

Transforming Public Spaces through Place-Making

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Abstract: Environmental psychology is a reasonably new discipline which has grown out of social psychology and evolved in its own interdisciplinary direction related to anthropology, urban planning and architecture.

Its relation to environmental risks, human spatial behavior and peoples mental and emotional adjustments has lead to place attachment which is a prerequisite of place making

The goal of the field is to solve problem involving human environmental interactions and to create , manage, protect and restore environments that promote proper behavior and to study proper ways of designing towns and places in relation with environmental awareness among people.

This report is an amalgamation of various article readings, literature reviews and surveys conducted in Indian based four different public places in Nagpur and Raipur.

Even though most of the public places have been developed to promote human environment relationship There has not been enough public opinion and interactions taken prior to making the place But interactions like maintaining cleanliness by picking up the litter , planting trees and performing street plays can definitely help in further development of a place.

Keywords: Place-making , Public space transformation , Community participation, Place attachment , Human enviraonment interaction ,Urban livability , sociability in public spaces

INTRODUCTION

Place making is a process by which people interactively create and recreate the experienced geographies in which they live. Place making inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community.

6 elements of successful place making

1. Mixed use
2. successful streets
3. Open space
4. Urban scale
5. Movement framework

6. Sense of place

The four qualities that a public space should share are accessible, people are engaged in activities there, the space is comfortable and has a good image, and finally it is a sociable place. One where people meet each other and take people when they come to visit. Place making is becoming increasingly relevant as our planet urbanizes. With more than half of the world population now living in cities, the importance of engaging and inclusive public space grows stronger everyday. Creating great places is an ever-evolving process: It is important to check in on earlier projects by performing an evaluation of the space at different times of the day and year. The best parks have maintenance and programming staff members complete evaluations on a regular basis, as part of their long-term plan—some as often as once a day. Beyond looking for things that are “broken,” it focuses on how parts of the space are used over time.

The study is limited to the Indian context. The public places selected for the survey are India based. No western public places are considered for the survey.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

By recognizing and developing the positive potential of their public spaces, cities can enhance safety and security, create economic opportunity, improve public health, create diverse public environments and build democracy.

OBJECTIVE

The agenda of the secondary survey is to understand the word place making and its importance for public.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. GROWING UP IN CITIES

DR. KAREN MALORE- professor of sustainability

Aim- to stress the role of young people in planning process,

Objective- To use youth’s knowledge in building neighborhood which function in a just and equitable manner for young people.

Methodology -This is a research project to explore new ways of working with young people aged 10 to 15 in regard to planning in Australian youth. The study was based on a cross disciplinary extracted from research methods used in education, physical design and anthropological traditions. The methods include one and one interview, peer interviews on video, photographs, photo grids and community survey’.

Inference-

The writer believes that if neighborhood are to become youth friendly, young people need to be part of planning process, and to do this they need environment exposure. Planning with young people is not just about changing or designing physical forms, it is about understanding the culture of a community. The writer illustrates this by various examples, and stresses that this can only be achieved by believing that the role of young person is to be willing, and the task of

planner is to be able.

2.URBAN GREEN SPACE

JENNIFER R WOLCH- scholar of urban aesthetics and planning

Aim- To study the importance of urban green space for public health

Objective- by designing green space shaped by community concerned needs.

Methodology - The author reviews the Anglo American literature on urban green space and parks and compares efforts to green U.S. and Chinese cities. It reviews literature on health risks of parks and green spaces too. An example of Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang province, located 200 km from Shanghai, where rapid urbanization has consumed its agricultural land and impacted the city's environment in respect to high temperature and air pollution.

Inference-

This paper has highlighted the importance of urban green space for public health. This can be achieved, says the writer by design interventions that are just green enough. This can in turn be achieved by the willingness of planners and stakeholders to design green space, that are shaped by community concerned needs and desires, rather than conventional urban design formulas. The author advises planners to promote green space that are small scale, and in scattered sites. Replacing markets driven with just green

enough strategies is challenging requiring community activism. This requires a careful balancing between local government and desperate community groups.

3. PLACE AND PLACE-MAKING IN CITIES – A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

JOHN FRIEDMAN – A professor in the school of community and regional planning at university of British Columbia in Vancouver

Aim –To outline a planning perspective to global place making

Objective – to formulate an operational definition of place along with criteria to identify a place. To redefine the process of place making

Methodology – Specific criteria are discussed with brief illustration from Taiwan and china in order to define what criteria might serve to delineate a place to argue that making is everyone's job examples are sited from japans traditional neighborhood associations, china's selected residents and British Columbians not for project settlements houses. The formation of places is the existence of one or more centers encounter is emphasized by citing an example of temple and a case study from china.

Inference-

“In the process millions of ordinary folks have been displaced and their neighborhood erased, as power has been valued more than fragile social infrastructure of place based communities.”

Erasure of places is a violent act as established patterns of human relationships are destroyed. Place as an event is marked by openness and change rather than boundaries and permanence. . A

place is a three dimensional space cherished by its inhabitants. Place making should be sociable and collaborative.

Transforming a space is everyone's job, local residents as well as official planners so that old places can be taken back through collaborative people centered planning. planners need to engage with those who reside in neighborhood planners as each neighborhood has a unique social profile. Citizens play a active role in environmental management. It needs organizational strategies that foster a sense of common benefit and develop confidence among disempowered groups. Planners have forgotten about the small spaces of the city. Ordinary neighborhood need to be brought back into view, so that planners and local citizens can engage in joint search for genuine betterment in the neighborhood life.

4. MAKING A CITY, VITALITY AND URBAN DESIGN

JOHN MONTGOMERY-town planner, urban economist and urban designer

Aim- To understand what makes a city a city and not a town or a suburb.

Objective - understanding a space system and respect to its form, activity and image.

Methodology- The author studies an example of traditional European city which is dense and fine grained. He uses this model to study the extent to which this European model of a good city transfers to the U.k. context. By reference to a number of cities, he intends to show that it is possible to plan for and design an active city. He even sites an example of Trafalgar square and its surrounding boundaries.

Inference-This paper is not intended to be a master plan, but is but a discussion of successful urban places The writer stresses that in designing a new piece of city it is essential to consider form, activity and image.... each should reinforce the other. One question he faced during this study was, ...is it possible to adapt these principles in production of built forms. This paper however tells us that, we must be careful not simply to accept the dominator received view of any societies values and ways of life, and instead seek to cater for diversity and choice.

5. LANGUAGE AND MAKING OF PLACE

YI FU TUAN – Chinese American geographer

Aim- To stress the importance of speech and written words

Objective-studying it in relation to construction of space and understanding of place.

Methodology- The different ways by which language contribute towards making of place may be shown by exploring a wide range of situations and cultural contexts of hunter gatherers, explorers and pioneers, intimate friendship, Europe in relation to Asia, and Chinese garden and Landscape art wide range of examples are used to show that words and speech are vital force to carve its place in human- cultural geography.

Inference- The author through this paper urges that speech and written words be considered integral to the construction of space and to the geographers understanding of place. Language is important because humans are language animals, and language is a practical force. When

workers discuss how to raise a beam, and an imaginative force, when a person recommends a seaside resort to a friend. The author recommends to take language seriously, as it shows that quality of place is more than just aesthetic and has a moral dimension which mediates between environment and behavior. The author successfully achieves this by various scale cultural, linguistic and literary, by which erodes grammar, semantics, can evoke place.

6 .CREATING PLACES OR DESIGNING SPACES JONATHAN D SMILE.

AIM-the concept of place helps to integrate design and research issue OBJECTIVE-To study sense of place among architects, planners and researchers

METHODOLOGY- different approaches to the study of place in architecture, geography and psychology are reviewed. A politics of place and the design and research of place pattern are discussed.

INFERENCE- It is not possible to create a place for building users solely by manipulating the physical environment on their behalf. the paper consider place making: the degree to which a 'place' can be created in architectural design independently of the people who eventually use it.

7. PLACEMAKING : CREATING A PLACE OF SENSE AND A SENSE OF PLACE .

AMIT BHARTI - ARCHITECT

AIM- to study the barriers against good public places

OBJECTIVE-to study the Indian as well as western context on the place making parameter

METHODOLOGY- Case studies have been done on western public places and Indian public places to study the negatives and positive points of Indian public places and the various factors that are responsible for it.

INFERENCE- place making is a concept and a method of improving the comfort, safety, attractiveness and vitality of streets and other public places so that every one use and enjoy it.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

STUDY AREA

The study is conducted in four public spaces, a waterfront namely Futala Nagpur, a public area Telankhedhi park Nagpur, a junction namely aathrasta and lastly Telebandha waterfront [marine drive] Raipur.

Additionally, an observation in terms of a successful public space is carried out for marine drive Raipur.

SAMPLE SELECTION AND SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size for the study is 84 people .21 in each space. Every age group is considered for conducting of the survey. The survey involved both the visitors and the resident of the place.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION

3 different types public places were considered for the study i.e. 2 waterfronts , a junction and a park .the places selected are limited to Nagpur and Raipur because the observation of the place

and the data collection required a regular surveillance .

INTERVIEW METHOD

Number of people involved for the study – 84

Types of question- the questions are the observation are based on the urban design dimensions and the criteria of a successful public space.

DATA COLLECTION – Based on

1. VISUAL APPEAL OF THE PLACE - Most of the people think the place is visually appealing
2. VISIT TO THE PLACE - The footfall is almost the same. It may vary according to the time in which it is visited.
3. THE REASON FOR VISIT TO THE PLACE - People generally visit the places for relaxation and spending quality time with friends.
4. THE REASON FOR LIKING THE PLACE - The environment created by the design makes them connected to the place and create a specific image in their mind.
5. THE POLLUTION IN THE SPACE - Every place has its positive and negative The pollution problems create a negative environment .and can cause health issues .
6. WAYS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION – planting trees , horn free areas, placing dustbins , regular cleaning programs.
People taking initiative to solve it adds on to place making principles, makes them feel connected to the place .
7. PARKING PROBLEMS
8. OVERCROWDING
- 9.SAFETY OF THE PLACE
10. SENSE OF PLACE / PLACE ATTACHMENT - When people see friends ,meet and greet their neighbors and feel comfortable interacting with strangers ,they tend to feel a strong sense of place .
11. VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC .
12. CHANGES IN THE PLACE AFTER TRANSFORMATION.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

- All the places are not completely designed on the principles of place making. Almost all are design driven.
- Although they share all the 4 key attributes like comfort, creating a image, sociable, user friendly, proper access and linkage. But some where lacks in completely fulfilling them all.
At different time use of the place.
- Morning – the places are visited by elderly age group people for jogging and yoga's

- Afternoon- the footfall is comparatively low. people visit the place for eat outs.
- Evening – the maximum footfall is to be seen. All age groups can be sighted. public interaction and different social activities takes place at this time of the day.
- Night- families can be sighted spending quality times with their loved ones.

Triangulation of activities increase the footfall of the place and makes the space more sociable

CONCLUSION

- A successful public space is easy to get to and get through, it is visible both from distance and up close.
- The place should provide comfort to the user. Comfort includes perception about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit.
- Having something to do, gives people a reason to come to the place
- Public should feel stronger sense of place or attachment to their community

RECOMMENDATION

It is the role of place makers to encourage everyone to think about what is special in their communities. How many quality spaces are located near by and their connection to other spaces, the places unrecognized and many other unanswered questions need to be tackled both individually and collectively.

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