Processes of Production of Common-Places. The role of architecture in these processes.

Keywords: commonality #1, multitude #2, negotiation #3, process #4, appropriation #5, tension #6

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Area of Research: architecture, urbanism, urban geography, cultural anthropology

Research Summary: The notion of the commons, for as much romantic it may sound, bears in itself high tension and dramatic antagonism of ideas, positions and actions. The Common Place is used here as a term that bridges commoning as a political social practice with the notion of placeness that relates to a particular site-specificity and atmosphere. Dismantling the notion of ownership, the commons implicate a social sense of a non-contractual ownership beyond the dichotomy of public vs private. These ‘psychological commons’ demand an everyday state of negotiation of the city, a continuous and constantly renewed process of transformation which implies temporalities, uncertainties and vulnerabilities. With the commons, the notion of the authorship embedded deeply in the conventional architectural practice faces similar challenges as well.

The amplification of the political practice of commoning and the Marxist critique towards the neo-liberal use and abuse of its attractiveness as a tool of commodification and commercialization of the city, are what triggers this research to put in question the role of architecture as a discipline and its relationship with the other bodies in the production of the Common Place. The Spinozian democratic constitutionalism and the Lefebvre’s theory of Production of Space are the theoretical starting points of understanding the unruly and collective act of appropriation of space, of the struggle for power and the right to the city. Through case studies substantially different from the geographic, political, economic and social point of view, but with a connection in terms of dynamic paces of transformation and marginal conditions, this research aims to explore the limitations and possibilities that architecture as a field of expertise has to be present in these processes which tend to exclude it, as mostly fueled by collective and informal self-initiatives.

Research Methodology: A reflexive methodological approach is designed to inquiry three chosen case studies situated in Amsterdam, Tirana and New York. Besides the literature review, the main method used for this research is direct observation, combined with open-ended interviews, inquiry of archival records and analysis of the artefacts.

### Main Question:

- How is the agency and the constituent power of the multitude translated in spatial configurations of the Common Place?
- Which is the role of the architectural expertise within process-oriented transformations of space?
- Which is the role of the site specificity and atmosphere in processes of creation of the Common Place?

### Deliverables:

dissertation, scientific publications, audiovisual products, exhibitions, events

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