

University of Minnesota -Tokyo University of Science joint design workshop
summer, 2010

“RE-DEFINE PUBLIC SPACE”

"Public Space is the city," said Oriol Bohigas, an architect and urban planner in Barcelona. Public spaces are places where the city comes to life and where local culture can be expressed.

Minneapolis and St. Paul are rich in public space e.g. public mall and squares, walkable routes, green parks and waterfront: Nicollet Mall is the first transit mall; Skyways are an unique system of pedestrian bridges over the downtown; the park system in Minneapolis is known to be well-designed; life in Minneapolis and St. Paul are inseparable from rivers and lakes. St. Paul and Minneapolis offer adjacent yet different approaches to public space.

What do they mean to the lives of residents and experience of visitors? Have the relationship between the people and these pioneering public spaces changed or not for decades? The desired outcome for this design studio is to re-think, re-define and re-design the relationship between the people and the public spaces in Minneapolis in 2010 and beyond and develop their potential. Each group is expected to produce a 3-5 minute video version of their design and produce appropriate material to convey the survey and the design in this video. Content type of the video can be any type: computer graphic animation, successive images, photos or movie of models, live-action or performance.

