

A Modular Mixed Residential/Working Intervention: Modular Energy Box

(MEB)



MEB as an urban phenomenon is a residential/working settlement, which offers mobile private and semi-private residential and working spaces. Functional resilience of housing spaces, promoting the modularity of design and multiplicity of space usage, coupled with the energy self-sufficiency, construct the core concept of the proposal. MEB as a residential and working arrangement, consists of a 60% semi-private collective spaces and 40% private spaces. Semi-private spaces, as intermediate zones, are self-managed/self-build semi-private spaces, which are meant to get organized by the inhabitants of the MEB for developing: a communal kitchen, a shared laundry, a collective workshop space, and communal corners for kids to play. The private residential/working spaces as smaller boxes, which accommodate two to four residents are, moreover, located inside the larger space of the MEB. The flexibility and modularity of MEB's spaces are translated, further, in constant reinterpretation of spaces by the inhabitants. In this manner, balancing private/semi-private spatial limits, is considered as a continuous process, simultaneously, that modularity of space is a process and not a finished product. While, the socio-spatial dynamic of the MEB is central to its design, its environmental sustainability is empowered by the potential to generate energy through the capacity of the roof to collect sun/rain.

MEB's roof, furthermore, provides opportunities of a semi-private roof terrace and urban gardening space. MEB is an intervention, which can contribute to the inward densification strategies; while it can not only contribute into urban acupuncture, but also to intensification of the residential/working spaces. This form of living/working offers the potential of transforming the process of contemporary housing production and urban planning, in which citizens themselves are also the community and dwelling designers. Henri Lefebvre in *Le Droit à la ville* (1968) proposed the concept; the right to the city, by which citizens and organizations are called to reclaim the city as a co-created space. The appropriation of collective spaces as intermediate zones, not only facilitate the opportunities of physical activities such as cooking and laundry, but also contribute to the social cohesion of inhabitants. MEB proposal, finally, is understood as an intervention, which is an antidote to social distancing, for a post-pandemic era - an urban laboratory that have the potential to sustain the social cohesion and to promote the spatial resilience of the housing practice not only in normal times, but also in time of a crisis.

