

# Spatial planning criteria for evaluating the impact of urban architectural competitions on spatial development of the city of Osijek

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DANIJELA LOVOKOVIĆ

## SPATIAL PLANNING CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF URBAN ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS ON SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF OSIJEK

### PROSTORNO PLANERSKI KRITERIJI ZA EVALUACIJU UTJECAJA URBANISTIČKO-ARHITEKTONSKIH NATJEČAJA NA PROSTORNI RAZVOJ GRADA OSIJEKA

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The dissertation has 286 pages, 12 chapters, 100 illustrations, 235 footnotes, 93 bibliographic units, 37 tables, 7 graphic and 35 internet sources.

The topic of the research is the influence of urban-architectural competitions (UAC) on planning, urban development, and image of the city of Osijek. The research was prompted by inappropriate changes on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, which are the result of political, social, and economic transition after Croatia's War of Independence. The integration and significance of UAC were analyzed from an urban point of view, and the research was conducted in the area of technical sciences, in the field of architecture and urban planning.

The research points to the importance and significance of the implementation of UAC as a planning tool for ensuring the quality and building culture and the control of qualitative changes in space. The goal is to establish urban criteria for evaluating the positive effect of UAC on spatial development. The significance of this research lies in the contribution to the knowledge about the evaluation of the impact of competitions on the city, which have not been comprehensively and systematically processed, thusfar, by integrally looking at the interrelationship between competition realizations and the image of the city of Osijek.

On the basis of available sources and archival material, an overview database on competitions in Osijek from 1834 to 2020 has been established. Sixty-three competitions were chronologically systematized and placed in the context of historical and socio-political circumstances, and three characteristic periods of implementation were determined. Through comparative analysis, correlation and classification of different characteristics of UAC, three categories of their characteristics were determined. Through the analysis of the interrelationship between individual features, space and perception of the city, twenty-one criteria for evaluating the competitions were determined and divided into two categories: a) organization and implementation criteria, and b) quantitative-qualitative urbanistic criteria.

The research established that the organization and implementation criteria are not relevant for the impact on spatial development. Based on the organization and implementa-

tion criteria, the basic types of competitions were determined according to the project task, the implementation of which in by-laws and professional regulations can improve the procedure for the implementation of UAC.

Through the synthesis of quantitative and qualitative criteria, the competitions' multiple contributions to the spatial development of Osijek were evaluated and confirmed. Quantitative criteria were used to determine the impact of the number, representation and concentration of competitions in the city area, as well as the coverage of the city by the areas of realized competitions. Qualitative criteria determined the positive impact of the competition on the planning documentation, on the perception of residents and on the image of the city.

The contribution of competitions to the spatial development of Osijek in a quantitative sense can be seen in the share of completed competitions (68.3%), of which as much as 70% have an urban character. In terms of concentration and surface area, the realized competitions achieved, a particularly significant impact on the area of Gornji Grad (62% of the administrative area of the city district).

Based on qualitative criteria, the impact of competitions on planning documentation was determined together with the impact of the competition on the perception of residents and on the image of the city.

The period between 1994 and 2003 showed a positive impact of competitions on spatial planning documentation, when three detailed plans and two urban development plans were drawn up and adopted in Osijek based on urban planning competitions. Their contribution was determined in the change of traffic flows, the affirmation and presentation of the cultural-historical heritage, the creation of new public spaces and the establishment of new city amenities.

The contribution of competitions in the perception of the city is proven based on the views of the residents who, among the historical and contemporary buildings for which the city is recognized, best evaluate the buildings and structures created on the basis

of UAC. It was also confirmed that a large proportion (96.94%) of the surveyed residents of Osijek agree with the statement that the realization of the competitions improves the quality of life and the impression of the city.

Thirty-one UACs were implemented in the places recommended for improving the image of the city from 2001, which achieved qualitative progress in the area that was once considered to be among the most pronounced urban problems.

The influence on the formation of the elements of the *image of the city* is also visible in the concentration of realized competitions in certain parts of the city that contribute to the improvement, recognition and legibility of the *area* (city center, university campus, recreation – Gradski vrt). The clarity of the *edges* was achieved by shaping the space along the river, the contents along the bypass, and the railway line by forming new entrances to the city. The system of city *nodes*, places of gathering and frequent use is completed with fifteen organized public open spaces. Landmarks are controlled by competitions in order to preserve the characteristic image and silhouette of the city and to create recognizable points such as memorials.

The evaluation of Osijek's squares revealed a significantly higher level of met quality criteria for realizations based on competitions.

The scientific contributions of the research are in the established overview database of all competitions in Osijek, which until now has not been comprehensively and systematically analyzed from a spatial and urban planning point of view; in the definition and categorization of criteria for the analysis and evaluation of UAC, which have not been unambiguously determined until now; in the establishment of an integral methodological procedure for objective and urbanistically based evaluation of the impact of UAC on urban development, applicable in other urban environments too. The professional contribution is the suggested guidelines for improving the procedure for the implementation of UAC, applicable at state level when improving the legal framework, professional regulations and spatial planning documentation.