

THE VILLAGE, THE SPACE, THE SOCIAL AND THE RUBIK'S CUBE

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Abstract: *The visible thing, which catches the eye, is that of having to avoid falling back into the mistakes of the past and rethinking that Technology alone is the true Deus Ex Machina of our Living, Progressing and, above all, of Our Total Being. Space turns out to be a more indefinite than defined dimension but it takes on different values: we can identify it as empty or as circumscribed but, in the final analysis, it always brings us back to an idea of Eternity. In fact it has no beginning, no end, it is immutable, it is not subject to corruption (even if all these characteristics would then be only conceptual). It also takes on other values: Proxemic Space (the importance of the position in a given context), Individual Space (a theoretical "bubble" that expands or shrinks depending on the subjects with whom it interacts), Social Space (the place in which the study, work, socialization, and other activities take place).*

The Global Mosaic and the Global Village

Today we were discussing in the car the extensive possibilities of the Internet and Social Forums such as FACEBOOK, clearly we also came to talk about the possibility of intercommunicating with the whole world and, in that moment and in a nutshell, the concept of the Global Village crumbled. In fact, the other day I tried to get in touch with a Ukrainian girl but I didn't know how to write her name in Cyrillic characters (I was hoping she wrote it in English but it is much more logical that she wrote it in her mother tongue). In the same way I know people in France, originally from Egypt (Catholic Copts) naturalized in the French Republic, I have not found them and furthermore I do not know if they have written their names in Coptic. In this regard I throw a stone into the pond and I would like to say that rather than using the reductive term of Global Village (which brings to mind Tönnies in "Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft", on page 61; where he speaks of people united in difference, a Community with ties of Blood, Religion, Identity) it would be necessary to go back to the Chicago School and speak

of a Mosaic of Neighborhoods (pag. 130 Clifford SHAW – Henry MAC KEY in Dario MELOSSI “State, social control, deviance”), all united by a common language, English, but each dominated by the ethnic groups present. So I launch the idea of talking about Global Mosaic since by now the spatio-temporal distances have been, yes, canceled but the bonds of Language, Culture, Tradition, Ethnicity, Dialogue, Comparison, Communication, Religion still remain strong, which in any case divide strongly distinct and separate Society with few real communication channels, in a different way but always in a positive key, and in such a way that they are valid and united in the difference. The "space" thus becomes an element that is not as close as it seems. With the harsh experience of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict we have begun to see the crumbling of the apparently non-existent distances.

For now, wheat can be bought, paid for and sold with a simple "click" in real time BUT NOT delivered and therefore eaten.

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Space and the Social – Facilitation of the Social Space”

Space turns out to be a more indefinite than defined dimension but it takes on different values: we can identify it as empty or as circumscribed but, in the final analysis, it always brings us back to an idea of Eternity. In fact it has no beginning, no end, it is immutable, it is not subject to corruption (even if all these characteristics would then be only conceptual). It also takes on other values: Proxemic Space (the importance of the position in a given context), Individual Space (a theoretical "bubble" that expands or shrinks depending on the subjects with whom it interacts), Social Space (the place in which the study, work, socialization, and other activities take place). An example of the identification of space as a "theme" was born in the architect of the "more social" past: Le Corbusier, born Charles-Edouard JEANNERET-GRIS. In 1907 he visited the Certosa di Ema in Italy, near Florence, and was "enlightened" by the organization of space, individual and collective, which exists within the structure. Each friar, in each unit that hosts them, is served the table through a revolving system where there is no eye contact, thus protecting individual freedom, while

collective harmony is later regained through shared spaces such as the church, the cloister, the churchyard. However, this ingenious intuition will always be applied by Le Corbusier in his urban visions, so in his writing "L'Unité d'Habitation à Marseille" (in "Le Point", 1950 n. 38) he states "... Starting from this moment, the binomial appeared to me: Individual and Collectivity, an indissoluble binomial." In fact, the Maestro mainly recognized eleven "Ideas-Strength" which represented the backbone of his three-dimensional vision of the harmonic music of his projects. Among these we extrapolate that of "Family Protection" in which the research itself is aimed at keeping away, always in a modular way as preferred by Him, both every single family nucleus (from the other families), and every single element of the Nucleus itself (from the other members of the house) to then recreate meeting spaces in which to promote social cohesion. It represents the realization of the search for a social homeostasis by giving enough space to all personal and group needs. The real estate units are separated by a "Loggia" which acts as a separating diaphragm which protects the "privacy" of the families while the Roof-Garden (one of the master's five fundamental points) is connected to the building by the ramp of the "Architecture Walk" and together with the area of shops and supermarkets, kindergartens, the diversification of accesses and roads (and much more) they identify for the designer the aggregation part of the community. Even "L'Unité d'Habitation à Marseille" for him represents only a module of a system and also in his urban visions what he dictates is constituted by the vision of space as a useful, necessary, indispensable presence/absence for all mankind (comparable to the vision of the Austrian biologist Ludwig VON BERTALLANFY in his work "General Theory of Systems"; written that will be published only three years after the death of Le Corbusier). We have often lost the best features of its original message: today's real estate units recall those immense building "blocks" in which the diaphragms and the separating loggias have been eliminated to make room for an ever-increasing number of tenants; kindergartens and supermarkets have been eliminated to make room for the logic of interest, the reuse of the roof has been distorted to favor penthouses in view of a mere economic return.

Currently I believe that the relationship between Space and Social acquires an important value also on a "virtual" level. With the diffusion of "Social Networks" of which an undisputed positive vision cannot be denied, it is evident how they have relegated the part of Le Corbusier's Individual/Community to the little space occupied by the user and his

computer. Today we "virtually collectivize", we "virtually discuss", we "virtually meet", we are "virtually courageous". This is why we know each other less and upon meeting the much vaunted "virtual realities" melt like snow in the sun in the truthful direct relationship. Space and the Social are undoubtedly of primary importance but now it is necessary to make room for the virtual relationship and therefore for the "Space", "Social" and "Virtual" Terna in which all of us and above all the new generations interact.

With regard to an in-depth study of the theme of the social with respect to space, Edward T. HALL was also interested in a careful and exhaustive way in his two books "The Silent Language" and "The Hidden Dimension".

RUBIK'S Cube A Problem Finally Solved.

Eastern Wisdom "If a leaf falls into a river, it changes the course of the river forever". Even Western Philosophy has treated the same idea but from a different point of view: "Panta Rei" "Everything flows" seen by the Philosopher Heraclitus with the words of his pupil Cratilo.

In the spring of 1974, the Hungarian Professor of Architecture and Sculptor Ernő RUBIK invented, in his house in Budapest, the so-called "RUBIK's Cube" with the original name in Hungarian Rubik-Kocka then anglicized by him in "Magic Cube" to finally end in "RUBIK'S Cube". It is the best-selling toy in history (about 300 million pieces sold) and in the period of the late 80s of the twentieth century it was the pastime / problem of millions of people (including me and the worry of the years of high school and beyond) .

The RUBIK's Cube has six faces each made up of 9 squares of which only the central one remains constantly in a fixed position. For the permutation of squares there is an impressive number of possible combinations which are:

43,252,003,274,489,856,000 positions.

I was in doubt about solving this incredible puzzle until my wife and children bought a gift for me, when my daughter Michela chose a new game for herself: the aforementioned "RUBIK'S CUBE" . For young people solving the Rubik's Cube is simple, for those who are a few years older it becomes more difficult.

I immediately felt the desire to solve it come back to me and I looked beyond my strength for help on the Internet. Among the various ESOTERIC

possibilities typical of the RUBIK'S Cube Band, I found a beautiful site of "Notes on Recreational Mathematics" of which I leave you the references:

BASE Five - Notes on recreational mathematics

<http://utenti.quipo.it/base5/index.htm>

Website created by Gianfranco BO (2000-2011).

Thanks to this beautiful site (to which my undying thanks go), thanks also to some other information obtained from distant memories and the attentive ability to apply in a correct sequence (attention, not fixed but variable) series of concatenations of suitable Algorithms (the term algorithm normally means a method for obtaining a certain result or solving problems through a finite number of steps and Gianfranco BO writes that he used the layered method invented by David SINGMASTER and published in the book "Notes on Rubik's Magic Cube" by 1980) I have FINALLY, and now more than once, managed to solve the RUBICK'S Cube. There are also other systems such as the PETRUS method, the FRIDRICH method, the CORNER FIRST or the ZB (it is the most complex of all and requires the use of more than 800 algorithms).

In addition to Personal Satisfaction, with love, I also send Thanks to My Family who had the kindness to lend me the Raw Material (the Cube), to accept my Absences (in the period of understanding the Methodology and Resolution Techniques), in Loving, Patient and Present, Trust granted me.

The thing that struck me the most after solving the Cube was to delve into the true genesis of this wonderful Toy/Puzzle/Problem and the news I gathered is what I anticipated at the beginning of this writing. I have reserved only one and it concerns the number of possible solutions for this Mathematical Arrangement; well the possible solutions are only ONE!

All this brings me back to thinking about our life and the Italian popular wisdom that reads "Only for death there is no remedy !!!". Well I think so; in every situation, simple or difficult, it is necessary to look for the right Strategy to apply the valid Methodology and the suitable Tactics.

I was thinking about the mental dynamics of our wonderful brain and how combined with a greater use of logic (and therefore of the example provided by the RUBIK's Cube) they could significantly improve our approach to the problems of everyday life.

I try to try to imagine some similarities between the RUBIK's Cube and real life.

In fact, sometimes we think: "Changing just one detail doesn't change anything!", while with RUBIK's Cube (and with the experience of Everyday Being) we discover that every Single Element has a decisive weight. We continue: We think "Okay but if in the past we had changed only this the result would certainly have been better", with The RUBIK'S Cube instead we discover that ALL the scenario changes. Let's continue with this game of parallelisms: We think "There's nothing to do !!!", we discover with RUBIK's Cube that instead there is always some Solution, sometimes even ONE, but we have to try and sometimes to arrive at the resolution it is necessary to dismember previous situations or positions that have crystallized over time, to bring all the elements back to the correct position. It's not over: We think "Let's try, let's try, we'll succeed sooner or later" the RUBIK's Cube leads us to reflect on this thought that is already Noble and Valid but which in some delicate situations can become highly destructive; it is OFTEN, if not ALWAYS, necessary to go back, review the steps taken and Apply the Suitable Algorithm. One last example: We think "I will never succeed!!!" this statement makes a Winning Challenge already declared lost at the start.

The Cube has six centers which are IMMOVABLE (Everyone call them as they want: Divinity, Fate, Destiny, Fortune, Essence, Nature and place there the really Important Values of His Life: Divinity, Consistency, Children, Wife or Partner, Parents, Being , Social Status) and everything else Moves, Becomes, according to these Points. It is therefore necessary to choose well from which of these fixed points to start and how to proceed. Start Building Calmly and remember that there is always at least one Solution (whether we like it or not) and that by looking for it, and applying the Right Algorithms (often tiring), you will find it.

In all of this I increasingly appreciate the research in the studio from which, dynamically, fervors of Ideas arise capable of modifying, from the inside and in an Objectively Positive-Cultural-Creative way, the structure of the people who look out, from the beginning, to the Challenges of Culture.

I end with another phrase from Eastern Wisdom:

"If there is a problem solve it; if you can't solve it (editor's note: at the moment) what do you get angry for?".

References:

- ° Ferdinand TÖNNIES "Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft" 1887
- ° Clifford SHAW – Henry MAC KEY Definition Of "Mosaic of Neighborhoods"
- ° LE CORBUSIER (Charles-Edouard JEANNERET-GRIS) [Chaux-de-Fond (CH) 6 October 1887 – Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (F) 27 August 1965] Swiss architect naturalized French.

Ludwig von Bertalanffy Austrian biologist started the "General Systems Theory"; born September 19, 1901, Atzgersdorf, Vienna, Austria and died June 12, 1972, Buffalo, New York, United States.

° Edward T. HALL born in 1914 in Webster Groves in Missouri (U.S.A.) and professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University (U.S.A.).

Ernő RUBIK is a Hungarian designer and architect at the institute inventor of the homonymous cube and other logic and strategy games. Born: July 13, 1944, Budapest, Hungary

Bibliography:

- ° "Le Corbusier 1887-1965", H. Allen BROOKS – Electa

