

Our Search for Meaning – Session Five

From Last Week

Thoughts about community and its proper role?

For Next Week

Ideas, concepts, & material that you're prepared to put before the group.
[My possible contribution: Trends in current political philosophy.]

Contribution

Many people find purpose and meaning in contribution. The range of possible contributions is wide. As Third Age members, we have special opportunities to contribute ... to communities that are important to us.

Mental Patterns

Quick Presentation: We perceive patterns, and can't "see" without them. Any location is developed using a language of patterns, too often a chaotic language with no sense of wholeness. Hypothesis: A great place uses a language of patterns that have deep human meaning.

Places

We connect to the world through places that are important to us. A location becomes an important place through our collective *sense of place*, and from the *spirit of place* expressed through the physical patterns from which it is built. We have varying needs to be grounded in physical places. The absence of physical grounding can cause psychological problems for people.

Placemaking

Ten ways to make better places:

1. Improve streets as public spaces
2. Create squares and parks as multi-use destinations
3. Build local economies through markets
4. Design buildings to support places
5. Link public health agenda to a public space agenda
6. Reinvent community planning
7. Power of 10
8. Create a comprehensive public space agenda
9. Lighter, quicker, cheaper, start small, experiment
10. Restructure government to support public spaces

Discussion

Identify one or two creative placemaking initiatives.

Next Week

What was learned? How could the course have been better? Next steps?