

## **The Complexity and Contradiction Conflict in Research and Practice: The Case of Public-Private Interface Configuration**

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The disassociation between research and practice in architecture and urban design is a recognized issue, leading to an ongoing academic debate on the credibility of the field (Dovey, Pafka 2016; Alexander 2010; Carmona 2014a; Palermo 2014). The most influential text shaping the architectural practice has very limited scientific rigour and is more of a normative interpretation of subjective observations (Marshall 2012). Most authors agree that the irreducible nature of the practice, the complexity of the built environment and its indirect and multidisciplinary shaping processes render the applicability of gained knowledge problematic as the researchers are inherently confronted with the dilemma of rigidity vs. relevance (Schön 1984).

This paper explores the relevance of architectural research in practice on a particular case of urban interface. The well-researched causal relationship between the physical configuration of space and the social effects on users of the space in the case of public-private interface informing the “good practice” is broadened to cover the full feedback loop, taking the forming forces, values, and motivations of the actors within the process into consideration. The aim of this theoretical dissection of a particular topic including its apparent inner ambiguity is to clarify the contradiction between theoretical values and subsequent practice to help promote not universally good but, more essentially, adequate, sustainable and equitable spaces.

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