

GERGELY PAULINYI
THESES OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

CAPSULE SPACES
OR HOUSE-IN-A-HOUSE STRUCTURES
IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

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Problem statement and rational

It has always been a central quest in the history of architecture to create hierarchies between connected spaces. From the use of *empty space* to the sophisticated practise of capsule architecture many answers have been given and many outstanding architects have tried to define the identity of certain places. My dissertation gives a detailed assessment and classification of a number of “*house-in-a-house*” concept buildings through individual analyses.

Objectives

The objective of the dissertation is to create an open source and extendable assessment tool for defining the predominant tendencies and categories of contemporary *capsule architecture*. This assessment tool is capable of defining the main types and categories and highlighting the reasons behind the differences within the wide range of Hungarian and international examples that the dissertation analyses.

Methodology

The assessment tool uses different factors for analysing the selected examples: *building type, function, spatial design, relation, meaning* and *applied architectural tools*. Based on these principles, the buildings can be systematically compared and dominant categories can be set up; which helps in further understanding the issue.

Structure of Masterpiece

The Masterpiece consists of two parts. The first part presents several pieces of my designs in which I used the house-in-a-house concept as a central element. As a practicing architect, it is important to present even competition entries as milestones of my research. The second part of my dissertation presents “Prestige Yacht Pier” – a implemented project.

Doctoral Theses

1. The Place and the Capsule

In the history of architecture there have always been spaces and places in buildings with higher priority compared to the rest of the house. In most cases a building is not a consecutive sequence of equal spaces and rooms but a complex system with dominant and subordinate elements defined by conceptual, social and functional hierarchy. The concept of house-in-a-house for creating place is gaining more and more attention in contemporary architecture.

2. The Space and the Capsule

The relation between the capsule and its mother building in the house-in-a-house concept can be categorised by several spatial factors: spatial dimensions, human activity and spatial perception.

3. Relation and the Capsule

New approaches of using iconic shapes and building masses during the 20th and 21st centuries' architecture resulted in a colourful array of architectural answers for capsules. Based on the analysis of these examples, different architectural tendencies can be distinguished and categorised. In the dissertation a detailed assessment tool has been developed to compare and categorise different types of buildings, architectural methods and to specify their influence. Relation between *capsule space* and its *mother building* – sub ordination, equal status or dominance - is key element in the process of classification.

4. Architectural Typology of the Capsule

As the final result of my methodological research, four architectural approaches for the articulation of space have been defined among the house-in-a-house structures: *module based*, *emblematic*, *additive* and *poly systems* of capsules.