

# Going Public Public Architecture Urbanism And Interventions

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going public showcases the creative revival of public space in our urban and rural landscapes the book s compelling selection of formal and informal interventions reclamations and architecture illustrates the current scope and interest in refashioning and repurposing our built environment for public use the objectives of the featured examples are as diverse as the projects themselves and range from inspiring communication and community experience to devising new means of gathering in and connecting to nature ranging from bold to subtle and from temporary to permanent the architecture and urban design featured in going public offers inspiring and surprising interpretations of our public surroundings and natural landscapes

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the town hall or city hall as a place of local governance is historically related to the founding of cities in medieval europe as the space of representative civic authority it aimed to set the terms of public space and engagement with the citizenry in subsequent centuries as the idea and built form travelled beyond europe to become an established institution across the globe the parameters of civic representation changed and the town hall was forced to negotiate new notions of urbanism and public space city halls and civic materialism towards a global history of urban public space utilizes the town hall in its global historical incarnations as bases to probe these changing ideas of urban public space the essays in this volume provide an analysis of the architecture iconography and spatial relations that constitute the town hall to explore its historical ability to accommodate the public in different political and social contexts in europe asia australia africa and the americas as the relation between citizens and civic authority had to be revisited with the universal franchise under fascism after the devastation of the world wars decolonization and most recently with the neo liberal restructuring of cities

as a global phenomenon the town hall challenges the idea that nationalism imperialism democracy the idea of citizenship concepts that frame the relation between the individual and the body politic travel the globe in modular forms or in predictable trajectories from the west to east north to south collectively the essays argue that if the town hall has historically been connected with the articulation of bourgeois civil society then the town hall as a global spatial type architectural space urban monument and space of governance holds a mirror to the promise and limits of civil society

traditional approaches to understand space tend to view public space mainly as a shell or container focussing on its morphological structures and functional uses that way its ever changing meanings contested or challenged uses have been largely ignored as well as the contextual and on going dynamics between social actors their cultures and struggles the key role of space in enabling spatial opportunities for social action the fluidity of its social meaning and the changing degree of publicness of a space remain unexplored fields of academic inquiry and professional practice public space and relational perspectives offers a different understanding of public spaces in the city the aim of the book is to re introduce the lived experiences in public life into the teaching curricula of those academic disciplines which deal with public space and the built environment such as architecture planning and urban design as well as the social sciences the book presents conceptual practical and research challenges and brings together findings from activists practitioners and theorists the editors provide eight educational challenges that educators can endorse when training future practitioners and researchers to accept and to engage with the social relations that unfold in and through public space cover image karo

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