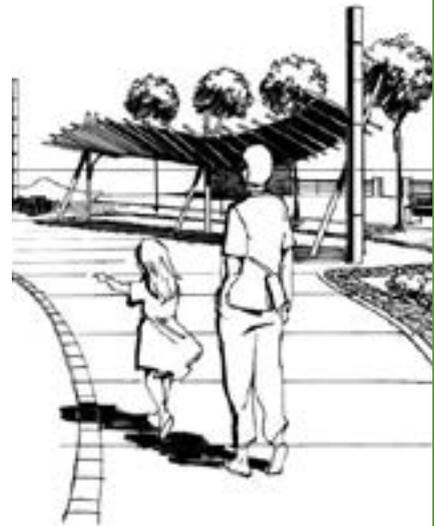


VITAL PUBLIC SPACES



Designing and managing public spaces for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities

24 February 2015
Palais des Nations, Room VIII
Geneva, Switzerland



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



WORKSHOP AGENDA

Languages of the workshop: English, French, Russian

10:00-10:40

Introduction

- **Elena Szolgayova**, Chair, the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

Welcome addresses

- **Frédéric Saliez**, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, Brussels Liaison Office
- **Kyle Farrell**, PhD Candidate, School of Architecture and the Built Environment, KTH – Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- **Paola Deda**, Acting Director of the Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

10:40-11:10

Keynote speech

- **Maestro Michelangelo Pistoletto**, Artist and art theorist, Italy
The Ribirth of Public Spaces: How a Symbol can Stimulate Human Interaction

11:10-11:30

Break (coffee served outside of the conference room)

11:30-13:00

- **Pietro Garau**, Biennial's International Curator, Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (INU), Italy - *Charter of Public Space, Biennale of Public Space*
- **Sergio Porta**, Director of Urban Design Studies Unit, University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK - *Public Spaces, Resilience and Urban Prosperity: An Evolutionary Approach to Urban Development*
- **Matina Halkia**, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Center, the European Commission - *Mapping Urban Green with the EU Global Human Settlement Layer (EU_GHSL)*
- **Tadashi Matsumoto**, Senior Policy Analyst, Regional Development Policy Division, OECD
The role of public space in compact cities: policy implication to fast-growing cities

Questions and comments

13:00-15:00

Lunch break

15:00-16:30

- **Susan Silberberg**, Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, USA - *Places in the Making: How placemaking builds places and communities*
- **Sandra Piriz**, Deputy Chief, Department of Urban Planning and Mobility, City of Geneva, Switzerland - *Public Space in the City of Geneva*
- Video Presentation by **Olafur Eliasson**, Artist, Studio Olafur Eliasson, Berlin, Germany
- **Jurjen van der Tas**, Deputy Director Historic Cities Programme, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Geneva, Switzerland - *Green Open Space in the Historic Built Environment*

Questions and comments

16:30-16:40

Break (coffee served outside of the conference room)

16:40-17:00

- **Jan Gehl**, Architect, Founding Partner and Principal Gehl Architects, Denmark - *People-Oriented City Planning*

17:00-18:20

"The Human Scale" screening

Thinkers, architects and urban planners discuss ways to increase human interaction in cities

18:20 – 18:30

Wrap-up

- **Frédéric Saliez**, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, Brussels Liaison Office
- **Daniel Hogan**, Project Director of the Strategic Heritage Plan
- **Gulnara Roll**, Head, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE
- **Elena Szolgayova**, Chair, the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management

18:30-19:30

Reception

SPEAKERS

Paola DEDA



Paola Deda is currently Acting Director of the UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division. She is an architect and held different positions and responsibilities within the United Nations, including at the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs in New York (Division for Sustainable Development); the Secretariats of two UNEP Biodiversity Conventions in Montreal and Bonn; the UNEP Environment Management Group and UNECE in Geneva. She has published several articles on the sustainable use of natural resources, and has participated as contributing author to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Prior to joining the United Nations, Paola worked as researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and the University of California at Berkeley.

Olafur ELIASSON



Olafur Eliasson is a Danish-Icelandic artist whose work with sculpture and large-scale installation art employs elemental materials such as light, water, and fog to enhance the viewer's experience. In 1995, he established Studio Olafur Eliasson in Berlin, a laboratory for spatial research. Eliasson installed The weather project in 2003 in the Turbine Hall of Tate Modern, London, where he also launched in 2012 his artwork and social business Little Sun, a handheld, solar-powered lamp designed to bring clean light to off-grid communities. In 2014, the artist opened at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen his solo exhibition Riverbed, which inserted a river and rocky landscape into the museum's galleries.

Kyle Farrell



Kyle Farrell is a PhD candidate at the School of Architecture and Built Environment at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden. His research is focused on spatially mapping population density and mixed-use at a granular level in selected cities in China.

Kyle's interests have been shaped by his experiences in global trade with Port Metro Vancouver, and as a Researcher for the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University. Most recently Kyle has been gaining experience in the global south as a Political Economist for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and as a Research Associate for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the Regional Office for South Asia in New Delhi. Kyle holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Simon Fraser University, Canada and a Master of Arts in International Development and Urban Planning from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom.

Pietro GARAU



Pietro Garau, an architect-planner and a tenured lecturer/researcher in planning at the University of Rome, joined what was then the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in 1980 where he worked for more than twenty years in the areas of human settlements research and policy. There he pioneered and led the production of the first Global Report on Human Settlements. As head of the UN-Habitat UN office in New York he organized the UN's special session on Habitat II + 5 and engineered Habitat's upgrading from "Centre" to "Programme". Back in the academic arena, he taught urban policies at Rome's Sapienza, directed that university's Planning Research Centre for the Developing Countries, and directed courses of higher learning on the Millennium Development Goals. This work was summarized in the book "Barefoot and Prada". Lately he co-organized the National Planning Institute's 2011 and 2013 Biennials on Public Space and pioneered and steered the process leading to the adoption of the "Charter of Public Space". He is currently the Biennial's international curator.

Jan GEHL



Jan Gehl is an Architect, Founding Partner of Gehl Architects, and former Professor and Researcher at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture. Over the course of his career, he has published several books, including, "Life Between Buildings", "Cities for People", "New City Spaces", "Public Spaces – Public Life", "New City Life" and most recently "How to Study Public Life". As part of Gehl, Jan has collaborated on projects for the cities of Copenhagen, London, Melbourne, Sydney, New York and Moscow, among others. He is considered to be one of the leading urbanists of our time.

Matina HALKIA

Matina Halkia is a Scientific Officer at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Protection and Security of the Citizen, Global Security and Crisis Management Unit, contributing to research projects dealing with the use of space technologies for automatic image information retrieval in spatial analysis and urban and regional policy. Since 2013, she has been leading the application of remote sensing technologies for fine-scale systematic analysis of human settlements, for urban and regional policy in Europe. She has a background in Architecture, Urban Studies, as well as Information and Communication Technology and works in research bridging the built environment and computer science for more than 15 years.



Dan HOGAN



Dan Hogan is currently working for the United Nations as the Project Director for the Strategic Heritage Plan project at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The project is a major renovation and upgrade of the historic facility originally constructed for the League of Nations in the 1930's. Dan retired from the U.S. State Department in 2014 as a member of the Senior Foreign Service. Dan joined the Department in 1996 and completed tours in Beijing, Accra, Jerusalem, Moscow, Warsaw and two in Washington D.C. In addition to overseeing major construction projects during his overseas assignments, Dan served as the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Director of the Office of Construction Management from 2008 to 2011. Prior to joining the Foreign Service Dan had eleven years of professional experience, including the field supervision of high-rise construction in New York City and the management of rural infrastructure projects for the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands. Dan's professional credentials include a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. Dan is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, and the Construction Management Association of America. Dan is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York.

Tadashi Matsumoto

Tadashi Matsumoto is currently in charge of the OECD's Green Cities Programme, in particular the Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia project. He is the main author of the OECD's publication Compact City Policies: A Comparative Assessment (2012). He also contributed to a number of urban research projects including Green Growth in Cities (2013), Cities and Climate Change (2010). Prior to joining the OECD in 2009, he had been engaged in urban planning, housing and building policies at the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for more than ten years. He holds a MUP (Urban Planning) from New York University and Ph.D. from Tokyo University (Engineering). He also studied at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. He lectures at Tsukuba University, Japan, and SciencesPo, France.



Sandra PIRIZ



Ms. Sandra Piriz is the Deputy Chief of the Urban Planning and Mobility Unit at the Building and Land Management Department of the City of Geneva. She coordinates and monitors studies and projects on mobility, development of moderate speed zones and zones for pedestrians, reduction of traffic noise, development of bicycle facilities and improvement of the continuity and security of routes for soft mobility. She also manages the master plan. She participates in the development of the department's policies on mobility, advises on all matters relating to traffic and parking, and ensures communication with the population. Ms. Piriz is a geographer and urban planner and has a continuing education in environmental management as well as in proximity management. She has worked for many years as the head of operations in urban development projects and in projects for sustainable development.

Michelangelo PISTOLETTO

Michelangelo Pistoletto is an icon of Italian art and culture and acknowledged as one of the main representatives of the Italian Arte Povera. Since the 1950s, he has exhibited extensively and his work is owned by numerous museums and institutions worldwide including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, the Tate Modern, London, and the Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid. Important exhibitions have been presented all over the world and his work has been included in major international exhibitions including the Venice Biennale on eleven separate occasions and at the Louvre in Paris in 2013. Michelangelo lives and works in Biella, where he founded the interdisciplinary laboratory Cittadellarte. He has been awarded numerous international art prizes and recognitions, including the prestigious Imperial Price (Praemium Imperiale) of the Japan Art Association. Maestro Pistoletto is also a champion of sustainability, as he is committed to societal change through the use of art.



**Sergio PORTA**

Sergio Porta is Professor of Urban Design, Director of the Urban Design Studies Unit and former Head of Department at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK. He is member of the Environmental Structure Research Group, the Academy of Urbanism and of the editorial boards of leading international journals like “Environment and Planning B” and “Urban Design International” and “Urban Studies Research”. His research is mainly oriented to the definition of procedures, attitudes and tools for sustainable, human and adaptive urban analysis and design, ranging from GIS-based space analysis to sustainable community design, transportation planning and traffic calming techniques to strategies for safety and liveability in the public domain.

Gulnara ROLL

Gulnara Roll is Secretary of the intergovernmental UNECE Committee for Housing and Land Management and Head of the Housing and Land Management Unit at the Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE. Gulnara’s educational background is in Human Geography and Environmental Sciences. Prior to joining UNECE in 2009, she worked in academia and management of international programmes on research, spatial planning and regional development in Brussels, Belgium; Tartu, Estonia; and St. Petersburg, Russia

**Frédéric SALIEZ**

Frédéric Saliez is an expert in the field of public space and urban planning. He is a trained architect, holds a MA in Landscape Theories and has worked with UN-Habitat for more than 10 years, namely in Cuba, at headquarters in Nairobi, in the regional office for Latin America in Rio de Janeiro, and in Brussels. He also worked in Kosovo as advisor on spatial planning related to cultural and religious heritage.

Susan SILBERBERG

An accomplished city planner, urban designer, architect, author and educator, Susan Silberberg is Senior Lecturer in Urban Design and Planning in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. She is the Founder and Managing Director of CivicMoxie, LLC, a planning, urban design, real estate advisory and strategic placemaking group with experience in serving municipalities, not for profits, corporations, developers, foundations, and community groups. Susan is lead author of Places in the Making: How placemaking builds places and communities. This MIT white paper reveals the importance of the placemaking process in building social capital and restoring local political voices in communities.

**Elena SZOLGAYOVÁ**

Elena Szolgayová, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. In 1999 she joined the state administration, where she has been acting in several senior positions, recently as Director General of the Housing Policy and Urban Development Department at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. She has been involved in numerous UNECE and EU housing activities and Working groups targeted at housing and urban development, and has contributed to several UNECE and research publications related to urban and housing issues. Since 2013 she acts as chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

Jurjen VAN DER TAS

Jurjen van der Tas is deputy director of the Historic Cities Programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). Before taking up this position in 2003, he was director of policy and programming for the Aga Khan Foundation UK. Between 1991 and 2002, he worked at Oxfam Novib as programme officer for local development initiatives in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and the former Soviet



Unplanned and unregulated growth of cities may result in increased social inequality and segregation, and degradation of environmental quality in cities. Promoting inclusive and safe urban development is one of the focus areas of the post-2015 development agenda. The Open Working Group established by the United Nations General Assembly developed proposals for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include Goal 11 on cities and human settlements. According to objective 11.7 of this goal, governments should, by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

High-quality public spaces can have a positive impact and play a major role in the economic and social vitality of urban areas. Sustainable public spaces can promote democracy, inclusiveness and openness. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III Conference), Dr. Joan Clos, in his speech at the first session of the HABITAT III Preparatory Committee, underlined that: "The backbone of a city is good public space where citizens interact and economic activities are mixed and multiply. This public space needs to be legally protected to remain intact over generations. From successful experiences, we

have learned at least four important lessons. First, planning is essential if we are to avoid social segregation. Second, between 45% and 50% of land in urban areas must be allocated to public space. Third, public spaces should be designed properly to ensure that communities operate efficiently. Finally, the city should guarantee adequate population density and mixed use, with the aim of ensuring the necessary proximity of the factors of production."

The importance of public spaces is highlighted in many policy documents of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management, including in the Strategy on Sustainable Housing and Land Management 2014-2020 and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing. These two important documents aim to promote green and socially inclusive human settlements and the long-term sustainability of housing and land management in the region.

This workshop will discuss measures that governments and stakeholders in the UNECE region undertake to develop and promote access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces. The workshop focuses on the planning, design and management of public spaces. The workshop is a contribution from the UNECE region to HABITAT III on the topic of public and green spaces.

Acknowledgements

The workshop is organized jointly by the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management; KTH - Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden; UN-Habitat together with Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation as part of the Ax:son Johnson Foundation project "Future of Places" leading to Habitat III in 2016.

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