

The very large, extensive interior: the core of Montréal's ville intérieure

Keywords: architecture, interior architecture, public realm, public interior, infrastructural interiors, network interiors, local urbanism and city planning, infrastructural planning, urban development

Architecture/ Interiors

Area of Research: Architecture, Public Interior



Research Summary: Concern for very large, extensive interior spaces constituting 'continuous interiors' led to (re-)consideration of an architectural project that suggests itself as their prototype: The 'Ville-Marie' development in Montréal, planned by Henry N Cobb and Vincent Ponte of I M Pei Associates (1962-1967). The Plan advocated congestion of the many components of urban traffic in combination with dense occupation and use, and the organisation of underground passageways that accommodated necessary vehicular traffic while supporting a traffic-free public realm, both interior and exterior. The aim of this investigation is offer a thesis of operable knowledge in urban planning, the interior and the public realm applicable to extensive interior spaces that have limited access to the traditional street, through understanding the nature of a successful public realm that depends to a large extent on the variety and extensiveness of its interior spaces, and their integration with urban ensembles. The factors that lead to that success are partly to do with the role of infrastructures and the forces that enable them; cultural factors and the investment of public good will; the engagement of desire and relations between sites; the suggestions and qualities of appearances, spaces and materiality.

Research Methodology: Literature: Contemporary articles and clippings from architectural, planning, engineering and financial periodicals, journals, and mainstream newspapers and magazines; Retrospective articles in books, magazines and journals; On-line articles and background information; Professional reports for planning and development; Academic and professional papers related to subject, and online archives; Interviews: with protagonists of original projects (architecture); with experts directly associated with project and those who have commented on project (architecture, planning); Archives: original project documentation and supporting documents and reports.

Key Publications: Pimlott, Mark: *Without and within: essays on territory and the interior* (episode: Rotterdam, 2007); 'The Continuous interior: infrastructure for publicity and control', in *Harvard Design Magazine* Fall 2008. Cambridge MA; 'Notes on the very extensive or continuous interior' In *Ma Forino*, Luca Basso Peressut, Gennaro Postiglione, Roberto Rizzi [eds.], in *Interior Wor(l)ds* (Umberto Allemandi &C: Milano/Torino, 2010)



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Main Question: Can this project be regarded as a model, not only for inner city planning on multiple levels with multiple agencies, but for the complex of publics and public interior environments that constitute the extensive and dispersed urban realm, and if so, how?

Deliverables: A series of articles concerning discrete aspects of the making of a complex, large-scale and extensive urban public interior, connected and related to urban and regional infrastructures.

Link(s): <http://www.tudelft-architecture.nl/chairs/interiors>

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