

Mennesket kommer først på byens gulv

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Byens Gulv - konference på Nyborg Strand den 20. april 2022. Læs mere og tilmeld dig på www.byplanlab.dk

...Sådan siger Leonard Grosch, partner & creative director hos Atelier Loidl, der har stået for projekter som Park am Gleisdreieck i Berlin og Baakenpark i Hamburg.

Leonard har også skrevet bogen `Designing Parks` sammen med Constanze A. Petrow. Til konferencen Byens Gulv til april er Leonard keynote speaker, og vi har derfor stillet ham en række spørgsmål som opvarmning til konferencen.

What is your focus or the great vision in your daily work? What are your professional drivers?

“Everything begins with the city. With the idea of what kinds of spaces—indoors and outdoors—we want to live in. A park is not an autistic entity. This is why it is necessary to think of a design starting from the rules and potentials of the city. A park should enrich the city and first and foremost has to fulfill a social mission.

For a long time, I have felt a lack of understanding for the arbitrary search for themes

that can be observed in many open spaces and competition designs. For me, themes are derived from the surrounding city, from the spatial and concrete qualities of a location, and from the desired or sensibly considered program.

When planning, what has come to interest me, is always people, their wellbeing, their feeling a sense of community, and anticipating their needs. As far as their social performance is concerned, open spaces should be judged by the same criteria as public buildings.”

What are your main interests in the studio at the moment? What makes this field - the city floors - interesting?

“Even more than up to now, in future we should ask during every step in the design: What can it do for people and what does it offers them? A strong structure, for example, is not an end in itself: many people desire secure orientation and lastingness, but at the same time also variety and changeability in many park contents. A deliberate park

dramaturgy brings people together, but also makes it possible to give each person the space in the park that they would like to take for themselves.

How is it possible by means of a relaxed park atmosphere to give people a sense of belonging, a feeling of being integrated into the neighborhood? I see the function of landscape architecture as serving the community.

Of course, as a landscape architect, I would say we are actually trying to influence and design the city floor in all of our assignments. Our projects - like Park am Gleisdreieck, Berlin or Baakenpark, Hamburg are mostly public, within the urban context and mostly in the scale of large scale open spaces. I am mostly intrigued in how to influence the city floor in a social matter, how to bring a programme to the city and create different exciting atmospheres.”

What makes it interesting for you to speak at the conference?

“Well, on a personal note, as I have been studying for a while at the School of Architecture in Copenhagen, which has been one of the most wonderful years in my life, I am delighted to come back to Denmark twenty years later as a speaker. In our work we are collaborating with most of the various professions which are represented at Byens Gulv. I am deeply convinced that this is necessary to deal with complex assignments.”

What do you hope that our participants will get out of your keynote?

“I hope participants will get an idea of my strategies of how to create a lively open spaces in a city and how to adapt them to their individual projects. These strategies become individual through how they are applied to a concrete location. Each of these strategies taken separately does not represent anything fundamentally new. However, in how they interact, they form a tool kit for successful park design on both a creative and a programmatic level.”