



PE "Belgrade Fortress", Faculty of Architecture - University of Belgrade, Secretary of Culture of Belgrade and "Public Art & Public Space" program has the pleasure of inviting you to be our guest at the opening of

EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' WORKS - FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE / UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

UNFULFILLED DREAM OF BELGRADE

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

BELGRADE FORTRESS – INCOMPLETE DREAM OF TOWN'S CONTINUITY

PROMOTION OF THE BOOK

BELGRADE FORTRESS - DREAM BOOK OF WHITE TOWN'S CONTINUITY

on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 7 p.m.
Savsko šetalište (Sava Promenade), Park Kalemegdan
Belgrade Fortress
Belgrade

The exhibition „Unfulfilled dream of Belgrade“ and Public Art installation „Belgrade Fortress – incomplete dream of Town's continuity“ is part of the project „Revitalization of Belgrade Fortress“ within the frame of the Plan and program PE „Belgrade Fortress“ for 2009.

The project is realized at the initiative of PE „Belgrade Fortress“, and in cooperation with University of Belgrade Faculty of Architecture and with the Public Art & Public Space program (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture). The project is financed by the Municipality of Belgrade's Secretary of Culture.

WORD FROM THE EDITOR

“Tradition is not preserving the ashes, tradition is keeping the flame.”

Read somewhere, sometime, and kept in the memory...

Whenever when I go with my daughters to the Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan, I tell them legends about the City (because there are still no legends about the park, thanks God). On one occasion, one of them, while explaining me where she had forgotten her gloves which we went there looking for, suddenly said: "... it's there, by that Manor..."?! I was amazed the fact that with her inward eye she saw the City that was no longer there. The Manor was long gone, for many centuries now, it has vanished from the place where it was built time ago, but it turns out that it still stands there – in the mind of those who can dream and believe in dreams...

Those citizens of Belgrade who witnessed the City's existence within the Fortress, and who could recall it vividly, are no more among us. However, the City is remembered in the grounds hidden below the sediments of centuries, and it is remembered in the old engravings and photographs, in travelers'

chronicles and biographies, letters and reports, decrees and orders, and even in the accounts of various national and Belgrade public expenses, which are scattered and silently kept in royal museums, archives and libraries. They all bear witness of the whiteness that once used to stand there, of what we have inherited even though it is not there anymore; they all speak about what this Place remembers in spite of our short-lasting minds. We who are here today cannot do anything else but to lick this wound which is now slowly healing into the Park on the Belgrade Fortress.

We are now living in the scraps and leftovers of Belgrade. The blazing core – its heart and its kernel – the essence of Belgrade is right in that place where the City is now absent from – in the Belgrade Fortress. That is where the White City has been conceived. That is where the seed has germinated, from which Belgrade has sprouted. That is where the City used to be, that City which we have found when we settled in this land, and dazzled by its whiteness we called it Belgrade – the White City. And we decided we will stay and remain right here. We moved and fled from every other place except this one, this is the only place where we have always belonged, the place that we always returned to. Thus we have built it with our dreams, determination and hopes... and lastly, now we have just forgotten it. Nowadays, only shards of the City grounds stick out of that temporal soil, with no body and no roof, lost in the holes in our memories. It is leaking through these holes into our house, and we are not even aware of it, lazy to remember and spoiled to dream even in the corners of the dreams once dreamt but never fully dreamed.

If we lose it all, at least we have our dreams. But if we lose our dreams, we have lost it all.

Project

It has been almost two thousand years since the CITY has been erected in the Belgrade Fortress area, where it has permanently remained to be. Only in the past sixty years has the CITY given in and disappeared, so it is not there anymore. In its place, on its ramparts, at the grounds of its ghostly buildings, we cherish a magnificent park now...

But had we been so fortunate as to have the CITY at the Belgrade Fortress persist and last, had it not been demolished and eventually destroyed, what CITY would it be in the place where the park is? What would have been if the Belgrade Fortress were still a CITY? How would Belgrade appear today if the “White City” were still shining white at the Fortress? What meaning would it have for present, modern Belgrade? What would have been had it been...?

These are all questions that this Project before you does not try to give final answers to, but rather to serve as incitement to their thoughtful examination. In the years to come – may God give us good health and wisdom – we shall continue... keeping the flame alive, and also preserving the ashes.

...

The Project, which has already been in great part published in this book in your hands, is the fruit of collaboration between the Public Company Belgrade Fortress and the Faculty of Architecture of Belgrade. Of course, due to the importance of the subject matter we are dealing with, in the course of its realization, the number of collaborators engaged in the project, coming from various fields of social practice, has been increased so as to have this matter illuminated from as many different perspectives as possible.

This Project has been gradually developed over the last couple of years, and realized in several parts, finally connected and united with this book.

The first part of the Project consisted of the dreams dreamt by some of our most eminent fellow-citizens engaged in diverse fields of activities, who have responded to our call, and made their

contributions, in the form of essays, written on this Subject from their respective points of view. These papers present their authors' visions – in a manner more intimate than expert – meant to dream the Belgrade Fortress anew as the CITY... as it might have appeared to us today, emerging from the vortex of history... but also to offer their different perspectives on future development and appearance of that City, as well as to show how such a City could fit into the complex picture puzzle of modern and future Belgrade.

The second part of this publication consists of papers written by students of the Faculty of Architecture from the University of Belgrade, all of which pick up on the central Subject in their respective approaches and subject matters. Thinking about the potentials of the Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan, from the point of view of contemporary preservation and presentation of historical heritage, as well as its connection with the modern trends of city life, the experts from the Public Company Belgrade Fortress have instigated work on a few rather thought-provoking topics at the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade; these topics were offered for elaboration not only to professors but also to students, from all years and with different professional experience, as part of regular courses taken at their student projects.

On this occasion, exhibition of these student works, as presented in this section of the publication, has been organized at Kalemegdan's Sava Promenade – Belgrade Fortress Esplanade, and it is the second part of the Project. Making this exhibition, our wish was to present to the public the works done by young experts, architects, who didn't have to cope with the usual "real" professional problems, but rather, soaring on the wings of their imagination and creativity, examined the capacity of the "citiness" of the Fortress, searching for the solutions that might be considered relevant and desirable from the contemporary perspectives, in the first place in the field of architecture. The purpose of making these projects was not to realize them, but to verify certain ideas which might be set as options for future interventions.

Third part of the Project has been carried out by displaying a series of appropriately selected thematic original *public art* installations in a purposely chosen and arranged space at the Belgrade Fortress – in the moat below the Military Museum – works made on the theme "BELGRADE FORTRESS CONTINUITY DREAM BOOK". Made especially for this occasion, these temporary installations have been made by students of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Belgrade, gathered around the international, interdisciplinary program "Public Art & Public Space", which resulted in a dream-come-true fragment of the Street, which could have been in this very place, had the White City only lasted. Unfortunately, this part of the Project has not been presented in this publication, because it was planned at the time when the book was already published; however, we hope that this injustice shall be amended in the following edition of the book, next year, in the dream books coming forth ...

The final part of the Project has been conceived as a round table on the theme "BELGRADE FORTRESS CONTINUITY DREAM BOOK". This event shall be organized subsequently, upon completion of the activities to be realized within the Project at the Belgrade Fortress. The idea for this round table is to have, in the first place, the participants of the present action take part, and – summarizing the work done – point out the possibilities for Project's further development. We also hope that a summary of this round table is going to be published in the forthcoming dream book edition.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the people who gave their immense contribution to this Project, as well as to invite them to join us again in dreaming our White City anew in the years to come. In the first place, we would like to give our thanks to wonderful, diligent and foresighted people from the Public Company Belgrade Fortress, without whom this action would have never been realized, who invested all their energy and enthusiasm in this work, and who showed much patience – just as it befits keepers of a time gate – and leniently filliped all of us who have gathered around this idea. We would also like to give our thanks to the wise people from the City Administration, from the Secretariat for Culture of the City Assembly of Belgrade, who understood the importance of actions of

this kind and provided all the assistance and resources required for its realization. We also thank our eminent academics, professors, architects, historians, archaeologists, sociologists, directors, painters, actors, stage designers, journalists, sportsmen... whose visions have been the firmest support for our work and confirmation that we were moving in the right direction. And finally, our gratitude goes to our students, who put all their imagination and creativity, hopes and time at work, offering us the best and most honest part of their daydreams, which every school in the world would be proud of.

Zoran Djukanović, Marina Andrić

Belgrade, July 2009

