

AGOR·A·BUNDANCE

ag-o-ra
plural agoras or agorae
a gathering place
especially: the marketplace in ancient Greece

abun-dance
1 an ample quantity: an abundant amount: profusion a garden that has an *abundance* of flowers
2 affluence, wealth, a life of abundance
3 relative degree of plentifulness

Public space is the most important physical freespace for humans to interact. How can it be designed in the future?

Urban landscapes with medium population densities are the most widespread form of human settlement activity and mirror the social attainments of the recent past. Built or not, these landscapes are consciously or unconsciously designed by humans. In the process, the unbuilt landscape, or in other words the unbuilt freespace subsequently takes on the role of public space. For instance, legions of leisure activists invade the landscape every day. Other than city centers, these landscapes offer an abundance of public space. Through digitization and its new and extended forms of information, communication and consumption, the traditional physical public space forfeits many of its inherent duties. On the one hand, there is too much space with rather loose qualities in the urban landscape and on the other hand, a decreasing demand for physical public space can be identified in dense city structures. Probably this will lead to a dramatic and fundamental change of the physical public space. How can that development be managed in order to provide the necessary free spaces, the projection surfaces and the identity sustaining living environments in the future urban landscapes of Europe? Or which other functions shall these places have to adopt in the future? The joint research project **AGORABUNDANCE** of the University of Liechtenstein addresses these questions.



SPRING 2018

THE BIENNALE STUDIO

Public Situations in Urban Landscapes

A team of scholars and students will investigate the potentials for public spaces in the urban landscape of Liechtenstein together with a professional photographer who is specialized on the diverse use of urban freespaces. The group will then develop a series of hypothetical images of the public in future urban landscapes.



Constructing model sceneries of public spaces in urban landscapes

During the summer semester 2018, students will produce emblematic showcase model sceneries of public spaces in the urban landscape, under the assistance of a professional model maker in the nominal scale H0 (1:87), that is typically used for model railways. By immersing into specific architectural situations, the spatial potential of the territory can thereby be researched and unfolded. The models will be cased in wooden boxes and later be shipped to Venice, where they will also serve as columns for the exhibition. Mounted on light boxes by Zumtobel that can be disassembled for transportation, a selection of five oversized photographs will be put on display and serve as an impressive visual background for the Biennale event of the Principality of Liechtenstein at the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi.



Event space with mounted light boxes at the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi

SUMMER 2018

THE BIENNALE TALKS

Constructing Public Space

For the public event at the Architecture Biennale 2018 in Venice, a number of leading experts from the fields of architecture, landscape and urban design and research will each be requested to make a statement focusing on the question of how public space should and could be constructed today and in the future.



Layout of the event space with light boxes (red) and models (blue)

Following the series of statements, a panel will be held to discuss those among professionals and by also including the present public and guests. The exhibited models of the students as well as the selection of photographic works form an appropriate surrounding to stimulate the discourse about the public, its physical space and polity. The event will bring into focus the urgent question of how to spatially advance urban landscapes considering the dramatic change that contemporary public space is exposed to. It is supposed to generate fresh ideas for future public spaces and to bring into action 'the diversity, specificity and continuity in architecture based on people, place, time, history and to sustain the culture and relevance of architecture' (quote from Biennale President Paolo Baratta) towards this purpose.

FALL/WINTER 2018/2019

EXHIBITION & SYMPOSIUM

The Future of Public Space

The Biennale Talks will be the prelude for a series of activities about the matter of the public, that will take place back in Liechtenstein. A public cross-faculty symposium at the University, bringing together scholars from the fields of Architecture, Economy and Information Systems, will provide a holistic spectrum of research and opinions on future forms of public space. The exhibition from Venice will be shown in a local venue and offer the possibility for an eventual book launch of a publication summarizing all works and selected essays on the subject. Combining it with a more comprehensive exhibition of contemporary artworks on the relationship between humans and their environments could provide an ideal link to a broader audience. Following for instance the concept of the seminal exhibition 'New Topographics: Photographs of a Man-Altered Landscape', curated by William Jenkins in 1975 could for example be initiated at the Art Museum of Liechtenstein.



Selection of photographic works on the topic of man-made landscapes

With its contribution of a pressing contemporary issue to the International Architecture Biennale 2018 the Principality of Liechtenstein can place itself as a cutting-edge discourse incubator in a humanistic tradition. The invited panelists as well as politicians, experts and the interested public can be sensitized for building culture, urban research and the spatial qualities of the territory and connect to representatives of the country. Personal contacts can be established, future co-operations can be initiated and the Principality of Liechtenstein be represented in an innovative manner.