

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779402603321
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Titolo	Ambient commons : attention in the age of embodied information // Malcolm McCullough
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts, : The MIT Press, [2013]
ISBN	0-262-31348-0 1-299-44320-6 0-262-31347-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (366 p.)
Disciplina	720.1/08
Soggetti	Architectural design - Philosophy Information commons Computer-aided design Human-computer interaction
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; Prologue: Street Level; I Ideas of the Ambient; 1 Ambient; 2 Information; 3 Attention; 4 Embodiment; 5 Fixity; II Toward an Environmental History of Information; 6 Tagging the Commons; 7 Frames and Facades; 8 Architectural Atmospheres; 9 Megacity Resources; 10 Environmental History; 11 Governing the Ambient; 12 Peak Distraction; Epilogue: Silent Commons; Notes; Name Index; Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	The world is filling with ever more kinds of media, in ever more contexts and formats. Glowing rectangles have become part of the scene; screens, large and small, appear everywhere. Physical locations are increasingly tagged and digitally augmented. Sensors, processors, and memory are not found only in chic smart phones but also built into everyday objects. Amid this flood, your attention practices matter more than ever. You might not be able to tune this world out. So it is worth remembering that underneath all these augmentations and data flows, fixed forms persist, and that to notice them can improve other sensibilities. In Ambient Commons, Malcolm McCullough explores the workings of attention though a rediscovery of surroundings. Not all

that informs has been written and sent; not all attention involves deliberate thought. The intrinsic structure of space -- the layout of a studio, for example, or a plaza -- becomes part of any mental engagement with it. McCullough describes what he calls the Ambient: an increasing tendency to perceive information superabundance whole, where individual signals matter less and at least some mediation assumes inhabitable form. He explores how the fixed forms of architecture and the city play a cognitive role in the flow of ambient information. As a persistently inhabited world, can the Ambient be understood as a shared cultural resource, to be socially curated, voluntarily limited, and self-governed as if a commons? Ambient Commons invites you to look past current obsessions with smart phones to rethink attention itself, to care for more situated, often inescapable forms of information.

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