

identity

urbanism

future form

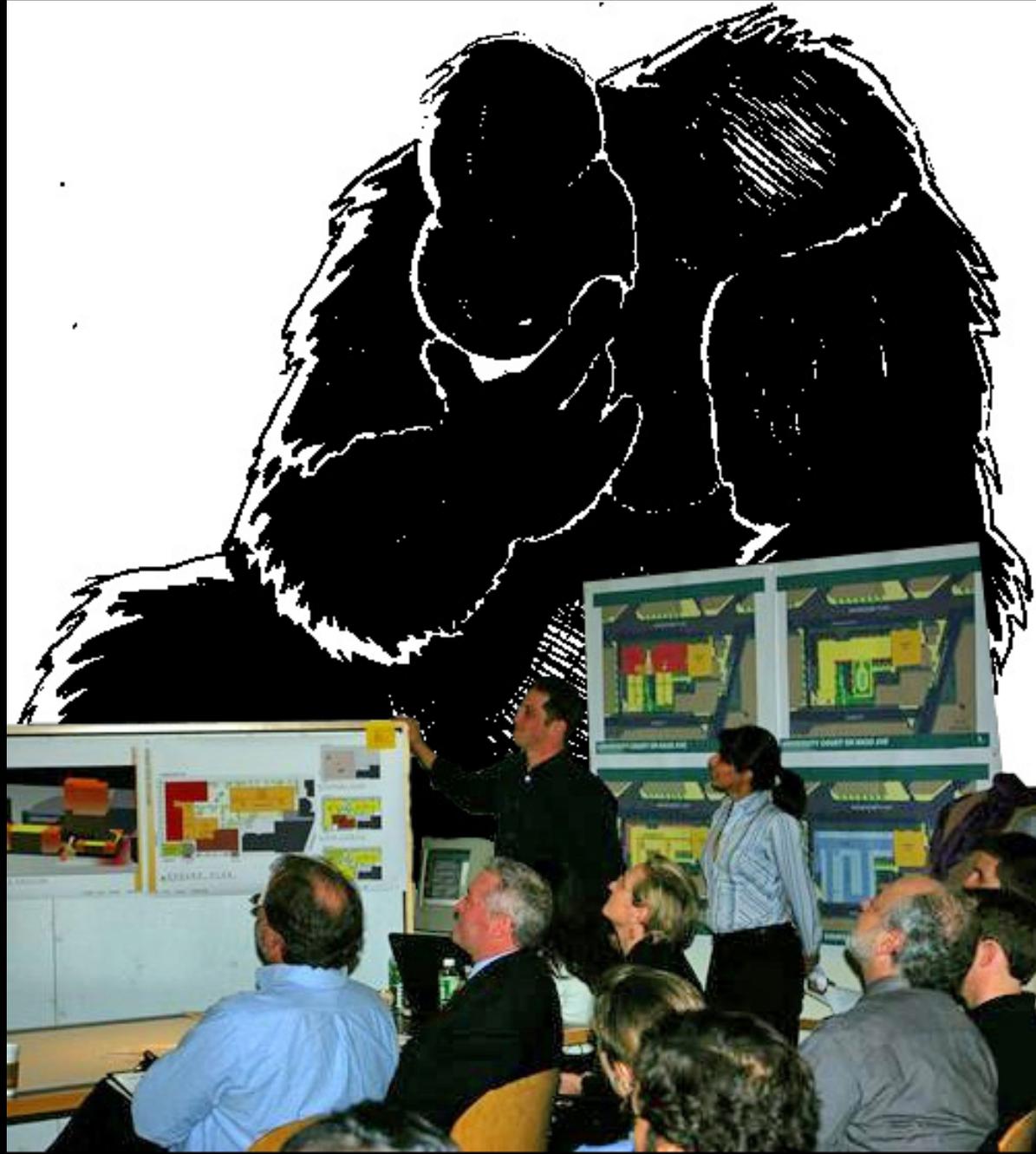
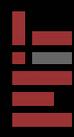
group presentation

urban design seminar

11.333

4 May 2005

600 pounds





newcomers to cities bring their
myriad cultures/semiotics with them

absolute population
in cities > 1,000,000:

12.8% 1975

17.7% 2000

21.7% 2015

500,000,000+
migrants over next
decade

100,000,000+
migrants over next
decade into mega-
cities of >
10,000,000

cities with acute
ethnic/political
divisions

->

sites of continuing
socio-demographic
change

global media and
communications
networks

->

migrants engage in
dialogues with
ethnically/culturally/
religiously like
minded people
globally

=

people are place-
based

programs are no
longer

new sources of
identity?

^ sarajevo

^ vancouver

^ cordoba

successful
production of
hybridity by cultural
groups

->

wonderful urban
places at the
interstices of great
civilizations

but success is an increasing challenge for newcomers/ minorities:

resource-constrained cities

+

linguistic/cultural differences

+

political & financial constraints

->

poor conditions

&

no control over the form & program of urban spaces

framework: contended space



music

media/spectable

memory/nostalgia

media-
intermediated
historical memory

->

substance/ meaning
to issues of identity

=

perpetuation of
identity/culture in city

dissonance

between lack of
place-based power

&

purely
virtual/symbolic
sources of
expression/
grievance

framework: contended space



so space becomes
contended

&

unrequited
grievance is often
expressed through
the use of space



driving an impetus for political change in other, non-place-based dimensions?

framework: contended space



LA riots

beirut

balkan
unrest

soweto
protests

are there better approaches to designing the ethnically/culturally/ religiously hybrid city?

the city of tomorrow become nightmare

or destructive revolt and/or repressive response?

given:

magnitude of
changes

+

severity of
consequences?

->

how will/should
identity be
expressed in the
form of cities?

non-designed urbanism



non-designed urbanism



adaptive
modification to
cultural norms

work of marjetica
potrc, artist in
residence, MIT

non-designed urbanism



photo: james rojas

housing/retail space
modified to suit
cultural agendas

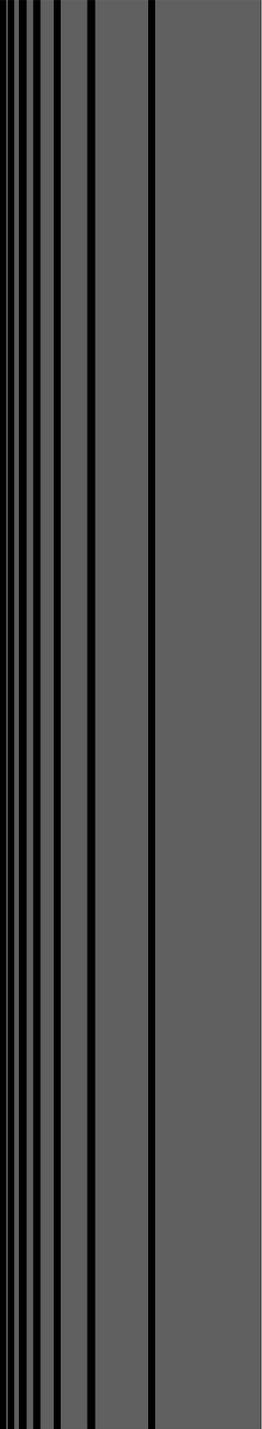
work of james rojas

photo: james rojas



use of signage to define identity-specified space

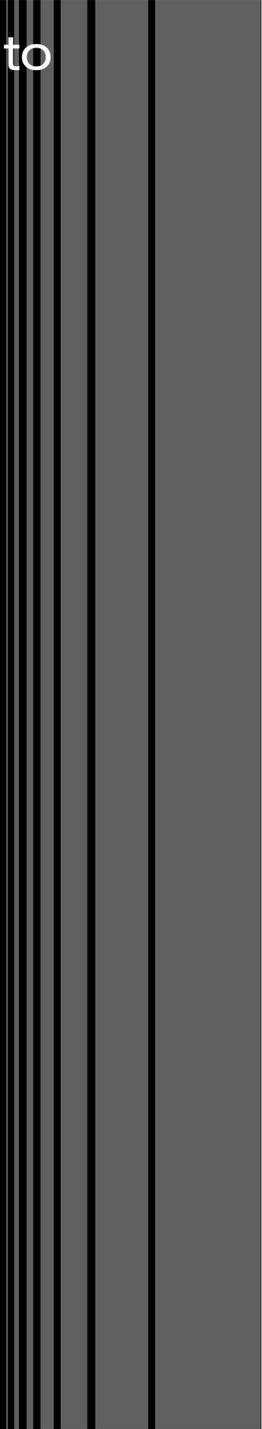
non-designed urbanism





murals, when elevated to the level of design, can be used to reshape urban space

non-designed urbanism



non-designed urbanism



tijuana

mumbai

marjetic potrc, sao paulo

highly efficient
organic slum forms

programmed identities



event space

Lyon 8 December Festival of Light, Lyon France

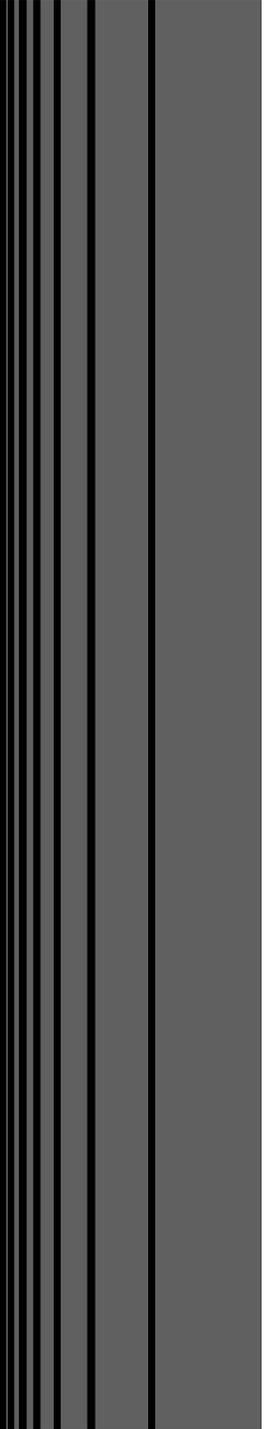


event space

programmed identities

Pamplona,
Spain

Siena, Italy





event space

programmed identities

The National Folk Festival, Bangor, ME

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Washington D.C.

The Mummers Parade, Philadelphia, PA

programmed identities



alsop, bradford city centre, uk

new public spaces
may be embedded
into urban fabrics to
create access to/
linkages with/
accentuate locations
and landmarks of
cultural merit

programmed identities



al azhar park, cairo
photos: archnet

honoring religious
principles of design

programmed identities



new tijuana paseo

villa victoria, boston

otay ranch, san diego

construction of
spaces
programmed
specifically for use
by hispanic
residents

“latino new
urbanism”

teddy cruz
michael mendes
james rojas
martinez+cutri
etc



public spaces designed for culture-specific programs:
italian-portuguese neighborhood in san diego
heavily mormon neighborhood near temple square in salt lake city

identity-based design

integration of senior
housing & childcare
in response to latino
community needs:

san ysidro, san diego
living rooms by the
border/casa familiar
estudio teddy cruz

reacting to fears of
the other in the
multi-ethnic city:
walled housing

photos: upper left – south african
builders association. lower left –
pristina kosovo, marjetica potrc

reacting to fears of
the other in the
multi-ethnic city:

walled housing,
netherlands

housing for white
middle class dutch,
administered
according to polder
democracy
principles, away
from the “immigrant
problem”

gated towns

conyers farm,
greenwich CT

troia, portugal

environmental
stewardship combined
with class & ethnic
isolation



walls – use of state power to exclude the other

reactive design

san diego-tijuana

jerusalem

berlin

common market space

queens, new york
roosevelt avenue

minor interventions can
be used to bridge
culturally-specific
neighborhood spaces

designing for hybridity



wonne ickx

penetrating the
international border

winning entries,
international
competition, el paso-
juarez, arquine
concurso frontera



creating a cross cultural community city heights, san diego



designing for hybridity

brazilian

irish

offbeat

guatemalan

american

italian

ethiopian

chinese/mexican

chinese

thai

laotian

iraqi



integrating a divided community through provision
of highly programmed common space



designing for hybridity

global village, martinez+cutri

designing for hybridity



using open space to
bridge cultural gaps

ibirapuera park,
sao paulo



schematic of future responses to the diverse city

