

MEDIATION

Inventing connections between STS-ANT-studies and architecture, spatial design and urban studies

WHAT IS PERFORMATIVE AESTHETICS?

Performative Aesthetics in urban space:

Examination of the connections between the aesthetical, physical design and the experiences of space as well as the social life reacting to it.

Spatial aesthetics must be seen in relations and assemblages. It is relations and spatial assemblages that affects us.

MEDIATION

Performative aesthetics

- * Adresses spatial mediation
- * When and how do spaces perform?

"...performance can take place anywhere, under a wide variety of circumstances, and in the service of an incredibly diverse panoply of objectives."

(Schechner *Performance Theory* 1977: ix.)

MEDIATION

"Design shapes, conditions, facilitates and makes possible everyday sociality".(...) "I find myself involved in relationships mediated by the particular design of the building, the staircase and the numerous artifacts that facilitate my morning trajectory, making my arrival pleasurable." (Yaneva 2009).

MEDIATION IN EVERY DAY DESIGN





A laboratory for social performance...

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MEDIATION IN EXPERIENCE DESIGN

- * The reassembling everyday day design and architecture in relation to experience design and architecture
- * Performative aesthetics are applied in every day settings to enhance workflow, the experience of homeliness, urban life etc.

SCREENS ON SQUARES

10th avenue Plaza on the Highline, Chelsea



The Red Square, Roskilde University administration offices





















Every day urban experiences are mediated through the screen



Framing of urban landscape Urban and cinematic associations











The Red Square

Design and architecture have an intentionality

But spatially it is a mess: aesthetics, functionality, symbolic value and context do not match!

Do you feel home at work? Can the 'couch sensation' from your parcelhus be applied to the workplace?



Objection #1 The role of aesthetics

Design and architecture are spatial mediators, but spatial mediation must be reconsidered in terms of aesthetics.

Essential for the understanding of what design and architectures do How design and architecture produce experiences, affect us, make us feel



Objection #2 Spatial intentionality

Design and architecture are spatial mediators, but must be reconsidered in terms spatial intentions.

Spatial networks are not only flat. They may appear flat, but most likely they are designed with an intention which is often is visually absent.

The design invite you to sit down and watch telly. What are the spatial intentions?



Objection #2 Spatial intentionality Design and architecture are spatial mediators, but must be reconsidered in terms spatial intentions. Spatial networks are not only flat. They may appear flat, but most likely they are designed with an intention which is often is visually absent.

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Objection #3 SPATIAL ASSEMBLAGES

Design and architecture are always part of spatial assemblages. Spatial elements such as architecture and design perform in socio-material networks.

Objection #4 From functionality to performance

Mediation in design understood as functionality is a messy business. The impact of architecture and design should not be reduced to mere functionality, technologies or infrastructure.

Architecture and design produce aesthetical experiences, **Architecture and design** are part of spatial assemblages, power structures and intentions

Architecture and design mediate and shape our every day life, but not alone



