

Maciej Miłobędzki MSc Arch,

# THE OPEN PERIPHERY ARCHITECTURE

## Abstract of doctoral thesis

**This dissertation is an expression of the author's practical and theoretical interest in "open" buildings, primarily those whose edges – the boundaries, taking the character of "external interiors," allow the observer to encounter their depths, get to know, read the order of the architectural form, overall organization: interior sequences, tectonics, material character. Their most important property is the potential to build rich, diverse relationships in the environment using simple techniques, elementary architectural means of expression, and the homogeneity of the building material. The "open periphery architecture" differs from many buildings with open loggias, arcades, exterior rooms, galleries, and porticoes. Here they are an integral, inseparable part of an architectural principle idea. The peripheral zones play the role of an "exchanger" of various influences, interactions between the interior and the environment, a place of meeting and agreeing on orders, scales, degrees of privacy, climatic zones, the intertwining of life, and metabolic processes.**

The work is an attempt to collect, systematize and expand the knowledge, description, and analysis of the phenomena of open, peripheral zones of buildings with different, graded openness, both physical, material, and visual, the evolution of views on the multi-layered boundaries of buildings and their cultural significance.

The work aims at incentivizing practicing architects in trends that can become an alternative to global currents of insulation architecture – communicating with the living environment mainly through numerous, complex, technological systems. **The dissertation focuses on matters of professional workshop and design practice, extended by elements of theoretical, historical, and technical considerations.**

Formulating the ideas of the dissertation, the author found it helpful to study the works of ancient architects and the key 20th-century classics of the architecture of intermediate and border zones. He looked at architects like Louis Kahn, as well as the observation of contemporary architectural practices and theories, set in various civilization and cultural zones, seeking a remedy for the dangers associated with modern development processes in the improvement of building traditions. In addition to the famous large-scale, monumental "third spaces" by Kahn, the work focuses on the works of architects such as Aires Mateus, Pezo von Ellrichshausen, Sou Fujimoto, Uwe Schröder, or Harquitectes – exploring a small scale architecture with a limited budget, interesting forms of open, non-dichotomous relations of design in the environment.

The author's experience was also helpful to study the issues of open edges of architecture – participation in the design and implementation of buildings that are multi-plan, "open" structures on the periphery of different density, transparency, and consistency, boundary zones treated as climatic buffers.

Own studies, projects, and realizations allowed, among other things, to analyze the role of massive and filigree elements in shaping the zones of intertwining between buildings and landscapes. They also made it possible to analyze the open zones of the periphery of buildings to reflect the order of their architectural structure, content, and meanings contained in them.

Keywords:

open peripheries, external interiors, internal transition zones, border zones, metabolism, environmental context, climatic buffers, open buildings, insulated buildings, low-tech

23.06.2022

Matti Mäntymä