

Lecture 3: The Photographic Essay

I. Photographs: A Call to Action

A. How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis

(Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1970 [first published in 1890])

1. The Bend. Photographs: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 Chart #1
2. The Street Arab. Photographs: #1, #2, #3, #4

B. The Unpredictable Past: Explorations in American Cultural History by Lawrence Levine

(Oxford University Press: New York, 1993) Pages 259-261.

1. Migrant Mother #1, #2, #3, #4
 2. Midweek pictorial, 17 October 1936, from the FSA Scrapbook (p. 284)
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II. Photographs: The Transformation of Place

A. The New American Ghetto by Camilo Jose Vergara

(Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, 1995)

1. Scudder Homes, Central Ward, Newark
2. Park Avenue, South Bronx
3. 178th Street and Vyse Ave, South Bronx
4. The oldest bank in Michigan transformed into a Domino's Pizza, East Side, Detroit, 1991
5. Herd of stampeding elephants painted on the wall facing an empty lot, Finesse Arts, West Side, Detroit, 1991.
6. Fern Street, North Camden 1979 | 1994
7. The Doors of the Ghetto
 - i. Woman addict entering an abandoned building on Vyse Ave., South Bronx, 1989
 - ii. Entrance to abandoned building, Brownsville, Brooklyn, 1990
 - iii. Turnstiles are used to limit access to the courtyard of this Newark building, 1993
 - iv. Cinderella entrance, ready to shed its rust, open its door wide, and display its former glory, Detroit, 1994
 - v. Bolted iron door contrasts with the original palatial look of this building, Harlem, New York, 1992
 - vi. Door welded shut seals a Newark housing project awaiting demolition, Scudder Homes, Newark, May 1987

B. After September 11: Images from Ground Zero by Joel Meyerowitz

III. Design Elements

A. Light

B. Repetition

C. Perspective

IV. Photographic Essays

A. [Fifty Crows](#)

B. Knowing Where to Stand by Anne Spirn

V. Student Examples

1. The Role of Stickers, Flyers, and Graffiti by Claudia Canepa
 2. The Nature of the City by Amelia Ravin
 3. Pigeon Square by Diana Bernal
 4. Central Square as a Function of Time by Jen Peyser
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Lab 1: Visual Representation and Analysis of Place

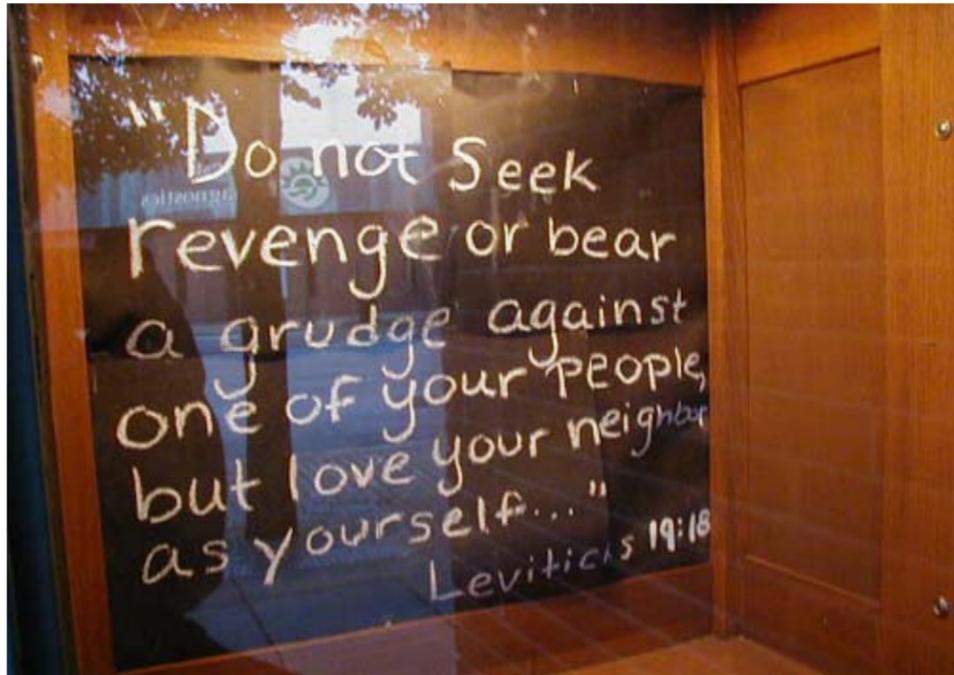
THE ROLE OF STICKERS, FLYERS AND GRAFFITI IN CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY

Stickers, flyers, graffiti and other types of visual announcements or forms of communication not only enhance community but also help define it. An outsider can enter a new neighborhood and learn a lot about the community from just looking at the announcements that are posted throughout the neighborhood. What types of people live there? What do they like to do? What types of social networks have they established for themselves? What issues are important for the community? Answers to these questions can often be found by examining the information that is posted (or spray painted) on light poles, street signs, walls and community bulletin boards or kiosks.

CENTRAL SQUARE...

A place where people of all ages, cultures and ethnic backgrounds converge. A neighborhood that is politically charged. A neighborhood characterized by socio-economic tensions and racial divides. A neighborhood that celebrates its diversity. A place that promotes change. A place that resists change.

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by Claudia Canepa

(c) September 2002

central square: the nature of the city

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what is the ecological city?



a little nature in the city...



or is it a little city in nature?

by Amelia Ravin

Pigeon Square



Central Square, Cambridge, MA Fall 2003
Pictures Taken by: Diana Bernal

Unplanned Occupants of Urban Space

The ancestors of the pigeons we see in our cities and on our farms were brought here by Europeans and escaped from captivity, soon finding a favorable environment living with humans. These pigeons are offspring of domesticated animals raised for sport racing, show and for food (squab). Feral pigeons have established themselves every place humans built cities. Human cities provide artificial cliffs (buildings) and caves (attics, abandoned buildings, open warehouses).

William H. Kern, Jr., Ph. D., former urban wildlife specialist, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Pinellas County, Largo, FL, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

$(\text{central})^2 = f(T)$
central square as a function of time

Central Square is a play,
with as many acts
as there are hours in a day.

For this photoessay, I chose
Central Kitchen, 567 Massachusetts Ave.,
as the stage upon which to witness **time**
as a **transforming force** in Central Square.



(Enter)

$(\text{central})^2 = f(T)$
central square as a function of time



7 a.m.: Rehearsal



1:00 p.m.: Backdrop



5:30 p.m.: Doors Open



10:30 p.m.: Showtime