

De Certeau



By Andy Doro and Nick Hasty

Walking in the City



- ◆ Voyeur God / Solar Eye
- ◆ Immense texturology of concept city
- ◆ A viewpoint and nothing more

Voyeur

- ❖ Panoptic/Disciplinary/Power and Architecture
- ❖ Cartographic
- ❖ Urban Planning/Management
- ❖ Objective/Visual
- ❖ Reading, not writing
- ❖ Legible City-City as Text
- ❖ Geometrical/Geographical
- ❖ Theoretical/Utopian

Walker

- ◆ *Wandersmänner*
- ◆ Write, not read. Blind
- ◆ Subjective
- ◆ Mythic / poetic / anthropological
- ◆ Walking as Speech Act
- ◆ Understood as the “subject” in technocratic society
- ◆ Consumer reappropriating space of product system

“City” as Operational Concept

- ❖ transformation of urban “fact” into “concept”
- ❖ (re)production of its own space, metabolism
- ❖ nowhen, synchronic system
- ❖ universal and anonymous subject
- ❖ administration and waste products
- ❖ privileges time over space (space as blind spot)
- ❖ machinery/hero modernity

Decay of concept city

- ❖ Misfortunes of theory into theories of misfortunes
- ❖ Bewilderment into catastrophes/panic
- ❖ Other paths: illegitimate systems
- ❖ Rise of the suppressed/ waste/ “surreptitious creativities”
- ❖ Reciprocal of structures of power

Strategies

- ❖ Strategies-operations of systems of power
- ❖ Long term in nature-overarching plan
- ❖ Focus on gain, profit,
- ❖ Military commander
- ❖ Creates distinctions and force relationships- “self” vs. “other”
/ interior vs exterior
- ❖ Model for political, economic, and scientific rationality
- ❖ Proper uses, meanings, and names

Tactics

- ❖ Used by individual in everyday experience/practice
- ❖ Creation of personal space within strategized space
- ❖ Tricks, Maneuvers & “ways of operating” utilizing what’s immediate and at hand - opportunity based
- ❖ Unreadable/ Invisible/ Untraceable/Poetic
- ❖ Brownian motion/way to “produce” (space) within society of consumption / creation of opportunities
- ❖ Spatial practice that manipulates discipline, strategy, proper use
- ❖ Secretly structure social life

Walking as Speech Act

- ❖ appropriation - topographical system / language
- ❖ acting out/walking as enunciation
- ❖ relational - between spaces / interlocutors
- ❖ style and rhetoric of walking
- ❖ way of being and operating, subversions of meaning
- ❖ Language and architecture

Names & Symbols

- ❖ Discourse of power creates own lack/void-production of free play
- ❖ “Proper” names become detached by spatial practices-open into liberated spaces to be occupied
- ❖ These detached meanings direct and decorate, create non-sanctioned meanings-*superstitions*
- ❖ play within defined places, crack in system- semantic/poetic overlays and excesses / anti-text
- ❖ Totalitarians seek to suppress overlay with numbered streets and street numbers
- ❖ “Metaphoric city” = memories, stories, and personal relationships to space invert panoptic

Spatial Stories

- ❖ Stories create links, relationships and organize places
- ❖ Narrative structures are like spatial syntaxes
- ❖ Every story is a spatial practice involving everyday tactics
- ❖ stories, news reports, legends, history, memories-narrated journeys/walks
- ❖ movement, traveling through space creates a narrative
- ❖ arises from examining spatial order, just as speech acts arose after the examination of linguistic systems

Place vs. Space

- ❖ PLACE: point, defines location, two things cannot occupy same place, proper relationships, geometrical
- ❖ SPACE: vector, direction, velocity, time, intersections, dimensions, word when spoken, practiced place, anthropological, existential, Descriptive operations
- ❖ Itineraries vs Maps-story/narrative vs symbolic representation-rise of map with scientific discourse

Boundaries

◆ Stories as operations to mark out boundaries, contracts-culturally creative act-founds spaces

- ◆ Authorize/establish. set oppositions.
- ◆ Differentiation of space creates structure between legitimate space and alien exteriority
- ◆ paradoxically creates points of contact/communication
- ◆ Descriptive variations of the story
- ◆ Place = being-there , Space = operations

Frontiers vs. Bridges

- ❖ FRONTIER: point of contact between known/inside/self and the beyond/alien/other-an in-between-without specific ownership
- ❖ BRIDGE: ambiguous. welds together and opposes insularities. liberates from enclosure and destroys autonomy. the diabolical, betrayal of order. Site of transgression

Delinquent Stories

- ❖ Narrative = topological vs topical-deforms figures rather than defines place, Describes movement
- ❖ Exists in interstices of code -disrupts boundaries
- ❖ Privilege “tour” type descriptions over stating of locations
- ❖ Inscription of the body in the order’s text-spatial stories, spoken language, practiced place
- ❖ Liquifies boundaries, become metaphors
- ❖ Nomadism, pirate kingdoms, illegitimate spaces