

Order and entropy of Bata serial cities

Comparative study of Borovo in Croatia and Batovany in Slovakia

Using evaluation and comparative analysis we will attempt to track back consistencies and inconsistencies in the historical formation and transformation of urbanization behind changes of the two localities of Batovany in Slovakia and Borovo in Croatia since their founding in 1930s till today.

The first urban designs of Borovo and Batovany upon the symmetry and central axis between the factory and the city derived from theoretical thought of Zlín based urban planners and architects collected in the book "Ideální průmyslové město budoucnosti" (1939). In the realization of the two cities, the ideas of the urban plans went through variations due to the difference of several years in start of realization (Borovo 1931/1932, Bat'ovany 1938).

The geographical conditions of both locations have been defined by the rural and agricultural region with the potential of already existing roads, railway routes, as well as rivers: Borovo with river Danube, and Batovany with rivers Nitra and Nitrica. Historical and time factors which affected the two serial cities of Bata have also followed similar pattern through post-war socialist regime after Bata and the transitional changes since 1990s which lead to the entropy of factories, material destruction and change in functionality of both industrial cities.

Batovany and Borovo are just shackles in the chain of Bata phenomenon. Based on international expertise the comparative explorations may bring a more consistent set of questions and outputs. What is still recognizable of the rational urbanization and architecture of Bata in certain micro areas? How does the urban growth or decay of Bata serial cities possibly relate to the macro spatial concept of Bata industrial heritage and approach to its protection? What does this knowledge mean for the contemporary communities and their physical environment?

