

BACK SPACE: EXPLORING RESIDUAL LANDSCAPES AND TERRITORIES OF DELETION

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ABSTRACT

With the pace of development in Toronto's downtown core, some areas get passed over in the hurry to capitalize on every remaining surface parking lot. While other cities have made great assets of their lanes, alleyways and residual landscapes, Toronto is seemingly reluctant to seize the opportunities these often overlooked and under appreciated elements of our urban fabric.

This research is about informal uses of small public spaces in the city: laneways, forgotten spaces and connective tissues of neighbourhoods undergoing rapid change and transition. The focus of this exploration is on the unintentional by-products of periods of growth and the adaptations of periods of decline. Grounded in secondary source research and morphological analysis of three case studies: Berlin, Toronto and Detroit, this project examines typologies of urban transformations and the temporary uses that empower local communities to assert everyday knowledge to the formation of place and identity.

An exploratory research project about unconventional public spaces in Berlin, Toronto and Detroit.

Key Words: Urban Morphology; Public Space; Terrain Vague; Flâneur; Photography.