

APPROACHES IN URBAN DESIGN: THE DISORDER THAT RESULTS FROM ORDERING THE DISORDER

Einat Kalisch-Rotem and Iris Aravot)

Technion - Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning

Theories in urban design, also known as "approaches", are part of the same category, despite having more differences than similarities. Nevertheless, they all have several denominators in common. This paper will attempt to explain what are urban design approaches in general, describe types of existing approaches, and introduce both their similar and the different characteristics.

In order to clarify a complex subject appearing in most of the approaches, a process of comparison, which is one of many ways of clarification, can be used. This can be done by a "comparative chart", trying to reorganize an abstract material into a two dimensional study. This paper will illustrate a comparison between five chosen approaches - which are not necessarily typical, common, or more important than others - the approaches of Coop-Himmelblau, Koolhaas, Venturi, Cullen and Rossi.

The process of imposing order has advantages (such as easing comprehension) but also bears its costs: the complex subject becomes simplified, presents a partial picture and leaves a question mark on its reliability. This paper will examine the consequences of the comparison, with its advantages and disadvantages and present the result as a non perfect order, a term which holds in itself a contradiction.