



# Planning For Protest: Designing Cities For Political Activism

An exhibition looks at political activity as a spatial phenomenon, shedding light on the urban spaces in which political action takes place.



Ad Artemel

## INDUSTRY



This year's [Lisbon Architecture Triennale](#) has been [characterized](#) as irreverent and playful, but one project stands out from the dizzying array of avant-garde and captivating exhibitions. [Planning For Protest](#) was organized by Ben Allen, James Bae, and Ricardo Gomes of [KWY](#), Shannon Harvey of [Public Address](#), and Adam Michaels of [Project Projects](#); it brings together architecture firms from cities that have experienced recent economic and political troubles along with vibrant calls for protest (examples include this summer's events in [Istanbul](#) and [São Paulo](#) and the anti-austerity demonstrations in Lisbon and Athens).

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*Planning for Protest* proposes looking at political activity as a spatial phenomenon: The organizers explain that they wanted their project to shed light on the urban spaces in which political action takes place, a subject often overlooked amidst the media spectacle of protests. The project is noteworthy not only for its ambition and scope—it surveys grassroots political activism in twelve locations—but also for the diversity of proposals and responses. Each architecture firm put forth proposals, varying in their levels of realism, guided by an in-depth analysis of the conditions and street grids of their respective cities.

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returning architecture to its place as a social and political art.

**Planning for Protest runs until December 14, Monday through Friday, 11 am–8 pm at Rua dos Douradores 220, 1100 Lisbon.**



**Athens Protocols**, [ANTONAS Office](#), Athens, Greece

This proposal uses Internet-enabled structures to channel the energy of the city's infamous riots into constructive political action.

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## What Ever Happened to Protest?, [Studio Miessen](#), Berlin, Germany

This practice proposes an alternative to traditional urban protest: a series of graphics that call attention to “representative individuals who have managed to fully deconstruct the only asset that Berlin has, which is the very charm of an urban heterogeneity.”



by: Bucharest, beginning of the 20th century.

### UNIVERSITY

ed in 1869, what later became the nucleus of the city r, went through many extensions, demolitions and instructions, continuing until the 1970's.



'alace of the Academy, drawing by Alexandru Crăscu, caption: Johann Schlatter, by Horia Moldovan, ed. Simeția 2013

crossing was cleared and prepared for the construction of the City Hall Palace. There were several proposals and architectural competitions dating from 1885, 1890, 1895, 1901, 1912, 1931, 1935 and 1956, that

Project of the City Hall, arch. Petre Antonescu, 1912, caption from: Bucharest's Boulevards, by Nicolae Lasca, ed. Simeția 2011. were never realized, leaving the area in a state of suspense (it was called at the time 'The Barren Land of City Hall'), a vacant land best suited to temporary buildings and uses such as popular fairs, exhibitions, circus's or seasonal events.

## BUILD UP THE CENTER



Intercontinental Hotel and National Theater, 1973, caption from: From Scânteia House to the House of the People, by Alexandru Panaitescu, ed. Simeția, 2012

### PLAZA & CIVIC CENTER

Opposite the University, on both sides of the

communist cities, was the new National Theater and the Intercontinental Hotel. Com-



Danube Building, 1980, photo: V.I. Stamate, postcard.



Metro exit University, 2013, photo: studioBASAR

### NEW SQUARES

After 2010 a series of refurbishment projects occurred across the square. In the SE corner in what had been a rather barren triangle, the Coltea Park was established and used for small concerts. The SW corner 'At The Statues' was transformed

### GOING UNDER

Starting in 1975 the underground metro net spreads under the city, of the main stops being 'University' with four exits linking the four corners a wide central underground passage. The pedestrian crossings were eliminated



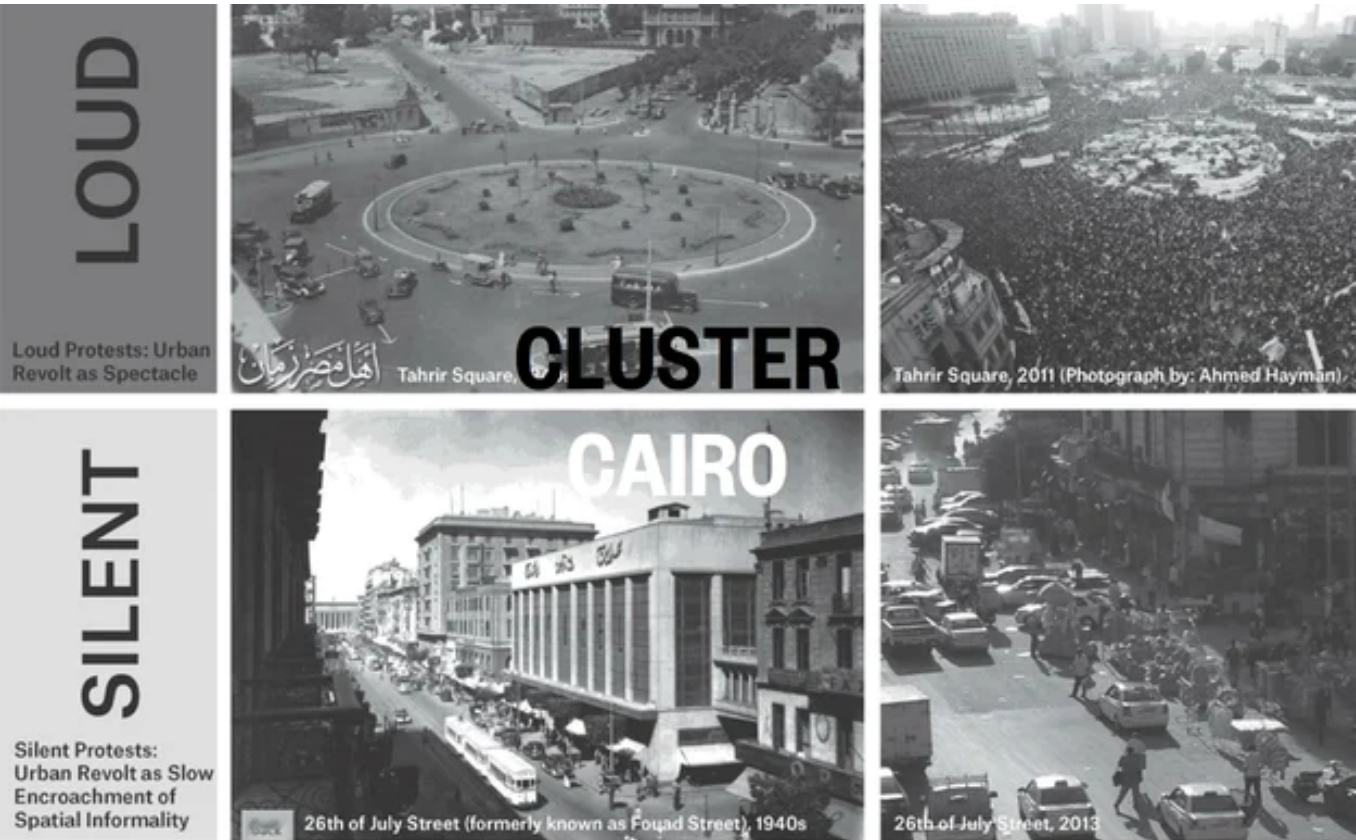
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**University's Squares**, [studioBASAR](#), Bucharest, Romania

Here, Bucharest's discrete urban squares are linked to provide a unified protest location.



**Cairo: Urban Revolution**, [CLUSTER](#), Cairo, Egypt

This analysis of Cairo focuses on the potential for informal settlements and markets to challenge the top-down hierarchy of the city.





## Hiding in Plain Sight: A New Route for Civic Dissent in Dublin, [Culturestruction](#), Dublin, Ireland

This plan creates a new protest route to challenge the commercialization of Dublin's traditional march course.



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**Istanbul 2013/2030, [SUPERPOOL](#), Istanbul, Turkey**

SUPERPOOL used their analysis of the Gezi Park protests to formulate an organizational system for Istanbul's public spaces, including both Taksim Square and the proposed new public areas that expand deep into the city.



**Lisbon: Territory of Conflict, [ateliermob](#), Lisbon, Portugal**

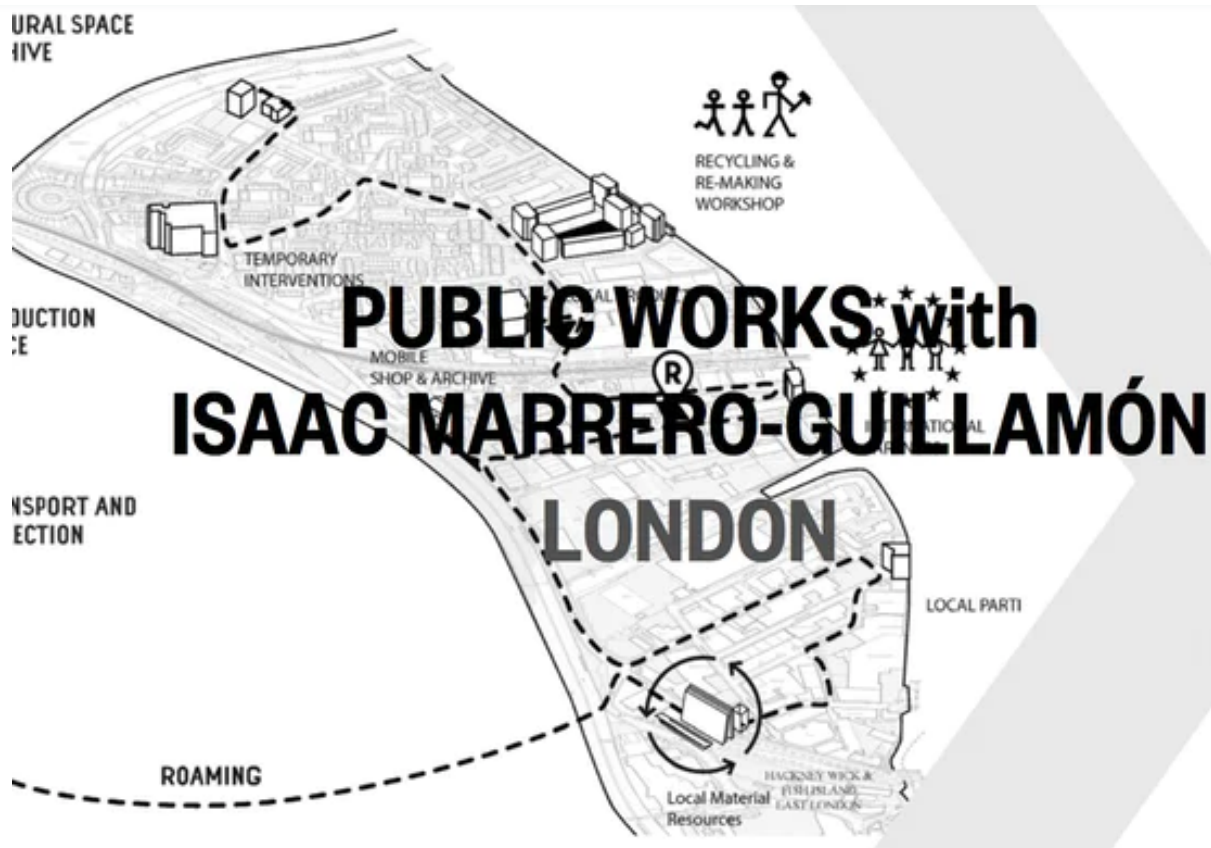
This project refrains from creating an instrument for protest, choosing instead to chart past events and provide evidence that further protests are in Lisbon's future.

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**R-Urban Wick**, [public works](#) & [Isaac Marrero-Guillamón](#), London, England

This proposal analyzes the culture-rich neighborhoods of Hackney Wick and Fish Island in relationship to the Olympic Park, their higher-class neighbor. Two possible futures are described: one in which the former neighborhoods are gentrified by the latter and another in which the artistic neighborhoods begin to spread their influence into the newer developments.

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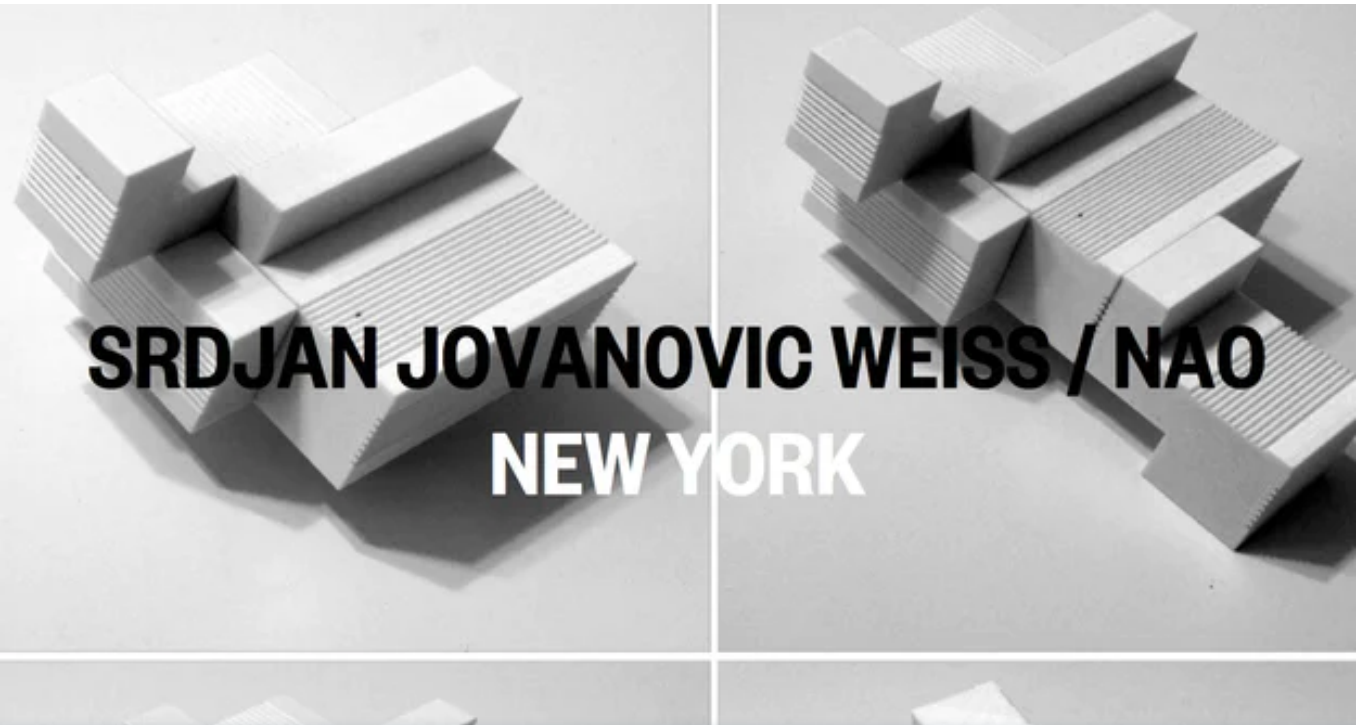
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[un]planning for protest, [ecosistema urbano](#), Madrid, Spain

This treatment of Madrid uses data from the 15-M protests to plan for future demonstrations.



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**Z-blocks**, [Srdjan Jovanović Weiss/NAO](#), New York, New York

Simple building blocks, like those featured in this proposal, can become temporary furniture or even dwellings in public spaces.



**Nuova Topografia Di Roma MMXIII**, [PIOVENE FABI](#) and [2A + P/A](#), Rome, Italy

This group revisits the iconic Nolli Map, updating it to reflect the contemporary city and focusing on protest routes.

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## Thermometer Structures, [Vapor 324](#), São Paulo, Brazil

This proposal calls for a megastructure to be built in downtown São Paulo that can deliver information to citizens and facilitate movement and communication throughout the city.

*Liked this story? Check out our article on [Brazilian protests](#), [Istanbul and the future of public space](#), and Art Basel's controversial [Favela Cafe](#).*

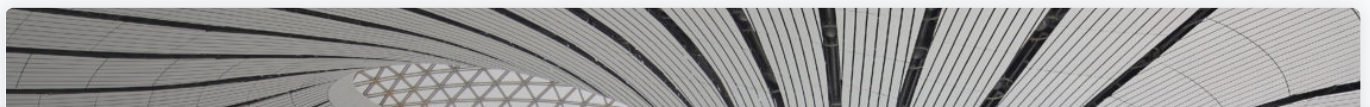


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