Social infrastructures

Written paper / verbal presentation

Julia Jamrozik

Department of Architecture, University at Buffalo SUNY

Public space has always offered opportunities to encounter strangers, yet while we may occupy a common space our experiences often remain solitary. Between the current political climate and the echo-chambers of our worldviews created by social media, the need for shared physical experiences is paramount. The presentation will be based on the projects ‘Full Circle’ and “Dialogue” by Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster, both examples of interventions which hope to spark such playful encounters.

Commissioned by LANDstudio, "Dialogue" is a circle of interlaced sound tubes that aims to create conversations ranging in length and seriousness and connecting individuals in the Eastman Reading Garden at the Main Public Library in Cleveland OH. Through simple, small dialogues and moments of spontaneous interaction the hypothesis is that we can start to relate to one another and to speak with other members of the community who may hold opposing views to our own.
‘Full Circle’ was commissioned by CEPA Gallery and C.S.1 Curatorial Projects for CEPA’s West Side Lots Project and was installed in Buffalo, NY. The project takes a swing-set and by questioning its conventional linear arrangement achieves a transformation that is abstract, spatial, political and interactive. The project stems from an interest in spaces of play, in the broadest definition of that term, as places that can be used to liberate the individual from the generic and enrich everyday experience.

The project is positioned where diverse Buffalo communities intersect and is adjacent to International School #45 whose student body represents 70 countries and 44 languages. ‘Full Circle’ was supported by a campaign to engage the teachers, parents, administrators, community activists, and neighbors to take active ownership of this work of art.

The presentation will make a case for playful and interactive public art as means of bringing people together and building community.


‘Dialogue’ is still being fabricated and it will be installed at the end of June 2017. Images can be provided on request.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Julia Jamrozik is Canadian designer, artist, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at the University at Buffalo SUNY. Collaborating since 2003 with Coryn Kempster, she endeavours to create spaces, objects and situations that interrupt the ordinary in a critically engaging and playful way (www.ck-jj.com).