

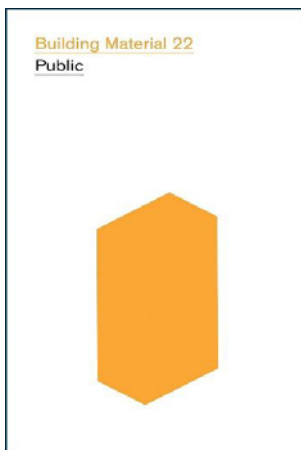


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Abstract:

The landscape of the 21st century city is made up of enclaves of prosperity; gates and walls and private security personnel ensure the new spaces are disconnected from the public sphere. Standing in stark contrast to the shiny sanctuaries of the newly built developments are the outstanding territories. Here, skeletons litter the unloved terrain; structures built during the golden age of the Celtic Tiger remain empty and abandoned, intended for activities never completed.

If you take a brief detour from the typical tourist routes of Dublin, you may discover The Chocolate Factory, The D-light studios or The Dome Project and many other independent initiatives that, via bottom up processes, have reclaimed these once neglected sites. Communities have created new spaces open to all; growing vegetables, curating art galleries and exhibitions, setting up markets and a multitude of other activities which are worthy of support. These can be real sanctuaries, protected from the relentless encroachment of market forces.

The outstanding territories offer promising alternatives to the current course of development and a new classification of public space. The reuse and regeneration of existing structures helps to preserve the sense of place, redefining a definition of heritage in line with Geddes' theory of Conservative Surgery; reestablishing the relationship between architecture and local tradition in opposition to the globalised style that dominates the contemporary city.

It is our aim to bring attention to these places before they are appropriated by private interests. By creating an opensource map we hope to raise awareness of these spaces and to support collaborative processes between different community projects through a calendar of events as well as a historic archive to reestablish the connection with the history of the place, ensuring that the reuse of outstanding territories is not just temporary, that spaces which fulfil a public need remain in public hands.