Urban Identity, Learning from Place II.

A book published in 2011 that documents the results of the enquiries into place conducted by the Academy of Urbanism. The book contains 5 chapters that evaluate the places visited. These chapters are interleaved with essays on urban identity written by leading urbanists.

Submitted by Brian Mark Evans
Output No. 3
OUTPUT

Output Title: Urban Identity: Learning from Place 2
Output Type: Edited Book
Editors: Brian Evans, Frank Macdonald & David Rudlin

Output Title: Small Cities: Kilkenny, St Andrews & Winchester
Output Type: Chapter in Book

Publisher:
Routledge, London & New York
Year of Publication: 2011

Number of Pages: 179
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NARRATIVE

In 2005, the editor/author, in collaboration with a number of other colleagues established the Academy of Urbanism (AoU) as a new institution to investigate, research and document the qualities of urbanism throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland within 5 categories: city; town; neighbourhood; street and place. The Academy also investigates urbanism in Europe at the city scale.

_Urban Identity: Learning from Place 2_ documents the results of the Academy’s investigation of the 3 finalists in each of the 5 categories that were considered at the Urbanism Awards 2006.

_Small Cities: Kilkenny, St Andrews & Winchester_ is the chapter of the book dealing with the 3 towns.
The research is undertaken by the comparative method. Nominations for inquiry in the 5 categories take place annually by open public subscription. The entire list of nominated places in each category in subjected to a preliminary investigation by a committee of Academicians in order to prepare a long list of 10 for each category.

All Academicians are then invited to vote on the long list using criteria for good urbanism established by the AoU including: governance; character & distinctiveness; user friendliness; commercial viability; environmental & social sustainability; and, functionality in order to establish a shortlist of three. The 3 shortlisted places in each category are then subjected to detailed scrutiny using these criteria through a process of visits and investigation by a number of Academicians over a two-month period.

At the conclusion to the investigation of the places an authoritative report is prepared under the editorship of the lead assessor for the category (in this case, the neighbourhoods) and the full Academy is again invited to vote in order to establish the winner of the category for that year. The research reports that have been produced are then written up by the lead assessor as a book chapter in order to document and disseminate the pedagogic value of studying the qualities of the places.

Research collaborators include other nationally and internationally recognised Academicians from a wide range of professional, artistic and business backgrounds including: urban designers; architects; local people; journalists; etc.

The editorial of the book was undertaken in collaboration with Frank Macdonald, Environment Editor of The Irish Times.
DISSEMINATION

The work is disseminated to all of the members of the AoU throughout Britain and Ireland as well as within all of the 15 places shortlisted in the year – this includes 3 cities; 3 towns; 3 neighbourhoods; 3 streets & 3 places.

Typically, the research and investigation phase attracts considerable interest and is disseminated through various media including TV, radio and press. The books are used as reference works on regeneration in public and private offices and as teaching tools on a number of University Courses in planning and urban design.

http://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/projects/main_projects_publications_lfp2.html
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