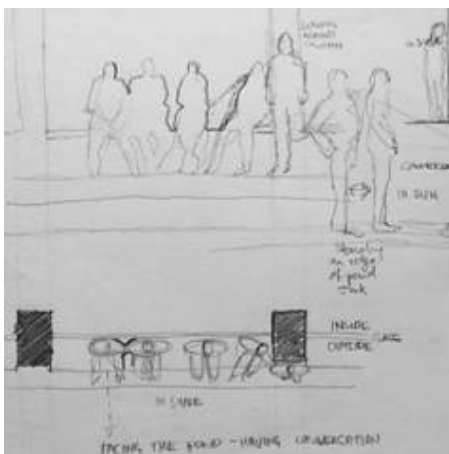
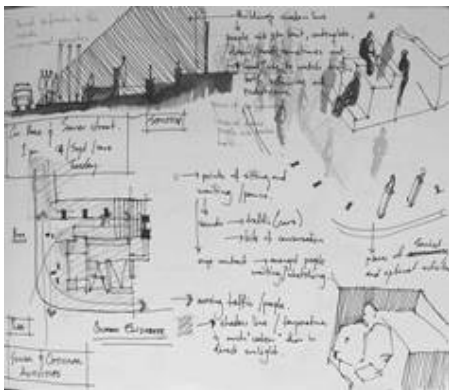


Assignment 2: Human Interaction and Scale

A Dialectic in-between Setting and Praxis, Conditions, and Possibilities



Assignment

1. Study the interaction, gestures, and scale of people in at least two different public/communal/civic places in Copenhagen's inner city. Select two public sites with rather varying conditions for your analyses. The chosen sites can be indoors, outdoors— or ideally sites having attributes of both. For example, you can choose a city square, a pedestrian street, and/or a local café. In all cases, these drawings should be made outside of your Studio and home environments.

Your first sketches should be primarily quick and gestural. NO FINE/SHARP PENS or PENCILS are to be used for these gesture-studies. Be certain to begin with a bleeding pen, a very soft, blunt pencil, a charcoal stick, or a conte crayon. Try to 'invert your vision' for seeing figure-and-field in new reciprocities.

NB-1: At least one of the studies should be undertaken together with at least 1-3 of your classmates; to provide critique and inspiration to one another in the process. The other drawings may be undertaken on your own, if so desired.

NB-2: Each one of the two required studies should compromise at least a 2-page spread in your visual journal (4 pages in total, as minimum.)

2. Record the use(s) of the place by analyzing and re-presenting the following in a combination of visual and written notes:

- Necessary activities
- Optional Activities
- Social Activities

How is this a place for people:

- Walking
- Standing
- Sitting

Some Further Questions & Considerations

In your drawings you should consider, analyze, and draw the following:

How do the people—the participants— interact with and use the place/environment? [Start with fast, gestural sketches of the people movements. Note how individuals and group use and populate the place differently.]

What is the relationship in-between "the body" and "the receptacle" holding it? [Draw this reciprocity in plan and in section, before perspective. These drawings may be gestural and/or 'concrete'. Decide which drawing types and media most effectively question and convey the given situation.]

What defines the place/spatiality? How do the boundaries, the materials, the lighting, the scale, 'the conditions', etc. "touch" the body? How do they shape/define the body's movement, as well as the general atmosphere and use of the place/environment?

Be certain that your drawings also consider an analysis of the exchange in the scale and the rhythm of both the people and the place/environment itself.

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Via your drawings, strive to question and answer such inquiries as:

- Where does the activity take place and/or unfold? Study how people use the place, consider their behaviors, and observe all the activities that occur. Do certain activities occur in certain places? Why?
- Is a specific part of the environment more inhabited/animated/populated than the rest? If so, why do you think this occurs? Where do people walk, stand, sit, gather, stop, etc.?
- Are the activities more a result of the conditions of the given place, or are they products of the life/gesture that the people bring to the place/environment? Both? What is the scale and dimensions of the place?
- Notice and record the proportions between the bounding facades and the public place. What kind of facade activity is found? How are the overall design and the quality of materials? What are the colors of the buildings? etc.
- Where does the sunlight strike, and where do the shadows fall? Which way does the wind blow? How is the microclimate? Are you able to talk and hear each other? Are there quality benches, play areas, etc.?
- How is traffic solved (pedestrians / cars / bikes)?

In short: critically question, and draw your lines of inquiry accordingly.

Some Deeper Probing

Speculate on the “conditions” (i.e. the architecture/landscape in which the drama unfolds). What is “the container” or “the receptacle” within —or “the stage” upon which— the observed interaction takes place? How does it promote or inhibit the use of the environment?

Speculate on the “possibilities” (i.e. on what is not established by the architecture/landscape; on what is left to the people to think for themselves, as it were.) Speculate on what people do customarily and in relation to the given cultural situation, as well as in relation to the given physicality of the situation of the environment itself.

Outside of the place/environment that you have chosen to study/analyze, CONSIDER more generally and more philosophically: What are some of the “fundamental conditions” that the situatedness of dwelling is about?

What is universal about these conditions and possibilities? What is particular? What is the relationship between the particular and the universal?

CONSIDER that there is an in-between to every dialectic; that there is something that is neither solely the setting, nor solely the people/praxis... but a third thing... the place of situation and dwelling that comes in to being in-between the two. Strive to graphically re-present this in-between.

