Place of Nature in the City (Washington, 1-3 Dec 05)

Sonja

Call for Papers

"The Place of Nature in the City in Twentieth-Century Europe and North America"

Conference sponsored by the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

December 1-3, 2005, in Washington, D.C.

Conveners:
Dorothee Brantz (GHI, University at Buffalo, SUNY)
Sonja Dümpelmann (GHI)
Christof Mauch (GHI)
Jennifer Price (Writer, Los Angeles)

This conference wants to provide an interdisciplinary forum to discuss the changing relationship of cities and nature in twentieth-century Europe and North America. Throughout the centuries, cities have often been conceived in opposition to nature. In the twentieth century, earlier perceptions of the city as opposed to nature gave way to new concepts that envisioned the city and nature as complementing each other. Several attempts to recapture nature and reintegrate the city and the countryside throughout the twentieth century have led to new types of urban landscapes. One of the overarching questions of our conference is how cultural and national peculiarities have influenced the place of nature in the city. We shall also ask how concepts of "nature" changed over the course of the twentieth century as many industrial cities were transformed into post-industrial landscapes. We will discuss how nature has been integrated into urban design and how cities have been engaged in the "renaturalization" of urban areas. What social, cultural, and political values does nature represent in the city? How have ideas of nature influenced land use patterns? How have discourses about nature shaped the practice of urban planning and landscape architecture? How have ideas about "urban nature" affected the understanding and daily use of urban space?
We invite proposals from scholars in all disciplines who approach the subject from a historical perspective. Preference will be given to papers that focus on changing concepts of nature over time. We also specifically encourage proposals for papers that compare the place of nature in different

urban cultures.

Please send a one-page proposal, a short cv, and a list of relevant publications to Mrs. Bärbel Thomas at B.Thomas@ghi-dc.org (fax: 202-483-3430) by June 30, 2005.

The conference will take place at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., which will also cover the cost for travel and accommodations of participants. Following the conference, we are planning to publish a collection of the essays. The conference language is English.

Reference:

CFP: Place of Nature in the City (Washington, 1-3 Dec 05). In: ArtHist.net, May 12, 2005 (accessed Oct 14, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/27192>.