

# UC Berkeley

## Places

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Caring for Places: What Does It Take to Make Place?

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# Caring for Places: What Does It Take to Make Place?

It takes the mind of the beholder

Wondering  
Imagining  
Caring how things are  
and might be

It takes circumstance and promise and  
Companionable surroundings

That is to say it takes being alert among things  
Standing beside them  
Moving among them  
Being enfolded  
Discovering positions in a larger pattern  
Choosing among paths and vantage points  
Investing attention

It takes events  
Everyday and momentous  
Spontaneous and contrived

which fill the spaces between and bring them to life  
which engage the senses and prompt the mind

Magic rings of silence  
Sounds that touch the nerves of being, echo and spur recollection  
The flows of social action

It takes marking the things that surround us in ways that call out and  
recall events that take place

Inscribing thought in matter  
Tracing the acts of conception and construction  
Embedding ornament that intrigues and offers to narrate  
Reflecting the joy of seasons and of ritualized time

Forging libraries of aspiration  
Indexing paths through the repository of the city

It takes Companions  
Faces that challenge  
Faces that confirm  
Faces that dance

The many great faces that help to bring places into being

And yes, the face of the unfamiliar

— *Donlyn Lyndon*