

Proposed paper for Monuments and Icons: New Dimensions of Public Art.

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Title: Wasted Space

This paper speaks about the relationship between monuments intended to focus attention, to instruct and perhaps delight, and a host of other urban experiences which stand as the inverse and negative of these: building sites, decaying buildings, marginal areas of wastage and neglect. The question is why the latter are frequently more engaging than the former - and what implications this holds for our most cherished notions of 'public space'. Examples are drawn from several cities including London, Berlin, Moscow and other locations, and from the work of contemporary artists.

(With slides)

Brandon Taylor has been an AICA member for several years and was secretary and executive committee member of the British branch of AICA. His publications include Art and Literature Under the Bolsheviks, 2 volumes, London 1991 and 1992, Art of the Soviets (jointly edited), Manchester 1993, The Nazification of Art: Art, Design, Music, Architecture and Film (jointly edited), Winchester 1990, The Art of Today, London 1995, and Art and the London Public: Exhibitions for the Nation 1747-2001, forthcoming 1999. He is currently Professor in the Department of History of Art and Design, University of Southampton.