

PLURAL TERRITORIES: No Permission Required

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“The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is...one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights.”¹

SHIFTING PUBLIC REALM

Citizen movements are defining this era. Demands for change are embodied by hashtags such as #MeToo, #HereToStay, #OccupyWallStreet, and #NeverAgain. The power of the collective, expressed through social media, drives our news cycles and is shaping our agendas.

We are currently in danger of losing control of the public spaces where we come together to broadcast our voices as they fall under the authority of global corporations because city, state, and federal agencies can no longer afford their upkeep.

RULE STACKS

A new tax structure, which favors corporations over citizens, is reducing our tax base and increasing the government's need for private money.

More and more, economic gaps are being bridged by PPP's (public-private partnerships) and POPS (privately owned public spaces). These arrangements frequently restrict the rights citizens have to access and utilize public space by layering corporation-defined rules on top of existing government regulations. Is the public realm being re-categorized from “public space” to “permission-scapes”?

STAKING OUT CITIZEN TERRITORIES

The humble lawn chair has seeped its way into the collective unconscious as a marker of personal space, an inalienable object in the public realm. ‘Plural Territories’ proposes redefining this device in the face of new forces, claiming public space “without permission.”

The pavilion is reimagined as a political agent in the public realm leveraging an icon of individuality.

Endnote

Harvey, David. (2008). *The Right to the City*. (urbanization) (Viewpoint essay). *New Left Review*,(53), 23-40.

