

## The Mediated City : Globalisation and emerging urbanities

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| <b>Title</b>                           | The Mediated City   |
| <b>Subtitle</b>                        | Globalisation and emerging urbanities   |
| <b>Lead-in / Abstract</b>              | This presentation explores the impact of globalisation on emerging urbanities, and the relationship between the mediated and the physical city, and shows selected samples from the work carried out over the past years within A + URL, the Architecture + Urban Research Laboratory, and other collaborative projects, i.e. prototypes, installations, performances, etc. The projects intend to explore to what extent we can construct new environments, cities of intensity rather than cities of density.   |
| <b>Participants and speakers</b>       | Betancour, Ana (SE / ES)  |
| <b>Short biography of participants</b> | <p>A + URL Architecture + Urban Research Laboratory, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology) Stockholm: a postgraduate programme in Media and Architecture/Urban Design. Focussing on the relationship between the mediated and the physical city, emergent metabolic systems, synthetic environments, adapted and appropriated technologies, A + URL carries out research, projects and events in a laboratory of prototyping, testing, direct actions and new modes of communication.</p> <p>Other groups and collaborations:<br/>         Syndikat: art/architecture/media network based in Barcelona, Stockholm, and London. The projects explore tactical media through a multidisciplinary practice.</p>  |
| <b>Full text</b>                       | <p>The mediated city is a new phenomenon involving the emergence of new technologies of communication and information technology. While these factors are technological and often not physical, they are modifying economic, social, political aspects as they are transforming the physical nature of cities. This paper explores the relationship between the physical and the mediated city.</p> <p>The mediated city is defined by immanent technology. It is therefore intrinsically related to globalisation through the media of global connectivity, networks, information, trans-national corporations, new infrastructures and technologies that allow these to occur. For example one of the effects of globalisation is that cities, larger parts of their urban fabric, and buildings are increasingly affected by factors from outside the city, region, and nation. Using Deleuze's definition of deterritorialization, we can speak of specific localities becoming the sites connected to other places, where a part of another place or an abstract place becomes visible. If previously, the connection to other places where harbours, airports and the stock exchange, today, a key place within a city may be more determined by forces from - for example- New York or Tokyo, as multinational companies might relocate key parts of their global companies to different places in the world as an issue of branding advertising and corporatisation of space.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The term, the mediated city, coined in my practice work as the title for a project and exhibition, evolved into a field of research, an academic postgraduate programme, and was the starting point in the establishment of A + URL, the</p> |

Architecture and Urban Research Laboratory, (1999-) at the School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm. This programme has developed to become a testing ground and a laboratory of investigations and physical explorations on the relationship between mediated and physical spaces. Understanding the design process as research, the investigations aim to challenge and explore the boundaries in what ways architects can work. A + URL is a laboratory of prototypes, direct actions and 1:1 testing urban and architectural propositions. The aim is to critically reconsider how we can develop new spatial patterns and ideas for urban space, with the aim of developing ways of mediating between artificial and natural systems.

I will first briefly discuss the impact of globalisation on emerging urbanities, thereafter, I will draw samples from the work carried out over the past years within A+URL and other current collaborative projects; i.e. prototypes, installations, performances, direct actions, etc. The projects intend to explore to what extent we can make new environments, cities of intensity rather than cities of density, in which architecture mediates between existing conditions and new conditions whose future outcome, are open and flexible.

I believe that the mediated city: the city of communication and information technology, enables global factors to operate at any scale, and points towards a significant change in the future practice of architecture, urbanism and cities.

- 1. Ana Betancour & Peter Hasdell, "Connection to another world", Det Transparenta huset, Statens Kulturråd, Stockholm: 2001

#### Related internet addresses

<http://www.syndikat.se>

<http://www.arch.kth.se/a-url>