# FREEDOM AND CONTROL IN CONTEMPORARY CITY PLANNING
Needs of Urban Planning

Modern city is the place of play and realization of individual actions that overwhelm the interest of group (community). There are endless possibilities but they are in the stream defined by needs of necessity. Capitalism city isn't the multi level structure as it seems, in fact it creates an offer-supply way of life where everything is determined in a 0-1 mode. Such a structure deletes plenty of parameters that respect other social and spatial terms, it is directed by *shopping*, no one cares who is the User, everybody is one product of the homogenous organization, the product without identity. Polarization of choice parameters doesn't allow wide-ranging progress. The city is possessed by everybody but no one owns it.

City of Visitors / City of Inhabitants
The city is used by inhabitants and visitors. There are two categories of visitors. People that join the local community for a short period of time: they are travelers (stations) staying for an hour or a few days. They are welcomed because they live up economy and landscape of the city. The second category are people who exist in the city by their money – instead of living in the city physically, joining the community they use the city with creating its life, no giving their selves. Cities compete with each other in search of new developments losing their core. Such strategy brings one solution which is an **instant city**.

Proportions of visitors' participation decide who owns the city. Inhabitants (also visitors staying for a long time) are rightful subjects of the city if they are allowed to make direct decisions on its structure, which created by many active participants of the community is a democratic one. Small elements build a **flexible organization**, easily adoptable to local and external changes [fig.1].
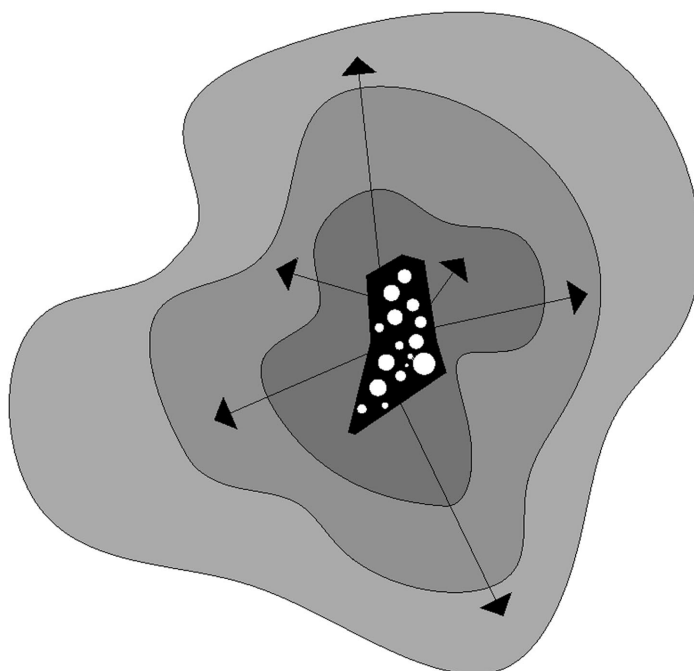
Individual / Group

Modern city may be described as a **city of individual forces**. The society of city is a heterogeneous group, atomized in realization of its needs and rising mobility. On the other side, there still exist a need of center, joining the common. Currently it is realized in internal activity, housed in big objects creating artificial short-time community. The society is inert. We live in the loop: strengthening of integration – growth of safety – living up individuality – cease of safety – disintegration. The activity and urbanism are the results. Urbanism is always one step behind.

Creating cities is a complex venture and needs simultaneous cooperation of all actors. Potential of progress means gathering together all the tasks in one imperative target that characterizes **the society of cooperation** [fig.2]. The way of cooperation is embodied in organization of society, its economics and space.
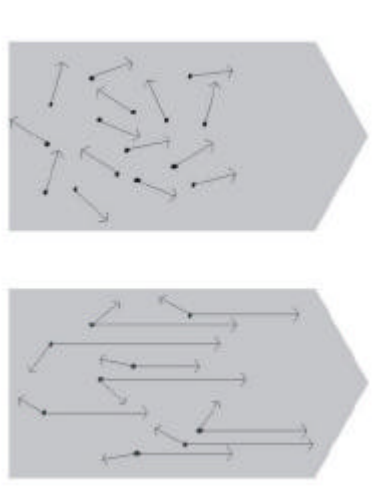
Freedom / Control

Correct relationship amongst all elements in the game of different forces creating the city need a steering code describing the function mode. The success depends on the way the code affects simple economic relationships.

For individual activities the state of maximum freedom seems desirable. In realization of shared targets there appears the need to finding a compromise between what is under and out of control. Both parameters depend on many layers of the act of creating the city / structure. The openness the structure's ability to change, control makes it clear.

Regulation of the structure of arrangement creates clear system of references for perceiving urban space of geometric clarity and information of functions. Essential **elements of representation** determine the identity of society and recognition of the arrangement from outside.

Identity / Community

Progress of the city cannot be considered flatly. Most elements of urban life cannot be planned because a city does not make an object produced for market but an environment defined by interactions of many of actions.

Identity of space in modern city is purely symbolic because of globalization. Floating border between public and private brings unexpected solutions. We need a pro-society approach. Strategic role of **culture** and its structure becomes more and more important. Strategy and cultural policies must answer plenty of changes in relations between culture and other social and economic components. Cultural policies depend on wide definition of culture, meaning not only arts but all the forms of everyday life. Such a culture has its place in the center of social policy and means more than recreation and entertainment.

The Beginning Point

My research concerns areas situated in big city centers (or next to city center). These areas present reasonable potential for development and for a whole city as well. I analyzed different expectations for redevelopment that were formulated for 3 big areas situated in: Berlin Mitte in Berlin, North Osaka Station in Osaka and Marley in Lousanne. They are going far beyond building of new city structure and encompass issues of changes in the structure of the population, industrial trends and changes in the structure of industry, creation of quality housing conditions and social conditions suitable for a multicultural society that allows a wide range of choices.

These targets require building a long-term strategy of actions going for beyond the considered area and relating to many different issues. In the proposed model to approach such area as an integral part of the city, a one of its active elements. In my understanding, a good functioning of such a big element of the city (disregarding its program), cannot be reached in an 'instant project'. The model will be a flexible solution, which would be able to corporate different programs, according to its changing needs and possibilities.

Organisation Model

Considering different organization models and regarding complexity of the studied investment, we chose the organization of **cluster**. Cluster is a gathering of mutually related companies, specialized services and merchandise goods suppliers, which function in similar economy fields. This idea bases on a clash of two elements: cooperation and competition. Companies cooperate with scientific and research entities in their sector, have common projects in frames of cooperation. At the same time they compete for clients. It is this competition that allows to companies gathered in the frames of cluster have results above the average, whereas cooperation stimulates their technological development and new products implementation. The role of regions authorities is to help to create the best conditions possible for working in them. An excellent example of cluster could be Medicon Valley in the region of Kopehagen and Skåne where operating in the field of medical technologies tied together subjects of science, industry and social infrastructure on different levels. .

This kind of organization is extremely beneficial for subjects as well as the area. By attracting companies and scientific institutions the area could make an origin of the cluster placed in the whole Kansai region. We are convinced, that central localization in he city would bring additional benefits on the social and spatial level. The city cluster is a chance for creating the city, and at the same time it secures good living conditions in the frames of local society.

Structure

The task aims to organize a dynamic cooperation of many elements in the city area, and triggering a chain reaction of actions, which have never happened before, yet simultaneously could produce an effect on themselves. Starting from a horizontal concentration, we want to achieve a flexible structure which fulfills the accepted development model. With this end in view, I propose an organization model basing on juxtaposition of '**mass weight**' and '**point**'. Mutual influence of these two factors make the base to build local links which relate to the whole area, in social, as well as functional and spatial relations [fig.3]. 'Mass' is a principal filling of the net. It is the place of program's localization. It decides about the ground's/area's potential. By 'mass' I understand what is liberated, what gives opportunities, what executes main targets of the development. In it a place where many threads meet, where reciprocal relations and cooperation work [fig.4]. It characterizes with the following features:
- homogenous structure
- flexible shaping of filling and cubes net
- estates/properties of similar size and regular shape
- division enabling joining and zoning
- human size structure
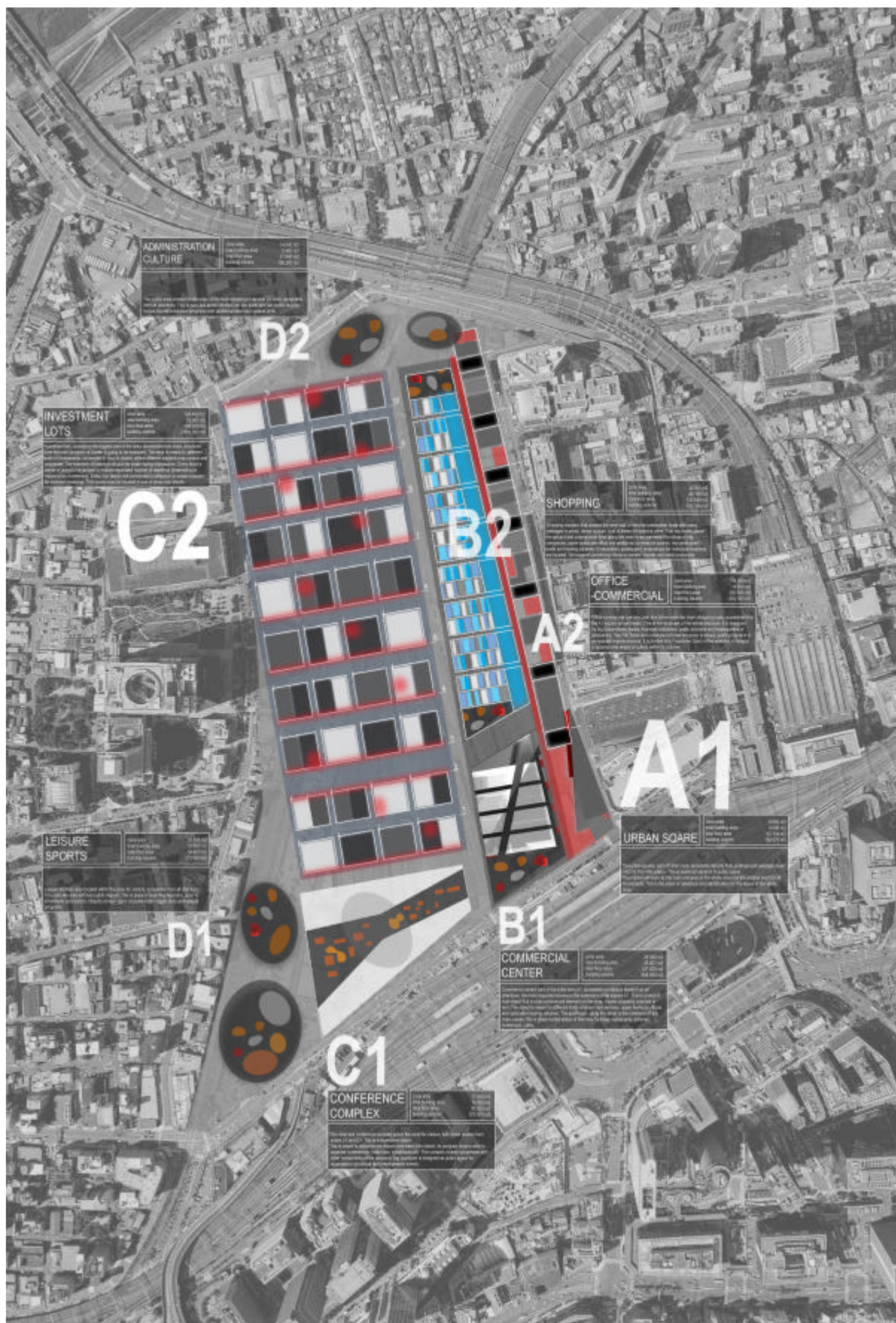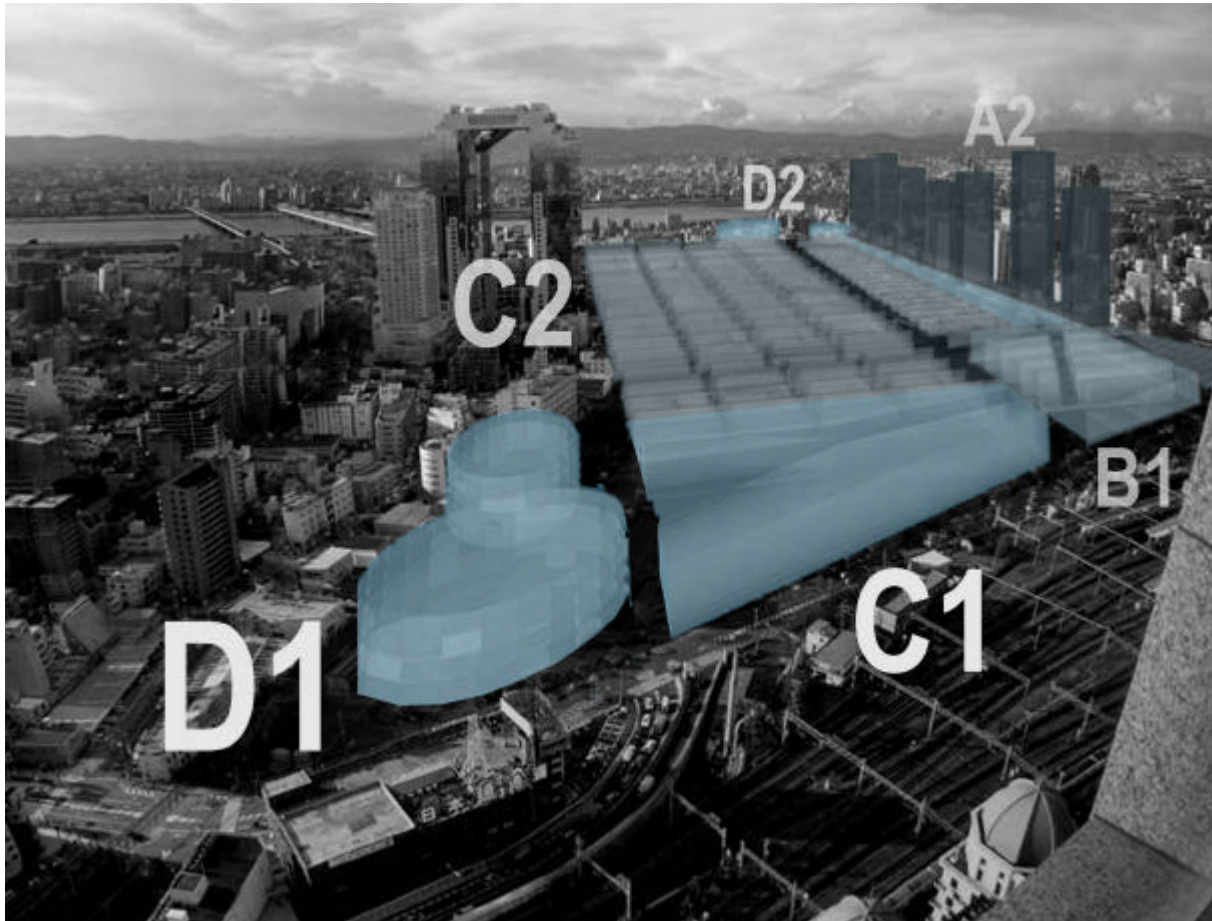
The 'points' are steering elements of the system, and points, where the program is completed and enriched. They are buildings/objects of public character with is urban quality rise. We want it to become a modern agora, a legible point of reference, a symbol in consciousness, building cohesion of other elements. These points are to secure execution of the following tasks:
-    making the entrance easier (ground and investment), opening paths to individual spatially functional elements (like icons on the desktop)
-    actions organization, steering the idea of city's transformation, joining, swapping, depending on needs the inspiring programs which enable control in a free range, thanks to concentration of offers quality
-    it is conductive to exchange, discussion (talk), ideas, creating and organizing cooperation (conference, exhibitions, competition, symposium, workshop, festival, hotel, sauna, laboratory...) promotion and information

'Mass-point' system transfers to clash of freedom and control. It ensures balance between different internal and external factors, on which the whole functional and spatial organization of the system is based.

NEEDS
Space is something more than only a physical or ecological quality, than a frame or a stage for social life. It is a social and cultural quality, which makes an item for cognition, assessment, experiencing, shaping and using by individuals and groups of people. Physical space is able to fulfill human needs, it becomes a quality, meaning and a symbol.

For the established organization there is the necessity of constant re-negotiation of tasks for the developing city, which have to be directed in development of steady mechanisms. We cannot solve the problem that is going to benefit it without starting a **discussion** concerning local community. A new relationship between local administration, civil community and citizens is necessity; it also makes a part of a cult policy. The essence of practicing politics is partnership between the social and privet sector with all participants of all fields and all representatives of multi cultural urban reality. In contemporary city discussion should be a constant process that enables renegotiation of building conditions of city due to new needs.

The notation of project should try to code a multiplicity of opportunities, unpredictable and accidental elements. They will eventually state about the city's uniqueness, its success and fulfillment of its inhabitants.

Method / Form of Notation / Notation Mode

In a situation, when the development process is unpredictable, it does not seem legitimate to draw the project up to the last detail. Therefore, we could interpret the task as provisional (undefined) combination of desired results. We could also assume, that a plan (together with all suggested solutions), even after realization will undergo constant changes, just like expectations.

Due to constant transformations there is no need to care about creating a ready urban and architectonic solution, but rather about proposing a method to agree architectonic accuracy with planistic in determination. I understand this action (project) as a **strategy**, which means that we intend to get possibly the most benefits from effective and tensed localization, of the given combination of functions in such a way to maintain the steady aesthetic expression. In frames of the established organization, the planistic indetermination allows every or almost every change, transformation or change, without upsetting the initial state.

Steering the development we secure by a regulation system of legally – economic character, referring to functional issues of space and society. A concept should define first of all the most important spatial relationships in the form of frames, here perceived as nets of certain fixed elements. They will crystallize the organization and information structure (as well as the compositional one). The final record should also take into consideration different conditions resulting from wide discussion and consultation [fig.5].

| | public spaces |
	glass-roofed spaces
	special objects
(3)+n	height - number of levels
	front/ pedestrian access
············	trees
⬇	delivery/car access
	configurations of lots
	parking
	escalators and lifts

Model/Project
For presentation of mentioned aspects in a model I choose an example of competition project for the area next to Northern Osaka Station in Osaka. This is an proposition of notation of flexible city structure which is design in a way that all elements have the same rights.

Division and Use of the Site
Entire site is divided into 4 major zones that will accommodate various programs. Functioning of all zones is directly interrelated. Creation of city life on numerous levels is significant feature of our project. It is assumed that major program of each zone will be mixed with other types of program. However, housing is to be implemented in all zones and culture buildings are to be located in many spots throughout the entire site.

According to the rule of many of subjects divisions in housing areas are to happen on medium and small scale. Relevant regulations are to allow for merging of particular sites and changing building structure due to economic game. Each zone has own system of regulations that follows its destination (function) and character [fig.6].
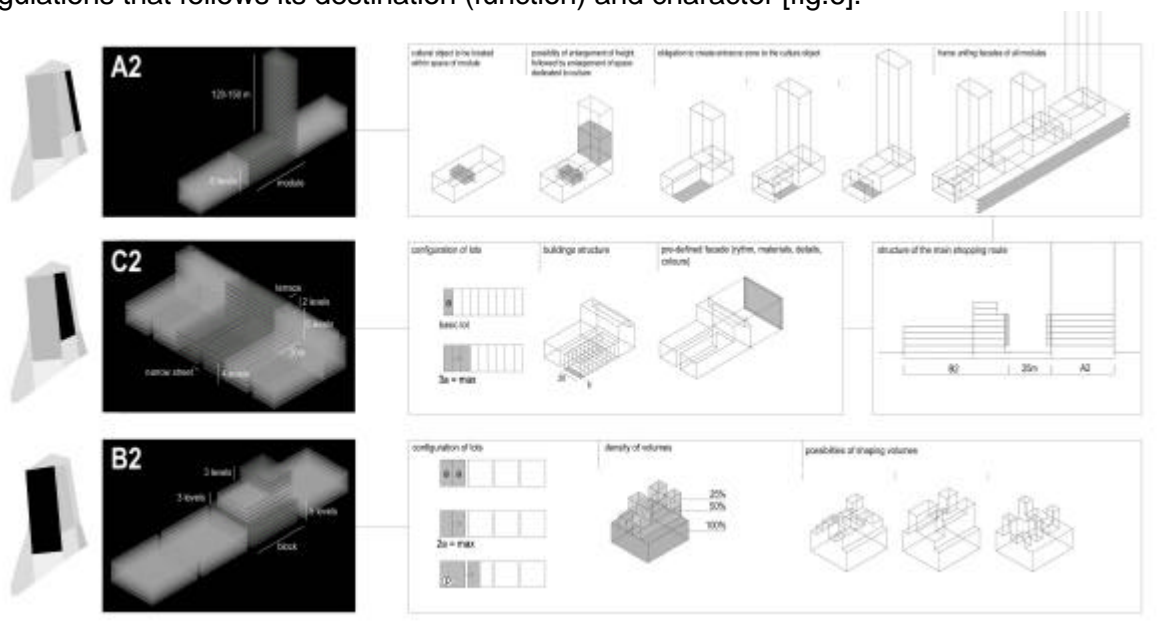
Selection of developers should take place within the confines of discussion. There will be requirements impose on developers to build given number of flats (depending on character of function). The group of 4 blocks will be tied by the requirement of building common (meeting) space area, which could be organized within the space of one block.

Public Space
Creation of public space that can have a powerful impact on people is another important feature of our project. This space is to be accumulated in two intermingled structures that divide the city into subcity of inhabitants and subcity of visitors. Both structures start on the city square, from here they unfold towards West (inhabitants) and North (visitors). Public space designed in these areas is common for all public service buildings and can be considered a big focal area. Investment zones (cluster) are separated from public zones by major streets and therefore they are independent and easily accessible at the same time. The divisions will create many relationships that will not necessarily mean a direct and physical connection. Buffer areas that will allow for a spontaneous development of space are to be located near investment zones. Streets that will connect investment zones are to be

treated as a space public in its character (entrance area) and therefore to be urbanistically predetermined.

Space and Urban Landscape

The structure of the entire space is the outcome of the designed divisions of the site. Following the main features the project tends to conceive spaces that are human in their perception. In majority of the site new buildings are to have similar height and not to exceed 8 floors. Skyscrapers) are only to be located along the east border of the site. The rhythm of these high-rise will signal the main shopping route and at the same time will be important for urban identity of the whole part of Osaka. In specific zones various building heights are to be specifically regulated.

The structure of the project is to determine easily defined urban tissue that will fit into landscape of the city – through partitions, scale and dimensions. In the whole scheme zones and elements that will be representational for the entire new portion of Osaka are to be controlled by detailed regulations. Buildings to be located on the perimeter of the site will require specific design solutions and should be results of architectural competitions.

Greenery will be of paramount importance in the designed spaces. It is to fill in public spaces. Some zones will have character of parks with special areas designated for greenery.

Special Objects

In the designed urban tissue objects called special are very important. These objects, according to the zone they are located in, will have various programs. They will be a space of social activity for both local areas and the whole site. Because of overall project idea the objects located in chosen zones are the most significant. In each of these zones different ways of the special objects creation are assumed. However, they are to be designed and erected through common effort of all subjects of the zone. High level of autonomy of decision making is assumed for all local communities that will be responsible for all issues concerning themselves. Decisions regarding other subjects in commercial zones will be made by both representatives of all communities and business owners.

Conclusions

The paper considers relations between 2 parameters: flexibility from one side and clarity from another. The research is going rather in the direction of showing possibilities for shaping / to shape such flexible urban structure that is opened for differentiated program (function) and there is a kind of control defined by different methods of regulation (form).

The regulation - understood here as a design scenario (strategy) - is the way of defining / writing (regulating) conditions of development for realization of social life of inhabitants (rules of the game). Therefore, there is no contradiction between our ways of formulating problem. Yet, crucial thing is searching for methods of building open form of plan (structure) – my primary interest concerns this area.

The city – contemporary city – is multiplayer complicated structure, for which is difficult to give ready made solution. Simply, life could not be designed (real life). The only way is a discussion (negotiation planning), which allows to maintain the city for its inhabitants. By creating spatial and organizational frames we provide the platform for discussion.

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