



get involved

International Symposium 19th and 20th October 2012
architectural & built environment education for young people
International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

Session **Susanne Hofmann, Angela Uttke**
Construction of Atmospheres

The hands-on workshop explored the sensory experience by using our shared understanding of spatial atmospheres as the common ground for discussion. Inspired by German photographer Thomas Struth's "Unconscious Places", the participants searched the site of the Biennale for its own unconscious places and photographed its hidden moments. Postcards depicting different atmospheres provided the catalyst for their re-conceived notion of the site.

We started off together by discussing appropriate words to describe the atmosphere of the Vincent Van Gogh painting "Caf terrasse am Abend" (http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caf terrasse_am_Abend) of 1888: cosy, peaceful, summery, calm, snug, warm, convivial, festive, inviting, secure, intimate, loathsome, expectant, Christmassy.

After this introduction everybody searched the Biennale site for a place or situation with a similar atmosphere to their chosen postcards. Some participants concentrated on the mood of the painting and found aggressive, innocent, calm, immersed or lonely situations while others concentrated on the depicted activities and asked visitors to imitate the merry liveliness of the "Junge Leute beim Schaukeln in einem Garten" (<http://www.kunstkopie.de/a/hummel-johann-erdman/junge-leute-schaukeln-in.html>, Young people swinging in a garden) by Johann Erdmann Hummel, 1823 (photo 2012 by Koehler&Bohler).

After one hour the participants enjoyed sharing their found "unconscious places" with each other and locating them in one site map.

