Silent City
On Listening, Noise and Nature in the Urban Environment
Abby Aresty
Silent Night?
Sound

Of Earth and Sun
SOUND

• Sounds affect us
• Soundscape is changing
• How we listen is changing
Sound Affects Us

- Cognitive
- Psychological
- Physiological
- Behavioral

Noise and Stress: A Comprehensive Approach, Jack Westman and James R. Walters
NOISE
New York Times, July 2, 1905

Emily Thompson, The Soundscape of Modernity
WHAT AN EASY TIME ST. GEORGE HAD!

New York Herald Tribune, 1930

Emily Thompson, The Soundscape of Modernity
Effect

- Homogenous Soundscape

- Silence as commodity
1 out of 5 teenagers suffer from hearing loss.
Isn't it great to have some quality time with the family.
HYPER-CONNECTED TEENS AND TWENTY-SOMETHINGS

SMARTPHONE
- 45% use a smartphone to access online resources and content
- 8.2 hours per week are spent online on smartphones

TV
- 38% spend more time watching online videos than TV
- 79% search for information online after raising a topic of interest or awareness

GAMING
- 92% of gamers online in the last 30 days
- 76% engage with at least two devices simultaneously— including TV, PC, Smartphones and Tablets

TABLET
- 44% use a tablet in the last 30 days

Google

Source: Google 2015 Teens & Parents Survey Research Study
Sound art allows us to use sound intentionally.
Paths II: The Music of Trees
Public Atrium @ Center for Sustainable Landscapes
Of Earth and Sun

Buildings, too, are children of earth and sun.

-Frank Lloyd Wright
• Sound
• Space
• System
The Sound
Sounds that Reconnect

Use natural sounds that give a sense of:

• Place or location
• Time of day
• Weather
• Season
Riverview Park
Carnegie Mellon
Point Breeze
Frick Park
• SOUND

→ SPACE
Public Atrium @ Center for Sustainable Landscapes
✓ Reconnect listeners to environment
→ Share poetry of sustainable design
The System

Cloud with rain drops = Cloud with rain drops
• Sounds / Space / System

The people