The Paradox Of Collective Memory: The role Of Collective Memory In Shaping Public Squares; The Case Of Republic Square, Male’ City

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Declaration

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ABSTRACT

It is a seeming paradox that the balance between society and built environment has a constant change as we evolve repeatedly, and our collective identity mean to facilitate new public spaces to boost our public life, as well re-shaping existing spaces. The public spaces we design directly or indirectly influence to our behavior, experiences and social interactions which in turn reflect how we respond to our built environment. Even though urban designing and planning play wider role of this evolving procedure, sometimes some proposed design does not respond to the vital role of public spaces and unknowingly break the relationship between man and his environment by incorporating some ambiguous attributes.

This research aims to study the relationship between collective memory and public squares and the influence of public collective memory to shape and re-shape, to revitalize and utilize today’s public squares. The qualitative and quantitate data to answer the research questions were gathered by conducting user survey, visual documentation and interviewing with community focus group.

The study is conducted through a close examination of the Republic Square of Male’ city, which was once prevailed with a strong sense of community, though today it is seen as an isolated piece of public realm. By combining the theoretical background with qualitative research and quantitative methods, the paper aims to provide a better understanding on the underlying issues and possible solutions. Findings indicate that the success of the public squares is based on the experiences and rationalities of the urban past as evidenced by the historical continuity which characterizes the relationship between collective memory of its people and the public spaces.

Key Words: Collective Memory, Public Space, Public Square, Male’, Sense of Belonging, Revitalization
# TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgments
Abstract
Table of Contents
List of Tables
List of Figures

Chapter 1. Introduction
1.1. Research Problem and Question
1.2. Aim and Scope of the Study
1.3. Structure of the Dissertation
1.4. Method of the Study
1.5. Scope and Limitation of the study

Chapter 2. Theoretical Framework - Public Squares as the form of Collective Memory

2.1. Theorizing Public Squares
2.1.1. The Concept of Public Squares
2.1.2. Historical Background of public square
2.1.3. The importance Roles and Function of Public Square
   2.1.3.1 Social Perspective
   2.1.3.2 Political Perspective
   2.1.3.3 Economical Perspective
   2.1.3.4 Psychological Perspective

2.2 Theorizing Collective memory
2.2.1 Theorizing Collective Memory
   2.3.1.1. Defections, Notions, Concepts and forms of collective memory
   2.3.1.2 Distinguish between collective memory & Individual memory

Chapter 3. The Relation of Public Squares and Collective Memory

3.1. Key Aspects of Collective Memory in Public Squares
3.1.1. Physical Aspects – Physical Settings of the Square
3.1.2. Socio-cultural Aspects – Activities and Activity Pattern
3.1.3. Psychological Aspects – Sensory and Emotional Experience
3.2. Collective memory as a tool for shaping Public Squares

Chapter 4. The Case of Republican Square - Transformation and Its Changing Roles
4.1 Geographical Location
4.2 Historical Background
4.3 Transformation of Republican Square and its changing roles
   4.3.1 Republican Squares as a political Space for Representation
   4.3.2 The Decline of Republic Square
4.3 Research Methodology
   4.3.1. Preliminary Observation / Visual Documentation
   4.3.2. User Survey
   4.3.3. Interview with community focused group
4.4. Research Findings

Chapter 5. Discussion
5.1 Collective Memory & its Role of urban public life
5.2. Discussion of the Key elements and issues of the study

Chapter 6. Conclusion
List of Figures

1. A popular square in Copenhagen, Denmark. Source: placersustain
2. Piazza S. Marco, Venice. (Source: docshare.it)
3. Greek Agora. Source: IOCT
4. Agora - The original of "Commons". Source: Spatial Frameworks (2011)
5. Piazza del Campo, Siena: The main public civil square of the medieval town
6. Ariel view of Roman Forum, Source: Carlos (2011)
8. Market Square, Pittsburgh on of the greatest public square in 21st century. Source: planetizen
12. Five Elements of urban Form, which enable the user to understand the environment through their collective memory. Source: Lynch, (1959)
15. Republican Square Location Map and Layout plan. Source Author’s construction based on Google maps.
17. Republican Square, Male'. Source: Author
18. Protest gathering Republican Square, after the Coup's demonstration on Feb 7. Source: Minivan
20. Fewer people use the square in week days. Source: Author (2013)
22. Fewer people use the square in week days. Source: Author (2013)
23. Republican Square physical character and Activities during the first time period (1990-2000). Source: Author
24. Republican Square physical character and Activities during the first time period (1990-2000). Source: Author

25. Republican Square Transformation from 1990 to 2014. Source: Author

List of Graphs

Graph 1. Number of responses based on Gender
Graph 2. Number of responses based on Gender
Graph 3. Type of Visitors
Graph 4. Frequency of Visits
Graph 5. How long the participants wish to stay in the square
Graph 6. with whom the participant visit the square
Graph 7. Activities in the Square
Graph 8. Purpose of the Visit
Graph 9. Suggestions for Improvement
Graph 10. what the participant like best about the square
Graph11. Frequency of mention graph for the Important Elements of the Square
Graph12. Frequency of mention graph for the Important Elements of the Square
Graph 13. Frequency of mention graph for the Social, Political and Economic perceptual
Graph14. Frequency of mention graph for the Square as a place for the communication of the community
Graph15. Frequency of mention graph for Using/Not using the Square
Graph16. Frequency of mention graph for the reason behind not using the Square
Graph17. Frequency of mention graph for Emotions and Experience in the Square
Graph18. Frequency of mention graph for Sense of Belonging