DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES

5th October 2020

Joseph Kwan  Director

*Région IV Work Programme Architecture for All*
PUBLIC SPACES

1. Definition
2. Characteristics
3. Urban Fabric & Community Life
4. International Determinants
5. Examples
6. UIA Friendly & Inclusive Spaces Awards
7. Policy, Standards, Education
8. Future Design
DEFINITION

• In ancient Greek cities, an **agora** was an open space serving as an assembly area and a place for commercial, civic, social, and religious activities.

• A public space is a place that is generally **open** and **accessible to people**.

• Roads, public squares, parks and beaches are typically considered public space.

• Recently, the concept of **Shared Space** has been advanced to enhance the experience of pedestrians in public space jointly used by automobiles and other vehicles.
CHARACTERISTICS

• Focal – central point
• Linear – transitional
• Scale – monumental, intimate
• Functionality – tangible, intangible
• Exterior vs Interior, combination of both
• Inclusive, safe, equitable, accessible
INTANGIBLE ASPECTS

• Quality & Richness
• Experiential & Memorable
• Monumental
• Historical
• Cultural
• Symbolic
• Touristic
• **UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

• Adopted by UN GA 2006, entry into force 2008

• The Convention **prohibits** discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of life
  
  o Article 2: Definition - *Universal Design*
  
  o Article 9: *Accessibility*
  
  o Article 30: *Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure & Sport*
DETERMINANTS

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“World leaders have an unprecedented opportunity this year to shift the world onto a path of inclusive, sustainable and resilient development” - Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

GOAL 11

- Make cities and human settlements *inclusive, safe, resilient* and *sustainable*
Winners of the 2017 Edition of the UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards

The UIA Friendly and Inclusive Spaces Awards were founded to encourage and acknowledge architects who have created exemplary friendly, inclusive and accessible buildings and public spaces. Entries must demonstrate that they have met the highest standards of universal and inclusive design, where the realised designs contribute to the quality of life of all those who may use them.

Awards are given in four categories: New Buildings, Public Spaces, Existing & Historic Buildings and Research. Entries are assessed in two stages, first by an international jury located in each of the UIA’s five regions and finally by an international jury including a past award winner.

In 2017 a total of 76 entries were received from 28 countries across five continents. The jury was impressed by the range of project types submitted and by the standard and quality of the shortlisted entries.
4 Categories
New Buildings
Public Spaces
Existing & Historic Buildings
Research

76 entries
28 countries
5 continents
Public Space

Medal:
Entry No: 134 Paseo Puerta de Tierra by SCF Arquitectos, Puerto Rico.
Jury Comment:
A very well executed transformation of a run-down area into an inclusive multi-sensory promenade with great variety of subtly designed and landscaped gathering spaces in continuous dialogue with the sea and their historical surroundings. Pedestrians, traffic, cyclists and public transport vehicles have been cleverly separated with clearly defined routes and a well-considered signage system.

Special Mentions:
Entry No. 115 Rehabilitation of Karpenisi Town Centre by Andreas Lampropoulos, Architect, Greece.
Jury Comment:
Carefully designed road and pavement surfaces transform the visual impact of the main access roads in this mountainous town, encouraging pedestrian use and diminishing the dominance of the car. Access to the town centre has been greatly improved, particularly for those with mobility impairments and heated pavements ensure it is maintained even in snowy/icy conditions. Installation of tactile ground indicators/guide paths further improve accessibility for people with visual impairments.

Entry No 50 Kwun Tong Promenade by Architectural Services Department, Hong Kong
Jury Comment:
Despite the overbearing presence of an elevated road immediately above this promenade the design succeeds in achieving a relaxed environment. The human scale of many of the design components represents a deliberate and successful choice to break the linear sea front site into smaller entities. The boardwalk is both inclusive and accessible, however more attention to details to aid people with visual impairments may be required.
UIA Guidelines on ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
Accessible and Inclusive Public Spaces
Norway universally designed by 2025

The Norwegian Government’s Action Plan for universally design and increased accessibility 2009-2013
ISO Standard: 21542

Building Construction - Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment 2011

Review for New 2020 version
Design for All
from school to practice

Teaching Universal Design
Global Examples of Projects and Models for Teaching in Universal Design at Schools of Design and Architecture.

By S. Krenig and C. Ryhl
For AAsüll project

International Union of Architects
1. Post Covid-19
   • Socialization & Use of Public Spaces
   • Complement with Appropriate Technology & Health aspects

2. Post Disaster Reconstruction
   • Build Back Better
   • To Leave No One Behind
Thank You

Dr. Ar. Joseph Kwan MH
Architect & Access Consultant
UDA Consultants Ltd

Deputy Vice President - Asia Pacific
Rehabilitation International (RI)

Director - Region IV
Work Programme Architecture for All
International Union of Architects (UIA)

jkuda@netvigator.com