

# UC Berkeley Places

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Caring about Places

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# Caring about Places

Of what use are places, to whom, and when? Places as used, thought, felt, and remembered are essential to our conceptions of private self; public places secure the idea of civic self. *Places* is about caring about places.

Places are made of things, of materials, of forms, of spaces. They are settings for human action and aspiration. They bear the marks of history; they suggest relationships; they reveal specific cultures. Like any source of riches, places require continuing investment and stewardship to yield their treasures. The role of the environmental design professions is to serve that process with expertise and imagination.

To engage the many dimensions of places, we believe many voices must be heard: those who traditionally have created designs for places; those who manage places; those who study society and place; and those who inhabit and otherwise experience places. Designer, scholar, scientist, lawyer, artist, politician, citizen—all those who care can shed new light, supply new metaphors, and suggest new directions for the notion of places and for ways in which they may be perceived and used. And we seek contrary and divergent views so that many issues will be brought to light and so that the plural nature of place will be revealed.

*Places* will focus on the shifting lines between the public and private domains, with particular attention

to public spaces in the service of shared and egalitarian ideals of society. It will also explore the subtle balance that must be struck between the need for professional intervention and the danger of introducing unwarranted external control in the creation and renewal of places. Initiatives for shaping public environments are concentrated in the hands of a very few all over the world.

Can design professionals simultaneously help us to realize our dreams and meet the highest standards of public responsibility and design? Can the public participate more vigorously in the shaping of places in their own interests? Can places reach beyond their initiators and designers to become good places over time for all people who will use them? Can intensely personal imaginings find their place in the public realm? These and related questions will give life to *Places*.

This issue, indeed the journal itself, owes its existence to the ideas and enthusiasm of Donald Appleyard, and especially to his love for people and places.



Donlyn Lyndon



William L. Porter