

PUBLIC SPACE IS NOT DEAD

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Some authors have announced the death of the public space. It is not for missing. The comfort and security of the commercial centres is operating as a revulsive to the management of the risk that, daily, we should practice in the public "real space", the street.



Selfridge's Building in Birmingham

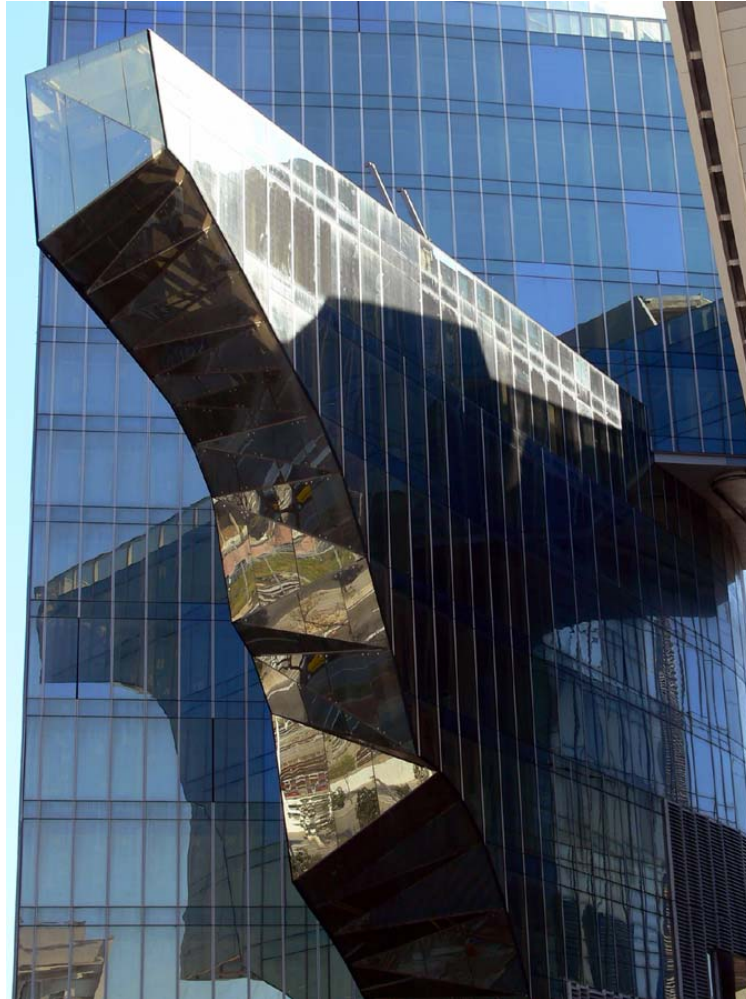
However, the municipalities continue investing in a public space for all that, day by day, is widening with these new spaces derived from the changes in the structure of the transports and of the mobility.

To design the street and to maintain it become into one of the challenges that the local authorities have. Because of this challenge they should find the real possibility that the public space triggers as symbolic device, as it was always. The symbolic design of the public space is crucial for the development of the processes of social identity: for citizens and of neighbours.

There it is, where, on one hand curators, some of them lacking of formation and scruples, and on the other politicians and technicians teams with a faulty preparation, they have established a space for the artistic operation.

The punctual intervention, in some cases based in a banal reading of leftist manifests of the sixties, it is substituting the "production" of the devices that always have constituted the base

of the processes of social identity. First it was the descended of he statue from the pedestal to give space to some new forms of artistic expression that, on the other hand, they could only be understood each other in the context of the war of ideological blocks in the second half of XXth Century. Then the "installation" and the "action", the temporary thing, they have been able to overcome to the permanent and stable.



Building or Sculpture?. MMT building for Catalana de Gas Headquarter. Barcelona

In a society of the show business and of consumption, the spectacle and the elitist consumption of the contemporary art impedes a true reflection about the role of public art in XXIst Century. But... yes, we reserve for the artists of the star system, architects and sculptors, the realization of those icons that will define the identity of the city in the context of her marketing in the global society