Urban Terroirism

"More than anything, the city is the physical platform for collective human existence; an inclusive idea that involves the diversity of people; all types of cultures, all types of ages, orientations and proclivities and desires, occupying, inhabiting and producing shared space."

Dr. Julian Worrall

Occupation of our urban public spaces is increasingly stage managed, with design facilitating the restriction of both spatial character and possible activity supported within the urban realm. The role of the architect/designer has often been that of an active advocate for inclusivity, where we design our city to provide access for multiple demographics and behaviors, as well as providing space for both the happiness of its citizens and the protection of its community. Therefore, when designing urban public space, how can we address the vast spectrum of human actions, beliefs, values and emotions held by the diverse range of stakeholders?

How do we design a space that invites the laughter between friends whilst addressing the possible threat of others? How do we span the vast gaps between these possibilities?

With threats posed by drug-use, terrorism, homelessness and public aggression at an all-time high, how does a designer take responsibility for shaping the contemporary city while ameliorating the worst actions of its users and the consequences these actions might have? Our urban landscapes are littered with design responses that serve a socially determinist agenda, some of which are hidden to the untrained eye while others attract the attention from every passerby.

With this brief in mind, teams are asked to respond to the contemporary city within the context of your states CBD. You must consider your role as both a designer and as a stakeholder of the city itself. Consider the impact of how people use the space and the actions that may take place. How is use directed by the design and should unintended use be promoted or constrained? What does this say about our society's culture, priorities and values?

Proposal

Your task is to propose your vision of the urban public space within the city. Is it inclusive, defensive, protective or restrictive?

Select a site within your state CBD for analysis and design a response that takes into account recent debates on urban public space, from defensiveness to hostility. You may want to consider selecting stakeholders or developing a scenario to drive your response.

Presentation Requirements.

The media of the presentation is completely up to the team, however take time to consider how you document your progress and your final idea. SuperStudio 2017 is a competition that focuses on exploring ideas in the conceptual context and this is what the judging will primarily focus on rather than the graphics of your presentation. The media is to be presented on a powerpoint-like presentation and must be able to be presented online on a blogging platform.