

SCULPTING IN TIME: TRANSIENT LANDSCAPES AND TIME FOCUSED URBAN DESIGN

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1 ABSTRACT

This paper explores the idea of temporality in landscape, and proposes its role as an active and formative design element in shaping contemporary Landscape Architecture discourse as well as physical design. This time-focused design inquiry is based on research into precedent projects around the world as well as studio-course design investigations and proposals.

The paper is divided into four main parts. The first examines historical and contemporary landscape precedents to identify the significance of transient landscapes in the conceptualization of landscape architecture and urban design. The second part focuses on case studies of the "farmer's market" typology to assess the mechanics of temporary event based public space and how different locales, demographics and networks of produce and product are brought together to reveal and evoke different social and agricultural landscapes of a region. This is followed by a study of "Shikinen Sengu" - an extraordinary example of the "permanent" transient landscape of the Ise shrine and how its cyclical rebuilding engages the fabric of time to manifest the culture and nature of its landscape, both through history and in the present moment. The last part of the paper reviews time-focused, urban design proposals by students that offer potential for transient programming, activation and mobilization within the urban public sphere.

Each of the projects described in this paper is a place that engages time, especially of cyclical nature within its site. Their cyclical time organization allows these projects to renew themselves and thus makes them pertinent to current human experience, in order to bring the sense of being here and now into the public sphere. Together, these investigations suggest adaptable, community initiated, resilient ways to approach ever changing urban conditions in the realm of our current landscape of urbanism.

1.1 Keywords

temporality, transient landscape, farmer's market, urban design, time-focused design