

The Solace Of Open Spaces

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these transcendent lyrical essays on the west announced gretel ehrlich as a major american writer wyoming has found its whitman annie dillard poet and filmmaker gretel ehrlich went to wyoming in 1975 to make the first in a series of documentaries when her

partner died ehrlich stayed on and found she couldn't leave the solace of open spaces is a chronicle of her first years on the planet of wyoming a personal journey into a place a feeling and a way of life ehrlich captures both the otherworldly beauty and cruelty of the natural forces the harsh wind bitter cold and swiftly changing seasons in the remote reaches of the american west she brings depth tenderness and humor to her portraits of the peculiar souls who also call it home hermits and ranchers rodeo cowboys and schoolteachers dreamers and realists together these essays form an evocative and vibrant tribute to the life ehrlich chose and the geography she loves originally written as journal entries addressed to a friend the solace of open spaces is raw meditative electrifying and uncommonly wise in prose as expansive as a wyoming vista as charged as a bolt of prairie lightning ehrlich explores the magical interplay between our interior lives and the world around us newsday

there is enormous interest in urban design and the regeneration of our urban areas but current thinking often concentrates on the built form forgetting the important role that open spaces play urban open spaces brings together extensive research and practical experience to prove the opportunities and benefits of different types of open space to society and individuals focusing on the importance of open spaces in daily urban life the book is divided into three sections the first section describes the social health environmental and economic benefits and opportunities that open spaces can provide the second section discusses the different types of urban open spaces that individuals or communities might use on a daily basis from private gardens to commercial squares and waterway corridors the final section provides best practice case studies demonstrating urban spaces being incorporated in new developments and community initiatives this is the first book to bring together a variety of evidence from different disciplines to outline the benefits and opportunities of urban open spaces in an accessible way not just for students and practitioners this book will be of value for anyone interested in the design development regeneration funding and use of open spaces in urban areas

in the current panorama of urban growth and planning in many urban territories of western societies open spaces are residual spaces of urban occupation or are reserved for eventual occupation open spaces have been viewed in this manner in the earlier stages of the compact city and especially now in a time of the dispersed territories characterized by discontinuity heterogeneity and fragmentation the disciplinary perspectives of ecology

geology landscape architecture and urbanism but also public opinion have for some time promoted the conservation and protection of the most valuable natural spaces and efforts have been made to remove such spaces from the real estate market however such positions usually radical are insufficient for territorial equilibrium and inevitably lead to the progressive disappearance of valuable natural spaces

the case for open space explores the benefits of private sector involvement in creating maintaining operating and programming parks and open space ranging from enhanced returns on investment for developers that include open space in their projects to improved community health outcomes this publication by the urban land institute s uli building healthy places initiative and uli s sustainable development council sdc incorporates research conducted by uli staff and sdc members as well as takeaways from stakeholder interviews including with uli members who have developed or supported parks and open space through their project investments

this book explores the growing spatial inequality in contemporary cities and the opportunity of reframing the role of public open space as a tool of inclusion in a context of an increasing economic gap between the urban poor and rich the first part outlines the geographical and theoretical frames of reference which are then tested in the analysis of a case study cape town this city in south africa was selected since its spatial aspects of separation are particularly evident due to the legacy of both apartheid and modernism the examination of the policies of the city of cape town confirms the rising attention to public space since the 1990s this slow progress of desegregation is tested through a critical study of one of the most disadvantaged areas of the city khayelitsha the book explores the relevance and impact of an urban design project and reframes the role of public open space not only as a tool for restructuring the apartheid city but also for reinterpreting other fragmented contemporary cities

this doctoral dissertation research aims to develop a comprehensive definition of urban open spaces and to determine the extent of environmental social and economic impacts of open spaces on cities and the people living there the approach i take to define urban open space is to apply fuzzy set theory to conceptualize the physical characteristics of open spaces in addition a w green index is developed to quantify the scope of greenness in urban open spaces finally i characterize the environmental impact of open spaces greenness on the surface temperature explore the social benefits through observing

recreation and relaxation and identify the relationship between housing price and open space by creating a hedonic model on nearby housing to quantify the economic impact fuzzy open space mapping helps to investigate the landscape characteristics of existing recognized open spaces as well as other areas that can serve as open spaces research findings indicated that two fuzzy open space values are effective to the variability in different land use types and between arid and humid cities w green index quantifies the greenness for various types of open spaces most parks in tempe arizona are grass dominant with higher w green index while natural landscapes are shrub dominant with lower index w green index has the advantage to explain vegetation composition and structural characteristics in open spaces the outputs of comprehensive analyses show that the different qualities and types of open spaces including size greenness equipment facility and surrounding areas have different patterns in the reduction of surface temperature and the number of physical activities the variance in housing prices through the distance to park was however not clear in this research this dissertation project provides better insight into how to describe plan and prioritize the functions and types of urban open spaces need for sustainable living this project builds a comprehensive framework for analyzing urban open spaces in an arid city this dissertation helps expand the view for urban environment and play a key role in establishing a strategy and finding decision makings

highly visual and containing contributions from leading names in landscape architecture and design this volume provides a rare insight into people s engagement with the outdoor environment looking at the ways in which the design of spaces and places meets people s needs and desires in the twenty first century embracing issues of social inclusion recreation and environmental quality the editors explore innovative ways to develop an understanding of how the landscape urban or rural can contribute to health and quality of life open space people space examines the nature and value of people s access to outdoor environments led by edinburgh s openspace research centre the debate focuses on current research to support good design for open space and brings expertise from a range of disciplines to look at an analysis of policy and planning issues and challenges understanding the nature and experience of exclusion the development of evidence based inclusive design innovative research approaches which focus on people s access to open space and the implications of that experience invaluable to policy makers researchers urban designers landscape architects planners managers and students it is also essential reading for those working in child development health care and community development

people places second edition design guidelines for urban open space edited by clare cooper marcus and carolyn francis a resurgence in the use of public space continues throughout north america and many other parts of the world neighborhoods have become more outspoken in their demands for appropriate park designs corporations have witnessed the value of providing outdoor spaces for employee lunch hour use the rising demand for child care has prompted increased awareness of the importance of developmentally appropriate play and learning environments and increased attention is being focused on the specific outdoor space needs for the elderly college students and hospital patients and staff now available in an updated expanded second edition people places is a fully illustrated award winning book that offers research based guidelines and recommendations for creating more usable and enjoyable public open spaces of all kinds people places analyzes and summarizes existing research on how urban open spaces are actually used offering design professionals and students alike an easily understood easily applied guide to creating people friendly places seven types of urban open space are discussed urban plazas neighborhood parks miniparks and vest pocket parks campus outdoor spaces outdoor spaces in housing for the elderly child care outdoor spaces and hospital outdoor spaces people places contains a chapter by chapter review of the literature illustrative case studies and design guidelines specific to each type of space people places has a number of features that can be easily incorporated into the design process clear readable translations of existing research on people s use of outdoor spaces performance based design recommendations that specify key relationships between design and use design review checklists that help readers plan and critique designs a clearly organized concise format equally useful to the design practitioner and the design student the newly revised edition of people places also includes discussion of accessibility issues including ada regulations and the concept of universal design and of design responses aimed at crime reduction procedures for conducting post occupancy evaluations of designed outdoor spaces updated and new information on each type of outdoor space with special attention to hospitals child care facilities and campus outdoor spaces where specific advances have occurred since 1990 a completely new color photo section and 50 new black and white illustrations winner of the merit award in communication from the american society of landscape architects people places is an essential working tool for landscape architects and architects city planners urban designers neighborhood groups and anyone else concerned with the quality of urban open space

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