

THE TYPOLOGY OF APARTMENTS IN THE NEW "RADIANT CITY" IN TAICHUNG, TAIWAN

Yuchen Sharon Sung

School of Architecture, Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan

Abstract

Le Corbusier was eager for the modern city to get rid of the problems of chaos, crowding, disorder and inefficiency. Therefore, he strongly advocated the "Radiant City" and hoped to solve the urban problems, but it could not be favoured by the generations after him. Contradictorily the post CIAM generation of Taiwanese architects built up a number of high-rise residential buildings in the 7th Redevelopment Zone, Taichung. With super street blocks, wide avenues, decent public facilities and large-scale open spaces, these high-rise apartments outline a new living Utopia in Taiwan. A total of forty unit plans are collected from these apartments. By a graph-theoretical methodology which is based on shape grammar and space syntax, the typology of the floor plans of these apartments are analysed and discussed. By means of reading the floor plan and shape design, the floor spaces and functions are analysed. A tree-framework of the floor plans of these apartments can be built up by this topological method. This also records the contemporary history of high-rise residential buildings in the past thirty years in Taichung City, a new emerging and prosperous metropolitan. This residential area has also concentrated many chic stores and public spaces, such as Taichung Opera House by Toyo Ito. This area has actually become a new base for luxury homes in central Taiwan. These luxury features also show on the layout of the floor plans of these apartments. From the observation of the architectural plan, this research helps us to see how people live in the new "Radiant City" in Taichung, Taiwan.

Keywords: Apartment unit, radiant city, typology, space syntax, shape grammar

Acknowledgments

This paper is funded with the grand by Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan. (Grant number: MOST 107-2635-E-035-001-)

Yuchen Sharon Sung *Ph.D. Assoc. Prof., was born in Taipei, Taiwan. She completed her Ph.D. in the Institute of art history, archaeology and preservation at Vienna University of Technology in 2006. She is an architect as well as an associate professor at School of Architecture, Feng Chia University, Taiwan. She has published several papers on historical and modern architecture.*