

life is actually highly focused and emerges in 'core settings'. His term third place, therefore, signifies the '*... great variety of public places that host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work*'. Oldenburg's central thesis is that to be 'relaxed and fulfilling', daily life must find its balance in three realms of experience – 'domestic', 'work' and 'social'. Drawing on contemporary US society, he argues that because people's expectations of work and family have 'escalated beyond the capacity of those institutions to meet them', people need the release and stimulation that more sociable realms can provide. Hence, the need for – and emergence of – third places. Oldenburg's paper is particularly valuable for its identification of the desirable qualities of third places (which can also be regarded as core qualities of the public realm).

As Oldenburg establishes some of the desirable qualities and social trends resulting from transformations of public space, then the New York journalist **Paul Goldberger** has reminded us of a darker side. Accordingly, the final chapter in this section is his essay 'The Rise of the Private City', which originally appeared in J. Vitullo-Martin's 1996 edited book *Breaking Away: The Future of Cities: Essays in Memory of Robert F. Wagner Jr* (The Twentieth Century Fund Press, New York). The essay provides an important

and focused discussion of trends in contemporary urban development in terms of its product or outcome and warns against the suburbanisation of the urban and the blurring of traditional differences between the city and the suburb. It is particularly valuable in its contribution of the concept of 'urbanoid' environments – the pseudo-street, the pseudo-square, the pseudo-plaza. As with humanoids that have some human qualities without being human, urbanoid environments have some urban qualities without actually being urban. In Goldberger's words, they '*... purport to offer some degree of urban experience in an entertaining, sealed-off, private environment*'. For Goldberger, authentic urban environments require the mixing of different classes of people in public space and can be contrasted with the disengagement and private space of suburban environments. Goldberger's paper, therefore, ultimately reiterates Don Mitchell's question about the 'end of public space':

Have we created a society that expects and desires only private interactions, private communications, and private politics, that reserves public spaces, solely for commodified recreation and spectacle? (Mitchell, 1995: 110).

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