

PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACE

5th
INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMIC
CONFERENCE

25 – 27 June 2024

Bologna
Italy



BOOK
OF
ABSTRACTS

Morphology and Design

Historic Patterns: Conservation and Sustainability

Suburban World

Walkability, Cyclability and Green Corridors

Contemporary Design

#4

Adaptive Reuse of Japanese Vernacular-built Heritage as Conservation Strategy, Community Health Driver and Sustainable Growth Vehicle

Deryk Cameron Bliss

Waseda University Graduate School of Social Sciences, Tokyo, Japan

When assessed by most metrics such as arrival numbers, accommodation occupancy rates, or revenue per visitor, the growth of inbound tourism in Japan both from 2012 and restarting post-COVID has been a resounding success. However, when examined at a more local level the situation becomes much more complex, instead painting a picture of strained visitor infrastructure, decreasing quality of life in certain host localities, with the so-called “Golden Route” destinations accounting for the vast majority of visitors, and therefore any attendant financial benefits, all of which has come to be labelled “overtourism” throughout the country.

While cultural and heritage tourism can be a valuable source of needed funds and exposure for conservation or preservation projects as well as an economic growth vehicle, effective carrying capacity mitigation efforts also need to be in place to ensure the integrity of the site and surrounding community, thereby preserving the attraction’s appeal and the quality of life of local residents.

One such strategy, known as de-marketing, involves the de-emphasizing (re-direction) of visitor focus on a popular attraction in favour of a less well-known product, and can involve highlighting the alternative’s rarity or its appeal to a select market segment. Given the prominence Japanese traditional structures such as *machiya* (townhouses) or *minka* (farmhouses) play in tourism promotions, as well as their wide geographic distribution, strategies to more fully incorporate such built heritage into wider touristic objectives would be of mutual benefit to all stakeholders.

The rehabilitation of extant built heritage has been shown in other markets to enhance consumer experiences, yield higher spend per customer, and increase overall satisfaction for both guests and host communities. Moreover, adaptive reuse of vernacular built structures can serve to reinvigorate neighbourhoods, reclaim once underutilized or abandoned spaces, and offer new socio-economic growth avenues for distressed localities. With increasing numbers of repeat visitors seeking more “off the beaten path” experiential travel, leveraging these heritage assets may represent a pathway to a more sustainable growth model for Japanese rural areas and smaller regional urban centres.

Keywords: Adaptive reuse, vernacular built heritage, carrying capacity, de-marketing.

#10

An Investigation into Public Urban Green Spaces in Singapore: Successful Qualities and Attributes

Simona Azzali¹, Margaret Seow²

¹Canadian University Dubai, Dubai, UAE

²James Cook University, Singapore, Singapore

Green spaces, apart from being indicators of how environmentally sustainable a city is, also impact the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of the people living in it and in turn, through these outcomes, increase the liveability and sustainability of the city. In a highly urbanized and dense city like Singapore, green open spaces as part of the repertoire of public spaces, are increasingly important to provide much-needed respite to the urban city dweller. Due to market forces and globalization, available vacant spaces are usually highly contested with the government generally prioritizing the allocation of such spaces for residential or commercial use due to the more urgent needs of housing and commerce. Nonetheless, there are still pockets of public open spaces that can be found throughout Singapore, from the many public parks administered by the National Parks Board [1], to the thoroughfares of neighbourhood centres and void decks of public Housing Development Board [2] blocks.

This paper will look at how to measure the success of green public spaces, examine the qualities and attributes that make urban green spaces and public spaces and attractive and conducive for people to visit. How can these qualities be used to enhance the existing green public spaces in urban Singapore, where land in the downtown central area is often highly contested? It uses the case studies of two urban public spaces in Singapore – Clarke Quay and Fort Canning Park to compare the different qualities of both spaces and what attracts people to use them. Using the case studies of international urban green public spaces, this study also delves into different proposals by architects and planners to revitalize these spaces to make them relevant to the changing needs of the users. Based on the observations gathered from visits to the two public spaces in Singapore and learning points from the international parks, this study also proposes some ideas to enhance the attractiveness of Fort Canning Park to increase visitors and dwell-time of users. The study argues for the retention of Jubilee Park at a corner of Fort Canning Park and other reserve sites around the park to be zoned as part of the permanent Fort Canning Park. The paper concludes with recommendations to engage key stakeholders and members of the public to refine and suggest ideas on the proposal.

[1] National Parks Board is a statutory board of the Government of Singapore responsible for the planning and management of parks, and greenery in Singapore

[2] Housing Development Board is the statutory board of the Ministry of National Development responsible for public housing in Singapore. Void decks refers to the first level of the public housing blocks, often left devoid of housing units, hence the word "void"

#18

Public Space, Facadism and Other Illusions: Scuola Grande di San Marco in Venice

Ana Morcillo Pallares, Julia McMorrough, Jonathan Rule, John McMorrough

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

The complex, asymmetrical composition of the facade of Scuola Grande di San Marco in Venice constitutes an anomaly for its time. In contrast with the traditional practice of the Renaissance, the Scuola's elaborate shell was built at the same time as rebuilding the structure which was damaged in a fire in 1485. This unusual and speedy decision indicated the importance of the Scuola's staging and its role in Venice's public life in the Quattrocento. But beyond these circumstances, the ground floor of the facade as designed by the architect Pietro Lombardo highlights it as a masterful piece of pictorial illusionism. A design which, by associating real and virtual architecture, heightens the illusion of an uninterrupted extension of reality. This paper explores this unconventional facade as a way to reflect on the potential role that mechanisms of illusion can play in the public realm. A scenario which not only questions the boundaries of what is real, but also generates a versatile and controversial interface to be explored.

Lombardo's exploration in pictorial illusionism launches a provocative composition using coloured marble and dividing the facade into two unequal wings that face one of largest public squares of all Venice: the Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo. A singular location which the architect took full advantage of Lombardo's staging towards the piazza as the primary public space for ceremonial display, also constrained it into an odd tight corner between the canal and the massive brick facade of St. Giovanni e Paolo Basilica. The larger scale of this church and gothic style imposed several limitations, since neither the form nor size of Lombardo's elements could enter into dialogue with the church's exterior and required the design to masterfully play up its urban theatricality.

Lombardo relied not only on the physical space, but on the virtual. Instead of competing against the Basilica, a series of arches along the lower zone of the church were continued to the Scuola, but in a modified form, by illusionistic reliefs. Two pairs of reliefs between the lower story of pilasters heightened the effect of an extension of the facade from the piazza. Two vanishing points on each pair of reliefs become crucial in the spatial alteration. As the scholar Phil Sohm points out: "The illusionistic space of the reliefs also complements the openings of the two portal bays, so that the wall of each bay is pierced by either fictitious or real voids. The creation of a pictorial space which, by associating real and virtual architecture, seems to be a logical and interrupter extension of reality" (1). A distortion which is accentuated by colour and repetition of elements, in such a way that each relief appears to be a free-standing structure. An effect which multiplies the facade's presence, extending its symbolic dimension, and inviting the viewer to look further.

Today, more than five hundred years after Lombardo's facade, and amidst a contested collective realm where the boundaries between what is physical and virtual are less defined than ever, the potential indeterminacy of new forms of manipulation on our public space needs to be addressed. Lombardo's playful arrangements engage viewers to participate equally in the illusory scenes, in a distorted canvas which blurs the apparently clear limit of a doorframe. A sensibility which reflects on architecture's own capacities for engagement with what we consider to be real or not. A challenge which invites us to reflect on the relationships

between the way we perceive our collective built environment and the way other modes of illusion can potentially participate in it

Key words: illusion, virtual space, physical space, depth, manipulation

(1) SOHM, P L (1978) The Scuola Grande di San Marco, 1437 – 1550: The Architecture of a Venetian Lay Confraternity (Order No 7906497) Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global Closed Collection p. 132.

#31

Sydney's Missing Square

Ela Glogowska

University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Public spaces refer to areas open, accessible and available for the use and benefit of all members of a community regardless of their cultural and social background. Urban public spaces are the spaces between buildings and facilities for the general use and the benefit of the public, and most often referred to as the street, including sidewalk or footpath, the park and the civic square, and each of these types has its own historical and functional legacy.

Looking at the evolution of Sydney, despite being originally planned for a European settlement (Brand, 1998), there appears to have been a departure from the traditional European public square typology as an organiser of a public sphere. Long tradition of civic parks from the Victorian age, Sydney's rivers that were swimmable up until the early 20th century, waterfront edges and rich beach culture, cater for individual development, social interactions and leisure. Sydney's urban landscape is characterised by a multiplicity of high streets throughout its urban fabric, which serve as focal points for civic, cultural, commercial and social activities. From the second half of the 20th century, new urban precincts based around commerce and pedestrianised shopping streets contributed to the public realm. This recount poses a question: is there a gap in the role urban public spaces play in Sydney? In one respect, tied to the city square typology, the notion of the civic identity, freedom of access and action, but also the temporary claim of ownership of public space is inseparable from the quality urban life (Carr et al, 1992). Secondly, a square is a deliberate gap in an urban mass, it represents physical and psychological pause within the civic landscape and daily business (Zucker, 1966), creating a space where people can come together by design or fortuity.

Henceforth, despite of the absence of the traditional typology of the square, driven by the need for various accessible open public spaces, the idea of the city square kept resurfacing. Over the years the space for people in the city has been reclaimed and today the NSW Government and City of Sydney affirm the positive potential of public spaces to facilitate social capital, economic development and community revitalisation. It is expressed through planning and policy formulation, including Public Space Public Life surveys prepared by Gehl in 2007 and 2020, the Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 vision and City of Sydney Strategic Plan 2023, the NSW Public Spaces Charter, and the NSW Movement and Place frameworks.

This study builds upon this momentum and focuses on the spatial potentialities of the city square to accommodate civic life. It investigates the morphology of 2 meaningful nodes in Sydney's public realm: Martin Place and Sydney Square. Considering their location, intended function and civic importance endorsed by the presence of the significant public buildings, these are considered the exemplars of Sydney's contemporary city squares. Time-space analysis and mapping enable the understanding the origins, transformation through time and contextualisation within urban setting. This approach is motivated by the well identified need for precise information about form, scale and dimensions in order to provide orientation in urban design and formulate design principles (Wolfurum, 2015). It also sets the foundations for further examination of how these components can be capable of constructing a shared space in the city and contribute to their use and character. The study contends that the better understanding of the morphological, spatial and architectural characteristics can provide

insights that are useful for the practitioners in creating well informed and culturally relevant urban public spaces in the future.

References

- Brand, D (1998) An urbane gaol: Macquarie's Sydney Journal of urban design, 3(2), 225-239.
Carr, S, Francis, M, Rivlin, L G, & Stone, A M (1992) Public space Cambridge University Press.
Wolfrum, S (2015) Squares: Urban Spaces in Europe Birkhäuser Verlag GmbH.
Zucker, P (1966) Town and square: From the agora to the village green Columbia University Press.

#32

From Central City to Extensive city: the Challenge of the Interconnected Metropolis The case of Porto Metropolitan Area

Rodrigo Coelho

CEAU_FAUP (Center for Studies in architecture and Urbanismo), Porto, Portugal

After several decades of profound transformation of its central public spaces (or, if we want, the so-called noble or consolidated city), the city of Porto and its metropolitan area is now facing the challenge of structuring and “giving shape” to what we can call the “metropolitan network of public spaces”, responding at the same time to the multiple challenges that the current context poses (considering, particularly, the climate emergency, and recognizing, at a metropolitan level, the important role of public space in mitigating all types of inequalities). These challenges entail, generally, the need to think about public space in a systemic way (and recognizing eg. the role of public space as social and urban green infrastructure).

But are metropolitan areas prepared to face these challenges? Namely those, as is the case of Porto Metropolitan Area (PMA), which grew in an accelerated and fragmented way and which globally disregarded inter-municipal coordination? and where uncontrolled urbanization (supported by heavy road infrastructures) took place, occupying markedly rural territories?

The hypothesis to be explored – as a fundamental premise to respond robustly to the urban challenges – is the need to consider, previously or simultaneously, the MPA territory as a set of articulated centralities, but without disregarding the diversity of logics, times, and urbanization patterns, that can still be recognized. Some questions arise: How can these systems of public spaces (with a potential metropolitan dimension) be articulated with each other, and to what extent can they be related to networks of public space on a more urban or even neighbourhood scale? What components or “urban materials” can shape these systems?

Beyond the Metro do Porto project, and waterscape public space systems, which already constitute anchors in responding to current challenges, the paper seeks to identify and analyse other systems and forms of public space, which in our view will be key in the future balancing of PMA.

Among above mentioned well-known and iconic interventions (such Metro do Porto implementation, coordinated by Eduardo Souto de Moura) a set of more anonymous interventions is being carried out in a generic and extensive and interior territory.

But despite this relative anonymity and the small scale of these interventions (and their municipal nature), their importance and relevance grow if properly articulated with other medium and small-sized interventions, and above all, if they are capable of establishing a network of public spaces of supra-municipal scope.

These set of ongoing and planned interventions are spatial sub-systems, of a municipal and inter-municipal order, linked to intermediate-scale infrastructural networks, or to the recovery of natural systems (rivers, streams and smaller watercourses), often associated with the creation of parks and green corridors of inter-municipal dimension.

Beyond and in articulation with the local and intermunicipal interventions the paper will also analyse and focus on the importance of large-scale and geographic elements. In this context, it will be mentioned and recognised the importance of the ‘Porto Mountains Park’ as the main

anchor for the implementation of an ecological system on a metropolitan scale Known as the 'Green Lung' of the PMA and designated as a 'Protected Landscape', the 5700 hectares of Porto Mountains Park brought three municipalities together to promote its protection and qualification (Gondomar, Paredes and Valongo), making it a "referential space", both on a metropolitan and regional scale.

In short, the paper will allow us to conclude that regardless the different origins and scales of the projects, the shared interests and concerns may conduct to an effective territorial-scaled transformations. Their mapping, even if showing the discontinuity of the individual projects, promotes a forward-looking and imaginative reading, highlighting the potential of their connection within a metropolitan structure.

#46

Creating Public Spaces through Architecture, Art and Experience. An Analysis of the Practice of muf architecture/art

Cláudia Antunes

CiTUA – Center for Innovation in Territory, Urbanism, and Architecture, Lisbon, Portugal

Drawing on Heidegger's thought that "to build is in itself already to dwell" and Maurice Merleau-Ponty's thoughts on the importance of our perception of the world and our experience of space, we seek to analyse and question the value of experience and participation as a way of building/inhabiting public space. To this end, this analysis focuses on the Altab Ali Park project of muf architecture/art, a London based studio focused on projects for public space, intertwining in their practice art and architecture. For the renovation of a public park in Aldgate (London), muf promoted a strategy of community involvement in the project, which contributed to the development of a new experience of public space, through participation and the experience of using the space.

The intervention strategy sought, first and foremost, to understand how the park was used and which people habitually used the park and which did not. In an area of great cultural diversity, muf developed a strategy that sought to create a new dynamic in the use of the park, through a series of temporary interventions over several months, where the whole community could participate and learn more about the history of the place. This set of interventions took place at the same time as the muf studio was developing the park's renovation project. On the one hand, this allowed the studio to develop a research process that permitted to develop a design that incorporated the real needs of the place and, on the other hand, it allowed for greater dialogue between the population and the space, which was later reflected in greater integration of the space into the community after the work was completed.

The project, through its intervention strategy and the project design itself, demonstrates how space is constructed by the action of its users (in the wake of De Certeau) and how architectural design can create spaces that stimulate use and appropriation, building a space of possibilities for creative use of public space by its users.

The article sets out to question how experience and participation are determining factors in the construction of public space and how the interrelationship between art and architecture in the practice of muf architecture/art contributes to the creation of more integrative and phenomenological spaces.

#47

Defining Public Space through the Industrial Remnants: The Coexistence on the Same Urban Space of Conservation and Sustainability

Varvara Toura

Géographie-cités, Paris, France

André Corboz in his article «A good use of historical sites» develops a model of city planning based on the conservation of cultural goods. Considering Corboz model of city planning as a critical alternative to the productive rationality of common urbanization, the paper tries to answer the question of how industrial remnants, which marked the urban landscape, could lead to cities' re-design and to the redevelopment of deindustrialized cities.

The focus is given on public spaces such as squares and parks designed in former industrial brownfields based on the conservation and reuse of equipment and infrastructure dated on the industrial era. The purpose is to question the appearance of new practices in the morphology and uses of public spaces, by focusing on the cases of two industrial cities in France, Nantes and Saint-Ouen, in which the industrial heritage is associated with sustainable urban planning programs and citizen engagement. Through a descriptive-analytic method the paper defines the new industrial landscape as a system which includes: 1) the preservation and inscription on the design of public spaces of industrial equipment and infrastructure and 2) the preservation and reintegration to the urban fabric of entire industrial neighbourhoods through the re-design of their public spaces (streets, squares). In the two case studies, the analytic method is used in order to investigate the ways in which the inscription of industrial remnants within the perimeter of public space redevelopment programs contributed to territorial transformations and social and environmental sustainability after several years of decline and environmental pollution.

The performed analyses included a combination of statistics techniques (diagrams of demographic evolution) and qualitative methods (interviews) in order to analyse the actions and the role of each actor involved in the design processes of public spaces, as well as the results of this design approach (preserve and reuse) on the increase or decrease of the local number of inhabitants. We should underline the role of inhabitants' associations and activists working on the issues of preservation of industrial heritage and environmental protection on the design of public spaces, as their direct involvement in the design processes contributed to the development of a local citizen know-how on the field of participatory public space design. In both case studies, citizen know-how refers to the desire of a certain number of inhabitants, activists, or members of inhabitants' associations, to involve people who do not usually participate in participatory public space design processes (for example immigrants and young workers), as well as to create an associative network to share their experiences beyond the district scale. We can see, therefore, that activism on the scale of the district as well as the experiences of micro-local urban projects such as public spaces, could contribute to the generalization of advanced participatory mechanisms on the scale of city, by including in this type of land use planning people with different profiles (age, ethnicity, socio-professional category). The research showed that the preservation and reuse of industrial remnants in the design of public spaces in former industrial cities could lead to cities' re-design, through the coexistence on the same urban space of elements from different eras. The interviews with the local actors tried to answer the question of how public spaces in

former industrial sites could be adapted to contemporary needs, by proposing a different vision of the French national strategic plans used for the revitalization of deindustrialized cities. Citizen engagement could be added as a new dimension of these plans, as the citizens become true social actors who decide about the morphology and the aesthetics of the urban landscape.

Keywords: industrial landscape, public space, conservation, sustainability, France

#48

Street Life: Technological Mediation and Pedestrian Ecologies in Seattle's Mid-century Road Networks

Elizabeth Umbanhowar

University of Washington, Seattle, USA

As mobility corridors and public spaces, city streets and their representation through time offer an important vantage from which to witness unfolding urban processes, ecologies, and histories. Emerging transportation technologies and especially the automobile indelibly altered urban form and function in cities like Seattle, Washington beginning in the early twentieth century. In turn, the role of “**pedestrianism**”—both the activity of walking and the condition of being a pedestrian—became increasingly and intentionally relegated to the margins of the American urban imaginary.

As car mobilities grew to dominate not only design and engineering practices, but also cinematic aesthetics and the American psyche, the ideological and material space in streets available for pedestrians seemingly contracted. And yet as Peter Norton argues, even in Seattle there remains a “persistent pedestrianism” in the form of play, protest, inhabitation, and green activism. Though sometimes forgotten or ignored, residents over time have asserted their rights to the city and taken to the streets: through both permitted activities and unsanctioned occupations for justice, environment, and mobility. While today cities like Seattle are at the forefront in addressing pedestrian rights through implementation of progressive policies to improve safety and access, urban health, and racial justice, attitudes about *who* belongs in urban streets suggest a residual car-centred sensibility. Such sentiments continue to impact actions and elections. But the historical introduction of the automobile and consumer tastes alone did not drive these transformations. Changing municipal regulations, engineering innovations, budgetary priorities, and even media representations also impacted **streetscapes**. Shifting approaches to the design, maintenance, and regulation of roadways supplanted many pedestrian resources and rights as well as damaging vital green infrastructure. Policies such as redlining further exacerbated harms and prevented poor and communities of colour from accessing safe streets and green spaces.

The concomitant discourses of Modernism, and its preoccupations with “automobility” and the speed, efficiency, independence, status and “safety” afforded by the car also played an important role in shifting design practices and perceptions. An almost pathological fear of congestion drove infrastructure “improvements” while also tempering social behaviours. Evolving technologies in signalization, lighting, roadway design, and other forms of control and surveillance, such as the invention of “jaywalking,” delimited diverse pedestrianisms. Despite increased fatalities, the implementation of more “efficient” one-way traffic in downtown Seattle also attested to the ways in which automobile privileges trumped pedestrian protections. At the same time, ubiquitous media channels, including cinema and later television, celebrated the power and prestige of the car, leading to the erosion of transit infrastructure and the perceptions of status. Corporations and municipal governments deployed both Hollywood and non-theatrical, or “**useful**” **cinema**, to shape expectations and experiences of urban **mobility**.

Both innocuous and ubiquitous, useful cinema was widely screened in movie theatres, in schools, factories, churches and homes. Promotional films such as the 1961 eponymously

named “Seattle” touted the technological promises of automobility while affirming the values of a predominantly white middle-class audience. Yet, while many roadway chronicles have focused on the impact of cars—their manufacture, regulation, and representation—street histories ensue at the human scale. By interrogating the “syntax” of infrastructural design and its visualization, this investigation attempts to make sense of both the explicit as well as the tacit, often invisible, intersections of historical pedestrian inhabitation and resistance, intersections that often resulted in the collision of community values and human bodies. Analysis of archival records including mid-20th century photography and films, and the retracing of specific Seattle streets through embodied walking and then-and-now film methods reveal the frictions between historic design policies and practices, contemporary experiences, and the diverse pedestrian ecologies they benefit and belie

Keywords: pedestrianism, mobility, streetscape, useful cinema

#51

Designing Proximity: The Role of Municipal Architecture and Design in the Formation of Public Space

Thomas-Bernard Kenniff, Emmanuelle Bergeron, Agathe Parent-Corriveau, Joelle Kelzi

UQAM, Montréal, Canada

The tangible presence of the municipality in urban space plays a crucial role in the formation of citizens and publics. Whether through planning, architecture, artefacts or human representatives, this presence contributes to the quality of living environments by giving meaning to the municipal assemblage and a space of representation for community life. The built environment frames and gives meaning to encounters between citizens and municipalities by providing a framework for interaction and communication made up of objects at different scales. Together, they create and qualify municipal proximity. This paper defends and celebrates the physical presence of the municipality, recognizing that there is a fundamental link between this tangible aspect, the quality of living environments, and our relationship with the world; that the meaning of a speech, a debate, a dialogue, an action — in short, of a public space — depends on the proximity of the built environment in which it takes place.

Since 2018, a team of environmental design students at the School of Design, Université du Québec à Montréal, and I have been working on a series of research-by-design projects looking into the way various municipal and governmental architectures characterize public spaces in the province of Québec through proximity. These have included municipal service buildings in Montréal, provincial roadside amenities and, most recently, town halls and municipal courts of small and medium towns across the province. Each study involves fieldwork, drawing investigations, and creative syntheses that document, map, and reformulate conditions of proximity.

The current shift of services to online platforms and the perceived devaluation of civic architecture call into question the importance of these tangible points of contact and their role in a sustainable political culture. Understood as municipal interfaces between citizens and administrative, political, or judicial entities, these places of vital social importance reveal the workings of the municipal apparatus within which they operate and the ways in which this one participates in the evolution of citizens and publics. By studying the formation of public spaces in municipal architecture and their adaptation to urban forms, we are looking at what arrangements exist and could be anticipated that preserve the significant aspects of the physical encounter between municipalities, citizens, and publics.

Our projects reveal how these public spaces are assembled at multiple scales through urban design, flows of circulation, transitions between peripheries and centres, thresholds between exterior public space and interior civic space, reception areas or the layout of council chambers. The use of scale as a vector of analysis highlights the need to think about public space in a transversal and multiscalar way. The role of the built environment and its tangible connections transform these spaces so that they are centrifugal or centripetal, interdependent or fragmented, homogeneous or heterogeneous. Three lines of analysis are favoured: the scale of the building, or the architectural forms of citizen interaction; the scale of the urban centre, or the layout of municipal nuclei and their relationships of centrality; and the transversal dimension of municipal architectures, or transformations to the concept of proximity. In this context, the concept of a proximate public space goes beyond geography or

the measurement of distance It is something designed through architectural assemblies, cultural resonance, shifting densities, and tangible connections.

Keywords: Public space, Proximity, Municipal architecture, Urban Design

Largo dos Contos: from Methodological to Intervention Practices in Small Historic Public Spaces

Alice Viana de Araújo¹, Yuri Queiroz Abreu Torres²

¹Departamento de Arquitetura e Urbanismo/Escola de Minas/Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, Ouro Preto, Brazil

²Departamento de Engenharia Urbana/Escola de Minas/Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, Ouro Preto, Brazil

After its recognition as a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site, the historic town of Ouro Preto, in Brazil, has been taking efforts to protect its landscape, its original urban layout and the old baroque monuments. However, despite the relative success, it is still far behind what a historic centre of its relevance could offer. Its central public spaces, which offer essential opportunities for contemplating and recognizing its heritage, are extremely neglected, especially as they deny many forms of appropriation that could enhance the quality of urban experience for tourists and, mainly, to the local community. The majority of its daily visitors is formed by a black, low-income population, who commute to work in the small local businesses, but who live in the outskirts, where not only housing is precarious, but lack spaces for leisure and socialization. At the same time that this population is neglected from a proper urban experience, they also do not feel welcome in the central public spaces, considered as places intended only for the tourists and local elites.

The main central public spaces, Praça Tiradentes and Largo de Coimbra, have monuments and activities that are highly attractive to tourists, whereas Largo dos Contos is directly connected to the main hub of commerce that is more relevant to the local community. With approximately 1,673 sqm, it has a triangular, elongated shape, faced by important buildings from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. However, it is densely occupied by vehicles, circulating or parked, and has a constant flow of pedestrians on its narrow sidewalks.

Largo dos Contos has been monitored since 2017, in a collaboration between the university and the local municipality, aiming to turn it into a more attractive and qualified space. Since then, it has been mapped and analysed through different methods, from physical inventories to observational studies, like post-occupancy assessments (Cooper-Marcus & Francis, 1998; Gehl Institute, 2017; Gehl & Svarre, 2013; Whyte, 1980), mobility diagnoses (ITDP BRASIL, 2018) and theoretical approaches of landscape conservation (Muñoz Viñas, 2003). As a result, we were able to statistically demonstrate that vehicles are more privileged, compromising the contemplation of the heritage and leaving precarious conditions for pedestrian mobility and for permanent activities, such as leisure and socialization.

By systematizing results and analysis of the combined methodologies, we developed an intervention proposal that disciplines vehicular and pedestrian circulation without compromising the commercial dynamism, that includes everyday demands and highlights its historical and cultural values, adding to better preservationist practices. This work aims to contribute to the search of methodological possibilities and approaches for guiding interventions in small historic open public spaces, where heritage preservation and contemporary demands represent a challenge. Additionally to this challenge, there is the complex task of intervening in favour of a more welcoming experience for all its users, especially in contexts of significant social inequality, in which certain improvements may result

in gentrification, deterring the local population from dynamic, symbolic and culturally rich centralities.

References

- COOPER-MARCUS, C; FRANCIS, C (1998) Post-Occupancy Evaluation In: MARCUS, C; FRANCIS, C (Eds) People Places: Design Guidelines for Urban Open Space New York: Wiley, p 345-356
- GEHL INSTITUTE (2017) Public life tools: The Complete Guide Available in: <<https://gehlpeoplecom/tools/>> Access in: January 2024
- GEHL, J; SVARRE, B (2013) How to study public life Washington DC: Island Press
- ITDP Brasil Índice de Caminhabilidade: Ferramenta (versão 20) 2018 Available in: <https://itdpbrasilorgbr/icom2/> Access in: January 2024
- MUÑOZ VIÑAS, S (2003) Teoría contemporánea de la restauración Madrid: Editorial Síntesis
- WHYTE, W H (1980) The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces Nova York: Project for Public Spaces

#70

Building Climate-Resilient Public Spaces: A Holistic Examination of Nicosia (Cyprus) Guided by Global Environmental Agenda

Sebnem Hoskara, Ozge Selen Koc

Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta, Cyprus

This proposal focuses on integrating Global Climate Summit Outcomes into the design/redesign of public spaces in Nicosia, the last divided capital of Europe, in Cyprus through a comprehensive evaluation for enhanced resilience.

The COP Summit, officially the Conference of the Parties, constitutes an annual international conference on climate change facilitated by the United Nations Attended by all signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international agreement operational since 1994, this conference is a platform where participating nations discuss and coordinate their efforts. Within this framework, parties to the Agreement pledge to implement voluntary measures to prevent detrimental anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

The first meeting of the COP was convened in March 1995 during a summit in Berlin, Germany. Subsequently, COP3 saw the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, while COP11 yielded the Montreal Action Plan. Notably, COP21 marked the signing of the Paris Agreement, an accord designed to restrict the global temperature increase to 15°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100 and proactively address existing climate change impacts. This pivotal event emphasized a comprehensive decision-making framework dedicated to combating climate change and addressing the socio-economic challenges arising from this endeavour. In addition, by endorsing a Gender Action Plan, COP23 played a distinctive role in directing attention towards gender equality and women's empowerment within climate change decision-making.

In addition, COP summits are not limited to government representatives. They also include various stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, and local governments. This diversity plays a critical role in enhancing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of proposed solutions. Hence, it is plausible to discuss the potential of a theoretical framework applicable across various disciplines to reconcile environmental, social, and economic facets in the urban development processes of both developed and vulnerable nations practically. This is achievable through the support of various disciplines to create a sustainable and liveable environment.

In the present era, cities are continually expanding to cater to the evolving needs of urban populations due to uncontrolled growth, industrialization, and migration. Projections indicate that by 2060, two-thirds of the global population will reside in urban areas; however, nearly half of the urban fabric, including vital public spaces designed to accommodate and serve this growing populace, has yet to be built. It is indisputable that the environmental issues previously categorized as climate change have evolved into a climate crisis. Consequently, the primary focus of disciplines collectively shaping the built environment, recognized as a significant contributor to energy and natural resource consumption, should now centre on enhancing climate resilience in future cities.

The climate crisis demands a multidisciplinary approach, so collaborating with experts from diverse fields becomes crucial. An array of measures, such as enhancing energy efficiency, adopting renewable energy sources, utilizing sustainable construction materials,

implementing green infrastructure, strategic transportation planning, adequate water and waste management, and incorporating green spaces, plays a pivotal role in curbing greenhouse gas emissions. This is especially significant given the rapid urban expansion and the unpreparedness of many cities.

Public spaces mould the social fabric of cities and serve as crucial venues for community gatherings and engagement. These spaces play a pivotal role in shaping the future of cities and their characteristics. While cities today are often complex and multifaceted, creating more climate-resilient, sustainable, and liveable public places that balance environmental, social, and economic elements with the right strategies and practices is possible.

This study aims to assess the current state of historic and contemporary public spaces in Nicosia, the divided capital of Cyprus, to establish a unified foundation. This includes integrating design and implementation criteria for public spaces with climate summit findings addressing global environmental issues and climate resilience. The ultimate goal is to enhance the support for developing future public spaces for Cypriot cities.

The study's methodology is based first on the critical aspects of public space design introduced by urban design pioneers such as Jane Jacobs, Jan Gehl, and Christopher Alexander and second on the climate-resilient public space design and implementation framework introduced in international summits. Accordingly, the study will present an overall evaluation of public spaces in Nicosia, which will set up a design and policy framework for their future.

Multidisciplinary Fields

Art and Activism in Public Space

Privatization and Gentrification

Crime and Urban Safety

Youth and Gender Perspectives

#3

Fractured Urban Landscapes, Other Public Spaces: Marginalized Representations of the Place under the Paulo de Frontin Overpass in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Bernardo Emmanuel

Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montreal, Canada

Overpasses were a common car-oriented intervention in cities around the globe in the twentieth century. Nowadays, we inherited fractured urban landscapes and public spaces under overpasses often present dynamics of violence and degradation in Brazil. Inspired by foreign initiatives, local governments aim to revitalize them.

The existing literature about urban overpasses focus on the possibilities of revitalization, their threat to sustainable and walkable cities, facing public spaces under overpasses as lost or dead. However, this perspective tends to neglect their representations for current users. It tends to oversimplify existing dynamics and spatial representations for people who use public spaces under overpasses daily. Our research question is: how residents, volunteer workers, street vendors, peddlers, graffiti artists and homeless people represent the public space under the Paulo de Frontin overpass in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil?

Adopting a qualitative methodology, the research analyses media articles, semi-structured interviews, and direct observations between June 2017 and August 2019. It articulates the notions of public space and representations. The concept of representation is understood as the lens through which we interpret facts, giving meaning to the territory and building urban landscapes. The concept of public space is understood as the link between the immaterial space of creating a society together and the physical space of streets, squares, and parks. Thus, the study of public space's representations reveals not only place meanings but also touches upon one of the essences of the city: negotiation processes with others.

Inspired by Michel Foucault's considerations around heterotopias, we explore the place under the overpass as an "other" public space, very much alive, emerging from a fractured urban landscape. We aim to understand the images of the physical space, the images of others in that space and how negotiations and conflicts among them build those images. We aim to understand the dynamics through which it became what it is, enriching and detailing forms of inequality that emerge in cities through the appropriation and representation of public spaces.

We conclude that although the urban landscape suffers a fracture with the overpass installation, the public space under it tends to reintegrate city's dynamics. This other public space evokes distorted notions of home and workspace, based on conflict, dominance, and power disputes over the territory. The inequality in the access of public spaces in cities emerges from the fact that spatial leftovers from past urban planning decisions are often the only option to marginalized actors. We also argue the use of the term "revitalization" in different discourses, which means "bringing life again", may cause obscurity and misunderstandings of former and existing social dynamics in those spaces and ends up perpetuating or even increasing urban social inequalities.

#7

From Occupying the City-Parks to Securing the Ballot-Boxes: The 10-Year-Old Story of The Mushait Turkish Citizens with the Aftermath of the 2013 Gezi Events

Hande Ramazanogullari

Istanbul Kent University, Istanbul, Turkey

Turkey, since 2014, has been experiencing an unusual interest by the civil society towards the election process whether local or national, not only as electorates but also as unofficial observers. Turkey has been witnessing tens of thousands informally supervising each and every ballot-box in the country through voluntary participation within the electoral councils operating the legal voting process during the last six local, general, presidential elections and one referendum since March 2014, the date marking the first elections since the end of the Gezi events.

Turkish society has been long engaged in political elections ever since the first proclamation of the constitution in 1876. Since then, the regime of the Ottoman-Turkish continuum has experienced fluctuations between authoritarianism and liberalism, yet the elections have always preserved their position as a prominent political instrument to bridge the governments to their society for purposes of democratic legitimacy under the so-called concept of the 'national will'.

With the aftermath of the hyper dramatic events of protest and violence of the Gezi events in the 2013 summer, the people emptied the streets to resume their long-repressed silence amidst the omnipresent riot police. While the repressive measures of the government worked as a political constraint against street action, it also worked as an opportunity which opened up new creative outlets for the society to mobilize against the repressive regime. Among other attempts, one example to the innovative political actions created during the time was a network initiated by a group of young people to organise volunteers to oversee the ballot-boxes during election days with the purpose of ensuring secure and fair elections. Ever since the March 2014 local elections, tens of thousands from the civil society with no political party identity or ideology have been volunteering to work during election days besides the political party members.

This paper argues that Turkey has been experiencing a very innovative social movement repertoire unprecedented in its political history. Throughout my argument, I will demonstrate that around the ballot-boxes, a social movement has been born with the purpose of political change, which created its own networks and links with society upon a very strong political culture of political elections and eventually which not only has sustained to this day, but also has played a very prominent role in the electoral victory of the new mayor of Istanbul in 2019, and who also are preparing to reorganize to work in the 2024 local elections.

Key words: City-parks, Ballot-boxes, Social Movements, Political change, Civic activism

#16

Articulating The Role of Young People in Shaping Public Spaces. Insights from the Interplay between Youth Activities and Built Environment Design in a Philippine Public Park

Ferdinand III Isla, Sandra Samantela

University of the Philippines Los Baños, Los Baños, Philippines

In the post-COVID-19 era, there is a renewed appreciation of public spaces, especially among youth, after the strict mobility restrictions to reduce transmission of the disease. Such context offers a promising opportunity for people to collectively claim the right to a (city) space, and continuously reshape it through time. Built environments have long been known to play a significant role in shaping human behaviour, relaxation opportunities, physical activity, as well as dietary choices. Well-planned environments can, indeed, promote healthier behaviours, but the ultimate success of public spaces relies on continuous adoption, use, and management by the people who use them.

Building on such idea that public spaces are not solely defined by their physical form but are co-produced through the dynamic presence and movement patterns of people, while contextualizing in the Global South, this paper looked into the interplay between the activities of young people and the built environment design of Taal Park, a public park located in the *poblacion* (central business district) of a historical town in Batangas, Philippines through survey (n = 40) and observation. Specifically, the study aimed to: (1) describe the movement, behaviour, and activities of young people visiting the park; (2) determine how the park's environmental attributes influence the behaviour and activities of young people, and how these behaviour and activities, in turn, influence the park's environment, and; (3) articulate the role of youth as social actors in the co-creation of inclusive public spaces. Results of the study highlights the positive impact of public spaces, like Taal Park, on youth well-being through effective design that facilitates and encourages social interactions.

The need for inclusive design to accommodate diverse user needs were emphasized, together with the importance of addressing the evolving needs and preferences of youth in the design and management of public spaces. It is, therefore, suggested that by prioritizing inclusivity, and meaningful youth engagement, public spaces can go beyond enhancing the quality of life for individual residents but also contribute to sustainable urban development within cities.

A Conspiratorial Bind: Curating Public Dissensus in Venice

Cameron Bishop, David Cross

Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Venetian Bind is a place-responsive public art project unfolding in Venice concurrent with the celebrated spectacle of the Venice Biennale Devised by curators David Cross and Cameron Bishop, and in collaboration with the European Cultural Centre in Venice, they have assembled a team of 24 artists in six teams –researchers and PhD candidates across a diverse range of disciplines, each scheduled to arrive and make work at different times over the six months of the Biennale. This initiative deploys a variety of novel methods using art in subtle, activist and collaborative ways in public space to explore ideas around the commons, public health and climate responsive environments. The project distinguishes itself through its place-responsiveness, and its material and temporal constraints, engaging directly with the environmental and socio-cultural fabric of Venice – a city at the frontline of climate change and its implications.

This paper explores the tensions that we bring to bear as curators in this project, between the efficacy of place-responsive and gallery-based practices in contemporary art, while drawing out the themes at play, across our 10 year's work together as collaborators devising public art projects in sites often overlooked, considered peripheral to the usual political, or economic business of the city In doing so, we ground ourselves in our work as co-conspirators, following Harney and Desideri's far reaching 2013 essay on curatorial practice, *A Conspiracy without a Plot* In examining the continuing efficacy of 'the undercommons', as a critical 'practice of space and time that does not conform to the space and time of sovereign, self-possessed individuals or the states they plot' (p), this study seeks to understanding how ideas of 'publicness' can be remade Following Bifo Berardi's contention that we have shifted in the age of semio-capitalism from conjunction to connection as the dominant mode of social interaction, how might public art projects such as Venetian bind employ in Berardi's words 'sensibility as the faculty that makes it possible to find a path that does not yet exist' (pp-12-13).

Unfolding a methodology of four parts, this research seeks to mesh experimental art making with the accumulation of new skills, straddling technique, participatory engagement and an understanding of environment and its assorted transitions. These four modes: ritual, encounter, provocation (or *bind*) and workshop offer, we suggest, a composite method whereby the artist can be simultaneously provocateur, collaborator, student and maker of place-responsive experiences Venice in these terms becomes a dynamic laboratory of communities, histories and technologies, rather than operating in its default setting as an exotic backdrop to display artwork.

In seeking to build new understandings of both Venice and temporary public art as critical operations mediated by what Slavoj Zizek calls 'event culture', this paper asks four specific questions. How might new curatorial approaches to public art make trouble for the idea of Venice as a neutral, if architecturally rich, art gallery? How can a public art project expand our understanding of Venice as a complex constellation of places, people and ecologies across the lagoon, and not simply understood as a winding pathway between San Marco and Rialto Bridge? In what ways can constraint operate in curatorial thinking as a productive mechanism by which ideas of water, both in scarcity and abundance, might be understood anew And, can

cross-disciplinary art practices developed in collaborative groups, expand our understanding of the sometimes-nebulous category of public art?

References

Berardi, F [Bifo] (2015) *Phenomenology of the end*, Semiotext(e), Pasadena.

Harney and Desideri (2013) *A conspiracy without a plot*, in *The curatorial: A philosophy of curating*, London, Bloomsbury.

The Impact of High-Density Environments on Children's Urban Play Space: A Scoping Review

Pengyu Lu, Jeroen van Ameijde

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Play activities for children, who comprise one-third of the global population (UNICEF Data, 2023), not only facilitate cognitive development and cultivate social skill acquisition (Kalpogianni, 2019), but also serve as the cornerstone of children's physical development and community formation (Mitsuru, 1992). Amongst ongoing urbanisation and urban densification, the planning of adequate play areas and connective neighbourhood spaces is increasingly constrained (Haaland & Van Den Bosch, 2015).

Prior scholarly investigations have identified a substantial increase in the publication volume of English-language journal articles within the field since 2010, as evidenced by the inclusion of 5103 articles in Tang's (2023) study. The reviewed studies encompassed an examination of child-friendly city policies in countries such as the United States (Wridt et al, 2023), Australia (Gilbert et al, 2018), and various regions in Asia (including Japan (Kinoshita et al, 2021), South Korea (Nam and Nam, 2018), China (Nan, 2020)). Additionally, there were scoping reviews on the spatial of children's living environment (Cordero-Vinueza et al, 2023; Smedsrud et al, 2024) and types of play (Vetushinskiy, 2017; Loudoun et al, 2022). However, there remains a paucity of research specifically defining cases about children's experiential aspects and activities in highly dense urban settings. Therefore, it is imperative to investigate the relationship between children and play spaces in everyday urban life.

This study aimed to present a comprehensive and up-to-date overview regarding the impact of the physical environment in highly dense urban areas and neighbourhoods on children's play. We explored the relationship between built environments and children's play spaces by conducting a systematic search in Scopus and Web of Science databases. Following an extensive literature review, the study identified and synthesized the essential features that comprise the fundamental elements of children's play spaces in high-density environments. Furthermore, the study examined the characteristics of play spaces that contributed to children's well-being and life satisfaction.

This study not only provided a current and comprehensive literature foundation for future related research but also analysed the state of knowledge regarding the relationship between children's play and the built environment. Additionally, the study's findings offered plenty of research gaps, presenting new avenues for research possibilities for sociologists, architects, urban planners, child researchers, and psychologists.

Keywords: Children; Play Space; Scoping Review; High-density City; Urban Environment

References

Cordero-Vinueza, V A, Niekerk, F (Femke), & van Dijk, T (Terry) (2023) Making child-friendly cities: A socio-spatial literature review *Cities*, 137, 104248- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2023.104248>

- Gilbert, H, Whitzman, C, Pieters, J, & Allan, A (2018) Children's everyday freedoms: Local government policies on children and sustainable mobility in two Australian states *Journal of Transport Geography*, 71, 116–129 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2018.07.007>
- Haaland, C, & Van Den Bosch, C K (2015) Challenges and strategies for urban green-space planning in cities undergoing densification: A review *Urban forestry & urban greening*, 14(4), 760–771
- Kalpogianni, D E (2019) Why are the children not outdoors? Factors supporting and hindering outdoor play in Greek public day-care centres *International Journal of Play*, 8(2), 155–173 <https://doi.org/10.1080/21594937.2019.1643979>
- Kinoshita, i, Shen, Y, Liu, S, & Guo, X (2021) Research on the Development Dynamics of Japan's Child-Friendly Cities *Urban Planning International*, 36, 8–16
- Loudoun, F M, Boyle, B, & Larsson-Lund, M (2022) Children's experiences of play in digital spaces: A scoping review *PloS One*, 17(8), e0272630–e0272630 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0272630>
- Mitsuru, S (1992) *Design of children's play environments* McGraw-Hill
- Nam, H, & Nam, S I (2018) Child-friendly city policies in the Republic of Korea *Children and Youth Services Review*, 94, 545–556 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.08.033>
- Nan, F (2020) Policy innovation on building child-friendly cities in China: Evidence from four Chinese cities *Children and Youth Services Review*, 118, 105491– <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105491>
- Smedsrud, T M, Kleppe, R, Lenes, R, & Moser, T (2024) Early Childhood Teachers' Support of Children's Play in Nature-Based Outdoor Spaces—A Systematic Review *Education Sciences*, 14(1), 13–
<https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14010013>
- Tang, P, Yang, D & Dong, N (2023) Literature Review and Frontier Analysis of Landscape Architecture with the Goal of Building Child-friendly Cities *Architecture & Culture* (09), 236–238doi: 10.19875/jcnkijzywh202309074
- UNICEF Data: Population under age 18 Retrieved December 12, 2023, from <https://data.unicef.org/how-many/how-many-children-under-18-are-in-the-world/>
- Vetushinskiy, A S (2017) *Game Space Studies: Design meets Architecture Review: Space Time Play Computer Games, Architecture and Urbanism: The Next Level* (2007) F von Borries, SP Walz, M Böttger (eds), Basel; Boston; Berlin: Birkhäuser *Sociologič Vlasti*, 29(1), 258–275 <https://doi.org/10.22394/2074-0492-2017-1-258-275>
- Wridt, P, Goldberg, D, Vissing, Y, Rudelius-Palmer, K, Wegner, M, & Zhang, A (2023) Benefits of the child-friendly cities initiative In *Sociological research and urban children and youth* (pp 155–176) Emerald Publishing Limited

#29

Why You Should Let Your Children “Roam” in the City. Children’s independent mobility (CIM) in the city, a cross-country comparison between two neighbourhoods in Bologna (Italy) and Lyon (France)

Agathe Gillet

Reggio Childhood Studies, Reggio Emilia, Italy UNIMORE, Reggio Emilia / Modena, Italy

It is estimated by the UN 60% of the world’s children will live in cities by the year 2025. For millions of children, the contours of their everyday life and experience are (in part) shaped by city environments (Christensen, 2003) In our cities, there has been a drastic decrease of the Children’s Independent Mobility (CIM) over the last decades, children are no longer allowed to move around their neighbourhoods as they please, “loitering” has become an almost illegal activity The public space that used to be a space for all has been gradually transformed into a multitude of monofunctional and unidirectional spaces.

As a result, children’s play, which once took place in the street, is now increasingly being spatially contained within child segregated private spaces with institutional activities controlled by adults (Valentine, 1997; O’Brien, 2003). The significant narrowing of the world of children implies a reduction in the opportunities for contact with people or places and a growth impoverished by essential environmental experiences. For Ward (1978), children are under house arrest. The progressive disappearance of children from urban spaces negatively impacts children’s cognitive development (Rissotto, 2006), their social development (Prezza, Alparone, & Giuliani, 2001), their sense of community and loneliness (Prezza & Pacilli, 2007), and their physical health because of the related decrease in exercise.

In France, the autonomy of children aged 6 to 11 remains very low in public space (Legendre, 2010) and Thierry Paquot (2015) believes that children are “the forgotten ones in the manufacture of territories”. In Italy, Elisabetta Forni (2002) speaks of the “structural violence of the city” which, in the name of security, has led to the segregation of childhood. The choice of a comparison between France and Italy is also due to the small amount of research related to this theme in the two countries.

Moreover, whilst attention is often focused on the different childhood experiences of the poor and the rich, it is also important that attention is paid to what we must, for want of a better term, call “ordinary childhoods”. This involves moving beyond ideas of the city as a problem or children as a problem, highlighting how such ordinary city childhoods are formed, lived and experienced (Christensen, 2003). As Vercesi (2008) emphasises, the child’s relationship with the territory is also a playful experience that is essential for the development of identity.

The methodology used consisted first of all in the elaboration of a diary completed over a period of 7 days by the children of a class of 5th year of primary school in each country, answering the questions related to their moves in town: with whom, where, when and how. The second technique used was a walk in the neighbourhood with the children. This research has therefore adopted this constructivist model of the child appropriating the social, it is about looking at children not as dominated by their environment but as actors who interact and also play a role in the evolution of both that environment and parental practices.

The conclusions of this research show that children who have well-established neighbourhood experience in their daily practices are competent, more confident in their ease of movement, more aware of the limits of the area in which they can move, and acceptance of these limits, as well as in the narratives they share about their daily lives in the neighbourhood, involving more encounters requiring less organization from their parents. These children are also more able to cope in case of unexpected situations and are the ones who seek to "gain ground" in the urban space, to find a place for themselves, even if it involves transgressing certain rules.

Keywords: child in the city, segregation, neighbourhoods, France, Italy

#33

Embodied Landscapes. The Interplay of Performance and Public Space

Leonardo Balestra

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy Hospites Teatro, Bologna, Italy

The performative *praxis* developed by Jerzy Grotowski and his collaborators at the turn of the 20th century, along with the philosophical underpinnings from Maurice Merleau-Ponty's concepts, interweaves seamlessly with the exploration of the dynamics and evolution of collective landscapes. Just as Grotowski's work emphasized the importance of contact, rhythm, and embodiment in theatrical expression, the notion of public space encompasses interactions and engagements among diverse subjectivities within a shared environment.

The performative aspect of collective spaces involves not only physical presence but also the dynamic exchange of meanings and experiences among individuals and communities. Similarly, Merleau-Ponty's exploration of 'inherence', 'institution', and 'synesthesia' can shed light on the complexities of public space as a social construct embedded in cultural, historical, and spatial contexts. Just as the actor embodies the essence of a *persona* – continuously rearranging the interplay between corporeality and spatiality – individuals and groups inhabit and shape collective spaces, imbuing them with layers of meaning throughout their actions. By drawing on the knowledge and practices of theatre, which emphasize relationality, imagination, and collective engagement, and by adopting a transdisciplinary approach, this paper aims to bridge theoretical insights with practical implementation and policy formulation regarding public space. Embedded within this framework, performance practices emerge as catalysts for societal cohesion, seamlessly bridging divides among individuals of diverse socio-economic backgrounds while transcending cultural and language barriers to foster shared encounters and actions.

Notable examples include the investigation on «art as vehicle» developed by the Open Program of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, alongside the socio-actorial research inaugurated in 2018 by Hospites Teatro. These practices emphasize the collective responsibility of caring for shared experiences, creating spaces where participants engage in meaningful interactions regardless of their differences. In essence, the dialogue between performance praxis and the philosophical investigations outlined in the abstract offers a rich framework for exploring the past, present and future of public space from an ecological perspective and in the context of emerging theatre practices in the Italian territory.

#35

Capturing Creative Activism: Property Developers' Oblique Role in Shaping Art Spaces

Louise Rollman

2023 Fryer Library Fellow, University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane, Australia

The evolving context of arts and cultural policy, driven by the necessity to supplement ever-dwindling public funding with private philanthropy and alliances with developers, necessitates nuanced analysis of the intricate relationships between property development, urban development policies and public funding mechanisms.

This research explores how these factors intersect and impact the arts, focusing on their implications amidst the misrepresentation of public funding and space as a private matter. Utilizing an intersectional analysis grounded in empirical data, the study examines the interrelationship between property development and the arts and cultural sector.

Foregrounding a shift from the core business of art production to serving private development interests, the research underscores the often-overlooked relationship between these sectors and scrutinizes their subtle dynamics. Illustrating the dual nature of the arts and cultural sector's experience within urban development dynamics, the research demonstrates how property developers influence public spending in the arts while impeding the sector's activism.

By exploring property developers' influence on funding, commissioning and display practices, the study aims to raise awareness among policymakers, urban planners, cultural institutions and the broader public about the implications of property developer influence on the arts and cultural sector. Ultimately, the research endeavours to catalyse efforts prioritizing cultural sustainability, autonomy and diversity within urban development agendas.

Keywords: artwashing, creative city policies, property development, gentrification, public funding

#36

Step Up – Walkability for women in Milan: A Mixed Method Research Focusing on Women’s Perceptions of Safety in Public Space at Night

Andrea Gorrini¹, Lamia Abdelfattah¹, Federico Messa¹, Lily Scarponi¹, Catalina Valenzuela¹, Florencia Andreola², Azzurra Muzzonigro², Gerardo Carpentieri³, Carmen Guida³, Valerio Martinelli³, Tonia Stiuso³, Floriana Zucaro³, Carlos Cañas⁴, Eleonora Gargiulo⁴, Jim Walker⁴, Rawad Choubassi¹

¹Fondazione Transform Transport ETS, Milan, Italy

²Sex and the City APS, Milan, Italy

³TeMA Lab – Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples, Italy

⁴Walk21 Foundation, London, United Kingdom

Space, as conceptualized by feminist geographer Doreen Massey (1994), is political; and thus, the experience of public space is gendered based on spatial form and social dynamics formed in space. Walkability (Speck, 2013), which refers to how friendly the urban environment is for walking, is experienced differently by women and men, partly because of women’s heightened concern for safety due to risks of harassment. As such, perceptions of safety play a major role in determining women and gender minorities’ experiences of public space, albeit not easily conceived and measured.

In this context, the scientific research project “STEP UP – Walkability for Women in Milan” (funded by Fondazione Cariplo, Grant No 2022-1643) explored this topic, with the aim of assessing how the design and the use of cities can influence women’s perception of safety at night. The project was divided into phases: a literature review identifying the key environmental factors that influence women’s perceptions of safety in public space (Scarponi et al, 2023); data collection relying on various data sources; and a mixed-method data analysis to support urban planners to design gender-inclusive public spaces. The analyses were carried out using an intersectional lens in order to understand the role of various dimensions of inequality in nighttime urban safety perception.

Data collected was divided into four broad categories: location-based data, data collected through an online survey, focus group discussions and app data from Wher, a route planner application operated by Walk21 Foundation, collecting geo-localised data about women’s perceived level of safety while walking in cities. These data sets provided both quantitative and qualitative data, equally important in the process of understanding the spatial dimensions of a complex phenomenon such as perception of safety.

Data analysis was developed along two main veins, each of local and of global relevance. The first focuses on the city of Milan and is based on the analysis of the perceived safety ratings reported via the Wher app through the development of a Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR) statistical model. This statistical model evaluates the crowdsourced ratings against location-based data describing spatial characteristics and use patterns of the city with the aim of highlighting potential correlations between the two. The model identified areas in the city that could benefit from specific improvements in three main factors: street lighting, frequency of surface public transport and presence of active businesses.

The second stream of analysis constitutes quantitative and qualitative analyses of over 1800 survey responses, over 2800 textual comments from the Wher app and qualitative content from focus group discussions in three Milanese neighbourhoods. The aim of this analysis stream was to identify the relevance of preselected environmental factors to nighttime safety perception. The survey and Wher textual comments analysis revealed how some urban factors are highly relevant to perceptions of safety, whereas other factors tend to have little to no perceived effect. Survey analysis also revealed sentimental divergence across gender and other demographic identities in intersection with gender, such as age, sexual orientation and socio-economic profile. Qualitative data from the focus group discussions offered deeper insights through first-person accounts of site-specific safety perceptions.

The results of this research contribute to the literature on issues related to walkability and inclusive public space design, supporting the development of gender-sensitive guidelines for the city of Milan and advancing knowledge in inclusive mobility research at the global scale.

References

- Massey, D. (1994) *Space, Place, and Gender* University of Minnesota Press.
- Scarponi, L. et al (2023) Thematic Review on Women's Perception of Safety While Walking in Public Space: the STEP UP Project Sustainability, 15(21), 15636 <https://doi.org/10.3390/su152115636>.
- Speck, J. (2012) *Walkable city: how downtown can save America, one step at a time* Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

#39

Auto-construction for Resistance. The Informal Mode of Building at Taipei's Shezi Island

Chi Ho Chung

National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

Shezi Island, situated at the influx of Keelung River and Tamsui River, is home for the inhabitants of an archipelago of settlements more than 300 years old in Taipei. Building permit for new construction is restricted in Shezi Island since 1970s because of the flooding issues; therefore, people solved their living problems by auto-construction. In Shezi Island, there are a variety of 'informal' constructions beyond the modernist and state control, some are expansions from the traditional courtyard houses and some are make-shift constructions for industry. Shezi Island represents a different reality of spatial making besides the formal scheme of urban planning and architecture. The municipal proposal of new development in Shezi Island based on a wholesale erasure of the existing settlements and landscape posed an imminent threat for the local who have been living with the flood for centuries and claimed that the threat was minimal since an embankment wall was built around the waterfront. Their collective self-help and self-built endeavours have evolved into a kind of resilience for continuous community development and a resistance against imposed top-down policies.

This research will focus on the creative auto-constructions and their spatial relationship with everyday living on Shezi Island. It will select five self-built cases and observe how residents gather materials, summon labour exchange to construct in their own ways, and live in their self-built spaces. I will adopt the methods of building documentation and mapping to signify and categorize the processes as well as the outcomes of auto-construction. Building documentation is a representation of space on paper, attesting the techniques and procedures of making a particular space, as well as documenting residents' living experiences. Mapping records the relationship between builders, buildings, spatial layout, daily-living paths, and landscape narratives from both human and non-human perspectives. This approach is a reversed operation that begins with planning or architectural blueprints then construct according to the representation of space. It hopes to deliver an alternative vision to understand the city and to verify the resistance of Shezi Island's inhabitants.

Keywords: informal building, Shezi Island, auto-construction, mapping, settlement

#40

Behind the Authentic Image of Traditional Marketplaces in Gentrification: Exploring the Spatiality of Broadway Market, East London

Gimin Lee

University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom

The salient point of this research is to evaluate how gentrification influences the spatiality of traditional marketplaces in local neighbourhoods from architectural and sociocultural perspectives. Given that traditional marketplaces serve as a focal point in local neighbourhoods in the spatial and social dimensions, they are recognised as strategic places on the urban agenda as part of regeneration initiatives. In this respect, this research engages with the question of the dynamics between architectural surroundings and social practices of traditional marketplaces in gentrification.

A traditional marketplace historically functions as a focal point in the local neighbourhoods serving as a dynamic space where different people, goods and activities mingle with together. With regard to this, a marketplace often emerges at the centre of a local neighbourhood and contributes to shaping a distinctive retail landscape that reflects the architectural and sociocultural character of the neighbourhood. Moreover, a marketplace is appreciated as a significant public space that sustains not only the local economy but also a sense of community in the neighbourhood. In particular, this public retail space plays an essential role in supporting low-income residents by providing basic needs at affordable prices and a place for social encounters on an everyday basis.

In this respect, a traditional marketplace is appreciated as a catalyst for regenerating undervalued neighbourhoods while promoting authentic consumption experiences. However, this phenomenon can result in changing the role of marketplaces from a commercial and social hub for locals to a leisure-experience market targeting affluent customers and tourists. In this regard, the visual representation of marketplaces is glamorised with a new aesthetic-cultural appreciation, while the essential role of marketplaces as socially and economically inclusive spaces tends to be diminished.

On this basis, this research aims to understand the effect of gentrification on the change of the characteristics of a traditional marketplace by tracing the stories of the regeneration of Broadway Market in East London. For this, this research revolves around the concept of authenticity that is capitalised on representing and reproducing the image of traditional marketplaces in the gentrification process. In this context, an interdisciplinary approach is applied to illustrate both material and symbolic forms of the marketplace that shape its spatiality. Based on on-site observation, architectural documentation is employed in parallel with ethnographic works, including questionnaire surveys and interviews. This interdisciplinary approach helps explore changes in the architectural, social and retail landscape of Broadway Market in gentrification.

By exploring the Broadway Market case, this research indicates that gentrification reconfigures both the physical and symbolic dimensions of the marketplace by accentuating architectural, social and retail attributes selectively. The architectural surroundings of Broadway Market are well improved in tandem with exhibiting a selection of high-quality and attractive displays of goods to satisfy the visual pleasure and consumption habits of the

relatively affluent customers. Meanwhile, the long-established retailing activity and social role are displaced from the idea of the marketplace as a socially and economically inclusive space for the local community. Consequently, the needs of existing customers who rely on their affordability are ignored in this context, while authentic consumption experiences are promoted by rebranding the visual attributes of the marketplace. This signifies a socially exclusive space created by the disparity in socio-economic class that changes patterns of consumption places and products in gentrification.

In conclusion, this research suggests the need for attention to the practice of everydayness in marketplaces that emerges from the relationship between individuals and the place. This can help to critically evaluate the significance of a traditional marketplace in regeneration initiatives while not losing its inclusive nature as an open-for-all space.

Keywords: traditional marketplaces, gentrification, everydayness, authenticity, inclusive/exclusive space

Re-envisioning Urban-Nature Nexus: Ecological Artistry and Activism in Public Open Space Design

Ecem Engin

IZTECH (Izmir Institute of Technology), İZMİR, Turkey

It seems as if the 'urban' and 'nature' cannot begin before the other ends. Two concepts appear mutually exclusive, suggesting that one could not commence without the other's obvious distance, implying a lack of compatibility or functionality within each other's spatial framework. In this case, while issues such as 'nature conservation', 'ecosystem services', 'wildlife protection' and 'biodiversity' are becoming increasingly important, the process of urbanization gradually signifies a diminished capacity to engage with natural environments. This research is based on the assumption that it is quite challenging to preserve something that one cannot establish a regular connection with. Awareness requires exposure. In the search for a design model that seeks to redefine the relationship between urban and nature, it is now imperative to accept the fact that 'nature' transcends the confines of a "natural space". Maintaining or imitating nature's extensions through the process of place-making even within the densest urban fabric should become one of today's foremost efforts. By examining the approach of artists from various art movements increasingly concerned with environmental degradation under the banner of ecological art, a new understanding of public space production can be pursued. Such trending ecological arts as land art, environmental art, eco-art, etc, have begun paving the way for creatively proposing new possibilities of co-existence and raising awareness. In this study, which proposes a new approach to public place-making, the main idea is to utilize the works of various artists who create nature awareness in their art, as design elements in the making of public open spaces, and to derive parameters from their approaches to natural spaces where they practice their art.

Environmental artworks, serving as embodiments of awareness and activism, also play a crucial role as design elements in guiding way-finding, fostering site consciousness and sense of belonging, preserving cultural heritage, enhancing aesthetics, and promoting environmental quality. In these public spaces, where activist works can be seen alternately, individuals living in cities will directly witness certain images, and patterns in nature, either pleasant or disturbing. One will personally witness and experience ongoing phenomena they need to be constantly aware of or have read about. Thus, by elevating the concept of public space to a higher level, these spaces will reintroduce 'nature' into urban life as places for acquiring awareness and consciousness. These powerful spaces, capable of triggering both individual awareness and a kind of urban activism, can underscore how much natural spaces are valued and approached with sensitivity within the realm of ecological art. They can make one realize, often unknowingly, how many processes in nature one affects, disregards, or misses out in urban life. Such an 'environmental' activism supporting nature-prioritized placemaking, is also 'social', in terms of targeting to influence behaviours and mindsets towards nature, in a way to change the ongoing treatment towards it. At the intersection of public art and ecological art movements in particular, the works of artists who have focused on highlighting environmental degradation in urban public spaces will be examined within the framework of the city centre-art-activism triangle. Parameters will be drawn from these works in an attempt to inform the design of urban public open spaces.

The communication between man and nature, the co-existence of urban and natural elements, and the activism for nature conservation within the urban living will be explored in the search for a new spatial framework. The results of this study are intended to provide input to various disciplines such as urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, natural sciences, philosophy, fine arts, and such.

Keywords: Nature Awareness, Urban Design, Open Public Space, Ecological Art, Urban Activism

Transformations of Public Space in a Small Mediterranean Town in the Adriatic Sea

Jasna Capo

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb, Croatia

Public spaces in the Mediterranean urban contexts, in particular the towns' central squares, are notorious for creating and enhancing local social relations. Usually with a church somewhere on its edge, they used to be the centres of sociability for local residents: for women after the church service, for men on the way to service or as they were exchanging news about politics in a cafe, for children playing after school. In addition to these everyday activities, town squares also served as the stage for rituals, such as the enchanting fraternities' processions on major church holidays and alike.

The main square in the town of Hvar, with 4500m² surface, used to be such a square. Hvar is a small town located on the eponymous island in the Croatian Adriatic Sea. Geographically, it lies in central Dalmatia, forty miles from the nearest coastal city and port of Split. With a mere 3,500 year-round residents, this tiny town boasts an extensive urban history dating back to Greek and Roman times, and a longstanding tradition of tourism, the start of which can be traced to the second half of the nineteenth century.

Based on ethnographic research, the presentation aims to document the changes introduced by the tourist industry into the life and material aspects of the main square in Hvar, *Pjaca*. It will point out conflicts over meaning and functions of public space when a location is turned into a destination in the summer months. With visual materials, it will document a striking difference between the town's appearance in the tourist season and outside of it. The square with a large communal well from the 16th century, which enjoys the protective status of material cultural heritage, is stripped of its original residential function and transformed into hospitality establishments (restaurants, bars and cafes, villas and apartments for short-term rental) in the summer months. Commercialized for the purpose of tourism, the large open space of the square is thus severely reduced, disrupting local sociability patterns and even preventing normal strolling along the square. The problem is further aggravated by hospitality entrepreneurs who respond to the increasing demand generated by excessive numbers of tourists by spreading out their premises on the square itself and staging loud open-air parties in bars, thereby not only infringing upon public spaces but also violating regulations regarding the permissible amount of public space that can be utilized by their businesses. Each year, particularly during the tourist season, conflicts over public spaces grow increasingly bitter. The (mis)use of public spaces and the town for touristic purposes also inspired commentary by local artists two years ago. Art installations that critically commented on the touristification of the square and the town spurred local reactions but this did not bring in any change into the hospitality sector. The square which was designed to be the centre of everyday life continues to be lost for local use in the summer months.

#56

A New Theory Born from Interdisciplinarity: The Unspoken Reactions to the Top-down Approach in the Making of Urban Space

Yasmin Shaaban

Yokohama National University, Yokohama, Japan

For the last three decades, researchers in the fields of geography, architecture, urban planning, and anthropology, as well as in many other specialties related to the creation, use, and distribution of physical space and its connection to society, have strongly criticized how the design of buildings and cities has increasingly lacked human input, while being made under massive business-led, neoliberal ideologies. This modus operandi not only configures a new way of masking old problems and their origins but is also causing brand new and severe problems for communities on their own.

However, besides the problems as passive consequences themselves, could it be that there are other types of active reactions emerging from the community to the long-term top-down approach in the decision-making and design of urban spaces? A deeper historical analysis of Tokyo city might hint towards the answer. According to Fumihiko Maki, in the book 'City with a Hidden Past', the development of the concept of 'oku' in the collective unconscious of Japanese citizens is a phenomenon theorized as the result of a combination of geographical, populational, political, and religious factors for long periods, specifics to Japan.

Maki describes oku as meaning both physical and psychological depth, explaining that when the Shinto religion assimilated its concept, it acquired a new meaning: a place where important things or people are hidden. Eventually, its meaning also branched into referring to important people or things that are present, although in an invisible or hidden form. His theory is that the Japanese population unconsciously developed the ability to sense the oku in the physical space after getting used to living in dense and limited urban space for centuries, to the point that it became an inherent part of Japanese culture.

In this sense, Maki describes the emergence of that capacity as a passive consequence of a context, an adaptation to it. But could it also be an active reaction, a form of counteracting or preventing the context from becoming worse? Through theoretical research that utilizes the literature analysis method to explore the connections between the oku theory and reactions found in foreign cultural beliefs, as well as in well-documented biological and biopsychological processes, a new theory took shape. This theory adds to the knowledge regarding the users' behaviours in the city space, opening them to new analyses and interpretations on both micro and macro scales. It also sheds light on less looked-into consequences of the current and most frequent approaches in the decision-making and design of public spaces in the cities.

#68

Public Space Performs: Creative Explorations of Performativity in Public Space

Jacek Ludwig Scarso

London Metropolitan University, London, United Kingdom

This paper focuses on the understanding of the public sphere as a “performative arrangement” (Cartiere and Zebracki, 2016), looking at the ways in which art can contribute new insights into this concept, thereby promoting new possibilities in taking ownership of, as well as consciously experiencing the choreographic, sensorial and aesthetic dimensions of public space. Drawing on a perspective on public art that intentionally challenges the cultural tendency to see this as mere urban decoration and as necessarily entailing permanent artworks in public space, here the emphasis is on ephemeral practices. Whether through participatory art projects, interdisciplinary interventions or indeed performances in a theatrical sense, public spaces may be reimagined and their potential reacquainted with.

The paper draws on the author’s previous writing on ‘Performing Museography’ (2023) and ‘Critical Theatricality’ (2021), as well as on the pedagogical ethos embedded in the Masters of Public Art and Performative Practices at London Metropolitan University. The author’s own artistic practice is referred to, through the project ‘Choreographics of Square’, a video installation depicting the movement of people in three city squares (Federation Square in Melbourne, Trafalgar Square in London and Piazza San Marco in Venice).

Distinguishing the concept of performativity from that of performance (Von Hantelmann, 2014) the paper nevertheless sees both within a continuum of experiences, in which the dialogical relationship between public, space and time is creatively reinterpreted through artistic intervention. According to this understanding, artistic practices that deal with the performative dimension of public space may function as ways to champion the latter’s cultural and human value, as well as to address the inherent complexities and challenges related to this.

Gentrification, Homogenisation and Sanitisation of Public Space? Evidence from the Historic Centre of Mexico City

Fernando Gutiérrez

UCL University College London, London, United Kingdom

This paper engages with long-standing debates around public space, social exclusion and sanitisation. Within urban literature, policies have been criticised for fostering excessive social surveillance, potentially eroding urban life and undermining the political functions of public spaces. Drawing on these debates, scholars in Mexico City have argued that urban regeneration policies in the historic centre have led to the ‘homogenisation’, ‘sanitisation’ and gentrification of historic public spaces (Hernández Cordero, 2012, 2013; Martínez Ramírez, 2015; Ipiña García, 2017; Rodríguez López, 2018).

The paper seeks to evaluate whether historic public spaces have become ‘gentrified’, ‘homogenised’ and ‘sanitised’ after the implementation of urban policies. To do so, it provides empirical evidence from the Historic Centre of Mexico City, recognised officially as national heritage in 1980 and UNESCO’s World Heritage Site in 1987. The study focuses on the Alameda Central, one of the oldest public parks in the continental Americas, planned in 1592.

Despite different attempts at urban regeneration and conservation of the historic centre, including strategies of surveillance and stricter policing, some individuals in the Alameda continue to oppose or choose not to adhere to existing regulations on day-to-day basis (Gutiérrez, 2017, 2021, 2023). A great variety of populations still use the Alameda even though urban policies in theory prohibit some of their practices. This study focuses on the experience and practices of homeless people, a community of older gay men, beggars, street vendors and street performers, skateboarders and roller skaters and male sex workers, among others. These groups have found ways to renegotiate the use of public space daily. To understand the experience of these populations in the Alameda, I conducted ethnography and long-term observation documented on printed maps, videos and photographs, informal and semi-structured interviews, spatial and urban policy analysis, and social media analysis.

This paper suggests that regeneration policies have not led to a ‘homogeneous’ or ‘thin’ life of the public space. The urban life of the Alameda and its surroundings in the Historic Centre change constantly, and regeneration policies have contributed to this transformation, fostering the exclusion of some populations considered ‘unwelcomed’ or ‘undesirable’. However, such populations have responded to exclusion and social displacement from the historic centre by renegotiating the policies and their effects on a daily basis.

References

- Gutiérrez, F (2017) ‘Alameda Central: El espacio público desde sus posibilidades y resistencias’, *Política y Cultura*, 48(O), pp 1A-16A Available at: <https://polculxocuaam.mx/index.php/polcul/article/view/1337/1312>.
- Gutiérrez, F (2021) ‘El espacio público durante la pandemia de la COVID-19: El cierre de la Alameda Central en la Ciudad de México’, in Carmona Hernández, A L and Chong Lugon, D (eds) *Participación comunitaria en proyectos de espacio público y diseño urbano durante la pandemia de la COVID-19: Experiencias y reflexiones de Iberoamérica y el Caribe* Ciudad de México: ONU-Hábitat México, pp 26–35 Available at: http://publicacionesonuhabitatorg/onuhabitatmexico/Participacion-comunitaria_COVID19_ppdf.
- Gutiérrez, F (2023) “‘I will stay here’: public space and social inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic”, *Journal of Urban Design* Routledge, pp 1–17 doi: 10.1080/1357480920232245336.
- Hernández Cordero, A (2012) ‘El proyecto Alameda’, *Ciudades*, (Jul-Sep), pp 32–38.

- Hernández Cordero, A (2013) 'La reconquista de la ciudad: gentrificación en la zona de la Alameda Central en la Ciudad de México', *Anuario de Espacios Urbanos, Historia, Cultura y Diseño*, 20, pp 242–267 doi: <https://doi.org/10.24275/TIRV5607>.
- Ipiña García, O I (2017) 'Fenómenos sociales provocados por la rehabilitación de la Alameda Central de la Ciudad de México', *Anuario de Espacios Urbanos, Historia, Cultura y Diseño*, 0(24), pp 361–376 Available at: <http://espaciosurbanosazcuam.mx/index.php/principal/article/view/25>.
- Martínez Ramírez, U (2015) 'Proceso de gentrificación y desplazamiento en el espacio público del centro histórico de la ciudad de México', *Working Paper Series Contested _ Cities*, p 12.
- Rodríguez López, D (2018) 'Transformación de la Alameda Central en el marco de tendencias globales y coyunturas locales Análisis etnográfico de su producción social y prácticas emergentes', *Anuario de Espacios Urbanos, Historia, Cultura y Diseño*, 0(25), pp 222–248.

Bhaktapur's Enduring Historic Landscapes: Decoding Public Spaces in a World Heritage Site of the Global South

Shyam Sunder Kawan¹, Manfredo Manfredini²

¹Shanghai University and Nepal Engineering College, Shanghai and Kathmandu, Nepal

²The University of Auckland and Shanghai University, Auckland and Shanghai, New Zealand

Global South historical cities, characterized by their rich heritage and complex urban landscapes, offer a compelling backdrop to explore the resistance of *differential development modes* and, through a cosmopolitical approach, examine the counter-hegemonic strategies, practices and actions that characterise their place-specific, anti-systemic instances opposing the social and spatial abstraction and fragmentation of rampant globalisation. In particular instances, these cities have rich regimes of instrumentalities that by successfully blend inborn tradition of emplaced socio-spatial networks to have the capacity to resist transnational forces leading extractivist projects and processes. Their public space – operating as quintessential realms where commons and collaborative actions moderate the transition towards highly transcultural and translocal urban socii – embodies agonistic regimes in multi-actor processes and progresses through steady constructive conflicts and contestations over common resources.

This article delves into the intricate dynamics of socio-spatial production of stabilised processes of dynamic, networked deterritorialization of a public space system located in a historic urban landscape of exceptional world heritage. Focusing on the concerted spatialisation of multiple inherent actors, it aims to provide a rich and in-depth exploration of narratives, meanings, symbols, functions, materialities and appearances in the evolving urban environments. Drawing on the theoretical framework of Actor-Network Theory (ANT), we examine the agency of diverse actors – both human and non-human – in the production and maintenance of public spaces. ANT emphasizes the relational nature of spatial practices and the role of heterogeneous networks in shaping urban environments. In the context of these cities, ANT offers a lens through which to analyse the complex assemblages of actors, technologies, policies, and socio-cultural practices that coalesce to define public spaces and urban commons. It articulates a qualitative research methodology to capture the multifaceted nature of these assemblages.

This study addresses the counter-spatiality of Bhaktapur's Salanganesh area, a sub-system of the main UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site in the Kathmandu Valley. This monumental area has recently been allocated by the local authority as a probable site for transferring market activities from the main square of the city. This transfer is a major challenge to the livelihood of the local community, which has stabilised emplacements with a complex intertwining between the numerous monuments (both Hinduist and Buddhist), cultural practices, and multifarious formal and informal exchange and socialisation activities of locals.

Through a phenomenological approach, this research will explore how individuals conceive, perceive and enact public spaces. Data collection and analysis uses ethnographic methods, involving multi-stakeholder engagement, participant observation and visual documentation to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the territorial complexities and its implications for urban environments. Semi-structured interviews with diverse present actors of this space, such as residents, vendors, visitors, worshippers and retailers, and non-present

actors, like municipal officers, patrolling team members, cultural experts, urban planners and community members, relevant interpretations, expressions and lived experiences. Through writings, mapping, audio recordings and photographs and short videos, the temporal aspects of territorial appropriation, associations and stabilisation targeting transformation in the public space are collected at different moments of day and regular routine activities.

This study identifies three major institutions contributing in the (de)territorialization phenomenon in the study area: the market, the religion and the state. These institutions translate into respective sub-territorial networks to define as agents in the spatial production phenomenon in the public space. The study also ascertains the extending nature of these sub-territorial networks as the market continues to increase into additional affordances in the area. In addition, it also confirms the reappropriation of the public space with a mixed reality as the immigrant vendors also followed the tactics of local vendors.

This study sheds light on (im)mutability perspectives of public spaces highlighting the dynamic interplay between permanence and change within urban environments. By integrating (de)territorialization and Actor-Network Theory into the study of public space in historic cities of the Global South, this article contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex spatial dynamics that characterize urban environments in a globalized world. It underscores the need for a more nuanced approach to analysing the production of public spaces, one that acknowledges the fluidity of territories, the agency of diverse actors, and the interconnectedness of urban networks that guarantee sustainable development.

#79

“I don’t like walking in empty parks So when I go to a park, I need timing It will be school times or it will be busy... it’s planning your time to walk in the park on your own”.

Exploring women’s safety work in parks and green spaces

Anna Barker, Lauren Cape-Davenhill

University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

Public spaces play pivotal roles in everyday life and mobility, yet women encounter unique challenges and safety concerns while navigating them. Whether traversing city streets, visiting urban parks, or travelling via public transportation, women and girls routinely employ pre-emptive and self-protective measures to manage their concerns and safety risks. The concept of ‘safety work’ has emerged to encapsulate the breadth of invisible labour women routinely perform to safeguard themselves from male violence and intrusions (Vera-Gray and Kelly, 2020). This paper addresses a significant gap in the existing literature concerning women and girls’ safety work within urban parks. While parks offer essential green spaces for physical activity, recreation, social interaction, and active travel, safety concerns frequently restrict women and girls’ use, limiting their access to the well-documented health and wellbeing benefits associated with green spaces

Drawing on qualitative interviews with 67 women aged 19 – 84 and focus groups with girls aged 13–18 in West Yorkshire, UK, this paper delves into the relationship between parks as sites of leisure and recreation and as spaces where women and girls must exert considerable ‘work’ to ensure their (sense of) safety in their everyday lives. It highlights that women and girls not only ‘work to access parks’ but also engage in ‘work in parks’, underscoring the impact of these dynamics on their quality of life and park access. This study further develops the concept of safety work in light of agency and resistance, elucidating how women and girls navigate within the confines of unequal gendered power dynamics to utilise parks despite feeling unsafe, albeit in limited capacities. The paper concludes by advocating for multi-faceted strategies aimed at enhancing feelings of safety and alleviating the burden of safety work for women and girls in these contexts.

New Approaches

Publics and their Spaces

Lighter, Quicker and Cheaper Interventions

Innovative Policies

Care of the Commons

#6

The Emergence of Flux Cities in Public Space

Gregor Mews

University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs, Australia

Contemporary urban design and planning practices and solutions thinking seem unable to keep up with the rapid level of ‘uncontrolled’ urbanisation to improve living conditions for people living in informality. In fact, investments into cities and regions situated in the resource-poor majorities of this world aimed at stimulating urban regeneration efforts experiencing major setbacks towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 11.7 related to public space due to a multiplicity of complex interdependent variables such as geopolitical tensions, economic disruption, pandemic, impacts of climate change or refugee crisis.

This contribution argues for an underprivileged theoretical opening that follows a different life of flight as part of our world becoming. Inspired by Deleuzianguattarian and Delanda’s approach, this line of flight is directed toward flux cities – a perspective that challenges established conceptions of ‘reality’, public space and their becoming. Explorative deliberation of the perspective and its application in a case study in informal settlements across Sierra Leone, critically evaluates its potential and the implications of such an approach in the area of process-oriented placemaking (urban design practice- relationality), vulnerable youth (non-dualistic social justice) and subjective well-being (liveable communities- agency).

The paper concludes with an invitation to engage with the response-ability to transform and direct our dominant design ontologies away from binary thinking and unilinear design approaches and epistemologies in diverse and interdisciplinary ways.

#19

Who Governs Public Space in The Neoliberal City? From The Social Uprising to A New Public Space Governance in Santiago De Chile

Alejandro Díaz Medalla

University College London, London, United Kingdom

This research builds on critical views on the urbanisation of neoliberalism, with a strong focus on new local forms of governance, considering the 2019 Chilean social uprising as a starting point for institutional shift. It analyses how public space governance configures itself in a neoliberal context, aiming to identify how the concept of public space is understood in the neoliberal city, both as a commodity and as a place for contestation. The 18th of October of 2019, after the Chilean government announcement of rise in Santiago's public transport fees, high school students started a protest all over Santiago's metropolitan underground train system, inviting to not pay trips. The protest escalated over the next days, receiving a hardening repression by police force. A week after, more than 12 million people, approximately 5% of the country's total population, occupied Plaza Italia and most of the surrounding streets, in the biggest protest in Chilean history, that led to a wave of political and institutional changes. Reclaiming public space for political expression was the tonic.

As institutional ripples of the 2019 uprising, the introduction of new actors in the political debate is speeding up a restructuration of power at and across different scales. This process ranges from multi-level statecrafts to new policies about public space, aiming to foster the involvement of new actors in place making and governance beyond the state. Starting from the question of who governs Santiago? and a public space governance framework based on a qualitative research approach (Interviews, thematic analysis, social networks), this project focuses on the networks of actors shaping the new policies over public space, their motivations and agendas.

Initial findings show an acceleration of already existing processes of decentralisation and new innovative models of urban public space governance. It is also noticeable an increasing involvement of a broader spectre of society in the governing of public spaces, which comes to challenge our formal understanding of government, and the traditional constitutional systems that rule modern democracies. These diverse forces work in fragile tension between local, metropolitan and national agendas over the city. Some examples encompass controversial street names changes made by local government, the policing of public spaces, new local approaches to security and control, and the role of private actors in designing, producing and managing "public" spaces. In this sense, a multiplicity of local actors and community leaderships tend to have higher stakes in decisions made over public space, resulting on a constant rebalance of power and rearrangements of responsibilities amongst institutions, citizens and other actors in between.

The question of who really governs Santiago, however rhetoric, reflects the current situation of a city still trembling after the 2019 uprising. A potential answer relies on deciphering the relationships and power balances amongst a diversity of actors, agendas and ideologies shaping public space.

Key words: Public space, Governance, neoliberal city, Institutional shift, Social uprising

#20

Atmospheric Territories: Public Interiority for an Urbanizing World

Liz Teston

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, USA

This presentation covers the concept of “public interiority,” a publicly accessible exterior urban space that feels like an interior. Public interiorities can be generated by stimuli such as atmospheres (climate and mood), psychologies (phenomenology and experience), programs (usage and occupation), and politics (cultures and infrastructures). Urban morphology and architectural form provide a foundation for these entangled stimuli, but they are amplified by weather, ambiance, and our homeostatic sensorial bodies.

For this presentation, I will focus on public interiority and atmospheres—various spectacles and impermanent conditions in the human-scaled experience I will use my recently awarded, co-designed installation, *The Weather Holds*, to test out theories of urban placemaking.

When Richard Sennett describes the “Open City,” he differentiates between borders and boundaries and upholds borders as an exemplar of placemaking within UN-Habitat guidelines [1]. Borders are porous activators of space. Boundaries are barriers to interaction. Public interiority reveals the characteristics of a place beyond property and in the public sphere. These zones surpass private ownership via temporary installations and provide specialized outdoor experiences distinct from the general milieu. This approach, found in *The Weather Holds* project, challenges the limits of experiential public interiors and advocates for well-tempered spaces that create “a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world” [2]. Atmospheric territories are available to all and are not constrained by facades and rigid urban forms.

Building upon Sennett’s conception of spatial activation, designer Sean Lally writes, “The sensorial perception of the human body creates a type of interiority that the body resides in...detecting [information] part of a much larger [imperceptible] spectrum” [3]. How we perceive sensory space affects how we understand our surroundings—obscured aspects of our near environment create a disconnection from the greater context. This perception sees interiority as a contingent situation and tests how our senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, proprioception, vestibular, interoception) demarcate urban space beyond architectural enclosure.

Architect Philippe Rahm’s recently published text, *Climatic Architecture*, expands upon perception in designed places with microclimate design [4]. He posits that interiority can be achieved by modulating subjective experiences of temperature, light intensity, and relative humidity. Rahm demarcates literal interior spaces with radiation, conduction, and convection in lieu of partitions, glazing, and colonnades. Rahm also pursues this approach within exterior-interiors (like Jade Eco Park) but does not position the design within interiority. Rahm’s microclimatic design approach is related to, but slightly different from, Lally’s contextless speculative approach, which is more typology-focused.

Within *The Weather Holds* project, we use convection and mist to delineate outdoor spaces and activate all eight senses. Like the above designers, we are interested in the science of microclimates, urbanism and amplifying the sensorial and phenomenological aspects of interiority in the public commons. For *The Weather Holds*, we are prototyping space-frames of aerosolized mist at the Tennessee River and Third Creek’s confluence in Knoxville, where

intense flows of people, traffic, water, and air demarcate a vivid background, exposing a spatial-temporal urban interior zone. This project benefits public space by reconsidering the limits of interiority and spatial perception in human-scaled exteriors. Moving past the established ocular-centric approach to inhabitation, it takes on the theory that the body and vapor can mutually reveal interiority in the urbanizing world.

This presentation explores public space through perception, mist density, direction, climate, and spatial justice. By advancing wider-ranging affirmation of thermal design, we advocate for human occupation beyond the arcs transcribed within industry-standard psychometric charts. Instead, we advance passively designed interior-like spaces recognizing the UN-Habitat guidelines for inclusive, low-cost, highly experiential urban design [5].

[1] Richard Sennett, "Open City," April 23, 2017, Harvard GSD Lecture Series, Video, 1:22:33
<https://youtube/7PoRrVqJ-FQ>

[2] UN-Habitat, *The Strategic Plan* (2021) https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023pdf

[3] Sean Lally, *The Air from Other Planets: A Brief History of Architecture to Come* (Zurich: Lars Müller, 2014)

[4] Philippe Rahm, *Climatic Architecture* (New York: Actar, 2023)

[5] UN-Habitat, *The Strategic Plan* (2021) https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023pdf

#23

The Strategic Charter of Urban Sustainability. Principles, criteria and scenarios for public spaces in the city of Livorno, Italy

Walter Nicolino^{1,2,3}, Giuseppe Dell'Aquila⁴

¹Politecnico di Torino – DAD – Dipartimento di Architettura e Design, Torino, Italy

²Università degli Studi di Ferrara – DA – MD Next City Lab, Ferrara, Italy

³WNA Walter Nicolino Architects, Torino, Italy

⁴LSB Architetti Associati, Torino, Italy

The Strategic Charter of Urban Sustainability is a document to outline guidelines and verified scenarios for urban public spaces. The Charter is part of a research line on the urban environment, inspired by principles and methods of urban ecology and ecosystemic urban studies. The document, developed for the Municipality of Livorno between 2022 and 2023, proposes an innovative methodology to produce a real urban sustainability, firstly considering it as a complex phenomenon that requires systemic vision, cooperation between actors and measurable indicators. The goal is to achieve an effective environmental balance of the anthropized urban space, to guarantee the well-being of the inhabitants, as well as make urban spaces capable of facing the challenges of the ongoing climate crisis.

CONTEXT

The Strategic Charter of Urban Sustainability is a document produced during the Livorno's urban planning tools review process, started by the urban planning sector of the city in 2021 with the new general urban master plan (*Variente Strutturale al Piano Operativo* LR 65/2014). The Charter identifies six areas that characterize the urban ecology of Livorno: mineral, green, coast, port, hillside and infrastructural. A real case study (focus) is explored for each ecology, according to the Municipality's agenda for the future interventions. The six focuses are used as initial test bed to illustrate the methodology of the Charter, presented in the first part of the document, through scenarios and simulations related to sustainability issues.

METHODOLOGY

The method of the Strategic Charter of Urban Sustainability of Livorno takes place in the preparatory phase of the interventions in urban public spaces, providing principles and criteria, supported by data, to guide planning and design choices from a sustainable perspective. The Charter's methodology also deals with communication, participation and monitoring phases to involve the citizens during the urban transformation process.

The cardinal principle of the Charter starts from the assumption that a mature and evolved approach to environmental sustainability must provide a shared and replicable method with a clear set of data. The process starts from the analysis of existing phenomena – considering a qualitative and quantitative point of view – up to the evaluation of the solutions' effects, aimed at mitigating critical phenomena, as well as at improving the urban environment resilience

The principles, criteria and examples contained in the Charter are to be understood as optimal indications, compared to what is foreseen by the existing multidisciplinary regulatory framework. In the second part of the document, six real case studies of public spaces – one for each of the six urban ecologies analysed – are presented to explain the Charter's methodology.

The Charter is configured as an experimental and operational methodological tool for urban public spaces, with the aim to address and connect various disciplines usually involved in the city, as environment, mobility, urban planning, public works.

The Strategic Charter of Urban Sustainability of Livorno was developed by a multidisciplinary working group, directed by architects Walter Nicolino and Giuseppe Dell'Aquila. The Charter is a tool capable of reading various urban contexts and proposing strategies and scenarios, with a shared method, which adapt in a sartorial way to the needs of the city being studied.

#25

Public Art as a Mass Phenomenon. Exploring Relations with the City using the Relational Public Art Database: A Case Study of Warsaw

Monika Wróbel¹, Aleksandra Litorowicz^{2,3}

¹Urban Sports Square Foundation, Warsaw, Poland

²Puszkina Foundation, Warsaw, Poland

³SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland

In this paper, authors will present the results of a comprehensive study of contemporary art in urban space realized in Warsaw between 1989 and 2023. The context for the study was the transformations that took place in Poland and Polish cities in connection with the change of the political system in 1989, and whose spatial consequences could also be seen in the changing public spaces. This is a period in which the public space of Warsaw became, gradually, the subject of numerous artistic interventions. These took a variety of forms: from official commemorative realizations, through decorative works and critical works, to street art works in or outside the official mainstream.

The study documented more than 1,090 new official art interventions in Warsaw's public space realized after 1989, such as: monuments, decorative sculptures, murals, neon, installations and art performances. Did such a significant scale of activities have an impact on the image of the city? Did art sense, signal or foster its transformation? In the paper, authors indicate how to read the relationship between contemporary artistic activity in urban space and the ongoing processes of transformation of a dynamically changing city like Warsaw.

Traditionally, case studies have been the primary tool in investigating issues related to the spatial, but also social consequences of the presence of public art in urban space. The risk associated with the use of this method is the necessity of choice inherent in it, which can encourage a focus primarily on special cases: outstanding, or exceptionally unsuccessful. The paper describes the author's research method based on the assumption that the presence of contemporary art in the urban space can be interpreted as mass phenomenon, which justifies the use of the statistical method in the research.

This method can bring new insights, since public art, treated as a quantifiable and spatially anchored set, appears as one of the significant urban data for better understanding the changes and challenges of modern metropolises. The prototype tool presented: Relational Public Art Database enabled, for example, analyses of the relationship between various common features of artistic interventions and their location in the city's spatial structures, as well as analyses of the spatial distribution of contemporary public art, in the area of spatial units such as neighbourhoods.

The study using a relational database also made it possible to conduct the following analyses for Warsaw:

- the dynamics of the presence of various forms of public art

- the dominant functions of public art
- the dominant themes taken up by public art and their change over the timeline
- sources of funding for public art

The database was also used to analyse more specific issues in the context of Warsaw, such as the role of conflict in artistic activities in urban space or the image of real estate art. The tool also enabled analyses of the presence of murals in terms of time and space, contemporary commemorations, and activities from the area of post-art in urban space.

The examples given, tested in a capital city with a complex urban structure and aggregating data from a period of more than 30 years, indicate the potential for the development of the method and the tool in the form of the relational database. This can enrich the research apparatus of many other disciplines and actors involved in the analysis and practice of contemporary cities around the world.

#28

Decolonizing the National Park, Redefining Public Space through Indigenous Urbanism

Andres Ramirez

UCLA, Los Angeles, USA

Despite warnings of its immanent decline, public space continues to play a pivotal role for social movements and the democracies they uphold. Yet because political concepts of public space are rooted in settler colonial urbanism, they avoid any critical engagement with histories of Indigenous dispossession and contemporary expressions of Indigenous urban life. Taking the recent occupation of Bogotá's National Park by Indigenous communities as a case study, this article reexamines definitions of public space as property and introduces a nuanced perspective that represents an Indigenous cosmovision of the city.

This Indigenous vision of the National Park offers a stark contrast to theories of public space and settler colonial histories of the city, as it exposes municipal statures' complicity with colonial property regimes that deny Indigenous existence in the city. In their appropriation of the park as a collective habitat, Indigenous people employed public space for sustenance, communication, spatial organization, community building and political mobilization. These highlight promising avenues to consider decolonial practices in public space and indigenous epistemologies for city making.

#34

Towards Creative Urban Spaces: Empowering Citizens through Self-Production in Urban Public Spaces

Matteo Cappello¹, Serena De Dominicis², Alessia Allegrì¹, Rita Ochoa³

¹CIAUD, Lisbon School of Architecture, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

²Associazione per la decrescita, Roma, Italy

³CIAUDULisboa-UBI, Covilhã, Portugal

The proposed presentation is about the re-thinking of public space through the application of research-through-design methods, merging academic knowledge with design practices, to generate new imaginaries and activate urban contexts.

The proposal stems from the action-research project Intermittent City and relates to its third stage: LIGHT UP (Future Scenarios and Forward-looking Tools).

The project explores spatial transformation processes triggered by practices and policies that enable and empower urban communities through temporary and sharing uses in urban spaces. All these expressions of the temporary and sharing have impacts on architecture and the city, generating new typologies and new space occupations which are inhabiting the many different urban spaces whose meaning and value they transfigure. That's what we call Intermittent Practices.

The third stage of the project consists of the design and implementation of activities directed to citizens, both performing ethnographic research and testing the concepts elaborated regarding public space. The aim is to involve the population in cooperative processes with institutions and highlight the potential of co-governance in the management of urban changes.

In particular, this paper reports on "Community Labs", an activity designed by the project's team in collaboration with external experts.

The activity consists of the realization of a mobile crafting station for the self-production of consumer goods (like, i.e. personal hygiene products), to be placed in strategic spaces in the city, at the disposal of the population. People will be supported by a designer, a craftsman or an artisan, depending on the product typology, who will share with people the necessary knowledge and skills to craft the desired item.

In this way, the station will function not only as a physical structure for crafting but also as a device for the share of knowledge and a tool for the empowerment of citizens to be agents of change at the local level.

The overall idea behind this activity is to emphasize the role of certain urban spaces as common and sharing places. Unlike the traditional paradigm, where citizens primarily act as consumers, self-production emerges as a multifaceted response, especially in scenarios of economic and environmental crises. At the same time, by using self-production as a catalyst for activity, we also seek to contribute to the debate on the limits of growth and sustainability.

This proposal draws inspiration from Ivan Illich's idea of 'conviviality' and the de-growth thinking codified by Serge Latouche, which promotes autonomy and empowerment through the local creation of essential goods and services.

These theories are far from remaining limited to a small circle of intellectuals. Rather, their authors aim to translate theory into practice, involving people at all levels in the debate and co-designing action strategies. This approach has led to the birth of concrete projects around the world, such as the Transition Towns movement founded by Rob Hopkins. The main reason why we choose to draw from those authors is the similarity of their approach to the one adopted by Intermittent City. The project aims to stimulate action after reflection and build a framework under which urban planning can be enriched. Thus, this activity doesn't want to go deep into the topic of degrowth but it draws from its principles as a way to demonstrate how contaminating with different fields can lead to successful strategies when it comes to urban planning and design.

Keywords: public space, research-through-design, intermittent practices, community empowerment, degrowth

A Meshwork of Aesthetic and Social Entanglement: A Public Art Project Experiment for the Social Housing of Taipei's Wanhua District

Min Jay Kang

Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

Ever since the declaration of Taiwan's Housing Act in 2011 and its revision in 2017, social housing has attained a legal status for new and accelerated constructions, though the percentage of social housing in the overall housing stock is still relatively low compared with other progressive countries. While trying to catch up and boost the social housing curve upward, the resistance from the surrounding neighbourhood against the stigmatized housing type for the socially underprivileged has become a persistent challenge for social communication. Public art program in social housing is therefore, besides its creative and aesthetic potentials, perceived as a platform and a social agent to mediate between the government and the general publics. According to Article 9 of Taiwan's Culture and Art Reward Act, all public buildings shall allocate no less than one percent of the overall construction cost for public arts. The government-owned and -managed social housing have since launched a series of installations as well as social practices and experiments within the framework of public art.

The percent-for-art programs in Taiwan range from visual objects installed in public spaces to "new genre public arts" that call for creative processes of public participation and social engagement. Curiously, due to the discrepancies of enforcement regulations, not too many government-owned buildings for public housing or social housing in the world are entitled to be aesthetically enhanced or their residents socially empowered and politically represented by the values of public arts regardless of the city-wide or even nation-wide percent-for-art prerequisites. Yet public art has become an unprecedented resource and a "blue-ocean strategy" for the housing department in Taiwan to either foster an innovative housing culture or regenerate the districts/neighbourhoods around the housing projects.

"To the Ordinary People: Walking in Wanhua – A Social Assembly" is a public art project that benefits from the 1% fund of three social housing projects in Taipei's Wanhua District and crosses over the housing boundaries to engage in dialogues with their adjacent neighbourhoods. It took five years and more than 20 artists to create "artworks" that addressed a wide spectrum of social and spatial issues in Wanhua, a historical district also labelled as a hotbed for undesirable gathering of many socially underprivileged and economically difficult citizens. The curating team intentionally highlight the dynamics of "walk" and the "gathering-becoming" of a "social assembly" to reach out to many unlikely corners to reveal Wanhua as a place of inclusiveness that accommodates all "walks" of life. Publicness is an integral part of almost all artworks, and only a few are regarded as permanent installations.

This research explores the impact of the Wanhua public art project experiment in terms of its social and spatial interventions and many intimate-scale tensions that etch into the coarse social fabrics of the place. The entanglement of the aesthetic and the social creates a precarious setting for intense interactions and critical dialectics. It also questions the notion of public space as only an amicable venue for controlled activities. It is, instead, interpreted as a meshwork of ever-changing individuals and events that lays the foundation of an open city.

#49

Rediscover the Spaces of the Educating City. Urban Revelations between Identity and Memory

Letizia Montalbano¹, Graziella Zizzo²

¹Il Giardino del Guasto Association, Bologna, Italy

²COIRAGOrg UniPa, Palermo, Italy

Leaving the school walls and re-appropriating the territory by exploring the city through its monuments and its squares. If the common good does not exist prior to taking charge, there are projects that aim to transform and restore identity to a place and its community through a new awareness. In western Sicily, in a difficult and complex context, a "treasure hunt" in search of historical and artistic traces becomes valuable and useful for developing emotional reactions with the spaces experienced, activating interactions that transform the perception of the environment and the sense of local.

Starting from the value of experiences that are placed in a perspective of shared common growth and from the vision of an educational ecosystem, the contribution describes an intergenerational project that promotes knowledge of one's naturalistic and historical-artistic heritage in order to foster a sense of belonging to their territory and activate a process of community awakening in which young people become protagonists. It is essential, when dealing with common goods, to know the problematic issues of one's community in order to intervene with concrete choices in response to critical issues. Compared to the culture of our time, based on individualism and on considering bonds only as a limit to one's autonomy and personal fulfilment, the *group* becomes an instrument of intervention suitable for re-establishing a virtuous circuit between the individual and the community, because capable of strengthening human relationships at a time when spaces for sharing and belonging are increasingly disappearing.

In the debate on the mafia phenomenon, the costs that the mafia produces from an economic, political and social point of view have so far been highlighted, but above all the presence of the mafia affects relationships deteriorated by a destructive streak that prevents the conception of the community dimension. In the face of media attention that seems to crystallize Castelvetro as the "capital of the mafia" (a stereotype that does not represent it in its evolution and complexity) the function of Culture is undoubtedly to contribute to the construction of a new Imaginary by activating virtuous processes and widespread skills. Raise awareness among young generations to learn about the history of the city and their roots. Revitalize the historic centre and cultural life through the precious contribution of students, teachers and the School.

The aim was to return the city back its true vocation: that of a city of art. It's not just a change of image, but something much more radical: enhancing one's resources it means revitalizing one's economy where the mafia is also combated through work and the sustainable recovery of the surrounding environment.

If adolescents are the weak link of a society that is disintegrating (Morin, 2015), it is above all who pay the highest price because in their search of identity, they experience a fusional relationship with the social context from which they absorb models, myths, values but what emerges is how, also due to the effects of dependence on new technologies, relationships between peers have increasingly deteriorated. The objective of working on relationships

becomes a priority in contexts permeated by the disvalues of mafia and from a weakening of ties. The ethical and political task then becomes a protagonist, an agent of change for one's community: reactivating relational spaces finding from time-to-time intervention strategies aimed at mending ties and promoting new forms of coexistence that allow people to experience the pleasure of meeting and dialogue.

#50

Preserving the Life Between Buildings: Toward Holistic Care for Historic Public Spaces and their Publics

Ashley Hahn

University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman School of Design, Philadelphia, PA, USA

In June 2022, a group of 150 Italian intellectuals, architects, writers, and historians signed a letter to UNESCO's World Heritage director and the mayor of Rome decrying what they called the "decay" of that city's historic centre. The letter painted a dramatic overall portrait of the city – where weeds are not cut, streets are piled with rubbish, and cafe tables consume public space – comparing its "most beautiful squares and streets" unfavourably to a "souk" Its authors argued that Rome had failed in its commitment to steward the World Heritage city's historic public environment. Similar complaints about quality of life and the safeguarding of cultural patrimony are familiar to many historic cities. But what does good conservation look like for living public spaces? How can appropriate solutions be developed for these places that are sensitive to heritage concerns as well as practices of public life, which animate and give them meaning?

As cities around the world experience a public space renaissance, the holistic care for historic public spaces and their expressions of public life presents increasingly pressing conservation challenges. Using the extreme examples of Rome and other major World Heritage Cities as a lens, we can recognize the diverse pressures placed on historic public spaces as over-used, under-resourced, securitized, and consumptive experiences. By looking to the lessons of recent civic infrastructure projects, such as Reimagining the Civic Commons (Philadelphia / USA), we can explore what more expansive processes for adapting historic public spaces might look like, along with the attendant care for their social and cultural dimensions. Drawing from initiatives like Monument Lab (USA), we can also learn from community- and artist-driven responses to increasingly urgent demands for more just and equitable representation of heritage in public.

Heritage conservation practice has long sought to embrace social, environmental, and cultural values in stewardship strategies for historic places. Unfortunately, historic public spaces are typically cast in a supporting role for the main architectural attractions. Similarly, designers often overlook traditions of public life or dimensions of cultural heritage during public space renovations, treating history as a merely decorative element. But the public realm does more than support a vague "sense of place" in historic cities. These places have histories and public life that are often as important as their adjacent monuments. They are where civic culture and memory fuse to place, refreshed daily by their continued use.

Historic public spaces require inclusive and honest approaches to their conservation and revitalization, derived through the collaboration of urban designers, heritage professionals, and the public alike. Heritage professionals using values-centred conservation methods can capture and reflect myriad dimensions of significance. Urban designers and public space experts can help build a deeper understanding of the patterns of public life to guide design and policy interventions. And all this work must be informed by meaningful civic engagement to leverage public expertise.

If historic cities are to thrive as the global population continues to urbanize, they must not ossify but find ways to make the past useful, relevant, and alive. If this intensified urbanization is to be democratic in historic cities, it is imperative to consider ways in which having a living

relationship with the past in public can be the foundation for new, necessary, and literal common ground. This is critical territory for conservation practitioners and urban designers to engage in deeper and more integrative work that supports healthier cities, democracies, and individuals in civil society.

#58

Co-design a Nomadic Artist Centre in Montreal

Alice Covatta

Université de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

The presentation aims to showcase the research project “DARE-DARE: Centre d’artistes nomade, modulaire et transitoire” developed during 2023/24 by a research team from the School of Architecture of the University of Montreal and directed by Alice Covatta with the Montreal artist-run centre DARE-DARE. The presentation will highlight the two-year co-creation process with the partner and the artist community that implemented a series of actions: a project inventory, an exhibition, a co-design workshop, and a participatory game, which is now under development to become an online tool.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada has funded the project.

Since its founding in 1985, DARE-DARE has decided to encourage artistic approaches toward appropriating public space with performances and events. It has become the only Montreal artist centre that devotes its programming exclusively to art projects scattered throughout the city, which are mostly transient. Its headquarter architecture embodied this ephemeral identity into a (semi)nomadic building that moves slowly every five years from one public space to another, aiming to revitalize community bonds.

The research project seeks to support conceptualizing DARE-DARE’s next architectural nomadic building, providing theoretical and practical guidelines.

More and more examples of cultural spaces based on a nomadic approach have emerged recently (i.e. the multifunctional library PRODUCTORA in Mexico and “Travel Tent” by Fabrizio Pugliese and Gabriel Huarte for the Hellowood festival), these structures show emerging flexible and eco-responsible solutions while promoting positive social impact within the community. Nomadic architecture, if designed carefully, can generate a sense of belonging within the community and stimulate ecological responsibility. It can become « a new ecologically aware design strategy can be developed to prioritize buildings that ‘tread lightly on the earth’ and still convey the sense of identity and community necessary for an established responsible society » (Kronenburg, 2014).

The literary review based on nomadic architecture in cultural settings developed a theoretical approach combined with the needs announced by DARE-DARE, which provides an inventory of innovative design solutions and guidelines to evaluate urban and architectural strategies for the design of the next building and public space. This tool will support the subsequent phases of conceptualization and decision-making for the centre program, helping make design choices.

After the project inventory, the team organized a co-creation workshop held on October 7, 2023, with the centre, its artist’s community, and the students of the School of Architecture to explore these solutions and initiate the first conceptual design phase of DARE-DARE’s future building. For the workshop, the research team designed a card game to foster every member’s spontaneous participation and exchange design ideas around the architectural themes of the inventory. The principle is simple: each card presents a discussion question inviting participants to respond orally or in writing according to their preference. The answers are collected on a large paper tablecloth on which participants are invited to write and draw freely.

The result was a tablecloth filled with a collection of design strategies, opinions, dreams, principles, and guidelines for the next building. From this open conversation, in which researchers, students, professionals, citizens, and artists participate, the research team wrote the final report with the primary guidelines for the centre design. “The porous and accessible building will then adopt its formal presence according to the reactions of the human environment to the public space. The centre will promote an informal and friendly character in organizing its public meetings (screenings, conferences, and outdoor talks air) With a friendly appearance and spontaneity, the centre wants to attract a new audience with critical and original content to its activities”.

The presentation will also showcase the project’s last phase. The team is developing the card game into an online tool that will be freely accessible to other cultural centres or architecture associations needing a spontaneous tool to conduct a co-design workshop for discussion and community participation.

#65

Mutable Publicness

Zahra Safaverdi

Washington University in St Louis, Saint Louis, USA

This paper introduces a working rubric and the project premise for an architecture studio course taught by the author. By investigating the methodologies used in the studio, the paper makes visible the immense potential of the concept “publics and public spaces” as a pedagogical tool.

Prologue

Fold One: Architecture is where redundant and simple construction, in thinking and material reality, takes shape. But, the architecture contains many facets brought together into a “difficult whole” [1]. This whole is a place of constant tension between competing forces within the discipline – program, sequence, form, tectonic, etc – on one hand, and vital forces surrounding the discipline – context, content, culture, climate, etc– on the other.

Fold Two: This studio explores this contention through the lens of maintenance and care, by repositioning architecture’s inner disciplinary forces mentioned above as the direct steward of the outer forces that would surround the discipline. This will put architecture in direct relation to the landscape it inhabits, the ecologies it responds to, and the context it occupies.

Purpose

For this repositioning, students examine the nature of these relationships through the lens of reciprocity between disciplinary components and the surrounding forces. Each student is challenged to re-think and re-imagine the interface between the building and a varied definition of public and publicness. They design potential combinations and permutations of the relationships between the components. The function, size, and proportion of these components will determine the degree to which the defined publicness is mutable. The ambition is to create a stabilized state between the architecture and its contextual entanglements while introducing students to systematic methodologies to design in multiple scales simultaneously.

Project

This studio acts as a catalyst for this critical repositioning. In three phases, three interconnected project briefs, the studio proposes a project that has two separate yet intertwined typologies that exist within the same body. Each project will be an interpretation of a live-work commune in the American arid lands for participants bigger than a single normative family but smaller and more intimate than a building complex. The typological components and systematic requirements of such dwelling remain homogenous across the studio; however, details and specificities are unique to each student. Their driving narrative acts as a parameter for the design evaluation. The goal is to create a harmonized yet heterogenous state between the architecture and its contextual forces, exhibiting simultaneous divergence and convergence: A building that through its slightly muted expression can become a container, A designer that is now a caretaker of the people,

ecologies, and resources around them, a project as much fictitious as it is pragmatic, a proxy for ambiguous yet precise responses to this “*difficult whole*”.

A mutable publicness.

Project Phases

The studio is divided between 3 interconnecting briefs. Together they make up the final project. This paper covers each brief in depth and uses sample student works as proof of concept.

Brief 1_Collect: Students are tasked with different techniques of analysis and synthesis through various representational means in each Brief: in brief one, they examine the context and its corresponding forces to introduce creations that do not replicate the real, not making a realistic site model for instance, but instead showcasing and materializing the environmental and social forces that might not be immediately visible, yet profoundly affecting the architecture discipline.

Brief 2_Create: In this project brief, each student defines their architectural narrative and spatial requirements of the actors involved within the narrative, Students, then, experiment with spatial and tectonic possibilities of the narrative.

Brief 3_Curate: Students design the architectural project in relation to their discoveries of the past phases.

[1] The term is borrowed from essay title, *A difficult whole* Aureli, Pier Vittorio “The Difficult Whole” *Log*, no 9 (2007): 39–61 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41765133>

#69

Studying Communities of Knowledge and Practice on People-centred and Resilient Public Spaces related to Urban Rivers (PEARLS)

Vija Viese, Peter Gotsch

NTNU, Trondheim, Norway

WHY For thousands of years rivers have been magnets for urbanisation and backbones of social, economic, and cultural development. Likewise, their capacity to link cities and nature, places rivers at the forefront of sustainable urban development, particularly in times of climate change.

WHAT Our project “Studying communities of knowledge and practice on people-centred and resilient spaces related to urban rivers (PEARLS)” studies the roles of communities in the context of contemporary urban river regeneration. As part of “Past Present and Future of Public Space 2024” we aim to present lessons from five selected cases of better practices on community driven urban river regeneration. These case studies, from Oslo to Nairobi, will aim to show diverse perspectives on community-created public spaces from both, the Global South and Global North.

HOW PEARLS emerges through co-production with the respective local initiatives and networks such as the Kota Kita Foundation (Solo), the Kounkuey Design Initiative (Nairobi) or the Oslo Elve Forum, among others. The data presented is based on document reviews, 15 key-informant interviews and three workshops with representatives of the partners. This is a part of a database of case studies on community driven urban river regeneration that is currently being developed by the authors in cooperation with United Nations Human Settlements Program.

#81

Spatial Provocateur: Experimenting with Urban Futures Through Collective Interaction

Farnaz Fattahi

University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

In response to ongoing civic challenges and rising urban issues, a group of artist-architect-activists, coined as Spatial Provocateurs, has emerged, responding through participatory interventions in public spaces. The Spatial Provocateurs challenge established conventions by creating disruptive temporary interventions that provoke urban transformations towards fostering collective interaction. These interventions aim to conceptualise alternative urban futures by experimenting with collective interaction scenarios. They explore public space as a medium and intervention scenario as a tool for experimentation with alternative urban forms. Through their commitment to generate immediate responses to societal concerns, Spatial Provocateurs challenge existing urban spaces, creating temporary structures that shift perceptions and inspire action. By generating temporary structures and emphasising participatory engagement, the Spatial Provocateurs call into question existing urban spaces and envision alternative realities of collective interaction within shared spaces, ultimately influencing urban transformations.

This paper explores the practice of temporary interventions in public spaces by the Spatial Provocateurs, framing them within the context of urban laboratories. By situating these interventions as experiments, this paper seeks to uncover how they question past conventions of public spaces and interact with existing urban forms while influencing future urban formations. By gaining a deeper understanding of the underlying principles and conceptual components of these temporary projects, the research aims to contribute to a broader discourse on urban development and collective engagement.

Drawing on qualitative research methods, including case study analysis and in-depth interviews with Spatial Provocateurs, this study delves into the principles behind their interventions. As part of this investigation, in-depth interviews were conducted through purposive sampling strategies with numerous Spatial Provocateurs. This paper specifically examines two case studies as provocative interventions in public space, reflecting on the existing reality of the urban context and fuelling urban transformation through embodied collective experiences of proposed alternative scenarios. The use of in-depth interviews as a data collection technique within the grounded theory methodology approach allowed for a nuanced understanding of the Spatial Provocateurs' interventions, informed by the experiences and perspectives of the interview participants. The data collected through interviews were analysed using both inductive and deductive interview analysis to identify emerging themes and patterns.

The analysis in this paper, centred on two case studies, illuminated common threads and revealed that the phenomenology of Spatial Provocateur interventions, characterised by in-situ experimentation, recognises that by introducing temporality, the nature of the projects transforms into a spatial-temporal paradigm constructed from moments of interaction and engagement. These interventions bridge the gap between existing and future perspectives on public space, contributing to the creation of alternative scenarios of collective interaction in urban spaces. Through this lens, the Spatial Provocateur interventions not only provoke urban transformations but also serve as catalysts for reimagining the possibilities of collective engagement within the urban environment.

Emerging Trends

Universal Accessibility and Inclusion

Public Health and Climate Responsive Environments

New Technologies in the Public Realm

Urban Happiness and Wellbeing

#12

Envisioning the Future of Public Open Spaces: Exploring Renewable Energy Approaches and Design Methodologies

Adiba Shafique¹, Afaq Ahmed², Mohammad Tahir³, Ariz Ali⁴

¹Assistant Professor, Architecture Department, Dar al uloom University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

²Faculty of Architecture & Planning, AKTU, Lucknow, India

³Head of project management office, Saudi German Health Group, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

⁴Lead Architect, Caztar, New Delhi, India

Public open spaces represent vital components of urban environments, fostering social cohesion, recreation, and environmental sustainability. In the face of climate change and the imperative to transition towards sustainable energy systems, integrating renewable energy approaches into the design of these spaces presents a promising avenue for enhancing their functionality, resilience, and environmental performance.

This research paper delves into the intersection of renewable energy technologies and design methodologies in shaping the future of public open spaces. Through an in-depth literature review, analysis of case studies, and exploration of methodological challenges and opportunities, this paper aims to provide insights into how renewable energy can be effectively integrated into the design process to create more sustainable and resilient urban environments.

#13

The Double Functions of Public Spaces in Shaping Imaginary Urban Landscapes

Bernardo Emmanuel

Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montreal, Canada

Public spaces are one of the key elements on urban representations. They make interactions with nature, with the built environment, and with others possible, expressing and interpreting the collective urban life. Most of studies focus on the built environments' materiality and on our daily lived experience in public spaces as a central aspect of cities' images. However, urban representations are also built by imaginary forces: the media, advertising, artistic representations, etc. Imaginary narratives also influence our daily urban life. What's the place of public spaces on cities imaginary representations?

An emerging body of literature analyses media and internet representations of public spaces while other studies focus on cities' marketing. Those studies conclude that public spaces images may be important elements to fuel territorial consumption. However, even though knowledge continues to develop, the role of public spaces in cities cinematic imagination remains faintly explored. This gap is problematic since films simultaneously mobilize image, sound, and movement, exerting a significant influence on society. Films inform and mediate knowledge, understanding, and the experience of urban life. Movies may build strong symbolic and identity-related aspects of urban environments. This gap in knowledge prevents us from fully grasping the mediating role of films in cities evolution and understanding the symbolic and identity-related aspects of cities constructed by cinema.

We explore the cinematic representations of Montreal's public spaces: the system of streets, alleys, avenues, boulevards, squares, and parks on early Quebec cinema (1960-1970). Montreal is depicted as the main Quebecois urban centre. This strong metropolitan image remains anchored in the representations of Montreal streets. The street is portrayed as the locus of various conflicts and a plethora of simultaneous urban social relations, overlapping for the viewer. The street is the locus where multiple urban issues unfold simultaneously in film narratives. We also conclude that the Montreal's strong winter city identity finds ambiguous representations in early cinema. On the one hand, parks, especially Mount Royal Park, are represented as the locus of entertainment during winter, where it is possible to play in the snow and enjoy the almost dreamlike white landscape of Quebec's winter. On the other hand, movement constraints and winter training activities mobilize sounds and images of dirt in the streets and parks, making it difficult to contact others in the city.

Exploring the narrative of public spaces through cinema can not only enrich knowledge about the urban imagination built by films but also reveal nuances and ambiguities in this imagination, previously unknown public spaces can exert a double force on urban imaginaries. They are not only important components of imaginary urban landscapes, but they simultaneously serve as facilitators on the articulation of other elements (nature, buildings, social relations) within this landscape.

#14

Objective Assessment of Inclusive Design and Management of Public Space: Istanbul Muze Gazhane and the Galataport Cases

Sezen Türkoğlu^{1,2}, Fatih Terzi¹

¹Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

²Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey

In recent decades, the political economy of cities has undergone a transformation that has led to fundamental changes in the design and management of public space. The production of public space has shifted from the predominantly public sector to a variety of private actors, both for-profit and non-profit. In this respect, the extent to which strategies for designing and managing public space are inclusive reshapes the publicness of public space. This study proposes an index to assess the level of publicness achieved through the design and management of public space, questioning the concept of inclusivity in contemporary urban areas where the distinction between public and private is being reformulated.

Based on a review of relevant literature and site visits to new public spaces in Istanbul, this index includes the following qualities of public space: accessibility, diversity of use and activity, safety, comfort, and image. In order to evaluate public spaces in these five categories, a total of 44 indicators related to design and management strategies are defined. A classification method based on “publicness” is used to determine the characteristics required for an inclusive public space.

The index was applied to two publicly accessible spaces in central areas of Istanbul, Turkey: Museum Gazhane -historically known as Hasanpaşa Gashouse- and Galataport Istanbul- historically known as the Port of Istanbul. The case studies used a mixed methods approach that included on-site observations, interviews, and analysis of relevant media and documents.

Comparing the findings of the case studies reveals what types of policies and practices can emerge in public space in relation to the balance of power between different actors in situations of private and public sector dominance. The study contributes to the emerging trends of inclusive design and management of public space in urban contexts and provides valuable insights for future research in this area. In addition, the developed index, which lends itself to comparative analysis and application to a single public space, is intended to extend objective measurement methods.

Key words: Publicness, Inclusivity, Privatization of Public Space

#22

Catwalk Conservation. Fashioning Space in Manchester's Northern Quarter

Eamonn Canniffe

Manchester School of Architecture, Manchester, United Kingdom

The Northern Quarter in Manchester is a former industrial district which over the past 30 years has undergone a transformation into a mixed-use area with many loft apartments in converted warehouses, creative studios and bars and restaurants. Remnants of the garment industry serve as a backdrop against a newer foreground of youth culture. The spine of the district is the recently pedestrianised Thomas Street with modestly scaled shops and bars occupying the street since permitted to do so during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The popularity of the street, particularly on weekends, has made it into a contested site between developers keen to exploit its marketable potential for new apartment developments and heritage groups keen to maintain the character of the conservation area. The demolition of neglected buildings deemed to be in an imminent state of collapse alerted residents to the vulnerability of the area to predatory property development symbolised by the erection of an 18-storey glass tower on the northern edge of the district where another 'health and safety' demolition had taken place in 2018.

Into this context the high fashion brand Chanel selected Thomas Street as the venue for their Métiers d'Art catwalk show on the evening of 7 December 2023. Over the previous weeks a steel canopy was constructed to protect the catwalk models and celebrity audience from Manchester's rain which arrived in a downpour as if on cue as the fashion show began. What was apparent from the film of the show was the new value placed on the architectural heritage of the district as a setting for a significant international fashion brand. The ephemerality of the event, all trace of which disappeared within a few days provides an opportunity for the Northern Quarter's potential as a resilient and walkable conservation area to be revived.

#55

New Digital Technologies in Quasi-Public Commercial Centres: Extended Hyper-Reality, Illusion and Augmented Social Interactions

Yiwei Ou, Manfredo Manfredini

The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

In contemporary cities, shopping malls are not only important urban centres for people's everyday life practices that provide all-encompassing goods and services, but also the main centres of urban spectacle. Due to their performances, much research describes these malls as advanced Foucauldian *heterotopias of compensation and illusion* that segregate people spatially and socially. However, during the spatial transformation of the mobile Internet era, malls have been progressively equipped with digital technologies that subvert their segregation by enhancing their capacity to foster socio-spatial interactions. The strategy for the adoption of these new digital technologies is twofold. On the one hand, it extends their public engagement to compensate for the progressive fragmentation of the urban communities in their catchment area. This means catalysing local social networks by strengthening people's perception of their central role both actually and virtually. On the other hand, they increase the cultural dominance of the malls by enhancing the illusory potential of their hyper-real scenes. With interactive XR events, AR games and detouring way-finding systems, they provide urban simulations that facilitate hybrid forms of exploration, interaction and territorialisation.

This paper analyses such a transformation by conducting a single case study research on a new mall that adopts the most advanced digital technologies, the Hualian Group's SKP-S Beijing. It examines people-to-people and people-to-space interactions in the digitally augmented centres through an integrated physical and digital space analysis. The former is executed with morphological and behavioural investigations; the latter is conducted through big-data analysis of social media data from Weibo, the most popular platform in China. Findings indicate that new digital technologies enhance the heterotopic character of the malls, redefining the hegemonic model of their compensatory and illusive spectacle, exacerbating the contradictions between the malls' *exquisiteness* and the public domain's *scratchiness*. They strengthen the *compensation-by-segregation* power by introducing new hybrid means for public communications that lure the progressively fragmented society; they intensify the *illusion-by-segregation* power by providing novel digitally transduced, immersive hyper-realities that democratise the magics of the latest technology advances. While recognising the increased community potential of these malls, this research points out that such a transformation also creates an over-reliance of the public on malls' digital apparatuses that expands the vulnerability of its social networks.

The strong attraction of the *extended hyper-realities* enhances the hegemonic distraction capacity of malls. By intensifying people's reliance on the virtual worlds and spectacular spaces controlled by external organisations, these new malls strengthen people's spatial attachment, further alienating them from their space and society. This paper concludes that the social network support ensured by malls' digital technologies is not empowering their communities, but, on the opposite, it disenfranchises their rights by depriving their privileges of free and un-surveilled encounter, association and territorialisation. In other words, while people can talk to everybody in the malls, this occurs under a third-party orchestration. This

research indicates that such a transformation does not subvert the segregational logic of older malls but reinforces it to maximise their dominant role in the urban environment.

These findings confirm the relevance and effectiveness of Foucault's genealogical perspective to better understand the changing power relations in the society of the mobile internet era. They help shed light on the evolution of public space privatisation and the agency of new technologies in urban society.

#62

Diriyah Reimagined: The Role of Placemaking in Heritage-Based Development

Lobna Mostafa

Architecture Dep, Faculty of Fine Arts, Menia University, Menia, Egypt, Menisa, Egypt

ICON Lab-ICON Spaces, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Urban development, a dynamic process that shapes the physical and social fabric of cities, gains heightened significance when unfolding within heritage-rich areas. These locales, steeped in culture and profound urban identity, demand strategic approaches that transcend conventional urban planning. **Placemaking**, as a pivotal concept, emerges as a catalyst for constructing place identity during new urban development. It involves the deliberate creation of meaningful and vibrant spaces that foster community engagement, well-being, and the sense of ownership. In fact, when heritage intersects with placemaking, the impact reverberates even more profoundly. This research delves into the intricate relationship between heritage and strategic placemaking, drawing inspiration from **urban assemblage theory**. This conceptual framework views cities as dynamic and complex social assemblies, where various dimensions intersect and coalesce. Heritage, within this intricate urban fabric, adds layers of complexity and significance. By exploring how these intertwined forces shape urban-social environments, we uncover the potential value of urban assemblage theory in fostering sustainable urban placemaking. As cities evolve, heritage-led placemaking navigates a delicate balance. It draws from the past while embracing the future, weaving narratives that resonate with both tradition and innovation. Through empirical analysis and theoretical reflection, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the interplay between heritage, placemaking, and the quest for socially sustainable urban environments. The research discusses and analyses the case study of Diriyah development project located in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The Diriyah is the location of the oldest capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which gives her a unique heritage value and represent good example of placemaking projects with heritage approximate base.

Methodology: Our research draws from theoretical literature and applies an assemblage methodological approach to Diriyah heritage-based placemaking case study. By examining Diriyah site we explore questions related to ownership, visibility, place identity, place branding and culture sustainability achieved through heritage placemaking intervention. The paper reveals dynamic factors at play in strategic placemaking, influenced by heritage.

Research Implications: This research contributes to heritage urban studies by proposing an analytical framework for the complexity of rehabilitation and reviving heritage sites. It also serves as a platform for critical dialogue around the concept of strategic placemaking in the development of heritage sites.

Conclusion: This research advocates for a holistic perspective of Heritage-based urban development. One that celebrates heritage-infused places as dynamic entities. As we shape our cities, let us navigate the delicate balance between tradition and progress, weaving a sustainable future through thoughtful, context-sensitive interventions. By applying Heritage - placemaking, we honour the past while fostering vibrant, inclusive places that resonate with contemporary needs.

Keywords: Heritage-placemaking, Diriyah, Heritage rehabilitation, place identity, place branding

Connected Arima: Pioneering Digital Solutions for the Public Realm in Trinidad and Tobago

Renelle Sarjeant

Public Space Global, San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago

Rapid evolutions in digital technologies such as AI, machine learning, big data, mobile apps, sensors and blockchain, are being heralded as catalysts for tackling socio-economic challenges, democratising society and improving our understanding of places. The government of Trinidad and Tobago is actively engaged in digital transformation pursuits outlined in its National Digital Transformation Strategy (2023–2026). Actions thus far have focused on digital skills development, the digitalisation of government services, and the cultivation of an enabling environment for digital businesses. In addition to these the government is currently pursuing its first smart city programme under the Connected Arima umbrella. Through this initiative the country's digital agenda and the urban agendas are being merged. The Connected Arima Initiative to increase accessibility, increase visitor activity, improve the user experience and support business activity. This paper aims to investigate the ways in which digital technology in the public realm can be implemented as part of the Connect Arima initiative.

Smart city initiatives have already been implemented across diverse geographies to support multiple public space functions including urban mobility, comfort, sociability, public engagement and entertainment Utilising ICT solutions in public spaces can also yield valuable new information and insights crucial for effective urban management. There are many approaches to improving digital intelligence in the urban realm including digital display boards, outdoor charging stations, surveillance cameras and self-service bicycle rentals. However, despite the geographic promiscuity of technological solutions, their deployment and outcomes are intricately intertwined with local context, governmental strategies, and desired developmental outcomes Trinidad and Tobago has a high rate of digital penetration (80% of residents actively use the internet), and benefits from 100% 3G and 75% 4G coverage. Already installation of free public Wi-Fi and CCTV cameras are public realm improvements that have been implemented in portions of downtown Arima.

This paper will focus on how authorities, including the local government, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank, are defining the role of digital technologies in the public realm. It will also identify the principles that should guide the design and implementation of ICT solutions in the public realm in the context of a small but vibrant town in a small island developing state It will also identify the specific ways in which digital technologies can support the renewal of public spaces in the country to support the need for safety and security, enjoyment of life, and improved urban governance. The investigation employs qualitative methods, drawing insights from policy and grey literature, structured observations of the current use of public spaces and the use of technology in downtown Arima, and semi-structured interviews with officials and development practitioners.

Keywords: public space, smart city, small island developing state

#74

Plural Temporality and Socio-spatial Perturbation: Infrastructural Public Space in Emerging E-commercialisation of Village Clusters in the North China Plain

Ruyang Sun¹, Manfredo Manfredini^{1,2}, Qing Su¹

¹University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

²Shanghai University, Shanghai, China

Background: The North China Plain, a region with advanced infrastructure yet historically plagued by flooding, currently presents an unexpected concentration of thriving networked rural village-based e-commerce clusters characterised by unstable dynamism. The exceptional scale of *infrastructural public space* in this region's historical regimes of instrumentalities has in its waterways a crucial agent for the constitution of its unique mode of social, economic and ecological relations. Yet, the capacity of such waterways – dominated by colossal water infrastructures such as the Yellow River and the Grand Canal – is historically associated to devastating crises that regularly affected the region and left a mark on many local conditions. These crises involve multiple and profound territorial restructuring due to diversions of the Yellow River path, which were particularly severe until the end of the 20th century, when the Yellow River water management system put it under control.

Research questions: This study seeks to answer the following questions: what are the relationships between the outnumbering rural e-commerce settlement clusters and the dynamic historical regimes of instrumentalities and socio-spatial perturbation in the North China Plain? How has the North China Plain's perpetual dynamic stabilisation regime constituted the conditions for the dramatic digital transformation of its mode of production? This paper investigates the factors shaping this "anomalous" regional development to construct an explanatory framework based on a plural temporality approach that incorporates the overlooked region's unique environmental history.

Methodology and Findings: Using multimodal geospatial analysis, this study examines the correlations and similarity between the geographical distribution patterns of local rural e-commerce clusters and the Yellow River's territorial perturbations. Quantitative analyses reveal a banded geographical pattern of e-commerce clusters situated at the interface between the Yellow River floodplain and the mountains. Living in this ribbon, local peasants are able to both engage in the regimes of instrumentalities based on large-scale water facilities on the plains and quickly relocate to survive in the event of ecological disasters. Qualitative analyses, drawing from established literature (on the one hand, the study of the history of the local rural community's response to the Yellow River disaster, and on the other hand, the study of the e-commercialisation of the current rural community), pinpoint four dimensions of similarity between the two periods: social, territorial, customary, and economic. Within each dimension, rural communities exhibit both a degree of instability due to frequent encounters with contingent events and a resilience to adapt quickly to new conditions.

Discussions and Conclusion: The findings support our further interpretation that e-commerce villages may be the result of a *conjuncture* that bridges, on the one hand, those perturbed socio-spatial patterns dating back a long period of time and, on the other hand, the latest mode of production, *computational capitalism*, introduced by the Taobao Village system. This explanation enriches the horizon of *planetary urbanisation* theory by

emphasising the coexistence of *plural temporalities*. capitalist urbanisation operates in a planetarisation, i.e. it unfolds across the global through each particular spatial-temporal *conjunction*, conjoining and intertwining a variety of nascent, persistent, or dead-but-resurrectable social relations and their conditions.

Keywords: Planetary Urbanisation, E-commerce, Yellow River Floodplain, Plural Temporalities, Rural Studies

#75

Public Space Translocalisations: Starbucks as Dissipative Agent of Private Comfort in the Chinese Consumption Landscape

Jing Jiang, Manfredo Manfredini

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

This study examines the impact of spatial restructuring in contemporary Chinese cities, with a particular focus on emerging spatial practices of reformed central amenities. These amenities, characterised by themed spaces introducing dominant exogenous models, facilitate the assimilation of abstract hyper-consumption practices within the Chinese context. They transform public spaces into a landscape of fragmented acculturating consumption and enclosing that significantly disrupts the daily public life of their communities. Among the numerous instances of spatial simulation of market-driven installations for consumption, domestic theming stands out for its capacity to compensate for the disruptions of the social fabric by offering illusions of cosmopolitan comfort.

This study highlights a crucial, yet often overlooked aspect of contemporary Chinese urban evolution: the dynamic commodification through deprivatisation of domestic spaces. It aims to enrich our comprehension of how this process has engendered novel forms of deterritorialised lifestyles. It mobilises theoretical instruments for the analysis of simulating hyperrealities and decoding-recoding processes, developed in Baudrillardian and Deleuze-Guattarian lineages of thought, to disentangle these intricate systems of objects. It empirically evaluates the agential capacity of these emplacements by analysing their constituting association across three axes: material elements, relational practices, and regime of signs.

Submitting that the 7,000 “home away from home” of Starbucks China are quintessential agents of the simulative dissipation of private comfort in the urban consumption landscape, this study analyses their abstractive ordinariness by focusing on the conception and implementation of their models through rich modulations of compensatory and illusive functions. Findings show that they actuate meticulous curations, unremitted activations, and flagrant displacements of narratives, materialities and relations that negate the transcendence of the traditional endogenous private into exogenous public experiences across all three axes. However, this study also found evidence of unforeseen formations of transpositions of important bundles of domestic rituals that activate liberatory forms of spatial excoding that disrupt the abstractive hyperrealities of the hyper-consumerist project. Based on this, this study proposes Starbucks’ everyday spatiality as a potential harbinger of a general phenomenological domestication of the city: a home planetarisation that subverts the globalised city by establishing a permanent condition of near-absolute positive deterritorialization.

Keywords: public space, spatial simulation, privatisation, practices of consumption, planetary urbanism

#76

Shein's Informal Manufacturing Network. Uncovering the Emerging Digital Platform Fuelled Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Villages-in-the-city

Qing Su, Manfredo Manfredini

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Villages-in-the-City (ViCs) are densely populated neighbourhoods that have evolved from traditional villages engulfed by urban expansion. The development of ViCs is primarily led by villagers and their collective organisations, with floating rural migrants as the most prevalent inhabitants. In Chinese metropolises, ViCs have historically been viewed as informal enclaves offering flexible, low-cost accommodation and low-skill, low-wage casual employment for many inurbated peasants lacking citizenship rights. Recent evidence, however, indicates that ViCs have a remarkable capacity to foster advanced, high-performing entrepreneurial ecosystems. This is facilitated by the development of endemic entrepreneurial networks boosted by smart platform economy systems that change the scale and pace of production activities and reshape the spatialities of villages through the establishment of novel cross-economic, translocal connections.

This paper explores the specific socio-spatial conditions that enable this transformation in ViCs. The study employs a site-based ethnographic fieldwork approach, supplemented by interdisciplinary literature analysis encompassing academic and grey literature and social media data. Our investigation focuses on a representative case of ViC characterised by a production system based on local clustering of units belonging to large, fragmented production networks. This system has witnessed the supplanting of the conventional multi-level hierarchical production system based on the small-scale light manufacturing industry by the high-speed, highly adaptable and molecular subcontracting patterns of the incepting Consumer-to-Manufacturer (C2M) business model. The case, Panyu's Nancun ViC, is located in Guangzhou, a key centre of China's garment industry. This village has recently undergone a structural transformation in response to the burgeoning C2M model, which revolves around the global online retail platform Shein and its supply chain.

Known for its rapid garment renewal, vast product variety, and extremely low prices, Shein dynamically assembles a multitude of small garment factories for production using sharp market forecasting algorithms and a smart digital provisioning system instead of relying on stable exclusive production lines. This technologically advanced operational "front end" relies heavily on labour-intensive and non-transparent production "back end". The Nancun case exemplifies how seemingly official partner factories may further informally subcontract tasks to informal workshops in the village to meet cost and duration constraints. With significantly compressed production cycles, delivery depends on the continuous remapping of the production structure with single-contract collaborations and partnerships that bring together machinery, services and skills of numerous gig workers and small workshops scattered throughout the village.

This study contends that the transformation of ViCs into advanced, high-performing entrepreneurial ecosystems relies on their capacity to mediate abstract computational capitalism logics with embedded co-production practices. This is achieved by leveraging on inherent informal organisational structures based on the socio-spatial cohesion, tacit collaboration and collective capability resulting from the alliance between their collective

villager organisations and inurbated peasant community networks. The penetration of digital platforms into ViCs exposes multiple contradictions. On the one hand, digital platforms tend to establish control of abstract logic over informal elements. However, the intervention of formalisation would undermine the advantage of digital platforms in creating profits, which is exactly the informality. On the other hand, digital platforms dominate the configuration of production practices characterised by informality, but the specific process of collaborative production strengthens the relational networks for the collective reappropriation of resources and production capabilities. We argue that the tension of these contradictions gives the emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem in ViCs the potential for empowerment, allowing informal structures and alliances to remain active and mobilise antagonistic networks against hegemonic actors to strive for the Right to the City.

#80

Environmental Advocacy: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Community Design-Build

Michelle Pannone, Sara Melick, Lois Downing

Marywood University, Scranton, USA

Green spaces such as community gardens can play an active role in the urban fabric and public life of neighbourhoods. However, there is often a shortage of such gathering places, particularly in low-income communities. Western culture often perceives nature as something that should be separate from their living environment, rather than something with which they can coexist directly. This mindset is detrimental to both humans and the environment. Community gardens provide a multitude of environmental benefits to the local ecology and access to fresh produce. In areas where empty lots would otherwise be allocated for parking or buildings, urban gardens contribute to temperature control of the surrounding area: plants are a great cover to absorb heat from the sun and surrounding air, utilizing it for photosynthesis while providing shade and retaining heat that would normally spread to the surrounding neighbourhood. Design considerations such as rain garden systems, have the ability to retain rainwater that could transfer pollutants due to runoff into nearby streams and lakes. Furthermore, the integration of indigenous plants supports native pollinators and wildlife while also promoting and maintaining the natural biodiversity of their region. In turn, this provides an educational opportunity to inform the community of the uses and importance of indigenous flora and fauna while allowing a space for these native species to thrive.

With the goal of shifting the narrative and combating lack of awareness in collaboration with the Garden of Cedar, this interdisciplinary public space activation introduces and explores advocacy and environmental responsibility in the context of a community design build project. Students are able to learn real world collaboration skills with the intention of enabling them to apply their understanding of their major specific expertise in a tangible way within their community. This fosters an environment where students can investigate various methods of designing and constructing physical implementations while addressing social, environmental, and cultural factors simultaneously. To further study this relationship, the outcomes of a three-year study of environmental science alongside architectural design have shown that within the city of Scranton, PA, most of the green space are ecological dead zones: lawns or river banks overflowing with invasive species. Much of this crisis comes from a lack of education, which requires action through the exploration of placemaking as a tool for environmental advocacy. These insights have inspired designs including a hydroponic vertical planter wall, freestanding accessible tiered planters utilizing the CNC machine, and a statue that infuses elements of the industrial history from the local community. The designs are intended to aid in placemaking at the community garden, and to assist in the development of the garden by the addition of pieces to the site that instil the overall sense of community. The values in consideration are functionality, movement, life, prominence, and togetherness. This would coincide with the overall composition of the pre-existing site and new developments to continue ensuring community members and visitors connect and interact with the garden in a multitude of ways. The end goal is to not only create a design that adds to the quality of the site but create a physical sense of what a community is and can be.

Globalizing Middle East and New Direction of Growth for Public Space

Silvia Mazzetto

Prince Sultan University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Public spaces are essential hubs for environmental, social, and commercial activity in urban areas. These areas significantly improve urban living conditions and social cohesion and are important for social interactions between individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds. However, despite their significance, public spaces must be more considered throughout the planning and construction stages, particularly in rapidly globalizing Middle Eastern cities.

The abstract presents the findings of a published book on new directions for public spaces in the Middle East's globalizing society. The research aims to investigate and explain the current urban issues surrounding public areas in these cities. It is about how public areas are becoming smaller in rapid urbanization cities and how this affects safety, public health, and social fairness. The two primary pillars of the research are the idea of public space and its right to the city and urban design techniques for constructing and revitalizing public spaces. The sections address resources, local frameworks, and various urban design and planning techniques targeted at improving public spaces through various themes and case studies.

The interaction between public spaces and the public sphere—neither of which can exist without the other—has been one of the major topics, highlighting the importance of these areas in reflecting the city's character and principles. Furthermore, the research explores the significance of heritage cultures in urban modifications, encouraging the integration of historical memory into urban planning. This strategy promotes the social qualities of public areas while maintaining the urban fabric's continuity.

Urbanization in the Middle East highlights concern about the future of emerging urban typologies and hybrid public spaces; since these areas impact new urban patterns and ways of life, it is necessary to reevaluate their shape, usage, and social worth. The volume's contributions address an extensive range of topics, including the effects of privatization, westernization behaviours, post-war reconstruction, societal sustainability, and public participation. When creating public places, special consideration is given to integrating public art, preservation of heritage, and public transportation networks. The research also explores the possibility of converting abandoned places into public areas, such as the Lebanese railway network.

The conclusions address the importance of a holistic approach to urban planning, coordinating housing regulations with interventions in urban design to encourage inclusive and sustainable urban environments. This strategy is essential to cope with the complexity of fast urban expansion and the privatization of public places. This multidisciplinary study aims to illuminate the dynamics of public spaces in the Middle East from both a theoretical and practical standpoint. It is intended to serve as a resource for urban planning, architecture, public policy, and academia. It highlights the need for teamwork in creating future public spaces in these rapidly globalizing areas. The debates highlighted the necessity of investigating new approaches and gaining knowledge that will improve our understanding of and progress toward developing public spaces while guaranteeing that they serve a variety of urban populations' demands.