

University for Business and Technology in Kosovo

UBT Knowledge Center

UBT International Conference

2020 UBT International Conference

Oct 31st, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Quality of Life of Residents in Urban Areas of Regulatory Plans in Kosovo

Marjan Ivezaj

University for Business and Technology, marjan.ivezaj@ubt-uni.net

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference>



Part of the [Architecture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ivezaj, Marjan, "Quality of Life of Residents in Urban Areas of Regulatory Plans in Kosovo" (2020). *UBT International Conference*. 360.

https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference/2020/all_events/360

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Publication and Journals at UBT Knowledge Center. It has been accepted for inclusion in UBT International Conference by an authorized administrator of UBT Knowledge Center. For more information, please contact knowledge.center@ubt-uni.net.

BUILDING THE SAME HOUSES - SOCIAL CATEGORY

Nexhat Çoçaj

UBT - Institution of Higher Education, Lagjja Kalabria, 10000 p.n., Prishtinë, Kosovë,

nexhat.cocaj@ubt-uni.net

Introduction

It should be clarified at the outset that building the same houses as a social category is not about the degree of poverty, as the social notion can usually be understood, but about the social mobility of individuals,¹ in this case brothers, who decide to build such houses. In one form or another, individuals who have decided to build the same houses have taken into account the opinion of the environment, so that through social mobility, the houses can also perform the informative function. So the same houses, in addition to the primary functions such as the need to solve housing, also performing the informative function. In this way, houses as construction, are automatically put in function of visual communication. This happens because the exterior of the house, as we will see inside the topic, will "talk" about the economic situation of that family, the relationship between the brothers and the success in business, the weaknesses and advantages that accompany a business family.

As for the need for a new home for a family, this has been a priority at every stage of history. The construction of the house, in the past, but also recently is closely related to the number of family members that make up the family, respectively the number of members that will be accommodated in that house. Whereas in the not too distant past, according to ethnographic memory, house typology models have taken into account the fact that the house should be built more easily, at less cost and meet the needs of the family for a certain period of time. Also during the construction process of houses, they did not pay much attention to the modeling - design of houses, so in many cases new houses are built to suit the terrain, where it was selected for construction, taking into account the fact that the land is not endangered. arable, for the construction of houses and in particular in rural areas. Whereas, today, the construction of houses in terms of this social aspect has degraded and the criterion of land selection in relation to arable land is not taken into account at all, perhaps due to social modality.

On the other hand, the organization, around the construction of new residential houses, in recent decades, has evolved in terms of adapting to the need and number of residents who will be housed in that house. Thus, comfort in these types of houses has now begun to translate into another social criterion, which is not related at all to the life expectancy of the house, or to the number of interiors according to the number of inhabitants, but the so-called social equality criterion is being applied. , leaving aside any criteria or typology of traditional constructions. Whereas, in the past, due to the unfavorable economic situation, the models or typologies of house construction, spread in the Albanian space, were the houses with typology for a family, always with the possibility of expansion after a while.

The research and review of this topic is mainly related to the rural areas of the Dukagjini Plain, and in particular in the territory of the region of Gjakova and Prizren, mentioning the region of Peja. Supported by the number of the same houses, which today is currently a large number and tend to increase their number. We can say that the largest number of houses that stand out is in the territory of Malisheva, Has and Suhareka.

¹ Anthony Giddens, *Sociologjia, "Çabej", Tiran, 2002, f.236.*

Reflection of family harmony in the way the house is built

The desire to build the same houses by the brothers of the same parent, has been long-standing. But, the lack of freedom on the one hand and on the other hand the limited opportunities and thirdly the fear of the regime that they will be punished with demolition, burning, confiscation, has curbed this phenomenon until the first years of Kosovo's liberation. In this way that the construction of the same houses, as a phenomenon in Kosovo has gained momentum after 2000 and that this trend in recent years has increased, becoming more present in rural areas, with some exceptions in urban areas, and especially in the suburbs of cities. On the other hand, the phenomenon of building the same houses in terms of appearance and construction material, work technique, in the social plane, are considered as a social category of mobility.



Construction of three houses of three Daçaj brothers on the road axis Prizren-Gjakova

This social phenomenon is related to social differentiation and especially to social stratification, because it represents a tidal movement from one social stratum to another.² The construction of the same houses, which in the Albanian space and especially in the rural areas of the Dukagjini Plain, has recently gained momentum, is a reflection of family harmony in many dimensions. In the first place, it preserves family stability, strengthens relations with the social circle and the network of businesses, improves the image of the family, respectively the acceptance of the transition from a status of bad status to a new status, with a better condition, respectively in raising the standard of living. On the other hand, through the construction of the same houses, the self of individuals, who have decided to change the way they behave, work and look, is more easily expressed, despite the fact that the children of a couple, brothers have been or have now decided to divided. This is due to the fact that the self is a social creature conceived and developed under the influence of the social world, ie under the influence of others. Thus in this

² Sunai Raimi, Sociologjia, “Universiteti Shtetëror i Tetovës”, Tetovë, 2009, f. 235.

way the self, or the self affects in many respects.³ That is why many sociologists have suggested that the way we look at others depends on how we see ourselves. And as a result of this perception it is understood that the self-guided personal interest often influences the behaviors, attitudes, actions of individuals in the social environment. The phenomenon of building houses, in the Albanian tradition does not seem to have been expressed, as today, neither in terms of form, nor in terms of content. Although in the architectural heritage, the model or plan of the houses may have been the same as other constructions in the wider premises, but it is not related to the same family, respectively to the brothers.

While working in the field, we have seen that there are two main reasons why siblings of the same parents decide to build completely identical houses: a) the impact of business on maintaining family harmony, b) Homes the same "language" of communication on social status of owners.

The impact of business on maintaining family harmony

If the face according to sociologists and psychologists is the main part through which human emotions are expressed,⁴ without saying anything, then the external appearance of a house is the way of expressing the state of a family community. The same houses, like any other house is built not only physically, but also psychologically and socially. Their construction always takes place in combination of the physical and emotional aspect, as part of a single process. Through the exterior of the house attempts are made to show how any individual meaning of the house, such as privacy, identity or familiarity, can be explained from the inside as a physical / psychological / social construct and in relation to the wider complex, part of which it is.⁵ Based on these findings, we can say that the language of communication of the same houses is a special language of social communication and at the same time an expression of the harmony of group work in a family business.



View of the houses of four brothers in Baja, Malisheva

³ Ylli Pango, Psikologji sociale, "Korabi", Tiranë, 1997, f. 63.

⁴ Paul Ekman and Wallace V. Friesen, Unmasking the face, ISHK, 2003, f. 32.

⁵ Peter Somerville, The social construction of home, Journal of Architectural and Planning Research Vol. 14, No. 3 (Autumn, 1997), pp. 226-245.

Most businessmen are successful when they work in a group and the more preferred that group is to be relatives. This is due to the fact that trust in each other is great and all possibilities of concealment and abuse are missing or excluded. Since our topic is related to the social and cultural aspect, we are trying to give some of the opinions of the heads of families, who have decided to build the same houses. "In order to preserve the spirit of work, of trust in work, we started the three brothers the same houses. A business without trust does not succeed, so when we are in agreement, we have understanding and we share the profit equally, why not have the same houses both externally and internally. The psychological aspect, affects not only the harmony of a family, but also beyond. And that impact is reflected in the success, or expansion, of the business."⁶

Almost all the cases, who have decided to build their own houses and do business, think that this way of building the same houses is showing success in maintaining harmony between brothers, which means success in business. In fact, this trend of building houses is done without the consent of all the brothers at once, just so that all the co-owners of a business have an equal share in the expenses earned.



The process of building your home in Romaja of Has

Depending on the business, the construction time of the houses as well as the size or dimensions of the houses also lasts. But, what should be distinguished is the fact that in all cases, the houses are the same, the land is the same, the plan is the same, the construction material, the color of the facade, the doors, the windows, the roof, etc. In many cases, the procedures of the works, starting from the opening of the foundations, the erection of the walls to the covering of the house, are done at the same time.

This way of working at the same time, according to the interlocutors in the field, is done to remove all suspicions that one of the brothers, not to suspect that for his house, or one of the brothers is making bigger expenses. And to remove this doubt completely, the houses are divided only after the completion of the works and furnishing. In most cases, the division by age, when there are three more brothers. But there are times when the brothers choose which of the houses they love. This harmony largely reflects on the development of the business, but also reflects on the harmony between the brothers and the staff of workers, who are not part of the family of business owners. In the Albanian tradition, it is said that until it was "a purse" The slaves of the house lived under one roof, and when the wallet was distributed, the house was divided! " The

⁶ Oral data of Ahmet Haxhia, born in 1978 in Malisheva.

message of this popular wisdom is that the family business, in addition to work, must also manage the way of spending. Building the same houses is one of the forms of expression of family harmony, which is directly reflected in business.

Houses the same "language" of communication for the social status of the owners

The exterior wall of a finished house, in the language of architecture, is a wall composed of two layers of cement fiber and polystyrene insulation, which proves high energy efficiency in the consumption of these apartments. While in the social aspect the external appearance, or the outer wall shows the social condition of the inhabitants of that house and is the means of communication with the district and with the passers-by. Thus, the completion of a façade wall, or in process, shows what stages the builders, or owners of those houses, are going through. Thus, in a large number of the same houses, it can be understood that the owners of these buildings are in good economic condition, respectively they are working and showing success through their business. And on the other hand, if the works have stalled, and have remained for a long time in that state, it is understood that in that family something has happened in economic terms, namely the business has encountered a problem - stagnation. Therefore, if we take into account all that we said, the same houses can be part of the sociology group of mass communications.⁷



The process of sabotaging the same houses in Banja Malisheva

Whereas in the Albanian tradition, the division of the house was done due to quarrels, family members, disobedience to the owner of the house or abuse and incompetence of any of the family members, today the divisions are uninvestigated and by building the same houses, this non-investigation becomes even clearer. If in the past the popular opinion blamed women for the

⁷ Anton K. Berisha & Ibrahim Berisha, Sociologjia, "Libri shkollor", Prishtinë, 2017, f. 137.

separation, which in fact was the main cause of the economic crisis,⁸ this aspect in this social category has also changed radically. Thus, if in the past, according to tradition, traditional factors were taken into account, today, thanks to business development, many forms and "calculations" have been deliberately exceeded so that they are not understood by others, respectively by the environment. Every brother is equal, in terms of building the house. The way the same houses are built influences the internal disputes not to be seen and the impression is gained that in that family environment the harmony between the brothers is at the best possible level. And in this way the most accurate language of communication with the general public is the construction of the same houses, respectively following the procedures from the foundation. In this respect, an important role is played by the social circle, which nevertheless exerts its influence in various forms.

Not every time the construction of the same houses affects the business, as there are cases that this way of construction has been selected by the brothers who have separate businesses and each manages them in their own way, but have decided that the houses t 'build the same. And this happens to show that even though they are separated, in terms of work, respectively business, they have continued the family harmony and want this harmony to be seen and to be informed by others as well.



View from a village of Suhareka on the side of the highway "Ibrahim Rugova"

The phenomenon of building the same houses by the brothers, in many rural settlements, is also seen through the eyes of beliefs and superstitions. Thus the construction of the same houses, in many areas, is considered lucky. Coincidence of fate, in that family. For this purpose in many villages, houses built by the same brothers are considered in one form or another as a 'talisman' for protection from the evil eye of the whole village. Usually, this function is believed, whether they are built at the entrance of the village, or in the center of the village, where they stand out as in our picture.

There are dozens of cases where the brothers, who are engaged in a joint work, have decided to share it on a new plot of land and start the same houses. In such cases, in the service of protection from the evil eye, I have encountered cases when the change was small not in

⁸ Kahraman Ulqini, *Struktura e shoqërisë tradicionale shqiptare*, "Idromeno", Shkodër, 2003, f. 30.

appearance but in color, and more in the color of the roof. The change of color at first glance is a small thing, but for this purpose, there is also a change of direction, or the front of the house and such actions are explained as measures to guard against superstition, black magic, which is believed to may have in business development and family harmony.

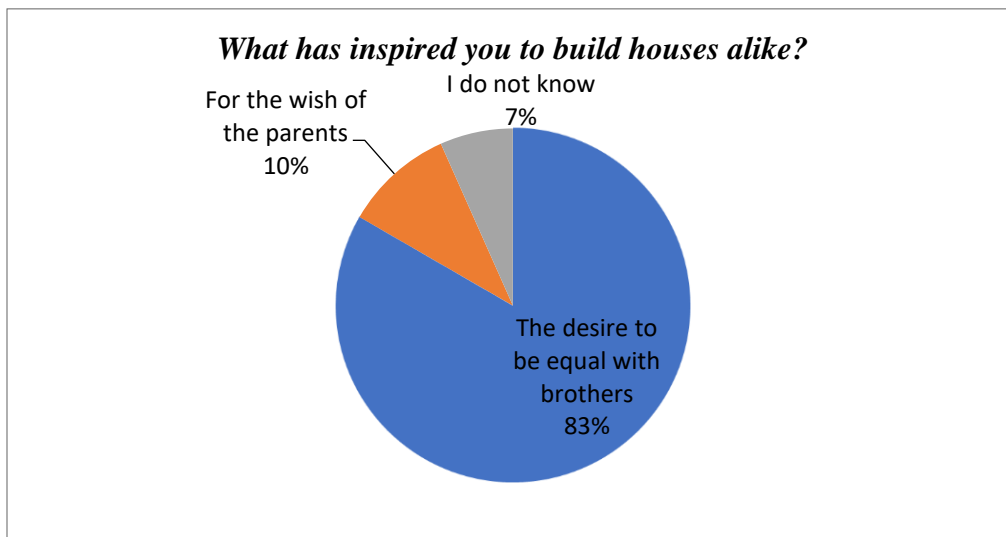


View from a village of Suhareka

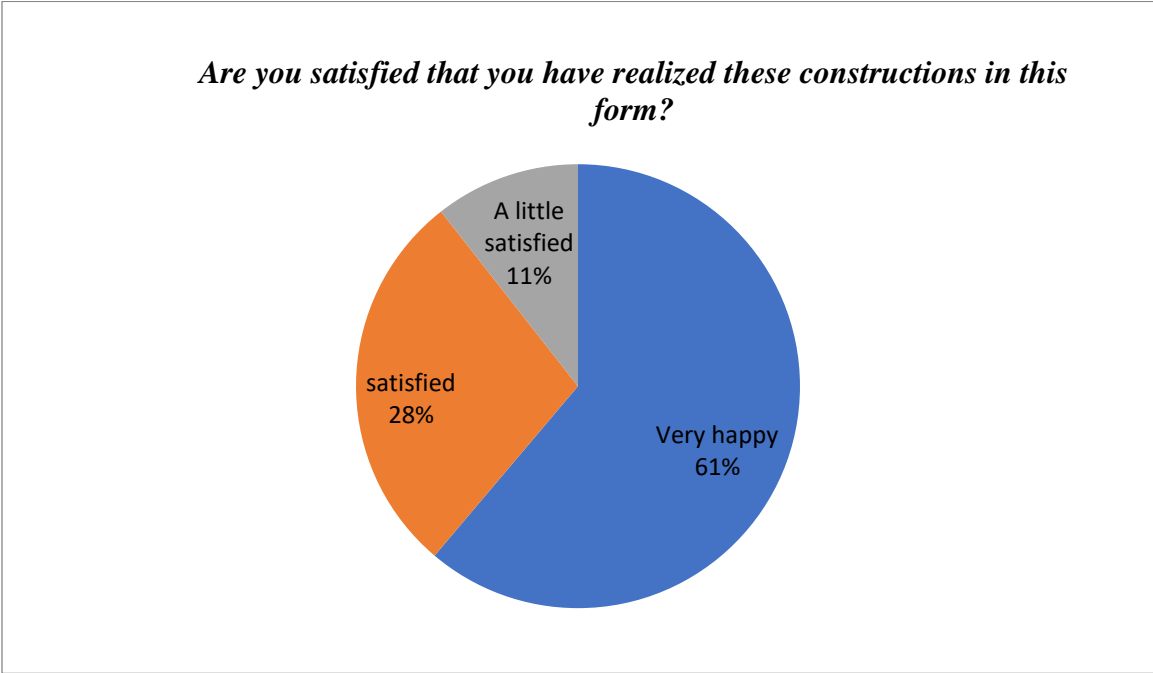
The construction of the same houses, depending on how many brothers there are, or even there are cases when the construction of the house is made possible by the same dead brother, but who has left heirs. Even this way of approaching the children of the deceased brother is in a way a continuation of family harmony. All the more so if those brothers still have their parents alive. In cases where the parents are alive, they do not consider this way of building the same separation, but a continuation of life in family harmony.

What the same homeowners say

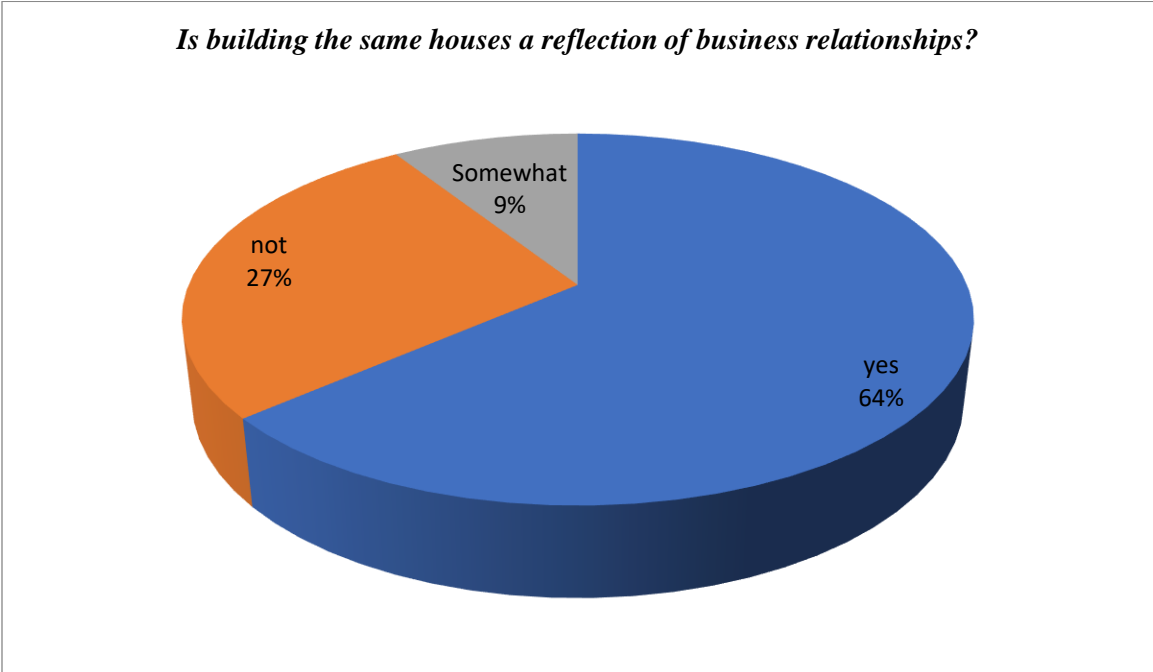
The survey conducted on this topic with 120 respondents, mainly heads of households, or older brother, joint business holders are satisfied with this form of house building, because according to them they achieve several objectives: a) maintaining family harmony and b) mass communication with the environment, which decomposes into a direct impact on the business. Therefore, based on these two objectives, a questionnaire with closed questions was designed, since in open questions the respondents were reluctant to answer. Thus out of the 12 survey questions, six of them relate to various family aspects and the other six relate to the field of joint family business.



Meanwhile, to the next question, regarding family harmony: Are you satisfied that you have realized these constructions in this form? Out of 120 respondents answered as follows:



Whereas in the questions of the second part, which have to do with the field of business, we can single out the answers to the ninth question: Is the construction of the same houses a reflection of the relations in business?



Conclusion

The idea to address this topic has been around for a long time, but in fact to make a genuine study on this topic, a team work is needed, in which group would be included experts from interdisciplinary fields such as: architects, ethnologists, sociologists, psychologists, etc. Examining this topic in a team will bring to the surface perhaps many dimensions of social life and similar aspects.

Family harmony is a key element in the development of society and on the other hand it is a different picture that is confronted as a comparison of the disintegration of society, which we are witnessing every day.

Teamwork in the first place would help in drafting a multidisciplinary questionnaire, in which the questionnaire would be accessible to all experts in the relevant fields and would highlight many other interesting data in this area.

Finally, it should be noted that in order to uncover this phenomenon, a project should be drafted by the respective faculties and an initiative should be undertaken for further research. I also have some recommendations on this topic, which I think will help in the future in more in-depth research initiatives:

- To make a geographical atlas of the extent of this phenomenon in the entire territory of Kosovo;
- To categorize the same constructions according to the field of interest, such as business, family harmony, etc.
- Take the initiative to publish a catalog with views of the same constructions in Kosovo and to separate the construction models;
- To interview some of the bearers of these constructions and to find out the main reasons why this trend of building the same houses is in trend today, etc.