CREATING PLACE IN A PLACELESS SPACE

an architectural investigation of place-making
Each site, each project, each situation is different, and a sensitivity to the possibilities inherent in its unique features will help in designing distinctive and authentic places.

-Sarah Menin
WHY PLACE?

_Tactile sensibility replaces distancing visual imagery by enhanced materiality, nearness and intimacy._

-Juhani Pallasmaa
PLACE + space

Place is the concretization of space
The experience of place is an engagement with time in space. Place is a fabrication through one’s unselfconscious intentionality; it is a personal product.

*There can be no being-in-place except by being in a densely qualified place in concrete embodiment...colour, texture, and depth are known to us only in and by the body that enters and occupies in a given place.*

-Edward Casey
Identification is the basis for one's sense of belonging. Humans need to be capable of identifying themselves with the environment in order to experience how they are in a certain place. The realization of place allows one to find their place; to become more themselves.

Being in place depends on the generation of an existential foothold. It is essential for one to know where and how they are situated within a certain place. A place of pause establishes a space founded on an equilibrium and orientation of self and surrounding environment.

In order to dwell, place must be connected to the inner characteristics of the self to be perceived and experienced deeply and profoundly. In order to inhabit a place, one must open out to the dynamics of space and take possession of the meaningful events and elements of experience.
PLACE + making

Place-making is a method of creating distinct centres that give structure that both reflects and guides experiences.

*Each place is different and decided on its own merits... completely different situations may be needed for apparently similar cases.*

-Edward Relph
“[The bridge] does not just connect banks that are already there, the banks emerge as banks only as the bridge crosses the stream. The bridge designedly causes them to lie across from each other. One side is set off against the other by the bridge...The bridge brings to the stream the one and the other expanse of the landscape lying behind them. It brings stream and bank and land into each other’s neighbourhood. The bridge gathers the landscape around the stream.”

-Martine Heidegger
In telling stories about places, we create and re-create; revise and adjust; confirm and re-confirm; affirm and re-affirm our connections to place; storytelling allows a place to become ‘our place’.

-Frank Vanclay

The narrative is nonexistent without one’s experience. It is a practice that binds characters, events and places spontaneously through navigating the world.

NARRATIVE
INSTALLATIONS

museum installations

land art/gardens

architectural installations
SPACE (site)

Urban Morphological Zone/Fringe/Insterstice/Landscape of Fragments/Placeless Space

[These areas] include in the same spatial unit urbanized areas and agricultural land, open space and highly dense residential areas...it is a multi-centred metropolis that does not correspond to the traditional separation between central cities and their suburbs.
THE SERIES

site one

site two

site three
respond to each other

site one
TUNNEL
sense of sound

site two
TOWER
sense of sight

site three
BRIDGE
sense of touch

respond to site

respond to nature
SEQUENCE

Manhattan Transcripts
-Bernard Tschumi
site two
Berkel en Rodenrijs
PROGRESSING CAUTIOUS GRADUAL TRANSITION DECENT/ASCENT MYSTERIOUS INTENSIVE PROGRESSIVE
site three
Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel
GRADUAL EXCITED RHYTHMIC

TRANSITION
DECENT/ASCENT

EVENT/PAUSE

TRANSITION
DECENT/ASCENT

ENCLOSURE
REVEAL

ANTICIPATION

TRANSITION
DECENT/ASCENT
STEADY REPETATIVE

EXPLORATIVE

TRANSITION

EVENT/PAUSE

TRANSITION THRESHOLD

FRAMING
THE STRENGTH OF WEAK ARCHITECTURE

*Imperfection is some sort of essential to all that we know in life. It is the sign of life in a mortal body...nothing that lives is or can be rigidly perfect; part of its decaying...and in all things that live, there are certain irregularities and deficiencies, which are not only signs of life, but signs of beauty.*

- John Ruskin
TUNNEL
concrete + steel

site one

external references
Site two

Concrete + wood

External references
Place is the coming together and coexistence of biophysical, social and spiritual worlds. Within its situated compass, place structures spatiality and temporality, subjectivity and objectivity, self and other. It gathers and shapes an area of focus from the multifaceted environmental fabric that is typically subject to the ignorance and disregard of the taken-for-granted daily life.