

## **Creating Place in a Placeless Space**

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P4 Reflection

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Place allows one to be positioned in space, in a concrete space and time, in the here-and-now; in life. Place is the grounds for experience and agency in the world, allowing for identification, orientation and for one to truly dwell in space. Each experience of place recreates the world; translating, transforming and transcribing what pre-exists through one's own bodily and sensory perceptions.

The creation of place that this project strives for makes it impossible to determine if it is successful in its form of paper architecture. Place, being fully a personal product, is based on experience and engagement. It is the act of involvement, inquiry and imagination that determine the evolution of space into place. Knowing this, the design had to be very much hinged on the findings of the research, so that it could contain the necessary aspects that make its establishment of place at least possible. The research informed the difference between space and place and how one establishes their own place. The qualities and characteristics of the resultant designs, ranging from size to sequences of movement, all are a response to the research and its application in the given site.

The project aims to relate to a wider social context by existing in a series. Though the research may have provided the means and methods of making place, the application to each site is individual and inevitably unique. Despite the fact that place is a designated and differentiated area within a larger setting, it is fully dependant on its surrounding space. Place can only be produced through the collective gathering and reveal of what exists in the environment. Without space, place is not possible. The series of three projects demonstrates place-making strategies in various landscaped settings, establishing how even the smallest of nuances within a site can derive different place configurations. It is the purpose of the resulting architectural projects to provide place through events that allow space to be seen in a new way; in a way that is graspable, tangible and to each his own. The series aims to return us, through experience, to the world in which we live, to a moment, a memory, a place to which we could feel belonging. The places strive to bring a presence and essence to an interstitial and placeless space. To give notice to the uniqueness of the sites that may have fallen out of focus due to their 'typical-Dutch' characteristics.

Place, being a product of personal perceptions, makes the establishment of such an inevitably subjective endeavor. The unavoidable Canadian perspective that I bring to each experience of the Dutch landscape has led to a project initiative aimed at revealing the uniqueness of currently 'placeless' spaces that reside within the fringe area of many Dutch cities. As an outsider, and in many cases a wanderer, there are spatial qualities and characteristics that present themselves during my own experiences that would otherwise go unnoticed by the native eye. Channeling such circumstances, and utilizing architecture, due to both passion and educational requirement, this thesis works to concretize uncategorized and unrecognized space by providing and establishing a place that is a result, a response, and a means of reinsertion into the Dutch landscape.