

# Architectural Semiotics: Deciphering Cultural Dynamics, Identity, and Communicative Strategies in Prishtina's Built Environment

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**Abstract:-** This academic publication explores the interplay between architecture, cultural dynamics, the built environment, and identity. By scrutinizing architecture as a semiotic system, we unveil its role as a potent linguistic tool for communication. Through this scholarly endeavor, we endeavor to decode how architectural structures serve as conduits for profound cultural and identity-related messages.

Prishtina, with its rich history and architectural tapestry, serves as an exemplar in those analyses. The publication dissects the semiotics of Prishtina's architecture, illuminating its capacity to communicate complex narratives. Our objective is to foster a deeper understanding of the intricate language embedded within Prishtina's architectural building heritage, offering valuable insights into the city's historical and contemporary development.

This publication invites academics, researchers, and professionals to engage in a comprehensive study of architectural semiotics, with Prishtina as a compelling case study. Thus, by exploring and comparing qualitatively the main principles of architectural semiotics, such as Signs and Symbols; Semiotic Elements; Cultural Context; Signifier-Signified Relationships; Iconic, Indexical, and Symbolic Signs; Syntax and Semantics; Narrative and Sequence; Intertextuality Perception and Experience; and Multimodality, we aim to stimulate critical discourse, encouraging a nuanced exploration of the communicative strategies interwoven in the city's built environment across different historical epochs, and to contribute to the field's scholarly body of work.

**Keywords:** *architectural semiotics, built environment, identity, Prishtina's cultural dynamics.*

## 1. Introduction

This research focuses on highlighting the significance of modernist architecture as a cultural heritage when studying urban environments and their sustainability. It delves into the example of the Boro and Ramiz Sports and Recreation Center in Prishtina, examining its role in the broader context of modernism within the city. The 70s and 80s marked a zenith of modernist development in Prishtina, raising questions about the contemporary relevance and contributions of these structures to the city's identity and architectural landscape.

Through literature reviews and on-site exploration, this research grapples with the challenge of defining the city's identity and its role in fostering urban sustainability, including the preservation of modernist cultural heritage. The concept of a "chain of buildings" that once served a positive purpose but now poses risks due to neglect, like the Boro and Ramiz complex, is explored. The study also investigates the National Library's situation, revealing similar sustainability concerns.

Ultimately, the research poses a compelling question: Can an unfinished building maintain sustainability in terms of form and function across different scales and time periods? This inquiry is crucial for understanding the enduring legacy of modernist architecture and its role in shaping the identity and sustainability of Prishtina and other cities with similar architectural legacies. This research aims to highlight the role of modernist architecture

as a cultural heritage, focusing on its impact on urban development and sustainability. It examines the Boro and Ramiz Sports and Recreation Center and other modernist buildings in Prishtina.

The study underscores the challenge of defining the city's identity and its contribution to sustainability, particularly in preserving the cultural heritage of modernism. It also explores the "chain of buildings" concept and how it can positively impact the city's form, though it faces risks due to factors like incomplete projects and political issues. The Boro and Ramiz Center remains underutilized and poorly maintained, highlighting issues of physical condition and accessibility. A similar situation is observed with the National Library, further raising questions about the sustainability of form in unfinished buildings and their long-term impact on the city's architecture.

## **2. Understanding Urban Form and its Sustainability Implications**

### **Understanding Urban Forms and their Theoretical Sustainability**

Understanding urban form is complex; it includes physical features, social interactions, and sustainability. Urban form's meaning varies, encompassing social, ecological, and inclusive aspects. Christopher Alexander emphasizes human-scale design for functional, aesthetic, and sustainable urban spaces. Lynch studies how people perceive and navigate the city, highlighting the impact of urban form on behavior and sustainability. Jacobs focuses on mixed-use neighborhoods and community-based planning for livable urban environments. Urban form is multifaceted, seen from different scales and interpreted for sustainability on city and urban levels.

### **Introduction to Urban Form and Sustainability: Historical Background**

Urban form and sustainability are pivotal in modern urban planning and deeply rooted in human history. Urban form's essence goes beyond physical aspects; it's about creating meaning, and community, and fulfilling basic needs. The concept of urban form has been present since ancient civilizations, shaping settlements, infrastructure, and ecosystems. From the Industrial Revolution onwards, figures like Le Corbusier and Howard advocated for sustainable urban development.

The history of architecture has always grappled with typological questions, underscoring the complexity of urban form. This complexity is deeply rooted in the origins of human civilization. The urban form remains a consistent and evolving force, adapting to various contexts and times. It retains its unique characteristics, making it an essential element in diverse settings.

Understanding urban form is the first step toward ensuring its sustainability and livability. The complexity of urban form arises from diverse interpretations by architects, planners, and philosophers, making it a dynamic and multifaceted concept. Urban form encompasses not only the physical aspects but also the social, historical, and contextual dimensions that shape it.

The theoretical perspective of urban form is wide, and its presence contributes to understanding it better. Rowe's works explore the juxtaposition of diverse architectural forms and historical layers in cities, leading to an understanding of urban form as a collage of diverse elements [1].

Other perspectives may be more rigid or democratic but contribute to the broader understanding of urban form. This diversity of interpretations is a hallmark of urban form, constantly generating new insights rather than adhering to rigid definitions.

Blau, a notable figure in architecture history and urban planning, examines urban form through the lens of diverse historical contexts. She emphasizes the interconnectedness of architecture, politics, and society in shaping urban patterns and the city's identity [2]. Similarly, Rossi explores the concept of permanence, highlighting the enduring influence of the past on the city's development.

Blau underscores the importance of understanding the historical context of urban form to inform contemporary urban planning and design. She advocates for a multidisciplinary approach that integrates architecture, history, sociology, and politics, enabling the creation of contextually sensitive and socially relevant urban interventions.

On the other hand, Derrida's deconstruction provides a fresh perspective on urban form, viewing cities as ever-evolving and contested spaces [3]. This approach encourages a critical examination of power dynamics, representation, and urban planning decisions, unveiling hidden biases and exclusionary practices. Blau and Derrida contribute significantly to the academic discourse on urban studies and architectural theory, enriching our understanding of urban form's complexities.

In essence, urban form is a dynamic and multifaceted concept that transcends rigid definitions and embraces various interpretations. It draws from a broad spectrum of disciplines and historical contexts to create sustainable, livable, and contextually relevant urban environments.

### **Urban Form and Sustainability: How City structure Influences Sustainable Practices.**

The discussion on urban form extends beyond its physical attributes to explore its metaphorical significance. This research emphasizes that form transcends mere shape; it is a specific arrangement and coherence of elements, delving into underlying patterns. Rossi defines type as a permanent and complex concept that precedes and constitutes form. [4].

Quatremere de Quincy, a prominent architectural theorist, underscores the importance of comprehending the concepts of type and model in architecture. Unlike a mere image to be copied, "type" is viewed as an essential guiding principle for the model. The model, an object to be replicated precisely, contrasts with the type, which allows for diverse interpretations and design variations, providing flexibility and ambiguity. The passage emphasizes that architectural inventions maintain core principles, acting as a nucleus around which diverse forms gather. Investigating the origins and primary causes of architectural elements aids in understanding their purpose, applicable not only to architecture but also to other human inventions and institutions [5].

Quincy dismisses the notion of type as a mere copy, emphasizing its role as a model for authentic architectural engagement, possessing a crucial structural element and serving as a constant rule in architectural artifacts. Oversimplified interpretations, reducing type to a basic diagram, overlook its aesthetic intentionality and complexity within urban artifacts, failing to grasp their autonomous value. Quatremere de Quincy's elucidation underscores the importance of understanding the distinct roles of type and model. Recognizing the organizing principle allows for creative interpretations and design variations, granting autonomy and aesthetic intentionality to architecture.

Urban form, a dynamic organism shaped by social, cultural, and contextual forces, emerges as a complex entity beyond its tangible features. Esteemed urban thinkers highlight the role of typology in deciphering and enhancing the sustainability of urban form. However, they emphasize that typology is not the sole determinant; urban form extends to intricate intersections of complex networks. The symbiotic relationship between urban form and the subject generating time-space unveils a dynamic interplay challenging traditional notions. The form becomes a canvas for interpretations, engaging in a reciprocal dance with the subject.

To understand the nexus between urban form and sustainability, a nuanced approach is necessary, considering historical contexts, social dynamics, and the inherent complexity of urban environments. Architects and urban planners, through typological discourse, can enrich their work and contribute to creating sustainable and context-sensitive urban spaces. This transformative process relies on a thorough comprehension of urban form, emphasizing its indispensable role in shaping interventions.

### **3. Sustainable Urban Form: Theoretical Foundation at City and Urban Scales.**

Urban form, akin to an evolving organism, constantly undergoes transformations, becoming a driving force for city development. A critical question arises: which elements actively propel this development, and which act as hindrances or parasitic imitations within this organism? Aldo Rossi delves into this theory of permanence and persistence in his book [6] categorizing city elements or monuments into two groups, each serving distinct purposes.

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Cities, in their developmental trajectory, tend to align with existing objects' direction and meaning. Permanence, which can be either vital or pathological, reveal a city's history or manifest as isolated elements. However, their functions, physical forms, importance, and value may evolve or change at specific historical junctures.

Monuments, as fixed urban elements, demonstrate self-sustainability and influence the urban area by adapting and evolving. This self-sustainability, while often positive, can also be self-destructive when the city is perceived as a large architectural monument, tracing its development and changes on the map.

Contextual conservation, focusing on preserving the residential section of a city, may impede the city's dynamic nature. However, it follows a temporal and spatial timeline, evolving, developing, and concluding until the next cycle. Dynamics in the city are natural, ceaseless, and always in motion, altering only in speed within a specific time-space.

Monuments, as both aesthetic and symbolically sustainable elements, serve as developmental tools for urban form improvement or large-scale reconstruction. The presence of historic urban forms reflects their resilience, constantly evolving and adapting over the years, facing pressures of rapid development that compromise socio-cultural layers.

Understanding urban form requires a nuanced exploration of theories that define explicit and implicit approaches. Explicit theories manifest through tangible forces and structures, while implicit theories unveil intangible forces shaping the city. Architectural and urban planning theories, often a blend of perceptual, symbolic, and network-based elements, contribute to deciphering the complexity of urban spaces.

To categorize these theories, a detailed analysis of each, considering parameters like behavioral responses, everyday life, and informality within the city, is essential. Renowned architects and urban planners such as Aldo Rossi, Le Corbusier, Camillo Sitte, and others fall into three broad groups, each with its common denominators and distinct characteristics. Exploring and understanding these theories is crucial for grasping the diverse facets of cities and urban forms.

Within the purview of theoretical perspectives, this discourse engages with the nuanced intricacies inherent in shaping urban form. The significance of elements such as size, shape, architectural layout, building design, material composition, aesthetic considerations, visual harmony, iconic landmarks, and the preservation of cultural heritage is systematically unpacked. This exploration finds its roots in the comprehensive body of qualitative and quantitative scientific research conducted by a cadre of dedicated theoreticians, architects, and urban planners.

The utilization of diverse methodologies and research methods, as meticulously presented in Tables 1 and 2, underscores the interdisciplinary nature of this inquiry. By elucidating the confluence of these factors, this discussion advances our understanding of the deliberate processes and considerations that converge in the development of urban landscapes. It thus encapsulates a holistic exploration, synthesizing empirical evidence and theoretical frameworks.

**Table 1. City understanding (reading) through the theoretical framework of urban planners, theoreticians, and architects through different periods with various approaches. (Literature reference of theoretical framework as listed in bibliography and more)<sup>1</sup> (Source: Rinë Zogiani)**

City Understanding (reading)			Urban Scape Theory			Imageability			Space and Time Theory			
Nr.	Author	Approach/ Methodology	Method/ Component	Author	Approach/ Methodology	Method/ Component	Author	Approach/ Methodology	Method/ Component	Author	Approach/ Methodology	Method/ Component
1	Aldo Rossi	URBAN ARTIFACTS	HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY/ MEMORY				Aldo Rossi	URBAN ARTIFACTS	HISTORY/ GEOGRAPHY/ MEMORY	Jane Jacobs	DYNAMIC URBAN LIFE	MIXED USE OF BUILDINGS (MIXED BLOCKS)
2	Le Corbusier	FUNCTIONALISM	COMPOSITION/ TECHNOLOGY	Le Corbusier	FUNCTIONALISM	COMPOSITION/ TECHNOLOGY				Christopher Alexander	COMMUNICATION/ LIVABILITY	CULTURAL/ SOCIAL SPACE (PRIVATE/ PUBLIC)
3	Camillo Sitte	ART & AESTHETIC	COMPOSITION PRINCIPLE	Camillo Sitte	ART & AESTHETIC	COMPOSITION PRINCIPLE				Lewis Mumford	URBAN SPACE/ PEOPLE	URBAN CULTURE
4	Paul Zucker	URBAN FORM	VOID & SQUARE	Paul Zucker	URBAN FORM	VOID & SQUARE						
5	Colin Rowe	COMPOSITION	TEXTURE & PATTERN				Colin Rowe	COMPOSITION	TEXTURE & PATTERN			
6	Kevin Lynch	IMAGEABILITY	ELEMENTS				Kevin Lynch	IMAGEABILITY	ELEMENTS			
7	Christian Norberg-Schulz	IMAGEABILITY	SQUARE & MOVEMENT							Christian Norberg-Schulz	Phenomenology	Built Form/ Sense of Space/ Cultural Landscape
8	Leon Krier	VISUAL EXPERIENCE	URBAN BLOCKS/ STREETS/ SQUARES				Leon Krier	VISUAL EXPERIENCE	URBAN BLOCKS/ STREETS/ SQUARES			
9	Vitor Oliveira	ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM	URBAN BLOCKS/ STREETS/ PLOTS & BUILDINGS									
10	Roger Trancik	INTEGRATED	COMPOSITION/ LINKAGES/ CONTEXT				Roger Trancik	INTEGRATED	COMPOSITION/ LINKAGES/ CONTEXT			
				COMPOSITIONAL THEORIES			EXPLICIT + IMPLICIT THEORIES (in between theories) - Perceptual - Symbolic - Network			GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE THEORIES Advanced urban theories based on changing global perspective, politics and imperatives		
				MORPHOLOGICAL THEORIES Approach: Elements of Urban Form (UF) Urban component: Streets, plots, buildings, blocks								

**Table 2. Methods on the city and its understanding**

No.	Approach/ Methodology		No.	Method/ Urban Component		No.	Theory	
	Author	Methodology		Author	Method/ Component		Author	Theory (Explicit + Implicit + Symbolic + Network)
1	Aldo Rossi	URBAN FORM & ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM	1	Aldo Rossi	HISTORY & MEMORY	1	Aldo Rossi	B
2	Le Corbusier	FUNCTIONALISM	2	Le Corbusier	COMPOSITION	2	Le Corbusier	E
3	Camillo Sitte	IMAGEABILITY & VISUAL EXPERIENCE	3	Camillo Sitte	COMPOSITION	3	Camillo Sitte	I
4	Paul Zucker	URBAN FORM & ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM	4	Paul Zucker	SQUARE	4	Paul Zucker	E
5	Colin Rowe	COMPOSITION	5	Colin Rowe	COMPOSITION	5	Colin Rowe	B
6	Kevin Lynch	IMAGEABILITY & VISUAL EXPERIENCE	6	Kevin Lynch	BLOCK/ STREET/ ELEMENTAL	6	Kevin Lynch	B
7	Christian Norberg-Schulz	IMAGEABILITY & VISUAL EXPERIENCE	7	Christian Norberg-Schulz	SQUARE	7	Christian Norberg-Schulz	I
8	Leon Krier	IMAGEABILITY & VISUAL EXPERIENCE	8	Leon Krier	BLOCK/ STREET/ ELEMENTAL	8	Leon Krier	B
9	Vitor Oliveira	URBAN FORM & ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM	9	Vitor Oliveira	BLOCK/ STREET/ ELEMENTAL	9	Vitor Oliveira	E
10	Roger Trancik	URBAN FORM & ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM	10	Roger Trancik	COMPOSITION	10	Roger Trancik	B
URBAN FORM & ELEMENTS OF URBAN FORM			COMPOSITION and BLOCK/ STREET/ ELEMENTAL			Theory *Explicit: Planning the city through the city *Implicit: Planning the city through the city *Symbolic: Planning the city through the city *Network: Planning the city through the city		

<sup>1</sup> Krier, L. (2011). *The Architecture of Community*. Island

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#### 4. Criteria for Evaluating Sustainability

Various theoreticians have examined urban architecture, offering diverse perspectives on city form. While their conclusions vary, understanding and appreciating their contributions is crucial. Rossi highlighted the dual life of cities, existing both independently and in the individual perceptions of people. Modernism, emerging as a response to earlier styles, emphasized function, clean lines, and space utilization. It marked a shift in architectural language, embracing repetition and nature awareness.

This phenomenon was demonstrated within an order and semiotics that can be clearly defined and recognized at first sight of a building. Modernism acted as a juncture in architectural discussions, bridging theories before and after its era. Charles Jencks, in "The Language of Post-modern Architecture," likened architecture to language, and semiotics, conveying meanings, values, and cultural references in the built environment [7]. Urban forms, streets, and squares communicate, eliciting behavioral responses influenced by various factors. The importance of architecture lies in its ability to adapt, communicate, and facilitate high-level expertise, contributing to the dynamic development of the built environment. In this complex interplay of theories and styles, architecture serves as a language that not only modernizes but also seamlessly accommodates evolving conditions, demands, and temporal changes. As words and symbols convey meaning in language, architectural forms, styles, and motifs give meanings in the built environment. Then, how it is perceived and manifested is a behavioral response of individuals or collective dependent on many factors, as shown in figure 1, a) and b)



**Fig. 1. The architecture of Sydney Opera House, interpretation and understanding the architecture.**  
Source: "The Language of Post-Modern Architecture" by Charles Jencks)

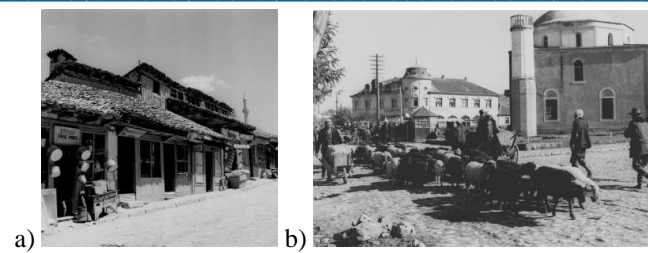
### Historical Significance and Integration

The historical and cultural dimensions within architecture enhance the value of structures and monuments. Unlike modernism, which tends to globalize simplistic forms dominated by functionalism, post-modernism prioritizes the contextualization of architectural expression. Cities encapsulate layers of history and collective memory, molding interpretations of urban elements. Architecture, functioning as a continual means of communication, significantly shapes people's perceptions and their constructed reality. Some structures may escape notice, while others actively engage through signals and semiotics, akin to a linguistic form. As highlighted by Jencks (1977), architecture operates with words, metaphors, syntax, and semiotics, grounding itself historically and socially to convey nuanced messages.

In contrast, Cerda, an influential figure in urban planning, approached the practical problem through a theoretical lens. He emphasized realism and economic viability in urban solutions, rejecting negative approaches [8]. Cerda viewed the city as a network of interconnected elements, inscribing streets into urbanization and cities into a broader global context. His pragmatic theory underscores the inseparability of economic and theoretical aspects. He tackled problems with an affirmative approach, limiting disparities in housing, politics, social life, and streets.

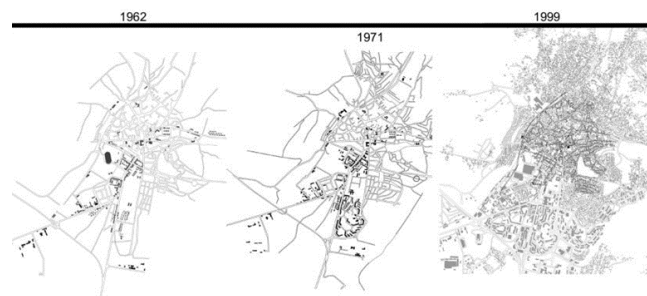
Analyzing the Prishtina case exposes a city characterized by numerous historical and contextual overlaps spanning various scales and eras. The disjunction in time and the challenge of reconciling diverse and rapidly changing historical architectural periods lead to a layered environment that lacks cohesive fusion, with discernible distinctions in historical dilations and other influencing factors.





**Fig. 2. The city of Prishtina during 1950-1960, an artisan town a) and b).**

Considering the old Prishtina 1945-1960, a commercial artisan town developed towards the road from which business was developed with small shops, residential houses, and religious buildings. To continue with the new district on the edge of this development, almost completely destroying this city. From here, 1960-1980, the golden years when many modernist, post-modernist, and metabolists objects were built, with the political context of the former Yugoslav Federation and symbols put on the forms of the buildings, their views, and communicated contextual-political symbols.



**Fig. 3. Prishtina from 1962 until 1999 (Source: author)**

### Cultural Representation and Identity

Theorists, architects, and critics extensively analyze the representation of cultural identity through architecture, monuments, and collective memory. According to Rossi (1978), monuments have dual lives—designed by architects and perceived by the masses. Discussing architectural identity involves exploring universal elements like geometric identity, materialization, form, plan, and appearance, devoid of national, historical, or political connotations. Architecture, as an international language, communicates through elements, symbols, and hybrid languages, with perceptions influenced by contextual factors like location, history, and collective memory. The expressive architectural language, leaning towards a global perspective, intertwines with historical symbols, forming a multilayered language reflecting cultural values and societal messages. This inclusive approach, exemplified by symbols like unity and brotherhood, contributes to a persuasive architecture that aligns with context. Architecture, akin to language, offers multiple interpretations, with its identity stripped in the absence of historical context. It assumes a universal geometric identity, interpreted through elements like rhythm, light shadow, symmetry, and size. The scheme can be read from different perspectives—one tied to context and the other to universal architectural identity. This potential for varied interpretations suggests polysemy, emphasizing each monument's dual existence: one conceived by the architect and the other shaped by people's perceptions in reality.

This depends on the concept of "genius loci," individual and collective memory, context, and behavioral response [9]. Without these elements, a monument can be perceived entirely differently. It is perceived as a new formal or informal collective rule based on the basic architectural and visual information that this monument manifests.

## Symbolic Meaning and Interpretation

The text explores the intricate web of meanings embedded in cultural and heritage monuments within a city or country. It delves into the symbolic importance of these structures, emphasizing the fusion of myth, oral history, political interpretations, and collective memory. The visual language and metaphorical expressions in monument design serve as historical manifestations, reflecting urban and historical junctures along with social stratifications.

Drawing an analogy with language, syntax, and meanings, the text highlights how monuments act as mediators for understanding the complex realities they represent. It introduces the concept of naturalized meanings, a network of symbolisms developed over time through myth, history, and societal acceptance. The analysis focuses on the historical-political period of modernism and postmodernism in Kosovo, particularly examining buildings like the former Boro and Ramizi, the Rilindja Printing Press, the Grand Hotel, the National Library, and others. Stripping away contextual elements reveals the universal aesthetic principles of modernist buildings, while postmodernist structures incorporate local contextual elements and additional signage.

The discourse delves further into the realm of formal urban sustainability, emphasizing the lasting impact of monuments and urban artifacts even when divorced from their original context. Perception emerges as the variable undergoing change, while the enduring aura and symbolism of these structures persist. The narrative concludes with a commitment to unveil a comprehensive scheme and elucidation of the urban morpheme derived from a meticulous analysis of Tirana. Figure 4 illustrates the urban morpheme, encapsulating plot configuration, mixed-built typology, and terrain characteristics, positing it as the quintessence of form sustainability. This pragmatic approach, conceptualizing architecture as a language, aspires to enhance comprehension, ultimately contributing to the realization of sustainable urban environments.

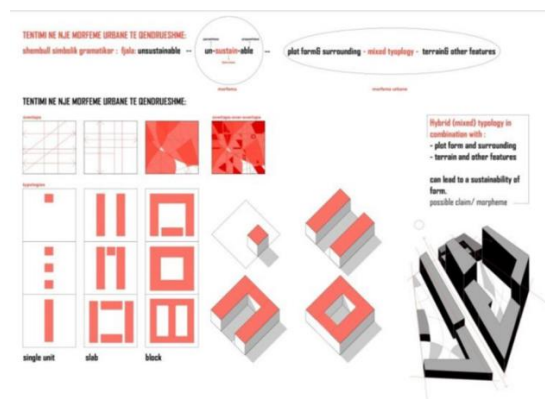


Fig. 4. Morpheme illustrated in diagrams (Source: Rinë Zogiani)

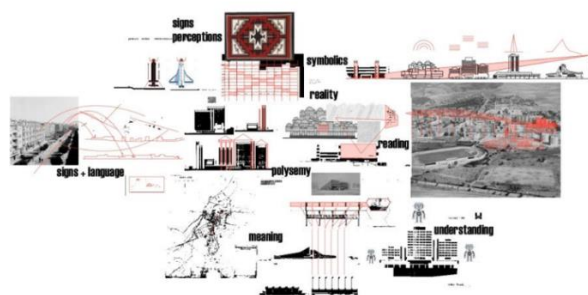


Fig. 5. Buildings from modernism and post-modernism juncture in Kosovo and polysemy. (Source: Rinë Zogiani)



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## Synthesis and Reflection

The exploration of urban form and its theoretical analysis is structured around three key pillars, simplifying the comprehension of city readings. This chapter dissects elements, methodologies, and methods essential for grasping the dynamics of urban elements in a built environment. It underscores the significance of understanding how urban elements function, emphasizing the necessity of reading the city. A fundamental grasp of theoretical problems establishes a foundation for in-depth analysis of urban artifacts, particularly monuments, and their role in ensuring the sustainability of urban form within the city.

The recurring use of geological and biological metaphors in contemporary urban theory reveals an underlying fear of inadequacy in replicating the 'second nature' quality found in traditional cities. Acknowledging an Arcadian reverie won't prevent future environmental disasters, the text advocates taking responsibility for Earth's transformation, necessitating a constant reconsideration of design behaviors. Contrary to nature's inexplicability, the city, with its multiple, fallacious, and occasional beauties, offers comfort in its imperfection and shields against nature's cruelty and moral oppression.

Drawing an analogy with linguistics, the text proposes understanding sustainable urban elements through the lens of architecture as an expressive language. This approach underscores the importance of monuments across various temporal, historical, and contextual sections. The analysis, employing architectural linguistics, semiotics, symbology, metaphor, and polysemy, breaks down and scrutinizes these concepts, revealing the nuanced factors that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of monuments' roles.

The layering of meanings on what monuments transmit, expressed as average, incomplete, and complete meta-meanings, functions as energy transmitted in the built environment, fostering a connection with people and the spirit of the place. This layered approach showcases that the quantity and quality of meanings contribute to sustainable communication, portraying monuments as dynamic and progressive elements in the urban form and city. Ultimately, the text reflects on monuments' overarching implications and contributions to urban form, cultural identity, social dynamics, and the built environment.

## 5. Conclusion

The cultural dynamics, identity, and communicative strategies in Prishtina's built environment should be evaluated based on theoretical and practical principles as follows:

- 1) Various urban theoreticians, including Aldo Rossi and proponents of Modernism like Charles Jencks, offer diverse perspectives on architecture and city form, emphasizing the dual life of cities and the communicative role of urban elements.
- 2) Modernism acts as a juncture, transforming architectural language and serving as a bridge between theories before and after its era, contributing to the dynamic development of the built environment, collectives become pivotal, influenced by a myriad of factors.
- 3) Historical significance and cultural integration add value to architecture, with post-modernism emphasizing contextual expression over modernism's globalized functionalism.
- 4) Cerda's pragmatic urban planning approach intertwines theory and economics, recognizing the interconnected nature of city elements and advocating for affirmative solutions while addressing disparities in various aspects.
- 5) Architecture, functioning as a universal language, communicates through geometric identity, symbols, and hybrid languages, transcending strict definitions. The perception of a building or monument is intricately tied to its contextual background, historical references, and societal messages, creating a multilayered language reflecting cultural values.
- 6) Monuments possess dual lives—conceived by architects with a specific meaning and perceived by the masses based on individual and collective memory, context, and behavioral responses. The genius loci, or spirit of the place, plays a crucial role in shaping the interpretation and identity of a monument.
- 7) Urban form analysis centers on three pillars, simplifying city comprehension by dissecting essential elements, methodologies, and methods.

- 8) The text advocates taking responsibility for Earth's transformation, necessitating constant reconsideration of design behaviors, emphasizing the city's comforting imperfection.
- 9) Understanding sustainable urban elements through architectural language, employing linguistics, semiotics, and symbology, reveals nuanced factors in monuments' roles.
- 10) Layered meanings in monuments act as energy in the built environment, connecting with people and the spirit of the place, contributing to dynamic urban progress.

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