Editorial

Urban Generation as a Theory for Urban Intergeneration

In urban literature and restoration, a variety of interventions such as renovation, rehabilitation, revitalization, and re-generation are used to address the issue of dysfunctional tissues. The type of intervention is affected by the temporal and spatial features of the context. Apart from that, various constituent layers of the context determine social, economic, and physical characteristics. Regardless of the nature and complexity of these concepts, two fundamental issues need to be taken into consideration: 1) to be theory-based and 2) to be context-oriented. Many concerned people acknowledge that one of the reasons for the failure of urban development plans and programs is the lack of a written theory. A theory primarily serves as a structured framework to shed light on phenomena by describing the relationship between its various constituent elements and provides a foundation for critical thought. Also, the grounded theory serves as a foundation for practical approaches and prepares a better understanding of the problem with regard to the context in the first stage and offers a solution in the next steps. With such a background and focusing on the concept of urban regeneration as a more recent and all-inclusive approach, we can expect a clearer and more tangible practical result. To do so, we need to adapt the approach to its biological equivalent based on "transformation-permanence" and use it as a theory. In intergenerational biological reproduction, the focus is on how the traits of a living organism are transformed through heredity or genetics, and in other words, what changes and what remains the same. In such a view, offspring, as the product of a process, inherit traits in the form of genetic characteristics from their environment and parents. Such characteristics can manifest in physiological and behavioral aspects. As comparing the city and the living creature can be sometimes misleading, it is necessary to take into account the essential differences between the two. We can expect that such a differentiation will be applied in urban regeneration as well. Among other things, this inheritance is not only limited to the form but will be affected by the geographical, social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Understanding the similarities and discrepancies between generations has encountered limits and gaps, but it is always possible to confirm the hereditary relationship definitively through scientific means. So far, such hereditary characteristics have been transferred in the form of traits through genes from the early generations to the next generations and evolved under the influence of the environment. These features can be obvious and impressive in some aspects and internal and invisible in some aspects. The important point highlighted by this theory is that after the intervention and regeneration, the new context cannot completely disassociate from the previous generation(s) and its geographical, cultural, and social background.

Mahmoud Ghalehnoee
Professor, Isfahan Art University
m.ghalehnoee@aui.ac.ir

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