

OZ

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Machado and Sillvetti Associates

Prologue

The fundamental qualities of space which make one place unique from another have been replaced by a ubiquitous landscape, where autonomous constructions lead to everywhere being anywhere. Innovation has been supplanted by mimicry or ignorance, creating images of somewhere else or nowhere at all. Perpetuating an architecture of everywhere has created a situation that defines no place in particular. This sameness among places establishes an unvarying fabric, neglecting place.

In the pages of *Oz 19, Regarding Place*, we wish to explore meaningful places and constructions which work to negate the architecture of everywhere.

The old original sin was chiefly a sin of knowledge; the new original sin... is first and foremost a sin of non-acknowledgment.

—Igor Stravinsky

I.

The collection of articles within the pages of *Oz 19, Regarding Place*, represents the efforts of practitioners, academics, and artisans, whose ideas about place have been presented in a number of ways. The references that span history, continents, and language, convey a variety of possibilities with which to consider place. However, it is the divergence of each work that exemplifies the fundamental ideas of the theme statement—an intensification of location through attention to the surroundings.

II.

Upon consideration of this collection, a core connection is found: the thoughtful intervention that articulates and intensifies the topology of the surroundings achieved through disparate agendas allowing place to be distilled through the filters of culture, poetics, reference, and metaphor. Words describe their intentions, buildings define them.

III.

Oz 19 submits the commentary of nine authors each contributing thoughtful interventions in the seemingly ubiquitous landscape. The landscape proposed, solidifies a common concern for intensifying the unique topology regarding place.

It is the abilities of these contributors to determine and build artfully with regard to their surroundings which implicates site, acknowledging it and establishing a significant dialogue.