THE NOTEBOOKS OF THE CHAIR #1

"Public spaces in revolution !"

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Professor at IAE Paris, former president of the Academy of Entrepreneurship and innovation, co-editor in head of the Journal of Entrepreneurship (classified A HCERES), Didier Chabaud has written about one hundred journal articles with peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and publications, on the entrepreneurial processes.

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Associate Professor at IAE Paris, pioneer of the concept of "Living Cities", Carlos Moreno is a well-known scientist in France and in the world. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Higher Council of strategic training and research, of the scientific council of the "Institut Mines-Télécom" and the academic board of the Strate Design School in Singapore. Carlos Moreno was awarded the 2019 Prospective Medal by the Architecture Academy.

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Christelle Thomas
General Delegate

Graduate of IEP in International Relations and Sup de Co Paris (MSP), Christelle Thomas has collaborated with several international organizations - OECD, WHO, Proparco / AFD. She has worked on various projects, particularly with the role of the private sector as a growth accelerator. Since 2009, she has also been involved with universities on themes such as intercultural relations and international project managemsent.

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Executive Secretary

With a North American university background - M.A. in Diplomacy and International Relations and a double B.A. in Political Science and Sociology, Lucas Sageot-Chomel worked in the NGOs sector, including the United Nations headquarters in New York before returning to Europe to organize the Forums of the Positive Economy (LH Forum and Global Positive Forum). He now coordinates the operations of the ETI Chair.

Paula Berdugo
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Executive Administrative Officer of the IAE Paris Sorbonne Business School research unit, Paula Berdugo, manages the six research chairs of the IAE Paris as well as the overall research activities.

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EDITORIAL

Pr Carlos Moreno
Scientific Director and co-founder
of the ETI Chair

The ETI Chair inaugurates its notebooks with a collective reflection on public spaces.

In our cities and all over the world, there is what we call the "urban atmosphere" which results from successive transformations of the public space and their uses over time. The public spaces are thus the expression of the city's identity and the mingling of its inhabitants.

The predominance of the car, the paradigm of urbanization and development of our cities for over 50 years, has caused the public space and its inhabitants to suffer from car traffic which reduces the public space available as a common good.

The fight for the climate changes the situation and today the public spaces become the heart, the pulse and the rampart of the city to offer another paradigm: vegetation, biodiversity, low carbon. Of course, at a time of terrorism and incivility in the city, tranquility, security, accessibility, and gender equality are among the main concerns. The use of urban space in everyday life and the choice of public spaces are closely linked to the perception the inhabitants have of their cities and the local urban atmospheres these express. This urban space can therefore only exist through the eyes of an individual, the affective and subjective relationship that each person creates in direct contact with these places.

Its shape and morphology result from the desired urban organization in order to meet the needs which evolve over time: roads, sidewalks for pedestrians, squares, monuments, trees, as well as street furniture: street lights, road signs, public benches and the various waiting places for public transport are all elements that contribute to familiarizing the inhabitant with his city.

All this provides a perspective on a major topic that we wish to keep open and transversal.

Enjoy the read!

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1. THE LIVING CITY

The city, place of life, mingling, sharing

Just like a living being, the city complex, has its own metabolism, and is born from the interaction of multiple systems which constitute it. Each of our cities has a soul that travels through the centuries. It is to be discovered and cultivated.

Understanding the city and its mutations is also, and above all, understanding the human, its expectations, desires and frustrations. To be born, grow and age in cities the 21st century has profoundly changed the nature of the connection between humans and their environment. The life in these living spaces, the connection between its inhabitants and making the city a breathable place are all vital conditions in every sense of the word.

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THE LIVING CITY :
PLACE OF LIFE, INSPIRATION AND SHARING

The city is a living place that develops with time, grows and becomes increasingly complex. The city is not just the result of a construction but is first of all the soil of a permanent creation. We suggest to consider it as a "living city", territory of life, mingling, hope. The decisions that are taken on a daily basis in cities concern our future and that of future generations as in 2050, 70% of the world population will be urbanized. The living city means highlighting its vulnerability and acting to implement a social, urban and technological convergence that are all vital to build its identity, memory and resilience. The living city has its own metabolism with the interaction of multiple systems that constitute it. It must constantly adapt to multiple mutations.

Incomplete, impermanent, imperfect, the city as a place to live needs a permanent metamorphosis to offer a quality of life and an essential attractiveness: making it breathable, recovering and reusing the public space, decompartmentalizing it, encouraging encounters, open it to recreational expressions, divert the use of its streets, squares, walls, encourage new social practices, develop col-laborative gardens, pedestrian discovery areas, open spaces devoted to pedagogy, etc.

It is a question of loosening the existing social relations, to develop others of a new kind, but also to transform relationships between, citizens, the city and its environment in a coherent way.

To respond to this complexity, it is essential that the city becomes both a source of creativity and source of ingenuity, all while leaving space for frugality, which is crucial to face the uprising resource crisis and deal with climate change and its consequences. The living city is also creative when it comes to demonstrating resilience and coping with long-term challenges such as social cohesion, low carbon lifestyle and the preservation of biodiversity.

When reflecting upon urban projects, ecosystems, social intelligence and the use technology in the service of city-dwellers, it is important to be accompanied by cross-cutting practices in order to innovate, experiment and explore the relationships that exist between public spaces of the city, its infrastructures, its public and private development needs, in the context of a permanent urban evolution.

It's about building the living city of tomorrow, to have a different day-to-day lifestyle for the millions of citizens, regardless the size of their city, small agglomeration or large metropolis. Like a human being, the living city is also transformed on a daily basis to preserve its memory, imagine its new creations and affirm its identity. What better way than to introduce this notebook with the living city, common thread of how these public spaces which are the first mediators of the city, creators of relationships, networks, exchanges, witnesses of stories and can each bring their piece of humanity to the city.

Gaëtan Siew and
The "ruisseau du Pouce" project
Like a Mauritian green path

"Le ruisseau du pouce", tributary of the mountain "Le Pouce" was created over 100 years ago and crosses the city of Port-Louis. Slightly wider during floods, it presents itself as a landmark of the landscape which justifies the development of banks around the river bed, in order to turn it into a natural pedestrian tree-lined path and thus connect the neighborhood of *Aapravasi Ghat* to the city.

However, the project goes further. In addition to connecting several public spaces, the development of these banks, suggested by Gaëtan Siew's team, will allow the reopening of several businesses of the land plot and business owners, who are currently being cut-off. This will to revive the spaces around the "ruisseau du pouce". This development will be done gradually thanks to the incentives which allow private sector to invest in the public domain. Nevertheless, the real challenge of this project is to repair the fracture caused by the M2 motorway. The goal is to create an open-air museum for artists and a place of life for the inhabitants and biodiversity.

The stream bed of the "ruisseau du pouce" before and after the development of the banks
©Port Louis Development Initiative

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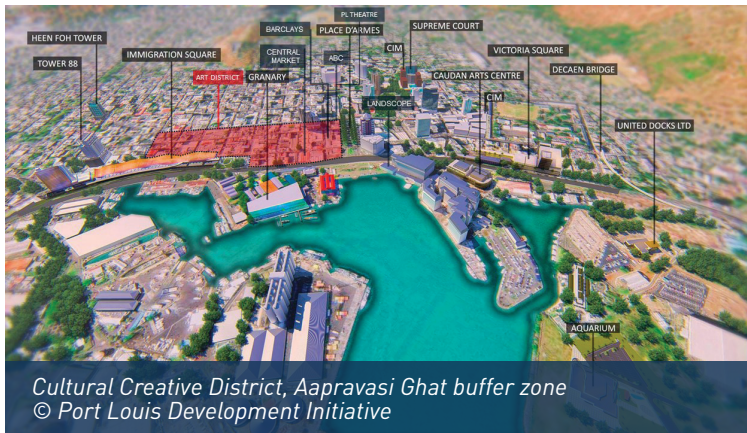
ENCOUNTER

Gaëtan Siew

Co-founder of the Port Louis Development Initiative (PLDI)

You talk about being inspired by the "Bilbao Effect", what is your approach to make public spaces in Port Louis more appealing?

We wish to **boost the city of Port Louis with initiatives that will be spread throughout the public space.** The idea is to create **a cultural creative district**, by recovering a space with an old-fashioned character, *"la zone tampon Aapravasi Ghat"*. This space is a very residential district which corresponds to the old warehouses near the port where there was a strong commercial and social exchange.

The development of this district is also based on the diversity of the Mauritian population originating from three continents and several religions. Thus, for example, the Friday Mosque, **Jummah Masjid**, is a high potential location to create a place of life and its directors are willing to make a partnership within the context of this new project. For this, **the goal is to re-invest in the streets to transform them into public spaces of conviviality, diversity and revitalization.**

The district is near the small fishing port under customs control, currently inaccessible but which should turn into a marina, **a gate entrance to the neighborhood** that will welcome locals as well as visitors by taxi-boat. The city of Mauritius is about to install a tram in the neighborhood as **an intermodal station**. This **additional means of transport will reduce the impact of car traffic thus enhancing the value of pedestrianization.**

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Cultural Creative District, Aapravasi Ghat buffer zone
© Port Louis Development Initiative

How to redevelop public spaces to create living cities when lacking financial means?

In Mauritius, the Franco-British history gives us a pragmatic development vision based on an economic approach which is less focused on state subsidies, by creating measures to **encourage the private sector to invest financially**.

To speed up the process of developing the creative district, three groups are encouraged to invest in the neighborhood by an exemption tax measure. The populations concerned are **future inhabitants**, artists, creators or those who innovate in the digital sector. **In addition sectors of creation, events, digital or innovation are also targeted.**

The owners of the premises are initially **retail traders**, who have been requested to reconvert their buildings so that they can accommodate new activities deployed by startups or development companies. **These measures will create an ecosystem that encourages them to transform the place and open it to more diverse activities** rather than mere convenience stores, thus participating to revive the neighborhood.

In your opinion, what facilities will encourage an intergenerational mix?

It is a question of **encouraging employees to move to the city in order to limit movement and revive the neighborhood, by day and by night**. To do so, we rely on fiscal measures to attract youth. Among these measures, we suggest a housing allowance which can be substituted for the transport allowance included in the salary of the Mauritians. This allocation simplifies access to property or reduces the price of rent, limits the time spent on transport and reduces the carbon footprint of those concerned. **After 4 pm, public spaces are revitalized by the presence of the youth** who consume and go to events which **the whole neighborhood can benefit from**. It's a win-win situation.

Public spaces surrounding the Jummah Mosque before and after the construction, Queen Street, Port Louis, Mauritius
© Port Louis Development Initiative

THE LIVING CITY

URBAN GEMS

Long Ma Jing Shen
La Machine - China
Public spaces animated by mystical creatures

The company La Machine was born from a collaboration of artists, technicians and show decorators, gathered around the construction of urban objects, and atypical representations. Led by the designer and scenographer François Delarozière, it is presented in several continents and benefits the city with the talents of its professionals. Ever since the design of the Machines de l'Île de Nantes, the company has been well-known and now intervenes in urban planning. Their projects have diversified into street performances abroad. For example, a recent one, Long Ma Jing Shen, was performed in China.

Through his achievements, François Delarozière promotes a living architecture and it's by using movement and creativity that his machines come to life. The street performance, Long Ma Jing Shen, which is inspired by the Chinese legend "The goddess of Nüwa ", comes to offer an entertainment for the city, a live show, embodied by an extraordinary dragon-shaped piece. Their large sizes, come to entertain and revive the urban territory by expressing the local culture, art and architecture.

The Urban Living Room
A mobile urban living room for socialization

Launched in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, by artist Eddy Kaiser, "The Urban Living Room "is a small living room entirely painted in blue, composed of furniture intended to be used by all passers-by, and exposed in the public spaces of the city. This project aims to provide city dwellers with a more welcoming and warm experience of space usage by stimulating encounters and spontaneous conversations. To do so, the outdoor temporary living room, regularly moves in public spaces of the city to meet the citizens.

"The Urban Living Room" is a place of exchanges and social gatherings, this is why many activities are planned there. We can come to play chess and other board games made available... A real highlight in the city. We can also enjoy the concerts of local bands that are organized spontaneously, or simply have a conversation with other people there. This mobile living room, which will soon move outside the Netherlands, helps boost public spaces and in some ways make the city more alive.

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Superkilen Universal Park by BIG
Nørrebro, Denmark
A giant playground, children become the promoters of the living city !

In the district of Nørrebro in Copenhagen, the urban park of Superkilen which stretches out over a full kilometer results from a collective work between different stakeholders of the city: architect's office BIG, artists of Superflex and landscape architects of TOPOTEK 1. This project which is located in a disadvantaged neighborhood in the city, diverts the traditional themes of the garden and the park by making it part of the contemporary urban environment. Architects and artists wanted to make diversity a basic principle of their project, combining sport, culture, and generational diversity by inviting young and old to participate.

This project revives the neighborhood and gives it a cultural dimension, through different sports activities from around the world, an artistic and recreational dimension, and is divided into three sectors.

Three sectors of different colors, interconnected and forming an innovative urban continuity. The different surfaces and colors are integrated to form a dynamic and innovative environment for daily uses. The vegetation is also present and is outlined in the whole park in the form of small islets composed of various species of trees and shrubs cleverly integrated to merge with daily uses. This urban park is today a giant playground that highlights recreational practices of all the horizons and which allows the inhabitants with diverse and numerous origins to be able to fully adapt to the urban space.

2. THE HUMAN CITY

Placing the human back at the heart of urban life

To live in the 20th century is to adopt a built urban space to ensure the development of an urban world with the paradox of the loss of the social and human relationship between citizens.

Property and possession of goods as symbols of success (e.g. the private car), resulted in mineral, oppressive and asocial urban spaces which impact the well-being of its inhabitants.

The paradigms change, lifestyles vary, different ways to live, work, consume and to produce are necessary if we want a world capable of facing the big climatic and social challenges. It is time to put the human at the center of our urban concerns!

THE HUMAN CITY :
DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF ITS INHABITANTS

The accelerated and globalized urbanization over these past fifty years has caused the appearance of enormous urban structures, where millions of people pass each other daily without interacting, and, where lifestyles are increasingly desynchronized and accelarated. Over time urban spaces have sadly become associated with malaise, anxiety and anonymity.

A feeling that has gradually turned into a flaw because of the gap between the intentions of urban planners and the perception of users, between the city that is designed and the one that is experienced. In addition, the digitalization that often simplifies life, actually ends up moving us further away from it instead of making stronger human connections. However, the city is full of resources as it is, above all, the abundance of activities and human relations. An understanding that seems to have been changing human, spatial and social relations for several decades. We must not forget that the city was created first and foremost, by the man and for man.

To ensure the well-being of the citizens, it is essential to place the human being and at the heart of the cities. The different spaces of the city must be the pillars of the interactions between its inhabitants, and also promote the possibilities of interaction with all the people who live there. By re-thinking the role of public spaces we will enable its inhabitants to have spaces that stimulates social connections, calmness and leisure. Reflecting on the quality of the use of urban projects is a challenge for all urban stakeholders. Indeed, the city must free itself from the image of a "habitat machine", to become a living space for all.

For this, the city must allow to awaken all the senses of its inhabitants. By interactive installations, urban design, nature or architecture, the city becomes a set of stimuli that can be a source of wonder and well-being among locals. Once they have been mastered, colors, sounds and smells become allies to encourage human fulfillment in an urban environment.

Building more liveable and healthier cities to improve the mental and psychological health of its inhabitants is one of the challenges for the city of tomorrow. By decreasing the omnipresence of the car, the widespread concrete spaces, and the standardization of urban life, it is then possible to open new horizons for a city that is devoted to man, his health and well-being.

Above all, a more human city is a more vibrant city.

ZOOM

The Light Creature
A new smart façade for the Hotel WZ Jardins of São Paulo

This project by Estudio **Guto Requena** explores the concept of ̈**Hacked City**̈, looking for devices that make public spaces and architecture more practical and human. For this, the architect opts for systems, both functional and poetic, that encourage these positive changes such as the facade of the hotel WZ Jardins in São Paulo which was chosen and restyled.

During the day, a metal coat envelops the facade and appears as a blue, gray and gold pixelated skin. This urban camouflage was designed with the analyzes of the surrounding sounds of the site using a parametric software. The result is a visual illustration of the soundscape of Rebouça Avenue in São Paulo evolving in real time, according to the changes taking place in this public space.

Made visible by interactive light panels operating at night, this metallic skin gives the building the appearance of a ̈luminous creature ̈. The facade is covered with sensors installed on the building, that collect data on sound and air quality and affect the movements and shapes of the facade. To promote interaction, a mobile application allows passers-by to interact directly with the work of art. A fun approach to raise awareness of the issues related to air pollution and urban noise pollution.

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Encounter

Guto Requena
Architect, designer, urban planner
São Paulo, Brazil

How can architecture, urban design and public spaces bring more well-being in the city and what tools do you use to achieve it?

The use of new technologies within cities can be a way of putting architecture, urban design and public spaces at the service of well-being in the city. My research and projects focus on how to combine empathy, design and technology in the city. My main tools to achieve this are activism and militancy; **I consider myself an activist designer**. Through some of my projects, I try to get a message out to the people.

The project I made in São Paulo, "The Light Creature" (see Feedback from the expert), helps to raise awareness of urban well-being issues such as air quality. **It is through the facades, the surfaces of the city, which are accessible to all, that we can create a more democratic way to share data, figures and information about the city.**

Architecture and urban design, can also, in many ways, bring well-being in the city, by the development of public spaces and playing with lights effects, shapes, colors, materials... This work on sounds and atmospheres may be supported by technology, using shapes and design. Another one of my projects, called "Can you tell me a secret?", also in São Paulo, proposes to connect people and create social bonds in the city through five wooden benches, arranged in a neighborhood where the population is composed mainly of migrants.

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This project invites users to interact in the public space by sharing their stories that can be recorded via a telephone in the center of the square. The stories can then be shared and listened to by passers-by. I think that it is the exchange, the listening and the construction of social bonds between citizens of the same urban space, which will contribute to promote well-being in the city.

The term empathy often comes up in your remarks and especially in the context of your projects such as the Pavilhão Brasil Dubai or the Mapped Empathy project. How can public spaces be vectors of empathy?
To initiate an empathic exchange between two individuals, you need a smile. Public spaces are meeting places, spaces for exchanges between individuals, of same or different social backgrounds, and it is through these spaces that we can convey and develop a feeling of empathy. As an architect, urban planner or stakeholder in the city one of the fundamental questions we must ask ourselves is: **how to bring about and stimulate empathy in public spaces?**

It is a theme that I seek to address through my projects, particularly on "**Mapped Empathies**". It is part of an experimental research process that aims to explore ways to **add a new poetic dimension to street furniture through interactive digital technologies**. Today's street furniture items such as bus stops, public benches and bike stations tend to solve more practical problems, which is why we must innovate by combining functionality and technology, to improve our sense of community, belonging and memory as well as building a society that stimulates empathy. Our role is to shape cities and citizens with love and affection.
For the project "Mapped Empathies", made from a wooden structure, we were inspired by temples and places of meditation. This structure is dedicated to welcoming groups of individuals who do not know each other; the heart beats are recorded in real time via sensors installed and are distributed to other users. Each heartbeat can be listened to and thus generates a symphony guided by the pulse of life, which comes to

bind people together and provide a feeling of well-being and calmness, creating emotional bridges that remind us that we are always connected. This project aims to be reproduced in multiple public spaces.

Gender is also a topic you are addressing. In your opinion, how is gender in the city related to the well-being of urban spaces?
There is a very large LGBT community in Brazil, especially in São Paulo. But the country is experiencing an impressive and desolate number of murders against them; every 20 hours, a person from the LGBT community is murdered...

Our firm has recently developed a public space dedicated to the LGBT community; it was the first public space where they met to exchange publicly! Here, everyone could sit down and listen to their stories. Unfortunately, Brazil remains a country marked by conservatism, especially after the recent presidential elections. A week after the establishment of this public space, a group of individuals opposed these rallies and sacked the structure, which will of course be rebuilt. Indeed, the well-being in the city needs to create dedicated spaces that are open to all.

THE HUMAN CITY

URBAN GEMS

La Ferme du Rail - Paris
A living space with multiple uses at the heart of the city

In 2014, the Paris City Council launched the "La Ferme du Rail" project, winner of the Call for Innovative Urban Projects, in the 19th district. It is a project born from the desire of the district's inhabitants and associations who wish to combine urban agriculture and solidarity to create a place of life and sharing at the heart of the city. The Ferme du Rail mixes several uses and activities. There is social housing and social reintegration, a farm, including workshops, a greenhouse, outdoor cultivated spaces, and a restaurant open to all.

In addition to its various uses and purposes, this urban farm also aims for the integration of precarious people, by providing training for adapted jobs, whilst meeting the needs of the city in terms of employment. It is based on several urban themes by offering training on urban agricultural techniques, the recovery of bio-waste... Thus, the Ferme du Rail, a truly urban and multi-faceted space is actually a new space of well-being in the city. A human-oriented space where people from all walks of life can meet in a perspective of empowerment, economic attractiveness and living-together.

SULAHB International
Combining public toilets and energy production?

In 2013, in India, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak decided to take action against the almost total absence of public toilets in his country. In the past, those whom the Indian caste system called "the untouchables", an extremely poor population, were responsible for the manual maintenance of existing toilets, and were socially excluded and highly exposed to diseases. In New Delhi, Dr. Bindeshwar has thus decided to set up public composting toilets, "Community Toilet Complex", which not only saves water, but also reduces maintenance through manual interventions and mitigates the risk of disease.

With this system, what has been contained in the tanks turns into natural fertilizer. It is also setting up a biogas production system based on the methanation of excrement. This gas is then used to cook, heat during the winter, or be converted into energy to supply public lighting! In addition to providing innovative and helpful solutions for the city, Dr. Bindeshwar also offered independence to women who formerly cleaned the toilet. Formerly considered as untouchables, especially because of this degrading profession, these women can now socialize with those who did not want to approach them before. Thanks to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, they can now practice a profession where their health will not be endangered.

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BlocPark Station
13ᵗʰ disctrict Paris
Bringing new life to existing urban structures

As part of the call for innovative urban projects "Reinventing Paris 2", the city of Paris has chosen to revitalize the metal structures forming the bases of the overhead metro whose appearance is inscribed in the capital's identity. Thus, between the stations Glacière and Corvisart, on the line 6, climbing walls were born: the project "Station Blocpark" of the Arkose & Co group, winner of this call for projects, proposes to demonstrate the potential of spaces on the underside of the metro. Indeed, these transport infrastructures, which are often perceived negatively because they are considered as too sonorous, will now host an outdoor sport activity, completely accessible to the neighborhood.

This Station Blocpark project will give the metro structure a completely new image, not only Parisian, but also playful! Thus, the renewed structure will revitalize the neighborhood by offering a recreational and sports use. To this new installation, will be added works of street-art and a significant revegetation to contribute all the more to the integration of these spaces that are usually used as transit areas. With these new urban developments, the city of Paris wants to bring a sense of well-being within the city by offering multiple-use facilities and thus benefit its inhabitants.
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The BlocPark station by Arkose & Co, credit illustration : Arkose & Co
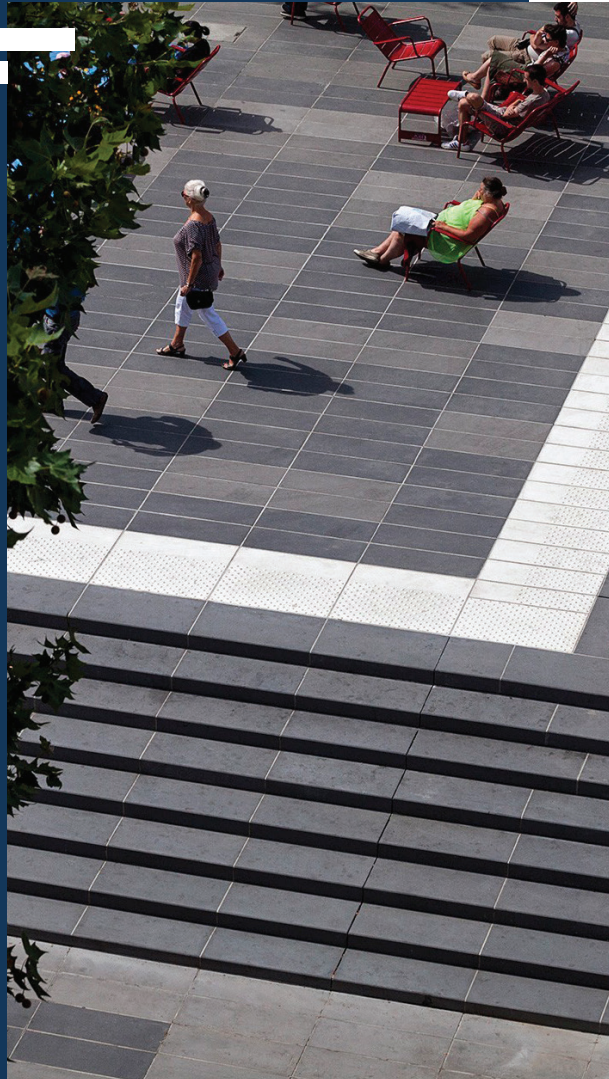
3. THE PROTECTIVE CITY

The concentration of human activities in cities leads to conflicts of use, dangerous behavior, and a feeling of insecurity among its inhabitants.

This concentration is amplified by current events. Urban social inclusion is becoming more urgent. It is essential for the city to claim back its status of a protective city, so that it can guarantee peace and freedom for all, two feelings that are essential to the development of a living city.

THE PROTECTIVE CITY :
A PILLAR OF URBAN PEACEFULNESS

In an increasingly complex national and global socio-political context, city security has become one of the major issues in recent decades. With crime, terrorist threats, social revolts, life in the city does not always seem to be safe. In addition, there is the evolution of our lifestyles, and the multiplication of means of transport that impose the coexistence of uses that often become sources of tension, and which often prove to be risky for users.

To ensure urban tranquility, cities have long sought to develop safe urban planning. By preventing the potential dangers that urban coexistance imposes, since the 70s, planning policies have mainly been guided by an omnipresent security thinking, sometimes creating true fortress cities with divided public spaces, poor and without qualities of use. Choices of developments that do not seem to have proven themselves today, and which, on the contrary, have tended to exacerbate tensions, and foster fear of others within cities. The process is sometimes extremely simple, when there are no amenities, the public space is then abandoned by it's inhabitants, thus reinforcing the feeling of anxiety.

However, to build a livelier city, it must be able to ensure that all its users feel safe from danger and offer them the freedom to practice it calmly. But to achieve this, urban planning can not be based solely on the implementation of defensive devices that often reinforce the feeling of fear among its inhabitants. It is then a question of rethinking the issue of security by including measures which not only contribute to the security of all, but that also offer uses for a peaceful human coexistence and for local interactions, making places more dynamic and alive.

The issue of urban space security is not to be underestimated because the city should not be a fearful place, but instead, a place of collective well-being. By integrating design and art as well as learning from each other, it is possible to divert urban layouts and urban furniture so that they can both reduce the anxiety phenomenon, guarantee the protection of all and become a means of appropriation and social links. By collectively thinking of creative, ingenious measures, at the service of all, it will be possible to design safer spaces.

Let us not be afraid of innovating in order to build together urban peacefulness, a living city where the freedom of each individual can be optained without harming that of others.

Encounter

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo

Colombian architect and urban planner, Medellin

"It is necessary to understand that infrastructures, public life and public spaces are priority elements for the good functioning of a city. Without this, the latter will always experience conflicts of use leading to a type of insecurity in urban spaces. Public life is a fundamental challenge for our cities; the city of tomorrow must be a place where every individual, every culture or community has the right to use it in its own way, and thus to have access to the services it provides"

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo

From your experience in Medellín, how do you think insecurity impacts the lives of citizens in public spaces? Can we make the city an extension of our homes, a place where citizens feel safe and confident? And through what processes do you think we can build a sense of community within cities?

Security is a fundamental issue when it comes to building a community. During our experiences in Medellín, we learned a lot about it; the city was, for many years, controlled and manipulated by gangs, cartels, as well as by Pablo Escobar. At that moment, we had lost the city, as well as the public life of our population.

In my opinion, having access to security means having the chance to be socially integrated in society and in the city, the chance to be a full member of a community.

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Medellín has gained a lot at this level for the last twenty-five years, during which the city was trying to detach itself from its almost traumatic past. So we managed to "rebuild" the city by rethinking all political, economic and also cultural activities.

Thus, we learned from Medellín's complicated past, that building a more pleasant and safe city is first of all about building a strong relationship between the public and the private sector, between citizens and space. This means setting up public spaces open to all, providing access to services for all and finally, a city where everyone can feel safe. All citizens must have the right and the opportunity to use the city as a common property.

How to reconcile security and good quality of life in cities? What tools and methods can enable this goal?

If you want to create a community, you must first create a safe place to live. Then you must provide citizens with the space quality they deserve, and also all the necessary urban elements: lights, security infrastructure, public spaces... I think that the main pillar to reconcile security and good quality of life is to create a city accessible to all.

Medellín was a real laboratory with many projects that we can share. Some can indeed inspire other cities. **From my point of view, there are four main principles that can be duplicated and which could serve as a methodological principle in the construction of more qualitative cities:**

• A strong participation from citizens, especially for the design of urban projects.

• A prioritization of projects; it is necessary to be able to design the right infrastructures, the right public spaces, those which are most relevant for the populations.

• To bring solutions of trust for the communities, solutions which meet their needs.

• And finally to understand that the construction of public infrastructure is above all a solution to foster the development of more inclusive cities.

The access to services and public spaces for all is a priority, do you think that today this access is the same for all the different types of population?

We have come a long way over the last thirty years, particularly with respect to our understanding of the real meaning of public life and public spaces.

Medellín has experienced a strong evolution, through its crises, but also thanks to the knowledge that we acquired by looking for a more peaceful life between all inhabitants. We learned that providing public spaces, public services and infrastructure could ultimately help to create a public life and a community. However, we still face significant challenges; And today public spaces are not yet accessible for everyone in the world, and this is the real problem. We must be able to create a real interaction between individuals by prioritizing the creation of public spaces that provide a real democratic value, so that all populations can find their place and live decently in the city.

THE PROTECTIVE CITY

Face2Face - Middle East
Mitigate conflict with photography?

It is in a complex and tense political climate that the artists JR and Marco produced the largest photography exhibition in the world (2007): the Face2Face project. After a week spent crossing Palestinian and Israeli cities, the two photographers came to the same conclusion: the inhabitants of both countries are similar, speak almost the same language, practice the same activities, the same professions... without seeing it and without even knowing it...

That's why JR and Marco have decided to launch the Face2Face project, by putting these people face to face through life-size portrait photos of Palestinians and Israelis doing the same job and to display the pictures one in front of the other in visible places in both countries. Placed on the Israeli side and on the Palestinian side, these giant format portraits aim to overcome the conflict, exposing them face to face in order to overcome the primary "security" structures, hence the wall that separates them. Thus, the wall becomes, during a few moments, a space of connection and link with the inhabitants of the two countries. Thanks to this space one can laugh and perceive a little of oneself, through the face of the other.

The Miss Hyde bollard
A urban furniture "guardian angel" that protects us?

The Miss Hyde bollard is one of the model envelopes of anti-shock bollards, which fits, adapts and respects the urban environment. Its innovative materials combine safety and environmental improvement. By its unusual design and innovative design, this bollard has become a real practical and effective urban object, combining aesthetics and safety, while removing the anxiety of a "classic" anti-shock bollard.

By taking into account the existing risks, in particular the terrorist threats that are currently at the heart of urban security issues, the company "La Barrière Automatique", inventor of the Miss Hyde bollard, mixes architecture and functionality of a public space by advocating effective security solutions that do not degrade the public space. This installation aims to reconcile security and well-being in the city, introducing a new type of street furniture. It is of course safety oriented, and in addition freshens up and gives a new appearance to these structures that are already familiar public spaces, and that are too often related with anxiety.

Le Cycklop
Street art to give a new meaning to Paris street furniture

Reconciling citizen safety and street-art is the project launched by the artist Le CyKlop in Paris, giving a new meaning to street furniture, such as metal bollards located in urban areas. Through his street-art works, this artist transforms these urban elements into curious characters. Thus a common bollard becomes a real medium of expression on which the artist paints legendary personalities with only one eye in reference to the fantastic creatures of Greek mythology.

Inspired by popular art, manga, cartoons, and African art, the CyKlop uses the public space to transform the city into one of his work materials and into a theater; the sidewalks of the city thus become a new territory to explore. Through these multiple works, which are found particularly in the tourist district of Montmartre, the artist gives the city its human dimension by providing a sensitive and surprising touch.

4. THE INCLUSIVE CITY

A city that takes into account fragile, vulnerable and neglected populations, and capitalizes on the strength and potential of all its inhabitants is an inclusive city. Non-discriminating, the inclusive city takes into account the strengths and vulnerabilities of every individual in order to design user-friendly public spaces for all.

It's vision: to consider each place and each man and woman, as a resource for the territory and no longer as a burden to be taken care of. Leaving no one behind, it mobilizes collective intelligence to ensure the decent application of the various aspects of everyday life and in this way contributes to strengthening itself.

THE INCLUSIVE CITY :
PUBLIC SPACES THAT ADAPT TO EVERY SITUATION

The city, shaped by the demand, competitiveness and attractiveness of the capitalist era has long been conceived for individuals with physical and mental condition considered as "optimal, healthy and active ". For the efficiency and productivity, this vision of the city contributes to creating a welcoming homogeneous space, only for certain categories of the population. The Athens Charter, with the "modular", is the most convincing example. Thus, people with physical or mental disabilities, vulnerable individuals in a situation of poverty, are often neglected and gradually excluded from the city. Additionally there is the phenomenon of gentrification which is based on a different logic but ultimately leads to similar effects. This process of discrimination and rejection is explained in a cold and rational way, by the logic of increasing competitiveness between the territories. This is accompanied by actions that go against certain spaces, representing and expressing discriminatory behavior. The "suburbs" can be mentioned as an example of this logic of competitiveness.

On the other hand, the inclusive city is primarily the place that reduces fragmentation and socio-spatial vulnerabilities. It ensures spatial continuity leading to the equal treatment of all populations and their public spaces, disregarding its living space as a discriminating criterion. What we are looking for is complementarity and territorial equity in the world's network of cities in places of increased competitiveness between populated areas.

This complementarity of territories is also expressed in the active participation of all citizens to be creators of the city, both by employment, by artistic and creative activities or by the expression of ideas and debate in public spaces. This is an opportunity given to all, enhanced by citizen participation that allows all citizens to benefit from the assets of the city and the services it offers. For this, the city must be conceived by everyone, as each person is a potential and unique resource for the territory.

The inclusive city is also a place where each inhabitant is a potential resource for the territory. It is a model that encourages innovation, thanks to the people involved. In addition, the development of empowerment, the social and solidarity economy and collaborative movements play a vital role today in building more inclusive cities.

Finally, urban social inclusion means that every inhabitant is an asset in a model that aims for resilience. Far from being considered a burden for society, vulnerable people and the places where they live are once again considered as resources. This is made possible by the interaction of these inhabitants with same places as the rest of the population. The adaptation of urban form and composition aims to no longer be a dead end, but a means to create livelier cities in which people will interact daily.
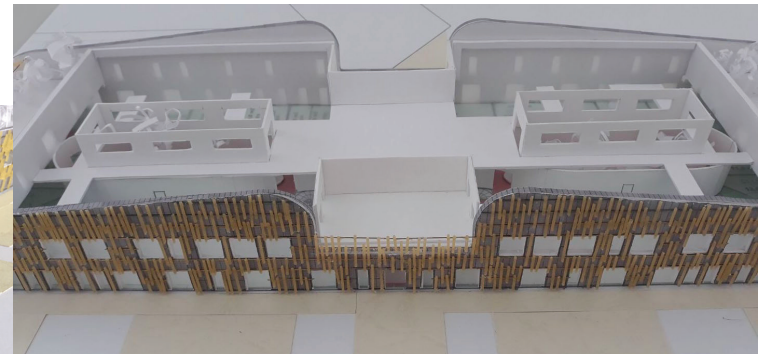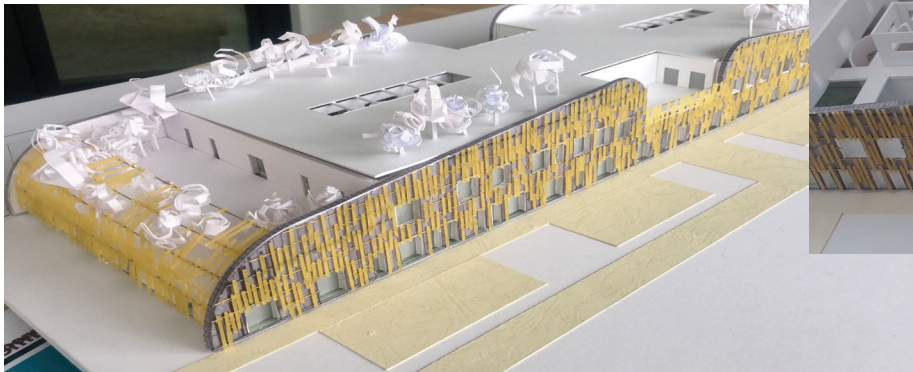
ZOOM

The special needs institute
designed for children with autism, by the architect Emmanuel Negroni

Currently being designed in Ecouen (95), in the Paris region, the special needs institute designed by the therapeutic designer architect Emmanuel Negroni includes a special education and home care service for children with autism. It is in an environment associated with "anxiety" where this large-scale project will arise, to transform it into a therapeutic place that will accompany, through its natural environment and its volumes, the hyper sensitivity of autistic children, avoiding the behavioral disturbances related to noise pollution.

The architectural ambition of Emmanuel Negroni? To aim for the freedom and the fluidity of mobility. The architect's idea is to fight against the feeling of confinement by playing with different light effects. The visual perspective lines allow the occupants to enjoy pleasant views towards the outdoors. Finally, all the open spaces are expressed with care and areas of tranquility.

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Encounter

Emmanuel Negroni

Architect and designer specialized in therapeutic architecture and research for dependent populations

What is your perspective on the role of architecture and urban design in building a more inclusive city? What would be the main pillars?

Urban design should be called social design. This concept of social design is directly related to the inclusivity within cities which consists in the design of urban facilities, urban functions, useful to all populations. The idea is to anticipate the changes that can be experienced in urban areas to meet the demands of society on infrastructure and urban facilities. Architecture and design are one of the answers to the great changes of society.

Inclusion in the city also means being able to integrate as much diversity as possible so that everyone can live together, regardless of their background and social class. Gender diversity is the pillar that leads to a more inclusive city. Unfortunately, today in France, this mix is struggling to establish itself, there is still a significant disparity between the rich and poor neighborhoods, for example some cities refuse to have a certain number of social housing, and yet this is where the inclusive city begins.

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To make an inclusive city, the place of people with disabilities such as PRMs in the public space is a priority issue; but what about other forms of disability less known to the general public? How do we conceive the city for their well-being?

There is indeed a contradiction at this level. In general, there is confusion between the different motor and intellectual handicaps. We still do not take enough into account the issues related to motor disabilities such as autism. Disability standards are not the same for all disabilities and that is why some buildings, some public spaces or even some rooms are not designed to include all of them.

What is therapeutic architecture and how can it contribute to creating more inclusive public spaces? How can this architecture provide a feeling of well-being for people with mental disabilities?

The therapeutic architecture I've been working on for a number of years is a benevolant architecture that will contribute to therapy for a dependent person. It is a kind of breeding ground, which allows people with psychological disorders, such as autism to feel better in a caring environment.

Through architecture, one can indeed allow these people to feel better, to give them a feeling of well-being thanks to various elements such as volumetry. Whether external or internal, the volume plays a great deal on the psychic state of the autistic. Playing with curves helps to produce a calming feeling. The work on the perspective lines is also essential to make the architecture benevolent by limiting corridor effects; a wall or a closed door may appear as an obstacle that will tend to block people with psychological disorders. By playing with the shapes and creating open spaces with lines of perspective, and opening up on long-distances is the key to shaping a space that emits sensations of comfort and well-being, reducing stress and soothing the individual.

Emmanuel Negroni Architect designer - Restaurant

THE INCLUSIVE CITY

URBAN GEMS

The Awakening of the Beetle by Emmanuel Negroni

An inclusive architecture at the service of autism

Located near Auxerre, the home for autism, and made by the architecture firm Negroni, is a resolutely innovative building, which is based primarily on the emotion it can stimulate for these users. Through a therapeutic architecture, the architects wanted to break the codes and establish a building that is truly adapted to people with autism and emotional hypersensitivity. In order to do this, the Awakening of the Beetle is in line with the medical environment, modern energy techniques, as well as the quality of life and the family circle.

Thus, it is by playing on volumetrics and visual atmospheres, and also by enhancing the light, the colors and the sound, that the architects have managed to create a space to significantly improve the mental health of its occupants. This building also plays on the lines of perspective, with the aim of making the space simple and non-oppressive. Reduction of tension, security and calmness are the key words of this innovative project that allows to offer a real wellness area for people with this type of psychological disorders.

The Awakening of the Beetle by Emmanuel Negroni
Photo credit : Negroni Archivision Architectes

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The children of Duluth
The street as a new recreational space?

It was through a urban acupuncture process that the children of Duluth (*Les enfants de Duluth*) project was born in Montreal. This micro-project of alley layouts, undertaken by the landscape and urban design firm, Castor and Pollux, within the framework of the program "Transforme ta ville" of the Center of Urban Ecology of Montreal, is based on the following objective: games for children and more relaxation for parents. The alley is designed to significantly reduce traffic while providing spaces for citizens.

Wicker cubes of bright colors were placed so to accompany the alley and allow citizens to sit and relax, but also to be used as games and as buckets of vegetation. With these cubes, a number of of options are available for the inhabitants of the neighborhood, who can then use this space as they wish. Thus, this public space which was previously used as a small pedestrian transit area, becomes a newly recreational space

Les enfants de Duluth, Montreal
Photo credit : Castor and Pollux, landscape and urban designer

where young and old meet to have a good time and to reappropriate the alley. This was made possible thanks to numerous co-design workshops between the municipality, the inhabitants and the Castor and Pollux firm. This project highlights the collective creation process of citizens. A process that demonstrates the importance of collaborative and popular innovation to create more inclusive public spaces.

La Cité Universelle - Paris
Building for better accessibility

At the gates of the Paris ring road, the Cité Universitaire, a real estate complex of 30,000 m², has been designed for people with disabilities. Conceived by Baumschlager Eberle Architekten and Inedit Architecture, it symbolizes inclusivity and stands as a model architecture in terms of accessibility. It's a large-scale project planned for 2024 and will offer sports rooms, catering services and hotel rooms, with the whole structure being divided into four areas.

With the aim of hosting the Paralympic Games in 2024, the Cité Universelle is part of an inclusive approach, where people who are disabled or who have motor, sensory, psychic or cognitive disabilities can go and take advantage of the various services offered; by integrating the different types of disabilities into its construction, the building will be accessible to all, where everyone can find their place among the vast multifunctional program presented.

5. THE CITY AND GENDER

It is through a balanced presence of women and men in public spaces that the city will be able stop its male-dominated outlook and tendency. This fundamental presence helps to legitimize the presence of women everywhere and to maintain it.

A male urban universe has for a long time shaped the city, both in its governance and its design. In urban life, the reality is that the use of public space continues to convey the expression of gender codes , derived from male dominant practices. The societal upheavals linked to feminist struggles in recent decades has deeply changed the situation. Gender equality in the public space is an important fight for the transformation of our urban lives.

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THE CITY AND GENDER :
WOMEN RECLAIM THEIR PLACE IN URBAN SPACE !

To work on town planning from the perspective of gender, is to ensure that women's voices are heard and taken into account and to eliminate the stereotypes that we still have. Finally, it requires that we think about the diversity and the complexity of identities rather than thinking of a socially constructed duality that opposes women to men in an unequal fight. To address the question of gender is to change and open up to complexity.

Public space, contrary to popular beliefs is not neutral, and although it is accessible to all, it is not used in the same way depending on people's identity: sex, age, social status and family situation. Not all spaces are shared, it depends on their layout, the time of day and on the atmosphere that is felt there. The public space is unequal in its construction, its physical and social organization as well as on a symbolic level.

Urbanism and architecture are not free from unequal gender structures. Research and observations confirm that, in a normative and socially constructed way, men occupy the public space where as women walk by it and take care of it. This fact is noticeable no matter the place, the geography or the sociology.

Working on space through the perspective of gender has a major impact on urban planning. Today, the construction of facilities and the proposed activities are highly functionalized and normative. In a study conducted in 2015 on youth leisure activities, the geographer Edith Maruéjouls shows that recreational equipment, more widely benefits boys/men than girls/women. ̈On average there are twice as many subsidized leisure facilities available for men ̈. Among the most visible examples are sports facilities that primarily benefit boys/men: city stadiums, gymnasiums, football fields, skate parks and boules courts. Occupied at 95% by boys/men, these zones of exclusivity do not allow the mix of the sexes, nor of the ages. This social organization, these adjustments, means that women/girls are either absent from the public space, or in spaces where they are considered legitimate, in the children's square, at the school gates, at the market, around the shops or the cemetery.

Working on gender issues also means expanding the definition. Often reduced to gender equality, gender covers a much wider field of research and production. Ultimately, addressing gender issues involves deconstructing the great story of male hegemsony and domination that is at the root of all the injunctions we receive, controlling people and our actions. The identity of women and anyone else who does not conform to the social conventions of masculinity, is once again included into the ones of the Human. It is therefore considered as an inheritance.

The challenge is daunting, but we are optimistic. Observatories are developing, guides are created, studies are being conducted and projects exist and are multiplying. Northern Europe, Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Quebec, Colombia, or even India, are now integrating these issues into urban planning at different scales. Today's city is enriched by this major paradigm shift.

[1] *Edith Maruéjouls « diversity, equality and gender in the recreational spaces for the youth » 2015*

ZOOM

Fire Station Five
by Susana Torre

Fire Station Five, one of the many projects developed by Susana Torre, has become a design model for integrating women into the city system.

The under-representation of women in the firefighting profession results from the internal space structure of fire stations. Activities such as meals, physical training and recreation are shared over 24 hours or 48 hours. With the existing layouts, the links needed to build trust among the firefighters take place in shared dormitories and communal showers, places where the arrival of women is rejected because it is considered inappropriate.

At the Fire Station Five, links are created in the kitchen, gymnasium and individual rooms. The latter have folding beds, replacing the usual shared dormitories. Many details are considered, such as transparent open kitchen cabinets that limit the separation of functions according to gender. In addition the visibility of the descending firefighter mast exposes all bodies and skills.

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Encounter

Susana Torre
Architect, critic and professor from the USA and Argentina

The theme of gender, associated with urban planning is fairly recent in France. Only some specialists question the lack of representation of the women in the planning of cities, in the decision making process or as "users" of urban space, or according to your words, "social agents" . You do indeed talk about the link between social roles and the hierarchy of spaces. What does it mean and how can we describe the relationship between public spaces and gender in cities ?

The presence or absence of women in public spaces is inextricably linked to their place in culture and the times in which we live, particularly with respect to: 1) their ability to express themselves and to be heard in the public sphere; 2) their security in relation to gender violence; and 3) their accessibility towards means of transport and public buildings. Being heard and seen in the public sphere is a right that women have had to earn individually and collectively. The brilliant historian Mary Beard reminds us in her book Women and Power that one of the commonly accepted male duties was to silence women in public, because public speaking was an inherent birthright for men, and a sign of power vis-à-vis the women. In addition to being silenced, clothes such as the abaya, the burqa or the niqab go one step further by making the women's bodies invisible in public spaces.

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Starting from the observation of the enslavement of women in patriarchal societies, researchers of gender and public space attempt to understand the range and "scope" of freedom that women have in various contexts, and the limitations that define their appearance in public. An example is the study of the disappearance of the confinement of bourgeois women in the cities of the 19th century in France, to encourage window shopping, which was necessary for the expansion of markets. This modified the role of the woman in an economy fueled by consumption. Some researchers argue that at that time there was no counterpart woman stroller, no male figures with financial means, with time to wander and be stimulated by the city. Women who used to wandered the streets at the time, were either homeless or prostitutes.

For feminist activists, the end of gender-based urban violence has been a goal since the 1970s, leading to the creation of organizations such as Take Back the Night, who organized walks and gatherings in several countries in order to make visible the attacks which women were susceptible to when they occupied the streets at night.
Do gender (and class) issues have consequences on the spatial hierarchy? They do indeed. Compare the scale and the monumentality of the Esplanade des Invalides with the Place de la Republic, both located in Paris. In the Invalides, the buildings and the esplanade, to themselves, impress the visitors with the masculine figure of the military glory of France. On the contrary, the Place de the Republic, is simply a kind of empty space including a monument with the image of Marianne, the female incarnation of the Republic, thus lacking an equivalent dominant presence. Its symbolic importance must be reaffirmed each time there is a popular political rally.

How can architecture help accelerate the progress on gender equality? What is the new feminism and how can it change architecture and design?

In the lecture presented at Parsons School of Design (New York), "Feminism and Architecture, Part 1: Feminine Contributions "transcribed by Parlor, the Australian newspaper on feminism and architecture I describe six ways that have contributed to change architecture and urbanism through feminist ideas. To me, these themes are essential to accelerate the progress on gender equality. They range from private to public and are the design of domestic spaces; the change of suburb structures; the development of new forms of buildings; the transmission of collective memory; our change of attitude towards nature ; and finally, the culture and identity of the woman as a legitimate design paradigm.

Garvey House, Amagansett, NY

THE CITY AND GENDER

URBAN GEMS

Street art by Shamsia Hassani,
Photo credit: Joan Lewa, USAID/Afghanistan, Flickr

Street Art
by Shamsia Hassani
Kaboul, Afghanistan

The young street artist Shamsia Hassani, who graduated in Fine Arts in the University of Kabul, leaves her mark on the walls of the capital. Through her works, she wishes to give an identity to the country, so that it is not only famous for its horrific years of war but also for the art it is able to create. However her real objective through this medium, is to denounce the conditions of women in Afghanistan. Thus, through her works, the young artist is trying to show that women are back in the Afghan society, stronger than before and therefore more present.

In the works of Shamsia Hassani, the blue color predominates: it symbolizes freedom. We thus find in the streets of Kabul, many works representing women in burqas, veiled women. By choosing street-art to express herself, the artist hopes that her achievements can reach out to as many people as possible, and thereby change the mentality on the gender issue in public spaces. More widely, it is the place of the woman in Afghanistan that lies at the heart of this initiative. The art is taking shape in the public space and is thus giving women a voice.

The "Façades" Project Floréal (93)
When facades raise awareness in the public space

It is in the northern districts of Paris of the Goutte d'Or, Riquet or Curial, where the group GFR (Generation Freedom Right) launched in 2017 an urban project to raise awareness on gender equality and to fight against violence towards women. Indeed, it is through the opening of participatory workshops and the creation of ephemeral works in the public space, that the collective leads its awareness campaign. It thus tries to stimulate a movement of reappropriation of the public space by women.

More recently, in the Floreal district in Seine-Saint-Denis (93), GFR has launched an innovative project, mixing Year 6 students from a local school with users of the Gulliver media library and the Maison de Quartier Floréal. This project consists in organizing new participatory workshops with the aim of creating several artistic works, such as frescoes, sculptures or various installations. These are then displayed in public areas of the neighborhood. In favor of gender equality and resulting from collaborations between local stakeholders and citizens, their purpose is to enable individuals from these neighborhoods, mainly women, to feel that public spaces belong to them just as much as to the other populations and thus reclaim them with greater serenity.

La Casa 1 Project
São Paulo, Brazil

"Casa 1 Project" created in São Paulo, in January 2017, by the Iranian journalist Giusti is a house and a cultural center for young people from the LGBT community "in risk situation ". The ambition of this structure: to offer these young people a host structure to assist them in the construction of their independence. The particularity of this place is its openness to all populations. The cultural center is not only for LGBT people, it has a library and offers activities for all, such as singing, sewing, yoga, forró, 19 language groups and make-up classes. Only a few services are exclusively offered to residents like medical care, psychological and psychiatric care.

The fact that this structure welcomes other services that are open to the general population is an essential aspect of its operation. Indeed, this mix of uses allows for a mingling of populations thus facilitating the integration of LGBT populations with the rest of the community. Today, the house brings together about twenty residents who can occupy the premises for a duration of 4 months. Held by 4 employees and 180 volunteers, the Cultural Center receives about 240 people a month.

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6. THE PEOPLE'S CITY

While society suffers from a crisis manifested by the absence of a constructive dialogue, a crisis of citizenship, resulting particularly in a concrete citizen awakening, the role of the city in the involvement and the coexistence of its inhabitants has become essential to re-establish democratic and participatory ties.

It is time to give meaning to the commitments and exchanges between city-dwellers in order to make the living city a space of debate where coexistence is regenerated. The key to establishing this citizen dynamic, is first and foremost a question of giving the public space back to the citizen to allow a mixing and mingling within living spaces.

THE PEOPLE'S CITY :
FOR A PARTICIPATORY COEXISTANCE

Cities, cradles of democracy and citizenship, have always been places of exchange and debate among its inhabitants, and also the place of politics and shared decision-making. Like the Greek city and its agora, the European city has traditionally built around its places of exchange and citizenship.

However, this link between city and citizenship seems to have been erased over the centuries. By removing politics from the public space and by dividing buildings of influence that are separated from the rest of the city, the inhabitants slowly found themselves disconnected from their role as citizens. To such an extent that today the observation is striking: for lack of interest, or for lack of space, city dwellers no longer get involved in urban life, in policy decision-making processes, and governance.

Yet, these are the founding principles of citizenship that guarantee the welfare of coexistance in the city. Respect, solidarity, democracy and tolerance are part of a open-minded approach. The city must be able to offer spaces allowing everyone to meet and exchange and thus maintain a social cohesion which is essential for it's good functioning.

But then how can we assure the coexistance and the participation of inhabitants in the life of their city ? Over the past decades, cities and their governance seem to take into consideration the need of re-integrating their inhabitants into the decision-making processes for urban projects, management and urban life. Still, there is a need to make room for the citizen's voice and make their expertise an asset in building a living city at the service of all.

As demonstated by the movements over the past years, the city needs to re-assign to it's public spaces their first role: spaces of democracy. It is by offering facilities, places that favor gatherings, discussions and debating, that everyone can reconnect to their citizen roots and feel free to commit to urban life and the city.

It's by transforming the urban area into a collaborative, transparent and inclusive space, that the city can become a laboratory of social intelligence and coexistance, and fully give back to its inhabitants their role of citizens.

"The adaptable leadership' is a notion that is essential to me. As an architect, I am recognized for my expertise. And as such, it would be easy for me to abuse of my position by imposing my architectural ideas. But from the point of view of adaptable leadership, I will rather help the community to strengthen each of its members. For this it is necessary to listen and anticipate what people want.

In my opinion buildings are symbols and metaphors. Good architecture is a human right that has the power to not only change the spaces but also the people who inhabit them. It is for this reason that for one of my first projects, a police station, I was able to design a welcoming building so that the building communicates by itself the issue of security for the community. My adaptable leadership has helped me make my client evolve. In the same way, with well-designed buildings can help people evolve towards a better social relationship."

Mokena Makeka

ENCOUNTER

Mokena Makeka
Architect and Urbanist in Cape Town, South Africa

What is the relationship between inhabitants and public spaces in South Africa? Do these public spaces reflect an identity, where people can identify themselves and get together?

South Africa is a very young country, which is learning what it's like to be a pulic-oriented country. In addition, we are still learning about the role of public spaces in the establishment of a democracy. The country has grown and emerges in many aspects: art, music, sport and culture have recently been evolving. However we still have to try to reach a level of creativity and "joy" in terms of creating and shaping our cities. This is in particular obtained through public spaces.

We have a country originating from differing values. Today, these values which are considered as cultural norms, must be put together in order to genuinely coexist. The key to this citizen dynamic? Give the public space back to the citizen to encourage diversity and create a feeling of appropriation for the common good.

The latter must adapt to various value systems and thus give them an equivalence, an equality. This means that the understanding of certain cultures needs to be more celebrated; some cultures were very oppressed. That's why we can start to rethink cities, and I think it's very important to shape cities where citizens do not have to hide their identity and their African culture. We must provide new public spaces in the city where all cultures and values can coexist on an equal footing, where the right of expression is common.

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In your opinion, what are the tools and methods to encourage social links?

The most basic way to connect people to each other, and to create social connection, is through play and romance.

First of all, what I mean by "playing" and by the term "play" is that public spaces are places where children interact and play. Cities should create spaces where children of different backgrounds and social classes can start talking and playing together, whether it's football, chess, yoga... it does not matter. It is very important for us to think of public spaces as playgrounds. And when children interact, their parents do the same. It is very often in these cases that individuals who have never communicated with each other, begin to create social bonds, through play and sport.

Secondly, romance and love are also fundamental aspects to encourage social bonds. We can not deal with these social issues without bringing romance to our cities and our public spaces, by setting up spaces to go out, meet, have dates etc. I think it is vital for cities that recognize the importance of cultural and social integration to be cities where romance is possible.

In my opinion, play and romance are fundamental to our humanity; we can build everything on these bases, starting with a strong sociability between citizens.

Cape Town is often described as a fractured city with many inequalities. How can architecture and public spaces promote and encourage the right to the city for all?

The only right that architecture can encourage and bring to the people is the right to security and well-being. Architecture can also participate in the expression of other rights of the city; an architect can advise urban developers, create opportunities for emerging companies...

So we have this responsibility to create structures, to deal with the climate issue, to make buildings functional and safe... But we also have the capacity to contribute to other rights. We are not the guardians of these rights, but we are actors, agents, we can help express the rights of the city by advising and suggesting solutions.

THE PEOPLE'S CITY

URBAN GEMS

The Yellow House Bellevue, photo credit : Myriam Thyes

Bellevue - The Yellow House
A collective and citizen experience with multiple uses

In 2009, in Linz, Austria, Peter Fattinger, Veronika Orso and Michael Rieper set up an astonishing structure, forming a landscape experience on the outskirts of the city: the Yellow House. Erected over the Linz ring road, the house offers a view of the active motorway on one side and a view of a large park on the other. Based on the proportions of the surrounding buildings, this yellow structure embodies a protective envelope for the functions it houses.

Workshops for artists, information kiosk, bookstore, public scene, co-working space, exhibition space... So many activities that this amazing multi-level wooden infrastructure offers on its 400m2 of floor space. Through this project, the designers wanted to highlight the capacity that architecture can have as a provider of services and activities for citizens. Various events take place every day and have transformed this building into a real artistic hub interacting with the inhabitants, as well as with curious passers-by. Through its surprising and strategic position, Bellevue has become a real collective and citizen experience offering these users a multitude of services and cultural activities.

The summer pavilion of the Serpentine Gallery by Francis Kéré
Refocusing architecture around debate and exchange

Built by architect Francis Kéré for the Kensington Gardens Museum of Contemporary Art in London, the Serpentine Gallery pavilion, a temporary building, hosts symposia, performances and concerts. This giant dome-like structure is made of a wooden frame, inspired by the architect's previous work on climate. In addition to its ability to symbolize the essential role of water as a primary and necessary resource for living beings, this building also values inter-community dialogue by inviting citizens to communicate with one another.

By its shape, recalling the trees under which many African populations took refuge in search of shade and freshness, this summer pavilion calls for citizen participation by bringing the human and the environment at the center of their concerns. Through his vernacular architecture, Francis Kéré wishes to enhance outdoor activities and thus create an exchange and debate with this type of open architecture that contributes to creating a community's feeling of belonging towards a particular space.

The Pavillon of the Serpentine Gallery, Francis Kéré
Photo credit : Images George Rex, Flickr

The Favela Painting Project in Rio De Janeiro
Transforming urban spaces with local people

Favela Painting is the project name for several series of works of art in Rio, Brazil, by Dutch artists Jeroen Koolhaas and Dr. Urhann (Haas & Hahn). It was with the help of local people from the Favelas that the two painters began to develop, in 2007, their first mural, "Boy with Kite". They were very quickly inspired by the creativity and the optimism of the inhabitants and especially the younger ones, in whom they see a real dynamism and a potential for the city, and more precisely for the Favelas.

After this first project, Haas & Hahn continued to transform the urban spaces of the city's troubled areas, giving them a new image, that of an artistic and colorful neighborhood with a pleasant living environment and enormous works of art. These operations, which combine citizen participation and artistic initiative, create an identity and a sense of belonging for the local population and bring a new energy to these neighborhoods by making them more dynamic and attractive.

7. THE ECOLOGICAL CITY

The ecological issues of today and tomorrow are more than ever at the heart of current thought processes.

Conscious of the need to rethink how a city is made and lives through the angle of sustainability, many urban stakeholders seek to innovate and organize themselves in order to offer effective solutions for the protection of the environment. This is a good omen as a city which is more respectful of its environment is above all a city more respectful of man. The path to the carbon-free city is long and full of pitfalls, but it's a vital struggle for ourselves and future generations. Climate danger is no longer a threat, it is a reality, and cities are on the front line to face this major challenge.

THE ECOLOGICAL CITY :
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR TOMORROW

Building the ecological city of tomorrow is first and foremost a rethinking of what has already been done in the past. In this current environmental context, the awareness of municipalities and stakeholders in the city has become increasingly important and they are starting to react and bring new solutions to design the ecological city. This was more or less a committed and rapid realisation accross the world, but some Asian cities, like Seoul or Singapore, or of Northern Europe are today real laboratories of ecological experiments that can inspire others. There are several methods, many different approaches, to shape the ecological city. Simple infrastructures, creation of new "greener" buildings, sustainable energy production systems... many innovations to ensure an ecological transition to a more environmentally friendly city.

Bringing nature into the city and into public spaces is one of the many ways to think about the ecological city. It is through certain so-called "simple" facilities, that the urban stakeholders and inhabitants can integrate into a city the bio-diversity component that is vital to urban and global wellbeing. The pocket garden is an example: it is a matter of locally reintegrating vegetation in dense urban spaces that are almost

completely mineral. This also ensures a fresher enviroment during the summer. Other initiatives are also used in urban areas, such as rain gardens that offer green spaces while allowing a better rainwater managemsent for the city. Thinking ecologically often consists in responding to issues related to the morphology of cities and their activity.

There are also other approaches leading to the ecological city, such as bioclimatic architecture and design, which are based on several pillars: insertion in the territory, the use of specific materials that have undergone the least possible treatment or are recycled, and energy saving optimization. This architectural path is increasingly sought after and the urban planners and architects of today who think of the city of tomorrow as a smart city must in fact respond to new environmental constraints for the wellbeing of man and the planet.

Making the transition towards a greener city also means raising awareness about ecological issues by proposing measures that allow citizens to participate in this transition at their own scale. In the city of Vaxjo in Sweden, the municipality encourages residents to use soft mobility for example, by offering free access to bicycles

for each employee, or by financing the installation of solar panels on the roofs of houses.

Through these different forms and urban processes, the ecological city seems to have become a type of model city that one seeks to reproduce accross the world. In a future where the urbanized space will constantly become bigger, and where the climatic disturbances become stronger, cities will more than ever play a key role in the preservation of the environment. Their ecological transition is therefore more than ever a goal to be achieved quickly, by favoring the initiatives and actions that collectively create a more sustainable city.

ZOOM

Thermochromic paving
Cooling pavement as a mitigation strategy to combat heat in Tiran

Architect Nikos Fintikakis worked with Matthew Santamouris, a former professor at the University of Athens, on modeling the impact of various strategies to mitigate risks related to heat and wind speed. The results were so encouraging that in 2012 they decided to renovate 2 km² in the historic center of Tirana, the capital of Albania, by introducing more vegetation and shade, as well as another innovative creation of Santamouris: the thermochromic paving.

The latter contains heat-sensitive materials that change color depending on the temperature. Thus, paving is dark in winter, allowing it to absorb heat effectively, and with rising temperatures, the color changes to yellow and white, to better reflect the heat. Paving works well according to Santamouris, which markets the system. The team reported a temperature drop of 3 °C in the summer of 2013 according to Fintikakis, which coincides with their prediction.

The last part of the design is an air-to-ground heat exchanger that draws in hot air and circulates it in long pipes buried at 3 meters deep, where the temperatures are milder by several degrees. The cooled air is then blown into public spaces through head-high ducts.

ENCOUNTER

Nikos Fintikakis
Architect

What is the role of public space in creating a more organic city?

The shape of our future constructed environment must be based on an approach of responsibility towards nature and on the potential use of the inexhaustible energies of the sun, wind, land and water: the four elements of the sources of renewable energies.

The role of architecture, as a responsible profession, is to achieve exemplary designs on these environmental issues. The goal of tomorrow's architects should be to design buildings and urban spaces so that natural resources are conserved and enhanced, and encourage the various forms of renewable energy uses and thus avoid unnecessary constructions.

New design concepts need to be developed to raise awareness of these essential elements as a source of light and heat. It is really about the acceptance by the general public of these technologies related to renewable energies. This can only be made possible through visual means, ideas and examples, through an intuitive bioclimatic architectural design for all.

In addition, the available natural resources imply a particular orientation of buildings, especially with regard to the sun and the wind. According to the data, these two natural resources must be exploited for the climatic conditioning of the building, which is expressed in their design and their form.

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Therefore, the principles that determine the forms of urban structures and landscapes need to address environmental and bio-climatic factors. Thus, the architecture will be influenced by the use of renewable energy sources. This involves taking a close look at the orientation of the streets and buildings in relation to the sun, the control of the temperature and the use of natural light, the topography, and more particularly the general exposure, geographical location, or even the shape of the soil. In addition, it is important to take into account the direction and intensity of the wind, to carefully consider surface materials, taking into account their significant contribution to the overall system. Finally, the issue of water, as for its infiltration, the subsistence of the water tables or even the cooling system by ventilation, must also be taken into account with regard to the potential revegetation, the cooling system and the fight against heat islands.

What are the main challenges facing public spaces?
The four major issues of the Work International Program of the International Union of Architects (UIA), on the integration of renewable energy resources in architecture concern: the incorporation of renewable energies into an environment of urban constructions, educational procedures and information for architects and engineers, as well as their understanding of renewable energies and bioclimatic design, new green technology systems, new building materials, renewable resources and a legislative framework for the incorporation of new technologies embedded in a international legislative framework.

For all these reasons, the U.I.A., the most internationally recognized architectural organization, will have to play a leading role in an architecture that implements new sources of renewable energy. During the 21st century, the major advance towards this goal will be that of an essential international work program, such as those of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in collaboration with UNESCO, the UN and all other international organizations that are concerned.
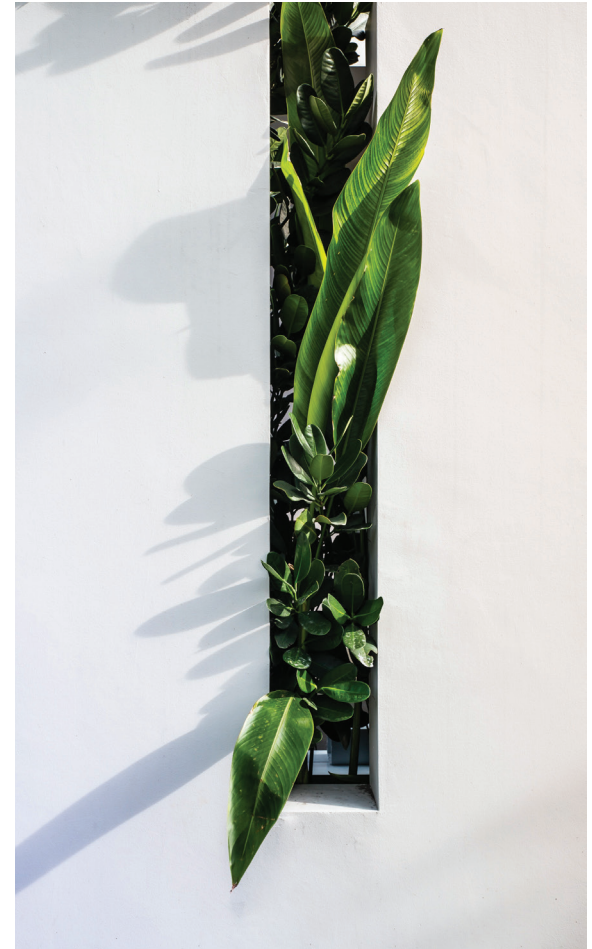
THE ECOLOGICAL CITY

URBAN GEMS

Eden Project, Cornwall, UK, photo credit : Penstones, Pixabay

Eden Project in Cornwall, UK
A living laboratory to regenerate the earth !

Coming from a joint work between the British businessman, Tim Smit, and the architect Nicholas Grimshaw, the Eden Project is a vast environmental complex dedicated to sustainable development. Located in Cornwall in the United Kingdom and open since 2001, this garden forms a encounter place between the public and nature and is composed of large greenhouses. Each greenhouse hosts a biome that reproduces two climates: tropical and humid climates for one and hot and dry climates for the other.

These domes are composed of various plant species, in line with the biome in which they grow and aim to preserve resources and bring plant diversity to human life. This British garden, under bubbles, was originally created to demonstrate the power of nature when it comes to regenerating a site previously damaged by human activities. Beyond its "botanical garden" aspect, the Eden Project hosts conferences, exhibitions and events designed to raise public awareness of the respect of the ecosystem. With such a project, nature becomes the link between humans.

Private gardens, the Hachi-ue
Japan

A real urban culture of nature has developed for many years among the inhabitants of Japanese cities, it is the Hachi-ue, private gardens and potted plants that are placed in front of houses, shops or buildings . In neighborhoods, like Edo, where the urban structure is that of the alley, the habitat was originally organized along these narrow streets in the center of islets and the inhabitants then took the initiative of creating real green spaces where flowers and plants of all kinds predominate on the facades.

These plantations that are found in front of each dwelling thus form a separation between the roadway and the facades. They create a kind of in-between, a barrier that protects privacy, as a transition between the public space, the street and the private space. These street gardens, which highlights the important relationship between people and nature in the city, not only contribute to greening the city, but also form a temporality specific to the street to raise awareness of the seasons. In addition to this, the Hachi-ue allow, by their balance between private and public, to create real moments of spontaneous encounters between neighbors and thus participate in the creation of cities that are not only ecological, but also human and alive.

Rain Gardens
Regulate rainwater while providing a touch of green?

Rain Gardens are landscaping schemes that regulate rainwater. These linear green spaces slightly below ground level contain some minerals as well as particularly water-resistant plants. This diverse composition helps slow down the flow of rainwater and collects it to prevent it from dripping.

These rain gardens can be set up by both the private and the public; the stored rainwater can be collected and reused by the owner of these green spaces, with the objective of saving water. For example, Rain Gardens devices have been adopted in Pennsylvania at Allen Street. Combining aesthetics for the city and raising awareness of the uses of water resources in urban developments, the concept of Rain Gardens is a multi-service and undeniable asset for a more resource-efficient city whilst being more pleasant and beautiful for its inhabitants.

8. THE HIGH-TECH CITY

During the last century, we have been living in an era where technology is constantly evolving and renewing itself at an ever increasing speed, to the point where it sometimes seems to surpass or even replace us in certain areas.

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TECHNOLOGY :
THE ACCELERATING TOOL AT THE SERVICE OF PUBLIC SPACES

At a time where everything goes faster, where information flows in a click, the temporality is impacted and thus has consequences on the city and its inhabitants. Technology is changing lifestyles by directly impacting urban environments and driving change in public space design and thinking. In recent years technology has created a concept that is increasingly spreading across the globe, that of a Smart City, a city that uses information and communication technologies to make the human and urban evolve together. This concept brings together several other areas such as governance, economy, mobility, the environment, which has made a 2.0 city, connected, equipped and linking new technologies with citizens.

This technological city is achieved, first of all by using the readily available technologies. Not all cities have the same access to these technologies and do not have the same financial means. However, at different scales, municipalities, in partnership with private actors, can apply innovative technological solutions that contribute to the functioning of the city.

Thus, the implementation of software or applications often improves the life of city dwellers and is at their service. The population, in collaboration with technologies, and especially applications, can be very useful tools for the urban space; getting around more easily, be alerted on the latest news about the city, anticipate a route, ordering directly from your phone, etc... These features are easily accessible to all on a daily basis and mobilize the collective intelligence to meet certain urban challenges.

In connection with the development of these digital data providers such as applications, the use of other tools such as sensors to measure air pollution or to identify free parking spaces, makes the Smart City a subject that is also at the heart of urban reflections of municipalities. However, open data, which is at the source of the smart city, must be put at the service of citizens. For this, their processing must be based on participatory principles and transparency. Moreover, the vision of a true Smart City is to look beyond by meeting the needs of the population while offering solutions to preserve resources and the environment. It is then the intelligent management that comes into play, which would connect all stakeholders and inhabitants to rapidly respond to urban issues: the human remains at the heart of the smart city.

Technology serving the city acts as a lever for the other functions of the city; they take us towards a greener city, a more accessible city, and even a more civic city. But they can also exclude certain categories of the population such as the elderly and isolate others such as the youngest. A good use of these technologies is essential so that they are put at the service of livelier and more human cities whilst promoting social bonds.

The smart city seems to be the model for tomorrow's cities. However they must ensure the most appropriate use of its technologies so that they can be used as an accelerating tool for public spaces.

ZOOM

CONNECTED BEACHES

Measure, display, cross data and simulate scenarios by using information from sensors

GROUPE SNEF

Study area

It extends from the Roucas Base to the walk of the old chapel including Parc Borély, it is a very emblematic area. It is a space with a strong seasonality that welcomes 3.5 million visitors (2006 data), 2.5 million of these are concentrated in the period from June to September. During the weekend, 1 million people visit this area. The beaches stretching all along the Kennedy Corniche host an average of 20,000 daily swimmers, and 50,000 people on the beaches. This space open to a multitude of uses constitutes a "great laboratory".

It must be seen as a peaceful space, with natural landscapes, a bubble of freedom.

Perspectives and challenges

The perspectives and the challenges are numerous, and of different natures.

The environmental challenge aims to: improve the quality of information and its dissemination on water quality and cleaning operations, develop pedagogy around topics such as environmental preservation, waste production, CO_2 emissions...

The accessibility challenge aims to: improve accessibility for all, and in particular for people with reduced mobility (PRM), encourage the practice of soft and active means of transport through, for example, the supply of bike rentals, the development of protected routes...

The security challenge aims to: provide better information on the regulations of the perimeter in order to harmonize the different uses and thus limit conflicts by offering technical solutions for the USPL, the security stations, and mediation associations to improve security.

The societal challenge aims to: set up innovative services dedicated to citizens to improve the quality of life, and to better understand the diversity of uses and populations.

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ENCOUNTER

Renato de Castro
Expert in smart-city, Barcelona

How can we use technologies in public spaces? What is your opinion on the impact of these technologies on relations between city dwellers, particularly in public spaces?

Today, technology is an important part of a city's eco-system. It acts as a unifying element among citizens. Population groups are still socially excluded, but they are included by the digital world, thanks to mobile phones that are omnipresent in their lives. Technologies must therefore be used simply and wisely, by placing them in public spaces and making them accessible to the public.

During my career, I visited more than 50 countries, with very different backgrounds and economic environments. I think that technology can bring cities a form of democracy, that we can break down some barriers, such as social and economic exclusion, through technical progress. Public spaces are mediums that reduce these inequalities through the provision of technology; these public spaces have always been the points of interaction of city dwellers, areas where anyone can interact freely. The data and information that we create can be used to improve the living conditions of everyone, it is simply necessary to try to find good methods to manage this technology which, in my opinion, raises more benefits and opportunities than risks for the society.

> *"The statistical and computer information, the"data" that we produce can be used for current systems. Rather than paying taxes, systems can help cities grow by offering data.*
>
> *Unfortunately, at present, our data is not used in the right way; the same technologies that we provide to build a car are also used in other areas, for example to build war tanks, or in nuclear production. We need to find a better way to handle these masses of data. However, data and technology provide more solutions and benefits than problems and risks, we just need to make the best use of them.*
>
> **Renato de Castro**

What are the principles that make the use of technology a tool that leads to healthier cities and promotes citizenship and good human relations?
To me, there are several principles, in relation to technologies, that allow us to reach a more citizen-friendly city.

First of all, we must preserve, as I like to call it, the "DNA" of the cities, i.e. their identity. The contribution of technology to cities must not change them. All populations are very attached to the identity of their place of life, that is why the contribution of the technologies must go towards preserving this DNA, to preserve the citizenship.

Secondly, we must keep this technological development as simple as possible. We must maintain relations with citizens, exchange with them and then provide technology, accessible to all, so that it meets their needs.

Finally, my last two principles come together. Many cities today do not have a lot of money, so I recommend producing as many partnerships as possible. There are many companies and businesses that can work with cities to provide funds and participate in their development. This is where my last point comes in: the setting up of "PPPP", Partnerships, Public-Private-Population, which is essential. It is necessary to involve the populations in the partnerships and thus make the citizens actors of the technological development process of the cities.

The World Economic Forum is talking about a 4th industrial revolution with new technologies at its heart. How can cities deal with these technologies, which are developing faster and faster, to serve the interest of citizens and how can these same cities limit negative impacts?

We always evolved with the technologies, sometimes we developed them, sometimes they pushed us. But today, the speed of their development has never been so great, and I agree that we are in an era of technological revolution. All these technologies, such as artificial intelligences, will continue to impact our cities, and will probably adapt to our own evolution.

Since the creation of the internet we have never had as much access to knowledge and know-how, which has a strong impact on our lives. We must therefore focus on the management of this technology and its fast development to continue to improve the quality of life, both in urban and rural areas, and thus limit the negative impacts that it could have. It is through partnerships, citizen participation and collaborations between stakeholders that this will be accomplished.

THE HIGH-TECH CITY

URBAN GEMS

Solar energy to light up the slums
Calcutta, India

In Calcutta, the engineer Go Chowdhuri, president of the institute of rural tech-nologies, worked for several years to improve the lack of lighting in slums. It is in Piklhana's, that Chowdhuri proposes to provide a solution to this lack of light: an ingenious system that sets up a tube, with a reflective coating on the inside that can capture the sunlight and send it to the end of this tube where there is a small dome that will accumulate this light. This innovative system works without electricity, only thanks to the sunlight.

But the engineer did not stop there; he decides to install a system that allows to put together his device, the tube and the dome, with small photovoltaic pan-els. This ingenious system brings nearly 18 hours of indoor light to these poor neighborhoods in Calcutta, with 12 hours of daylight, and 6 hours from the light produced by photovoltaic panels. With this solution, Chowdhuri allows children in these neighborhoods to study even after the sun sets, to play even when it is dark, and for the older ones, to cook more easily. Thanks to this technological innovation, the daily life of its users is reconsidered and improved. Moreover this proves to be a sustainable solution with a very low carbon footprint.

The Safe City application
Using technology for a better urban security?

The SafeCity app, founded by Elsa D'Silva, is a map application for people in different countries such as India, Kenya, Cameroon and Nepal. Its goal? Report abuse and sexual harassment anonymously, directly through the application. Like other similar applications around the world, SafeCity allows anyone who has been abused or sexually harassed to pinpoint the exact location where it occurred, and thus to inform and educate on violence in their country.

For its users, this application and its website act as guides, allowing women to walk around more peacefully. With the example of SafeCity, we can imagine what new technologies could provide to our daily lives in the city, especially to raise awareness and better anticipate some current urban issues such as insecurity.

MAPATON from Mexico
A collective mobile application for a better use of transport !

In Mexico City, microbuses (or peseros), which cover over 14 million routes daily, are managed by several private unions, which secure the general data of the bus network preventing the city from having access to it. Such a system thus prevents users, regular or not, to anticipate and plan their movements. The bus stops listed on microbuses can also vary according to each vehicle which makes it all the more complicated for the preparation of the journey. To respond to this challenge in an innovative way, the authorities responsible for urban transport in Mexico have created, along with local start-ups, the Mapatón team.

The entire team decided to work on the development of a mobile application to collect data generated by microbuses. The application, available on Android, initially collects GPS data every 10 seconds. Then, the user of these transports simply needs to open the application and take a photo of the microbus in which he will travel, the application does the rest and indicates the planned route. This collective initiative has thus managed to solve this urban issue by using free technology in order to create a useful and collaborative application model that some Latin American cities already wish to replicate !

9. THE ACCESSIBLE CITY

Faced with climate change and the need to move towards a low-carbon city, there is an urgent need to transform the urban means of transport. At the heart of these changes, the living city must offer everyone the opportunity to travel around safely.

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THE ACCESSIBLE CITY :
WHEN MOBILITY GOES HAND IN HAND WITH SUSTAINABILITY

For a long time, the car has been at the center of urban projects. The city was thus not designed for pedestrians, but for the means of motorized transport, which in a very short time had completely changed urban life-styles and the perception of the city by its users. Owning a car made the townspeople free, free to move when they wanted where they wanted. Even if this idea is still rooted in the minds of men, the approach of urban mobility by developers, users and politicians is changing. In a context where the post-carbon era is fast approaching, and the purchasing power of ur-ban dwellers is decreasing, motorized vehicles can no longer meet urban needs.

However, the evolution of the city and the human activity are forcing its in-habitants to be more mobile. The places visited by an individual are multi-plying and diversifying: in addition to housing and the work place there are the places of leisure and consumption. In parallel, cities are increasingly spreading, thus extending the distances between these different inhabited spaces for a certain part of the population. However, making the city acces-sible means having acess to it no matter where you come from, where you are going, with any means, and with a disability or not. This is a challenge that many cities try to meet on a daily basis by seeking to improve the mo-bility experience of their inhabitants.

In recent years, mobility has changed drastically. The offer has become ex-tremely diversified, especially with the arrival of self-service and the pro-motion of soft mobility. Cities have gradually adapted to these changes, by increasing their public transport services and by building bike lanes. The

multiplication of these means of transport seems to be reaching a certain limit. The invasion of free-floating vehicles, in less than a year, has caused major conflicts of use in city centers. By proposing new means of soft mo-bility, especially to combat the use of the car and its impact on the environ-ment, cities must not forget that they must ensure the safety of all.

Thinking of the mobilities of tomorrow must therefore go through the relief of the general population. A relief in the controlled coexistence of traffic and means of transport, relief by limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, and finally, a relief by limiting the noise and visual pollution they cause.

Urban mobility should no longer be defined simply as a journey with a spe-cific means of transport. On the contrary, by conceiving it as a set of net-works and flows linking different infrastructures and allowing the pooling of certain vehicles, it would gain in efficiency and sustainability.

ZOOM

Walking
a forgotten means of mobility that needs to be valued for a more sustainable and accessible city

In the 90s, I was the chair of the Subcommittee on Road Safety. We had cycling advocates and public transport agents but nobody was defending pedestrians. With one of my friends, Anna Smart, herself visually impaired, we co-founded Walk Wellington. From the beginning, we felt that the project was not made for disabled people, but with disabled people, who gave their own advice and helped resolve these issues.

In the 2000s, the government was interested in walking and cycling, but it is not possible to obtain national political contributions by simply being a local organization. So like cyclists, we came together to create groups in several cities in Auckland, Wellington, Crik Church to meet as a network of walking advocates and created Living Streets Aotearoa.

The goal was to make contributions in order to make walking more visible as a means of mobility. In our initiative, we consider wheelchairs as pedestrians and we are interested in the distances to be covered between public trans-

port or the parking space and the workplace. Towards the end of his life, my father spent time in New Zealand and he himself used a wheelchair or a mobility scooter. I also have visually impaired friends, and I think that when we personally experience the difficulties of disability, whether ourselves or our loved ones, then we are more aware of these issues. And of course, having children and strollers makes us more aware of the difficulties of everyday life...

ENCOUNTER

Célia Wade-Brown
Mayor of Wellington from 2010 to 2016

What are the mobility and accessibility challenges in regard to public space? How do they transform the public space?

The challenges that cities are facing are closely linked but the ways to solve them are different. Wellington, for example, is a very steep city and sidewalks are narrow and winding. We must pay particular attention to the fact that cars do not park on sidewalks.

When we think of mobility, beyond the path, it is also about ensuring the presence of infrastructure. In the first discussions we had when I was a councilor, just before I became mayor, the number of libraries that existed in Wellington was questioned. The analysis showed, at first glance, that the libraries were too close to eachother and that we should shut some of them down whilst improving others. However, before taking this decision, we asked the team to walk to the libraries while taking into account the uphills and downhills and the presence or absence of sidewalks. They realized that from the point of view of mobility and accessibility, the number of libraries was correct.

Cities must be dense enough. The more they spread, the more difficult it is for the infrastructure to be within reasonable walking distances or to be close to public transport, which encourages city dwellers to use their car. Wellington is one of the most compact cities in New Zealand, with less than 50% of locals driving to work. With the development of a new business center, for example, we have reduced the number of car parks required, which has resulted in the arrival of workers in the neighborhood, more easily accessible by transport and closer to cultural or sports facilities.

There are of course exceptions for people with reduced mobility with the presence of "mobility parks" and the possibility of obtaining a mobility permit. We also carry out accessibility audits through accessibility advisory groups.

Cities are not always welcoming for all types of mobility. How do you perceive the distribution of uses in the public space?

The biggest barrier to walking is car traffic. When children can not walk to school, playgrounds, sports areas, or go out freely with their friends because the traffic is too dense, they are separated from their environment.

Once a child is 7 or 8 years old, he wants to be able to walk, to see his friends freely. As a very busy mom, I was happy to see that my sons could, at the age of 7, take the bus to go to town and see a movie with their friends because we had a sufficiently efficient bus service, which helped build their independence. We often think of adults as economic stakeholders who spend money, but it is equally important to consider children in the city.

For people with disabilities, we have electric mobility scooters available in different parts of the city: the town hall, the docks, the botanical garden... If they take a taxi or a friend drops them, it is difficult to bring your own scooter to move around the city. This initiative helps show a larger range of people in a city. If you walk and see only people between the ages of 18 and 68, with just healthy adults, then you will understand that this place is not accessible.

You highlight the importance of nature in mobility with the Te Araroa course as a "political detox". Why is it important and what is the situation in Wellington ?

For safety and well-being, it is important to have living and entertaining elements. In the suburbs and in the malls, the ground floors of buildings must have open windows where you can see what's going on, be it a shop

Mount Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand

window or people in a cafe. In Wellington, it is also about integrating public art with stories like the statue of Catherine Ments, a great author, but we try to create diversity in the art installations so that locals feel that it is their city, with natural and local artistic forms.

The natural environment of cities is very important from a practical point of view, since it helps to filter the air, shelters, improves the living environment. Evidence shows that nature improves health and there is a movement called biophilia, which means "love of nature". I am on the advisory board for the "biophilic cities" network. 86% of New Zealanders live in cities and have to go to the countryside to enjoy nature. We try to give it to them in town, we have hills around cities, several forests, a marine reserve nearby and many tree-lined streets. Other good examples are London, Portland, Singapore and their plant walls, with the vegetation incorporated into the shape of the building. Nature reduces runoff, absorbs water from rain storms, and helps with physical and mental health.

To summarize, the 5 priorities for a more accessible city involve limiting car traffic to enhance the use of public transport, to avoid excessively dense areas by promoting private courtyards, to protect the link between humans and nature in the city, promote art and culture and always consider minorities, be it ethnic minorities, gender or even children.

Suffrage Day, 19 September 2018 : Ariki Brightwell Brightwell, Site 3 Kumutoto

Site 4 Sue Elliott, Chair of the Wellington Sculpture Trust talking about Woman of Words

THE ACCESSIBLE CITY

URBAN GEMS

Bangkok, Thaïland

Accessibility in public spaces
When road signage becomes collaborative

Accessibility is also and above all a question of road signage in several major cities around the world. This is particularly the case in Bangkok, where the Mayday collective was created to deal with the lack of legibility of public transport in the public space. While the city is the second most congested in the world, residentes complain about bus lines that are not clear enough on the various stops and connections. In the collective unconscious bus transport is a inconvenient means of transport. However, according to Mayday, buses often take the same routes as taxis, and are cheaper.

The group wanted to solve this issue by encouraging the use of bus lines through thoughtful design. For this, the collective implements informative panels at strategic bus stops to indicate the main stops of each bus line. Other means are also used as informative infographics to make information more accessible and impactful. The Mayday collective is collaborative and has also created a facebook page where locals can share information on day and night bus networks.

Superblocks in Barcelona
Big blocks, mini neighborhoods, great health !

It's been a century and a half since the city of Barcelona has had its current shape, made up of the famous islets of Cerdà, designed to improve the Catalan capital. However, this characteristic Barcelona urbanism is today reaching its limits: recent studies have indeed shown that more than 60% of inhabitants suffer from noise pollution, resulting in subsequent repercussions on their health. It is with the objective of giving the streets back to its inhabitants that the municipality of Barcelona has decided to rethink its mobility.

To achieve this, the city wants to change some blocks or clusters of houses, to make them almost completely pedestrian by limiting cars as much as possible. These "Superblocks" would have the primary objective of reducing traffic by 21% by prohibiting car traffic in more than half of the streets of the municipality. This reduction and limitation of the car in the city could then create real citizen spaces, mini-neighborhoods promoting sociability and the practice of soft mobility. In addition to rethinking mobility, this project also helps to compensate for the lack of green spaces in Barcelona.

Musholm Sports, Korsør
making sport accessible to everyone!

Sports infrastructures, often offered by municipalities, must be accessible to all. Yet, this is not always the case. A sports complex wants to remedy this: Musholm Sports. Refurbished in 2015, the complex is now accessible to people with disabilities.

A circular sports hall in the center of the complex, owned by the Danish Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, has unusual layouts. Among them are cable cars and a climbing wall for wheelchair users with an integrated pulley system. This award-winning resort for its exceptional accessibility offers new perspectives on how to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. A 100-meter ramp has been created inside the multi-purpose hall that rises inside the circular lobby offering a variety of activities and ending in a space with a view of the sea and a scenic landscape.

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Yoann Sportouch
**founder of "LDV Studio Urbain"
and editor-in-chief of "Lumières de la Ville"**

While public spaces are used on a daily basis by city dwellers, they themselves become the **barometers of the health conditions of cities**. The diversity of their roles and their uses reveal complex places that adapt according to the context, populations and challenges that the city faces.

In France, during the recent yellow vests crisis, the democratic use of public spaces has been transposed to spaces of transit due to the absence of peri-urbanity. This shows us the importance of public spaces.

In our urban foresight firm, we have clearly understood the challenges that public spaces bring to the creation of human, democratic and living cities. And as such, **we support the stakeholders of the urban world on a daily basis by identifying innovative solutions, without hesitating to think of new ones, in order to give back to the public spaces their role as creators of livelier cities**.

For this, our ambition, with the ETI Chair, is to identify innovative projects and initiatives in a wide range of themes, ranging from the living city, to the accessible city, the protective city or the human city, **covering most of the challenges faced by these common spaces. The public space is the showcase of the city** and its facilities, its interactions and the general atmosphere felt, demonstrates the quality of life of its inhabitants.

Therefore, to promote the development of healthier cities, we have been searching, like a "urban sentry", for the most promising gems, in order **to provide answers to the major issues of social cohesion and coexistence that our cities are currently facing**. Far from being exhaustive, this notebook aims to be a **significant contributer to the current challenges that we are facing** and each one of them will be able to inspire all the stakeholders of the urban world for the creation of more human and livelier cities.

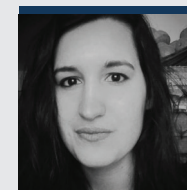## THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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