Retrieving pattern in a context of sustainable tourism

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ABSTRACT

Codes of traditional and un-desecrated landscape are priceless values of a country – a society. They represent continuum and catholicity, and because of that they are absolute value, which should be brought up in a function of improvement, so it can become significant element of development, progress and part of broader network. When this values experience collapse or they are brought up to miscalculation, it leads to creating of space in which pattern of place can easily disappear. Pattern or matrix which witnesses on existing of urban typology and continuum of settlement is extremely important for every society. Bosnia and Herzegovina, country with rich, but in the same time complicated past, is with latest war brought in state of disappearance of certain patterns. Taking in count importance and necessity of bringing back the patterns in space, it was essential to find appropriate course and strategies, which will hold retrieved matrix stable.

Keywords: Pattern, sustainable tourism, typicality’s

Introduction

Leading with previously defined starting point that codes of traditional and non-devastated landscape, with its entire datum, are and have to be non-measurable category of value in one society, followed by researches in broadened theoretical, and later on in practical domain.

Assimilating absolute, non-measurable value, environment in a context of built and non-built becomes a pattern of continuum inside complex special system. Such pattern, the pattern that vouch’s existence of urban typology and continuum of settlement and which was influenced by the environment in its original shape, later on represents an important part of society, and eventually its subsistence, meaning the subsistence of complex spatial system. Misbalance or break-down inside of system or grid made by patterns, even inside elements which constitute them, leads to disturbance of pattern values, and in extreme case to its total disappearance.

Weakening or disappearances of patterns are often preceded by crisis situations, which can be unexpected or predictable, and which can affect the severity of disturbance and its consequences. Bosnia and Herzegovina, country with rich, but in the same time complicated past, is with latest war brought in state of disappearance of certain patterns.
Taking into account what was previously said, the conclusion of importance and necessity of retrieving pattern to environment imposes itself. Having this statement on mind, we clarified the necessity of obtaining correct course and guidelines which will, after retrieving, preserve matrix’s tenability, or the one that is still not lost make more resistant on negative influences.

**Place patternization**

If we take environment as a consequence of spatial-planning thought, which implied empirical and socio-cultural observations, we accept that, in fact, it represents much more than common, physically boarded area. In any case, area is being defined by different physical barriers and structures, mental schemes, emotional, logic or imaginative reactions, as well as different activities and valued. According to Shultz (1980.) space represents "qualitative totalities of a complex nature that cannot be described by means of analytic concepts".

According to what was said, space observed from urbanistic approach can be interpreted as a complex system in which are interlaced and contained personal and collective experiences and memories which, further on, are related to quality of personal, individual being in a cohesion with the environment.

Problem of once degraded and disturbed continuity of place existence and its pattern, which thereby loses its conjunction with surrounding, at the same time depending on economical, social, ecological and similar elements, represents severe problem for environment. Rehabilitation of environment that was endangered on this way, assumes also the rehabilitation of all its functions and contents. It demands complexity in approach and consideration of different levels viewed through various time prisms.

Thus, recognition of pattern itself, in a complex spatial system-grid represents only the starting point of understanding the environment and its effects and problems, and in the same time it represents a solid basis which can lead to adoption of adequate and acceptable solutions and acts, in which the environment rehabilitation is the final objective. Recognition of pattern will lead to often recognition of whole special systems in which the patterns, or themselves are repeated, whereat repetition can be spatial or time variable. Both of the scales that can be perceived, namely time and spatial scale have very important role of defining or interpreting specific spatial patterns. We can say that the pattern itself represents recognizable time or spatial regularity or the connection between specific elements.

We can conclude that importance of pattern for survival of place, as it was said in introduction, and the society itself, contains much more than function and form which it has and represents. “The significance of place...“, for Rossi (1982.), “... lays in the memories associated with it.“. These memories can be read in patten and in that, the importance of preservation can be acknowledged.

**Attenuation and abatement of pattern**

If the environment is observed as it was previously determined, meaning the complex system, therefore it’s important to adopt the claim that system complexity implies complexity of all its elements, including the patterns from which it’s constituted or which it contains. Complexity can be perceived in ability of adjusting and changing the elements of pattern or the pattern itself, to make sure that it will survive.

Namely, this paper is based on problem of pattern attenuation and abatement as a crucial problem that often affects the environment, with reference to the possibilities of pattern rehabilitation, and thereby the environment which abatements them. Previously was emphasized that the process of abatement itself, and finally abatement of pattern, can be initiated in two manners. The first manner, which is much more dramatic and whose consequences are often more severe and have greater impact on environment, is
sudden, more precisely explained as instant disappearance of pattern. This manner is often a result of crisis situation or catastrophe - natural or caused (which does not imply that natural catastrophe is not, at the same time, caused) and in this manner the pattern, in most cases, permanently disappears or it’s attenuated to its maximum. Another characteristic of this manner is that pattern, often, has no possibilities in providing resistance, which refers to that its being left to the circumstances which influenced it. (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Sudden decline / abatement of pattern, Source: Authors

The second manner is probably less painful, but in the other hand it can have even more disastrous consequences, meaning that human as a basic input for pattern survival loses interest in pattern itself and with time he abandons it. Namely, this manner can be caused by resources attenuation, resources which had an effect on primary pattern formation. (E.g. air quality, drinking water quantity, minerals or feedstock deterioration etc.) or by unplanned migrations of population caused by various reasons. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Gradual / uncontrolled abatement of pattern, Source: Authors

Therefore, it’s clear that human is an important factor, both in formation and survival of pattern. Its existence on specific place, just as the function and form of that place, evolves with time, retaining specific constants, and rejecting, in the meanwhile, idea of context as a determinant of spatial regulation. Adjustment inability and evolution on time-space scale, lead to attenuation and disappearance of pattern.

**Retrieving pattern into context**

Researching the arguments and manners of attenuation and disappearance of pattern, casual connections between patterns and human, conditions and manners of pattern retrieving were also considered. Naturally, many questions were imposed. Is retrieving of every pattern good and possible? Is retrieving the pattern itself enough?

Namely, retrieving of pattern into environment is the process which begins with recognition of pattern alone, in fashion that was previously said. Thus, recalling to previous existence or initial shape, or at least shape of the pattern which showed itself as optimal in means of size and quality of existence, already gives specific impulse of life inside environment. Next step would be defining elements of pattern, with reference to emblematic elements and typology which constituted it, as well as retrieving with such manner dismembered pattern into ambient frames of space. After recognition of pattern and its junction
with ambient values as it was previously defined, it will accompany acceptance of methods and guidelines for pattern retrieving. (Figure 3)

![Diagram of pattern retrieving process]

**Figure 3: The process of retrieving pattern, Source: Authors**

Frequently, the rehabilitation of pattern itself is not enough for its survival. Namely, pattern has to produce re-use of space in which is situated, so that its survival could be conditionally guaranteed. Therefore, as its previously mentioned that disappearance of pattern is conditioned also with inability of pattern to change and to adjust itself, its survival after the rehabilitation is conditioned by the same factors. In order to make re-use of space possible and pattern to survive, it’s important, while changing and rehabilitating previous primary function and previous form in order, to achieve continuity of existence, to apply postulates of strategic planning and principles of complex approach. Finally, while planning and designing this type of assignments its desirable that they are based on appliance complex theory aspects, as well as integral planning, inasmuch attempts as this or similar, to retrieve once attenuated or lost pattern, have no definite and uniformed solution. Guidelines that are given need to be examined and adjustable.

Congruently with what was sad, it’s easy to accept and quote Batty (2001.) “The essential feature which must be maintained is the identity of the system. This identity can be defined as that which distinguishes the system from its background or environment. This allows the emergence of systems whose state may change but whose identity is maintained. “

**Case study- confluences of rivers Drina and Neretva**

With previously defined statements, theoretical background is expanded by terrain observation, and afterwards by concrete activities which are undertaken with objective of verification the importance of pattern survival and possibilities of retrieving and maintaining the pattern inside environment. For case study, two confluences of Bosnian rivers were chosen, which also define border area of Bosnia and Herzegovina on different sides of the world (Figure 4)

![Map of Drina and Neretva confluences]

**Figure 4: Choosen confluences in geographical context, Source: Authors**
Exactly for these two rivers – Drina and Neretva, including confluence of rivers Una-Sana the Project/initiative is developed: “Support for creation and promotion of paths for eco-sustainable tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (2010.) in which the authors of this paper researched emblematic elements and potentials.

Thus, choosing the geographical framework, it’s approached toward process of patterns “loading” and placing equivalents in previously adopted model. After the patterns and their state were defined, method of rehabilitation is chosen. Using the adequate method urban typology and architectural emblematic elements, alongside with natural and ambient datum of environment, were joined, which was mentioned earlier as the most successful. Appliance of this method on an imaginary grid of smaller, insufficiently developed rural areas in chosen part of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides undertaking concrete actions with intention to revitalize perceived potentials. Therefore, there are concrete actions with the purpose of revitalizing potentials in the grid, which can be set out in function of eco-sustainable tourism. Case study tends to establish typological determinants in architecture and ambient, as a union of elements of traditional-vernacular architecture that combines with natural ambience, which constitutes framework of heritage, and which is at the same time non-renewable resource, as it is the environment in which it’s situated.

Being that area in concern has came trough process of de-paternization under different circumstances, its treated on a different way. Nevertheless, alongside with all its diversities, the repetitive element can be perceived as a cause or accompanists of pattern disappearance, what migration of population are. Perceived element, principally, have lead to abandonment of place of emigration, and after that to the gradual attenuation, meaning abatement of pattern.

Since the treated area is very delicate because of specificity of life conditions and differences among population that inhabit the area, in the same manner the objective of this paper is a far more inmost than just urban-architectural deliberation. Namely, imaginary grid as this one, apart from retrieving of pattern and economical revitalization of space, has the role of some kind of catalyst for future coexistence in selected specimens. Therefore, ruined and in last war erased traditional architecture and customs, alongside with landscape and natural particularities that were not blotted by humans, scream for rehabilitation and new impulse of life. With defined models the sites were mapped, the methodological frame was set out with seven methodological elements, which resulted with the specific sceneries and guidelines for rehabilitation of pattern in a context of sustainable tourism.

Bearing in mind what was said, we can conclude that the final objective of these activities would be encouragement and revitalization of specific segment of population, and alongside with that its reestablishment, growth and development.

*Confluence of river Drina - Bratunac municipality - village Mihaljevići*

Figure 5: Geographical position of microlocation, Source: Authors
Site in concern has been populated by population whose main activity was agriculture production, so these plantations, alongside with indigenous architecture and landscape which was formed by river Drina with its abundantly green river side's, formed attractive and specific landscape image. Patter of micro site is, with described ambient, formed particular plateau with seven traditional residential building, built with indigenous materials in manner that is typical for that climate (Figure 6).

This image has been preserved up until latest war in this region, where the abatement of pattern, caused by sudden and intense devastation followed with emigration of local population, was inevitable.

Abatement of pattern in this case, caused by sudden crisis situation which first lead to forceful attenuation of pattern and afterwards it leads to permanent abatement which was followed by traumatic emigration of population.

In order to retrieve the pattern in adequate manner inside environment and to ensure that its retrieval will have positive effect on society or at least the area in which it was recognized, it’s important to predict more impulses which would accomplish desirable influences. Scenario that was proposed related to retrieving of typical architecture in its initial form, wherewith the physical structure would be secured and alongside with that the conditions of re-population. These two impulses accompanied by strategic guidelines, which maintaining the pattern alive, would contribute long lasting survival of entire environment. Acceptable guidelines were considered to be retrieving the idea of fruit cultivation and its presentation in the area of cultivation, along with transformation of reconstructed residential buildings into “seven houses for seven arts”. Namely, the concept which would make the pattern retrieval sustainable in a context of constant shift of users with higher goal, and retrieving the “spirit of place” which was perished. (Figure 7 and 8)
Confluence of river Neretva - Stolac municipality - village Drijen

Figure 9: Geographical position of microlocation, Source: Authors

40m above sea level, with fantastic view on Hutovo Blato- Park of nature, and next to Badanj cave-archeological site from Paleolithic, the pattern of traditional rural population was recognized. The patterns formed traditional residential units which were accompanied by rural facilities which were used by population for animal production and crafting of roof covering that was used for autochthonous buildings. (Figure 10)

Figure 10: Original pattern, Source: Authors

Taking into account hard life conditions in isolation, being that site is situated beyond major roads, it’s easy to understand the reasons for gradual abandonment of settlements like this one. Severe economic situation and leisure life in neighboring cities, assisted by latest war occurrences, lead to gradual emigration of population, that was happening last 50 years. Today, the site is completely abandoned and the pattern is totally lost.

Scenario of pattern retrieving is drafted on reconstruction of rural property with intention to make tourist destination for adventurists and ones who feel fatigue in modern age. Base for this scenario is found in neighboring , important, touristic destination that were previously mentioned (Hutovo Blato, city of Stolac- which was under UNESCO protection, Badanj), and in a fact that today, this kind of tourism, is very desirable and attractive. Therefore, active vacation in untouched nature and typical architecture, alongside with field work and old crafting study, would provide population retrieval and in the meantime the retrieval of pattern, which would preserve the memory of place (Figure 11 and 12)
Conclusion

When we summarize all what was previously said, it’s easy to conclude:

* Retrieving of pattern can play a role of spatial catalyst by different aspects,
* Chosen and mapped sites abound both with natural values and elements of cultural-historical heritage, what classifies them as important resources.
* Mapped capacities of rural architecture and their location in a broader context inside specific regions, allows implementation of propagated principle of grid creation, as a basis for support and sustainable tourism development.

Thus, when we assign, to the landscape and environment that surrounds us, pattern which is frequently formed due to quality of landscape and ambient data's that’s constituted by emblematic elements of architecture and climate, it’s possible to expect following result:

* Amelioration of domicile life conditions,
* Development of source activities as a basis for eco-tourism development,
* Motivation for recurrence,
* Motivation for resting on treated area, etc.

Everything what was said will lead to pattern strengthening and it will provide its spatial-time continuity, remarking that chosen guidelines represent just one of many possible and acceptable types of scenery, which will lead to re-born settlements and where tourism will have leading role in sustainable development and new life of those areas.

References

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