

Monu

magazine on urbanism

The Return of the Repressed
by Loïc Wacquant

Vandalism as a Productive Force
by Michael Zinganel

The Evil Architects Do
by Eyal Weizman

**Terrorists love
Density** *by Star*

and more...

BRUTAL URBANISM

violence and upheaval in the city

#05

subtle interventions - administrative fragmentation of the metropolis - real crime - Vandalism and Economics - urban desertification - riots and dualization, Non-Communist Manifestoes - Violence from below - collective urban disorders - American-style ghettos - urban violence and collective unrest - Political Alienation

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Roughness, violence, brutality, seediness, ghettoization— all these are words that we associate much more readily with the city than with a suburb or the bucolic countryside.

It seems even drug related crime develops a different character depending on whether it is in the city or the suburb. As the NYTimes reported in early July, identity theft is the crime of choice for meth addicts and both are flourishing in suburban regions of the US. In contrast crack cocaine or heroin dealers, are supported by heavily armed gangs usually set up in higher density urban zones. These high density areas are suited to ‘urban’ crimes like, prostitution, carjacking and robbery. So the suburban habitat seems perfectly suited for the sleepless meth-addict roaming through the internet, garbage cans and outdoor mailboxes in a quest to gather identities, while the density and proximity of a city is more fertile soil for the impulsiveness and raw brutality that is typical for crack and cocaine criminality.

In a similar direction one of the ***directors of the World Cup 2006 security*** in our interview echoed some thoughts that also show the relationships between spatial configuration and the art of preventing urban brutality.

The entanglements of brutality and urbanism are even more extensive than we had anticipated when announcing our call for submissions this January. The contributions we publish in this issue do a great job describing some of the most salient linkages between urban life and violence.

These are just some of the topics that this issue of Monu presents:

Media representation and context of brutality is one

key aspect as our contributors show. Be it the possibility to easily record and distribute via cell-phone cameras as Peter Moertenboek and Helge Mooshammer describe in their article. Or the impossibility to censor images of resistance as Austin Arensberg describes.

In our leading article Loic Wacquant analyzes the intensifying of ***structural brutality in the city***: economic, social and political exclusion and the backlashes that inevitably follow.

But brutality can also be an ***almost integral part of the history of development***, in some cities as articles about places as different as Jerusalem and Seoul by Tim Rieniets and Baruch Gottlieb respectively show.

In this issue for the first time we also have a continuation of a topic from a previous issue of monu. Alex Schafran responded to an article by Michael Thompson from our 4th issue, which we present here together with a rejoinder. We encourage interested readers to follow along and engage the ideas presented in this issue.

We thank all the authors for this issue for their great contributions that make this our best one yet (again!). Also many thanks go to the team at the University of Kassel for support. Finally we thank our readers. Thanks to your increasing interest we could triple the print-run with this issue compared to our previous ones.

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Contents

The Return of the Repressed

by Loïc Wacquant Page 6 - 18

Vandalism as a Productive Force

by Michael Zinganel Page 19 - 24

The evil Architects do

by Eyal Weizman Page 25 - 27

Terrorists love Density

by Star Page 28 - 29

Preventing brutal urbanism -

Interview with the Director of the Security Task Force for the 2006 World Cup

Page 30- 33

The Future of June 4th

by Austin Arensberg Page 34 - 37

5000 Years Brutal Urbanism

by UAS Page 38 - 43

Happy Slapping – Urban Violence in the Age of Camera Phones

by Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer Page 44 - 48

Repulsive Desperation in the Constructions of Survival

by Baruch Bruce Gottlieb Page 49 - 52

It's the protocol, stupid

by Marc Schuilenburg Page 53 - 58

On the Run – Contesting Urban Boundaries

by Lukas Feireiss Page 59 - 62

Cities of Collision

by Philipp Misselwitz and Tim Rieniets Page 63 - 68

(re)Moving History

by John Comazzi Page 69 - 73

As a Child of the Suburbs: - a response to Michael Thompsons "How Suburbs Destroy Democracy"

by Alex Schafran Page 74 - 77

A Rejoinder to Alex Schafran

by Michael J. Thompson Page 78 - 81

Book reviews

Page 82

documenta urbana conference

Page 83

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