DEFINING LANDSCAPE DEMOCRACY

A path to spatial justice

Edited by Shelley Egoz, Karsten Jørgensen and Deni Ruggeri, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

With a foreword by Kenneth Olwig and Don Mitchell

This stimulating book explores the intersection of landscape, democracy and spatial justice on an international scale to offer an overarching definition and examination of the emerging field of landscape democracy.

The concept of landscape in academia, policy and practice, is being met with growing interest and a wider understanding that it is a complex living environment, moulded by tangible and intangible mediums, processes and systems. This book examines how physical, mental, emotional, economic, social and cultural wellbeing depend in large part on inclusive planning and management of landscapes. Through a broad set of theoretical and conceptual frameworks and international case studies, the authors of Defining Landscape Democracy address critical questions, like: Why is democracy relevant to landscape? How do we democratise landscape? How might we achieve landscape and spatial justice?

This work will furnish new knowledge and insights for researchers in the fields of landscape architecture, human geography, planning, public policy, sociology, landscape management, and designers and planners actively engaged in shaping democratic public spaces and communities.

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Table of contents overleaf.
“Land belongs to someone but landscape belongs to everyone” sums up for me the message at the heart of this important book. Politically the world is at a crossroads and landscape, be it through the European Landscape Convention or as urban space occupied by a new wave of activists, literally forms a stage for playing out conflicts. I believe that the book is needed right now as a starting point for a new approach to landscape for the twenty-first century.’

– Simon Bell, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia

‘This international collection of papers has its roots in multiple interpretations of democratic principles. All its authors share the view that people who are affected by design and planning decisions should be included in the process of making those decisions. In sum, the authors expand the traditional boundaries of landscape thinking in theory and practice to make this an invaluable contribution for all audiences.’

– Henry Sanoff, North Carolina State University, US

‘The world we inhabit is increasingly created by developers unconcerned about justice, facilitated by governments fiddling while democracy smoulders. This anthology searches for ways to reverse this trend. The contributors pose questions seldom raised in the making of the city. By asking the right questions they provide uniquely hopeful alternatives that show how to bend the arc of the universe towards justice.’

– Randolf T. Hester, University of California and Center for Ecological Democracy, US

Contents:

Preface
Foreword

The Landscape Path to Spatial Justice: Questioning, Rather than Fixing, the Definition of Landscape Democracy
Kenneth Olwig and Don Mitchell

Introduction
Introducing Landscape Democracy
Shelley Egoz, Karsten Jørgensen and Deni Ruggeri

PART A FRAMING THE DISCOURSE

1. Democratic Theories and Potential for Influence for Civil Society in Planning Processes
   Lillin Knudtzon
2. Landscape Democracy – more than Public Participation?
   Michael Jones
3. Landscape Architecture and the Discourse of Democracy in the Arab Middle East
   Jala Makhzoumi
4. Exploring the Concept of ‘Democratic Landscape’
   Benedetta Castiglioni and Viviana Ferrario
5. Shatter Zone Democracy? What Rising Sea Levels Portend for Future Governance
   Charles Geisler
6. Making the Case for Landscape Democracy: Context and Nuances
   Shelley Egoz, Karsten Jørgensen and Deni Ruggeri

PART B CONTEXTUALISING LANDSCAPE DEMOCRACY

7. Towards Democratic Professionalism in Landscape Architecture
   Paula Horrigan and Mallika Bose
8. Landscape Assessment as Conflict and consensus
   Andrew Butler
9. Invisible and Visible Lines: Landscape Democracy and Landscape Practice
   Richard Alomar
10. Enacting Landscape Democracy: Assembling Public Open Space and Asserting the Right to the City
    Joern Langhorst
11. What Can We Learn from the 1960s, Revisited in Vienna’s Donaupark
    Lilli Lička, Ulrike Krippner and Nicole Theresa Raab
12. Storytelling as a Catalyst for Democratic Landscape Change in Modernist utopia
    Deni Ruggeri
13. Democracy and Trespass: Political Dimensions of Landscape Access
    Tim Waterman
14. Rural landscape governance and expertise – on landscape agents and democracy
    Jørgen Primdahl, Lone Soderkvist Kristensen, Finn Arler, Per Angelstam, Andreas Aagaard Christensen and Marine Elbakidze
15. Managing Cherished Landscapes Across Legal Boundaries
    Morten Clemetsen and Knut Bjørn Stokke
16. Landscape as the spatial materialisation of democracy: a bottom-up process in Marinaleda, Spain
    Emma López-Bahut and Luz Paz-Agras
17. Planning the cultural and social reactivation of urban open spaces in Greek Metropoles of Crisis
    Eleni Oureilidou
18. Landscape Democracy in the Upgrading of Informal Settlements in Medellín, Colombia
    Eva Schwab
19. Learning from Occupy Gezi Park: Redefining Landscape Democracy at the Age of ‘Planetary Urbanism’
    Burcu Yiğit-Turan
20. Democracy and the communicative dimension of public art
    Beata Sirowy