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Reading Response #2
Edensor and Lynch

Compare and Contrast

Lynch speaks about the visual imagery of a city. The urban environment is brought up, which is a form of “Temporal Art”, that is fluid and never ceases to stop in motion. One of the main points that Lynch makes is the fact that the city is comprised of visual images based on those built by its citizens. So he brings up Legibility, which would essentially amount to landmarks and other such aspects of a city, which in turn making it easy to recognize. Familiar areas within a city bring out emotions. The landmarks, and city streets that you go by every day can be a very Nostalgic and emotional experience, as well as those times that are forever burned into your memory. On our every day commute to work or school we tend to take space for granted, but once we are separated from these streets that we take every day, we tend to miss them. These mental images that we have of our city help us navigate, and can be thought of in terms of a mental map or diagram. The environmental images can be broken up into their identity, or differences, their structure, and most importantly their meaning.

Edensor on the other hand focuses on the use of the city space and environment in terms of performance and art. Mainly he speaks about the concept of tourism as a form of performance. He goes further into studying why tourists behave the way they do, and defines what a tourist really is. We tend to assume what a tourist SHOULD be, and associate them with a stereotype based on class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. This brings up a link between Edensor and Lynch where as Lynch spoke about taking space for granted until it is gone, while in Edensor’s case, tourists show areas that you might see on a daily bases respect. The performances that we see according to Edensor’s are based on what we the viewer are to consider as a performance as well.