“SPACE VS PLACE”_ FOCUSING ON THE PLAZA IN FRONT OF BUILDING NO 9 IN PETERBOS SOCIAL HOUSING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Salma Begum

Lecturer, Department of Architecture, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

According to Architect Lyndon (1997) — "Places are spaces that you can remember, that you can care about and make part of your life, the world should be filled with places so vivid and distinct that they can carry significance. Places could bring emotions, recollections, people and even ideas to mind". Donlyn Lyndon (1997, exhibition catalogue)

Space refers to a physical location and its substances, and a space becomes a place when it gets assigned with a meaning and social significance by individual. This is how a space receives meaning through different kind of interactions by specific and communal purposes.

Peterbos is one of the largest neighborhood of social housing in Brussels region under the municipality of Anderlecht. Approximately 3112 inhabitants are currently occupying the housing where a high percentage of people are immigrants. It has been found from a statistical data that 30 nationalities lives in Peterbos where 98% people are French speaking and 2% Dutch (Source: monitoring des quartiers, ibsa. Brussels, 2012). The master plan of Peterbos shows that it also has a high % of open and public spaces in comparison with its surrounding. Spaces are always formed by social behavior. This research will examine how the Plaza is appropriated by the user and whether and how this space has been transformed in to a place by social behavior or how social behavior transforms a space in to a place.

KEYWORDS: Space, Place, Place Attachment

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