

SOCIAL CARTOGRAPHY!

BY BRICOLAGE URBAIN

WHAT IS SOCIAL CARTOGRAPHY?

Maps allow people to share knowledge of spaces. This can include knowledge on way-finding, sites of interest, personal stories and neighbourhood histories. Typically produced by professional cartographers or municipal authorities, city maps present one interpretation of space. Residents often don't have input to these maps so they often don't reflect of many people's everyday experiences. Social mapping is a way to encourage residents to share all sorts of knowledge about their neighbourhood. Social maps can help promote new understandings of networks, relationships between people and places, and perceptions of the world.

WHERE TO START, WHAT TO MAP

At base, a map is something that represents something else, like a place or an idea. Pretty much anything can be mapped - just think about what you **want** to represent and **how** you can represent it in a way that is interesting and useful for yourself and other people.

Here are some ideas of what to map (but don't just take our word for it, map whatever strikes your fancy!): places to watch the sunset, affordable restaurants, buildings that are about to be built, torn down or renovated, kid-friendly businesses, appealing smells, unwelcoming or unsafe areas, garage sale "hot spots", important social spaces for you and your community, interesting graffiti or public art...



QUICK TIPS FOR MAPMAKING

1. Don't forget to put a title explaining your map as well as a direction arrow (you can use a landmark or a north arrow) . Even for people living in the neighbourhood, it's sometimes hard to find your bearings on a two-dimensional map.
2. You can illustrate anything you want on a map, but try to keep your drawings simple. Please add a legend so future viewers can understand what certain colours or signs mean.
3. Make as many maps as you need if you have several ideas that cannot all fit all onto one map!
4. You can also use commonly-accepted symbols to illustrate your map. Many symbols and colors hold particular meanings. For example, the color green is generally associated with natural spaces or elements related to the environment.
5. You can make collective maps. Have fun and show your map to your friends and family. It is certain that your work will foster interesting discussion which might even lead to more mapmaking. The fun really never ends!



PROJECTS WE LIKE

PEOPLE'S ATLAS OF CHICAGO

<http://peoplesatlas.areaprojects.info/>

This Chicago participatory mapping and design project invited participants to map out their experiences and local knowledge on a blank city map. Examples of maps include: favorite dumpsters, bicycle riding adventures, progressive enclaves, views for a good sunset, sites of mugging, favorite restaurants, personal history, public school closings, public golf courses, tourist meeting spots, air pollution map, etc.

CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY - ENVISIONING DEVELOPMENT

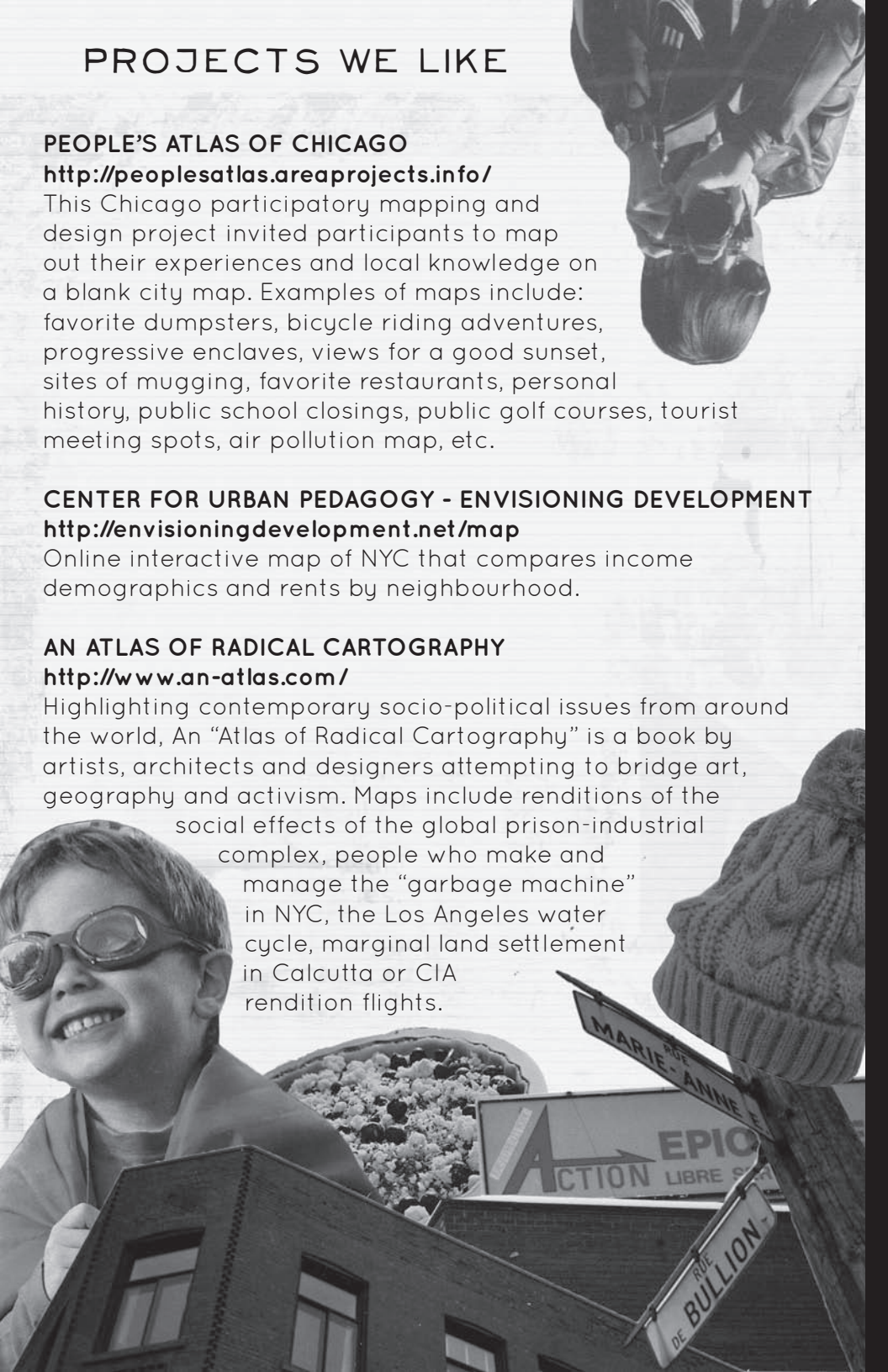
<http://envisioningdevelopment.net/map>

Online interactive map of NYC that compares income demographics and rents by neighbourhood.

AN ATLAS OF RADICAL CARTOGRAPHY

<http://www.an-atlas.com/>

Highlighting contemporary socio-political issues from around the world, An "Atlas of Radical Cartography" is a book by artists, architects and designers attempting to bridge art, geography and activism. Maps include renditions of the social effects of the global prison-industrial complex, people who make and manage the "garbage machine" in NYC, the Los Angeles water cycle, marginal land settlement in Calcutta or CIA rendition flights.



SAN FRANCISCO EMOTION MAP

<http://www.sf.biomapping.net/>

Artist/designer/educator Christian Nold's "Emotion Map" of the Mission neighbourhood in San Francisco was made with the help of 97 participants. Wearing a bio-mapping device, participants were invited to go for walks which would record their physiological response to their surroundings. These responses were then represented on a map through dots, coupled with personal annotations.

[murmur] TORONTO

<http://murmurtoronto.ca/>

An archival audio project that collects and curates stories set in specific Toronto locations, told by Torontonians.





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