PLACE KEEPING

by

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ABSTRACT

While Place-Making involves the creation of urban environment, Place-Keeping takes on the conservationist attitude of safeguarding Good City Form\(^1\) for the future. It must be recognized that what is available now will eventually become the past or even history for the future. In fact, as the new (architecture) ages ‘through exposure to the elements and general wear and tear’, the distinction between the new and old will gradually disappear\(^2\). Hence it is as important to make good places as it is to keep the good fabric that may be otherwise be lost naturally through time. Like Place-Making, Place Keeping should not be an afterthought in design whether at the macro or micro level.

This dissertation will attempt to introduce the concept of Place-Keeping before the turn of the millennium in order to extend conservation beyond restoration of individual buildings but as a on-going process that concerns the tangible and intangible aspects of the city form. In making places, we are concerned with the physical elements and the their contributions to the making of the ‘sense of place’. In keeping places, we will look into maintaining (and hopefully enhancing) this relationship between the elements and ‘spirit’ in the face of future development.

Place Making has major influences on the decision-making process of Urban Design. Likewise, Place Keeping deserves equal role in Urban Conservation. To further enhance this relationship between Place Keeping and Urban Conservation, theories of Urban Design that have been familiar tools for the urban planners will be adopted to illustrate such association. On this note, case studies will be useful to demonstrate the disparities between the ideals and realities of implementing Place-Keeping.

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\(^1\) In Good City Form, Lynch attempted to ‘make a general statement about the good settlement’ that is ‘relevant and responsive to any human context’.