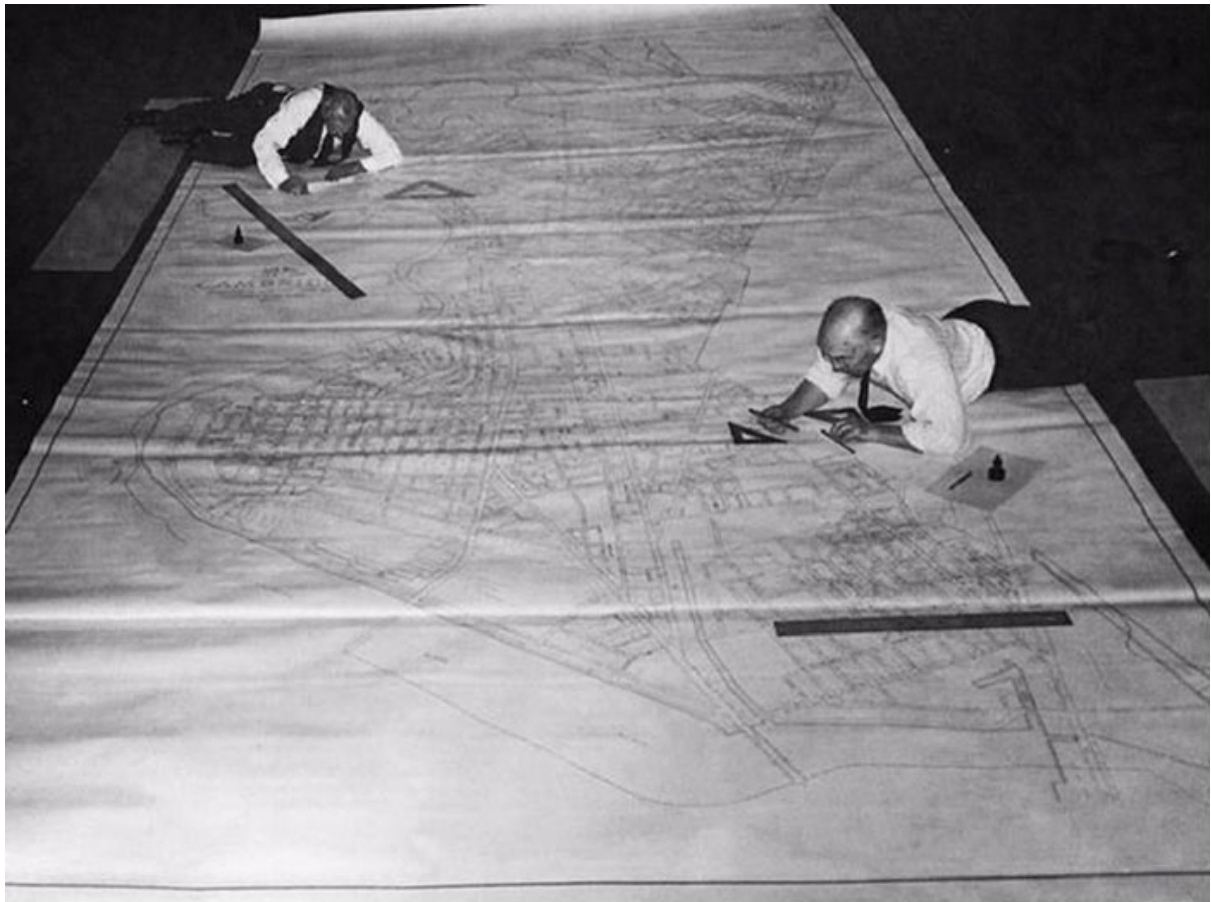


OASE #107: The drawing in landscape architecture and urbanism

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Call for abstracts: 20 December 2019



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OASE 107 is complementary to OASE 105, in which the architectural drawing is central. OASE 107 addresses the issue of drawing the city and the landscape, which presents specific challenges. Drawings in landscape design and urbanism cover a wider range of scales than in architecture, from street designs to regional planning. The factor of time also has a greater impact: planning usually takes up a much longer period, drawings go through many phases and procedures, and the city and landscape are never 'finished'. Finally, drawings in landscape design and urbanism are even more a subject of discussion within a wider field of stakeholders: not only in dialogue with clients and users, but with society as a whole and its many arenas of debate and decision-making.

This issue of OASE poses the question of how the drawing answers these challenges, both today and in the past. The question derives its urgency from current developments in urbanism and landscape design, between which the distinction has become more diffuse. Both disciplines are no longer regarded as architecture – or gardening – 'on a larger scale', primarily anchored in questions of housing, land development or embellishment. Today ecology, energy transition or 'metabolic' issues are much more present, which leads to new forms of drawing. Leaving an object-oriented thinking behind, both disciplines seem to be convinced of the importance of the process and the impact of the factor of time. Space has become understood as an intersection – a 'coagulation' – of a multiplicity of flows and processes.

For designers it is an essential question how all these flows and processes come together, materialise, and become visible, and how their 'spatialisation' in drawings is represented in analysis and design. The design and the drawing seem to be torn between a process-oriented agenda and a spatial intervention whose success depends on disciplinary expectations of care, materiality and intrinsic aesthetic qualities. Sustainable design not only presupposes a bold solution to the problem, but must also be beautiful, empathic and affective. What role does the drawing play – from cartography to sketch? Which traditions offer starting points? What innovations are needed?

Question

We invite authors to shed light on the different forms of drawing in urbanism and landscape architecture:

1. The drawing as an analytical tool

In architecture, the site is 'merely' the context for the object to be designed; in urbanism and landscape architecture, (the transformation of) the site is the subject of design itself.

Everything starts with an understanding of the ever-changing site, prior to sectoral or programmatic questions. This call asks authors to reflect on the drawing as a tool to explore, understand and conceptualise the site.

2. The drawing as a design tool

In addition to the brief and the analysis, the drawing serves as a design tool: it offers a field of experimentation to investigate the transformation of the site and its 'spatialisation'. In addition to the design of a spatial form (as architectural drawings usually do), design drawings for the city and the landscape focus on structures or systems, such as networks, building regulations, morphological patterns. The drawing serves as a means to bridge the distance and time between the planned design and the resulting realised interventions. How does the drawing make urban and landscape interventions visible, both spatially, on the scale of the site, and temporally, during the design and realisation processes?

3. The drawing as an instrument for discussion

The drawing is also a means to discuss the transformation of the (urban) landscape within a broader field. The drawing is put on the table as a means to explicate intentions during negotiations, or to define concerns. The landscape drawing has a political dimension: it makes a choice for the future, and determines who gets a voice and who does not. This issue also focuses on the question of the political dimension of drawing practices, beyond their apparent neutrality.

These three levels are closely linked and influence each other. A wide variety of different drawings is anticipated (sketch, datascape, presentation plan, etc.) – their common denominator is determined by the question of why and how they *mediate* between analysis, design and debate.

Call

We are interested in two kinds of contributions that each start from the drawing:

1. Textual contributions: historical or theoretical papers about a (series of) drawing(s).
Proposals contain one image and an abstract of 300 words.
2. Visual contributions: a specific (series of) drawing(s) from personal/actual practice.
These proposals contain the drawing(s) themselves and a caption of a maximum of 300 words through which the proposal is situated within the theme of the issue.

Proposals must be submitted via info@oasejournal.nl by 20 December 2019 and contain a title and CV (name, email address, affiliation and a bio of maximum 150 words). Proposals must be submitted in Dutch or English.