

Inglewood Reader

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Image

In the study *Paris et l'agglomération parisienne* (Bibliothèque de Sociologie Contemporaine, P.U.F., 1952), Chombart de Lauwe notes that “an urban neighborhood is determined not only by geographical and economic factors, but also by the image that its inhabitants and those of other neighborhoods have of it”.

Drift

In “Introduction to a Critique of Urban Geography” (*Les Lèvres Nues* #6, 1955), Situationist theorist Guy Debord outlines the importance of the *dérive*, or drift, as an utterly new and authentic experience of the different atmospheres and feelings generated by the urban landscape, describing “The sudden change of ambiance in a street within the space of a few meters; the evident division of a city into zones of distinct psychic atmospheres; the path of least resistance that is automatically followed in aimless strolls (and which has no relation to the physical contour of the terrain); the appealing or repelling character of certain places — these phenomena all seem to be neglected”.

Read

In *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* (Pelican, 1971), architectural and cultural critic Reyner Banham observes that “The language of design, architecture, and urbanism in Los Angeles is the language of movement. Mobility outweighs monumentality there to a unique degree ... and the city will never be fully understood by those who cannot move fluently through its diffuse urban texture, cannot go with the flow of its unprecedented life. So, like earlier generations of English intellectuals who taught themselves Italian in order to read Dante in the original, I learned to drive in order to read Los Angeles in the original”.

Love

In the song *California Love* by 2Pac featuring Dr. Dre (Death Row, 1995), Dre suggests that Inglewood is “always up to no good”.

Assistant Professor, Otis

Davey Whitcraft

Participants

Andrew, Aniek, Brandon, Carlos, Joy, Lukas, Tom

Re-imagining Inglewood Reading Inglewood

With the theme of this week’s Design Week, it feels important to situate ourselves within a continuum of broad urban research in the fields of design, cultural studies, and architecture, and also specifically within work and studies already made on the city of Inglewood. We will be conducting further research alongside actual projects, both speculative and real, but we should be aware that we are by no means starting from scratch. In this spirit, a collection of texts, research, data, and imagery, both existing and new, collated in accessible form as a kind of guidebook or reader, will be of use not only for this particular workshop group but also for the other workshop groups and ultimately Inglewood residents and visitors alike.

The term ‘Reader’ seems appropriate, inspired by various historical and contemporary precedents of “reading” the city (such disparate examples as Situationism, artists like Ed Ruscha and Mark Bradford, hip-hop, and, particularly for LA, Reyner Banham, among many other sources). Whether the final form is manifested in print, print-on-demand, Tumblr, Twitter or all of the above, a notional Inglewood Reader could not only function as the accessible guidebook and collation of research/data mentioned above, but also provide a foundation or platform for generating discrete or connected speculative ideas/proposals to be produced by our group as we investigate Inglewood and its various representations. Ideally, a Reader combines both theory and practice through critique, documentation and production. The resulting reader might well also collect materials and projects generated by the other workshop groups and work as an overall document of this week’s activities.

Some references

See the impromptu workshop library in the studio, along with screenings during the week

Area Chicago: Art, Research, Education, Activism, Rozalinda Borcila and Robin Hewlett, AREA Chicago, 2011
Folk Archive, Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane, Book Works, 2005
Lagos/Koolhaas, van der Haak, Icarus Films, 2003
Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Reyner Banham, Pelican, 1971
Los Angeles Plays Itself, Thom Andersen, 2003
Oase #73: Gentrification, Prina Avidar, Klaske Havik, David Mulder, Bart Wigger (eds.), NAI Publishers, 2007
Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles, Reyner Banham, BBC, 1972
The Situationist City, Simon Sadler, MIT Press, 1998
Street Value: Shopping, Planning, and Politics at Fulton Mall, Woo, TenHoor with Rich, Inventory Books, 2010
Sub-Plan: A Guide to Permitted Development, Finn Williams, Architectural Association Summer School, 2009
<brickstarter.org/conversation-with-finn-williams-sub-plan/>
The Summer Reader, Again or A Diamond in the Rough, Werkplaats Typografie, 2008
Urban/Wild, Nathan Coley, Book Works, 2004
Walkscapes: Walking as an Aesthetic Practice, Francesco Careri, Editorial Gustavo Gili, 2002