Revitalization Institute @ Seneca

psychogeography

history & techniques
1955 guy debord, [philosopher, writer] and situationist movement.

psychogeography is “the study of the precise laws and specific effects of the geographical environment, consciously organized or not, on the emotions and behaviour of individuals “.
[An introduction to a critique of urban geography, 1955].
the dérive [drift] - an aspect of the situationists’ wider drive to achieve a revolutionary transformation of everyday life.

insisting on pedestrianism to experience astonishment and encrypted events of the city.
since the late 1970s psychogeographic analysis has become one of the cornerstones of postmodern geography and major way of contemporary writing on the city.

This highly experimental discipline is used by some professionals interested in transforming urban spaces.

Also practised by young [conceptual] artist in their urban explorations.
• shared communal experience
• shared neighborhood vision
• long-term neighborhood relationships through community-oriented urban planning
• social interaction
• social engagement
• cities – communities should be places where basic human rights and liberties are realized
• comparison with other neighbourhoods
• examination of image and possible improvements
• self evaluation of the community and branding
development of criteria necessary to create a great neighborhood or a great city

questions raised:
1. what’s unique here
2. what do we need to revitalize it
3. how to make it function
4. how to give it expression
5. how can it differentiate itself
   - preserve
   - experiment
   - promote
6. design principles:
   - create bonds
   - communicate community
7. where is this neighbourhood going?
effects of environment on your emotions [MENTAL REACTION]

1. what would you be proud to show visiting relatives or tourists?“

2. what would you want to pass on to your children?”
the subjective analysis, mental reaction, to neighbourhood behaviours related to geographic location.

a chronological process based on the order of appearance of observed topics, with the time delayed inclusion of other relevant instances.
possible topics:
- heritage buildings
- urban squares
- green space
- traffic
- individualism
- connectivity
- mixed usage spaces
- mixed living
- urban art
- potential for tourism
- atmosphere
- need for expansion
- neighbourhood identity
- urban dogs
- boundaries
1. form a group of people, at least one living in the area.
2. plan and prepare your performance according to the predetermined criteria. be aware of layers of collective memory and experience.
3. select the starting point anywhere in the desired community.
4. drift in any direction following visual, sound, smell or other interest points.
5. curiosity and patience is essential: ask, look, observe, record, discuss, sketch, note...
6. summarize immediately after
7. analyze collected material

result is neighborhood portrait
thus walking - as ART - provided an ideal means for me to explore relationships between time, distance, geography and measurement.

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