



Public Space – The Familiar into the Strange

Is it possible to use Umberto Eco's "The Poetics of the Open Work" as a strategic tool for urban development? According to "Public Space - The Familiar into the Strange" the answer is a certain YES! Copenhagen based studio JUUL | FROST Architects have just published "Public Space". The book is based on a two year long development project, "Public Space as a Catalyst for Change", that sees public spaces as potential catalyst for change. The digital version is available as a free download.

Public Space – The Familiar into the Strange is an architectural screenplay – a Toolbox - for people interested in and working with the development of public spaces and cities. The basis of the book is that all our cities are in intensive competition with each other in order to attract citizens, business and investments. In their efforts to become unique all cities end up pursuing the same development strategies. The result is that all European cities end up looking the same.

Public Space addresses this tendency by developing a holistic and value based method for urban development called Value-based Potentiality Planning. Based upon an interdisciplinary approach, an innovative method that merges the scales of the city is developed. By using four interconnected levels - City, Space, Life shaping and Body - the method secures that the physical frames for our daily life are developed in interplay with the lived life.

Throughout the book the authors move from thoughts over case studies to action - a journey that results in five different development strategies that can be pursued by urban planners and developers. The outcome are new operational tools that can be used in order to create strategies for public spaces that result in unique and attractive cities – regardless of size and location.

"Public Space' represents a reversible process. We re-read known theorist's thoughts, analyze known places and withdraw new insights from their texts and the physical manifestations. Innovative urban development is not solely a question of developing something from scratch. Innovation is equally a question of taking something already known to new levels, and that is what we do in the course of the book." explains Helle Juul, co-owner, Architect, Ph.D., who has been in charge of the project. *"Public Spaces are the social glue of our cities and in order to secure a holistic approach towards urban development we have developed a range of new methods. 'Public Space' works as a specific tool for our public spaces that can be used to create initiatives that define the frames for the 'good public life", she concludes.*

Public Space – The Familiar into the Strange is also available as a download from www.byensrum.dk/english/

The book can also be purchased in a physical edition by contacting The Architectural Publisher B by mail: gilberthansen@b-arki.dk

FURTHER INFORMATION

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FACTBOX

Public Space – The Familiar into the Strange is divided into three major parts – Thoughts, Case Studies and Strategic tools. In "Thoughts" works by among others Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch, Gilles Deleuze & Felix Guatarri, Pierre Bourdieu, Richard Sennett, Umberto Eco, Zygmunt Bauman are re-read. Their thoughts are merged into an interdisciplinary thought fusion. "Case studies" of Amsterdam Bijlmer ArenA, Barcelona's Jardin de la Torre de les Aigües Barcelona and Smithfield in Dublin are together with other case studies carried out through a method filter made up by four levels: City, Space, Life shaping and Body. The case studies lead to the development of 5 strategic tools that can be used to future proof public spaces: Acupuncture, Parallelism, Mnemonics, Area and Performativity.

Public Space is a publication under the *Public Space as a Catalyst for Change project* - an interdisciplinary project that revolves around public spaces as catalysts for the development of cities by focusing on change and meaning as strategic tools. For the first two years the project was financed by Realdania and is now anchored at the RESEARCH+COMMUNICATION unit at JUUL | FROST Architects with Helle Juul, Architect MAA, Ph.D. as project manager.