

ETH Zürich
D-ARCH Departement Architektur
Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Architektur gta

Symposium

Veranstalter: Professur Ursprung

Datum : Freitag den 16. Dezember 2011 bis Samstag den 17. Dezember 2011

In the wake of the revolutionary unrest of the late 1960s, the idea of participatory art and architecture has lost its utopian connotations to become a complex debate about the active role of the spectator—and dweller—in space. Models critical of technocratic social planning have seen in interactive art and architecture the latest mode of authoritarian control (Foucault, Bourdieu); others, taking their cue from reuse and reorientation of spaces and artifacts, have seen in cooperative or 'relational' aesthetics the only viable politics in an era of global capitalism (de Certeau, Bourriaud). The nerve of the debate lies in the equation of sociality and space. It is this causal nexus between space and social life that, above all, we wish to draw attention to and put into question. Is power exerted in only one direction or could we describe these relationships as complex networks of interaction? Is space formed once and for all, or is it the changeable product of changeable patterns of use? Is the aesthetic always equivalent to the political, or might an aesthetically authoritarian space be conducive to social emancipation? And, finally, how does the mediatization of urban space challenge concepts of participation and audience?

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