

HYBRID SPACES, HYBRID PLACES IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE OFFICE BUILDING

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ABSTRACT

The paper sets out the discourses of globalisation and culture to define the general hybrid concept. Globalisation is discussed as a process of homogenisation/heterogenisation and as a context for the emergence of hybrids. The context of culture is considered for the definition of hybridisation and the social discourse in which the hybrid is created and interpreted. Architecture is a hybrid of the creativity of the technical, scientific, and artistic fields. Contemporary architecture tends to integrate new, developing areas (ecology, technology, infrastructure, reuse of resources, etc.). The paper examines the concept of hybrid in architecture using the methodology of scientific research, extracting definitions from the literature of the scientific database Web of Science limited to architecture and other available traditional sources and knowledge acquired by new artificial intelligence technology. Activating hybrids implies the existence of a framework that is a norm, standard or legitimate common form or content in architecture. Architecture knows typology as the standardisation of form and content in architecture, and in this context, the concept of type, typology and typological classification is elaborated. At the architectural scale, hybridisation refers to combining uses within a single-use – office building. The student project for the office building is centred around hybrids in various disciplines, working together to create a cohesive structure that integrates different functions within a single building. In the discussion and conclusion, definitions are summarised, and answers to whether hybrids are drivers of innovations in architecture are elaborated.

KEYWORDS *_ hybrid, architecture, office building, multiple uses, multiple forms*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of globalisation appeared in economic discourse 40 years ago (Levitt, 1983) and implies the concept of integration of economy, politics and culture, and is explained in the social context by the terms "interconnection, intensification, time-space distance supra territoriality, time-space compression, action at a distance, and accelerating interdependence" (Britannica). In his works (1994, 2006, 2009), Author Pietersen supports the concept of globalisation by interpreting the concept of hybrid and hybridisation. In the text "Globalisation as Hybridisation" (Pietersen, 1994), he states physical, social and political hybridisation as a consequence of pluralisation. Also, he explains temporal hybridisation, describing it as mixed times and intrinsic asynchrony (Pieterse, 1994). The definition of hybridity in the cultural discourse is established by the dichotomy interculturality vs. multiculturalism and the definition that hybridity is a "mixture of phenomena which are held to be different, separate" (Pieterse, 1994, p. 171). Hybridity in culture occurs because modern culture is characterised by "heterogeneity, cultural interchange and diversity have now become the self-conscious identity of modern society" (Young in Anthias, 2010). We can classify the products of globalisation into two poles - those that unify products on a global level and create standards, norms and types (Pieterse here mentions McDonaldisation; in Christopher Alexander's theory, these are non-places) while on the other pole are the results of mixing as a consequence of globalisation intensifying encounters. Within the broader context in which architecture is located - culture hybrid is a consequence of *multiple identities, cross-over, pick-n'-mix, cut-n'-mix, criss-cross* (Pieterse, 1994, 2006). In the paper, we elaborate on hybrids and hybridisation in architecture, explaining new forms and contents resulting from merging and mixing to achieve the corresponding architectural design of office buildings for the new way of working.

DEFINITION OF HYBRID IN THE ARCHITECTURE

Joseph Fenton (1985) states that "hybrid has never before been catalogued", explaining the character of hybrids elusive for collective definition. Hybridization in architecture is not a new concept; it was significantly activated in post-structuralist and post-modern analysis (Ptichnikova, 2020). The hybrid as an interpretation of previous styles appeared since the interpretation of Greek styles in ancient Roman architecture. Historicism is a hybridisation of a series of interpretations of forms that characterised ancient architectural styles and new architectural technology and design ideas. Moreover, as Kolatan (2020) interprets, hybridity is manifested in every architectural style from its early to late phase. Architecture is a hybrid field in the domain of technical and artistic creativity. The key is the concept of creativity, which occurs in finding technical solutions and designing ones. Hybridisation presupposes a clear situation in the normative domain in defined forms and processes. A hybrid is next to or beyond that definition. By reviewing the Web of Science database, the analysis of the papers reveals 446 papers in the architecture domain with the keyword "hybrid architecture", of which 234 are papers from journals. However, by reviewing the most relevant works, we conclude that in architecture, research works do not deal with the theoretical aspect of a hybrid but with applying the term hybrid in different environments, scales and areas. In his work, Kolatan (2020) looks for source terms for hybrid and finds them in authenticity and originality. In this work, hybridisation is applied to the example of the digital simulation of a new constructive element created by extrusion, assembly, and disassembly. A series of works follows the hybridisation of the idea over time at the level of urban complexes. In three time periods, Paek and An (2017) compare the integration of ideas in the domain of architecture that occurs in the master plan of Yonsei University, Korea. Rashid and Bartsch (2014) describe an example of the hybridisation of religious buildings of Islamic believers in Australia with local architectural practices. The authors follow design elements retained as a gradual transition from the external to the internal space.

In architecture, "hybrid" refers to a design approach that combines elements from different styles, cultures, or functions. Hybrid architecture can take many forms, from buildings that blend traditional

and modern design elements to structures that serve multiple functions, such as a commercial and residential buildings combined. Hybrid architecture can be seen as a response to the increasing globalisation of our world, where different cultures and styles are brought together in new and exciting ways. It can also be a way to create more efficient and flexible spaces that can adapt to changing needs over time. Overall, hybrid architecture offers an exciting opportunity for architects to explore new ideas and create innovative designs that push the boundaries of traditional styles and functions. (Chat GPT: Hybrid in architecture 08.04.2023)

Steven Holl argues in the prologue titled "An analysis of mix-use buildings" of the book "This is Hybrid" (Fernández Per et al., 2014, p. 8) that hybrid is *living, working, recreation and culture, diagonal and vertical unique experience, architectural monster, full-time working building, 24/7, the construction of a city under one roof, self-homage, unique, opportunistic building, it is meant to home an impact on the observer*. The fundamental concept of the hybrid building lies in its ability to blend different functions, forms, contents and contexts harmoniously, creating a cohesive and integrated architectural expression. In conclusion, *"Hybrid buildings are organisms with multiple interconnected programmes, prepared to house both planned and unplanned activities in a city"* (Fernández Per et al., 2014, p. 8). In architectural language, hybrid refers to a building or structure created by combining two or more developed typologies, two or more time frames of origin, and two or more discourses of the content.

HYBRID CASE STUDY - DESIGN PROJECT OF THE OFFICE BUILDING

The main aim of the student urban and architectural design project was to achieve an urban solution for business land use located at the city fringe in the city of Osijek and to gain office architecture as a new city attractor. The railway line, strong transport infrastructure and the non-locality of the neighbouring shopping centre define the location. In such an environment, a solution was sought to create a patchwork of different scale dynamics for a suitable - hybrid space scale of a comfortable being in an open space.

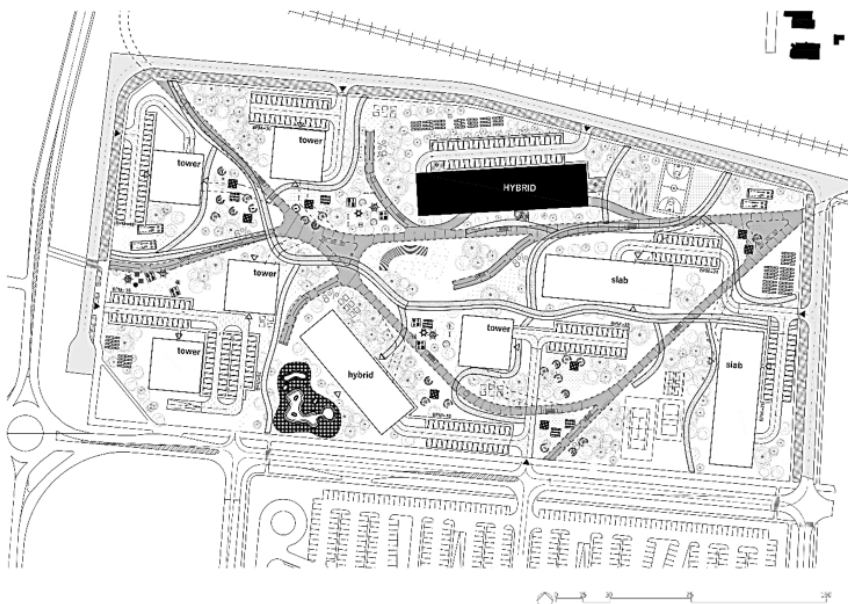


Figure 1: Urban plan for business land use at the city fringe (authors: Marijo Joković, Branko Mihaljević, Magdalena Runje, Klara Pugar, Veronika Putak, Sara Salak, Luka Škrlec, Božena Štuc, Ana Vračević, student project, 2023)

The solution included an extensive botanical garden spread throughout the plot that integrates the local greenery resources and the spirit of the wider city and regional area. Another large-scale element that creates the wholeness of the place is an elevated pedestrian platform representing a new city attraction. Medium-scale architecture and small-scale open content between buildings enable the integration of border neighbourhoods. The architectural programme included two basic types of office buildings – high-rise buildings and longitudinal slab buildings. Additionally, two buildings were planned to link basic typologies – hybrid buildings as merges of high-rise and slab buildings.

THE HYBRIDISATION OF THE BUILDING FORM – MERGING TYPES

The hybrid office building engages the meaning of hybrid in various scopes to create a cohesive structure that integrates different types and functions within a single building. The architectural programme and student task (Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Osijek, Croatia, summer semester 2022/23) aimed to create a building that could be active 24/7, providing a comprehensive experience for occupants and visitors. The design focuses on assembling vertical and horizontal elements, emphasising the connectivity between different levels and the relationship between the building and its surrounding environment. Pedestrian circulation and the experience of the transitional spaces, such as the eavesdrop or walkways, are given particular attention. The building is envisioned as a composition of a primary type of office building tower and slab, where the structural framework serves as the foundation for incorporating various installations and services necessary for the building's functionality.

The design also integrates a raised promenade – a pedestrian platform that connects the building with its surroundings, creating a hybrid communication space that combines the building with its urban context. In line with the concept of hybrids, the design incorporates inter-story vertical communication in the form of a slide, showcasing the integration of playful elements within the functional aspects of the building. This hybrid approach draws inspiration from the idea of Rem Koolhaas: „*The escalator allowed for „smoothness “of flow through these structures, while the air conditioner supplied „life support “for the consumers who pass through them “* (Koolhaas and Foster, 2013, p. 46).

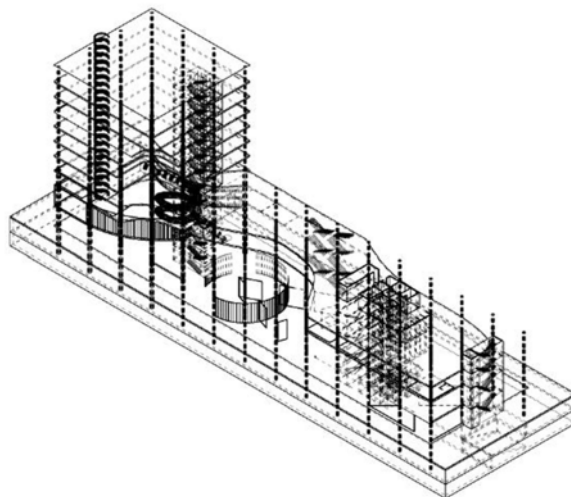


Figure 2: Structure and communication (author: Vračević Ana, student project of the office building, 2023)

By adopting a simple construction system of pillars and beams and incorporating communication and installations, the building becomes a dynamic living organism working 24/7. It embraces both planned and unplanned elements, allowing for flexibility and adaptability to accommodate the needs of its users.

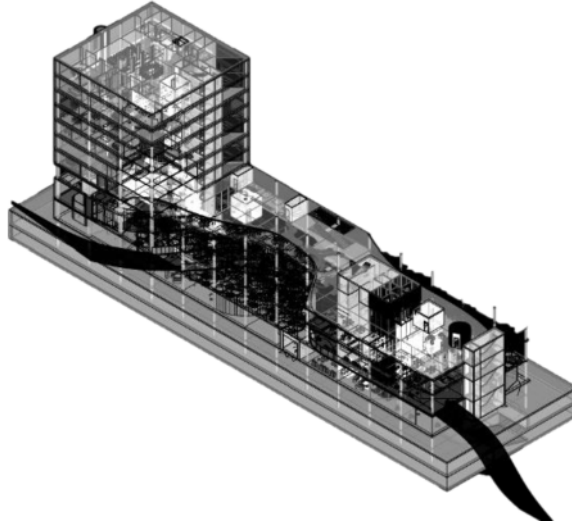


Figure 3: Functions and activities – building (author: Vračević Ana, student project of the office building, 2023)

Different colours can evoke different emotional responses; specific colours can also affect our attention and focus. Bright colours can stimulate and grab our attention, while more muted colours can be calming and help us focus (O'Connor, 2011). In geometry, the term “hybrid” can refer to a combination of different shapes or forms used to design and construct walls and spaces. This concept involves integrating multiple essential geometrical elements to create multifunctional spaces within a building, such as exhibition areas, auditoriums, and more. As architects, we can create spaces that cater to these needs by understanding the impact of colours and sensory experiences while creating environments that promote focus and relaxation.

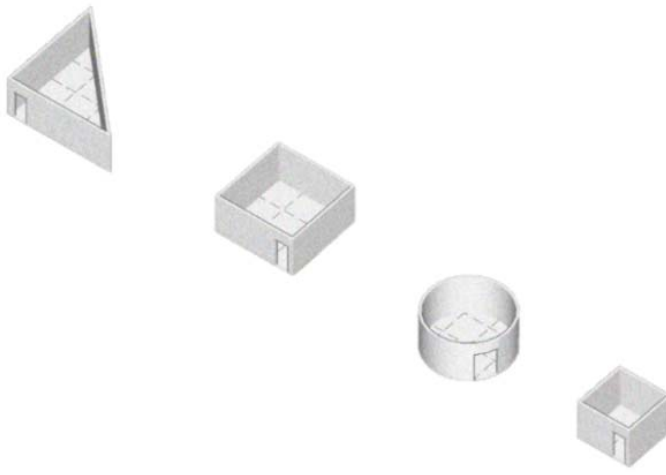


Figure 4: Isometries of 4 primary forms for four new contents (author: Vračević Ana, student project of the office building, 2023)

Interaction between different shapes makes a geometrical hybrid inside the building, which is implied in the hybrid rooms of different colours and shapes, evoking different spatial experiences and emotions. *For example, a figure that is part rectangle and part triangle is a hybrid shape. Another example of a hybrid form is a figure that is part circle and part rectangle. In general, hybrid shapes can be created by combining any two or more basic shapes in a variety of ways.* (Chat GPT: Hybrid in geometry 14.04.2023).

Merging design features as elements of rooms, furniture, colours and functions of rooms, we produce four rooms with different colours, elements and functions complementing the main office building programme.

1. **Red Room:** The red room is shaped as a triangular floor plan, creating a prismatic volume in space. It serves as a space for individuals to express their emotions, release aggression, and make decisions. The red colour stimulates energy and excitement, enhancing focus, decisive thinking, and bravery.
2. **Yellow Room:** The yellow room has a cubical shape with a square floor plan. It is dedicated to music, encouraging creativity and emotional expression. The room is acoustically designed with soundproof walls, providing a musical oasis for individuals or groups. Yellow stimulates optimism, energy, concentration, and consciousness as a colour.
3. **Green Room:** The green room takes on a spherical shape or a circular floor plan, resembling a roller volume within the space. This room aims to create a calming and relaxing environment by filling it with plants, bringing the natural world into a small sphere. It serves as a green oasis for individuals or groups, promoting a sense of tranquillity and connection with nature.
4. **Blue Room:** The blue room is designed for individuals with a rectangular floor plan and minimal dimensions. It provides a space with an armchair or deck chair where one can retreat and escape from reality. The room features soft, indirect blue lighting, water elements on the wall, and soothing sounds. It aims to create a serene and relaxing ambience, stimulating creativity through relaxation and stress reduction.

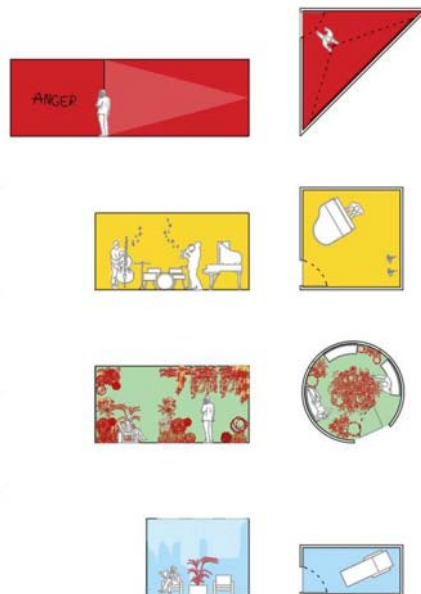


Figure 5: Additional office building content – 4 rooms/4 emotions/4 geometries
(author: Vračević Ana, student project of the office building, 2023)

This design concept creates distinct spaces that cater to specific emotional and functional needs by utilising different shapes, colours, and functions in each room. The intention is to provide individuals with environments that support their well-being and encourage emotional expression, creativity, relaxation, and connection with nature.

DISCUSSION

Artificial intelligence performs a descriptive definition of hybrids in architecture, where the concept of hybridity can encourage creativity, interaction and flexibility in design, allowing architects to explore new ideas and create unconventional solutions. A hybrid approach can result in an architecture that transcends the boundaries between traditional and contemporary, functional and aesthetic, opening up space for innovation and experimentation. It is also one way architects can express their creativity and create unique spatial forms that reflect diverse influences and ideas: a new idea, an innovative way of designing and mixing styles, functions and elements. By integrating knowledge from various disciplines, architects can design spaces that meet practical and functional requirements and support individuals' physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Action theory explains work psychology through several constructs: errors, the interrelation between work and personality, the development of competence at the workplace and training, task characteristics and work design (Frese and Zapf, 1994). In this research, we lean on the findings regarding work and personality, according to which "the work should not damage a person's mental and physical health in the long run". (Frese and Zapf, 1994:294). Additionally, personality enhancement should lead to productivity and may cause some spillover from personal development from work to leisure time. People often seek a sense of escape and sanctuary in the built environment, an escape from reality, technology, and anything distracting and disturbing.

CONCLUSIONS

The hybrid concept seeks a building that goes beyond traditional categorisations and embraces a combination of different discourses. Universal clarity must be read in the new composition; the authentic core allows us to manage within the new environment. The meaning of hybrid in architecture is to push boundaries and to investigate usual and adopted meanings. Every new idea that investigates and confronts the present leads to the future. In architecture, hybridisation goes beyond one scope and relates to geometry, form, function, time and content. Because of that, hybrids cannot be catalogued; they can just be enumerated. Architectural hybrids are not only mixed and matched or cut and mixed spaces but also have to engage the meanings and functions of the space. In this paper, we presented the application of hybrid and hybridisation to the office building in student work. The merging process was applied in producing the form of the building and the content of the office building programme. Hybridisation has been sought in this work to establish new relations in office building architecture: inside-out, work-no-work, horizontal-vertical, focus-relaxation, and slow-fast movement to investigate new working environments and working culture. In further studies, primary forms could be revised and presented to present the methodology of the assemblage of hybrid buildings comprehensively.

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