Rethinking Third Places
Informal Public Spaces and Community Building

Edited by Joanne Dolley, Cities Research Institute, Griffith University and Caryl Bosman, Griffith School of Environment and Science, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia

Ray Oldenburg's concept of third place is re-visited in this book through contemporary approaches and new examples of third places. Third place is not your home (first place), not your work (second place), but those informal public places in which we interact with the people. Readers will come to understand the importance of third places and how they can be incorporated into urban design to offer places of interaction – promoting togetherness in an urbanised world of mobility and rapid change.

‘This is a brilliant book for insight into the meaning and relevance of the informal public gathering places in modern societies. If you want to understand the spatiality of third places, and how and why we interact in informal public places, this edited book with 11 bright chapters is worthwhile for sure.’
– Jens Troelsen, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

‘The exponential growth of third places is symptomatic of a crisis of public space in our urban societies. What Rethinking Third Places reveals is that they are also places open to hope with the possible realisation of the commons and the right to the city.’
– Raphaël Besson, Villes Innovation, France and PACTE, Spain

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