

# UC Berkeley

## Places

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# Forum of Design for the Public Realm

**Forum of Design for the Public Realm**, now appends to our nameplate. It signals a refocusing of the journal and the processes that lead to it.

We are now, more than ever, committed to the idea that we must provide a “**Forum**” for multiple views to be heard, debated, and examined over time. This begins with individual articles submitted by readers, and with broad themes identified by our Editorial Advisory Board. It includes prompting and encouragement from peers, through a process of review and suggestion, to shape ideas for presentation and/or highlight areas for reconsideration. Sometimes themes originate through symposia and ongoing campaigns of research; other times they are proposed by the Editorial Board as special projects. All this engages an ever-expanding network of people. As a Forum, we are committed to continued examination of subjects over several issues, yielding alternate insights on policy and design. This commitment soon will extend to a newly designed website to nurture ongoing deliberation and debate.

“**Design for the Public Realm**” states our intent to focus attention on the design of places that are publicly accessible, whether created by individuals, corporations, or public agencies. The impact of our environment is cumulative and extensive, and the consequences of design are not bound by the limits of ownership or interest. Individual projects create, in their entirety, the realm through which we all move, the realm in which we embed both private and corporate actions—the collection of places in which we build community.

We, in this Forum intend to keep turning attention from the part to a larger whole, from the specific to its place in a larger system of relationships...and back again. A public realm that is not filled with individuality and distinction is not one to which we should aspire, not one that is true to the miracle of life and its diversity.

## **Places would like to thank the following reviewers of articles considered during the Volume 17 publication cycle.**

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**Front cover/back cover** The front illustration presents many of the ideals of the rural-to-urban transect as a new normative theory of place making and community building. Among other things, the wedge shape implies a graduated increase in the amount of land dedicated to increasingly rural and natural settings as one moves outward from compact urban cores. Since reality will never be as perfectly graduated or centroidal as the drawing, the transect “tiles” shown on the back may prove more useful for application within a regional mosaic. Drawings by Eusebio Azcue for Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company.