"CITIZENSHIP AS AN INPUT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM"

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Abstract: In Sustainable Architecture, Urbanism, and Construction, the investigations to define economic and environmental criteria to evaluate the sustainability of products and process, are numerous, and the social criteria studies are almost forget. To achieve the challenge "Cities for all" and "Sustainable communities", we have to analyse the ways of living and the needs of each social group, from children and their caretaker, aged people, handicapped, immigrants, tourists…. Each of them with different needs but related.In this document we analyse the different social groups, their activities developed in the city and the negative impacts of the urban environment and the influence in the quality of live, to define an assessment methodology of the sustainability in Architecture and Urbanism from social criteria.

1   INTRODUCTION

The present communication to the conference Sustainable Building 04, whose main objective is to elaborate the Mediterranean Report of Construction and Sustainable Construction, tries to contribute to the exposition of subjects that still are to solve with respect to the concept and the implementation of the sustainable construction and to contribute with ideas and questions to complete the set of problems and barriers to save on regional, European and also international scale.

In this document we made an analysis of the social criteria with which to evaluate the sustainability of the performances in Architecture and Construction, by means of a first approach to the study of the social groups that compose the citizenship, of the activities that they develop within the urban surroundings, and the negative impacts that this one produces in the quality of life, to propose ideas to consider in the

elaboration of a methodology in the assessment of sustainability in Architecture, Construction and Urbanism.

2   PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

The concept Sustainable Development includes a series of aspects that is precise to isolate to give the most precise definition.

By a side, the term development defines the high-priority objective for any society of the world that wants to belong to the called "first world". Development is growth, but habitually focused in the economic plane, which is based on the technological and scientific level of a country, on the level of the imports and exports, of the volume of investments.

This development or growth of a society, is intimately joined to the quality of life, to the improvement of the well-being of the individuals that compose it, to have satisfied the most basic necessities to eat, to dress, or to accede to worthy houses, but in addition to have tools that allow them to enjoy professional activities, of leisure, cultural.

But a high percentage of the activities that the individuals make in the present society produces very negative impacts on the environment, so that, in the last years and as a result of the heating of the planet, scientists, politicians and nongovernmental associations carry out informative campaigns and promote actions like the care of the environment, the optimal use of the resources and the efficient use of the energy.

Thus, the more spread definition of Sustainable Development is: that, that satisfies the necessities of the present without taking out the capacity of the future generations to reach their own ones. It is the Balance between growth and social welfare with the necessity to preserve the environmental resources for the future generations.

The public authorities, the economic agents, and the users, have to participate in joint form in the elaboration of the legislative marks to define and to channel the professional activities, with the intention of fulfilling the European directors and that the resulting products will be, on the basis of environmental, economic and social criteria, SUSTAINABLE.

But, still today, the sustainability that is gotten up to the political agendas approaches theoretical and partial questions (energy, remainders, environment...) that normally generates disperses and unconnected norms. It is precise to elaborate integrated legislative marks that relate the economic and environmental questions with the social ones, and that in addition, contemplate the citizen participation.

It is also precise, so that this work is carried out of effective form, that the professionals became conscious and form themselves to assume the responsibility to channel the change. It is precise to equip to them with sufficient tools so that the effort of formation and recycling facilitates them the inclusion in its professional practice of the new models and orient the different participant agents.

The elaboration of educative campaigns and information will play a fundamental role in this panorama, from the school to the University, in neighbours communities and great large cities, from the city councils to the family surroundings.

3   SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

In Architecture, the investigations made to define the economic and environmental criteria with which to evaluate the sustainability of processes and products, are numerous, unlike the social ones, that almost exclusively are limited the aspects related to the inner comfort of the buildings.

And it is, that the case of the Architecture is complex: by its diversity, by its influence in the quality in life of the people, by the impacts that as much the construction as the use of a building produces in its surroundings, by the incidence that the sector of the construction has on the economy of the countries.

Margarita de Luxan in her "Eco-Logically Conscious Architecture" paper presented to the Arca Forum (Architecture and quality of life), defines the Architecture like the task of humanizing the surroundings, that is to say, to qualify it for the human activity taking advantage of the capacities of the surroundings.

In this definition two fundamental parameters are defined: surroundings and society, that show the difficulty that exists to structure methods of evaluation of the sustainability in the field of the architecture.

Each place, each city, presents very different variables that makes it individual: climate, geography, available materials, therefore the analysis of the integrated performances will be specific in each case, in each place. The theoretical optimal models are not valid anywhere in the world, will have to be adapted to the different conditions of each place, to the history and tradition of the societies, to the ways to inhabit and customs of the inhabitants.

In the Mediterranean countries, the income of the building and city models from the North of Europe, has produce a change in the persons way of living. The traditional courtyard housing, the open and kind squares, the fresh and narrow streets, have been substituted by high buildings, hard concrete urban places and wide avenues. The protection against the environment of the traditional facades has been turned to thin walls and transparent surfaces. The texture of brick, stone or wood is been replaced with metal, plastic and glass.

The accelerated population increase that has taken place in XXth century, as a result of the migrations of people from the country to the city, or the immigration of foreigners which they flee from dramatic situations in their countries, has been one of the great factors that has influenced in the uncontrolled growth of the cities, generating a very heterogeneous population with very differentiated social characteristics, with diverse traditions and ways of life.

The present situation of our cities is complex, the population increase has produced the space and social overflow of the city deriving in the excessive occupation of the periphery, with disordered and amazing models in which the existing industrial

zones are mixed with residential districts, commercial buildings with agricultural production lands, generating problems of all type: increase of the contamination of the air, luminance, acoustics contamination , the deficiency of open and green spaces, the defective distribution of the official buildings, the increase of the price of the ground and the house, the appearance of marginal districts, the citizen insecurity...... So that the immediate consequence of this situation is the constant appearance as much of lack of integration and social cohesion like of diseases of Psychological type like Stress and the Anxiety.

To humanize the surroundings is to generate the conditions that improve the psycho-social well-being of the population, as a result of the interrelation of physical, social and psychological factors.

The Investigations in the field of the Architecture that try to develop models of Sustainable buildings and cities, have to consider that not only the bioclimate or environmental data has to be considered but that it is precise, along with professional of other disciplines,

 to analyse many social parameters to reach the objective to create surroundings to the citizenship which they improve his quality of life, to reduce the impacts that in the Health and the development of its social, cultural and professional activities the urban environment generates.

4   POPULATION GROUPS AND TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS

There is a common objective in all Architectural practice, to try to reach the sustainability, to produce surroundings and buildings that give answer to the necessities of the society and that contribute to the improvement of the life quality of the people. For it, it is precise to make a previous analysis of the types of population that at the moment compose the citizenship, anticipating the future appearance of new individuals and creating flexible structures and models able to be adapted to the foreseeable variations of the conditions with which they were created.

Integral performances that reach the disappearance of guetos and marginal places and that try integration, participation, and the coexistence in harmony. The society of the future will be composed by the descendants of the social groups that at the moment coexist in the world, and it will be characterized by the diversity, the simultaneous coexistence of very different races and cultures, where the integration of the different social groups takes place in a natural way, that it has fitted for a great variety of individuals, from the old people, the children and their caretakers, the people with incapacities, immigrants, tourists..... each one with different but complementary necessities.

Integration is really defined as interactive social and cultural process based on the equality, the interchange, the coexistence conserving each individual its identity and originality, supposes to recognize, to respect and to give capacity to the values of each group thus to enrich the social patrimony of the countries and to generate the social cohesion and harmonic intercultural coexistence. In a first approach to the analysis of the citizenship we could establish two clearly different groups :

1) Original citizens, those that comprise of the population from their birth or by a sufficiently extensive period as to participate in active form in social, cultural and political questions, which in immigration policy is defined as receiving society.

2) Immigrants, with cultures and forms of life that can be resembled those of the receiving society or to be totally different.

In some societies this differentiation is less clear than in others, the dividing line as soon as it exists is almost erased, is the case of border cities where the mixture of cultures has been from distant times and therefore a less traumatic constant, case of Ceuta or Melilla in Spain. In them there are enough infrastructures and conditions for the coexistence of different cultures.

In others, the attitude of the receiving society is positive because the arrival of immigrants supposes a great support for its economic situation, is the case of societies that by their new social-economic characteristics, by the blossoming of an economic sector need the abundant incorporation of manual labor and have to adapt of accelerated form their structures, as it is the case of the Province of Almeria with an increasing agrarian structure in the last years.

Nevertheless it happens in a great number of societies that the incorporation of new cultures is conflicting, not only because the attitude of the receiving society is negative, but because conditions nor structures are sufficient to welcome new ways of life, social traditions, cultural, religious, causing unemployment problems and therefore the increase of the criminality and the citizen insecurity.

They are precise political measures that guarantee the rights and liberties of all the people and that promote the mutual knowledge of the different social groups on the basis of favouring the enrichment and the tolerance. But in addition, the urban and housing models have to be conceived from the knowledge of the new cultures that arrive at our cities, so that they are able to be adapted to the new users and that in addition allow the simultaneous use by the different individuals that compose the citizenship.

On the other hand, in any of the two previously defined groups, people of different ages coexist: children, adolescents, adults, and greater, and within each one of them, in a certain percentage, different in each society, have some physical or psychic incapacity that can be temporary or permanent. All the individuals of the society, are or not immigrants, young or greater, have at some moment of the life some incapacity, that it prevents to develop his daily workings activities in normal conditions: breakage of some member, transitory mental disease like the depression, pregnancy, etc.

5   CONCLUSIONS

Sustainability in Architecture is the minimization of the Environmental, Economic and Social negative Impacts generated by the cities and buildings in its life cycle.

The systematics and development of the methods of evaluation of the sustainability

in Architecture that are being applied are very different in the different countries from the European Union, since evidently, the environmental behavior of any city or building will depend on the characteristics of the social, economic and cultural context of the country or the region where it is located, and of its climatic conditions.

If we apply social criteria to evaluate the sustainability in Architecture, would have to make an analysis of the influence that it has in the ways and the quality of life of people. The cities and buildings have to guarantee that they satisfy minimum conditions of accessibility, security, or healthy, that make available spaces to the citizen that generate cultural diversity, the integration of the different social groups, that the civil buildings are distributed in a right way to solve mobility problems, that the Nature reaches the cities, where the impacts that in the Health and the development of its social, cultural and professional activities are reduced.

In order to reach the sustainable challenges of "cities for all" and "sustainable communities" it is precise to make an exhaustive analysis of the ways of life and necessities of each type of social group that composes the citizenship.

For it, ite is precise that the professionals of the Architecture joint with professionals of diverse disciplines, forming equips that starting off of the exhibition of the diverse characteristics of the individuals, and raising their necessities, allows to design the surroundings in which their daily activities develop without obstacles nor barriers and to promote integration and social cohesion, avoiding the appearance of guetos and marginal zones.

The elaboration of educative campaigns and information will play a fundamental role in this panorama.