

The Right to Landscape and Landscape Democracy

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Shelley Egoz

School of Landscape Architecture

Faculty of Landscape and Society

Norwegian University of Life Sciences



Introducing the concepts of
The Right to Landscape and
Landscape Democracy

Six questions to reflect on will be introduced during the lecture.

There are no 'right or wrong' answers.

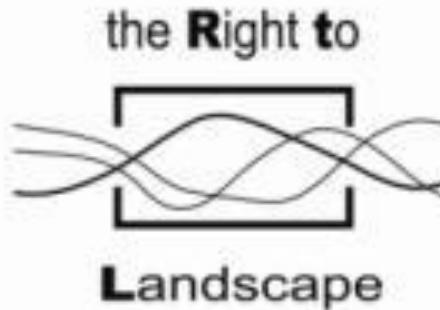
The questions are meant to develop a critical discussion about the relevance, viability and challenges of the concepts that will be introduced.

*All human beings are born free
and equal in dignity and rights.*

*They are endowed with reason and
conscience and should act
towards one another in a spirit
of brotherhood*

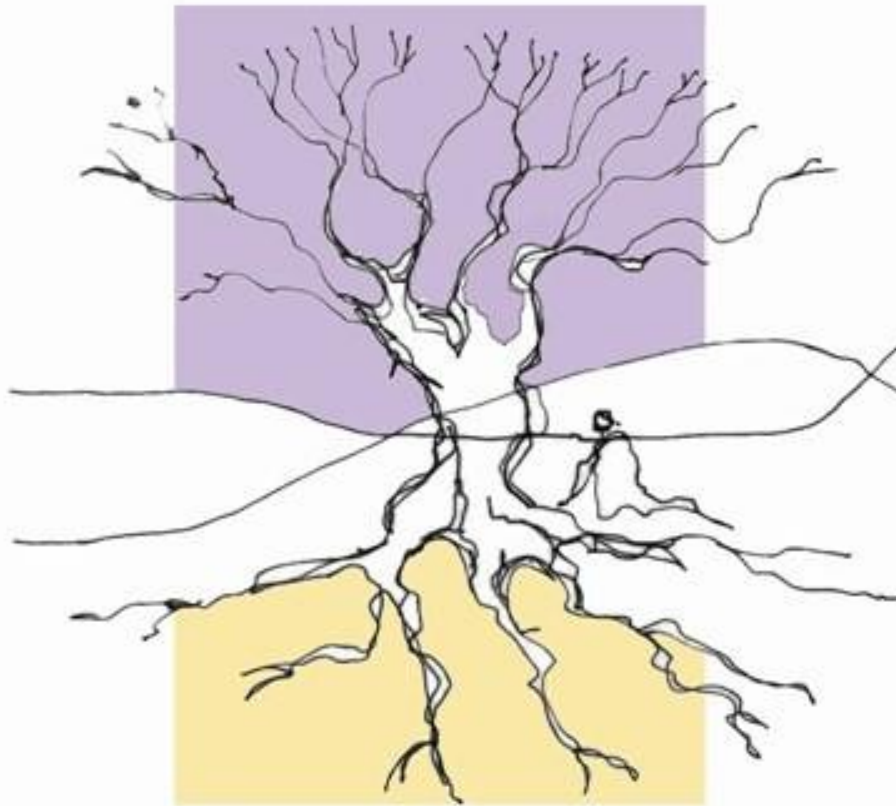
Article 1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of
Human Rights

An initiative that pursues to
expand on the concept of human
rights and explore
the *Right to Landscape*



The Right to Landscape: Contesting Landscape and Human Rights

8-10 December 2008, Cambridge Centre for Landscape & People



The international workshop, The Right to Landscape, will be held on the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The workshop aims to expand on the concept of human rights in the context of landscape, an umbrella concept of an integrated entity of physical environments that is imbued with meaning. The end goals are to critically examine the role of landscape in working towards justice and well being of communities, and to contribute towards the development of policies that will sustain the right to landscape.

Scholars and professionals who are engaged in the study, design, planning and policy-making of landscapes are invited to participate in this international interactive workshop. Key papers will be selected for raising awareness, supporting debate and publication. Deadline for abstract submission: 15 March 2008.

International Workshop: Cambridge Centre for Landscape and People (CCLP) Organized by Shelley Egoz (Lincoln University, New Zealand) Jala Makhzoumi (American University of Beirut, Lebanon) Gloria Pungetti (Cambridge University, UK) Held at Jesus College, Cambridge, UK, 8-10 December 2008

<http://www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk/rtl.html>



Argument:

Landscape is our essential living
infrastructure, a common good

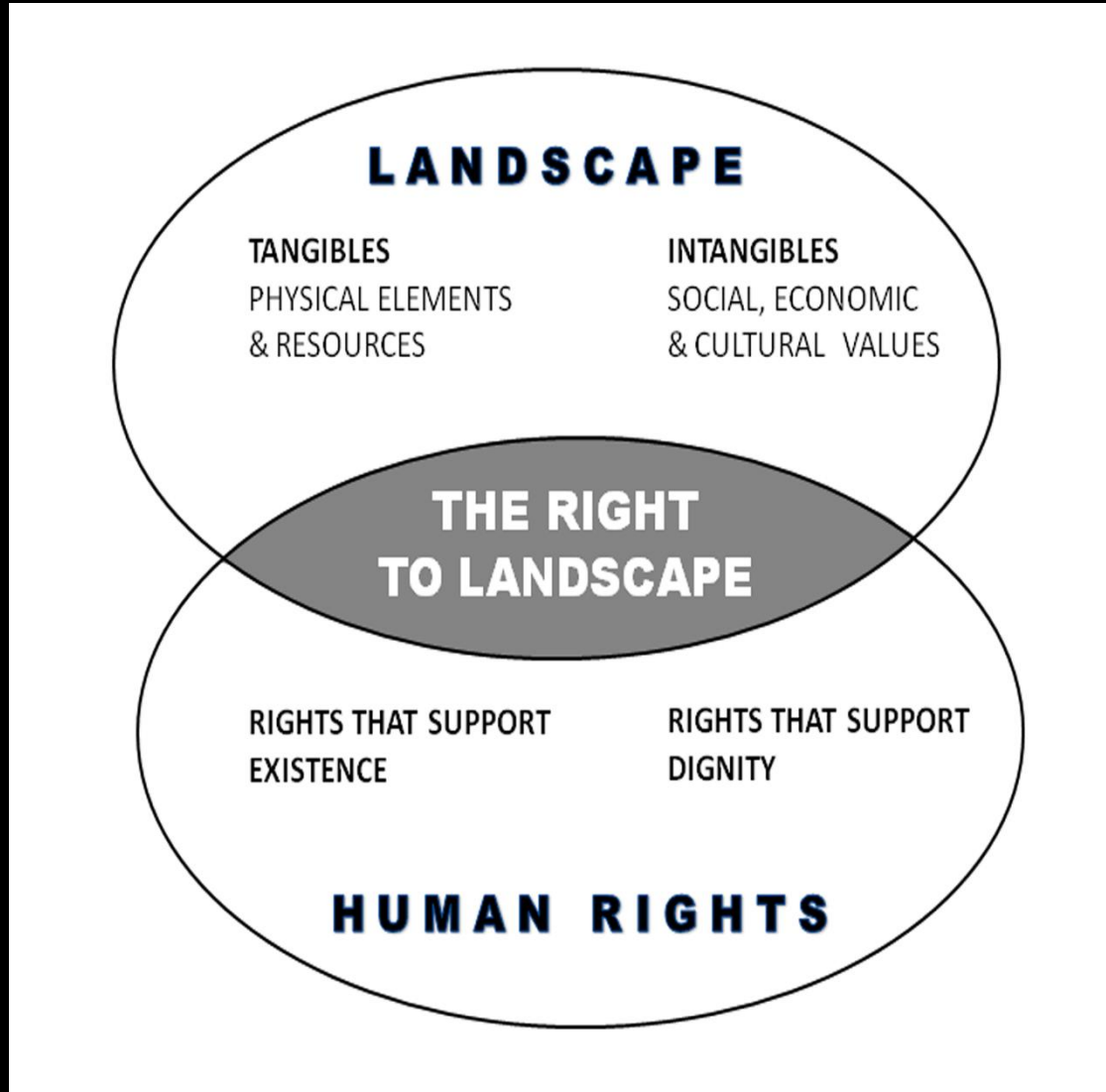
Argument:

The Right to Landscape is a political statement and the cradle of landscape justice

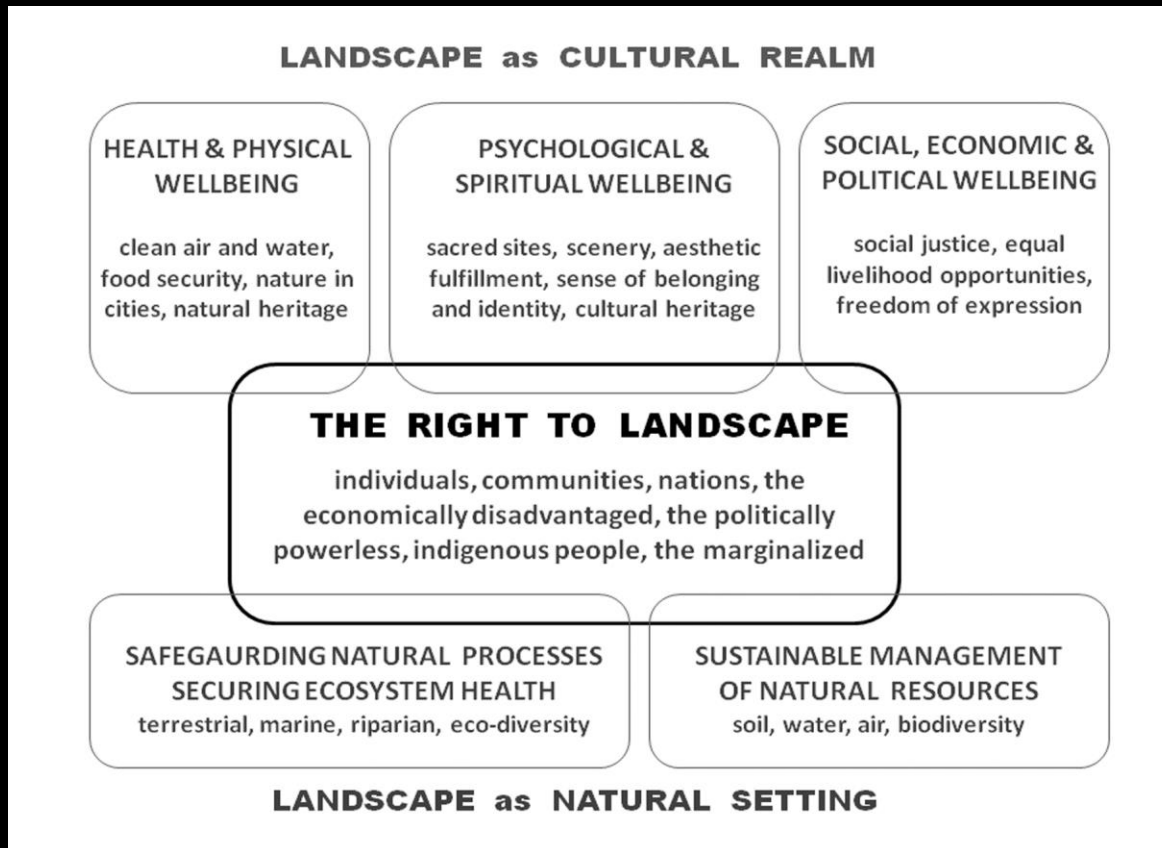
'The Right to Landscape promises to transform "landscape" from a concept in cultural geography and landscape architecture to a concept indispensable to the probing of human nature and human well-being, drawing on and cross-fertilizing such diverse fields as the study of nature, history, anthropology, psychology, politics, and law.'

Yi-Fu Tuan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Conceptual diagram



The Right to Landscape



Context:
The European Landscape
Convention

The Council of Europe (CoE)
Strasbourg, France

- founded 1949
- an inter-governmental
organisation, 47 member states

CoE main objectives:

to promote **democracy**, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today.

ELC:

- adopted in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000

- came into force on 1 March 2004

to date : ratified by 38 countries

A unique setting and meeting place for populations, landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies.



A source of inspiration, it takes us on a journey, both individual and collective, through time, space and imagination.



LANDSCAPE is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone."



Any government wishing to implement the principles of good governance needs to give due emphasis to landscape in its national and international policies.

Maguelonne Déjant - Pons

Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division





LANDSCAPE is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.



The International Federation of Landscape Architects

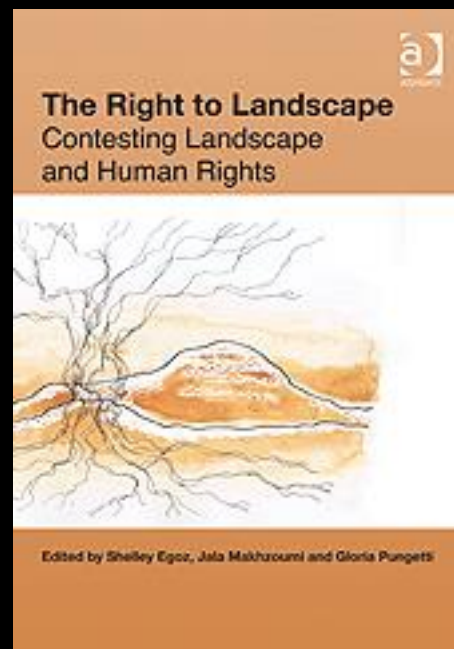
International Landscape Convention (ILA):

*"The aim is for the **International Landscape Convention** to stimulate a more integrated, **democratic** approach that establishes the landscape as a holistic tool for planning, managing and creating **sustainable development**. Dealing with the protection of the past as well as the shaping of the future, it would recognise the vital connections between governance, culture, health and economics" (IFLA 2017).*

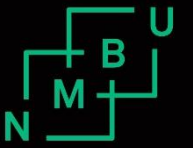


**International
Landscape Convention**

*The Right to Landscape:
Contesting Landscape and human
Rights,*
Ashgate publications 2011



Landscape Democracy

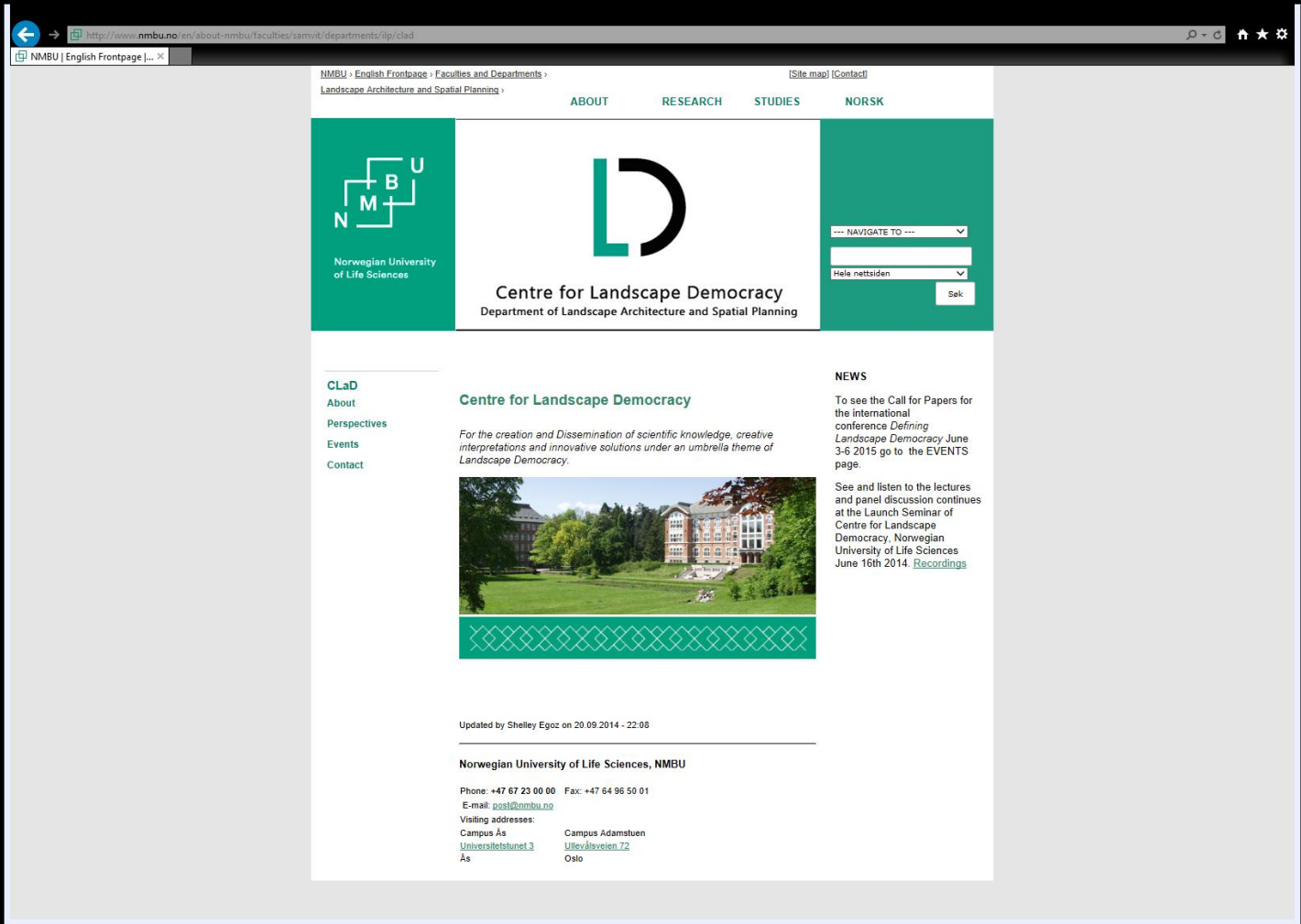


Centre for Landscape Democracy

CLaD

www.nmbu.no/clad





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Constitutional ideals of democracy, human rights, equality and freedom have a tangible landscape dimension.

Democracy is an idea rooted in
free debate in public space

the Greek agora, the market place.

Altstadtmarkt (Old Town Square)
Braunschweig, Germany

Prague old town square

- The conviction is that the quality of landscape as a living space, whether urban or rural, is vital in securing a basic human right for material and socio-cultural wellbeing.

Why now?

- global environmental and economic challenges
- increasing social tensions
- An urgent need in on-going discussion about the role of landscape in society
- providing the relevant insights and knowledge required to address such situations.



LANDSCAPE (ELC definition)

*"an area, as perceived by **people**, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"*

In line with the Council of Europe's aspirational core values for Democracy, Human Rights and Social Justice.





hva betyr

DEFINING

landskaps-

LANDSCAPE

demokrati?

DEMOCRACY

Can be accessed from www.nmbu.no/clad

Moral principles and politics

A new politics of the common good ... requires a more demanding idea of what it means to be a citizen, and it requires a more robust public discourse - one that engages more directly with moral and even spiritual questions.

Michael Sandel, 2009

*"...people from different walks of life
encounter one another and so acquire enough
of a sense of a shared life that we can
meaningfully think of one another as citizens
in a common venture"*

Michael Sandel 2009

#1. what is the social
significance of public
space/landscape?

Ash Amin "diversity is thought to be negotiated in the city's public spaces" (2002 p.967)

Sociologist Zigmunt Bauman: designers can contribute to social sustainability in our human diverse cities

mixophobia and mixophilia coexist in every city, but they coexist as well inside every one of city's residents...

*perhaps something can be done to influence
the proportions in which mixophobia and
mixophilia are mixed and to reduce the
confusing impact of mixophobia*

...it seems that architects and urban planners could do quite a lot to assist the growth of mixophilia and minimize the occasions for mixophobic responses to the challenges of life (Bauman 2007, p.90).













David Harvey, 2008

The question of what kind of city we want cannot be divorced from that of what kind of social ties, relationship to nature, lifestyles, technologies and aesthetic values we desire.

The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city.

It is, moreover, a common rather than an individual right since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization.

The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights.

#2. **IS** landscape common good?

Why?



London may have been voted Europe's dirtiest city but it was also deemed to have the best public parks and green spaces

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-1177105/London-voted-dirtiest-expensive-city.html#ixzz2eZWgF35G>

#3. what is the role of the
landscape professional in
all this?

The significance of public space for civil protest

El Tahrir square Cairo 2011

Planting democracy: New *Tahrir* Square Egypt, Cairo

- Competition, 2nd prize
- Team: Francesco Garofalo
- Dimension: 8.5 ha
- Design: December 2011
- Award: 2nd prize
- Exhibitions: Matadero Art Center,
Madrid
- Publications: Bauwelt, ArchiNed

Our idea is to give to *Tahrir* Square the shape of what it represents today and what it can be tomorrow.

An icon to the critical role that open spaces play in revolution and post-revolution era.

It symbolized the revolt, and now it deserves to symbolize the rebirth of a democratic Egypt.

As a new icon and space for interaction New *Tahrir* will play a role in consolidating a common cultural-historical background which creates an underlying identity of a community.

Jury report: '...the project seizes a vital feature of the site: a connection which goes beyond symbolical geometries and designed boundaries'.

It's a landscape proposal with a remarkable botanical report that reminds the earthly garden, the reconciliation place par excellence.

The tree is the unit, democracy a garden to look after.'

Planting democracy: New *Tahrir* Square
Egypt, Cairo Competition 2nd prize

#4. what is your opinion on
this design's contribution
to democracy?

UC Berkeley architecture professor Nezar AlSayyad, about the peculiar urban design that went into *Tahrir* Square, the locus of so many protests in Cairo.

<http://www.dwell.com/interviews/article/design-and-history-tahrir-square#ixzz1ErJhxqzE>

History

- *Tahrir* Square came into existence 140 years ago during the rule of Ismail, it was known as Ismailia Square.;
- Ismail had lived in in Haussmann's Paris and saw the changes that came about in France under Napoleon III; his vision was to remake Cairo in the image of Paris.
- He redesigned a vegetated area adjacent to the Nile, that from time to time would be flooded by the Nile.

- the square is perfectly designed to host a massive anti-government protest;
- an ill-defined space that is constituted by five or six adjacent spaces, and in a sense no one really paid attention to it;
- Twenty-three streets lead to different parts of it, which is why it was so successful with the demonstrators; all of downtown Cairo has a street that leads to *Tahrir* Square.

- There isn't one big boulevard that you can block off, and there are two bridges that lead to it as well.

One of them saw a clash between the regime and the demonstrators.

Taksim Square Istanbul 2013

In February 2012, the city released a video that begins with an aerial shot of Taksim Square as it is today, with many mature trees, and then shows the barren pedestrian zone that was initially set to replace it.

The plans call for the reconstruction of a historic barracks that was to serve as a shopping mall and cultural destination, and almost all of the greenery was to be enclosed within this structure.

In response to public protest the government realised that those plans are not appropriate for one of Istanbul's most prominent open spaces.

Yet, instead of engaging with the public, the municipality released slightly edited plans last October - on the same day it announced that construction would begin.

The plans break up some of the vast stretches of paving with panels of grass but the space they show is still quite inhumanely scaled with benches surrounded by fields of pavement and none of the shade the square previously provided.

There was also little effort to get out word to people living and working nearby about how the plans would affect them.

In November 2012, the *Hürriyet Daily News* reported that some shopkeepers were surprised to discover their businesses had been permanently blocked off overnight when construction began on the underpasses.

“Nobody informed us about this” one shopkeeper said.

“Yesterday morning they came and built this wall in front of my kiosk. It blocks my doorway, light and air”.

By early May, more than half the project was actually constructed.

The protests were a last-ditch effort to save the trees that still remained in a part of the area known as Gezi Park.

Betül Tanbay, one of the activists who was protesting the park's destruction.

"We tried to have a dialogue with the municipality," she said.

"We didn't say that nothing should be changed [at Taksim]".

"We said, let's discuss it together. As citizens, we deserve to be part of the plans – we don't want them to be made behind doors and declared during construction"

Turkish Prime Minister

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had backed off plans for a shopping mall on the site, but still plans to remove the existing park and build something there.

“You cannot make an AVM [shopping mall] familiar to the international ones in this area,” Erdoğan said.

“There is no conclusive AVM project here. Maybe we will make a city museum there or an architectural work that will put different activities in place. Is there any certain document? No”.



#5. what are the challenges
to the Right to Landscape?

Aker Brygge, Oslo water front



Photo: Thomas Oles



Photo: Thomas Oles



Photo: Thomas Oles

Power to the People:

The Aker Brygge Star consists of 5 directions:

- **The Urban forest** (Holmen gate) – a protected street with shops, offices, local services – strengthens the continuity of the present context, from center to the new developing areas.
- **The Water square** becomes the intersection between Aker Brygge , Tjuvholmen and Filipstad, defining itself with a strong identity, designed to hold events and daily activities.
- **The Four islands** “pier” (fjordalleen) – as leisurely as it gets – introduces a new closeness to the water, reinforcing the experience of Oslo as the “Fjord City”.

- **Clean-cut** restructures the public flow and revitalizes the shopping culture, transversing corporate lobbies, vertical light shafts, and outdoor patios.
- **North gate** (Sjøgata) – reopening the bridge on Munkedamsveien liberates a connection to the a large population stimulating Aker Brygge's north front.

Upon the convergence of these 5 conditions, each unique in program and spatial articulation, a new public space is created – a destination in itself, repositioning the center of gravity of Aker Brygge.

Aker Brygge's future will be defined by transparency, congruency, synergy, openness, and connectivity - AB 2.0.

[http://www.spacegroup.no](http://www.spacegroup.no/collective_intelligence/aker_brygge)
collective_intelligence/aker_brygge

#6. Is every landscape
political??

where do you stand on all
this?

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Thanks for your attention



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