

Best of Material World Blog: Landscape and Place

Date : July 23, 2014

Patrick Laviolette (EHI, Tallinn University, hosts of [EASA2014](#))

In terms of providing reflections on the material dimensions of place and landscape, here are some links to what I feel have been amongst the more provocative postings on the blog over the years. Many of the authors to the links below implicitly, or sometimes even explicitly ask: how do we depict our spatial experiences through the digital medium of blogging?

In Feb 2007, Graeme Were put up a piece simply entitled '[Footpaths](#)' by Kate Cameron-Daum. It is an eye-catching post which stirred my own curiosity on methods of walking, particularly in the countryside. Similarly, Peter Oakley's observations at Tyntesfield house in '[A Roof with a View](#)', reflects upon the postmodern condition of a heritage site standing below some scaffolding.

With some contrast perhaps, Dimitris Dalakoglou's research summary on [roads](#) in the border region of Albania and Greece talks of movement, fixity and transgressive 'materiality'. In a stunning photo-montage, Tony Whincup's [Water on Water](#) project equally raises politically charged issues over morality, national agendas and cross-cultural understandings.

David Sutton's post [Looking Good](#) gives MW readers an informative review of Cristina Grasseni monograph *Developing Skill, Developing Vision* (Berghahn, 2009) -- a book about the environment and so much more. Similarly, anthropologist and curator Claire Melhuish provides a review of the exhibition '[Land Architecture People](#)'.

In keeping with the themes of design and urban space, Jo-Anne-Bichard & Gail Knight posted a '[toiletscape](#)' piece that is both fun as well as seriously challenging at the same time. Aliine Lotman's research synopsis on '[Dumpster Diving](#)', waste and disgust in Barcelona equally captures much of the essence to approaches grounded in material culture studies (i.e. those which are anthropologically informed whilst also being innovative, inter-disciplinary and ethnographically rich).

Similarly, an in-depth posting in our '[Occasional Papers Series \(no.3\)](#)' by Sabrina Bradford & Abby Loebenberg recently sparked the possibility of rethinking the impacts of hurricane Katrina. Theirs is a multi-media reflection on 'disaster landscapes', a theme which resonates with my last two selections from MW blog postings.

Matt Voigts (picking up on a reoccurring public transport meme which Aaron has also identified as one of his favourites) sent a digest on memorialisation cycles. It is a telling personal account in the vein of 'contemporary past archaeologies'. In seeing a '[ghost-bike](#)' relic, he reveals how things of mourning can create social affects upon both our historical imaginaries as well as the design possibilities for urban planning.

And at around the same time, Francisco Martinez & Larissa Vanamo offered us an astute [interview](#) from a few years back with the fascinating and controversial 'doomsday prophet' Pentti Linkola.