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## GENESIS OF SUBURBAN FORMS FROM THE SECOND PART OF THE 20TH CENTURY: ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING IN CORRELATION WITH CULTURAL ASPECTS

### *Abstract*

The dominant spatial transformation which was indirectly supported by the social revolutions of the last century is the suburbis or the suburbs such as are widely spread today. This phenomenon, which has been studied since the mid last century, has been analyzed through different contexts and geographic areas often referred to by different terminologies, depending on local conditions which shaped specific regional types and ways of functioning. The research aims to identify the regional occurrences of this phenomenon and to investigate the conditions that contributed to their formation. Also, it investigates the connection with cultural aspects that have impact on the genesis of settlements, as well as the ways in which the settlements themselves change under the influence of spatial factors.

*Keywords:* suburbis, genesis, cultural aspects, regional types.

## ГЕНЕЗА СУБУРБАНИХ ФОРМИ ОД ДРУГЕ ПОЛОВИНЕ 20. ВИЈЕКА: АРХИТЕКТУРА И УРБАНИЗАМ У КОРЕЛАЦИЈИ СА КУЛТУРОЛОШКИМ АСПЕКТИМА

### *Сажетак*

Доминантна просторна трансформација, која је индиректно подржана друштвеним револуцијама прошлог вијека, представља субурбис или предграђе, какво је данас широко распрострањено. Овај феномен, који се изучава већ од средине прошлог вијека, анализиран је кроз различите контексте и поднебља, често називан различитим терминологијама, у зависности од локалних услова који су обликовали специфичне регионалне облике и начине функционисања. Истраживање има за циљ да идентификује регионалне појаве овог феномена и да истражи услове који су допринијели њиховом формирању. Такође, истражује се веза са културолошким аспектима који имају утицај на генезу насеља, као и начине на које се сама насеља мијењају под утицајем просторних фактора.

*Кључне ријечи:* субурбис, генеза, културолошки аспекти, регионални облици.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rural settlement arises as a spontaneous form of coexistence of its inhabitants with nature. It is subject to continuous processes of change, organically conceived, through the application of unwritten rules of construction with distinctly mixed functions of dwelling, agriculture and social life of the villagers [1]. It forms on the edges of fertile land and microclimatic conditions conducive to maximizing sustainability and independence of the settlement for smooth unfolding of everyday life. At the intersections of important routes, a village of greater commercial significance, through changes in its mode of production, assumes predispositions for the emergence of a city as a public good and social phenomenon. Such settlements characterize the presence of central urban functions, a network of social events, organization with clear rules, regulations, building mechanisms and behavioral patterns. Unlike the village, the city does not organize in relation to the territory; instead, it gradually organizes the territory according to its determinants [2]. According to Aristotle, a city is formed in such a way as to provide its inhabitants with a sense of security and happiness [3]. In his text "What is a City?" Luis Mumford states that the city is a special framework that directs the creation of various favorable opportunities for ordinary life with the importance of collective dramas. This essential difference distinguishes the city from the suburb, where the drama is absent. The city is a geographical complex, an economic organization. [4]. The phenomenon of the city forms through the art of living together, and Jean-Luc Nancy says that the city has been invented for the sake of community. It is a community that converges in a system of communication and coordination. Encounters require communication and communication is inherently dynamic. The city is a dynamic process [5].

Léon Krier argues that the basic spatial organization of the city is in the form of urban quarters, each of which contains all necessary central functions for urban life within a pedestrian-friendly territory. An urban quarter characterizes a precisely defined territory and functions within it. Given that certain urban functions are lacking in the suburb, rural use of land often appears, it remains unclear how the suburb should be treated and what it should provide to its residents, as well as how it relates to new changes and challenges. Once a clearly defined difference and basis upon which rural and urban centers have developed through historical changes, now becomes markedly incoherent. Significant changes in social and economic values between the two environments arise with the industrial revolution, marking the beginning of rapidly acting processes from which new spatial patterns emerge. Geographically speaking, the territory between these two patterns, which historically represented a clear boundary with distinct natural values, becomes the destination of transformation processes.

Cultural aspects among the inhabitants of a particular settlement define the way of perceiving, using and acting within space, as well as the existence of a value system, primarily determined by the mentality of the citizens. S.Vujović presents the definition of citizen mentality as "noble urban behavior of educated people whose basic virtues are dialogue, tolerance, and empathy." [6], while D. Simonović states that "the city represents to some extent a projection of the state of mind of its citizens, or their mentalities." [7]. Therefore, the structure of the population and their mentality are significant factors in shaping the space and identity of a settlement, as well as of its final experience.

## 2. THE GENESIS OF SUBURBIA

The complexity of the relationship between rural and urban areas and the processes arising from them (urbanization and ruralization) often come with mutual negative effects. The direction and monitoring of these processes should result in the sublimation of positive values of both rural and urban areas [8]. Urbanization, as a process of increasing the population of urban areas and the expansion of settlements, which includes the encroachment on rural territory and natural landscapes, illustrates Figure 1. The illustration is based on a typical city for easier visualization and tracking of the process dynamics. The basis for the development of the illustration is an imaginary valley where a medium-sized city is located with its surroundings, which was transformed through the aforementioned process.



Figure 1. Illustration of an imaginary valley.

The process is understood through two interdependent parameters: the space where it occurs and which it transforms and the time over which this change occurs. Time intervals, at which the intersections of the city and its territory are measured, represent significant historical, social, economic and political turning points, such as medieval cities, industrialization, automation, reconstruction after two World Wars and globalization. In fact, the time interval decreases with each intersection, while the space it affects significantly increases creating large oscillations, that is reflecting the accelerating pace of urbanization processes and their accompanying phenomena. Consequently, there are drastic forecasts about expansion of urban areas in the near future, especially in third-world countries. The identified and previously explained process of urbanization occurs in all directions inconsistently forming irregular suburban agglomerations interspersed with „greenfield” neglected green spaces. The acceleration of the urbanization process through continuous explosions and implosions of urban tissue pushes the known boundaries of human settlements so far.

Some time ago, physical and functional distinction between urban and non-urban areas was clear, but it is increasingly fading. The moment when a means of overcoming greater distances through mechanization is found, it will lead to the growth of cities beyond the previously established frameworks. The clear transition between urban quarters and rural surroundings disappears with the influx of new population and the opening of new industrial facilities. The period of economic prosperity and the discovery of new modes of production has long passed, but the process of transformation in urban and suburban structures initiated back then still continues, penetrating deeper into the provinces and leaving behind many unresolved structural and social issues. Particularly concerning is the fact that current trends in population growth suggest that the mega-

cities of the future will primarily be concentrated in the third-world countries of Africa and Asia. The issues arising from such trends are multifaceted, particularly when it comes to the socio-demographic factors influencing population demographics and migrations. The speed, number and complexity of these changes have created a complex system of sensitive cause-and-effect relationships, most notably observable in the case of large cities and metropolises. The once reasonable dimensions of cities are disappearing under the guise of capitalism and neoliberalism, where social and spatial-physical aspects have become instruments for profit-making or capital accumulation. The growth of cities creates challenges in many fields; the continuous influx of poorer populations necessitates social care and the reproduction of housing settlements within areas of their purchasing power, thus re-entering a process of circulatory extraction from the periphery, a sort of urbanization machine through which rural areas transform into uniform suburban patterns [9]. A particular problem arises from the exchange of populations between these two environments, where identities and cultural patterns significantly intertwine. The population of urban centers, which has been present there for centuries and in recent decades moved to rural and suburban areas, while residents from rural areas are settling in urban centers [10]. Such a process is present in the cities of Western Europe where in urban historic parts entire quarters of resettled inhabitants, often from other countries, cultures and continents are formed. Moving out from traditional Italian houses in the central district of Brescia, where families from the Middle East or North Africa are settling, will influence the way that house, courtyard and even street are used.

### 3. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

After the Second World War, the term and the concept of suburbs experienced a transformation and popularization primarily on the soil of North America, gradually spreading to other geographic areas of the planet [11]. The problems accumulated in traditional forms of settlements are not resolved through the hybrid offered by the suburb, as can be observed through global examples. There are many suburbs and their variations across cultures. Some are more successful in addressing certain issues, some only transform them but none has successfully solved or provided an alternative to the urban problem. Therefore, it remains important to examine representative regional types, the way they arise, their characteristics and their goals. Thus, a clearer understanding of the same phenomenon can be provided which is differently conceived in different conditions and cultures with varying levels of success in terms of human settlements.

Eight examples of suburbs were considered, chosen as representative from their respective regions/continents. The starting point for creating groups of suburbs is the classification of genetic regions established by L.Holzner and colleagues as far back as 1967, (North America, South America, North Africa, Tropical Africa, Europe, East Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, South Asia, Indochina, East Asia and Australia). Figure 2. [12]. These defined regions served as polygons for identifying representative regional types of suburbs, which were subjected to a multi-criteria analysis presented through diagrams. The criteria on which the analysis is based include: mode of formation (planned vs. unplanned); space it occupies (population density and degree of plot occupancy); level of organizational and functional autonomy (non-residential functions); network infrastructure (existence of road, sewage, water supply, electricity and optical networks); connectivity with the city (number and quality of connections-accessibility); green infrastructure and connection with nature; security aspects (for residents and visitors); and aspects of social interaction (greater number of interactions), Figure 3&5. To examine the established process, an approach based on the inductive-deductive method was used, starting with global types and then focusing on a specific area of the Banja Luka periphery. The research narrowed its focus to one settlement within the Banja Luka periphery, the settlement of Madjir (Figure 7), which is undergoing transformation from a rural settlement to a suburban one through processes of the 20th century.

Cultural differences (the culture of spatial behavior and the culture of space utilization) play also a significant role for this research since they have largely shaped spatial patterns through the use of the space by their residents. This refers to the norms, values, and practices that dictate how individuals or communities interact with and use physical space. This is crucial for understanding how people navigate and inhabit different environments, ranging from public spaces to private spaces.

### 4. REGIONAL TYPES OF SUBURBIA

It is understandable that widely spread and diverse continental phenomena can hardly be generalized and unified. However, some basic spatial-functional axes can be recognized as the way they are

formed, the processes that condition them and the level of development they reach. Many global suburbs repeat the mistakes from American examples, where extremely isolated communities dependent on cars and fossil fuels evolve, requiring increasingly long distances to be traveled for everyday activities. It is largely linked to the fast lifestyle that appears in all segments, with the slogan "time is money," so the "fast" culture is also reflected through spatial categories and Herzog speaks of "fast urbanism." In it, inhabitants live at an accelerated pace in an expanded built environment, which has expanded from concentrated cities to sprawling peripheries. Once envisioned as a place for escape to a natural and quieter habitat, it is transformed into an extension of big metropolitan areas [11].

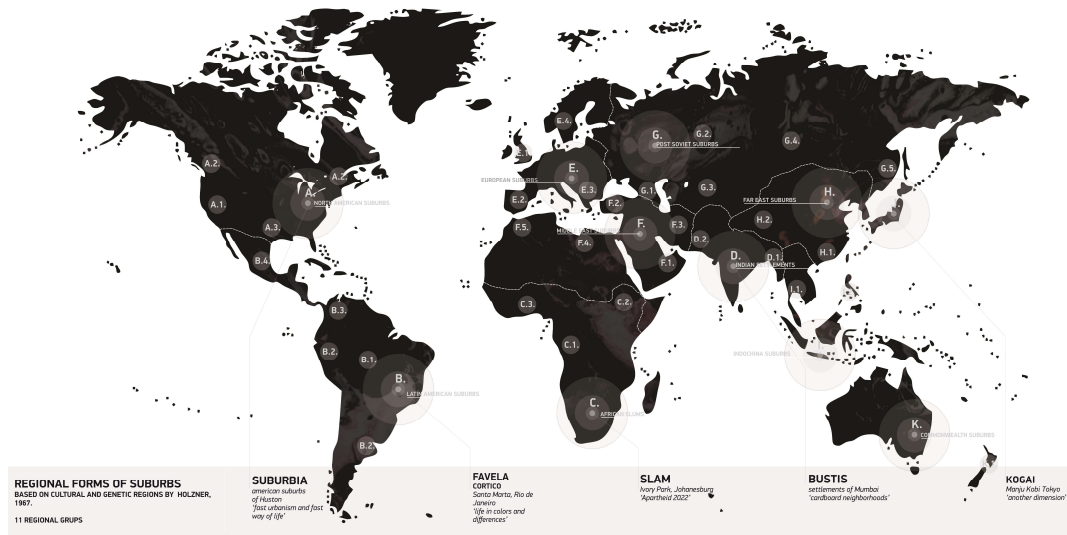


Figure 2. Regional types of suburbs based on cultural regions.

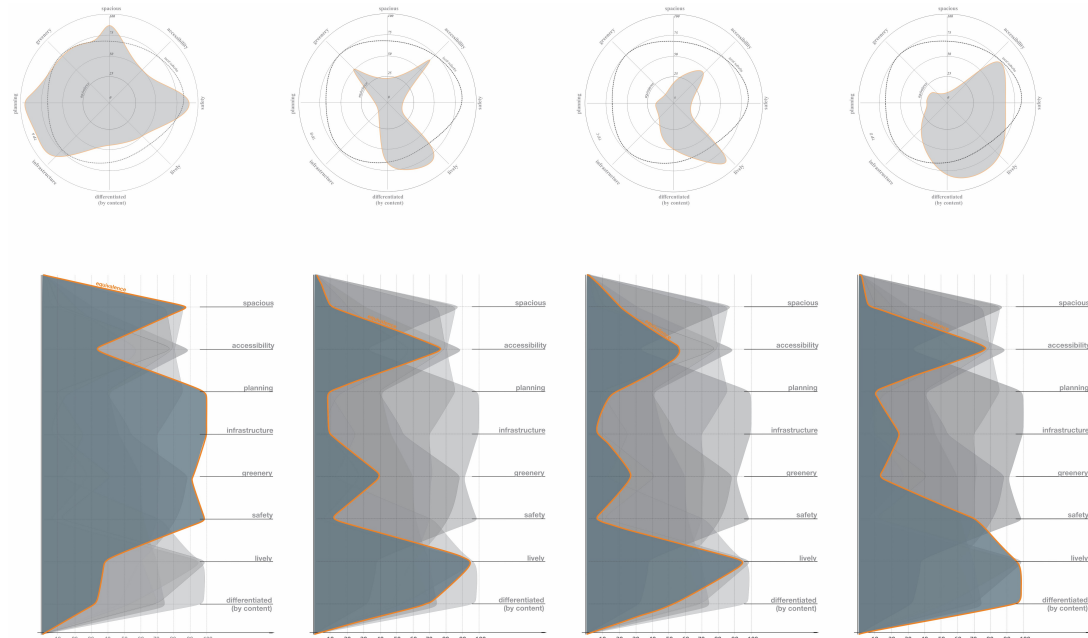


Figure 3. Multi-criteria analysis diagram of regional suburbs types A,B,C,D.

**A) The N.American Suburb.** Example of the suburb type A on the global network relates to the suburbs of North America, where such a concept was popularized and expanded to other parts of the planet, with its regional determinants.

It emerges as an alternative to densely built urban centers, where life has become expensive for some, noisy and fast for others, so they move into quieter suburbs. A significant factor in such a decision is the possibility of fast transportation and communication, which are the backbone of

development not only of these settlements but also of the entire economy. In such a hierarchical structure, the automobile becomes the dominant factor in communication leading to the construction of more and more roads, while pedestrians become marginalized, deprived of the ability to cover all necessary distances [11]. These are planned settlements on vast territories that contain a densely distributed structure, with all necessary services. There are distinctly residential functions, with centrally located facilities serving several smaller settlements. A notable lack of identity is reflected through the uniform structure of settlements, identical forms, materializations, and very often identical residential buildings, thus creating a labyrinth that expands indefinitely into mega-urban forms.

**B) Favelas of South America.** Suburb type B on the global network refers to the suburbs of Latin America, better known as favelas and cortiços. The characteristic landscape of suburban settlement B is a densely built structure, where communication is subordinate to pedestrians, with a multitude of colors and events. The colors represent the character of the Latin American community and the result is a process of space appropriation. The Santa Marta settlement is home to 8000 residents who live in 500 wooden and 2000 brick houses. It has only one small market and three police stations, implying a security problem. The area of South and Central America are perceived as a regional whole with approximate economic conditions and cultural norms that have influenced the development of the regional form of suburbia, expressed through the favela. Brazil, as one of the fastest urbanizing nations in the world, certainly leads this group, where first such settlements were built in the 19th century. Rio de Janeiro is particularly interesting—a city of diversity, a global metropolis with many contrasts and inequalities in social and physical structure. Thus, settlements can often be seen, formed unplanned with low living standards, juxtaposed with high-rise settlements with different standards and characteristics [11]. Favela is an unplanned settlement on a small territory that contains a densely distributed structure, often with minimal urban elements and services. Unified in function and content, but differentiated by many other elements, it is always lively with a pronounced sense of place.

**C) Slums of Africa.** Suburb type C refers to settlements in the African continent, primarily to the part influenced by local cultures and identities. It is impossible to generalize Africa as a continent and typologically consider it uniformly due to its enormous diversity and local distinctions. In this sense, through this example, a parallel is drawn in relation to other global models. There are many connections with suburbs B and D, but there are still certain differences and unavoidable cultural and climatic influences. The research focuses on the Ivory Park settlement in the vicinity of Johannesburg, South Africa, which belongs to one of the most developed countries in Africa, thus differing in urban conditions from other parts of the continent. The settlements possess a certain degree of planning, with clearer traffic communications and formed blocks, with buildings constructed from perishable materials. A significant theme of these settlements is security, resulting in frequent introduction of police patrols and checkpoints [13]. The urbanity of the settlement remains at a low level, and there is still differentiation in the urban landscape and social structure. The concept of apartheid (a system of social segregation, separate development) originates precisely from the SAR, which is evident through urban planning practices and everyday life.

**D) Settlements of the Indian subcontinent.** Suburb type D represents settlements in the Indian subcontinent, which predominantly illustrate social disparities expressed through the physical structure of 'urban' settlements. The main economy revolves around the street, which serves as a place for socializing and meetings. The main characteristic is the multi functionality and ephemerality of architecture and urbanism. India, as one of the fastest-growing demographic countries in the world, faces the problem of urban overpopulation. Decades-long struggle with uncontrolled growth has not yielded significant results in practice. Moreover, social differentiation has never been more evident in terms of scope and structure.

A particular issue is the informal settlements formed by the migration of poorer populations without real economic means to build homes. The largest settlement of this type, not only in India but also in the entire Asia, is Dharavi. It houses more than a million residents in just 2 square kilometers, making it 277,136 residents per square kilometer [14]. Over time, the settlement develops its local economy, which annually amounts to over a billion dollars. The economy is based on the production of textile products and waste recycling, in which numerous residents of the settlement participate [15]. Life happens on the streets. There is a stronger sense of community and interdependence in everyday life. The picturesque landscapes of the spread and hanging clothes, with a multitude of colors, as well as poor collective hygiene, characterize the area.

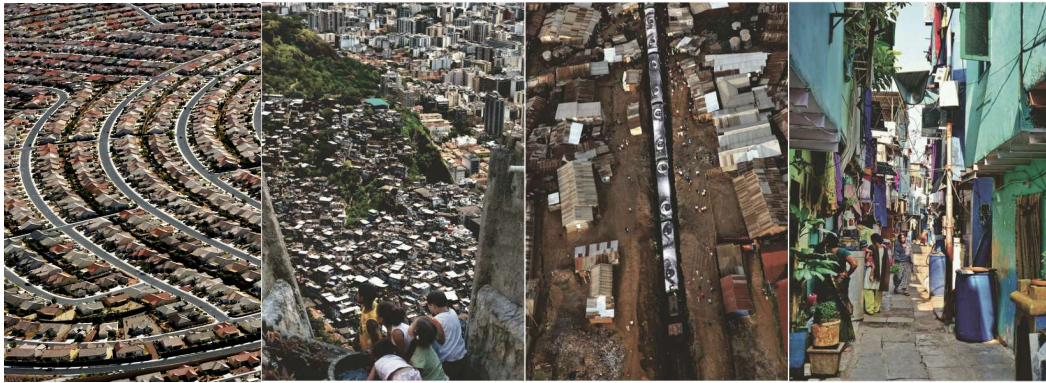


Figure 4. A) American neighborhood; B) Favelas of South America; C) Slums of Africa; D) Settlements of the Indian subcontinent.

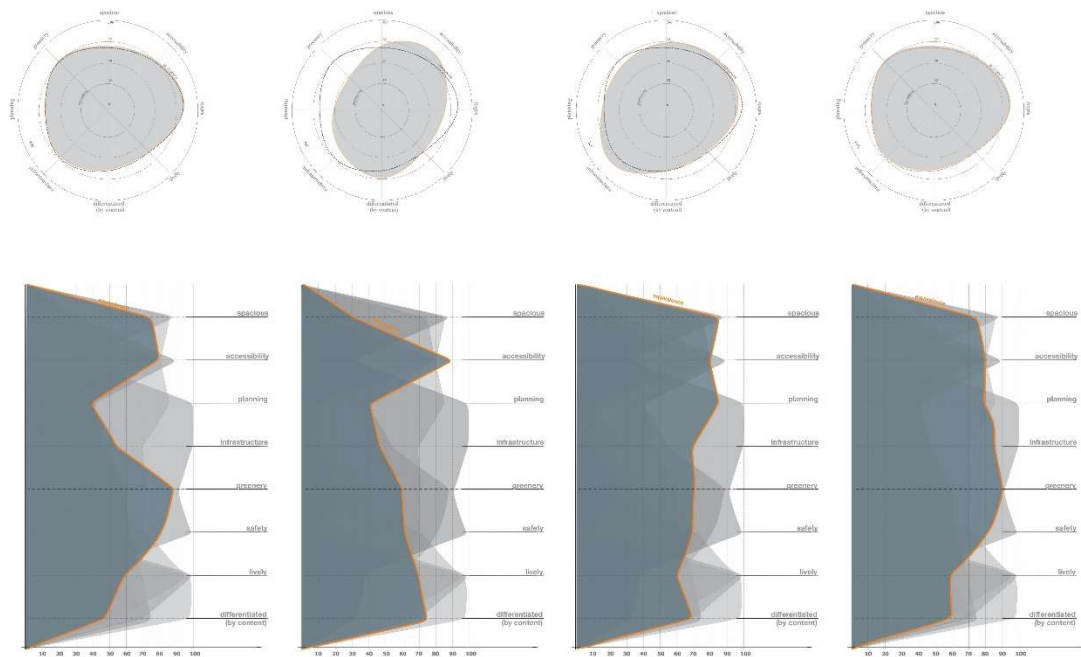


Figure 5. Multi-criteria analysis diagram of regional suburbs types E,H,J,G.

**E) European suburbs.** During the long urban development on the European continent, numerous settlements developed alongside the cities, outside city walls. This process was particularly present during the great expansion beginning in the New Age. Until then the class zoning of the city, where the city moves from the center where upper class is located towards the periphery and lower classes, loses such a hierarchical order. Citizens of old city centers increasingly rely on healthier environment in suburban areas outside the city center for their stay, which ultimately becomes their permanent residence. Perhaps the most striking example is found in England where 86% of the population lives in some form of suburb (43% in 20th-century suburbs, 23% in 19th-century suburbs, and 20% in dispersed settlements) [16].

During the development of European settlements through different social systems, new or modified existing suburbs also emerged. Generally, they can be divided into various regional groups: Eastern European (socialist) and Western European (capitalist); British and European Continental; Northern (Scandinavian), Central, and Southern (Mediterranean). For us, this last classification is the most significant, emerging under the influence of climatic and cultural factors. The proximity and influences of these regional types are visible in the local Balkan suburban form.

**Brøndby, Garden City, Denmark (North)** Is a planned settlement that contains evenly distributed organic structures organized into circular clusters. The settlement is subordinate to natural environment, coexisting with it. There is a strong sense of community within the clusters, forming a multi-family group with individual housing, providing necessary privacy for each family.

**Suburbia of Madrid, Spain (South)** These settlements contain all necessary services and amenities for functioning of the community enabling that most needs are met within the settlement. However, the problem of social interaction remains pronounced, which is much greater in urban and rural environments that have a historical context.

**Esslingen am Neckar, Germany (center)** A settlement with a uniformly structured layout, equipped with necessary urban elements and services. Unified in function and content, it arises under the influence of modern suburban trends of moving away from the city and traditional urban-forming elements. In many cases, it lacks the liveliness of urban neighborhoods and spontaneous street events.

**H) Chinese suburbs.** Settlements in China that take on the character of suburbs are referred to as "urban villages." The emergence and genesis of such villages differ from all previously identified examples of suburbs. They originate as rural settlements, which are often older than the cities they are now part of. The economic opening of previously closed-off China to the world marked a turning point in all social and spatial spheres. Under the umbrella of economic prosperity in urban manufacturing centers, there has been a tremendous increase in the size and the number of mega cities. Today, China counts over a hundred cities with more than a million inhabitants [17]. Paradoxically, urbanization in China (or chengshihua) does not imply an increase in the urban population. With the increase in the number of inhabitants in the city, the number of its rural residents also grows. This is a reflection of the dual "hukou" policy from 1958, when households were classified as "urban" or "rural," a classification that persists to this day. Such a system grants different rights to the mentioned groups, so the population with "rural household registration" cannot access urban services, educational, and healthcare institutions despite permanently living in the city [18]. The most prominent example is Shenzhen, located on the border with Hong Kong, now one of the world's largest metropolises. Out of a total registered population of 12 million, only 2 million possess "urban household registration." Through rapid economic and spatial development, a small settlement quickly transitions from a township to a regional town and then becomes a million-person metropolis. By absorbing nearby rural areas and urban villages and incorporating them into its structure in an invasive manner, the number reaches 241 of incorporated villages into the urban fabric of Shenzhen in a couple of decades [18]. These villages, without arable land, have lost significance and purpose, becoming (involuntarily) marginalized components of the city and a source of the most favorable building land. Characterized by: their rural original character, which has invasively transformed into suburban; high population density; organic formation of settlements with empirical spatial organization; affordable housing space with a lack of infrastructure.

**J) Japanese kogai.** The case of the Japanese settlement known as "kogai" represents a unique type of suburbia, which can only partially be equated in certain aspects with it. It would be quite bold to say that it is the same term; their connection primarily stems from spatial aspects. The term "kogai" refers to a space where the city transitions into nature, and nature meets the city. It is a place where residents from immediate proximity enjoy views of natural landscapes. As such, it represents an indigenous Japanese type of suburbia, which has largely been lost due to the wave of internationalization and capitalism that engulfed Japan in the past century [19]. The "kogai" settlements are planned areas constructed along the railway next to parks, followed by parceling and land allocation for building residential units for the middle class. The first such undertaking is described by Cécile Asanuma-Brice in her book "The Century of the Japanese Suburb," and it concerns Manju Kobe, created in 1930 by O. Magosaburo, a city near natural landscapes where industry is located in the center of the settlement, surrounded by residential areas for its workers. The urbanity of the settlement is visible, where the quality of life for workers and families significantly increases, and education becomes more accessible. Magosaburo's radical move, which transforms the previously established principle that the company lives off its workers into a more humane form where workers live off the company, represents a significant turning point for the Japanese suburbia and its residents [19]. Such a model of urban development was replaced by the adaptation of the American suburbia after World War II. Although initially seen as beneficial, it radically changed the course of development of Japanese cities and their relationship with nature.

**G) Socialist suburb.** The Eastern European socialist example of suburban development emerged in the period after World War II, when all urban planning and market organization were executed according to the model of central state planning. A strong state apparatus implemented an economy based on price control and housing provision operated on a merit-based principle. During the period of economic collectivization and industrial development, there were forced migrations of population from rural areas to cities, leading to the emergence of numerous new cities as specialized industrial centers. The relocated population from rural areas often could not afford to purchase expensive



urban real estate, so housing issues are addressed on the city outskirts, relying on cheap public transportation [20]. The process of accelerated suburbanization and the transition of rural population (not into cities, as desired) to suburbs is referred to in the literature as "Eastern European urbanization" [21]. During times of strong state control, planned settlements were built primarily to serve industrial facilities. This was the case with cities located in eastern or interior regions of the country, often for security reasons [22]. However, after the weakening of the system, unplanned and individual construction became more common. With the cessation of central planning, new actors emerged in the market as decision-makers in important urban planning matters. Cities experience a new wave of development, leading to rising property prices and the decline of non-competitive privatized industrial systems (leaving many brownfield areas), which has sparked a new wave of population migration and the growth of suburban areas. Green spaces and voids in socialist suburbs become construction land under new market conditions, often introducing new functions into residential areas. For example, in the Prague 11 district, we observe a heterogeneous structure of settlements and the filling of green areas with smaller individual objects. The abolition of socialist forms of public control, along with increased capital and market opening, has led to increased construction and the opening of small businesses, thereby adding functional complexity to what was previously predominantly residential areas. Good connectivity with the urban part of the city through public transportation is also crucial [23].



Figure 6. E) European suburbs; H) Chinese suburbs; J) Japanese kogai G) Socialist suburb.

## 5. BANJA LUKA SUBURBS

As was previously analyzed in this research, the structure of the population and their mentality are significant factors in shaping the space and identity of settlements, as well as in experiencing them. By observing the outskirts of Banja Luka, the influence of cultural aspects on the experience of the settlement can be seen and rural utilization of space often appears, distancing it from urban city quarters. Although the total population in the city's territory has decreased compared to the last population census in 2013 [24], certain settlements are experiencing enormous expansion.

Specific social conditions and urban development policies at the beginning of the century created favorable conditions for the emergence of parts of settlements and even entire settlements on the outskirts of the city, often built informally. A greater supply of land, more affordable land prices, and the lack of property taxation were incentives for the development of suburbia. The trend of the emergence of these settlements is not merely a consequence of recent events; it is a far more complex phenomenon. One of the significant influential factors is local migration, driven by economic, educational or other factors. Local migration typically involves the movement of people from rural to urban areas, resulting in the expansion of areas directly adjacent to urban city centers. Over time, a suburban ring forms around the densely built urban core. In the early stages of its development, in the mid-20th century, there was a connection to American suburbs characterized by their displacement from the city center (where daily activities rely on road traffic), relieved regulations, and building systems (resulting in settlements such as Budžak, Petrićevac, Rosulje). In the subsequent decades, planning shifted towards socialist ideology and centralized management, especially after a major earthquake. Only after the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the relaxation of the measures and state control occurs, even leading to a lack of regulation. An individualistic approach to spatial planning emerged, reflecting cultural aspects that significantly shape the use of space (resulting in settlements like Lauš, Motike,

Debeljaci, Kuljani, etc.). The plot becomes a field for personal experimentation, and the construction of residential buildings reflects the social status. In such a system, the deviation from established construction procedures occurs where the entire process is based on individual decisions, often disrupting existing relationships within the context. This was the consequence of the lack of strategic planning and the low capacity of local communities to manage this process. [25]

In this sense, an analogy can be drawn with suburbs in South America which emerged under different climatic and cultural conditions but driven by similar needs. In the past decade, there has been a pronounced trend of urban infill on vacant green spaces and the expansion of existing settlements with heterogeneous structures. There is also a trend of hyper-construction of luxury properties near significant natural resources, leading to changes in the structure with the influx of a newly formed elite in certain settlements (such as in Prijecani).



Figure 7. Panorama of Madir settlement.

The settlement of Madjir is situated on the border between spatial patterns (as shown in the diagram on Figure 8), with evident absence of central urban functions, informal spatial organization, weak infrastructure, and connections to the city, which significantly distances it from urban patterns. It possesses numerous unused lands, termed 'urban/non-urban rifts', once used for agricultural purposes, with significant natural potential. However, it faces challenges related to environmental preservation, further distancing it from rural forms. Trapped between two patterns with ambiguous characteristics, Madjir emerges as a product of a specific social and cultural context.

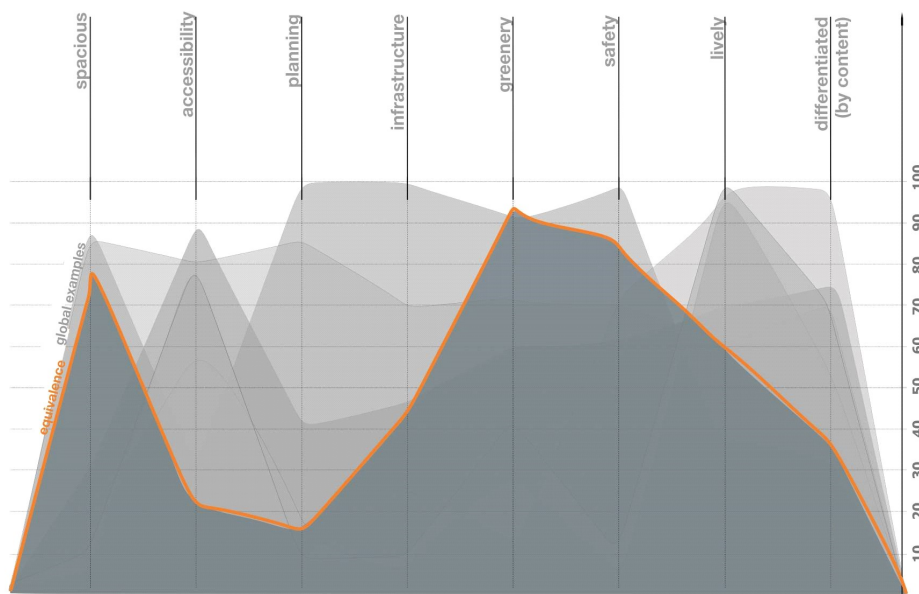


Figure 8. Analysis of the quality of the Madir settlement.

## 1. CONCLUSION

In a rapidly growing world, urban development often becomes a non-synchronous factor, as evidenced by the phenomenon of suburbia. The globalized way of life and attitudes towards the environment, which spread to all spheres of society, led to significant urban explosion. Dominantly, it brings with it a suburban way of life. Through the method of comparative analysis, we have studied typical suburbs across the planet, from the globalized American neighborhoods appearing on various continents with regional variations, to the original types of the Far East.

Each of them possesses its own specificities, advantages and flaws, which in this research served to better understand the genesis of a suburban settlement around different regions. These examples have shown that the uniformity of function, density of development, and distance from the city influence social interaction, as well as the sense of security (comparison between American and Indian suburbia). The character of various elements. (the context, nature, neighbors and ultimately the house with the plot) of suburban settlements reflects the mentality and behavior patterns of the residents and the influence they have on shaping entire settlements which is more prominent in societies with weaker regulation and individualistic approaches to the construction. For example, in the case of Banja Luka, we can follow various directions of suburban settlement development in different periods though with very similar cultural determinants. It is concluded that primarily the degree of construction freedom and situational necessity have influenced the directions of development, while the cultural aspect is more in service of the relationship and care towards the space.

How can we overcome the pattern of urban sprawl that has become so dominant worldwide, including in the territory of Banja Luka? The answer might be in growth and new urbanism that should advocate for a proper form (as we can observe in examples of Scandinavian suburbs from chapter 3.5.), which will lead to slower expansion and a more humane process of urbanization. Factors contributing to urban lifestyle such as cultural values and behavioral patterns need to evolve if we want more sustainable cities. New approaches should leverage best practices from existing settlements and learn from their mistakes. The key may lie in recognizing significant elements and moments and influencing them in further development. The academic and professional community, planning and design institutions should embrace the phenomenon and continually engage with it, directing suburbanization processes to minimize environmental impacts and enhance community sustainability in every aspect possible.

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