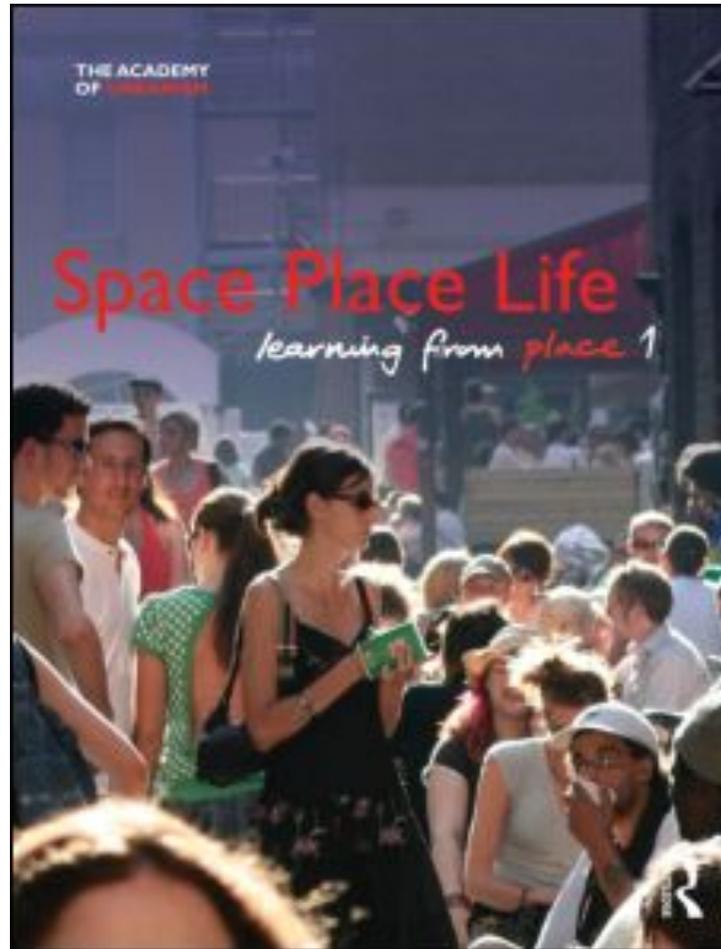


Space Place Life, Learning from Place I.

A book published in 2011 that documents the enquiries into place conducted by the Academy of Urbanism. The book contains 5 chapters that evaluate the categories of place studied: cities, towns, neighbourhoods, streets & (local) places. These chapters are preceded and succeeded with essays by leading urbanists exploring the nature & meaning of 'space, place & life'.

Submitted by Brian Mark Evans
Output No. 2



OUTPUT

Output Title: Space, Place Life: Learning
from Place I

Editors: Brian Evans & Frank Macdonald

Output Type: Edited Book

Output Title: Neighbourhoods: the basic
building blocks of the city

Output Type: Chapter in Book

Publisher:

Routledge, London & New York

Year of Publication: 2011

Number of Pages: 143

ISBN: 978-0-415-61400-9

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.

Space, Place, Life: Learning from Place 1 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.

Neighbourhoods: the basic building block of the city is the chapter of the book dealing with the 3 neighbourhoods.

METHODOLOGY

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 is 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 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 and the like.

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.