

Space and place

SS 2007

Laura Colini, Katharine Willis

Description

We live in space; it is fundamental to our everyday experience and we also create places as a way of organizing our understanding of space. Space is a term that is used broadly, covering so many commonly understood meanings: architectural space, time and space, public and private space, personal space, abstract space and even the imagined spaces of the mind. We will consider in particular one way of thinking about space; that of place. Places occur at all levels of identity, scale and meaning; my home, the street corner, the public square, a city, but one common feature is that places never allow simple categorization.

What exactly are the many ways of thinking about space and place, and how can we better understand and represent them?

We will explore the many concepts of space and place and how they are created, inhabited and represented, both through the physical design and also through social behaviour.

Goals

The primary outcome of the course is that each student should be able to have an understanding of the topic and learn how to frame and develop their own approach to space and place. In the course, we will read texts from architecture, arts, urban planning, social studies, and we will explore the theme with theoretical discussion of the subject, complemented by practical observations and research.

Final submission

Deadline: 17.09.07

Final outcome

During the course of the class you should have been able to develop your own understanding of the topic of space and place, as a result of the lectures, your presentations and the literature provided in the semester apparatus.

Your final contribution will be based on observation, direct experience, analysis and reflection of spaces you may know during your everyday life or through some of your projects or others people's work. It could be based on a building, an art work, a neighbourhood, a street, a square or any other space that relates to the topic of the class.

You are free to use images, movie, sound, text, drawings etc

The final outcome will be based on two options depending on your choice:

1. A multimedia project inspired by case study. Please, also provide a short written reflection based on the literature provided (text type Trebuchet 12pt, 1000 words)
2. An essay based on a case study you are willing to analyse critically (text type Trebuchet 12pt, 3000 words)

Your power point presentation from the class will also be taken into consideration for the final examination.

Tutorial

Each of the students should have at least one tutorial (or more if necessary) with Laura or Katharine for the preparation of the final outcome. Please contact us by email to arrange the time laura.colini@uni-weimar.de and katharine.willis@archit.uni-weimar.de