What is “Scenes”?

In postindustrial, knowledge-driven societies, where symbols replace widgets, we need new concepts about consumption and lifestyle, in addition to work. Scenes are one such concept. Scenes build on aesthetics, which we incorporate with social science concepts and methods. People's aesthetics inform their consumption, and define 15 scenes dimensions, like localism, egalitarianism, self-expression, and transgression. We study scenes as geographic units, with physical facilities, and people as consumer/participants in activities like concerts. We measure scenes with amenities like churches and museums from censuses, electronic yellow pages, and citizen surveys. These combine concepts and methods. People's aesthetics inform their presentation of the scene can be gathered from any specific scene. Each quality - local authenticity, rationalism, self-expression, and transgression - has its own scenes with amenities like churches and museums from censuses. 

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A Grammar of Scenes

Before these raw data can be meaningful, however, we need to develop some conceptual tools for distilling the character of the scene from them. By breaking the cultural experience into 15 dimensions, we are able to quantify and compare between different scenes. Each dimension then can be scored and a numerical representation of the scene can be gathered.

Joining complex scenes and scenes dimensions

Because the same dimensions of meaning can be present across scenes, their qualities can (and must) be abstracted from any specific scene. Each quality - local authenticity, rationalism, self-expression, and transgression - has its own character that can be articulated separately. This also implies that no single abstract quality defines any particular scene. Different combinations of dimension scores create different scenes. E.g. if both ethnic neighborhood and neo-bohemian scenes have a dimension of local authenticity, this does not make them the same. The difference lies in how this one quality combines with others in each particular configuration - one with self-expression and transgression, the other with neighborhood and tradition. However these combinations emerged, the resulting scene is a specific combination of multiple traits.