

Abstract

Evolution of the symbol of the city as reflective of the ego-development in the evolution of the consciousness

The present symbol paper is aiming at exploring different phases of ego-development (and overall psychological development) as manifesting themselves in the transformation of the city through human history. As pointed by Neumann this is possible to show due to the symbolism of the psyche, which is apparent in the psychology of the child and adult alike,¹ which could be paralleled with the development of the symbol of the city. Therefore the symbolism of the city and its structures is going to be explored through the stages of evolution, as significant of the paralleling of development of the psychological structures. It is our belief that this approach could be applied in sand play work, as allowing an insight into the person's inner dynamics through the image of the city (or some of the aspects of the city) constructed in the sand tray.

As Neumann pointed, under undisturbed circumstances the contents of the unconscious are supposed to remain in unconscious, unless disturbed. Image of the City at each specific period of human development becomes a reflection of the constellations of the functions characteristic for the collective unconscious. The collective unconscious is always symptomatic of the individual development, but stays a step behind it, at the same time providing the main basis for further individual's evolution.

In child's development, on the other hand, we are observing 2 tendencies: his personal evolution (ontogenesis recapitulating phylogenesis) and adaptation to the collective at the same time, necessitating the development of certain functions.

¹ Neumann, Erich. (1973). *The Child. Structure and Dynamics of the Nascent Personality*. Karnac classics, London, NY.