Democracy, protest, and public space: Building spaces of resistance

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Jeremy Németh, PhD

Department of Planning and Design

University of Colorado Denver

Atlanta: Woodruff Park

BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS NOW

Praying For Peace

Seattle: Westlake Park

Oakland: Frank Ogawa Plaza

"Might a careful analysis of sites of resistance strengthen a conception of democracy that is useful today?"

(Kohn 2004: 2)

"Is it possible that there is an 'architecture of democracy,' a building and planning style that embodies and embeds democratic values?"

(Parkinson 2012: 6)

"Are there certain urban environmental characteristics more conducive to rebellious protests than others?"

(Harvey 2012: 117)

"First thing I'm going to do when I'm a dictator? I'm gonna get rid of all these f***ing squares. Nothing good happens for dictators in squares!"

Jon Stewart, *The Daily Show*, 25 Feb 2014

Does place matter?

Does protest matter?

EVENT

Ordinary site Ordinary event	**Ordinary site Extraordinary event**
Extraordinary site Ordinary event	**Extraordinary site Extraordinary event**

SITE

EVENT

SITE

Ordinary site
Ordinary event

**Ordinary site
Extraordinary event**

Extraordinary site
Ordinary event

Extraordinary site
Extraordinary event

EVENT

SITE

Ordinary site **Ordinary event**	**Ordinary site** **Extraordinary event**
Extraordinary site **Ordinary event**	**Extraordinary site** **Extraordinary event**

Site	City	Date	Size est.	Cause	Duration
Woodruff Park	Atlanta	Oct. 1-25, 2011	100-1000	Occupy Atlanta	2 weeks
Dewey Square	Boston	Oct.-Dec. 2011	100-1000	Occupy Boston	70 days
Daley Plaza	Chicago	March 27, 2013	700-900	school closure	1 day
Civic Center Park	Denver	Oct. 2011-Jan. 2012	100-1000	Occupy Denver	over 2 months
L.A. Plaza Park	Los Angeles	May 1, 2013	"thousands"	May Day/immigrant rights	1 day
Wisc. State Cap. Grounds	Madison	Feb. 25-June 14, 2011	up to 12,000	public employees	daily over a period of weeks
Zuccotti Park	New York	Sept. 17–Nov. 15, 2011	5000-15,000	Occupy Wall Street	2 months
Frank Ogawa Plaza	Oakland	Oct. 10-Nov. 14, 2011	100-1000	Occupy Oakland	34 days
Independence Mall	Philadelphia	March 13, 2013 (monthly)	100-500	marijuana legalization	1 day
Westlake Park	Seattle	Jan. 13, 2013	200-500	gun control	1 day

Boston: Dewey Square

Chicago: Daley Plaza

WAKE UP!

Snooki's parents never read

Denver: Civic Center Park

Los Angeles: L.A. Plaza Park

Madison: Wisconsin State Capitol Grounds

New York City: Zuccotti Park

Philadelphia: Independence Mall

Physical

Code

Content

PUBLICNESS LAYER

PHYSICAL

CODE

CONTENT

PUBLICNESS LAYER	VARIABLE CATEGORY
PHYSICAL	Access
	Design
CODE	Management
CONTENT	SES/ Demographics
	Symbolism

PUBLICNESS LAYER	VARIABLE CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
PHYSICAL	Access	Neighborhood
		Site
	Design	Site
CODE	Management	Site
CONTENT	SES/ Demographics	Neighborhood
	Symbolism	Site

PUBLICNESS LAYER	VARIABLE CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL	SAMPLE VARIABLES
PHYSICAL	Access	Neighborhood	Proximity to transit
		Site	Presence of fences
	Design	Site	Size
CODE	Management	Site	Rules of conduct
CONTENT	SES/ Demographics	Neighborhood	Income, employment, race
	Symbolism	Site	Age of site, monuments

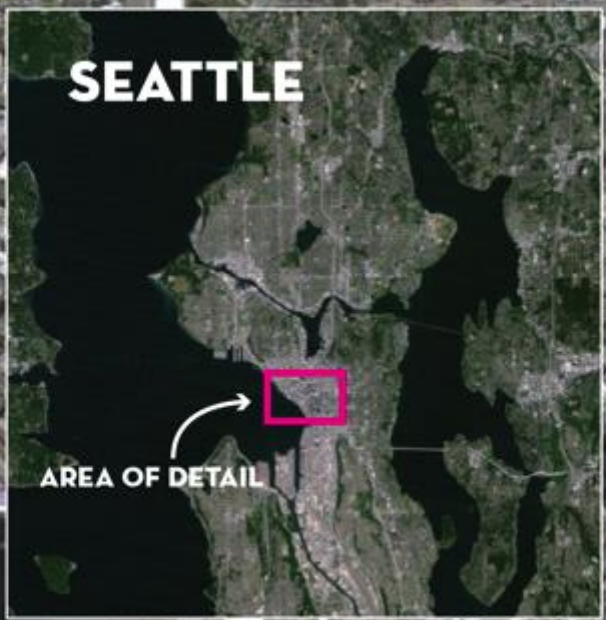| **Central** | Near center of population gravity |
Connected	Accessible via multiple travel modes
Dense	In dense neighborhood
Diverse	In racially/ethnically/economically diverse area
Engaged	In neighborhoods with many SMOs
Free	Few behavioral restrictions
Historical	Historical significance in city
Large	Accommodate large crowds
Open	Few physical/symbolic entry barriers
Public	Publicly owned/operated; permit large gatherings
Visible	Proximal to major houses of government

SEATTLE

AREA OF DETAIL

ZIP CODE 98101

WESTLAKE PARK

1000 ft

SITE	NEIGHBORHOOD
SITE	**NEIGHBORHOOD**
Visible (10)	Connected (10)
Public (9)	Engaged (9)
Open (8)	Dense (8)
Free (8)	Diverse (0)
Historical (6)	
Large (3)	
Central (1)	

PHYSICAL	CODE	CONTENT
Connected (10)	Public (9)	Visible (10)
Dense (8)	Free (8)	Engaged (9)
Open (8)		Historical (6)
Large (3)		Diverse (0)
Central (1)		

Madison: Wisconsin State Capitol Grounds

Los Angeles: L.A. Plaza Park