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PREFACE

This book investigates urban transformation in relation to architectural quality, performative urban spaces and art. It includes some of the papers presented at the international conference “Architecture and Stages of the Experience City,” held at the Utzon Center in Aalborg, Denmark, during September 2009. This conference brought together international researchers and practitioners who tackle challenges related to urban transformation, architecture, and city life. A “cultural crafting” of our cities is taking place, and new hybrid cultural projects and urban space design are being developed. The articles presented here shed new light on a series of questions related to the quality of city life during this urban transformation, on the achievements in urban space design, and, finally, on the development of architectural concepts related to large cultural projects.

I want to thank all of the authors for their contributions, which illuminate and bring critical knowledge to the question of how architecture, art, and urban design can enhance a balanced development of cities in the future. It has been a pleasure for me to edit this book, which I hope will contribute further to the knowledge related to “Experience City” development. It is my hope that cities can be designed as “performative” - not only “for fun and enjoyment,” but also as places with the cultural capacity needed to encourage the design of great architecture. It is my hope that these “Experience Cities” will be places for pleasure, learning, and intercultural exchange.

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