Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

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Abstract Submission Form

1. Paper / Proposal Title: dCODE: A New Tool for Designing the Urban Environment

2. Format: written paper and images

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5. University or Company Affiliation: Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

6. Abstract (300 words):

The success of Instagram has created the potential for a new dimension of public participation in the landscape. Enormous volumes of visual data harnessed through the Instagram API Console are at our fingertips. And through a consorted effort to tap into the visual data sphere, design practitioners have the opportunity to build upon post occupancy evaluations and user analysis models for understanding perceptions of the landscape.

As our world has become more and more data centric, the design profession has the ability to tap into this relatively untouched resource as a means to gather information and shape the future of our built spaces. In order to test the idea of using visual social media as a reference point for understating the general public's candid approach to design, a one week test was conducted to expand upon current and past models by gathering Instagram images and attributes from the developers' end. The pull centered on and around the High Line in New York City. The findings revealed a high level of landscape photos were being captured and shared by the general public.

This paper examines the potential to moving beyond the test case and into a preliminary investigation of integrating the findings into a software prototype capable of enhancing the future of our urban environments. The outcome of this new tool, currently referred to as dCODE, has the potential to offer practitioners a unique, behind the scenes vantage point of the built environment.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

The author, Kimberly Kneifl, is a thesis candidate at Kansas State University in the Landscape Architecture and Regional and Community Planning department. Her work looks at examining how the general public's view of the landscape can help to enhance how our communities are being built. Beyond the coursework lies a deep fascination for learning about large data sets, coding and anything multimedia.

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