

# THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN INTERACTION

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Urban design “is essentially about place making, where places are not just a specific space, but all the activities and events that make it possible.”

- Peter Buchanan, *What City? A plea for place in the public realm*, *Architectural Review*, No 1101, 1988

“It is not the designer who creates the sense of place. It is the user or observer. The designer merely sets out opportunities for others to use; to make distinctions, to perceive connections and to take advantage (or not) of the structure of thought that is there.”

- Donlyn Lyndon, *Places Journal*, Vol 2 No 1, 1984

# *THE KINAESTHETIC PHENOMINON IN PLACEMAKING*

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“Despite vast technological and societal changes, our physical dimensions and the way we perceive our environment have changed little over the millennia. When we step out of our automobiles and begin walking through places, we experience them much as our ancestors did. We see the buildings, streets, walkways, and trees; we hear the sounds of people and activities; we feel the sun and wind on our skin; we sense the openness or enclosure of the outdoor spaces; and we pick up subtle cues about the ambience and relative safety of places.”

- Charles C. Bohl, *Place Making*, 2002

“As the desire to move freely has triumphed over the sensory claims of the space through which the body moves, the modern mobile individual has suffered a kind of tactile crisis. Motion has helped desensitize the body and this general principle is now realized in cities filled with neutral spaces that have succumbed to the dominant value of circulation.”

- Richard Sennett, *Flesh and Stone*, 1994

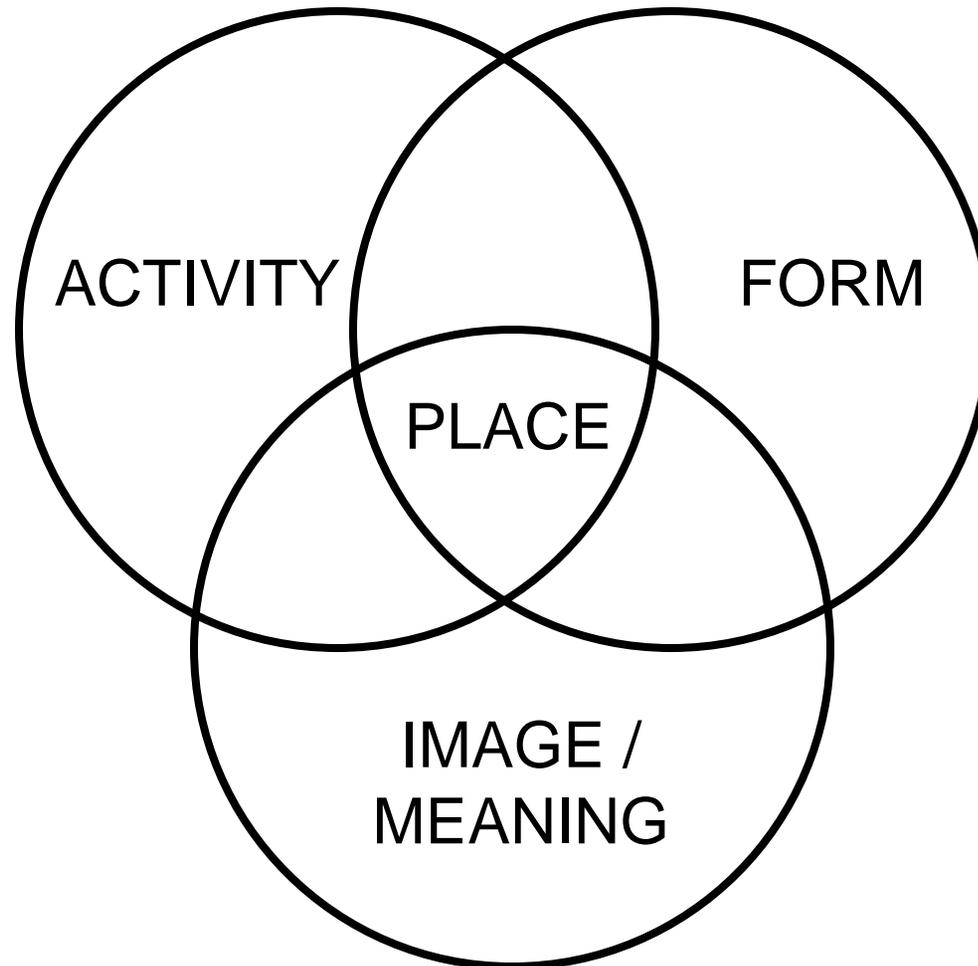
“But as humans we also require support for our spirits, and this is what certain kinds of places provide. The catalyst that converts any physical location, any environment if you will, into a place, is the process of experiencing deeply.

**A place is a piece of the whole environment that has been claimed by feelings.”**

- Alan Gussow, *A Sense of Place*, 1972

# CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

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Adapted from diagrams by John Punter (1991) and John Montgomery (1998)  
from Carmona et al, *Public Places - Urban Spaces*, 2003