

THE SKETCH WALK: EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY AND A DISCUSSION OF PLACE

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ABSTRACT

The growth and popularity of urban sketching (Campanario, 2012), sketch walks and sketch crawls, has brought the practice of sketching to the attention of landscape architecture programs and practitioners (Richards, 2013). Both CELA and the ASLA have hosted sketch walks as an academic and practical form for groups to explore, discover and discuss place. This has initiated a discussion on the role of sketching, recording direct observations, mapping and social media sharing in the teaching of design. This paper will describe how the sketch walk and its organizational components; Location; Movement and Record, are used to explore, discover and discuss place.

The Sketch Walk mimics the skills required to experience and document space and initiates the process of analysis and conceptualization. The Sketch Walk can engage instructor, student and practitioner in an operation that contributes to the design of urban spaces. The roots of sketch walking will be mentioned and discussed, from the socio-political infusion of Situationist thinking (Debord, 1958) to Cullen's the process of Serial Vision (Cullen, 1961). A description of the planning and organization of a sketch walk and perspectives on the use of sketching, mapping and physical engagement in the landscape will be discussed.

Keywords

Sketching, Sketch Walk, Drawing, Mapping, Place