



University of Zagreb

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**IN-SITU MUSEUM BUILDINGS:  
TRANSFORMATION OF ARCHITECTURAL  
FORM THROUGH PARAMETERS OF  
PLACE**

DOCTORAL THESIS

Zagreb, 2024



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Supervisor:  
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Sveučilište u Zagrebu

Arhitektonski fakultet

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**ZGRADE MUZEJA IN-SITU:  
TRANSFORMACIJA ARHITEKTONSKE  
FORME KROZ PARAMETRE MJESTA**

DOKTORSKI RAD

Mentor:  
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Zagreb, 2024.

## **Abstract**

The dissertation investigates the relation between the architectural form of the museum and the place with a specific analytical approach based on the key parameters that define the museum's relation to place.

The dissertation introduces an analytical framework based on the integral assessment of the processes that established museum's relation to place and the approaches regarding the protection, interpretation and presentation of place. The first part of the analytical framework outlines the development of the modern notion of museum through the process in which the museum becomes a public institution. In this process are distinguished the inherent features of the museum that enable its function, and those features are: the collections and the display, the layout and circulation, and as a final stage in the development of the modern museum, the emergence of the museum as building type. In the second part of the framework, the general knowledge on museums is accompanied with one specific stream that emerged in museum practice and led to the formation of museum concepts related to place, among which the influential concept of the ecomuseum based on in-situ museum interpretation. This stream in museum theory and practice greatly influence the notion of the museum and the transformation of the definition of the museum, by including the interpretation and presentation of place as museal. In order to fully understand the relation of the museum with the place, as a particular aspect of the analytical framework, are reviewed key documents that elaborate on the in-situ protection, interpretation and presentation of place, and also the recommendations concerning the programmatic or spatial interventions, in order to find the main points of interaction and overlap with the museum field. Those points are the in-situ protection, interpretation and presentation that are communicated in both fields, and the widening of the notion of museum based on this particular aspect.

The inclusive analytical framework is then used to extract the key parameters that define museum's relation to place built on the existing relations of place, and those parameters are: the parameters that define the museum concept in relation to place, the parameters that define the spatial relations to place, and the parameters that define the visual relations to place. The case study analysis of the architectural form of the

museum is carried out using the postulated key parameters. Based on the analysis of the case studies, are recognized the recurrent procedures that are part of the process of design of in-situ museum buildings. The architectural procedures in the process of design of in-situ museum buildings are divided into four main groups, which are: the procedure of superimposition, the procedure of disposition, the procedure of integration, and the procedure of interpolation.

The dissertation provides a basis for new comprehensive approaches in the design of in-situ museums based on the exchanges between the museum and the place and on the mutual contribution to the protection, interpretation and presentation of place.

### **Key words**

*museum, museum building, museum definition, in-situ museum, in-situ protection, in-situ interpretation, in-situ presentation, place, parameters, architectural form*

## Contents

Abstract.....	4
Key words.....	5
Strukturirani sažetak .....	6
Uvod .....	6
Problem istraživanja .....	6
Metodologija istraživanja .....	8
Struktura disertacije.....	10
Ciljevi istraživanja i hipoteze.....	12
Znanstveni doprinosi .....	12
Ključne riječi .....	13
Abbreviations .....	14
1. Introduction.....	19
1.1. Statement of the research problem .....	19
1.2. Research methodology.....	21
1.3. Structure of the dissertation.....	23
1.4. Research objectives and hypotheses .....	25
1.5. Scientific contributions .....	26
2. The museum and the aspect of place.....	27
2.1. The notion of the museum and the aspect of place .....	27
2.1.1. The notion of the museum – the public collection and the public museum .....	28
2.1.2. The museum as building type and the aspect of place .....	29
2.1.3. The museum building as composition related to place .....	40

2.2.	New museum concepts based on interpretation of place .....	46
2.2.1.	Influences and formation of the concept of ecomuseum .....	46
2.2.2.	In-situ interpretation of place in the concept of the ecomuseum .....	51
2.2.3.	In-situ museums and museum buildings – the museal character of buildings .....	54
2.2.4.	The concept of the ecomuseum in museological discourses .....	64
2.3.	The museum definition and the aspect of place .....	67
2.3.1.	The evolution of museum definition by the International Council of Museums .....	68
2.3.2.	Monuments and sites as part of the museum definition .....	69
2.4.	In-situ protection, interpretation and presentation as defined by international organizations .....	71
2.4.1.	Recommendations concerning interventions in situ .....	77
2.5.	Timetable .....	81
3.	The architectural form of the museum and the aspect of place .....	86
3.1.	Key parameters that define the museum’s relation to place .....	86
3.1.1.	Parameters that define the museum concept in relation to place .....	87
3.1.2.	Parameters that define the spatial relations to place .....	89
3.1.3.	Parameters that define the visual relations to place .....	91
3.2.	Analysis of the architectural form of the museum in relation to place .....	93
3.2.1.	New Acropolis Museum - Athens, Greece .....	98
	Location .....	98
	Museum concept .....	100
	Spatial relations to place .....	101
	Visual relations to place .....	102

3.2.2. Kolumba museum - Cologne, Germany .....	106
Location .....	106
Museum concept .....	107
Spatial relations to place .....	108
Visual relations to place.....	112
3.2.3. National Museum of Roman Art - Mérida, Spain.....	114
Location .....	114
Museum concept .....	115
Spatial relations to place .....	117
Visual relations to place.....	119
3.2.4. European Hansemuseum - Lübeck, Germany .....	122
Location .....	122
Museum concept .....	123
Spatial relations to place .....	124
Visual relations to place.....	125
3.2.5. Delphi Archaeological Museum - Delphi, Greece.....	129
Location .....	130
Museum concept .....	131
Spatial relations to place .....	132
Visual relations to place.....	133
3.2.6. Lascaux IV Caves Museum - Montignac, France.....	135
Location .....	135
Museum concept .....	137



Spatial relations to place .....	137
Visual relations to place.....	139
3.2.7. Gallo-Roman Museum of Lyon - Lyon, France .....	140
Location.....	140
Museum concept .....	141
Spatial relations to place .....	142
Visual relations to place.....	144
3.2.8. Waterline museum - Bunnik, The Netherlands.....	146
Location.....	146
Museum concept .....	148
Spatial relations to place .....	148
Visual relations to place.....	149
3.3. Summary of the case study analysis .....	152
3.4. Architectural procedures in the process of design of in-situ museum buildings .....	163
4. Discussion .....	168
5. Conclusion.....	176
References .....	180
List of figures .....	192
List of images .....	195
Table 1.....	198
Table 2.....	201
Catalogue .....	203
Annex: World Heritage List and Outstanding Universal Value.....	237