

Landscape and the Sustainable Development Oxymoron?

GRASSROOTS URBANISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

KEY QUESTIONS or COMMENTS RAISED in the DEBATE

- Is the collective and grassroots based approach more sustainable than the existing policies?
- Is there always a “tyranny” or the collective approach serves as an objection agenda?
- Is “quiet” sustainability more effective than top-down sustainable development?
- In city planning (and other big projects) we involve people in the design/planning process. Does this respond to the interests of the middle class? How can we be sure that people from different backgrounds (minorities) get their voices heard?
- Is movement (activism) a consequence of failure in aligning values and policies and people? Would social activism happen if development was done correctly?
- Is social activism a fight or communication?
- Where does the influence of western countries come from? What are the interests of western developers? (wanting to help?) What are the motifs for non-western cultures to copy western models?
- There are different forms of Environmental Social Movements. Are some of these forms more effective to achieve sustainability? Do we need a combination of all?
- The highline: a (re)use of the space to incorporate nature into the city (assuming that people like nature). Why should this cause gentrification? In other words, why is nature a privilege?
- NIMBY / WIMBY (Rotterdam, Crisom Architectural historians). How can we promote more of those methods (non-hierarchical, collective activism) to rethink our environment? Is something that can happen only in western/developed countries?
- How does “data” in digital form come into debates on sustainability? As info/knowledge process or As wa of Life?
- Where is economics in sustainable development?
- Grassroots as producers of unequal hives? Why do we always associate “unequal” with top-down (capitalist approaches)?
- Activism: Is it always acting/reacting against something? How does activism respond to different contexts?
- What is the role of activism in socio-political dialectics? (in the evolution of socio-ecological systems?)
- What makes green grassroots movements from other social movements? What do they have in common?
- What are the connections between unplanned transformation and social activism? Is self-awareness and opposition to something needed? (favelas in Brazil versus Zapatistas)
- Connecting the notion of middle-class social movements to Paulo Freire (“oppressed” versus “oppressor”) as a way to validate social movements?

DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM IN EL 20

KEY QUESTIONS or COMMENTS RAISED in the DEBATE

- Legitimacy, rights, roles and limits of individuals, communities cultures in the Sustainable Development discussion?: connections between individuals, communities and societies with the SD concept?
- Global legitimacies versus Local legitimacies?
- “Economics related to quality of life” versus “Economics related to money and markets”?
- Globalization versus Cultural Diversity?:
 - Is globalization the same as monoculture, homogenization and
 - Activism and Indigenous movements: Class of values/interests and Class of cultures?
- New models for interaction of different cultures?
- New models of governance?
- Universal and eternal rights?
- ...