

*... a love letter
to overlooked
spaces*

■
“have you seen this space?”

The practice of collecting spaces that make up this guide is a love letter to the unseen spaces in our everyday neighbourhoods. More often than not, those overlooked spaces are portrayed as lost spaces, however it is precisely through their presence that all surrounding spaces gain value. These type of spaces provide an area where boundaries of the surrounding spaces can overlap and converge, acting as a buffer between more programmed spaces.

With the collection of some overlooked spaces we are not interested in utilizing or developing them, but rather allowing others to experience a (new) perception of spaces they otherwise would have overlooked.

have u seen this space?
... a love letter to overlooked spaces

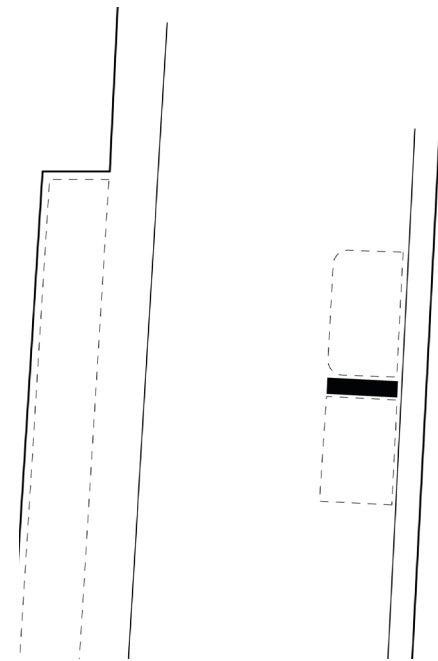
**an urban investigation by
interna. - collective for transdisciplinary
spatial practice**

**„primär gehts
ja auch um
raumwahr-
nehmung und
hingucken.“**

blocked or locked?



Have you seen this **space**? Or that **space**? Can you see it, the immeasurable yet limited **space** whose only purpose is to serve others? Can you see that **space**? Once you have seen it, can you unsee it? Unseeing the unseen - seeing the already seen? Is this **space** really unseen or is it just overlook-





ked,
forgotten by the prac-
tice of unseeing the
unseen? Are you loo-
king out for the over-
looked? A **space** that
cannot be contained
or defined by actu-
al boundaries, but is
only intervened upon
by more prominent
spaces? Often over-
looked and ill-defined,
unnoticed **spaces**
are what allow urban
areas to breathe and

feldgasse 1080 vienna
48°21'3536"n 16°34'5558"e

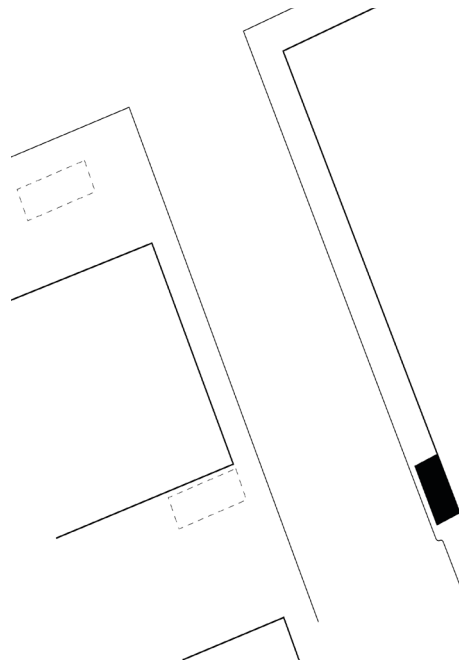
have u seen it?



ive
arning to the pro-
of other
spaces paying at-
tentiveness to over-
looked **spaces**
means relearning
how to notice un-
seen **spaces**, how
to see what is not

plunkergasse,
48°11'59.1“n,

1150 vienna
16°19'36.9“e

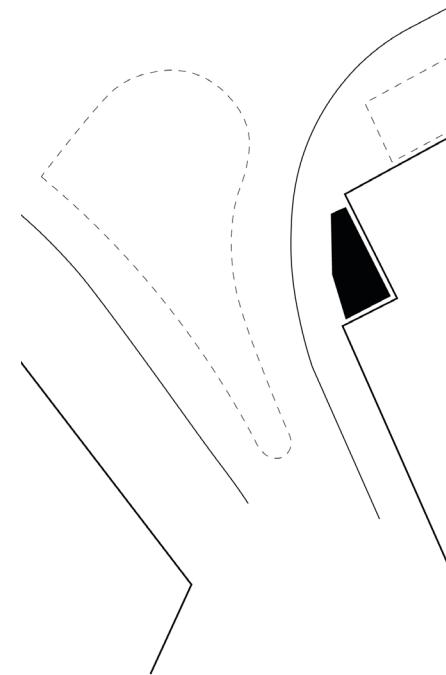


green space?

immediately visible, what exists not because of its content but because of its purpose for others. Unseen **spaces** are intermediaries that allow urban **space** to breathe. Neither visible nor transparent, but simply see-through, they allow the perception of the beyond. Unseen **spaces** provide a place for other **spaces** to overlap and interfere with each other on neutral ground in the otherwise differentiated and over-determined fabric of human cities. By allowing other, more programmed functions to overtake unseen **spaces**, they may often be overlooked as weak **spaces**, when in fact the opposite is actually the case. The unseen respectively unnoticed **spaces** are necessary parts of the urban fabric, allowing programmed **spaces** to come into conflict with other programmes on neutral territory offering the possibility of forming new

erzherzog-johann-platz,
48°19'6064“n,

1040 vienna
16°36'8973“e



bermuda triangle?



pro-
gram-
mes and
functions. This qua-
lity makes unnoticed
spaces the literal unseen her-
oes of urban resilience, allowing in-
formal change to take place and helping
structures to remain flexible

**brünnlbaggasse,
48°21'5387“n,**

1090

vienna

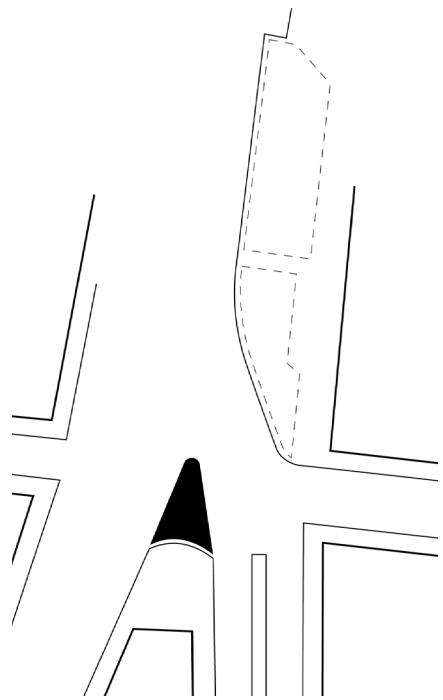
16°34'5670“e



enough to be transformed. To celebrate and shed light on these **spaces**, we decided to practice the craft of perceiving unseen **space**. Wandering through our everyday urban environments, we allow ourselves to stumble upon these **spaces** that we so often overlook because they simply don't force their programme upon our perception. We need unseen **spaces** to heal our cities, and they need our appreciation to continue to be part of our environment. The existing efforts to densify cities are endangering this already shy species and contributing to its imminent extinction.

Acti-

boundaries?



inefficient?

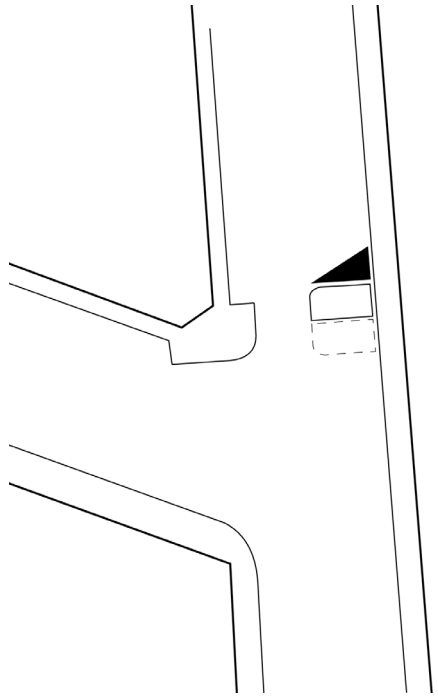
A black and white photograph of a building facade. The building has a textured wall and several windows with white frames and bars. A dark car is parked on the left side of the frame. The foreground shows a paved area with a white curb. The text is overlaid on the image in a light gray font.

vely noticing unseen **spaces** and practising the art of seeing can lead to a general improvement in the appreciation of these **spaces**. But how do you actually perceive an unseen **space**? Perception is a practice that can be learnt and must be trained to prevent it from fading. By trying to experience your neighbourhood through the eyes of a tourist or a foreigner, a stranger to the places you know so well, you can actively begin to look and look out for overlooked and unnoticed **spaces**. One must feel a sense of newness in a particular place and try to maintain this state as long as possible in order to achieve a new form of perception. Think of invisible **spaces** as pa-

**schönbornrgasse,
48°12'39.4"n**

1080

**vienna
16°20'49.6"e**



over or under?



vements. There are cities in the world where the urban fabric has been stripped of

footpaths because

people have decided they no longer need them. Structures

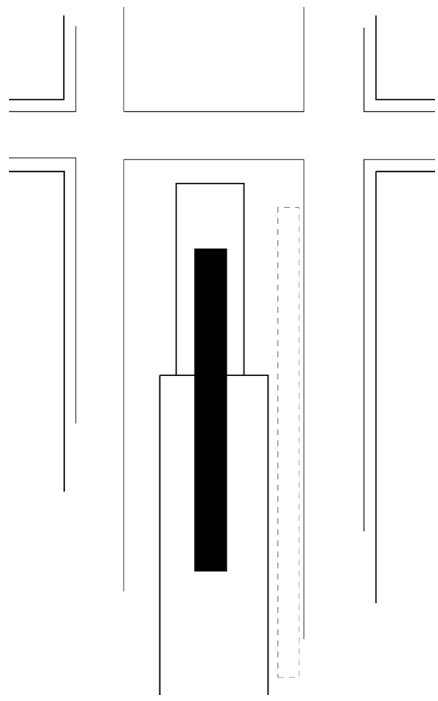
where the societal focus on individual transport has turned formerly walkable urban areas into hostile, motorised-only zones.

Where this is the case, highly programmed **spaces**, such as

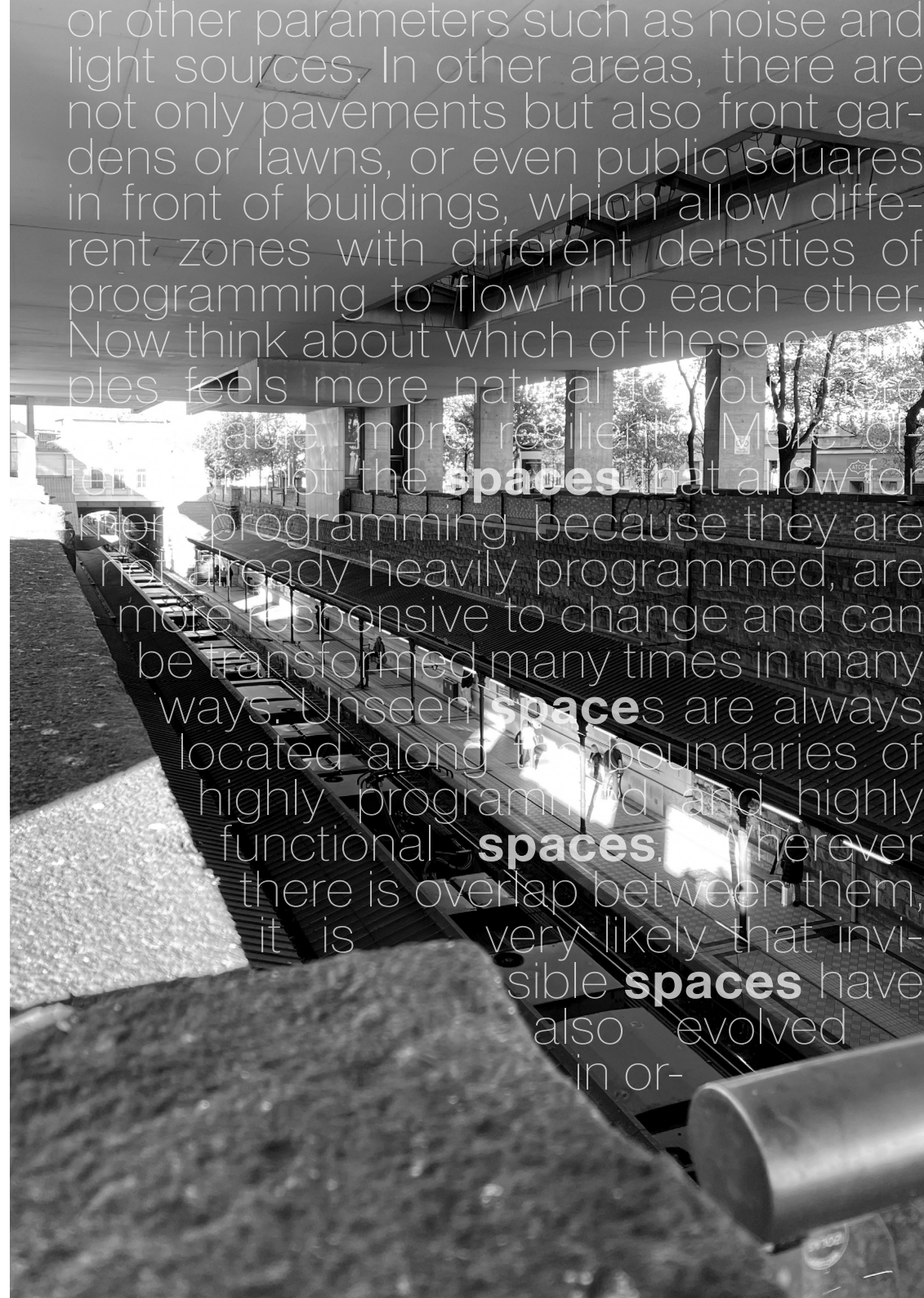
buildings, and highly programmed **spaces**, such as streets,

are very close to each other and tend to overlap, whether

by actual physical proximity



neubaugürtel, 1150 vienna
48°20'3080"n, 16°33'7044"e



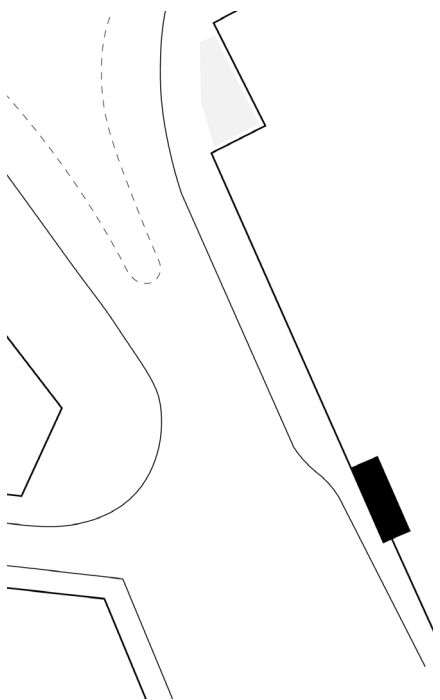
or other parameters such as noise and light sources. In other areas, there are not only pavements but also front gardens or lawns, or even public squares in front of buildings, which allow different zones with different densities of programming to flow into each other. Now think about which of these examples feels more natural to you, more usable, more resilient. More often than not, the **spaces** that allow for more programming, because they are not already heavily programmed, are more responsive to change and can be transformed many times in many ways. Unseen **spaces** are always located along the boundaries of highly programmed and highly functional **spaces**. Wherever there is overlap between them, it is very likely that invisible **spaces** have also evolved in or-

cave?

favoritenstrasse,
48°19'56.925"n,

1040 vienna
16°36'9.1928"e

der to compensate
for the heavily programmed
nature of the surrounding **spaces**.
Whenever a certain **space** feels
odd, or a corner of the **space**
seems like it doesn't belong, it
could be because it is actually
an unseen **space** that no one
has been looking out for.
Unseen **spaces** cannot
exist without highly pro-
grammed **spaces**, just
as program-

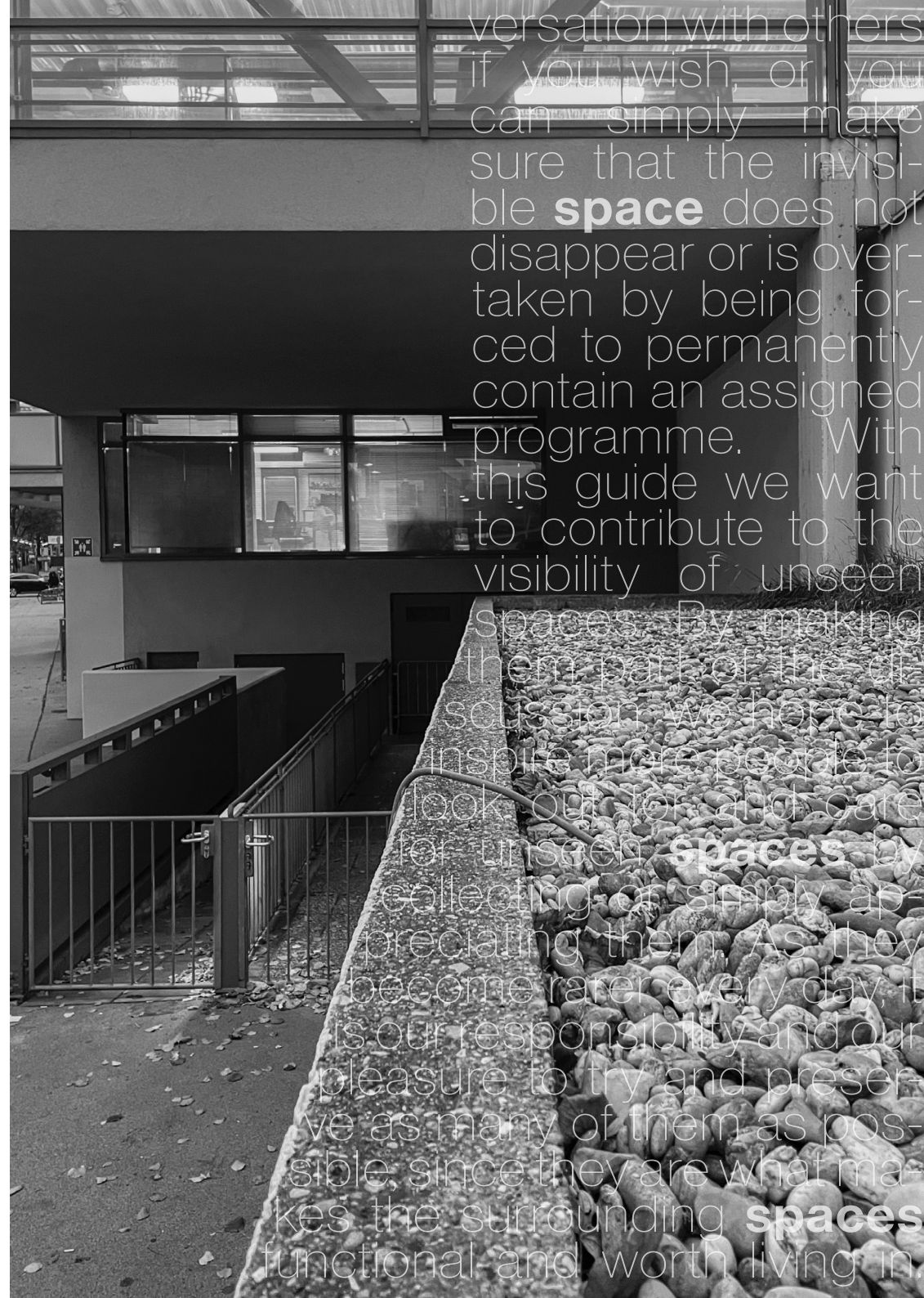
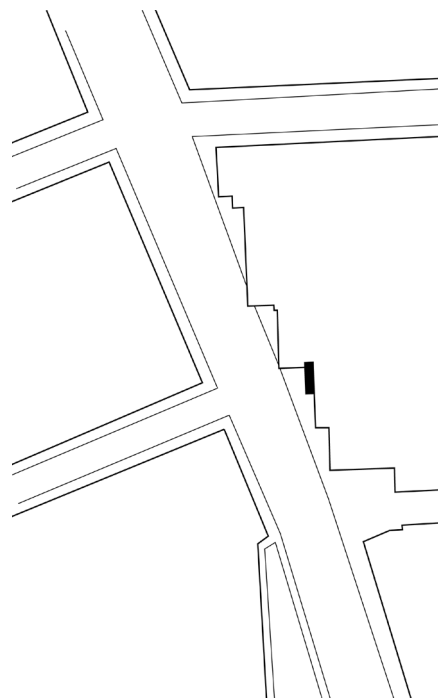


hide and seek?

med spaces need unseen **spaces**
to thrive. But what do you do once
you have found an unseen **space**?
Well, the best thing you can do for
unseen **spaces** is to let them be, to
observe them in their natural habi-
tat, just as you would observe rare
animals in the wild. You might take
picture or two, you might share your
experience with others so that they
too can become aware of the no-
longer unseen **space** and enjoy its
existence. You can start
a con-

hütteldorfer strasse, 1150 vienna
48°12'03.2"n 16°19'57.3"e





versation with others if you wish, or you can simply make sure that the invisible **space** does not disappear or is overtaken by being forced to permanently contain an assigned programme. With this guide we want to contribute to the visibility of unseen spaces. By making them part of the discussion we hope to inspire more people to look out for and care for unseen **spaces** by collecting or simply appreciating them. As they become rarer every day, it is our responsibility and our pleasure to try and preserve as many of them as possible, since they are what makes the surrounding **spaces** functional and worth living in.

**Have you seen this space? Or that space?
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limited space whose only purpose is to
serve others? Can you see that space?
Once you have seen it, can you unsee
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A space that cannot be contained or
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unnoticed spaces are what allow urban
areas to breathe and give meaning to the
programme of other spaces.**

**Paying attentiveness to overlooked
spaces means relearning how to notice
unseen spaces, how to see what is not
immediately visible, what exists not
because of its content but because of its
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but simply see-through, they allow the perception of the beyond. Unseen spaces provide a place for other spaces to overlap and interfere with each other on neutral ground in the otherwise differentiated and over-determined fabric of human cities. By allowing other, more programmed functions to overtake unseen spaces, they may often be overlooked as weak spaces, when in fact the opposite is actually the case.

The unseen respectively unnoticed spaces are necessary parts of the urban fabric, allowing programmed spaces to come into conflict with other programmes on neutral territory, offering the possibility of forming new programmes and functions. This quality makes unnoticed spaces the literal unseen heroes of urban resilience, allowing informal change to take place and helping structures to remain flexible enough to be transformed. To celebrate and shed light on these spaces, we decided to practice the craft of perceiving unseen space. Wandering through our

everyday urban environments, we allow ourselves to stumble upon these spaces that we so often overlook because they simply don't force their programme upon our perception. We need unseen spaces to heal our cities, and they need our appreciation to continue to be part of our environment. The existing efforts to densify cities are endangering this already shy species and contributing to its imminent extinction. Actively noticing unseen spaces and practising the art of seeing can lead to a general improvement in the appreciation of these spaces.

But how do you actually perceive an unseen space? Perception is a practice that can be learnt and must be trained to prevent it from fading. By trying to experience your neighbourhood through the eyes of a tourist or a foreigner, a stranger to the places you know so well, you can actively begin to look and look out for overlooked and unnoticed spaces. One must feel a sense of newness in a particular place and try to maintain

this state as long as possible in order to achieve a new form of perception.

Think of invisible spaces as pavements. There are cities in the world where the urban fabric has been stripped of footpaths because people have decided they no longer need them. Structures where the societal focus on individual transport has turned formerly walkable urban areas into hostile, motorised-only zones. Where this is the case, highly programmed spaces, such as buildings, and highly programmed spaces, such as streets, are very close to each other and tend to overlap, whether by actual physical proximity or other parameters such as noise and light sources. In other areas, there are not only pavements but also front gardens or lawns, or even public squares in front of buildings, which allow different zones with different densities of programming to flow into each other. Now think about which of these examples feels more natural to you, more sustainable, more resilient? More often than not, the

spaces that allow for more programming, because they are not already heavily programmed, are more responsive to change and can be transformed many times in many ways.

Unseen spaces are always located along the boundaries of highly programmed and highly functional spaces. Wherever there is overlap between them, it is very likely that invisible spaces have also evolved in order to compensate for the heavily programmed nature of the surrounding spaces. Whenever a certain space feels odd, or a corner of the space seems like it doesn't belong, it could be because it is actually an unseen space that no one has been looking out for. Unseen spaces cannot exist without highly programmed spaces, just as programmed spaces need unseen spaces to thrive.

But what do you do once you have found an unseen space? Well, the best thing you can do for unseen spaces is to let them be, to observe them in their natural habitat,

just as you would observe rare animals in the wild. You might take a picture or two, you might share your experience with others so that they too can become aware of the no longer unseen space and enjoy its existence. You can start a conversation with others if you wish, or you can simply make sure that the invisible space does not disappear or is overtaken by being forced to permanently contain an assigned programme.

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48°21'35.36"n, 16°34'55.58"e
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48°19'60.64"n, 16°36'89.73"e
48°21'53.87"n, 16°34'56.70"e
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48°20'30.80"n, 16°33'70.44"e
48°19'56.925"n, 16°36'91.928"e

**to learn more visit interna.space or
say hi at mail@interna.space**

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concept and realisation by
patrick bosman and kathrin schuster

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**have u seen
this space?**