Public Spaces and Urban Beauty: The Pursuit of Happiness in the Contemporary European City

In Europe public spaces, intended as a network of structured sequences of collective themes, are mostly linked to timeless and beautiful historic cities. But the contemporary European city actually includes also that very large part outside the historical perimeter, namely those modern suburban areas, often empty of public spaces, where people live, work and spend their time every day. Two different spatial and urban conditions, two different way of inhabit and living. While at Berkeley, the research will focus on the comparison between the European model and American one regarding public spaces, both for consolidated areas and for suburban ones. The aim is to define existing physical values, intended as a legacy of the past and as an expression of a specific culture, and new human and social meanings derived from everyday life and activities of neighborhood communities, related also to the morphological design of urban places.