

Titel:

Third Space

Tekst:

Third Space

An exploration into Europe's productive borders

Third Space is an exercise in thinking about opening a parallel space in which cross-border issues can be solved. In the context of the Board of Government Advisors' (CRA) future agenda for the Netherlands (Atelier NL2100), we were given the following question: How do we approach research by design when thinking and acting outside the national borders? What are the interrelated systems of dependence and where are these connections located? Furthermore, how do we make these networks and areas productive in spatial, cultural and political sense?

Third space is a theoretical framework that opens up a mediation space that can coexist next to our space of 'existing actuality' (i.e. reality) on one side, and that of our 'fantasy' (i.e. impossible reality) on the other side. It is the interspace where issues on the collective interest of Europe can be worked on. At the same time it is - in these areas and networks - possible to resolve the contradictions and challenges of our living environment across national borders. By doing so, the framework defines a new starting position for the European Union to give direction to the demand for space, and a functioning system of transitions on the continent.

Third Space is inspired on Europe's Natura 2000 network. Natura 2000 is bound by a set of rules that protects valuable and threatened ecologies at a European level. These guidelines are by each EU member state interpreted and executed in their own way while working collectively on a common goal. In this context, Third Space can play an important role in the implementation of Europe's Green Deal. An example of such implementation is when comparable EU regulations for the renewal and exchange of energy and water systems would request coordination at transnational level; For instance, when border crossing water-buffering and harvesting relieves climate and/or electricity stress. In the mediation space interests and dependencies can be tuned and agreed upon to become spatially and politically productive.

Third Spaces have a system of opening and closing. Identifiable by these unique qualities, the universe within can have similarities with the norm (policy and customs) outside the space, and at the same time rejecting aspects of these values inside. When we project this duality onto the European context where norms and values are trapped within national borders, Third Spaces create a vacuum for working on cross-border collective interests. These conditions can bring extremes together without canceling out the difference, or, on the contrary, magnify the differences and thereby strengthen a nation's identity; Thus becoming not only spatially and politically productive, but culturally as well. Altogether, when approached through such a perspective, these backdoor spaces can become Europe's new collaborative frontiers in a carbon neutral and climate adaptive future.

Credits:

Angéla Kortleven, (1995) is an urban designer with a passion for visual arts and design. Her interest lies in exploring the relationship between humans and nature. She likes to work on issues at the interface of urban design and landscape in which different themes and scale levels come together.

She is currently studying Urban Design at the Rotterdamse Academie van Bouwkunst.

Bram van Ooijen, (1987) (BA) (MUD) is founder, urban designer and spatial researcher. In his work he seeks a connection between the social, economic, spatial, cultural and political values and customs of making a city together. Bram is looking for crossovers with other themes and domains outside the spatial discipline. In the process of making he leaves space for a design narrative where uncertainty can take place. Because the window of opportunity to get things done is becoming evermore smaller and complex due to the increasing speed of developments outside the spatial domain are influencing changing views and perspective on city making. In doing so, he lets go of the idea of the architect or urban planner as the sole author of a vision or concept and leaves room for alternative scenarios, stakeholders and actors who influence the process and design outcome as-well. This creates a broader base of support and perspective for action to work on the future.

Captions & credits bij beelden:

Networks:

European networks clipped on border zones, framing 'third spaces'.

(bronnen: ENTSO-E, European Commission, Eurostat, UNECE, Infrapedia, EMODnet, SciGRID)

Networks total:

(Trans) European networks.

(bronnen: ENTSO-E, European Commission, Eurostat, UNECE, Infrapedia, EMODnet, SciGRID)

Areas:

European (protected) areas clipped on border zones, framing 'third spaces'.

(bronnen: European Environment Agency, Eurostat, EMODnet)

Areas totaal:

(Trans) European (protected) areas.

(bronnen: European Environment Agency, Eurostat, EMODnet)