

# **Taking Measures Across The American Landscape**

**Mitchell Schwarzer** 

# **Taking Measures Across The American Landscape:**

Taking Measures Across the American Landscape James Corner, James M. Corner, Alex S. MacLean, 1996-01-01 Photographs and essays express the way the American landscape has been forged by various cultures in the past and what Space in America Klaus Benesch, Kerstin Schmidt, 2005 America's sense of the possibilities are for its future design Jacket space has always been tied to what Hayden White called the narrativization of real events If the awe inspiring manifestations of nature in America Niagara Falls Virginia's Natural Bridge the Grand Canyon etc were often used as a foil for projecting utopian visions and idealizations of the nation s exceptional place among the nations of the world the rapid technological progress and its concomitant appropriation of natural spaces served equally well as David Nye argues to promote the dominant cultural idiom of exploration and conquest From the beginning American attitudes towards space were thus utterly contradictory if not paradoxical a paradox that scholars tried to capture in such hybrid concepts as the middle landscape Leo Marx an engineered New Earth Cecelia Tichi or the technological sublime David Nye Not only was America's concept of space paradoxical it has always also been a contested terrain a site of continuous social and cultural conflict Many foundational issues in American history the dislocation of Native and African Americans the geo political implications of nation building immigration and transmigration the increasing division and clustering of contemporary American society etc involve differing ideals and notions of space Quite literally space and its various ideological appropriations formed the arena where America's search for identity national political cultural has been staged If American democracy as Frederick Jackson Turner claimed is born of free land then its history may well be defined as the history of the fierce struggles to gain and maintain power over both the geographical social and political spaces of America and its concomitant narratives The number and range of topics interests and critical approaches of the essays gathered here open up exciting new avenues of inquiry into the tangled contentious relations of space in America Topics include Theories of Space Landscape Nature Technoscape Architecture Urban Utopia Literature Performance Film Visual Arts Barnstorming the Prairies Jason Weems, 2015-12-29 To Midwesterners tucked into small towns or farms early in the twentieth century the landscape of the American heartland reached the horizon and then imagination had to provide what lay beyond But when aviation took off and scenes of the Midwest were no longer earthbound the Midwestern landscape was transformed and with it Jason Weems suggests in this book the very idea of the Midwest itself Barnstorming the Prairies offers a panoramic vista of the transformative nature and power of the aerial vision that remade the Midwest in the wake of the airplane This new perspective from above enabled Americans to conceptualize the region as something other than isolated and unchanging and to see it instead as a dynamic space where people worked to harmonize the core traditions of America's agrarian character with the more abstract forms of twentieth century modernity In the maps and aerial survey photography of the Midwest as well as the painting cinema animation and suburban landscapes that arose through flight Weems also finds a different and provocative view of modernity

in the making In representations of the Midwest from Grant Wood's iconic images to the Prairie style of Frank Lloyd Wright to the design of greenbelt suburbs Weems reveals aerial vision s fundamental contribution to regional identity to Midwesternness as we understand it Reading comparatively across these images Weems explores how the cognitive and perceptual practices of aerial vision helped to resymbolize the Midwestern landscape amid the technological change and social uncertainty of the early twentieth century Representing Landscapes Nadia Amoroso, Martin Holland, 2022-03-23 This volume provides an in depth historical overview of graphic and visual communication styles techniques and outputs from key landscape architects over the past century Representing Landscapes One Hundred Years of Visual Communication offers a detailed account of how past and present landscape architects and practitioners have harnessed the power of visualization to frame and situate their designs within the larger cultural social ecological and political milieux. The fifth book in the Representing Landscapes series the presentations contained within each of the 25 chapters of this work are not merely drawings and illustrations but are rather graphic touchstones whose past and current influence shapes how landscape architects think and operate within the profession This collected volume of essays gathers notable landscape historians scholars and designers to offer their insights on how the landscape has been presented and charts the development and use of new technologies and contemporary theory to reveal the conceptual power of the living medium of the larger landscape Richly detailed with over 220 colour and black and white illustrations from some of the discipline s best known landscape architects and designers this work is a must have for those studying contemporary landscape design or those fascinated by **Zoomscape** Mitchell Schwarzer, 2004-03 Although a few among us are intrepid architectural the profession s history tourists visiting buildings and landscapes our cameras at the ready most of us experience architecture through the windshield of a moving vehicle the architectural experience reduced to a blurry and momentary drive by And the rest of our architectural tourism is through the images of cameras movies and television programs that is through the lens of another s eye Architectural hisotrian Mitchell Schwarzer calls this new mediated architectural experience the zoomscape In this thought provoking book he argues that the perception of architecture has been fundamentally altered by the technologies of transportation and the camera we now look at buildings neighborhoods cities and even entire continents as we ride in trains cars and planes and or as we view photographs movies and television Zoomscape shows how we now perceive buildings and places at high speeds across great distances through edited and multiple reproductions Nowadays our views of the architectural landscape are modulated by the accelerator pedal and the remote control by studio production techniques and airplane flight paths Using examples from high art and popular culture from the novels of Don Delillo to the opening credits of The Sopranos Mitchell Schwarzer shows that the zoomscape has brought about unprecedented and often marvelous new ways of perceiving the built environment GeoHumanities Michael Dear, Jim Ketchum, Sarah Luria, Doug Richardson, 2011-04-14 In the past decade there has been a convergence of transdisciplinary thought characterized by

geography s engagement with the humanities and the humanities integration of place and the tools of geography into its studies GeoHumanities maps this emerging intellectual terrain with thirty cutting edge contributions from internationally renowned scholars architects artists activists and scientists This book explores the humanities rapidly expanding engagement with geography and the multi methodological inquiries that analyze the meanings of place and then reconstructs those meanings to provoke new knowledge as well as the possibility of altered political practices It is no coincidence that the geohumanities are forcefully emerging at a time of immense intellectual and social change This book focuses on a range of topics to address urgent contemporary imperatives such as the link between creativity and place altered practices of spatial literacy the increasing complexity of visual representation in art culture and science and the ubiquitous presence of geospatial technologies in the Information Age GeoHumanties is essential reading for students wishing to understand the intellectual trends and forces driving scholarship and research at the intersections of geography and the humanities disciplines These trends hold far reaching implications for future work in these disciplines and for understanding the changes gripping our societies and our globalizing world The Enriched Field Leonardo Ramondetti, 2022-04-19 Today s China is experiencing massive urban growth new towns are built extensive suburbanization processes occur in many regions and agricultural spaces are radically altered by the construction of new rural settlements This publication considers these processes for the Central Plains of China the previously mostly agricultural region comprising the lower reaches of the Yellow River Routledge Handbook of the Digital Environmental Humanities Charles Travis, Deborah P. Dixon, Luke Bergmann, Robert Legg, Arlene Crampsie, 2022-09-12 The Routledge Handbook of the Digital Environmental Humanities explores the digital methods and tools scholars use to observe interpret and manage nature in several different academic fields Employing historical philosophical linguistic literary and cultural lenses this handbook explores how the digital environmental humanities DEH as an emerging field recognises its convergence with the environmental humanities As such it is empirically critically and ethically engaged in exploring digitally mediated visualised and parsed framings of past present and future environments landscapes and cultures Currently humanities geographical cartographical informatic and computing disciplines are finding a common space in the DEH and are bringing the use of digital applications coding and software into league with literary and cultural studies and the visual film and performing arts In doing so the DEH facilitates transdisciplinary encounters between fields as diverse as human cognition gaming bioinformatics and linguistics social media literature and history music painting philology philosophy and the earth and environmental sciences This handbook will be essential reading for those interested in the use of digital tools in the study of the environment from a wide range of disciplines and for those working in the environmental humanities more generally The Language of Landscape Anne Whiston Spirn, 1998-01-01 This eloquent and powerful book combines poetry and pragmatism to teach the language of landscape Anne Whiston Spirn author of the award winning The Granite Garden Urban Nature and Human Design argues

that the language of landscape exists with its own syntax grammar and metaphors and that we imperil ourselves by failing to learn to read and speak this language To understand the meanings of landscape our habitat is to see the world differently and to enable ourselves to avoid profound aesthetic and environmental mistakes Offering examples that range across thousands of years and five continents Spirn examines urban rural and natural landscapes She discusses the thought of renowned landscape authors Thomas Jefferson Frank Lloyd Wright Frederick Law Olmsted Lawrence Halprin and of less well known pioneers including Australian architect Glenn Murcutt and Danish landscape artist C Th S rensen She discusses instances of great landscape designers using landscape fluently masterfully and sometimes cynically And in a probing analysis of the many meanings of landscape Spirn shows how one person s ideal landscape may be another s nightmare how Utopian landscapes can be dark There is danger when we lose the connection between a place and our understanding of it Spirn warns and she calls for change in the way we shape our environment based on the notions of nature as a set of ideas and landscape as the expression of action and ideas in place

X-Urbanism Mario Gandelsonas,1999 Examines configurations of urban space analyzing them in ways that blur the traditional opposition between figure and ground

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