

Space To Think



Abstract

This research document aims to answer the question 'can public spaces be designed to encourage the action of thought' through a literary review which explores historic examples of public spaces and their influence on early thought, contemporary architecture that has been designed to communicate feelings and thoughts, as well as landscape design that offers opportunities for action to take place.

Research based on the literary review has been conducted and analysed to produce conclusions and suggestions as to how this could be put into practice with a chosen site.

Ambiguity or flexibility has emerged as an important feature when designing for this about how they should or could interact with the space. The importance of natural elements and framing natural views also emerged as an important factor that helps people think. Woven through each insight is the underlying need to have a space that is functional and sensitive to the site and conditions. The role of the designer in this process also emerged as something more unexpected, which is to say that they can be the narrator of the journeys they want people to take through the space that is designed, allowing experiences to emerge.

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Introduction

Public space and thought are historically linked by our need for social interaction and the understanding of one another. Through time, public spaces have acted as areas for the distribution of knowledge, somewhere you could go and learn from others and share in a collective experience. This was the case before we had modern civilisation and architecture. Our brains have not changed dramatically in tens of thousands of years, and our early ancestors would have their own ideas that they would share with one another, relevant to their time and their lives. There is archaeological evidence showing that early humans gathered around fire, and while we cannot pretend to guess what was said, it has ultimately lead to where we are, and how we think now.

Much of the early philosophy we have built our knowledge on came from ancient Greece, and many of the most influential early philosophers would use the Agora to meet, discuss, and teach their ideas and theories. Being a multifunctional space that was open to the public, these early philosophers had a perfect setting to pick apart our existence, and the average citizen had an opportunity to listen, learn and develop their thoughts and perceptions of their own. While there is no evidence to suggest that the Agora was created for people to practice philosophy, the fact remains that the opportunity was there. Through this essay I am going to explore if, and how, opportunities for the action of thought can be woven within our public spaces. Starting by exploring the idea of creating opportunities for action, looking into how design is used as a method of communication and examples of existing public spaces that create opportunities for action, while remaining functional in other ways.



Contextual Review

Opportunities For Action

As individuals, we all have unique needs and preferences which have been shaped by our personal experiences and interactions. Of course we can have many things in common with others, and one thing we all have in common is that over time our needs and preferences will change in some way. The Ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus is famous for his idea that change is the only constant in life, which is well remembered with the aphorism "no one ever steps in the same river twice". The wide array of needs and preferences that exist, and the fact that these can change constantly is one of the challenges faced when designing a public space.

In its ideal form, a public space should be able to support a wide range of users, behaviours, activities, and events, fostering direct social interactions (Li, Dang, & Song, 2022). As we have evolved as a species, our design practices have evolved along side us. The western origin of public space comes to us from Greece with the agora which could be found in most Greek cities 2500 years ago. These spaces provided many opportunities for education, social interaction, shopping, spectator sports and were the precedent for the Roman forum (Wilkinson, P. F, 1988).

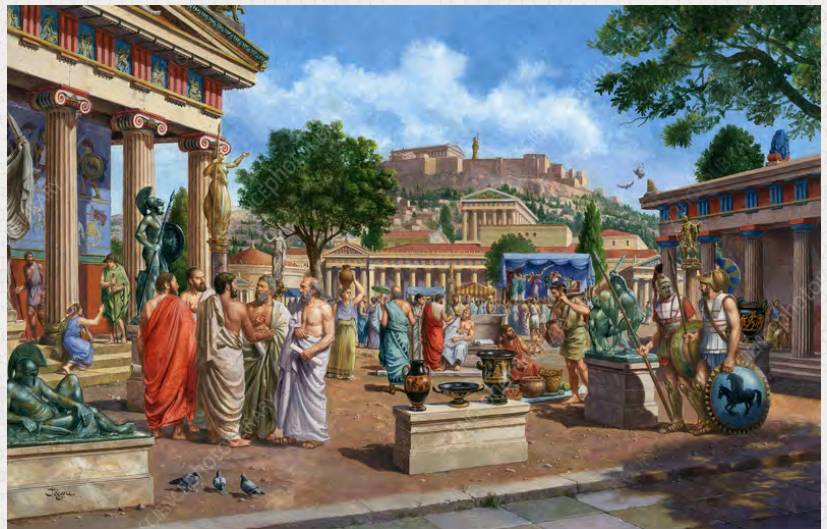


Fig 01 - Illustration of an Ancient Greek Agora

French (1973) spoke of the agoras purpose being found within its ideals, not its architecture, stating that the less restrictive the space is, the more functions it can ultimately serve, encouraging the agora to be thought of as a concept rather than the physical form. In our day and age this approach has sometimes been referred to as baggy, or loose design. By not setting tight and constrictive parameters to a space you increase the ability for people to use the space as they see fit, which supports the point made by Li, Dang & Song (2022) that a well designed public space should support a wide range of users.

In 'The space between' Teerds (2022) explores the philosopher and historian Hannah Arendt's (1906-1975) notions of public space focusing on her book 'The Human Condition' (1958). In this book, Arendt describes public space as 'the space of appearance' it is where we appear to each other, and to the world. In this view two elements are essential: the condition of plurality and the essential aspect of freedom to act. Arendt goes on to talk about public space as less of a physical space, but addresses it in more of a philosophical and political sense as a place for the exchange of ideas and interaction between people. She rejects the idea of a singular "voice of the public" and focuses on the plurality of the public. "Plurality is the condition of human action because we are all the same, that is, human, in such a way that nobody is ever the same as anyone else who ever lived, lives, or will live." (Teerds, 2022). Taking an even more granular approach, the plurality Arendt speaks of is not simply defined by criteria such as age or sex, but by the differences between each individual, which we show to one another through our actions and our words. We are guided into these ways not only by the environment, but by everything we have made ourselves within it (Arendt 1958) which creates a cycle of condition and action. When thinking about designing a public space, this raises the question of what conditions will influence the action of the designer, and what actions will be inspired by the conditions created by a designed public space. This then raises the question, can we guide the actions that will be taken by creating specific conditions?

"We explicate particular narratives through the form and shape of artefacts, the materials used, the positioning of these artefacts in relation to one another, and how the project is related to the urban structure" (Teerds, 2022). The idea that design is a method of communication is nothing new, but the fascinating thing is that this method of communication can be as varied as verbal communication. A sentence contains words, but depending on tone, volume, where the words are coming from and our relationship with the person saying them, the message can vary massively.

Clear Communication Through Design

One such example where architecture and design has been used to communicate a message is the Jewish Museum in Berlin designed by Daniel Libeskind, which is an extension on the original Jewish Museum which was located in an old courthouse since 1933. There were three insights that Libeskind wished to communicate: recognition of the significant contributions of Germany's Jewish citizens, the Holocaust's impact must be woven into the city's collective memory, and for the future, Berlin and Germany must acknowledge the erasure of Jewish life from their history (Libeskind, n.d).

The museum is open to the public (here I must note that this is not a traditional public space as it is ticketed and has entry hours, but tickets are free and easily available) and will potentially have a profound effect on visitors, but will probably have a different effect on someone who is Jewish compared to someone who is not. With a focus on the events that took place during the holocaust, it could be assumed that this museum would also affect someone who was alive during WW2, or who had parents who fought in WW2 more than someone who has only learned about these historical events.

There are subtle messages woven into the fabric of the space throughout the design. The only way to enter the extension is through an underground tunnel which is accessed from the old building. This speaks to the fact that Jewish history has been hidden from the public due to the oppression they faced. There are large concrete voids within the space which are unheated and not well lit. This is another intentional decision by the architect to express trauma and discomfort, which he says should not be suppressed and should be exposed. This feeling may not be shared by all visitors, and those who do experience discomfort may not relate it back to the struggle and discomfort of Jews in Germany, but at the very least it is assumed and hoped that the visitors will react and this reaction will spark a thought or a discussion as to why it is the way it is.

The example that I believe is unmissable by any who would visit is the artwork "Shalekhet (Fallen Leaves)" by the artist Menashe Kadishman. This is situated within another large concrete void and is a permanent exhibition within the museum. The floor which visitors need to cross to carry on with the tour is covered with more than 10,000 faces made from iron plates, each showing an expression, often of pain or anguish. As you cross the floor the iron faces will move and scrape against each other, creating a multi sensory experience that would be uncomfortable for most. It is a simple, but incredibly effective way to communicate the suffering of the Jews throughout the holocaust.

This museum shows varied approaches to using design as a way of communicating from subtle to unavoidable. The purpose of the building and the reason for people to visit could be a contributing factor to what people will already be thinking, and it must be taken into account that the purpose of visiting a public space and what people are thinking can be much more ambiguous.



Fig 02 - Concrete Void



Fig 03 - Shalekhet by Menashe Kadishman

Ambiguous Communication

Crilly (2008) writes that the connection between designers intentions for how products or environments should be interpreted and the actual interpretations that follow is frequently described as a communication process. This communication can sometimes be very clear, for example black and yellow diagonal lines are used to communicate hazards that we should avoid, bollards may be used to communicate divisions between spaces for people and vehicles, but in some cases the message is less interpretable on the surface. For instance people may describe how a piece of art means something specific to them, and others can say it means something completely opposite and they would both be correct in their own right.

Philosophers have often tried to find certainties, and sometimes these have presented themselves in the form of a dogma. One of the most well known and studied ancient philosophers Socrates famously said "I know only one thing: that I know nothing" (Plato, 1966). With that being said, there are always arguments to be made for and against almost everything, and the journey to arrive at certainty is full of rebuttals and debates. With so many answers to the same questions, a certain sense of ambiguity can be seen to surround the subject of philosophy, which ironically is exactly what philosophers seek to erase.

This endless cycle is what has produced some of the ideas that have influenced our civilisations over millennia. When something is ambiguous we immediately have to think about it more than if it was given any sense of certainty. This is perhaps why it is so interesting that ambiguity has been shown to increase ones creativity.

According to Finke, Ward, and Smith (1995) ambiguity can spark the imagination, encouraging individuals to fill in gaps and create meaning, which enhances creative thinking. This is often the case for art and literature, where the uncertainty of the message being communicated enables individuals to project their own interpretation which results in a deeper personal and emotional experience. Ambiguous art is often viewed as a bit of a trick, or an optical illusion, but if a sense of ambiguity could be realised into a spatial element within a public space, what would this look like? Or could ambiguity be more of a concept to bring into the space as a whole, not designed for any specific purpose or person so that one must create their own meaning and function for the space.

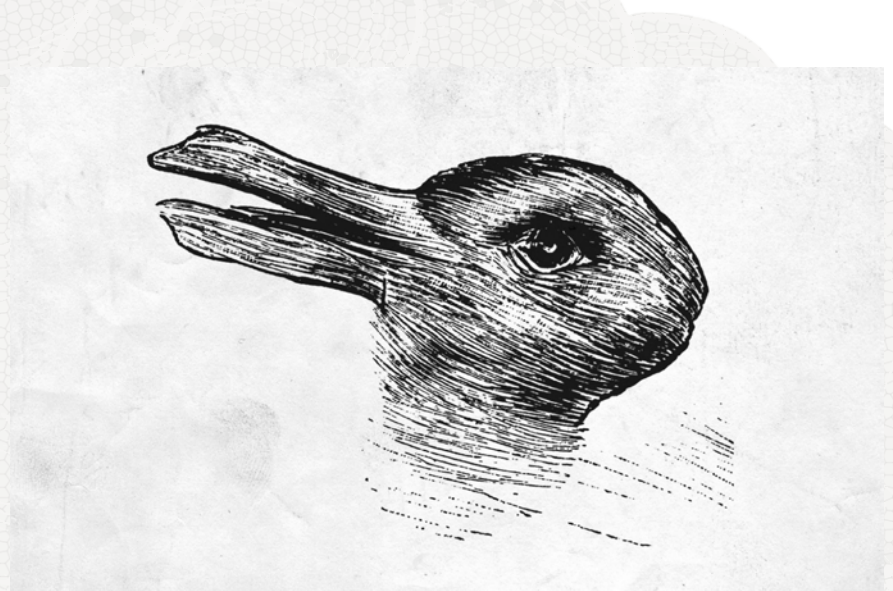


Fig 04 - Well known Ambiguous Art - Duck or Rabbit

A wide open park or field could be said to be ambiguous. There are countless activities which could be actioned within a wide open space, but with no existing frame to work within, except the limits of the park, a purpose is more likely to be added to the space by a user. Take the meadows in Edinburgh as an example. It has a distinct lack of features across the majority of the space, and because of this it can serve many functions. Football and cricket, food festivals, travelling theme parks and circus events all use the space, but all of these functions are brought by the organisers. In contrast there are tennis courts which are unsurprisingly used for tennis and nothing else, and a play park which is used by children to play. If there was to be a mid ground between the two extremes of complete openness and specific use, what kind of opportunities for action would that offer?

Creating Opportunities For Action

Using landscape architecture, or public space design as a means to create opportunities for people to think could be approached in a multitude of ways. One way which I believe would be most effective would be to redesign the landscape itself.

The natural environment has often been an inspiration for humans and is regularly associated with clarity of thought and enlightening experiences. This could possibly be due to our emergence from nature and eventually into towns and cities where we have completely fabricated worlds that we live in each day. While these fabricated areas have many necessities which we rely on that provide us with opportunities for action, our natural environment is also full of opportunities for action that we would instinctively pursue. Just as a hill would give us something to climb up and survey the land around us from, or a stream would give us something to follow, listen to or wade into. In this day and age, what is the point in doing these actions? Is it because it make us feel something? Is it purely due to the fact that we can, or is it a natural action we take based on what the opportunities present to us?

We cannot escape the designed world, and there are many beautiful settings to be found within cities. There are examples where these natural opportunities can be recreated in well thought out landscape design. These are often large sculptures or pieces of art that we can engage with in different ways, ultimately making its purpose ambiguous to us. Sometimes they can be at a scale which is difficult for us to view in it's entirety and this adds to the ambiguity of what actions should be taken within the space.

The renowned landscape architect and designer Charles Jencks (1939-2019) is well known for his large scale formed earth landscapes. He often stated that the universe itself was a continual source of inspiration and he was interested in unravelling the layers of our universe from the microscopic to the infinite multiverse, using his medium of landforms to express this (Jencks Foundation, 2024). He thought that gardens were the natural place for someone to think deeply about their place within the world, stating that "Gardens bring the macrocosm into the microcosm by the necessity of being a living place, connecting to the wider rhythms, ecological networks, or the even more abstract forces that create our world" (Jencks Foundation, 2024).

One of his most notable projects that I have been able to interact with myself, is the Landform Ueda, located at the Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh, Scotland. This piece of design won the prestigious Gulbenkian Foundation's 'Museum of the Year' prize in 2004. The chairman of the Gulbenkian Foundation praised the project as inspirational and beautiful, then going on to say that it had the ability to change peoples ideas about what a museum could and could not do (Ward Thompson, 2007). While serving as an interesting and engaging intervention, the landforms also serve a practical purpose. As well as bringing life to what was a flat and uninteresting piece of land that Jencks stated "sculptures could be lost in" it also shields the gallery from the noise of the busy road outside, and hides it so that when approaching, the building is gradually revealed (Ward Thompson, 2007). These additional practical functions while not immediately obvious, provide an extra layer of practicality to the design which I believe aid in the process of convincing people that these designed spaces are beneficial.



Fig 05 - Landform Ueda, Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh

Another notable feature that you see in Landform Ueda, and similar works by Jencks including the Cells of Life, located at Jupiter Artland outside of Edinburgh, is the presence of water within the formed land and the lack of any railings around it. The borders of each area are formed when they meet each other, not reinforced by something that you can hold onto or lean against. I believe that this lack of protection brings whole design back to a more natural place and again, encourages people to think. You have to pay attention and be present in the space to make sure that you do not fall in, and this attention that is required will already prompt more thought even if it is only to pay more attention. It also retains a more natural feeling despite being so carefully designed, like you have at the bank of a river or when climbing a hill, there are no guard rails in nature.

At its core, a public space needs to serve a number of functions and visitors. To think that people can be forced or heavily influenced to do something as vague as think is potentially naive. With that being said, and while the information that has been presented just scratches the surface of the topic of philosophy and thought, I find myself thinking of Murphy's Law.

While traditionally this states 'what can go wrong, will go wrong' I am reminded of a slightly altered version which was made popular in the film Interstellar, 'anything that can happen, will happen'. There is not conclusive evidence on how you can encourage people to think philosophically, but it is clear that to have any success in achieving this on a personal level there can only be subtle influences. The ambiguity of the space has been highlighted to me as one of the most important factors, as well as the use of natural forms and materials.



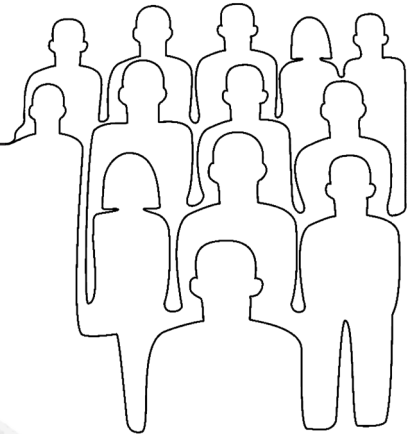
Fig 06 - Cells of Life, Jupiter Artland, Outside Edinburgh

Methodology

To attempt to answer the question 'Can public spaces be designed to encourage thought' I have undertaken a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods in the hope that I would attain a variety of data to analyse and draw insights from. As the question focuses on the general public and not one specific user group, I attempted to capture a wide range of people within my research.

Survey

Firstly I conducted a survey which was sent out to design students at Napier University in Edinburgh, friends and family, and posted on my social media. The quantity of data that I could receive was limited somewhat by the software used which only allowed for 100 responses. The purpose of the survey was to get a general idea of how a larger group of people currently use public spaces, what is important to them within public space and what kinds of elements or environments they find to be helpful when trying to think clearly. The literary review informed some of the more specific questions related to how people feel about others in public spaces, what they find distracting in public spaces and what kind of scale they find more thought provoking. The survey consisted of 19 questions which were a mix of multiple choice, semantic differential scales, dialogue boxes to fill in and simple yes, don't know and no questions. I decided to use varied question styles to try and keep it interesting and engaging and ensure that participants would finish the survey.



Interviews

The second method of collecting data was to conduct interviews with professionals working within the industry. Landscape architect Mike Harrison, co founder and creative director of Harrison Stevens, an Edinburgh based landscape architecture firm and Professor Ed Hollis, a university lecturer teaching interior design at Edinburgh College of Art and also the author of the book 'The Secret Lives of Buildings' were both interviewed.



The interviews were semi structured to allow for a more casual dialogue, as some of the questions being asked would not have simple answers I decided that this would be the best approach. There were some more general questions that both participants were asked such as 'In what ways do you think public spaces can influence how people act, think and interact with each other? Can you give any examples?', and some more specific to each participant based on research I conducted on their work and their approach to design. For example Harrison Stevens mention 'storytelling' in their approach to design, which led me to ask 'What can you do to help visitors (especially in public spaces) to invest in the narrative, can you make them 'get' what you are trying to say, or is it ultimately up to them to take it in?'. Ed Hollis quotes Christopher Alexander in his book 'Timeless beauty cannot be made, only generated indirectly by the ordinary actions of the people just as a flower cannot be made, only generated from a seed.' when writing about the Parthenon in chapter one which led me to ask 'Do you think people can be influenced to take actions within a space, and if so, what is a good way to encourage this?'. Although these questions are different, they both aimed to shed light on whether people can be encouraged or influenced to take action within a public space. As professionals working within the industry the interviews proved to be a fantastic resource when seeking qualitative data and for helping to explore the question from a designers point of view.



Observations

The third method of collecting data was observations, based on Jan Gehl's methods in his book 'How to Study Public Life' which involved tracing movement and paths, counting and general observations on actions people perform. I carried out these observations at the National Monument of Scotland on Calton Hill, Edinburgh as this is the chosen site for my design proposal which this research will inform. The observations were carried out once every hour for three hours on Friday 25th of October 2024 between 11am and 1pm. Weather conditions were clear, windy and around 10°C, which meant that the site was busy with visitors. As there was not one spot to observe from that would cover the entire site I had to conduct multiple walks around the site with each walk focusing on a different piece of quantitative data and taking around 5-10 minutes.

Firstly, I counted people and marked where they were on a site map and whether they were sitting or standing. Immediately after one lap I went back and traced the paths people were taking around the site and the direction they were traveling in. Lastly I performed a slower walk around trying to focus on more the actions people were performing, interactions they were having, sounds I could hear and looking for traces of activity. Although the observations were site specific they did give some interesting insights into how people interacted with the monument, how many people seemed to be tourists or locals and also by chance, there were volunteers picking up litter at the same time I was conducting the observations. One thing that I feel is very important about this site specifically is that the monument is frequently climbed on by visitors. It is roughly 1.5-2m high where people can climb but it is definitely not designed for this purpose. There is no invitation as it were, such as stairs, ladders or any railings but at the same time there are no signs posted to discourage or warn visitors about the potential hazards of climbing the monument. To me this proved to be one of the most interesting things to observe as some people were able to climb easily, others with a lot of difficulty, and some even passing children up and down for photos.

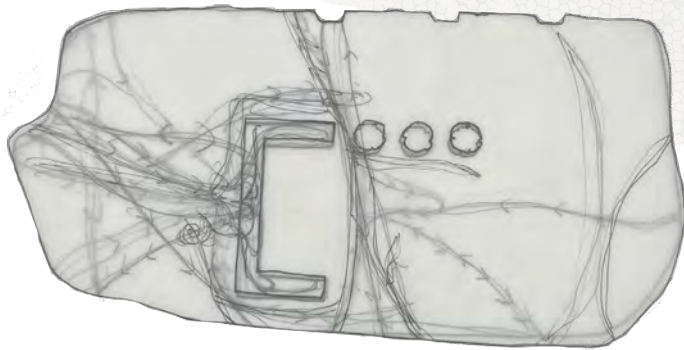


Fig 06 - Layered maps tracing movement

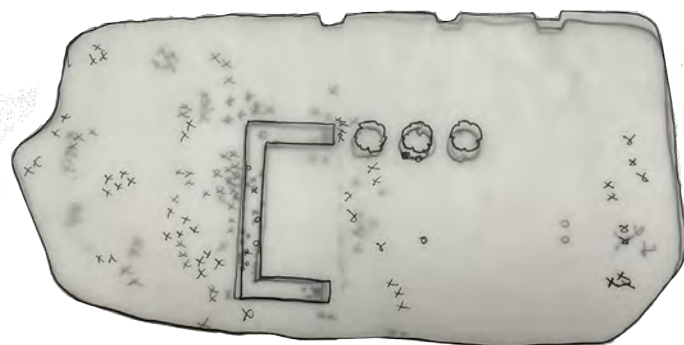


Fig 07 - Layered maps showing numbers and placement of people



Fig 08 - People climbing The National Monument

Data Analysis

After analysing the data from different research methods the findings revealed five broad themes which were;

- Community
- Physical Interventions
- Movement
- Nature and scale
- Comfort and peace

From each of these themes I found clusters of information, some of which related to others and some were more singular but still related to the research overall.



Fig 09 - Initial Insights

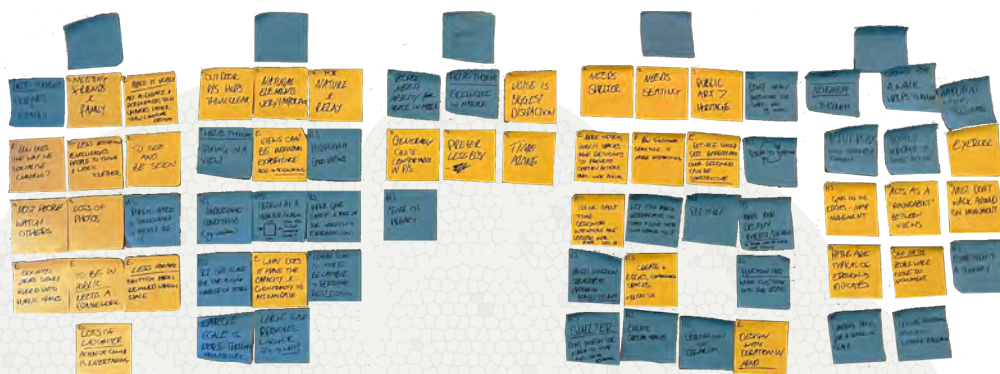


Fig 10 - Themes

Community

Within the theme of community, two clear distinctions needed to be made. Community can be made up of friends and family, and it can be made up of a group of strangers who are sharing a space at a given time. 58% of people who participated in the survey said that they used public spaces to meet with friends and family and during my observations it was clear that many more people visited the space in groups they were clearly related to or familiar with in some way. I did not observe anyone who interacted with the monument that was not being watched by others within their group. Some notable insights from the interviews which fall under this theme were that we can all be said to be both performers and audience members to one another within public space, they are areas to see and be seen in. Another notable insight which related closely to the site is that less instruction within public spaces can encourage people to think and work together with each other and this was witnessed in the observations with people helping, encouraging and often laughing with each other when climbing up and down the monument. Having a physical object which people can engage with, while posing potential hazards did seem to bring people a lot of enjoyment and encouraged interaction.

Physical Interventions

The survey gave some expected insights within the theme of physical interventions. To clarify, I am using this term to describe anything man-made which has been or could be added to a public space. Normally this would include natural elements but as there were many insights related to that topic specifically there is a theme which addresses this. 93% of people who took part in the survey thought that public spaces should have seating, and 73% also thought that there should be shelter. Surprisingly only 26% of people thought there should be artificial light, especially when 46% of people said they use public spaces in the evening. Another insight which I found interesting for the survey was more than 2x the amount of people thought that

Which of the features below do think a public space should have? (select all that apply)

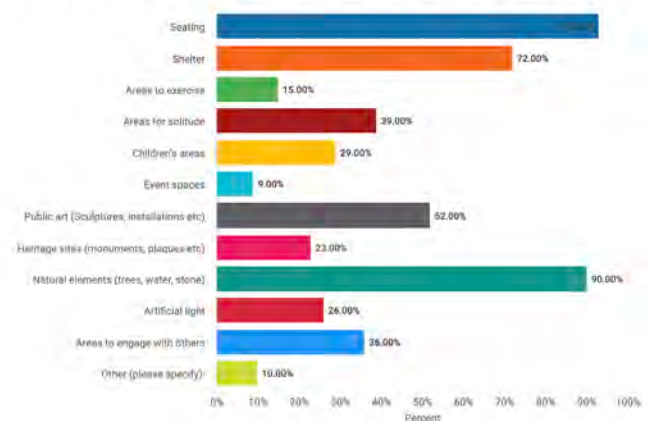


Fig 11 - Survey question

public art (sculptures or installations) were more important than heritage sites such as monuments and memorials. The interviews also supported the idea of having shelter present, but brought up reasons why people purposely do not have shelter as they believe it will encourage anti social behaviour. Questions related to form and function were asked and the response was clear that the function of the objects must come first, but that these objects offer opportunities to weave in a story or narrative for the designer. The point of function before form was also brought up when it was mentioned that a designer's intentions are useless over the span of decades if the item itself will not last that long. When designing with duration in mind, the physical items must be simple, robust and flexible enough to meet the uses and needs that you cannot always predict as overly designed objects can be constrictive to use.

Movement

Movement was a subject which was very prevalent through all of the research methods. Through the observations it was interesting to see how people followed paths, and how they would seem to stay quite close to the monument as they moved around it. The data collected through the survey clearly showed that people thought movement such as going for a walk, exercising, or climbing a hill was helpful to thinking clearer. The interviews revealed that composing a journey can be a non intrusive way to influence visitors by revealing different areas and viewpoints at designated times, and while this can only be an invitation, it does provide the opportunity for the action to be taken. Defining porous boundaries throughout the site will also allow people to move freely and this also can inform the placement of physical objects to where they will be most useful.

Which, (if any) of these options would help you think clearer?

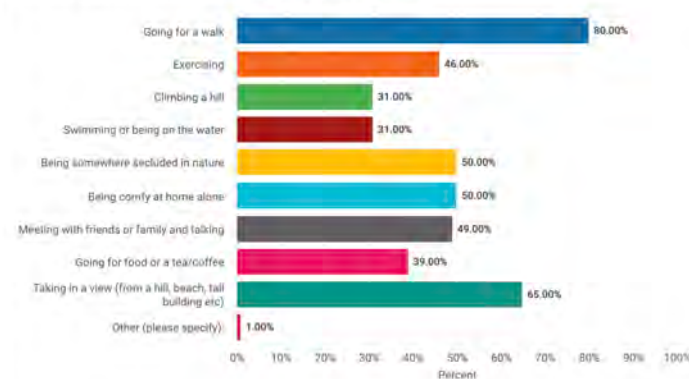


Fig 12 - Survey question

Nature & Scale

I have grouped these themes together as natural elements were also very prevalent through the research, but the scale of particular natural elements in relation to the human body did provide some different responses. Larger scale objects did seem to provoke thought more based on this particular question in the survey, and also seemed to provoke 'bigger' thoughts that lay outside of the personal whereas smaller scale objects seemed to encourage more personal reflective questions within the participants of the survey. 90% of people

said the natural elements should be included in public space, and it is fortunate that the chosen site does have an abundance of green space, and views over the city to the hills and the sea. Taking in views of natural spaces was also brought up in the interviews and survey, with 65% of people saying that this helped them think clearly. While framing views was a subject which involves physical interventions and movement as pathways can be created to reveal the view in stages or narrate a journey.

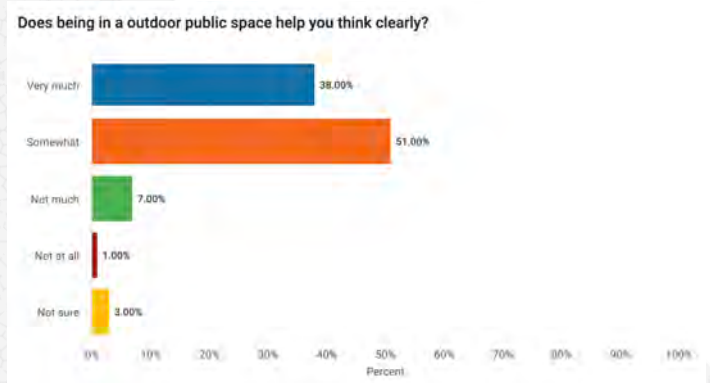


Fig 13 - Survey question

If the person illustrated is average height, which image do you find more thought provoking?

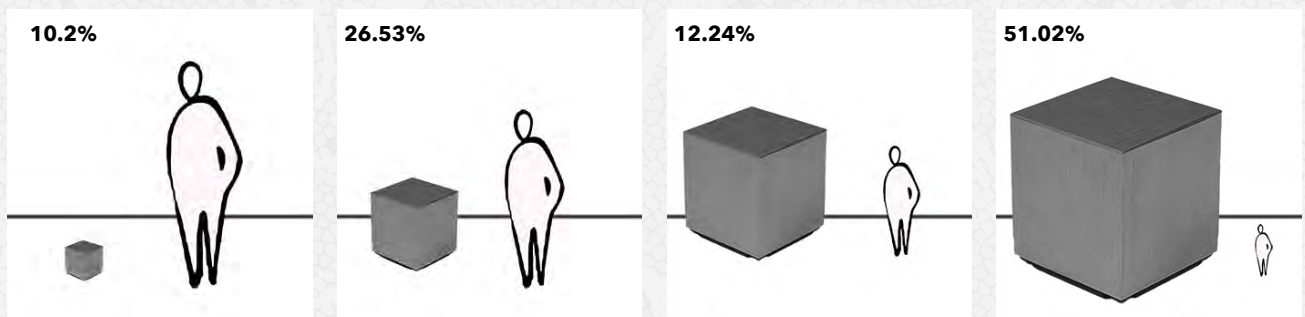


Fig 14 - Survey question

Comfort & Peace

These themes were less prevalent but I still believe that they are important to include as 47% of people who took part in the survey said they use public space to spend time alone and 32% of people prefer public spaces that are not busy. While it did come up during the interviews that it is possibly a negative thing that people are more inclined to spend time alone in this day and age and interact with devices instead of others, the act of thought is often a solitary one, and to not include or facilitate space and time to be alone would be overlooking one of the core ideas behind the research. Creating a sense of privacy and trying to shelter certain areas from noise and distractions which will inevitable be caused by groups of people is something to be considered.

Conclusion

Upon reflection and analysis of the data gathered it is apparent that more research is needed on this subject to be able to provide an accurate and concise answer to the research question. Several limitations impacted the research methods used. Specifically, the survey would benefit from more time to reach a wider group of participants which would provide more reliable results. Additionally, attempts to interview someone from the philosophy department at Edinburgh University were unsuccessful due to unavailability and schedule conflicts. The observation process also had limitations due to my own availability to be at the site for long periods of time and weather conditions. The weekend before the observations were conducted there was festival taking place around the monument which would have given unreliable data, and the weekend after the weather was very windy and rainy which would limit the number of visitors. It also became clear that any approach would need to be adapted to for a chosen site as the surroundings, and balance of natural and built environment would significantly influence design decisions. Despite these restrictions, the findings suggest recommendations that can be made, based on the five themes mentioned, that could inform the design or adaptive reuse of a public space that would provide the opportunity for the action of thought to be taken by the visitors.

People use public spaces to be alone, and to connect with community. These actions can be seen as contradictory but flexible and functional design can aid people in this process so that they do not need to be isolated as an individual or as a group. As well as this, having physical objects that can be interacted with even in a minor way, encourages people to interact with each other and brings the opportunity for movement.

Movement in general has also emerged as a catalyst for thought, so pathways could be created which utilise the features of the site, and allow people to move around and through the site intuitively. The use of movement could also be used to take visitors on a journey through the site, allowing natural views and physical interventions to be revealed through a pre determined narrative taken from the context of the site.

Natural views, and natural elements were almost universally distinguished as important through all areas of the research, so including and highlighting these wherever possible should be seen as important. This also allows for scale to be introduced through the site, as large scale views, and small scale elements were highlighted as thought provoking.

Finally, the ability for people to feel comfortable in a space is important and should be thought about at each stage of the design process. These are often simple elements such as lighting and ergonomical seating which is not always noticed when present, but is surely missed when not present. When people do not need to think about what is not present, this could allow more time for the mind to wander, and create an environment where people can think clearer.

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Images

Fig 01. <https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/1248869/view/ancient-Greek-agora-illustration>

Fig 02. <https://www.dezeen.com/2022/05/20/daniel-libeskind-jewish-museum-deconstructivist-architecture/>

Fig 03. <https://curatednow.ca/menashe-kadishman-shalechet-fallen-leaves-1997-2001/>

Fig 04. <https://www.artofplay.com/blogs/stories/fun-with-ambiguous-images>

Fig 05. <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/63131>

Fig 06. <https://www.jupiterartland.org/art/cells-of-life/>

Appendix

01. Survey Questions/Results

Space to Think

1. Information about the survey

1. How often do you visit public spaces (e.g., parks, squares, walkways, cycle paths)?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Daily	48.00%	48
2	Weekly	41.00%	41
3	Monthly	8.00%	8
4	Rarely	3.00%	3
5	Never	0.00%	0
		answered	100
		skipped	0

2. Why do you visit public spaces (select all that apply)?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Commute to work or education	71.00%	71
2	To meet friends or family	58.00%	58
3	To enjoy nature and relax	63.00%	63
4	To participate in community events or activities	7.00%	7
5	To spend time alone	47.00%	47
6	To exercise	38.00%	38
7	Other (please specify):	7.00%	7
		answered	100
		skipped	0

Other (please specify): (7)

1	22/10/2024 21:22 PM ID: 256205045	Dog Walk
2	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205455	Walk dog
3	22/10/2024 21:52 PM ID: 256206824	Walk dog
4	22/10/2024 22:20 PM ID: 256208347	To walk with my dog
5	22/10/2024 22:35 PM ID: 256209083	I enjoy to sit in the sun and feel the warmth and people watch
6	23/10/2024 08:45 AM ID: 256231119	Dog walking
7	23/10/2024 18:23 PM ID: 256321048	Activity being sports

6. What are the main distractions you find in public spaces? (Select all that apply)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Noise (e.g., people talking, traffic)	75.51%	74
2	Movement (e.g., people passing by)	33.67%	33
3	Technology (e.g., phones, music)	29.59%	29
4	Other (please specify):	2.04%	2
		answered	98
		skipped	2

Other (please specify): (2)

1	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206230	Why won't people move out the way. I need a huge ass sign for humans to read or some kind of zoning
2	23/10/2024 09:07 AM ID: 256233878	smell (weed, smoke, shit smell) and dirty places

7. How important are natural elements (like trees, flowers, water) to you in public spaces?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very important	77.00%	77
2	Somewhat important	23.00%	23
3	Not important	0.00%	0
4	Not sure	0.00%	0
		answered	100
		skipped	0

3. When would you be most likely to visit a public space? (Select all that apply)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Morning	60.00%	60
2	Afternoon	80.00%	80
3	Evening	46.00%	46
4	Weekend	62.00%	62
5	Weekday	50.00%	50
		answered	100
		skipped	0

4. On a scale of 1 to 5, how comfortable do you feel in public spaces?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	1 (Not at all comfortable)	0.00%	0
2	2	7.00%	7
3	3	34.00%	34
4	4	40.00%	40
5	5 (Very comfortable)	19.00%	19
		answered	100
		skipped	0

5. How do you feel about the presence of other people when you're in public spaces?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	I like public spaces busy with people	6.00%	6
2	I like public spaces that are not too busy	26.00%	26
3	I don't mind other people being in public spaces	31.00%	31
4	I like public spaces that are less busy	32.00%	32
5	I like being alone in public spaces	5.00%	5
		answered	100
		skipped	0

8. Which of the features below do think a public space should have? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Seating	93.00%	93
2	Shelter	72.00%	72
3	Areas to exercise	15.00%	15
4	Areas for solitude	39.00%	39
5	Children's areas	29.00%	29
6	Event spaces	9.00%	9
7	Public art (Sculptures, installations etc)	52.00%	52
8	Heritage sites (monuments, plaques etc)	23.00%	23
9	Natural elements (trees, water, stone)	90.00%	90
10	Artificial light	26.00%	26
11	Areas to engage with others	36.00%	36
12	Other (please specify):	10.00%	10
		answered	100
		skipped	0

Other (please specify): (10)

1	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206230	During winter, you want to be indoors where you don't have to pay too much as a student because it's difficult to find somewhere to go where u don't want to eat but be outdoor and stay warm at the same time
2	22/10/2024 21:56 PM ID: 256207095	Hamsters
3	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209259	Bins
4	22/10/2024 22:52 PM ID: 256209832	Artificial light only at nights that aren't harsh
5	23/10/2024 02:17 AM ID: 256215933	all other options also apply, but depending on location a public space doesn't have to have all options
6	23/10/2024 12:40 PM ID: 256262201	Water fountains where u can fill up your bottle is key for me when I bring my dog to spaces and if I'm out exercising
7	23/10/2024 13:22 PM ID: 256267587	Public spaces should be adaptable. They should feel safe. They should be welcoming, inviting even.
8	23/10/2024 15:36 PM ID: 256290939	all other options also apply, but depending on location a public space doesn't have to have all options
9	23/10/2024 21:37 PM ID: 256337857	Restrooms
10	23/10/2024 22:46 PM ID: 256341613	Artificial light only at nights that aren't harsh

9. Does being in a outdoor public space help you think clearly?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very much	<div></div>	38.00%	38
2	Somewhat	<div></div>	51.00%	51
3	Not much	<div></div>	7.00%	7
4	Not at all	<div></div>	1.00%	1
5	Not sure	<div></div>	3.00%	3
			answered	100
			skipped	0

10. How often would you say you take time to think or ponder?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Multiple times daily	<div></div>	27.00%	27
2	Daily	<div></div>	38.00%	38
3	Weekly	<div></div>	20.00%	20
4	Monthly	<div></div>	2.00%	2
5	Not sure	<div></div>	11.00%	11
6	Never	<div></div>	2.00%	2
			answered	100
			skipped	0

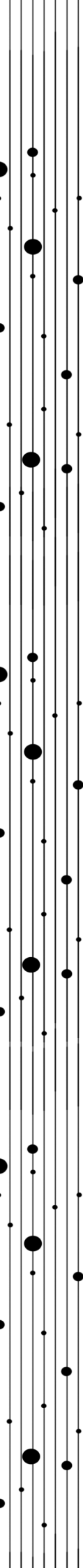
11. Which, (if any) of these options would help you think clearer?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Going for a walk	<div></div>	80.00%	80
2	Exercising	<div></div>	46.00%	46
3	Climbing a hill	<div></div>	31.00%	31
4	Swimming or being on the water	<div></div>	31.00%	31
5	Being somewhere secluded in nature	<div></div>	50.00%	50
6	Being comfy at home alone	<div></div>	50.00%	50
7	Meeting with friends or family and talking	<div></div>	49.00%	49
8	Going for food or a tea/coffee	<div></div>	39.00%	39
9	Taking in a view (from a hill, beach, tall building etc)	<div></div>	65.00%	65
10	Other (please specify):	<div></div>	1.00%	1
			answered	100
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (1)				
1	23/10/2024 14:14 PM ID: 256275229	Public spaces that accomodate study, e.g the Jack Kilby computer center		

12. Do you feel like you have enough time to think?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	<div></div>	33.00%	33
2	No	<div></div>	45.00%	45
3	Not sure	<div></div>	22.00%	22
			answered	100
			skipped	0

13. Picture each area in your mind, which is most appealing for you to spend time in?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Urban Park: A green space filled with trees, benches, and walking paths, surrounded by city buildings.	<div></div>	2.02%	2
2	Riverside Walk: A pathway along a calm river with scenic views, benches, and natural greenery	<div></div>	26.26%	26
3	Viewpoint: An outdoor area with seating where you can take in views of the surroundings.	<div></div>	9.09%	9
4	Cafe Patio: An outdoor seating area at a cafe, with light chatter, greenery, and the aroma of coffee.	<div></div>	8.08%	8
5	Woodland: A woodland area filled with towering trees, sunlight filtering through leaves, gentle sounds of rustling and birds.	<div></div>	28.28%	28
6	Coastal: A clean beach with unbroken views over the water out to the horizon.	<div></div>	19.19%	19
7	City Space: An open paved area with organised planting and seating surrounded by a busy city.		0.00%	0
8	Hills: A grassy area littered with large boulders covered in moss and small plants at the foot of a rising hill.	<div></div>	7.07%	7
			answered	99
			skipped	1

14. If the person illustrated is average height, which image do you find more thought provoking?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	<div></div>	<div></div>	10.20%	10
2	<div></div>	<div></div>	26.53%	26
3	<div></div>	<div></div>	12.24%	12
4	<div></div>	<div></div>	51.02%	50

14. If the person illustrated is average height, which image do you find more thought provoking?				
			answered	98
			skipped	2
Explain your choice if you can (52)				
1	22/10/2024 21:07 PM ID: 256204041	It makes you feel smaller		
2	22/10/2024 21:22 PM ID: 256205045	Disparity in size		
3	22/10/2024 21:24 PM ID: 256205129	This perspective seems more engaging. A slightly scaled up size that would feel normal to us and therefore easier to engage with but enough difference to provoke		
4	22/10/2024 21:24 PM ID: 256205189	The square overwhelms the person		
5	22/10/2024 21:28 PM ID: 256205404	Why is the box so big		
6	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205429	I think it's really intriguing when something is the same size as a person.		
7	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205504	I like focusing on little things. I naturally stare at the ground when walking so when I'm sitting at a park bench I like looking at the grass or little bushes/flowers		
8	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205512	The bottom one gives me more to take in and look at due to its larger scale		
9	22/10/2024 21:31 PM ID: 256205584	The large bloody feels imposing and somewhat alien. I think the feeling that it could squish you somehow makes it provoking		
10	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205656	It makes me wonder why it's so large, it portrays to me that the person has a big problem		
11	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205686	If I was looking at this large object from the persons perspective there would be alot of questions like: what is it? why? and how was this made/put here?		
12	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205696	Random. It looks as if someone has left it. It's an element of mystery!		
13	22/10/2024 21:36 PM ID: 256205832	Large structures always make you wonder about their creation. They are interesting because they require determination, skill and knowledge to create them. They raise questions.		
14	22/10/2024 21:40 PM ID: 256206108	I take notice in smaller details when pondering		
15	22/10/2024 21:41 PM ID: 256206136	Strikes me as the most unnatural scale		
16	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206219	Feels heavier visually		
17	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206230	It's so tiny that's it's funny. It would make me think why it is small. Its like things you see in museums that are in a glass box but it's outdoors so it's strange		
18	22/10/2024 21:43 PM ID: 256206234	Even though its smaller than the average person its still significant in the picture. Its smaller but you are drawn to it first.		
19	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206312	An object bigger than a person provides more awe in my opinion. You are able to walk around and experience all sides without being entirely overwhelmed like in the fourth option.		
20	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206322	Most interesting due to the size of the box, not often you find an object of that size in comparison to a person, apart from buildings. What's it used for? Is there anything in it? Etc		
21	22/10/2024 21:46 PM ID: 256206445	As it is smaller it makes me think about what it could be because I'd need to take a closer look whereas as the other images are bigger and more clear.		
22	22/10/2024 21:52 PM ID: 256206824	I can observe it from all angles, meaning I can put more thought into it/ think realistically of it		
23	22/10/2024 21:56 PM ID: 256207095	I like big stuff		
24	22/10/2024 22:09 PM ID: 256207812	You can see most of the box but it is not overwhelming in size and not too small where you don't see its features as well.		



14. If the person illustrated is average height, which image do you find more thought provoking?			
25	22/10/2024 22:22 PM ID: 256208466	I don't understand the question	
26	22/10/2024 22:35 PM ID: 256209083	The medium size I clicked on makes me feel like I'd want to be ontop, the smaller ones feels like seats or road blockers, the giant one feels pointless	
27	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209259	I'm just drawn towards small things.	
28	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209264	It's big	
29	22/10/2024 22:52 PM ID: 256209832	I'm most interested in cubes that are either much bigger or much smaller than human size. These extremes make me think more about how I relate to the object and the space around me. A cube the same size as a person feels too familiar and less exciting. But with very large or very small cubes, you have to physically engage with them—walking around a big one or crouching to see a small one. This makes the experience more interesting, because it takes effort and curiosity to really understand the object, instead of just having it handed to you.	
30	22/10/2024 23:01 PM ID: 256210197	The object selected is of similar height to the person which feels equal to me. Same but completely different.	
31	22/10/2024 23:41 PM ID: 256211606	The object selected is of similar height to the person which feels equal to me. Same but completely different.	
32	22/10/2024 23:43 PM ID: 256211690	Because it's the one that is most similar to height as the person but the person is slightly taller	
33	22/10/2024 23:45 PM ID: 256211747	The object selected is of similar height to the person which feels equal to me. Same but completely different.	
34	23/10/2024 00:13 AM ID: 256212606	Something to look at without consuming the view or feeling overwhelming	
35	23/10/2024 00:44 AM ID: 256213366	Object is so large that it greatly obscures your vision making you wonder what's on the other sides. It makes you wonder whether there's another person on the other side looking at it as well thinking about that too.	
36	23/10/2024 01:48 AM ID: 256215125	It makes me wonder why it's so large, it portrays to me that the person has a big problem	
37	23/10/2024 02:17 AM ID: 256215933	making the person feel small, same energy as looking up to the treetops in a large forest	
38	23/10/2024 07:55 AM ID: 256227227	I feel like that object can be used in Many ways to provoke a tough , like seating and thinking or using it as a table , to lean on it to watch the views ect.	
39	23/10/2024 09:21 AM ID: 256230400	The bottom one gives me more to take in and look at due to its larger scale	
40	23/10/2024 10:45 AM ID: 256247517	the size comparison caught my eyes first and so I guess that's why I chose it.	
41	23/10/2024 12:40 PM ID: 256262201	Bessie it is so close to human scale I find it more intriguing. Too small is just to look at. Too big is like a a normal building. But the one I have selected makes me want to explore it I possible.	
42	23/10/2024 13:13 PM ID: 256266424	More curious to what the large cube could be rather than the smaller ones	
43	23/10/2024 13:22 PM ID: 256267587	What's in the box	
44	23/10/2024 13:29 PM ID: 256268488	the stark contrast in height between the person and the object.	
45	23/10/2024 13:35 PM ID: 256269222	I don't know how to explain there's just something about it	
46	23/10/2024 14:14 PM ID: 256275229	It kind of gives a sense of megalophobia (I believe that's what it's called). As someone who grew up in Edinburgh, I'm not so much used to huge towering things, like for example the famous New York skyscrapers that give you vertigo when you look up at them. That's what it makes me think of, and gives me a sense of anxiety	
47	23/10/2024 14:25 PM ID: 256277131	In the other images, the cube could almost go unnoticed, its size is quite normal in relation to the person. In the last one, the cube is a lot bigger in comparison to the person. This would force the person to acknowledge it which would spark reflection (for me)	
48	23/10/2024 15:36 PM ID: 256290939	making the person feel small, same energy as looking up to the treetops in a large forest	

17. What country do you call home? (Leave blank if you would prefer not to say)			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	88
1	22/10/2024 21:07 PM ID: 256204041	Scotland	
2	22/10/2024 21:22 PM ID: 256205045	UK	
3	22/10/2024 21:24 PM ID: 256205129	Scotland	
4	22/10/2024 21:24 PM ID: 256205189	Scotland	
5	22/10/2024 21:28 PM ID: 256205404	Scotland	
6	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205422	Scotland	
7	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205427	Scotland	
8	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205429	scotland	
9	22/10/2024 21:29 PM ID: 256205455	Scotland	
10	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205474	Scotland	
11	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205487	Scotland	
12	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205494	scotland	
13	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205504	Scotland	
14	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205512	Scotland	
15	22/10/2024 21:31 PM ID: 256205522	UK	
16	22/10/2024 21:31 PM ID: 256205584	United kingdom	
17	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205656	Britain	
18	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205686	Scotland/UK	
19	22/10/2024 21:33 PM ID: 256205698	Scotland	
20	22/10/2024 21:34 PM ID: 256205747	Scotland	
21	22/10/2024 21:34 PM ID: 256205753	Scotland	
22	22/10/2024 21:36 PM ID: 256205845	Edinburgh	
23	22/10/2024 21:39 PM ID: 256206039	Scotland	
24	22/10/2024 21:40 PM ID: 256206108	Scotland	
25	22/10/2024 21:41 PM ID: 256206136	Scotland	
		answered	88
		skipped	12

14. If the person illustrated is average height, which image do you find more thought provoking?			
49	23/10/2024 18:23 PM ID: 256321048	I feel like I see so many things for looking at to be my size or way bigger than me. So I feel like if I came across something small then it would catch my eye and I would have a lot more questions as I wasn't expecting it.	
50	23/10/2024 20:48 PM ID: 256334237	i find it overwhelming, but also it makes me more intrigued and want to know more	
51	23/10/2024 21:37 PM ID: 256337857	reminds me of the Kaaba in Mecca	
52	23/10/2024 22:46 PM ID: 256341613	I'm most interested in cubes that are either much bigger or much smaller than human size. These extremes make me think more about how I relate to the object and the space around me. A cube the same size as a person feels too familiar and less exciting. But with very large or very small cubes, you have to physically engage with them—walking around a big one or crouching to see a small one. This makes the experience more interesting, because it takes effort and curiosity to really understand the object, instead of just having it handed to you.	

15. How old are you?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	17 or younger	<div><div></div></div>	3.00%3
2	18-20	<div><div></div></div>	41.00%41
3	21-29	<div><div></div></div>	41.00%41
4	30-39	<div><div></div></div>	10.00%10
5	40-49	<div><div></div></div>	1.00%1
6	50-59	<div><div></div></div>	1.00%1
7	60 or older	<div><div></div></div>	3.00%3
8	Prefer not to say		0.00%0
		answered	100
		skipped	0

16. What gender are you?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male	<div><div></div></div>	19.00%19
2	Female	<div><div></div></div>	78.00%78
3	Other	<div><div></div></div>	3.00%3
4	Prefer not to say		0.00%0
		answered	100
		skipped	0

17. What country do you call home? (Leave blank if you would prefer not to say)			
26	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206219	Scotland	
27	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206230	Napier	
28	22/10/2024 21:43 PM ID: 256206234	Northern Ireland	
29	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206309	Scotland	
30	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206312	Scotland & United States	
31	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206322	Scotland	
32	22/10/2024 21:46 PM ID: 256206445	Scotland	
33	22/10/2024 21:49 PM ID: 256206625	Scotland	
34	22/10/2024 21:52 PM ID: 256206784	Scotland	
35	22/10/2024 21:52 PM ID: 256206824	Poland	
36	22/10/2024 22:03 PM ID: 256207457	Scotland	
37	22/10/2024 22:09 PM ID: 256207812	Scotland	
38	22/10/2024 22:19 PM ID: 256208292	Scotland	
39	22/10/2024 22:22 PM ID: 256208449	United Kingdom	
40	22/10/2024 22:22 PM ID: 256208462	Scotland	
41	22/10/2024 22:22 PM ID: 256208466	uk	
42	22/10/2024 22:35 PM ID: 256209083	Scotland	
43	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209259	Scotland	
44	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209264	Scotland	
45	22/10/2024 22:52 PM ID: 256209832	Scotland	
46	22/10/2024 23:01 PM ID: 256210197	Scotland	
47	22/10/2024 23:10 PM ID: 256210558	Scotland	
48	22/10/2024 23:24 PM ID: 256211020	Scotland	
49	22/10/2024 23:31 PM ID: 256211290	UK	
50	22/10/2024 23:41 PM ID: 256211606	Scotland	
51	22/10/2024 23:43 PM ID: 256211690	Scotland	
		answered	88
		skipped	12

17. What country do you call home? (Leave blank if you would prefer not to say)			
52	22/10/2024 23:45 PM ID: 256211747	Scotland	
53	22/10/2024 23:46 PM ID: 256211762	Scotland	
54	22/10/2024 23:56 PM ID: 256212081	Poland	
55	23/10/2024 00:05 AM ID: 256212360	Scotland/Portugal	
56	23/10/2024 00:13 AM ID: 256212606	New Zealand	
57	23/10/2024 00:44 AM ID: 256213366	Scotland	
58	23/10/2024 00:46 AM ID: 256213438	Scotland/Portugal	
59	23/10/2024 01:20 AM ID: 256214361	United Kingdom	
60	23/10/2024 01:48 AM ID: 256215125	Britain	
61	23/10/2024 02:17 AM ID: 256215933	Scotland	
62	23/10/2024 07:55 AM ID: 256227227	Bulgaria	
63	23/10/2024 08:33 AM ID: 256229623	Scotland	
64	23/10/2024 08:45 AM ID: 256231119	Scotland	
65	23/10/2024 09:08 AM ID: 256234021	Scotland	
66	23/10/2024 09:09 AM ID: 256234244	Scotland	
67	23/10/2024 09:21 AM ID: 256236040	Scotland	
68	23/10/2024 10:04 AM ID: 256241970	scotland	
69	23/10/2024 10:45 AM ID: 256247517	Scotland	
70	23/10/2024 10:50 AM ID: 256248133	Scotland	
71	23/10/2024 10:58 AM ID: 256249295	Scotland	
72	23/10/2024 12:35 PM ID: 256261642	Scotland	
73	23/10/2024 12:40 PM ID: 256262201	Scotland	
74	23/10/2024 13:13 PM ID: 256266424	Scotland	
75	23/10/2024 13:22 PM ID: 256267987	Scotland	
76	23/10/2024 13:29 PM ID: 256268488	UK	
77	23/10/2024 13:35 PM ID: 256269222	Scotland	
		answered	88
		skipped	12

19. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experiences related to public spaces and how they influence your thoughts?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	28
1	22/10/2024 21:24 PM ID: 256205189	Open spaces are integral part of my life and keep me physically and mentally balanced	
2	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205504	Super busy places is the opposite of having time to think for me, it feels like being in overdrive	
3	22/10/2024 21:30 PM ID: 256205512	They allow me to release negative energy and negative things I may be holding on to.	
4	22/10/2024 21:31 PM ID: 256205594	I hate walking behind people. I think there should be an overtaking lane on the pavement so you can walk at whatever speed you like.	
5	22/10/2024 21:41 PM ID: 256206136	I like being around other people, makes me more motivated to do tasks eg. sitting in a cafe doing work	
6	22/10/2024 21:42 PM ID: 256206230	What would do during winter time when it's so cold no one wants to be outdoors but it's nice to be outdoors. What attracts people like me to stay outdoors during night is something like the Christmas market which is bright and full of artificial lights or that outdoor bar above waverly	
7	22/10/2024 21:44 PM ID: 256206312	<p>I'm from San Francisco and we are the only city in the US where all residents live within a ten minute walk of a park. I've found growing up in this environment so influential to who I am as a person. I always go to my local park, Allyn park, to clear my mind. It has a mix of green space and beautiful and unique plants, and its just the right size to spend time with people while still being in your own space.</p> <p>Another park I love is Moscone park, which has a mixture of baseball fields, library, tennis courts, dog parks and a playground. To me this is the perfect public community space. It provides places for solitude and places to socialize, even leaving space for animals.</p> <p>Also fun- the park, Tunnel Tops, has a pretty cool playground and design which might be cool to look at.</p>	
8	22/10/2024 22:03 PM ID: 256207457	No	
9	22/10/2024 22:09 PM ID: 256207812	None I can think of.	
10	22/10/2024 22:35 PM ID: 256209083	I don't know but I liked to sit at inverleith park and watch the men drive their toy boats and watch the ducks, and people with their dogs aswell as being able to see across edinburgh. I like going there alone but also don't feel alone there. It's a peaceful way to spend time when I'm anxious or bored. I also like to sit in the sun on a bench but always need a coffee or snack to feel like I have purpose sitting there	
11	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209259	The sound of water is very calming and can help me feel relaxed even if it is a crowded area that I'm in. Definitely helps me clear my mind and calm my thoughts.	
12	22/10/2024 22:39 PM ID: 256209264	The way pther people act in accordance to the space, loud group of cunts in the library quite area	
13	22/10/2024 22:52 PM ID: 256209832	Greenery is very important to a public space. Even in more urban public spaces the balance of nature is important to my enjoyment of it.	
14	22/10/2024 23:01 PM ID: 256210197	I find the balance of a public space being both calm and secluded whilst feeling safe/not at risk quite challenging as a woman alone in a public space. This has been my experience growing up in Glasgow and I don't feel this so much in other cities.	
15	22/10/2024 23:41 PM ID: 256211606	I find the balance of a public space being both calm and secluded whilst feeling safe/not at risk quite challenging as a woman alone in a public space. This has been my experience growing up in Glasgow and I don't feel this so much in other cities.	
16	22/10/2024 23:45 PM ID: 256211747	I find the balance of a public space being both calm and secluded whilst feeling safe/not at risk quite challenging as a woman alone in a public space. This has been my experience growing up in Glasgow and I don't feel this so much in other cities.	
17	23/10/2024 01:20 AM ID: 256214361	Awareness of surroundings and appearance increases in public spaces.	
		answered	28
		skipped	72

17. What country do you call home? (Leave blank if you would prefer not to say)			
78	23/10/2024 14:02 PM ID: 256273316	Scotland	
79	23/10/2024 14:14 PM ID: 256275229	Scotland	
80	23/10/2024 14:25 PM ID: 256277131	France	
81	23/10/2024 15:16 PM ID: 256286747	scotland	
82	23/10/2024 15:29 PM ID: 256289561	Scotland	
83	23/10/2024 15:36 PM ID: 256290939	Scotland	
84	23/10/2024 18:23 PM ID: 256321048	Scotland	
85	23/10/2024 19:03 PM ID: 256325317	Scotland	
86	23/10/2024 20:10 PM ID: 256331378	Scotland	
87	23/10/2024 20:48 PM ID: 256334237	scotland	
88	23/10/2024 22:46 PM ID: 256341613	Scotland	
		answered	88
		skipped	12

18. How active would you say you are?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very active	<div><div></div></div>	18.00%	18
2	Quite active	<div><div></div></div>	28.00%	28
3	Moderately active	<div><div></div></div>	38.00%	38
4	Not very active	<div><div></div></div>	15.00%	15
5	Not active	<div><div></div></div>	1.00%	1
6	Prefer not to say		0.00%	0
			answered	100
			skipped	0

19. Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experiences related to public spaces and how they influence your thoughts?			
18	23/10/2024 07:55 AM ID: 256227227	If the space is very empty in terms of elements added to to space I tend to stay there for shorter . For example if it's raining outside and I am in a park where I was sitting on the ground and there are no benches beneath a tree I would go home instead of wait for the rain to go I tend to prefer public spaces that have plenty of room between the seating area even if it is a cafe in the middle of a park I would usually go for the most secluded table so I can enjoy my space . If I am going with family however I would pick the most central and easi to spot table or seating because of my young sister, she usually plays around and feels more comfortable when she can see us too. Hope that helps.	
19	23/10/2024 09:21 AM ID: 256236040	They allow me to release negative energy and negative things I may be holding on to.	
20	23/10/2024 10:45 AM ID: 256247517	I love to take time to go on my "hot girl walks" a phew times a week. where I drive to a nice area and listen to a podcast. the walks normally only last the duration of the podcast however I get a lot out of being in nature and out of the house. I normally go to Crammond beach for these walks as I love the views and scenery of water. however if there was an area that has a specific viewpoint that I loved then I would probably rather sit there and listen to some mindfulness whilst letting my eyes wander.	
21	23/10/2024 12:40 PM ID: 256262201	I visit the graveyard about 3-4 times a week to see my gran. When I go I leave my phone in the car/house and enjoy the place. I find that in a world constantly surrounded by technology finding a place where there is none frees my mind and helps me think.	
22	23/10/2024 13:35 PM ID: 256269222	Nope :)	
23	23/10/2024 14:25 PM ID: 256277131	I think my mood would influence which public space I want to go to. I generally don't mind busy spaces and a certain amount of noise can help me focus when I have something to do/think about. But one days where I am already feeling overwhelmed, going to a loud busy place would worsen my mood and be generally unpleasant. I find that public spaces with nature have never not helped me think or distract me no matter the mood I am in.	
24	23/10/2024 18:23 PM ID: 256321048	Nothing really to add but more kind of repeat. Having some quick time outside with not to many people around helps me to feel relaxed and peaceful, really helps to clear my busy brain.	
25	23/10/2024 19:03 PM ID: 256325317	No	
26	23/10/2024 20:48 PM ID: 256334237	having a space with a view significantly helps me feel better and more at ease	
27	23/10/2024 21:37 PM ID: 256337857	dog poop sucks	
28	23/10/2024 22:46 PM ID: 256341613	Greenery is very important to a public space. Even in more urban public spaces the balance of nature is important to my enjoyment of it.	
		answered	28
		skipped	72

02. Interview Questions for Prof Ed Hollis

Influence of Public Spaces:

In what ways do you think public spaces can influence how people act, think and interact with each other? Can you give any examples?

Intention vs. Action:

How do you approach the issue of designers' intentions versus users' actions?

Community Identity:

How do you believe public spaces shape the way communities see themselves?

Stories in Architecture:

How important do you feel the story of a building or place is? How should it inform adaptive reuse?

User Experience:

How do the experiences of individuals in public spaces contribute to the "life or story" of a building, based on your experience?

Cultural Reflections:

Do you think our buildings and public spaces reflect the values and beliefs of the societies they are created in?

Historical Changes:

How do you think public spaces have changed over time and does this reflect shifts in society's values and beliefs?

Perennial Spirit

In your book you mention perennial spirit, do you think there is a good way to capture and celebrate the perennial spirit or genius loci of a space?

Future of Public Spaces:

Given what you've discovered through your research, what do you envision for the future of public spaces in urban areas?

Personal Reflection:

Where do you go when you need to think, and what challenges do you face when choosing that spot?

Ideal Spaces:

If there were no constraints, where would you go to reflect and why?

Christopher Alexander quote:

Timeless beauty cannot be made, only generated indirectly by the ordinary actions of the people just as a flower cannot be made, only generated from a seed.

Do you think people can be influenced to take actions within a space, and if so, what is a good way to encourage this?

03. Interview Questions for Harrison Stevens

Influence of Public Spaces:

In what ways do you think public spaces can influence how people act, think and interact with each other? Can you give any examples?

Community Identity:

How do you believe public spaces shape the way communities see themselves?

Cultural Reflection:

In what ways do you think public spaces should reflect the culture and identity of the community?

Functionality vs. Aesthetics:

How do you balance functionality and aesthetics in public space design?

Connection to Surroundings:

Your work often reflects the history of a site, and the context of the place, how did you view the context of Calton Hill?

Storytelling and Details:

I've heard you mention, and read about your focus on the storytelling of a project and the narrative that goes alongside the physical interventions. What can you do to help visitors (especially in public spaces) to invest in the narrative, can you make them "get" what you are trying to say, or is it ultimately up to them to take it in?

Observatory Project:

In your approach to the City Observatory, you mentioned that "This sense of place encompassed both city views and micro climatic and ecological factors" do either of these scales strike you as more important in the context of being thought provoking?

Quote from Website:

These, along with other gathering spaces designed around the site, invite people to enter discussion and debate, either scheduled in workshops and classes, or just informally with fellow patrons, thus promoting the genesis of general discourse. These were key elements of Edinburgh's enlightenment and perhaps one final metaphor for a site that transcends the new and old; the near and far; the natural and the refined; all in the context of union between the traditional and the contemporary.

Do you think that as a designer, all you can do is create the opportunity for these actions mentioned above to take place, or are there further steps you think can be taken to encourage discourse?

04. Use of ChatGPT

Chat GPT was used in a minor way through the research project to aid in providing general themes for some of the survey questions to be created

The prompt; 'Give me themes for questions for a survey related to public space design and thought' was used and some of the answers were used to inform the questions that were generated.

ChatGPT was also used to find synonyms for commonly used terms when needed through the document.