

## iLOUNGE \_ A Prototype for the Temporary City

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Public social space is all around us and permanently changing. iLOUNGE—a design-build intervention in public space for Northern Spark in Minneapolis and for the ZERO1 San Jose Biennial in 2012—offers an instant social stage to create a temporary community for a minute, an hour or an evening. iLOUNGE operates as a social catalyst for place-making by creating new connections with the existing city while engaging information technology to augment or alter social interactions in public space.

As defined by spatial sociologist Martina Loew (*Spacing, Raumsoziologie*, 2001) and Margaret Crawford (*Everyday Urbanism*, 1999), the user of iLOUNGE is an active part of its spatial production. iLOUNGE has the ambition of being an urban space that interacts with its inhabitants: a space that adapts to the needs of the citizens but also a space that stimulates citizens to look, listen, exchange, reflect, and to relax.

The design suggests a dynamic and adaptive carpet, a topography that embraces and stimulates exchange as well as interaction. The configuration is intended to change the speed and the direction of its inhabitants, to get them to interact, slow down, look in different directions, and generate informal interactions to promote different types of urban life. The architectural modules offer a surface that supports the occupation of the human body in multiple ways: lounging, standing, resting, socializing, exchanging, playing, observing, and being observed.

Analog and Digitally mediated narratives that trigger interaction, and are embedded in the spatial construct provide a new context for social and physical exchange; they create a new set of potentials for social and sensorial relations, as well as spatial atmospheres. iLOUNGE encourages the creation of interim communities that coexist in physical and digital space creating a temporary community in flux.

Today the notions of temporality and event play an important role in the strategic definition of the contemporary city. iLOUNGE instant/interim/interactive provides a social stage to create a temporary community for a minute, an hour, or an evening. Operating as a social catalyst, iLOUNGE is a device for place-making where the visitors are an active part of its spatial production. The project is a co-commission between Northern Spark and ZERO1, and the project was installed in Minneapolis, MN in June 2012 during the Northern Spark event and in San Jose, CA in September 2012 during the ZERO1 Art & Technology Biennial.

iLOUNGE is an operative topography intended as a system that constructs a new territory by strategic movements of extrusions and connections. The design suggests a dynamic and adaptive carpet, a topography that embraces and stimulates exchange and interaction. iLOUNGE is composed by the aggregation of truncated pyramids and horizontal connective platforms to synthesize a constructed landform. Materials define multiple micro-scapes: solid, foam, fur and light scape to result in a total iLOUNGE-scape generated by the tactical location of programs.

