Abstract

What is urban design in Singapore? This study aims to discuss this in discursive terms. The study will be in three parts, which altogether aim to excavate the nature of urban design in Singapore.

The first is a historical survey through the urban planning in Singapore, to discern the instances in which urban design has been invoked, and under what circumstances. This constitutes the factual part of the study.

The second part raises the discussion of the question to a more conscious level, namely by means of enquiry into the expressed definitions and perceptions of urban design in Singapore. In other words, listening to commentators defining what urban design in Singapore is. This is the expressive part of the study.

The last part of the study undertakes an anecdotal approach to illustrate the process of urban design in Singapore. It is intended that through the study of instances of urban design in Singapore that one may arrive at another level of understanding i.e. the culture of practice of urban design in Singapore.

The intention to provide a replete understanding is shown by the method of discussion. The three parts in the study may also be read as layers interweaving with one another. The first part constitutes a primary understanding of the question at hand. The second seeks to further this understanding by at a (secondary) conscious level of discussion. The third part could be seen as a culmination of the study as it endeavours to read meaningfully into the cultural processes of urban design in Singapore.