

Energy and Climate

## **TRADITION VS. INNOVATION: UPGRADING THE CITY AND ITS ARCHITECTURE**

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The main purpose of the paper is to challenge and analyze a relation between tradition and innovation in the contemporary urban design and architecture which are driven by the imperatives of energy efficiency, environmental awareness and technological interconnectedness. The importance of their mutual recognition and well-balanced application is emphasized and elaborated as a special tool of collective communication and an interface of intellectual and cultural exchange within a community. Nowadays, a blending of these allegedly opposed terms creates a new identity of a city, branding its appearance on the global(ized) stage.

The paper will focus on several types of the tradition-innovation relation which could be identified in contemporary cities and their architecture. It will also present the outcome of a research conducted by the students of architecture in their master theses (spring semester 2011/2012), as well as their conceptual solutions to selected urban problems/phenomena. The main aim of the research is to recognize, analyze and propose some elements of tradition and innovation which could be used as a project framework, offering solutions for improved environmental quality and energy efficient urban life.

The successful concepts could be also presented at IFZ, as a poster exhibition.