Transcalar approach to Regional Design

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Regional design (RD) as a method of argumentation in urban planning refers to the ability of representations to build up robust argumentative structures and visions of the future. It is based on the use of spatial representations of future developments or visions, both to indicate physical changes and stimulate debate on the sharing of responsibilities and resources. Visions are drawn up in a collaborative visioning process with stakeholders, which is a process of persuasion and seduction that has a lot in common with planning as persuasive storytelling.

In this process, the world is reimagined to develop common ground for collective action, which can be useful in regions where an overarching regional authority is weak or lacking, such as a supra-local, regional context. Due to its discretionary character, RD is often regarded as a useful approach to deal in political and geographical cross-border contexts demanding synchronization of planning philosophies, systems, tools, and methods.

During the workshop, the theoretical assumptions of RD and selected design applications will be presented and possible future research perspectives will be discussed with the participants.

Keywords

Visioning; Scenario Construction; Spatial Concepts; Strategic and Urban Design

Suggested Readings

Balz, V. (2018) Regional design: Discretionary approaches to regional planning in The Netherlands, *Planning Theory*, *17*(3), 332–354.

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