

Guerilla Ecologies: Tactical Interventions

Recent media coverage reports that while the profession of architecture continues to maintain a high level of prestige, the practice of architecture has been fundamentally disrupted from its social and ethical responsibilities. Architecture is a social process that simultaneously creates, defines, and supports communities. Shifting cultural landscapes, both physical and virtual, are redefining how communities are created

and sustained. The rapid pace of technological innovation and obsolescence suggests a culture that is searching for a new ecology that can maintain this rapid pace within the contemporary landscape. Global population estimates surpass 7 billion people with over half of the world's population now living in urban areas. Development and resource consumption is occurring faster than our communities can adapt. Struggling economies and political instability have created a culture of semi-permanence where Time Magazine's person of the year is The Protestor.

Rather than searching for a singular vision to "solve" these problems, Architects and Designers are proactively and systemically collaborating to rapidly reinvent, redefine, and redesign their communities in response. It is within this framework that we propose a new definition for this system of interaction: Guerilla Ecologies. The word "Guerilla" is both a noun and an adjective; it is used to define and describe. Guerilla Ecologies exist at critical intersections within systems: the physical and virtual, the built and natural, the individual and collective. Inherently diverse and multi-dimensional, Guerilla Ecologies incorporate a proactive and experimental methodology with a focus on Social, Economic, and Environmental issues. By working "bottom-up" in a collaborative process, Architects and Designers are leveraging existing assets within communities to serve as catalysts for social change and actively challenging the notion that Architecture and Design are luxuries for the wealthy. Reimagining the call to "Think Globally, Act Locally," Guerilla Ecologies work small and think big; acting tactically to addresses broader social issues through targeted interventions in communities.

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Which are the mechanisms within guerilla activism?

How can this collective energy be used to raise the awareness for public space?

Can guerilla activism lead to activate citizens, interact with the community, rethink urbanism and design interventions?

Which are the responsibilities within guerilla activism and where do the virtues of architecture shift with this new paradigm?

How can architectural teaching and practice embrace guerilla activism?

Which are the responses of architecture: Democratic grass root activism to rejuvenate and sustain communities? New masterplan for creative interactions? Open-source, cloud strategies for shared design development? Responsive, interactive and reconfigurable environments? Re-claiming public space and established technologies for new scopes?

This session invites papers that examine the potential of Design Interventions within the framework of Guerilla Ecology and question the role of architects in the process. From political propaganda to informal settlements, Design is being leveraged as a tool for social change. ♦

