

## URBAN CORNERS RECOMPOSING PUBLIC SPACES IN CARDIFF

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### SITUATION

The deterioration of the urban tissue is a progressive phenomenon in mid-size towns in Wales like Cardiff, Swansea or Newport. More and more authorities, investors and local planners are taking care on the refurbishing and reanimation of urban fragments or so-called '*historical centre*' but do ignore or minimize the interest of public spaces in the boroughs surrounding each city core or main corridors. This abandonment of the public domain in 'less attractive areas' of the city creates a systematic decay or *corrosion* of the urban life and therefore image within the urban domain.

What are the opportunities for changing and improving the urban image in each local community? How can we achieve the recuperation of leftover spaces in our block? What are the opportunities to reactivate rundown public spaces? Can we combine new soft and hard urban design's strategies?

### URBAN FRAGMENTS: THE CASES

The workshop will attack two main situations by repairing and reanimating leftover public spaces in Cardiff. The chosen cases constitute either non-spaces or spaces with fast spatial deterioration. Can we do upgrade them by reprogramming? What new urban games can we play instead?

These are a list of spaces that you must analyse and then redesign:

1. Infrastructure: Tunnels, pedestrian connection, intersections
2. Terrain vague: Inner parking zones in blocks in Cardiff (i.e.: Canton district)
3. In-betweens: gaps in block corners and between plots

### WORKSHOP

This workshop will explore the reanimation of rundown small public spaces in Cardiff. The urban key concepts are:

- *INTENSITY*
- *REPROGRAMMING*
- *SMALL CITY VOIDS*
- *URBAN GAMES*

The workshop is teamwork-oriented. Students will be monitored twice a week (half day each week). Workshop will be combined with master lectures. The cases will be studied, analysed and developed in groups from the beginning to the final review.

## SCHEDULE

- Week 1**      **Tuesday 28/04 (morning) & Friday 01/05 (morning)**  
Brief and group work. Site analysis and complementary survey of a given case study. Make your own field study
- Week 2**      **Wednesday 06/05 (morning) and Friday 08/05 (morning)**  
Group work. Research and develop experimental spatial intervention using hybrid system of representation
- Week 3**      **Wednesday 13/05 (morning) and Friday 15/05 (morning)**  
Group work. Advanced development of spatial and functional strategies
- Week 4**      **Tuesday 28/05**  
**Final Review (morning)**

