

The role of the public-private interface in creating better city dynamics — the case of Malta's rapidly evolving streets

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The city is an urban assemblage wherein diverse interests and users encounter one another at a micro-scale, creating complex city dynamics. This paper addresses assemblage through the critical lens of the public-private ground floor interface, which defines the street edge between the built and unbuilt. Such micro-assemblage is studied in the particular case of Malta, where public-private interface typology is a language that has traditionally defined street culture within towns. The paper focuses on a unique street environment and linear town centre that underwent rapid transformation in recent years, wherein each interface is constantly adapting to different socio-economic rhythms. It derives important insights from observing these socio-spatial phenomena where users are in constant interaction with their urban environment and one other. The paper concludes by highlighting the utility of studying the ground floor interface and application to future urban design and planning practice.

Palavras-chave / Keywords:

Public-private interface; urban assemblage; Malta; adaptation; transition.

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