

The Soul of The City

Regenerative Townships of Tomorrow
Workshop at Auroville
8th September 2011

Is Soul Necessary?

What is the metaphor in science?

- Inborn, causeless, unexplainable
- Immaterial and intangible as opposites
- Unity primary, multiplicity phenomenal
- Time as unreal sensation due to interaction of phenomena of multiplicity
- Observer/observed duality illusory
- Phenomenon emerging out of complex interactions
- Tangible and intangible interwoven
- Diversity and complexity make a creative process.
- Time a category created by observation of process, reversible
- Observer inseparable from observed

What is Soul?

What is the City's Soul ?

- Inner Core?
- Centre which is the source of value? That which judges, prioritizes and balances?
- The energy which precedes and accompanies action?
- That which orients?
- That which makes anything alive?
- Immeasurable?
- Cannot be created? Inborn?
- Inborn and reflecting intention at creation and throughout existence?

CAN A CITY HAVE A SOUL? IS THIS A METAPHOR?

A City with Character?

A living City?

A City with values and a conscience?

A City with vitality?

A City which directs and encourages definite kinds of relationships?

A City which recognizes the value of the immeasurable?

A City which carries its own inner code?

A City which brings intentions to fruition?

Is Soul a product?

- Can soul be manufactured?
- Can it be inserted into a physical body?
- Does it have dimensions, shape?
- Can it be exchanged, traded ?
- Does it increase or decrease in value?
- Can the soul of the City be made?
- Can it be inserted into a lifeless armature?
- Can anyone provide space for it? Does it need space?
- Can it be part of the market?
- Can “soul” in a city increase market value, brand equity?

Is Soul a process?

- Does it respond to situations?
- Does it initiate and participate in action?
- Does it remember?
- Does it hope?
- Does it form relations with others?
- Does the “city” respond to circumstances?
- Does the City act? Or is this only a metaphor?
- Does a city have memory?
- Does it have a view of the future?
- Does the city have and express relationships?

Universal or Local?

- Is the Soul individual and identifiable as belonging to a specific history? Or is it a unity which pervades all reality?
- Is personal history more expressive of soul or is the universal human condition the truth?
- Does the City have a “spirit” which is local and historical, or is this a universal human phenomenon?
- Is the city an expression of historical and geographical circumstances, ie. Local; or is it an expression of universal need of dwelling in community?

What is in a name?

What Gives Shape, What Is Shaped?

Ends and Means