

C. The Habitat Hierarchy

Habitat refers here to human settlements. A distinctive feature of Jewish settlement in Palestine is the innovative approach to spatial organization and settlement patterns. This is especially true in the rural sector. Utopian and new forms of habitat have been important factors for the recruitment and absorption of Aliyah and for stimulating land colonization. Settlement innovation has been, since the Yishuv and continues to be today, most instrumental for this goal.

In this analysis, we are concerned with the question of habitat, not from an environmental design perspective in the physical articulation of the built form; we are rather looking at habitat mainly as a reproduction site. The site on which the labor force is reproduced on daily and generational bases.

Of course, each spatial form for human settlement is distinguished by a peculiar set of relations of production, consumption, and reproduction. Spatial organization of society, specifically its built forms, are not accidental nor neutral developments. They are reflections of the social organization of production which, in turn, determines the organization of consumption and reproduction.

Under capitalist relations of production, labor itself becomes a commodity that has an exchange value determined by the socially necessary labor time for maintaining it in working condition. Therefore, it makes a real difference to wage and profit where the worker lives, where his/her power is reproduced.

In Israel, spatial organization is very much the function of rational planning and management, not evolution. Spatial management that corres-