

Sensate utopia - experiencing unreachable in the state spectacle of socialist Yugoslavia

Jelena MITROVIĆ,¹ Vladan PERIĆ²

⁽¹⁾ Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Faculty of Technical Science, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia

Abstract

This paper aims at exploring the notion of reachable utopia understood as one of the tools used in the state spectacle by the government of socialist Yugoslavia. Utopia and utopian ideas are commonly understood as unreachable moral and aesthetic ideals, outside of the grasp of society, placed both in its golden past and glorious future. While acknowledging the fact that as a physical reality utopia remains unreachable, it is the goal of this paper to examine the notion of utopia that can be lived in during the state spectacle.

In order to do so, this paper relies on concepts of liminal space, porosity of space and architectural chronotopes. These theoretical constructs and their relation to utopian ideas are explored in the geo-political context of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the case of memorial complex Slobodište. Spatial characteristics of Slobodište as well as dramaturgy of and ideology behind Days of Freedom festivities that took place in it make it the ideal candidate to explore relations of utopian ideas and state spectacle on. Through exploring Slobodište we hope to point to the possibility of the utopia that can be sensed inside a specific space/time frame.

Keywords: utopia, state spectacle, Yugoslavia, Slobodište.