The Meaning Of The Built Environment  
An evaluation of urban public spaces of Orchard Road  

by  

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Abstract  

Most architecture students and certain architects believe that they can solve the ills of the world. Architecture as solution to social ills or architecture as the instigator of emotional well-being are the statements that can be heard once too often in a design critique. Just how true are these deterministic statements? How much of an effect does architecture have on the complex workings of the human mind? Taking this idea on a more basic level, one tends to wonder how well does an average layman interpret the intentions of an architect in terms of his designs or more specifically in the context of this hypothesis, public space design. All these examples point to the fact that the built environment seems to be sending out invisible messages to the users, or at least it tries to. It is this 'invisible messages' that this study is interested in, the way that it is transmitted and the way the user perceives it.  

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