

Exploring Urban Soundscapes

Student: Kristin Nedlich

Examiner: Mattias Kärrholm

Supervisor: Ida Sandström

Assistant supervisor: Sandra Kopljar

”Unlike vision, we cannot avert our ears or direct our hearing at will, but rather sense sound continuously.” *Buck, David Nicholas, A Musicology for Landscape*

Background

More often than not, I experience a disharmony between rendered images and real life experience of the spaces. A glossy image is often beautiful and invites the viewer to think that it will be a pleasurable experience to be in that space.

But the ears are harder to fool than the eyes. That makes me wonder why we focus so much on the visual rather than experiential qualities of architecture.

I went on a 47,5 days long trip around the world with the sole purpose of exploring urban soundscapes in six very different cities: Rome, Johannesburg, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Mexico City and New York. I spent a week in every city; walking, listening and recording my sonic experience.

I have compiled this experiential data, tried different methods and various sets of drawings and diagrams to highlight the soundscapes and sonic experiences in my case studies.