

Borjan Brankov

Common Friction

In theory, common areas in multi-family housing from the 20th century were part of the philosophy organizing life in a collective, with the community representing a form of family expansion to a larger number of people who are more socially connected. Benefits of collective living help the family with common facilities, but above all services, to relieve itself of certain obligations, and thus realize the possibility of using free time.

In practice we are witnessing these spaces becoming areas to pass through, to ignore everything else, to complain about them as it is always other people's job to solve the problem, to disregard the value of the space as it is not private, and therefore not valuable for a particular individual, to not comprehend the possible function of the space, and just to practice individual ignorance of living in multifamily buildings. With the most important part being the aggressive appropriation for private purposes.

The text examines the long buildup of chaos in these spaces through 3 distinct reality-inspired situations happening in these spaces, parallel 40 years apart, using New Belgrade's modernist blocks' original architecture and subsequent chaotic situations as an inspiration for the story.