THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SPACE IN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: SOME NEW APPROACHES

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THE 10 MAJOR TRENDS SHAPING OUR CITIES

SHARING CITIES – Sustainable Consumption
NEW REALITY - Expanding Informal Settlements
DENSITY – Triumph of the City
THE FORGOTTEN DIMENSION – Inequality, Segregation and Injustice
THE NEW WAVE - Forced Migrations and Urban Insecurity
HUMAN SCALE - Walkability and Transit-Use
QUALITY OF LIFE - Public Spaces and Amenities
REFRAMING THE URBAN – The New Economic Geographies and Landscapes
CLIMATE AND BEYOND - Sustainability, Resilience and New Technologies
NEW ALLIANCES - Urban Real Estate, Public Sector Partnerships and Innovation Districts
WHY PUBLIC SPACE?

• Health
• Inclusivity
• Environment and Climate Change
• Urban Economy
• Governance
• Safety and Security
• Housing
• Transport and Mobility
• Etc.

AN ENTRY POINT FOR EVERYTHING
WHY PUBLIC SPACE NOW?

• Compact Cities Model
• Reclaiming spaces from the cars
• Multimodal transport
• Quantity to quality
• Cultural Preservation
• Value of public spaces for democracy
• The third space (Community Cohesion)
• Economic value
• Recognition that Public Space is an asset under threat
Bangkok is sinking. Here's how a new park can protect the city from flooding.

The park can hold up to one million gallons of water.
PUBLIC SPACES ARE MULTIFUNCTIONAL
KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS FOR PUBLIC SPACE

What Makes a Great Place?

Sociability
- fun
- active
- vital
- special
- real
- useful
- indigenous
- celebratory
- sustainable

Uses & Activities
- local business ownership
- land-use patterns
- property values
- rent levels
- retail sales

Access & Linkages
- continuity
- proximity
- connected
- readable
- walkable
- sustainable

Comfort & Image
- safe
clean
“green”
walkable
sustainable

traffic data
mode splits
transit usage
pedestrian activity
parking usage patterns

number of women, children & elderly
social networks
volunteerism
evening use
street life
pride
friendly
interactive
welcoming

continuous
proximity
connected
readable
walkable
sustainable

crime statistics
sanitation rating
building conditions
environmental data

PPS
Project for Public Spaces

The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
William H. Whyte

PPS
Project for Public Spaces

Jan Gehl
Cities for people
PLACE-MAKING IS A PRACTICE IN COMMUNITY-MAKING AND TRANSFORMATION! (SMALL)
EVERYDAY URBANISM: it is a product of the intricate social, political, economic, and aesthetic forces at work in the contemporary urban environment. Everyday space can be spirited, spontaneous, vital, and inclusive; all too often it is neglected by its inhabitants, ignored by city planners, and disregarded by critics.

LEAN URBANISM: restore common sense to the processes of development, building, starting small businesses, community engagement, and acquiring the necessary skills.

DIY/ POP-UP URBANISM: Testing the grounds for social change - citizen-generated alterations of the built environment that are intended to improve the public realm or put under-utilized space in service to the community.

TACTICAL URBANISM: is an umbrella term used to describe a collection of low-cost, temporary changes to the built environment, usually in cities, intended to improve local neighborhoods and city gathering places.
"Tactical Urbanism demonstrates the huge power of thinking small about our cities. It shows how, with a little imagination and the resources at hand, cities can unlock the full potential of their streets."
—Janette Sadik-Khan

"...it is about getting it right for now and at the same time being tactical and strategic about later...and about disturbing the order of things in the interests of change."
—Narjeel Hamdi

Author: about the art of practice and the art of planning in cities

TACTICAL URBANISM
Short-term Action for Long-term Change

MIKE LYDON & ANTHONY GARCIA
FOREWORD BY ANDRÉS DUANY
Figure 1: Graphic showing the range of tactical urbanism projects sorted by tacticians and types of tactics used (source: Lydon et al. 2012; p. 7)
Lessons learned on public space and how to put it into practice
PLACEMAKING CAMPUS PROJECT

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Master in Urbanism Studies
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
KTH Placemaking Week 2017

KTH Placemaking Week 2018
THE EVENT:

How to bring sustainability outside, while making the public spaces of the campus better?

STRATEGY: POSTERS

STRATEGY: PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

- Again, fun and practical actions are more effective

STRATEGY: VISIBILITY

- Balloons, bunting banners, colored routes on the ground, flyers, music, etc. improve visibility

STRATEGY: FREE FOOD

- Food is one of the most successful tools to attract people
- The foot-in-the-door-technique (Freedman and Fraser, 1966)
Exploring campus and making a spatial-social analysis: identifying places to work on, provide content for interviews

Network analysis and interviewing people: involving other people on campus including teachers, campus landlord, KTH, other students and interviewing them, finding potential partners

Evaluation (post-event survey and do’s and don’ts)

Getting things done for now and the long term (building the event, managing the event for 2 days)

Planning the event with the help and experience of Stipo (together with a few ‘placemakers’ met during the workshop)
LESSONS LEARNED

Do’s
• Make sure that the people involved in the project understand the value of their active participation
• Do quick, light, cheap (you can do a lot with a few!)
• Limitations can lead to greater creativity
• Be optimistic and think big, and never give up!
• Clear communication with all stakeholders at the same time is essential
• Invite everyone

Dont’s
• Don’t rush! Time is a precious variable that must be taken into consideration beforehand. Project management is essential
• Don’t think too big: think realistic
• Don’t underestimate people’s availabilities and possibilities: compose with people’s timetable and with the resources available
• Don’t assume that the weather will be great… (always have a plan B)
Although a large part of urban development comes through formal interventions (planning and legislation), we must save room for citizen engagement and participation. This is ultimately what will make our cities more resilient.