

THESES

Author: Andrea Szakál

Title: Hedonistic architecture and urban upcycling / Design principles and strategies for converting existing buildings into residential housing

Supervisor: András Ferkai, DSc. professor emeritus

Consultant: Soóki-Tóth Gábor Csaba MRICS

Advisor: Napsugár Linnert, Petra Probstner

2025 October

Hypothesis

When utilizing vacant buildings, we apply the tools of sustainable urban upcycling, basing our development on the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social, and economic aspects). taking into account the perspectives of all stakeholders (not only human) involved in the development, the result will be a truly livable, lovable, healthy, socially inclusive (and affordable) it will be a permanently aesthetic, environmentally and economically sustainable residential environment that can be built and operated not only for future users but also for the local community.

Theses

1. "The architect is the engineer of society." (Farkas Molnár) More complex tasks require more complex tools in architecture. Activist architects equipped with such tools can play an important role in shaping the life of entire neighborhoods.
2. A living space created in existing buildings is "good" if it meets complex ecological, social, economic, and architectural requirements. In other words, it is environmentally conscious, socially integrative, economically viable in both its construction and operation, offers affordable housing, and provides space for communities.
3. Renovated buildings with value-adding upcycling can become micro-centers of livable cities.
4. The development of an affordable rental housing sector may be the solution to the domestic housing crisis, and the utilization of existing buildings provides an excellent opportunity for this.
5. By addressing and sensitizing economic actors, significant improvements can be achieved not only in our built environment but also in the quality of our homes.