocks for cosmetic effects is worthy of mention. Neither the advantages of collective housing correlated with Romania's social and economic requirements during that period should be omitted: rapid production and performance, repeatability (type projects, built on a large scale with several adjustments), economic efficiency (industrialized process, reduced construction time, limited usage of material, and overall reduction of costs). However, it is true that the Communist-era blocs were not built to provide a certain level of comfort or energy efficiency, and the functions they offer are not in trend with the current requirements of the tenants. Among the main problems encountered include apartments with a small surface, reduced common spaces, high consumption of energy for heating, lack of ventilation, mold occurrence, poor phonic isolation, water infiltration at the upper floors and more other.

Another possible problem is the fact that these homes are 98% privately owned (World Bank Report, 2012). The flats are being managed by tenant's associations and often decision-making with regard to intervention/investment at the level of the block (repair, renovation) is very difficult because of the social differences between the lessees (from young, young and old). Given the overwhelming proportion of ownership and the lack of a national renovation strategy, it is very difficult to imagine how these blocks will react over the next 20-30 years, when the lifetime will be due to expire, and much more expensive structural rehabilitation will be necessary.

With regard to communist-era neighborhoods built in Timisoara, they are interested in several points of view. Firstly, they had to be adapted to the polycentric character of the city's traditional urban structure, with a possibility of densification. Because of this, the communist neighborhoods are very heterogeneous. Therefore, many neighborhoods have been made using the 'insertion' method, with questionable capabilities. The 'greenfield development' and 'replacement' methods provided estates with a higher quality, especially after the year 1982. On the other hand, some architects in Timisoara have resisted ideological pressure and, despite the required design, they have come up with a private functionalism note that made them less despicable, even preferable for their practical role. By developing vertically and leaving more place between blocks, wide spaces have been created which at this point are being exploited as areas of greenery and relaxation, characteristics absent from the city's traditional architecture.

Another interesting aspect of the neighborhoods built in the socialist period in Timisoara is that they were not thought of as expression of power, like in other cities subject to systemization. Although there are several large neighborhoods, they are not so compelling or imposing. The economic and utilitarian aspect rules over blocks and service spaces in neighborhoods. In Timisoara, there was an integration of new ensembles with the traditional historical center.

The importance of studying the methods and models of development of socialist period neighborhoods, specific to the process of systematization of Romanian cities in the era, is intended to eliminate, at least partially, some stereotypes about building blocks built in Romania. Careful studied and with clarification of the concepts of edification of the socialist blocs in which more than half of the country's urban population is essential for improve housing conditions and for good urban planning of Romanian cities.

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