

Spatial Practice of Placemaking ARCH 576, Graduate Seminar

Fall 2021

Description

The phenomenon of globalization has led to increased spatial homogenization —what Christine Murray, editor of *Architectural Review*, has called “notopia.” Cutting-edge design technology in combination with overwhelming media, including the internet, has all too often led to an object-first design approach: insensitive to site history and formal context. The seminar is an opportunity for students to gain insight into what gives space a unique sense of identity.

Using a case study methodology and a selection of compelling readings, students will explore beyond form and function and dive into the production of space through the lenses of phenomenology, history (including collective memory), and sociocultural practice. This includes important criticisms that should be addressed as professional practitioners. Students will be encouraged to view their own design processes as criticism and a part of living history, and will be able to apply concepts to their concurrent studio project.



Figure 1. picture courtesy Atelier Oslo/AWP

Readings

Though the list is not exhaustive, we will read from the following books:

- *Collage City*, Rowe and Koetter
- *The City of Collective Memory*, Christine Boyer
- *Genius Loci*, Christian Norberg-Schulz
- *Lifeforce*, Robert L. Thayer, Jr.
- *The Power of Place*, Dolores Hayden
- *Place and Placelessness*, Edward Relph
- *The Architecture of the City*, Aldo Rossi
- *A Phenomenology of Landscape: Places, Paths and Monuments*, Christopher Tilley
- *A Theory of Good City Form*, Kevin A. Lynch

Class Format

- Class will begin at 2:00 pm promptly, with a brief presentation by the Instructor, ending around 2:50 pm.
- There will be a 5-10 minute coffee/bathroom break
- From 3:00 pm to 3:50pm, the class will then meet for a conversation session. Students are expected to have done the assigned readings *and* to participate in the conversation in a respectful and enthusiastic manner. After the conversation, there will be another 5 min break.
- At 3:55pm, the instructor will conduct a participatory activity.
- Later in the semester students will deliver a presentation.
- Class will end at 4:50pm.