The street is the space of the contemporary composition: the social and political will be things “made by being made,” in Gertrude Stein’s terms; not rituals, “a thing prepared.” Saskia Sassen describes the old European street as “emblematic.” In crucial ways the meanings of the boulevard and the piazza have already been written, most decisively in the form of building codes and “heritage designations” that dictate certain aesthetic regimes, relationships, and behaviors. The Global Street is unburdened by heritage. It is the social space of the contemporary composition.

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