

Allegory of the past as shadow of the future

On the walls of the cave, only the shadows are the truth.
Plato

Hadzic Ena
Faculty of Architecture
University of Sarajevo
Ramiza Alića 22, Vogošća
ena.hadzic@outlook.com

Ibrahimasic Maja
Faculty of Architecture
University of Sarajevo
A.Hangija 5, Sarajevo
maja90@gmail.com

Permission to make digital or hard copies of part or all of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. Copyrights for third-party components of this work must be honored. For all other uses, contact the Owner/Author. Copyright is held by the owner/author(s). UrbanIXD Symposium 2014, Venice, Italy. ISBN: 978-0-9562169-3-9

There was a cave so deep that you couldn't see the beginning. It was almost spherical, with the same height and width. It was closed in darkness.

At the bottom there was a large group of prisoners. They weren't conscious what they were. They gave birth, lived and died always in the same place, at the same position. The only thing they could do and what came to their mind was to move their head from left to right and vice versa. There were thousands, even millions of them, all chained but chains were no impediment for them.

They never had known the other state or other condition of lives. Not even the oldest ones remembered other way of life. They were happy. Especially because in front of their eyes there was a fascinating show: a whole new world. On the walls, in front of those who were seated, marched shadow puppets. The movement, the voice of the figures made a whole new life. It was the best show in the world. Situations never repeated. Humans, prisoners without their knowledge, enjoyed the events that were happening in front of them. The things that were happening in front of them were their world.

There will be a city, if you can call it like that, five hundred years from now. Because of the always growing population, height and width of the buildings will keep expanding until they merge in one mega structure. No light, no space between the buildings. It will be closed in darkness.

In the middle of that structure there will be a large group of prisoners. They won't be conscious what they are. They will give birth, live and die always in the same place, at the same position. The only thing they would be able to do and what would come to their mind would be to move their head from left to right and vice versa. There will be thousands, even millions of them, all connected with SPIDERS (Smart Performing Information Device for Embodied Reality) but SPIDERS will be no impediment for them.

They would never know the other state or other condition of lives. Nobody would remember that buildings ones had real facades, and not just the rendered projections on the gray concrete living boxes. They will be happy. Especially because in front of their eyes there will be a fascinating show: a whole new world. SPIDER will have integrated all the technological devices in one: regulation of their body temperature, the images they see, even the memories they have. It will have altered the relations between humans and their relation with the city itself. With SPIDER there was a fascinating show: a whole new world. On the walls, in front of those who were seated, will march different renders and projections. In reality, if we can call it like that, city would be filled with empty gray boxes inside

It happened one day that one young man, started to notice the chains. He became conscious of the chains and of the fact that if he breaks them he could move more freely. Suddenly, he was aware of his state. But he was the only one. The rest of the humans kept the chains. For them, it was almost like the gravity. You can't live without it, in the same way they couldn't live without chains. Why change? Humans were made to live like this.

He broke the chains, started to move. He turned around and with astonishment discovered that all of the humans were turned with their backs to a giant corridor that went till the end of the world. Over this corridor whose ends went to the end of the world, some puppeteers manipulated puppets, in front of the big fire and created shadows. The echo of their voices could have been heard in the cave. They didn't move a lot, but they were standing and could see each other faces when they talked. They never went from the corridor. Their world was stretched in two directions. They didn't have other perspectives.

and outside. The skyline as we know it now would be gone.

The movement, the voices and images that SPIDER would influence made a whole new life. It would be the best show in the world. Situations would never repeat. Humans, prisoners without their knowledge, would enjoy the events that would be happening in front of them.

It will happen one day that one young man will start to notice the SPIDER. He will become aware of the SPIDER and of the fact that if he disconnects it, he will be able to move more freely. Suddenly, he will be aware of his state. But he will be the only one. The rest of the humans will keep the SPIDER. For them, it would be almost like the gravity. You can't live without it, in the same way they can't live without SPIDER. Why change? Humans were made to live like this.

The young man, in desire to change will disconnect from the SPIDER web, and will start to move in physical space.

He will go outside of his living box and with astonishment discover that all of the humans were turned with their backs to a giant software building that was so big that you couldn't perceive it at once. In this building whose ends would go to the end of the world, some software engineers constantly worked on the SPIDER project. Each signal that they sent will have affected all the SPIDERS in the city at once. He would be able to see that those engineers behavior was different: They wouldn't move a lot, but they will stand and would see each other's faces when they talk and feel each other's skin when they touch.

The young man then saw the light at the top, very far away. He climbed and climbed and at the top he realized it wasn't the star, it was an exit from the cave. He went out and seen the world where nobody was chained and people lived according to nature.

The young man will then see the light at the top, very far away. He will climb and climb and at the top he will realize that there is a real air, real trees and forgotten nature outside the city. He will go out and imagine the world where nobody was connected to SPIDERS and where people live according to nature.

He went back and tried to convince the humans. But they thought he was crazy and he came to disturb the social peace and shake the order. The life was good so far, why change it? He became a public danger and was executed. The world remained a theater: populated with spectrum, shadows and illusionary images – or not?

*Adapted from: Plato's Cave **500 B.C.** (Mike Kelley version)*

*Prediction for: **2500 A.D.***

References

[1] Kelley, Mike (1954-2012): *Plato's Cave* (1985)
http://lacasaxeltejado.blogspot.com/2012_11_01_archive.html