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Communication title:
Capturing a moment, a sensation and a space fragment

Summary:
In this study, we are focusing on a portion of a restored cultural and tourist route of the Medina of Tunis (dating from the 7th century). It will be bounded by the mosque «Hamouda Pacha» and «Dar Lasrem», currently the headquarter of the Association of Safeguard of the Medina of Tunis (ASMT). This hub in the heart of the Medina is heavily used by tunisian and foreign visitors and passersby; it contains several architectural gems: mentioning old houses like «Dar hamouda» and «Dar el Medina», mosques and «masjed»… It leads to several cultural public amenities including the former coranic school «Médersa Bir El Hajjar» and the Palace Kheïreddine Pasha. This course is also marked by two places: “Ramadan Bey” and “Hafsia” spots.

From students’ sketches, diagrams and pictures, we asked the architecture freshmen to transpose the visited route through a personal expression. The various remarkable elements noticed by the student along the course [architectural elements, vegetation, spatial sequences (street, dead end, alley), texture, color, light, sound atmosphere …] would be suggested on a graphics-board by the ways chosen by the student.

Board reflects an understanding of the browsed path during this experiment, expressing a mental representation of the urban section covered and the visiting places through different technics of representation (Photos, sketches, low relief, collage, watercolor, gouache …).

Through this study, we also try to identify the temporalized places defined according spatiotemporal characteristics coordinated to the action that takes place there.

The temporalized place has a «chronotopic» structure. According to linguists, the chronotop relates the text (virtual) and reality. Mikhail Bakhtin developed the concept of chronotop as a link between physical time space and social time space. By transposing this definition to architecture, analysis of chronotop would analyze the relationship between architectural project and culture.

When a relevant element (or gathering place) is raised by several students, for a limited period of time, it acquires a symbolic value and can be called «socio-spatial» chronotop characterizing the action taken.

We can also say that the socio-spatial and socio-physical chronotop is the relationship between the course and the recognition.

Through this communication, we try to identify some similarities and differences between the various mental representations.

Keywords:
Mental representation; Temporalized places; "socio-spatial" chronotop; remarkable elements; course; recognition.