

In Sam Bloch's piece entitled "Shade" in Places magazine he explores shade disparities in Los Angeles. Notably he focuses on the areas that most often lack shade, transit stops in less affluent areas of the city where citizens and business owners take it upon themselves to install temporary shade provisions which are often removed by the city. Bloch delves into the history of shade disparity in the city and discusses how the city's beautification efforts and crack down on crime often led to removing shade in public areas to discourage activities deemed "deviant" and to create hostile environments for the unhoused. As temperatures continue to rise globally and in Los Angeles shade is not just a mark of privilege but a human resource. The article discusses where shade is located spatially, and unsurprisingly it is concentrated in areas and neighborhoods of affluence where private citizens were able to pay to have their tree canopies preserved and maintained. While improvements are made throughout the city to improve street lighting, and reduce temperatures Bloch maintains that the provision of shade should be integral to any new plans that are made.

I have been interested in shade and shade disparity throughout my time in grad school. While Southern California is hailed as a land of endless sunshine, the realities of never ending sun are often serious and detrimental to human health. It is interesting that access light was seen as a fundamental right when building codes were being made, but now the opposite problem exists. I am interested in tracking and mapping shade coverage throughout Los Angeles and seeing what effect this has on people. My design interests are always grounded in how physical space affects human health and emotion and this exploration of shade disparity is a way to map and measure just one aspect of environmental design that has human consequences.