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Caring About Places: Pride

One of the most critical questions for a profession, indeed for a culture, is how to allocate its self-esteem. In what should we take pride? In what ways should we do more than is required of us by others?

People do not invest care in a place on demand. Care, and its reflection in pride of craftsmanship, comes about through deep-seated commitment, through a necessity of the spirit. But we should pay attention to how that spirit develops. Are the things we're learning to care about genuinely important, or will they obscure reality in a glitter of false pride?

The contributors to this issue of *Places* care differently. They all take pride in attending closely to the things that make up our world. They differ in their commitments. The imagination we see reflected in these articles reaches into the fabric of society as well as into the realm of forms through which the makers of buildings solicit our concern.

How should we care? With bravado, with modesty? Through demonstrations of ingenuity, through fostering nearly imperceptible adjustments? By telling a story, by imagining a society? How should we not care?

We should not care by suppressing concern for the disenfranchised, by settling for ways of making places that simply display and do not enable.



Donlyn Lyndon