Experiential Design – Rethinking relations between people, objects and environments

- Paper / Proposal Title:
The Residual Space: Body, Space, and Experience-Based Methods

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- University or Company Affiliation:
Self-represented

- Abstract (300 words):
The Residual Landscape: Body, Space, and Experience-Based Methods

Contemporary American landscape architecture and urban design practices predominantly support the distancing of designer from physical space. For the purposes of maximizing monetary gain and marketability, urban design and landscape architecture practices often encourage allotting significant project time for learning about site context from behind a computer screen rather than actively experiencing landscape through field research and physical expression. This presentation offers experience-led approaches to reading and representing the landscape. This presentation argues that knowledge is lost when the designer’s physical engagement with site is removed from the urban design and landscape architecture processes.

Experience-led approaches were developed during a design-research study that took place from August 2018-May 2019. It explored innovative methodology to study and communicate experiences in spaces residual to urban design. Residual space exists as a reaction to surrounding constructed environments; it is the opposite of urban design. Studying leftover spaces ought to bring out alternative methods for reading landscapes,
further employing a new set of values for studying space. Through experience-led field research, mapping, and representation, the study utilized a variety of experimental methods to interpret and analyze sites beyond the typical scope of urban design and landscape architecture. Experimental methods included: performative app-based mapping, analog journaling, mapped videos, and multimedia sculpture. Alternative approaches to design research methodology placed value on everyday lived experience, allowing for method development to stem from inquiry in the field.

Sites were found based on curiosity and a physical response to thoughts. Representation came directly from printed photos, video footage, and experiences, all documented in the field. Although these experimental methods informed studying leftover space, this presentation encourages designers to expand their design research methodology to further understand the context of space by incorporating experiential methods, found only through field research, to guide project outcomes.

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

Insert 200 biography here – Century Gothic Font only / Justified both sides

Carley Rickles is an Atlanta-based artist and urban design-researcher working at a range of scales. Rickles holds a Bachelor’s in Landscape Architecture and an MS in Urban Design. Her design research focuses on alternative urbanism and everyday life. She recently completed her master’s thesis at the Georgia Institute of Technology on the socio-cultural, ecological, and pedagogical values of residual landscapes in Atlanta.

By focusing on common but unspoken everyday experiences, Rickles forms an internal, often physically interactive, relationship with viewers. She identifies as a public servant who creates platforms through which individuals and publics can relate to. The scope of her professional practice includes ecological landscape design and planning, residential design, site specific installations, engaged public events, sculpture, and printed publications. Her work has been featured in Design Boom, Dwell, The Atlanta Design Festival, The Toronto Star, Dezeen, and The AJC.