

**Spaces for Pluralist Democracy :
Mediating the Acoustico-Political Urbanscape**

by

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ABSTRACT

Neither representative democracy nor mass media ever seem to be fully representative of the diverse public of the United States. While decades of conservative administration have led to many attempts to reduce the demos of Manhattan to a docile and consenting gentry, the city of New York continues to have a large number of groups staging protests, changing strategic places from visual-tactile spaces to acoustical-tactile spaces. It seems that dissent is ineradicable from the city streets. What would happen if instead of trying to eliminate dissent the government began to recognize public expression of opinion as a means to full and accurate representation of a plural culture, and civic spaces were designed to acknowledge and respond to the plural aggregate of public opinions in New York City? This project attempts to create such a space in which all groups, whether represented or disenfranchised, have an opportunity to be present at the event of political action and directly participate in government. This project is a much needed addendum to a system of government that repeatedly fails to represent the diversity of New York City.

