

Lecture Title

The role of public participation and artistic interventions in open spaces. A case study

„ Reality is not something that allows itself to be completely contained in form.”

Witold Gombrowicz, Diary. Volume I 1953-1956

Abstract:

The presentation discusses the role of artistic interventions in the public open space: an intervention that aims to support social relations, foster public life and cultural diversity in the urban spaces and modern cities.

In particular this research is based on innovative experimental urban art projects and artistic activities supported by a theoretical approach and the interdisciplinary study. Moreover the study investigate how public participation methods can character of public space and influence development of the city. The work is located within research on urban planning and social engagement.

Due to the increasing migrations of people, public space have become an significant element of urban environment and serves primarily as a meeting place for people with different traditions and cultural backgrounds, with different attitudes towards urban space and urban life. Contemporary urban art projects in public space, particularly when supported by new interactive technologies, can affect not only the perception of space, but also have an impact on public life and stimulate social interaction. Such art interventions can influence social integration and generate a new identity for the place. Urban art which focuses on sensory perception can become an effective tool for gathering various groups of space users, since it deals with basic human reactions. Interactive installations in public spaces can become a new medium of informal communication among people coming from different cultural backgrounds..

The study presenting this issue was based on, among others, city walk experiments which were conducted during several workshop, seminars and public events in collaboration with the partner educational and cultural institutions. The research took place in the city of Gdańsk and include different social groups of the inhabitants of the districts.

The research is a case study of activities based on walking and senses as a revolution in the approach to urban space. Data include analyzes based on different walk activates in the districts Gdansk taking in consideration sensing the city along with discovering tradition and history written into the city landscape. In particular there will be presented case study entitled: “Fizz Powder on the Tongue” combining Gdańsk Urban Walk / Inspiration Bank / and art events within Grassomania 10. project of Gdańsk City Gallery.

This interdisciplinary approach to urban planning, based on the use of art in innovative ways, and the potential use of invisible aspects of space, can effectively stimulate the integration of different users of space.

The use of this innovative approach was designed to familiarize people with the topic of multi-layer and multi-sensory perception of the city. In particular to demonstrate the use of public space, its importance and the consequences in architectural landscape and urban concepts. It is important to discuss innovative approach to the public space and educate people in order to face challenges regarding complexity in constantly changing build environment.

There was identify that concept of social engagement is a crucial point in order to revitalize the city space. Such interdisciplinary approach to urban design, based on experiencing the space by walking as well as the potential of non-visual aspects of the space as memory written into the landscape, may effectively stimulate integration of different groups of space users. When these approaches become properly integrated with urban planning strategies, they may become a powerful tool for social integration and foster urban regeneration.

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Keywords:

Urban planning; public space; urban walk; interactive public participation; place making; social integration; urban art; interactive installation