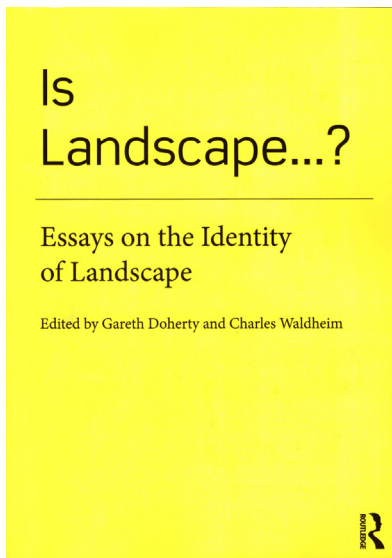


Is Landscape...?

Essays on the Identity of Landscape

Editors: Dr. Gareth Doherty, Prof. Dr. Charles Waldheim
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What is landscape? Is landscape nature or urbanism? Is landscape art or technology? Or maybe a simple equation should not be the answer. Regarding these considerations, some clues may be found in this book.

With a professional team of editors and contributors, the book leads into a series of interdisciplinary reflections around the concept of Landscape Architecture. The two editors conduct landscape architecture research and teaching at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. In this publication they collected 15 essays written by professors and associate professors from America and Europe, who have been engaged in theory and interdisciplinary research of Landscape, Architecture, Art, Ecology, Anthropology et cetera for many years. The book starts with an article published by Gareth Eckbo in 1983, arguing about the question „Is Landscape Architecture?“, therewith introduces a series of essays with titles of similar format „Is Landscape...?“. With these seemingly simple questions as the main contention, authors use their profound research foundation to carry out in-depth discussion on different identities of landscape. For example, art historian Robin Kelsey dissects the connection between landscape and photography, landscape architect Udo Weilacher discusses the new intimate relationship between landscape and gardening in the current social development trend, and architect David Leatherbarrow analyses the commonality of landscape and architecture from the perspective of topography.

The careful ordering of essays makes the process of reading more like attending an intense and fruitful landscape forum. The sequence of chapters is consistent with the history of landscape architecture, which helps readers who are new to this discipline to establish an understanding of the chronological development of landscape theories. Besides, all chapters are closely interrelated, some topics discussed in the previous chapter may be addressed in the next one or revisited from a new perspective, just like authors debating the same topic at a round table. This vivid reading experience allows readers to better follow the discussions and understand the concepts more comprehensively. High-quality graphics and clear layouts also enhance the reading experience. However, readers should not expect to find a pronounced answer on what landscape is in this publication. The discipline of Landscape Architecture is constantly expanding and revising with the change of historical processes and ideological trends. Consequently, editors seem to be more inclined to throw out the question “Is landscape...?”, and the ellipsis is a delicate blank, giving readers the space to explore and think. As for the answer, it could be translated into brand new forms by different landscape architects inspired by this discussion.

This book is extremely informative and of positive significance to landscape architects and students, who are interested in the multiple possibilities of landscape architecture.