

English title: About physical and symbolic space: The case of the Istropolis Trade Union House in Bratislava

Abstract:

If the space of the city is socially produced, it can be argued that at a symbolic level it represents the social environment in a given territory and at a given time (Lefebvre, 1991). In this respect, it should therefore be true that if society's views, dominant narratives or discourse change, the physical form of the city also changes and vice versa. Is this the reason why Bratislava's Istropolis had to be demolished? This thesis examines the accuracy of these assumptions in the case of socialist modernism in the architecture of the post-communist region, specifically using the example of the Istropolis building in Bratislava. Although socialist modernist buildings are architecturally valuable, they are often considered ugly or even demolished as undesirable. What are the dynamics that lead to such discourse and action? Are such buildings really "ugly" and undesirable? If so, why? What role does ideology play in this perception?