

against gentrification and high-rise developments—Greenwich Village continues to prevail as a
to multiple heights, and despite its recurring episodes of death and rebirth—most recently
spans the extremes of urban life. The neighborhood's reputation for radical lifestyles has grown
From its rich bohemian culture to its unencumbered commercial growth, Greenwich Village

context. Drawn to places of distinct character, I chose Greenwich Village in New York City
about the term's etymology, and focused instead on examining the in a specific
as though their writings had become outdated. I ultimately decided to pivot away from learning
essence of a place—hence the title of my summer research „Building Character.“ But still, I felt
environments are conceived, and that physical form carries significant implications for the
identity of a place. As an aspiring urban designer, I believe in the importance of how our built
themselves, had been left out. To be sure, I agree that architecture and nature are essential to the
writings—it seemed like the most fundamental cornerstone of vibrant cities, the people
as though the social, cultural, and humanistic components of a city were absent from their
important to my early weeks of research; however, I was unsatisfied with what I had found. I felt
Other architectural authors, such as Julian Pallagias and Lawrence Durrell, were equally

world by allowing them to identify with their surroundings.
meaning. That is, the is strongest when it gives a person a concrete foothold in the
configuration, and architectural detail of a place work in harmony to embody man's existential
themes that emerges from his analysis is that the is strongest when the site, spatial
(architectural detail, settlement grid, etc.), and then finally the One of the central

, in which he ~~(the word "environment," "heights," etc.)~~, followed by
Christian Norberg-Schulz's seminal book
inhabited spaces—hence the idea of a „spirit.“ As I moved forward with my reading, I started
several essays that traced the term to ancient Rome, where it expressed the belief that gods
environment. Therefore, I began my research by looking briefly at the term's etymology. I found
formed, but now the modes of placemaking can activate the „spirit“ of the built
environment—but its understanding is essential not only in terms of how a place's character is
somewhat ambiguous—it invokes discussions about light, time, order, space, and

