2020 HLPF Parallel Dialogue

Sustainable Cities & COVID-19:

PUBLIC SPACE: PLANS FOR ACTION

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, President
Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization


Thursday, July 16, 2020  1PM to 3PM EDT
SDG 11 is dedicated to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements,

and one of its targets is dedicated to public space. It states that ‘by 2030, cities should provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities’ and it is measured by the percentage of the city’s land area that is in public ownership and use.
Public Space & Public Life during COVID-19

Israels Plads (Copenhagen) in 2018 & 2020

UN PUBLICATIONS AND GEHL RESEARCH
Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakesh

Julien Charles photography
PROGRAMS on PUBLIC SPACE ABOUND !!!
PUBLIC SPACE OLD AND NEW

• History, Camiilo Sitte, Typology
• Examples PRE-COVID !!!
• The COVID Dilemma/Paradox ???
• The Future POST-COVID
• Public Space Inside/Outside
• Climate Change and Day and Night
• Who is in charge ???
• INTERCONNECTEDNESS
Noli Plan of Rome and typical Medieval square as street broadening
### A Typology of Urban Open Spaces
(Adapted from Cox, Francis, Rivlin and Carr, 1992)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type/Subtype of Open Space</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public/Central Park</strong></td>
<td>Publicly developed and managed open space as part of zoned open space system of city; open space of city-wide importance; often located near center of city; often larger than neighborhood park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Downtown Parks</strong></td>
<td>Green parks with grass and trees located in downtown areas; can be traditional, historic parks or newly developed open spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commons</strong></td>
<td>A large green area developed in older New England cities and towns; once pasture area for common use; now used for leisure activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neighborhood Park</strong></td>
<td>Open space developed in residential environments; publicly developed and managed as part of the zoned open space of cities, or as part of new private residential development; may include playgrounds, sport facilities, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mini/Yestocket Park</strong></td>
<td>Small urban park bounded by buildings; may include fountain or water feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squares and Plazas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Square</strong></td>
<td>Square or plaza; often part of historic development of city center; may be formally planned or exist as a meeting place of streets; frequently publicly developed and managed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**PARK**  **noun**  \(\text{park}\)  **Definition of PARK**  \(\text{MW}\)

1. an enclosed piece of ground stocked with game and held by royal prescription or grant b: a tract of land that often includes lawns, woodland, and pasture attached to a country house and is used as a game preserve and for recreation 2a: a piece of ground in or near a city or town kept for ornament and recreation b: an area maintained in its natural state as a public property 3a: a space occupied by military vehicles, materials, or animals

**PLAZA**  **noun**  \(\text{plaza}\)  **Definition of PLAZA**  \(\text{MW}\)

1. a public square in a city or town b: an open area usually located near urban buildings and often featuring walkways, trees and shrubs, places to sit, and sometimes shops 2: a place on a thoroughfare (as a tangle or cobblestone) at which all traffic must temporarily stop (as to pay tolls) 3: an area adjacent to an organism which has service facilities (as a restaurant, gas station, and restroom)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type/Subtype of Open Space</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorials</td>
<td>Public place that memorializes people or events of local and national importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markets</td>
<td>Open space or streets used for Farmer’s Markets or Flea Markets; often temporary or occur only during certain times in existing space such as parks, downtown streets or parking lots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets</td>
<td>Pedestrian Sidewalks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pedestrian Mall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transit Mall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traffic Restricted Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Town Trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Open Spaces</td>
<td>Schoolyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Garden/Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Necklace, Boston</td>
<td>Park; often developed on private land; not officially viewed as part of the city’s open space system; vulnerable to displacement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium Mall, Boston</td>
<td>Interior private space developed as indoor atrium space; indoor, lockable plaza or pedestrian street; part of the city’s open space system;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>privately developed and managed as part of new office or commercial development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Flea Market</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Steps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Bridge Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenways and Linear Parkways</td>
<td>Interconnected recreational and natural areas connected by pedestrian and bicycle paths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Wilderness</td>
<td>Undeveloped or wild natural areas in or near cities. Often popular for hiking, dog walking, and recreation. Frequently involves conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>between users and ecological preservation/ restoration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium/Indoor/Marketplaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketplace/Downtown</td>
<td>Interior, private shopping areas, usually freestanding or rehabilitation of older buildings; sometimes called “Festival marketplaces”;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>privately developed and managed as part of new office or commercial development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found/Neighborhood Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday Spaces</td>
<td>Publicly accessible open places such as street corners, steps to buildings, etc., which people claim and use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Spaces</td>
<td>Publicly accessible open space such as street corners, lots, etc., near where people live; can also be vacant or undeveloped space located in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>neighborhood including vacant lots and future building sites; often used by children and teenagers, and local residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfronts</td>
<td>Open space along waterfronts in cities; increased public access to waterfront areas; development of waterfront parks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHAM!
Cars !!!
Public Transit ???
Place Vendome, Paris

1700's, 1900's, today
Out of town accommodations

Past w/o Cars ........

... Future w/o Cars
Kids in the Streets, again!!?
The Parts of the Street

The functions of a street are spelled out in its various parts. This street has two high quality walkways (one on each side). Note the "attached" and the more comfortable "detached" sidewalks. Why is the detached sidewalk more comfortable?

This Central Avenue, Sequim, Washington, street also has a quality planter strip on each side, bike lanes, travel lanes and a center set of medians and turn lanes.

Parts of a Sidewalk

Scale, detail, and complexity
WHAM!
Unrest/Protest !!!
New York Peaceful Public Protest, June 2020
WHAM!
Climate Change !!!
Rebuild By Design
Post- Sandy

“BIG U” by BIG Architects
WHAM!

Multiculturalism and Inclusion
!!!We are not one size fits all
VARANASI
WHAM!
Public Health !!!
COVID-19
Manhattan, NY
36 % Streets
UN HABITAT DATA

Kibera, Nairobi
5 +% Streets
Approx

Social/physical distancing
Short term / Long term ??

Park, Brooklyn, NYC/ Market, Kalaw, Myanmar
Inspiration from Gdansk, Buenos Aires, Paris and Istanbul

Rich street life is no frill. It is an expression of the most ancient function of a city—a place for people to come together, all kinds of people, face-to-face. —William "Holly" Whyte

From Barcelona, Paris, New York, Buenos Aires… people are being privileged over cars… streets are being given to people.

Gdansk, Poland
Amsterdam, Holland

New York, USA  GOOD
New York, USA  BAD
Village accommodations / Woodstock, NY
Women, girls, and handwashing, and hygiene for all...
The rooftops were effectively streets.

Çatalhöyük, Turkey, 7,100 BC
On the rooftops, NYC: If coronavirus is keeping New Yorkers off the streets, we need to be able to use our roofs

By MOSES GATES
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | MAR 22, 2020 AT 9:27 PM

Public Spaces Weren't Designed for Pandemics. N.Y.C. Is Trying to Adapt

New rules and design will try to keep New Yorkers safe in the usually crowded plazas, paries and streets.

ALTERNATIVES for good, why did we wait so long???

On right: My book cover from 1990
Parc de la Distance proposed, Vienna
WHAT !!!
The New Urban Flight
Riots and the pandemic are driving another exodus from big cities.

ONLY SOME CAN LEAVE
...and they will be back !!!

The Forces That Will Reshape American Cities
The pandemic will likely accelerate the pull of the suburbs for families while pushing young people and businesses into more affordable urban areas.

By Richard Florida
July 2, 2020, 6:00 AM EDT
PUBLIC SPACE POTPOURRI
POST- PANDEMIC URBANISM

THANK YOU!

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, DPACSA
Architecture + Urban Design
President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
lbrown147@aol.com