

Urban interactions in the Contemporary City: New conditions for design and planning disciplines

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Abstract

This urban design project is the beginning of an ongoing research programme, which observes new conditions in the contemporary city and society and explores the consequences for design and planning methodologies.

The main supposition of the research programme foresees planned and emergent components simultaneously taking place within the developing of design and planning strategies. This situation is presented in the project by envisioning urban phenomena from a perspective that lifts some of the “hidden forces” behind what is traditionally considered the spatial-urban structure. Consequently, flows, scale and connectivity and society’s behaviour are considered influential aspects to bear in mind while developing designs, plans or proposals.

To foresee these aspects, planned and emergent components are presented in a manner in which the behaviour and interaction of individual agents generate larger structures or higher-level patterns. Furthermore, this emergent and variable behaviour is confronted with fixed or planned structures and intentions. The design or outcome of the process results from this confrontation.