

## Architectural Space Dominated by Capital: An Analyses of the Formation of Architectural Space Based on Lefebvre's Production of Space Theory

Elham Rashidzadeh <sup>1</sup>, Arsalan Tahmasbi <sup>2</sup>, Foad Habibi <sup>2</sup>

Submitted: 2019-04-20

Accepted: 2019-12-25

### Abstract

Architecture, or the art of creating space, is an important part of human life defined in relation to the concept of space, while other dimensions of human life, including human activities, meanings, interactions and relationships, occur in the social space. Nowadays, space is no more viewed as an objective, passive and impartial structure, inside which we are merely placed, or which can be calculated scientifically; it is rather produced through a complicated set of social actions that overlap: representational, economic, epistemological and conceptual actions, individual, spatial actions, and collective political actions. Henri Lefebvre organizes these actions in a spatial triad (spatial practices, representations of space and representational spaces). This triad tells us that it is not architects only that form the space, but in fact there are fields of numerous conflicting powers that affect the production of space, and architectural work is only a part of the process of the production of space. Although the relationship between the production of space and capital is an inevitable debate, numerous issues, including the time, place, and economic conditions of the community, have an impact on the type of use of space and perhaps its misuse. Nevertheless, the main purpose of this study is to show the general lines of capital impact on space formation in the contemporary world, so that it is impossible to determine the influences and importance of capital flow in relation to the past, in which the political determines the factor was ignored. Indeed, nowadays capitalism has expanded its realm of influence. And In addition to the economic domain, capital dominates the cultural, social and, consequently, architectural domain. Therefore, it is necessary to review the role and status of the architecture. This is because architectural action directly affects the social relations, power, production relations, capital and life of societies, and in the long run it might cause social, political, economic and cultural changes in societies. In fact, this study seeks to reveal the role and status of architecture in capital accumulation. For this purpose, using qualitative methodology and logical reasoning, architectural space has been studied in this article through Lefebvre's theory of production of space. The findings of the study have been presented in the form of analytical models and solutions. The results of the study indicate that the architect, as designer, planner and decision-maker, plays a role in form structuring (homogeneity), spatial organization (hierarchy) and spatial fragmentation, and overlooking the effects that the architect might have on social relations, power, and the production and accumulation of capital can cause architects (intellectual forces) to turn into the infantrymen of the capital. Thus, architecture, as a contributing factor to the improvement of everyday life, should turn into a knowledge-producing field. Architects and designers have mostly focused on technical and artistic aspects of architecture, they have failed to pay attention to other aspects of the design and production of space, such as the importance of architecture as a spatial discourse in which understanding the produced space of spatial forms can help protect social relations, production relations, control and power; as such aspects have been discussed in this study, it can be of great help.

**Keyword:** Space, Production of space, Architectural space, Space of capital, Lefebvre.

1 PhD Student, Department of Architecture, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran.

2 Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran.

3 Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Sanandaj Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sanandaj, Iran