Building Coherence

An analysis of the quality of coherence created by the pattern language process

Sickinger, Richard, Danube University Krems, Richard.Sickinger@donau-uni.ac.at

Peter Baumgartner, Danube University Krems, Peter.Baumgartner@donau-uni.ac.at

Tina Gruber-Muecke, Danube University Krems, Tina.Gruber-Muecke@donau-uni.ac.at

Isabell Grundschober, Danube University Krems, Isabell.Grundschober@donau-uni.ac.at

Abstract

One of the consequences of the pattern language approach, states Christopher Alexander, is that it has the capacity to create coherence, morphological coherence in the things which are made with it. Be this the case, how does the application of a pattern or a pattern language from the book "A Pattern Language" actually generate coherence, specifically in the built environment? Our hypothesis describes the basic process how a pattern creates coherence with help of the concept of a Tension-Unit and the CDE Model of Human systems dynamics (HSD). Our findings of the analysis of pattern 140: "Private Terrace on the Street" show that the configuration of a pattern cotters the two forces, which arise in the context, to each other, creating a unique new whole with emergent properties. At the same time the two forces keep their autonomy, are mutually supportive and are supportive of the created whole. This is actually a process of creating coherence in the built environment.