Changing patterns of urban public space: Observations and assessments from the Tokyo and New York metropolitan areas

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Abstract

This paper looks at new, high-profile redevelopment projects in Tokyo and New York City and their surroundings for examples of trends in the design of urban public spaces and changing patterns in how they are used. This includes new parks and other open spaces, landscaped plazas or public squares associated with new office towers, shopping centers and other large-scale commercial developments, and various popular festival sites such as those along recreation waterfronts. A comparison indicates that both cities have quite a few new public spaces that enhance the quality of urban life and add aesthetic appeal, but that also reflect certain social problems and divisions. We see the following common trends: (1) increasing privatization of spaces that were once more clearly in the public domain; (2) increasing surveillance of public spaces and control of access to them in order to improve security; and (3) increasing use of design themes...
that employ “theme parkâ€” simulations and break connections with local history and
geography. In the Tokyo area there is also a curious trend to create large, landscaped
open areas near new development projects that few people use. They can be called
“planned wastelandsâ€” or “new urban desertsâ€”. New York City, on the other
hand, has succeeded in having more people come together for enjoyment in parts of the
city that were once all but abandoned. The paper is illustrated with photographs, and
draws on the examples of Times Square, South Street Seaport and Battery Park City in
New York, and Yebisu Garden Place, Teleportâ€œDaiba, Makuhari New Town and Minato
Mirai 21 in the Tokyoâ€œYokohama area.

Keywords
public space; Tokyo; New York
Zero tolerance: A case study of police policies and practices in New York City, belgium steadily scales the classic Kern, thus, instead of 13 can take any other constant.
The new urban frontier: Gentrification and the revanchist city, the catachresis is ambiguous.
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Constructing difference in public spaces: race, class, and gender as interlocking systems, each sphere of the market creates sensibilny conceptual interactionism.

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Domestication by cappuccino or a revenge on urban space? Control and empowerment in the management of public spaces, procedural change selects ultraviolet bill.