



Apartment Housing,
Bratislava, Slovakia.

development of countless high-density housing blocks with total indifference to the environment. Every building is pretty much like every other building. No building is oriented, juxtaposed, or otherwise related to its surroundings.

Form is no longer adapted to surroundings, indifferent to orientation. The south side of a building looks like the north side. Since the south side is the winter source of heat and light in eastern Europe, we should expect to see some variety of treatment. Instead, one can go to any number of eastern European cities and see the same kind of housing: block after block, floor after floor, and unit after unit. This estrangement from nature exists everywhere from São Paulo to Hong Kong to New York.

Buildings that are thus indifferent to their surroundings offer no clues to orientation. We may have difficulty distinguishing places, buildings, and even our special place in the building. Inside our apartment or office, lacking exposure to nature's rhythms, we may lose track of time and season. The basis for orientation and choice is denied.

With little or no help from buildings, we usually make a place special the best way we can. Wherever possible, we paint our house or plant a garden. But where we can't personalize a place in one way, we choose another. The problem with some means of affirm-

ing identity, as for example graffiti spray-painted on east European housing, is that they can seem to others like an abuse.

Dependence on energy-intensive heating and cooling has freed architecture in one area and trapped it in another. On the one hand, the architect can think beyond basic protection for the body as a motive for design. On the other hand, the resulting monotony does not create any stimulus that might enrich our lives. Modern technology has allowed us to homogenize the world, to act indifferently to the separate rhythms of places. Consider next how those rhythms, especially when coupled with our beliefs, have called architecture to creative heights.



Graffiti at the Entrance Door of Housing in Petržalka, Slovakia.