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The Science of Urban Reconstruction
Local Policy and the Environmental Dimension of Sustainability

Greener Environment
Local Policy and Economic Dimension – who will finance?
Local Policy and the Social Dimension – who decides?
Socially sustainable development

Development (and/or growth) that is compatible with harmonious evolution of civil society, fostering an environment conducive to the compatible cohabitation of culturally and socially diverse groups while at the same time encouraging social integration, with improvements in the quality of life for all segments of the population.

/Polese and Stren (2000)---quoted by Eli Stoa/
Whose Sustainability?

What is slum:
An area without central heating or harmfulness for the inhabitants? (H. Gans)

Is it a “normal” society? – the culture of poverty
Who decides? Participation – roles and profits

“The idea of citizen participation is a little like eating spinach: no one is against it in principle because it is good for you… - a revered idea that is vigorously applauded by virtually everyone… (but) when the have-nots define participation as redistribution of power, the American consensus on the fundamental principle explodes into many shades of outright racial, ethnic, ideological, and political opposition.”

(Sherry Arnstein, 1969)
The function of Urban Renewal according to policy makers

“We will have less poverty in our district!”
“We need younger, better educated inhabitants here!”
“We will upgrade the quality of the area – cleaner, safer, more vivid …”
(Major’s program)

FUNCTION OF URBAN RENEVAL

Attract the young middle class

- to live here
- to use the area
Question of local housing policy:
“What to do with the UNSUSTAINABLE areas?”
Three Stages to Fulfill the Middle-Class Dream

ARRIVING TO THE MIDDLE CLASS DREAM – 1. STAGE

- Define poor areas as slum
- Invite investors
- Use the “federal bulldozer”
“Get rid of the poor”.

STAGE ONE AND A HALF
While in depression, let the yuppies enjoy the ruins

The romantic side of the ruins
“We live in silence”

ARRIVING TO THE MIDDLE CLASS DREAM – 2. STAGE

The conflictual side of the ruins

“We WON’T BE silent!”

“Shut up!”
Construct for gentrification

**THIRD STAGE**

Dear estimated Habitants,

We would like to inform you that the opening hours of the gate at the Király Street 13 will be as follow, from the first of November 2008:

**EVERY DAY:**

- **Open at** 8 am
- **Closed at** 10 pm

In case of emergency, please ask the DIS Security people of the reception desk at the Holló Street 12-14.
Who pays the bill? Coming back as urban poor – even homeless
The special theory of relative power relations in urban development

\[ E - \textbf{Energy} \text{ invested by local housing policy in urban rehabilitation} \]

\[ m - \text{amount of } \textbf{Mass} \text{ of social conflicts} \]

\[ c^2 - \textbf{Speed} \text{ of the gentrification}^2 \]
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www.oikonet.org