

# Principles of Survey Work & Different Techniques for Urban Design

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## ABSTRACT

This paper sets out a progression of regularizing standards for organizers and others to utilize when making arrangements for and directing public space plan and the executives. In view of a thorough assessment of public space, the substance of which is accounted for somewhere else, a first segment sets out three overall standards identifying with the basic yet regularly missing key arranging structure for the turn of events and recovery of public spaces. A second and last area sets out seven more gritty contemplations for assessing the nature of public space plan. This is an unashamedly sure system for molding public space, in view of the idea that public spaces in our urban communities come in various structures and pretenses, yet all things considered increase the value of the experience and capability of metropolitan regions. Thusly, they merit genuine thought by those with administrative and different responsibilities regarding their conveyance. The review manual arrangements with two significant components: a contextual analysis in Providence, which shows the most common way of directing a study and the sorts of discoveries and results which might be gotten; and a system area which centers around the strategies and techniques utilized in study research. Logical study testing is demonstrated to be a helpful instrument for acquiring data on an assortment of metropolitan issues, remembering suppositions for nature of public offices, purposes behind moving, support for urban renewal and model cities projects, and assessment of social government assistance programs.

**KEYWORDS:** *Urban Design, Urban Scale, Urban Space, Urban masses, Urban Architects, Urban correlation*

## INTRODUCTION

The theme of this book is the Method of Urban Design. In particular the book will examine the techniques used in urban Design Method to achieve sustainable development. Dictionary definitions of method include a number of key words such as procedure, systematic or orderly arrangement together with the idea of a clearly defined goal as an end product. For example, The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines method as: procedure for attaining an object, a special form of procedure adopted in any branch of mental activity, or a way of doing anything, especially according to a regular plan. The American Heritage Dictionary defines method more simply as: The procedures and techniques characteristic of a particular discipline or field of knowledge – the

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Method. It is this definition which is taken as the starting point for the development of the argument in this book. Identifying and describing a unique Method for Urban Design, using this last definition of the word method, is central to the development of the subject as a discipline. Clearly, method, when used here, will include concepts such as procedures, objectives and plan.

In the field of urban planning, there is a strong tradition of survey and analysis of urban space as a pre-requisite procedure to formulate urban plans. In this analytical phase, primary and secondary, qualitative and quantitative, spatial and non-spatial information is collected in order to analyze and

understand the structure, character, problems, and possibilities of a study area. This information primarily concerns urban land uses, but also extends to ecological, social, economic, and traffic dimensions, which constitute some of the most useful views on urban space for established urban planning practice.

The planning process begins with an analysis of existing conditions. The comprehensive urban planner wants to know what is before he decides what should be. Traditionally, land use, population, and economic base surveys have been the three basic components of this analysis contained in comprehensive plans. Planners have in the past used a variety of survey techniques in order to assess the physical characteristics of an area. For example, the "windshield survey" is often used as the basis for mapping types of land use or the general quality of housing in an area possibly slated for urban renewal. This type of survey gets at the gross features of the environment, but often there is no clear definition of the categories of observation or any systematic exploration of those significant features which may go unnoticed in these circumstances. It is our contention that the planner does not really know what

is if he fails to include, also, a systematic survey of public reactions<sup>2</sup> to the existing physical environment. The usefulness of a systematic survey of public reactions is not limited to the existing physical environment.

This need to survey and map *urban activities*, which are the functional and dynamic elements of urban space that take spatial expression in the form of *urban land uses*, is directly connected (and therefore critical) to the usual final product of urban planning. In particular, urban planning has been (more or less, and with different local interpretations) a land-use planning practice for over a century now and, because of this practice, the survey of urban uses for the preparation of an *existing land uses* map still comprises the backbone of most urban development plans internationally.

### COMMON URBAN DESIGN ACTIVITIES-

The following page illustrates some of the activities that are traditionally considered under the purview of urban design. Most of them are conducted by teams of professionals, usually led by an architect, landscape, architect or planner with urban design expertise.



**Fig.1: Urban design activity**





**Fig.2: Urban design Concept**

### **TOWARDS AN APPROACH-**

While the discussion above attempts to cordon off urban design as a discreet discipline, it must be acknowledged that such a bright line definition is very porous – that many of its defining activities and principles are common with other city building, planning and design activities - and that many of these same activities are integrated into other planning efforts addressing a broader range of public goals. This is one reason many definitions of urban design focus on the physical aspects of urban form as the most important definitional identifier. However, a distinct urban design approach which includes the elements and process described above is still needed within the spectrum of urban planning and design fields for the reasons noted above. Namely, an urban design approach carries with it fundamental principles and responses to human behaviors, provides a process and conceptual framework for implementing those principles, and allows more expansive use of the tools that urban design brings to a physical planning challenge.



**Fig.3: Urban Design approach**

### **Emerging Challenges-**

This section considers the definition's elements in more detail and explores their implications for today's practice. There are several sections that digress from the primary topics, but, hopefully they amplify the salient







**Fig.5: Public space design**

### **Free public space-**

The discussions about our rights to the city often focus on who owns and manages space, with the most polemical discourses denouncing processes of privatization as the death of public space. Empirical research, by contrast, has tended to show that ultimately the rights and responsibilities associated with spaces and what this implies about how public they are is more important than who owns and manages them. In fact, public spaces are owned and managed through multiple complex arrangements, and always have been, and many are neither clearly public nor private as regards who owns and manages them. Moreover, restrictions on use apply to all spaces, regardless of ownership, not least as a means to ensure that their amenity value is distributed fairly across the range of potential users.



**Fig.6: Free public space**

### **Designing public spaces-**

Beyond strategic considerations relating to how public spaces evolve and are regulated, the balance of space types across an urban area, and how to guarantee rights and responsibilities; at a more detailed level, planners are also often the guardians of how new public spaces are created and existing spaces are regenerated. Thus

through their plans, ordinances, frameworks and policies, or through discretionary negotiations on development proposals during the regulatory process, planners have the opportunity to set out and implement clear principles for the sorts of public spaces they would wish to see. Whilst every public space will be different, and attempts to define universally applicable principles for good public space design are often based on little more than supposition and intuitive analysis, extensive empirical testing revealed a number of critical factors that are likely to be important in the design of most public spaces.



**Fig.7: Designing public spaces**

### Range Of Scales-

In simplest term of, this element directs the urban designer to look beyond the project boundaries to identify both the positive opportunities as well as the positive and negative impacts of the design intervention. The Triangle design presents a straight-forward example of this notion. The initial project entailed the redesign of a triangular piece of land consisting of the remaining right-of-way left over from a “Y” shaped intersection. The planning team, consisting of community members, architects, planners and landscape architects, examined the City’s data and illustrated the fact that there was a park and open space deficit in the surrounding neighborhood and that the community itself was characterized by diversity and a lower average income level. These facts made it easier for the community to articulate the need for a multi-use park that could be developed by closing an adjacent street and providing more funding than was immediately available. The resulting plan included not only a preliminary layout typical of a park design project and recommendations for landscaping and storm water improvements to nearby parcels similarly formed by the skewed street network, but also an implementation strategy that included an interdepartmental property transfer, and both short and long term funding measures.

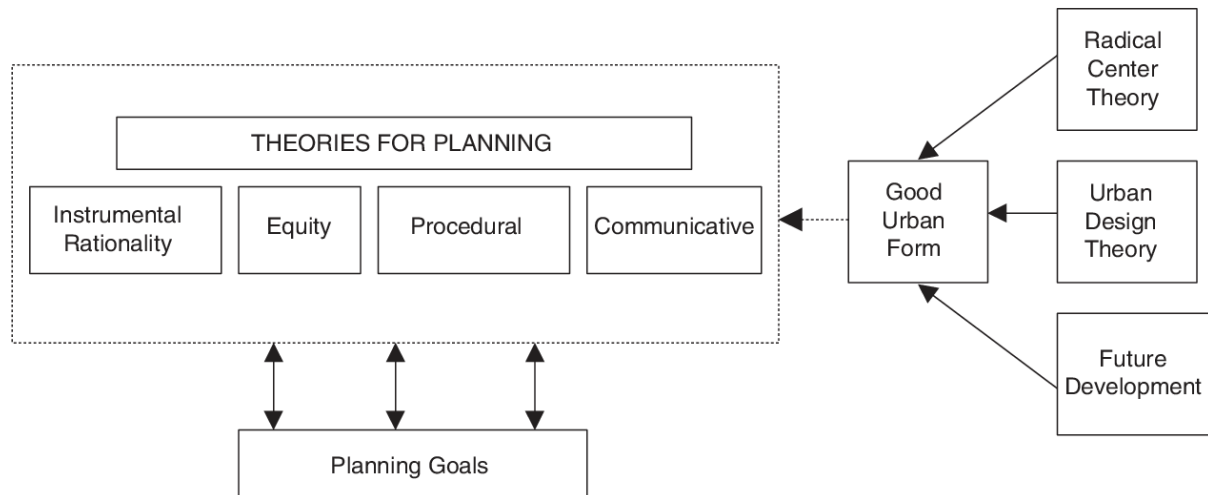


**Fig.8: Illustrations from the Triangle Plan noting the local socio-economic context and related opportunities that accompany the redevelopment of the project site**



### Radical planning-

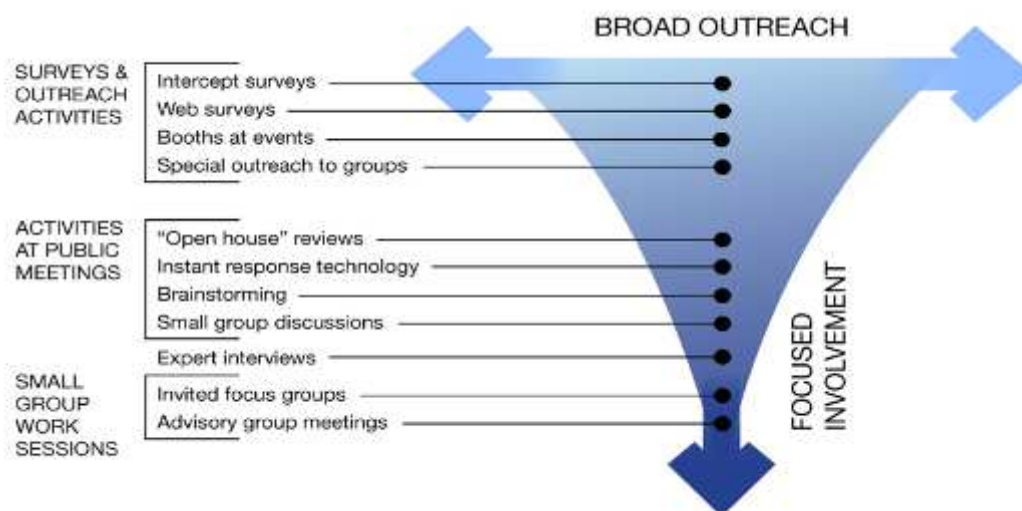
The first is an anarchist-inspired approach emphasizing decentralized control and the experimentation with alternative societal organizations. The second main school of radical planning is more structurally orientated. It takes a direction focusing on the impacts of the economic system on class conditions and the role of planning in the class struggle. The first group of radicalize planning theorists includes the environmentalist movements. The Marxist radical version proposes government control of the means of production and that production, instead of being governed by profit motives, should be directed towards meeting societal needs as defined through the political process.



**Fig.9: Broad and focused on Radical planning**

### Public Engagement-

Before expanding on the steps in the process, it is important to discuss some ways that equitable and inclusive public input can be achieved. Ideally, the public process should encourage input that is both broad and focused, so projects should incorporate a variety of opportunities for people to express their opinions. The means of broad outreach and engagement can vary widely from community to community, depending on whether or not there are established community organizations, local, widely read newspapers, diverse ethnic populations, etc. The section directing urban designers to address input from multiple “clients” has discussed the difficulties in engaging some populations. Web based outreach is often effective and a web survey early in the process can both alert people to the project and engage them in a way that encourages further participation. Usually, a statistically valid survey, such as a telephone survey is too expensive for a local project.



**Fig.10: Broad and focused public engagement techniques**

### THE PROBLEM WITH THE RATIONAL URBAN DESIGN PROCESS-

The above prototypical urban design process is a time-tested model for making rational public decisions, but there is one fundamental problem: people often do not act rationally. These results in a number of situations that hamper the pursuit of a logical course of action based on a public consensus. Hurdles to an equitable and rational decision include:

- Opposition to any change based on unsupported fear of loss.
- Poor communication – inability to understand or accept information.
- Mistrust of other groups or the agency proposing an intervention.
- Prejudicial bias against a group or type of proposed action.
- Political gain of those in power.

Many of these and other hurdles arise from the way human beings perceive and process information. As the preponderance of cognitive and social scientists have found, decisions made by human beings are influenced or determined by people's subconscious rather than the conscious, "rational" part of their mental processes. Urban designers and planners would do well to better understand how these thought process can affect individual and collective decision making. If these processes are understood, many of the hurdles described above can be reduced. The following is a brief overview of some of the most relevant findings from social science research.



**Fig.11: Urban Design Process**

### **Comfortable public space-**

Despite claims in the literature that there has been a general securitisation of public space, in reality, security is expensive and arrangements tend to be pragmatically defined to reflect the needs of different types of public spaces. Whilst some very busy spaces may need and do possess highly visible security, most do not. Ultimately, the objective should be the wellbeing and sense of wellbeing of users, and their ability to use spaces in a relaxed and comfortable manner. Interviews with the users of public spaces in London confirmed the long-held view onwards that security is first and foremost determined by how busy spaces are, as active spaces will always seem safer than deserted ones, as will spaces that are well overlooked and clearly visible from the outside. Second, how well spaces are managed also has an impact, with spaces that are clean and tidy and well maintained generally feeling safer than those that are not. Finally, spaces should be relaxing, with opportunities to stop and linger, for example, with good quality, comfortable and preferably moveable formal seating, informal seating opportunities (on steps, kerbs and walls), toilet facilities, soft landscaping and careful consideration given to microclimate (places to sit in the sun, and to shelter from the wind and the rain).





**Fig.12: Lands redevelopment incorporates a range of new subspaces, including onto the Regent's Canal and setting off the**

### **Robust public space-**

Finally, the success of public spaces will depend on shaping places which, through their robust design (simple, uncluttered and with resilient natural materials, trees and planting), and background level of activity, are able to adapt and change over time in a manner that can withstand the sorts of homogenisation pressures that are so derided in the literature and which still feel distinct, welcoming and rooted in the local context. In the short term, this means spaces that can adapt to different uses and activities, perhaps at different times of the day throughout the week (a market on a Monday and, without feeling deserted, peace and quiet on a Sunday), or across the year. In the long term, it will mean successfully adapting to changes in the uses that surround the space or to the demands placed on spaces by changes (yet unknown) to society and technology. It will also mean design solutions that reflect the realities of management routines and the budgets available for the upkeep of public space, with materials and features that are able to age gracefully and in a timeless manner.



**Fig.13: Robust public space (adaptable and distinct in the face of change)**

## CONCLUSION-

Regulating structures for metropolitan plan have regularly been tremendously reprimanded for the inclination they urge in us to zero in on a thin perspective on characterized actual results without a legitimate comprehension of their socio-political setting. Whilst this should be a risk and careless utilization of any plan remedies in approach or activities ought to be kept away from, we ought not be entirely tired, to the point that we are kept from articulating the consequences of dependable exploration and investigation in standardizing terms as this paper has endeavored to do. The issue isn't standardizing solution, yet the alert (or nonappearance of alert) with which remedies are applied. Along these lines, starting with this weighty admonition and with the stipulation that all the examination supporting the regularizing standards portrayed in this paper was gotten from investigation of London (as the outlines all through have built up), it is hypothesized that the thoughts embraced give a straight-forward and generally appropriate system against which organizers and different controllers can evaluate their own commitment with issues of public space plan and the executives.

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