

Abstract

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FUTURISTIC DIMENSIONS TO RESHAPE SQUARES AS A CENTERPIECE IN URBAN DESIGN

One of the most important elements of city design is the square plaza. Great civic compositions are unique in the relationship between space, the surrounding buildings and the dome of the sky. They demand an emotional cerebral response and, as such, compare with any other art form. There are two main methods of categorizing squares, by function and by form. There are numerous examples of recent plaza design where these two equally important criteria of excellence have been neglected. The empty place surrounded by under-utilized buildings is all too common in the modern city, while its opposite counterpart, the busy traffic island faceless car-park around which are scattered collections of unrelated buildings, is also endemic in the urban scene. This research highlights the importance and function of squares in the urban context. It also clarifies the different archetypal forms of squares. When such public places are designed according to some fairly basic principles and are imbued with a sense of place, they take on an added symbolic meaning. The research leads to achieving a number of criteria for designing a good square plaza, according to the new vision towards future. Keyword: urban spaces-squares -urban context -urban design