DESIGNING PUBLIC OPEN SPACES AFTER THE PANDEMIC TOWARDS A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Public open spaces as squares, plazas, public parks, and green spaces are the key for any built environment. They encourage the physical activities for people and increase the health benefits. Planning and designing urban open spaces is not a new concept, it has been practiced for decades but due to the increase in population and the built up area, the green public open spaces declined, became neglected and are not well functioning.

However, after the pandemic the importance of the public open spaces have been noticed and highlighted as people need to participate together but in a healthier way in many things and create high quality of life among them.

The design of the built environment and the open spaces has an important role to play in the society. The problem is that fearing of crime in outdoor areas is one of the most important factors that affect people activities and behavior in public spaces.

The research will highlight examples showing the importance of safe and healthy public open spaces and how people have changed their perceptions and needs.

The research aims to achieve a set of guidelines that construct a vision for designing safe and healthy public space.

KEYWORDS

Public spaces. Safe and healthy, Pandemic, Crime, Urban design

INTRODUCTION

Historically, urban open spaces have been important sites of social, cultural, political and environmental life from the early civilization till now.

Public open spaces can be defined as any open space that is not roofed by any structural system regardless some religious spaces. The form and the function of the open space has been changed through every era depending on its use.

It started from the beginning of the Greek agora , to the roman forum , to the medieval market square , the renaissance plaza and lastly the contemporary public spaces .

The agora was important as it was the place where the community congregates to discuss events of the day , religion and political issues. The agora served the same purpose in ancient Athens as the town square and town hall in later societies.

There are many definitions for public open spaces but it could be defined as an accessible & open space that is meaningful in its design and activities. It supports, provides the physical environmental comfort and conveniences with sense of safety and sense of control and pleasure .

The accessibility of green spaces, school yards, public plazas, playgrounds, squares , vacant lands, and public parks . It is the living room of any city as it's the place where

people come together to enjoy their social life, it promotes high quality of life in the city . It ranges from grand central plazas squares to small local parks.

Open spaces have been neglected due to the presence of the technology in people life, they lost their physical interactions and activities. Open spaces lost their main function. Public spaces are still desirable in all developed countries to guarantee their social , cultural, environmental and economic resilience. They have proved their importance during the Covid 19 pandemic, however the pandemic changed people attitude with each other, but it succeeded to return back to have social life in open spaces. People are encouraged now for the open spaces than the closed ones .So the urban open spaces are considered to be essential for the city environment and they play an important role in people life .

Public spaces are those areas in the public realm that provide a public use or recreation function, such as parks, plazas and street spaces. Public spaces are generally located on publicly held land, are accessible to everyone and are managed and maintained by councils or other public agencies. Some privately held land provides for controlled public access and use as a public space, such as a building forecourt, a walk-through, a shopping mall or a communal open space. Public spaces are created as part of a land subdivision or by reallocation of land uses in existing urban areas. Public spaces accommodate a diversity of activities, and provide interest and amenity for people.

Open public spaces are the main element for any sustainable area of the city , The different strategies of any open space can effect its surrounding context. To apply sustainable characteristics for the open spaces , this will help citizens to reshape their life style and their physical actions.

IMPORTANCE OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces are important in 3 important values which are economic, environmental and social values as shown in the Figure (1)

ECONOMIC VALUE
* Increased economic vitality
* Reduced public expenditure on health care, urban management
* Higher property prices
* Attracted human capital
* Increased business confidence...

SOCIAL VALUE
* Improved quality of life
* Increased both real and perceived security and safety
* Promoted social equality and stability
* Increased cultural vitality
* Social integration and civic pride...

PUBLIC SPACES

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE
* Reduced pollution (air, noise, water)
* Increased ecological diversity
* Reduced energy consumption...

Figure 1: Public spaces values
Source: Edited by the researcher

Public spaces need to be protected against crimes, violence, climate and deterioration. Among all, the safety of the users of the public open spaces is the main challenge. To make sure the space is secured is an important role to be used to its highest demand . The public spaces need to ensure the safety of the place against thieves, drugs dealers, and other danger in the society. It is extremely difficult situation where public spaces need to be protected against crimes by filtering out the undesirable activities but at the same time not losing its public identity of the space , this situation can be figured out by different approaches . It is important to put in consideration that there is a tight bond now between city planning and the health and hygiene system for any public space as it has direct effect for the human well being and the environment. Marcus C &Francis C . (1998)
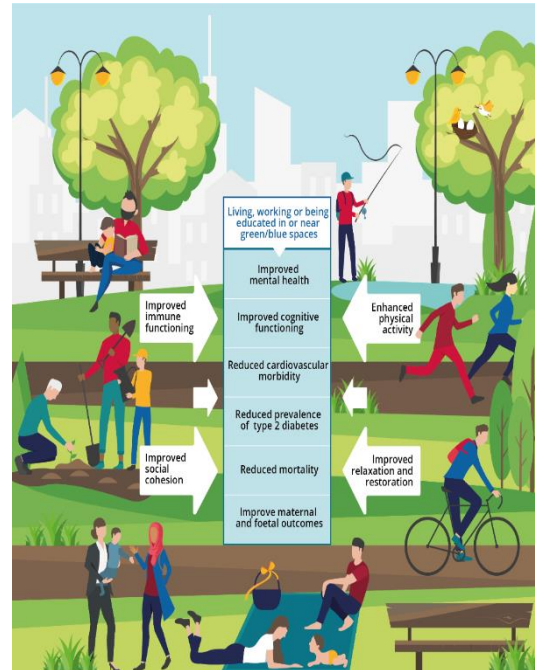
The benefits of Public spaces as referred to figure 2 :

A. Creates improved Accessibility
- More walkable
- Safe for pedestrian and bicyclist
- Compatible with public transit
- Reduce needs for parking and cars
- More efficient use of time and money
- Greater connections between uses

B. Builds and connects local economy
- Small scale entrepreneurship
- Economic development
- Higher real estate values
- Local ownership , local value

C. Social interaction
- Improves sociability
- Diverse population
- Enhanced physical activities
- Encourage community creativity

D. Promoting heath
- Increase the physical activity
- More security

Figure 2: Health and wellness benefits of green and blue spaces
Source:https://www.regionieambiente.it/spazi-verdi-blu-aea/

- More social inclusion
- Improved immune functioning
- Enhanced environmental health

E. Nurtures & Defines sense of community
- More community organization
- Self managing

F. Promoting self of comfort
- Visually pleasing
- Sense of belonging
- Much security
- Better enviromental quality
- Feeling of freedom

Figure 3: A street market in Kalaw, Myanmar, has adapted brilliantly to the need for physical distancing Source:https://www.pps.org/article/the -recovery-will-happen-in-public-space

TYPES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Public open space can influence physical activity in at least three ways. First, public open space can be a setting in where people engage in physical activity. Second, public open space can be a destination to which people actively travel either to be active or simply to socialize. Finally, public open space can be used as part of a route to pass through to reach another destination (e.g., passing through a greenway to reach a shop) or as part of a recreational walk or running route

Public open spaces also can be divided in to 3 categories :
  •Green open spaces :As parks, playgrounds, recreational areas,
  •Blue spaces :As water elements (river , lakes, ponds, water front walk ways)
  •Grey spaces: As squares, plazas , streets, city centers, shopping areas , religious
    Courtyards. (El kahteeb samah ,2022)

Open public spaces are characterized as offering economic, environmental and social benefits which affect directly in enhancing the human well being physically , socially, economically to improve the quality of the human being .

Also, according to Mathew Carmona's work on the classifications of public space to address this concern. (El kahteeb samah,(2022).

Positive Spaces:
  a. Natural / semi-natural urban space : Natural and semi-natural features within urban areas, typically under state ownership
  b. Civic space: The traditional forms of urban space, open and available to all and catering for a wide variety of functions
  c. Public open space: Managed open space, typically green and available and open to all, even if temporally controlled as seen in figure 4

Negative Spaces:
  a. Movement space: Space dominated by movement needs, largely for motorized transportation.
  b. Service spaces: Space dominated by modern serving requirements needs
  c. Leftover space: Undefined space: Undeveloped space, either abandoned or awaiting redevelopment as seen in figure 5 .

Ambiguous Spaces
  a. Interchange space: Transport stops and interchanges, whether internal or external

b. Public 'private' space: Seemingly public external space, in fact, privately owned and to greater or lesser degrees controlled. Publicly owned, but functionally and user determined spaces.

c. Conspicuous space: Public spaces designed to make strangers feel conspicuous.

d. Internalized 'public' space: Formally public and external uses, internalized and private

e. Retail space: Privately owned but publicly accessible exchange spaces

f. Third place spaces: Semi-public meeting and social places, public and private

g. Visible private space: Physically private, but visually public space.

h. Interface spaces: Physically demarked but openly accessible interfaces between public and private space.

i. User selecting spaces: Spaces for selected groups, determined and sometimes controlled by age or activity as seen in figure 6 .

Private Spaces

a. Private open space: Physically private open space.

b. External private space: Physically private spaces, grounds, and gardens.

c. Internal private space: Private or business space as seen in figure 7.

Figure 4 :Positive spaces in Savannah Park with Fountain
Source:https://www.santabarbarapleinair.com/importance-of-urban-green-space-for-heathy-living-land-trust

Figure 5 : Negative spaces in Japan urban greening
Source:https://www.jerde.com/projects/7917/namba-parks

Figure 6 : Ambiguose space The sidewalk of Dihua Street Taipei streets as public space
Source:https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-sidewalk-of-Dihua-Street-Taipei-streets-as-public-space-and-the-ambiguous-boundary_fig2_275660417

Figure 7 : Private space: The terrace of the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco, California, a privately owned public space
Source:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privately_owned_public_space#/media/File:Intercontinental_sf_popo_terrace.jpg

CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES:

Public spaces have the features of being public and private in a way that enhances the urban environment in a way wouldn't be possible without being civic and commercial functions that's make should be with some characteristics that are :(Soltanian Farzad,2015- Priscila Pacheco ,2017.

1. Accessible & connected   2. Safe & comfort   3. Passive engagement
4. Enjoyable and Attractive   5. Place making /Identity   6. Legibility
7. Protecting & enhancing Ecological value   8. Diversity of uses
9. Active facades   10.Social dimension & urban vitality
11. Human scale   12. Lighting   13. Green areas
14. Public participation

CONCEPT OF PUBLIC SPACES

An open space is any space that is opened , accessible , connected and free to use for all kinds of personal and public activity without any recognition.

It is the built environment that adapts the human behavior and social life in parks, squares, streets ,walk ways , side walks, plazas, recreational areas.

Since the 1970s many theories focused on the interaction between the human behavior and the use , character of the public space and how it shapes it .(Jacobes 1961, Gehl 1996.)

Public space improved its legibility through linking the urban context of the city. They define the identity of the city by bringing the community together to pursuit all kind of social activities .(Mathew,2010 p. 8)

Kevin lynch 1981 identified five concepts for urban open spaces .

Vitality	Sense	Fit
Access	Control	

Table 1:Keven Lynch concepts
Source: (Mathew,2010 p. 8)

1. Vitality : the degree to which the form of the place support its function requirement and capabilities of human being .
2. Fit : the degree of the form and the capacity of the space
3. Sense: the degree to which places can be Cleary perceived.
4. Access: the ability to reach other persons , activities, resources, and diversity of elements that can be reached.
5. Control : the degree to which who use and create and mange access to spaces and activities.

Allan Jacobs And Donald Appleyard (1987) suggested seven goals essential for a good urban environment. (Mathew,2010 p. 9):

Livability	Identity and control	Access to opportuinities , imagination and joy .
Authenticity and meaning	Community and public life	Urban self reliance
Enviromental for all		

Table 2: Allan Jacob & Donald Appleyard goals
Source: (Mathew,2010 p. 9)

1. Livability: A city should be a space where everyone can live in relative comfort.
2. Identity & control : people should feel that some part of the environment belongs to them individually and collectively , as a part for which they care and responsible for.
3. Access to opportunities: people should find the city a place where they can break from traditional molds , meeting new people, having fun and learning new view points.
4. Authenticity & meaning : people should be able to understand their city . or other cities, its basics layout , public function and institutions as they should be aware of its opportunities.
5. Community & public life : cities should encourage participation of their citizens in community and public life.
6. Urban self reliance: increasingly cities will have to become more self sustaining in their uses of energy and other scares resources.
7. An enviromental for all : Good enviroments should be accessible for all . every person is entitled to some minimal level of enviromental liveability and minimal levels of identity , control and opportunity .

DETRE /CABE (2000) has identified seven objectives for making good places for people .(Mathew,2010 p.11)

Character	Ease of movement	Diversity
Continuity and enclosure	Legibility	Adaptability
Quality of public realm		

Table 3: Detre /Cabe objectives
Source: (Mathew,2010 p.11)

1. Character : a place with it own identity
2. Continuity & enclosure : a place where public and private spaces are clearly distinguished
3. Quality of public realm : a place with attractive and successful outdoor areas
4. Legibility : a place that is easy to understand with clear image
5. Adaptivity : a place that can be changed easily
6. Diversity : a place with variety and choices.
7. Ease of movement : A place that is easy to get to and move through .

CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

A Public space is an important asset in pandemic times which must be adaptable, multifunctional, and versatile, should be established quickly in urban environments. Occasionally, alternate mobility will be required to support spaces. Simultaneously, it will be regarded as a luxury to provide chances for relaxation and sport, as well as spaces for underprivileged populations.

Well integrated and connected public spaces offer more spaces for users to navigate safely, through the permanent recognition of road space of cars and introducing more walking routes, integrating spaces would provide a broader view on investment in city green areas to minimize Greenhouse gasses (Marcus C &Francis C . 1998, p 31).

Pandemics have significantly altered our relationship with cities. Implementing regulations is disturbing daily routines, and as a result, the war against the epidemic has brought many cities to a halt. To combat the pandemic era, two simultaneous approaches-short and extended interventions–should be implemented .

The word Pestel is an acronym for political, economic, social, environmental, technological, and legal. It represents six factors that impact life style. A Pestel analysis is a framework that illustrates an organization's working state and the external factors affecting it. Planning out strategies to make project more successful and it helps to understand the problems in the structure. With Pestel analysis, it is easy to locate the core of any problem and solve it before it creates trouble for the system . Each of the Pestel Factors creates a considerable effect for the dimension as seen in figure 8.
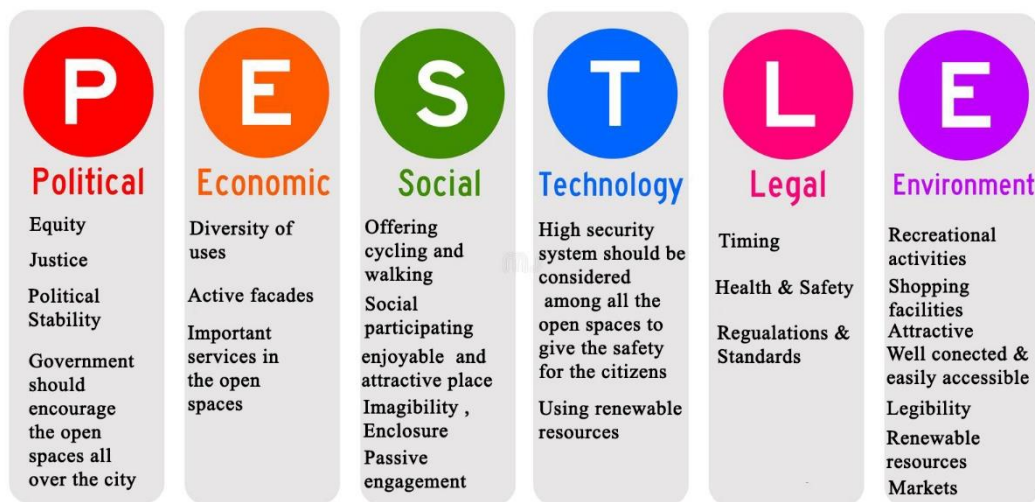

Figure 8 : Challenges of open spaces
Source : Done by researcher

APPROACHES TO URBAN OPEN SPACES

Critical factors for successful public spaces are their location, size, dimensions and the interfaces with adjacent properties, the paths and arrangement of activities within the space. The area surrounding public spaces also influences how they are used and perceived. A functional system of public spaces offers direct connections to the surrounding pedestrian network and includes through-paths. Public spaces have the power , intention and the ability to connect people and cities.
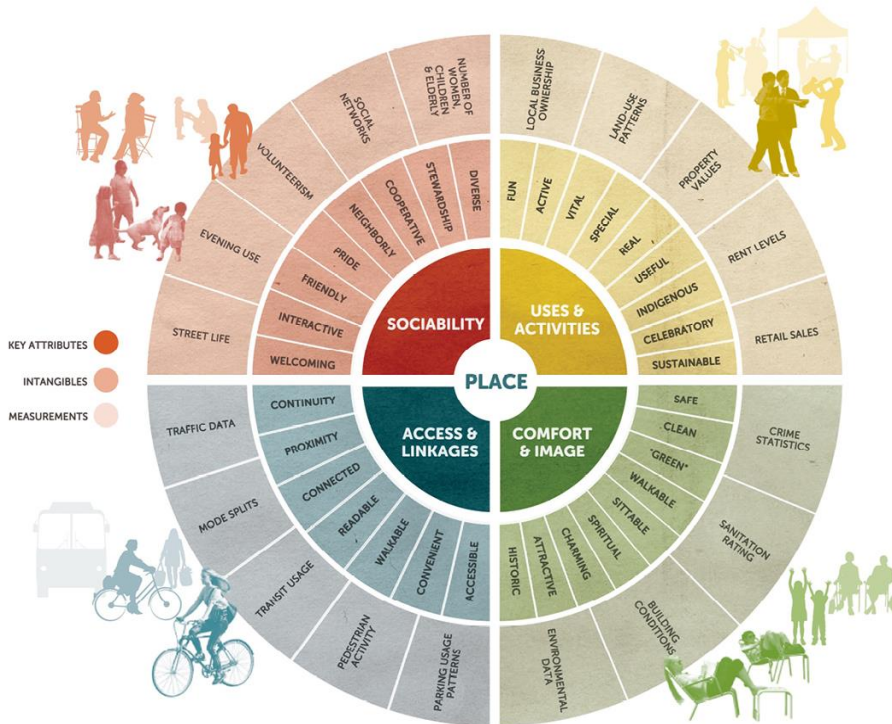
Figure 9 : Approaches for a good place
Source: www.pps.org

A good public open spaces is accessible and open & well connected. It is full of meaning in its design & activities . Safety, physical and environmental comfort and convenience and sensory of pleasure. As cities are formed mainly by the quality of public spaces ,if they are not well pleasant and preserved ,or they reflect sence of security , so this is a defect in the public space functionality among the city .There is a network of spaces that create the strength of connections at different levels of influence as seen in figure 9 . Public spaces, which fill the urban gaps with life, are directly associated with the construction of what we call a city and influence the relationships that are created within them. When we refer to the streets and other public spaces of a city, we are actually talking about the city's own identity. It is in these spaces that human exchanges and relationships, the diversity of use and the vocation of each place and the conflicts and contradictions of society are manifested," Oksan Tandogana, Bige Simsek ,2016.

COVID 19 AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE PEOPLE TOWARDS OPEN SPACES

The people reaction towards the pandemic of covid 19 have been changed recently. The Places that may have once been relegated to passing through are now places for socializing at a safe distance and making exercise.
It is found that according to Government of New South Wales NSW is committed to a citizen-led approach to delivery on the Greener Public Spaces NSW Government Priority is to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes walk of quality green, open and public space by 10 percent by 2023.

They are also keen to understand how people are using public space, what types of public space the community they use the most , how they interact to the public space is it safe or not and how they feel about the public spaces . Planning & environment department ,NSW government , 2021

According to that survey they found that figure 10 :

- 49% of the people cycled more during the Covid 19 ■
- 39% of people used online services provided by indoor public spaces ■
- 59% walked more during Covid 19 ■
- 26% people felt less safe in public spaces during the day during Covid 19 ■
- 45% spent more time in public spaces than before Covid 19 ■
- 76% used parks in their local areas ■

The top most appreciated public spaces were as seen in figure 11.

- 68% parks in local areas ■
- 48% walking tracks ■
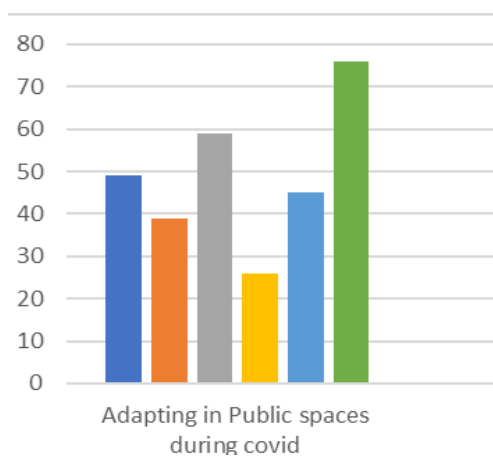- 47% beaches and foreshores ■

Figure 10: Adapting in public spaces
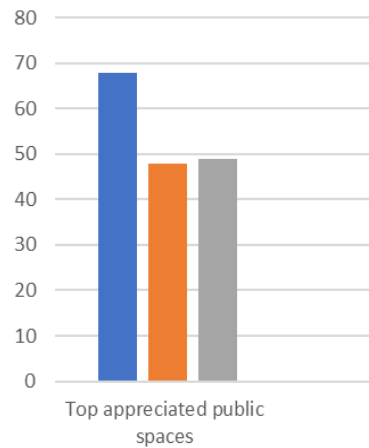Source:,NSW government , 2021

Figure 11: Top appreciated public spaces
Source:,NSW government , 2021

After analysing the public spacing they found that :

- People wanted easy access public spaces with high quality space
- Cycling and walking have decreased after covid 19 but it increased in the second year
- People felt less safe in crowding spaces in the public spaces
- People have socialized more in public spaces specially in to the second year of the pandemic
- People used the online services provided by the public spaces

The examples will be analysed according to the previous characteristics, objectives and approaches gathered in this research according to table 4.

Character	Accessibility	Diversity
Enjoyable & attractive	Safety & comfort	Legibility
Adaptability	Active facades	Passive engagements
Green areas	Continuity & enclosure	Urban self-reliance
Lighting	Historical	

Table 4 : Analyzed characteritics of open space
Source: Researcher

EXAMPLES OF URBAN OPEN SPACES :

1. **Superkilen Urban Park , Denmark**

The park is divided into three differentiated areas, marked out by colors:
a-The red zone
b-The black zone
c-The green zone
Each one of them with different spatial and functional features. The red zone is conceived as an extension of the sports and cultural activities that take place at Norrembrohall sports center at the south part of the open space . During weekends this Red Square becomes a local market that attracts visitors from the city centre and outskirts. Jolma Architects, 2019
Facades are designed by 3 dimential experience to attract the visitor by its colour with surface conceptually folding upwards. This space enables the visitors to enjoy the sunset and creates a magnificent site mood . it is also covered by multifunctional rubber surface to enable ball games, markets, skating rinks in winter season, basket ball courts and outdoor fittness area which is a great place for sports activities. Beside that there is cafes ,and a restaurants that attracts the visitors to gather together in the area a recreational activities as seen in figure 12.

Figure 12: The Red zone at Superkilen , Denmark
Source:https://irynaklixbull.wordpress.com/category/copenhagens-red-square/

The second space, the Black Square, is the central heart of Superkilen.It is the central park .Its covered with black asphalt as shown in figure 13, black decoration with white lines and the landmark of the space is the morracon fountain which acts as the meeting point of the space another attractive landmark which is the Japanese playground slide in the form of giant calamari . there is permanent tables, Turkish benches or grill areas turn this space into an outdoor living room where neighbours can gather around the Moroccan fountain, or play chess for instance.

Figure 13: The black zone at Superkilen, Denmark
Source: https://www.miesarch.com/work/2780

In the third area, its in the north section of the open space which is the longest .The Green Park, hills and surfaces become places for leisure where families with kids can enjoy a picnic, lay out in the sun or play badminton as seen in figure 14 . It is the best space for the users to have more green surfaces . the project idea was centred on sports which was the main idea as sports connects people together and interact .It provides number of sports infrastructure as the gym , basket ball hoop and Ping-Pong tables and picnic tables .all these elements provides artistic references from different countries as Santa Monica, USA Portugal and Spain .
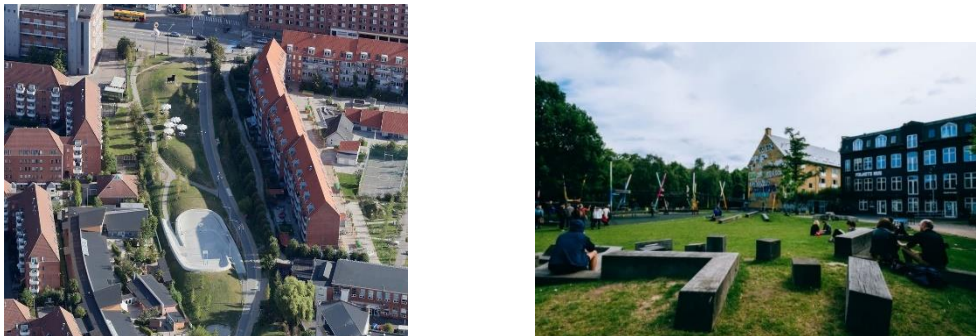

Figure 14 : The Green zone at Superkilen,Denmark
Source: https://www.miesarch.com/work/2780

Figure 15 : The zones at Superkilen,Denmark
Source :https://www.miesarch.com/work/2780

Superkilen Analyzed Characteristics Of Urban Open Space

Character	Colors of the project gives identity to each zone to be more attracted
Accessibility	Well connected and accessed from the surrounding neighborhoods
Diversity	Cycling , walking , sports, events and weekly which gives variety of choices. Sports, culture activities, playgrounds .recreational activities
Safety& Comfort	It increased the feeling of the security from the lighting all over the site which gives positive effect, sitting areas are comfortable, trees makes shadings. Sunbathing breaks on the grass
Legibility	The space is easy to be understand with in its different activities
Adaptability	The place are for socialization and sports activities and many other activities
Passive engagements	Morracon fountain considered to be the main meeting point of the zone , cafes and restaurants attracts the people to gather in the area
Enjoyable and attractive	Events that are held and many sports & recreational activities are considered. The sun set view have been enjoyed from the visitors .the morracon fountain is attractive for the visitors , the Japanese playground attracts the visitors
Active facades	They are designed to attract the visitors specially afternoon sun sets
Green areas	There are a long park for leisure for parents and kids to enjoy and more green surfaces
Continuity and enclosure	Existence of continuity and enclosure
Urban self reliance	Its not well clear
Lighting	There is good lighting at night for the whole park
Historical	No historical buildings

Table 4: Superkilen characteristics
Source: Researcher

It showed that superkilen park has achieved a great attention internationally according to its social, culture, environmental factors that are achieved and acording to the different and diversity of activities done in the open space .

2. Public Space, Superblock of Sant Antoni Barcelona, Spain

Previously there was an urban highway, now there is a healthy street full of life and green, where there was a traffic intersection now there is a liveable plaza. Car noise has been replaced by children playing, cheerful conversations between neighbours or elderly people and challenging chess games .The transformation continues together with flexible landscape capable of integrating new changes derived from urban testing and social innovation. It occupies the neighbouring streets to form a surface area of more than 26,000 m2 of public space for citizens.

The real priority is only for pedestrian, then comes bicycles and public transportation. Encouraging social interaction and reusing the public space.

Making use of natural elements, site furnisher with the aim of gaining shared, green and safe spaces for citizens This help in reducing harmful environmental exposures as noise and air pollution and therefore it provides health benefits.
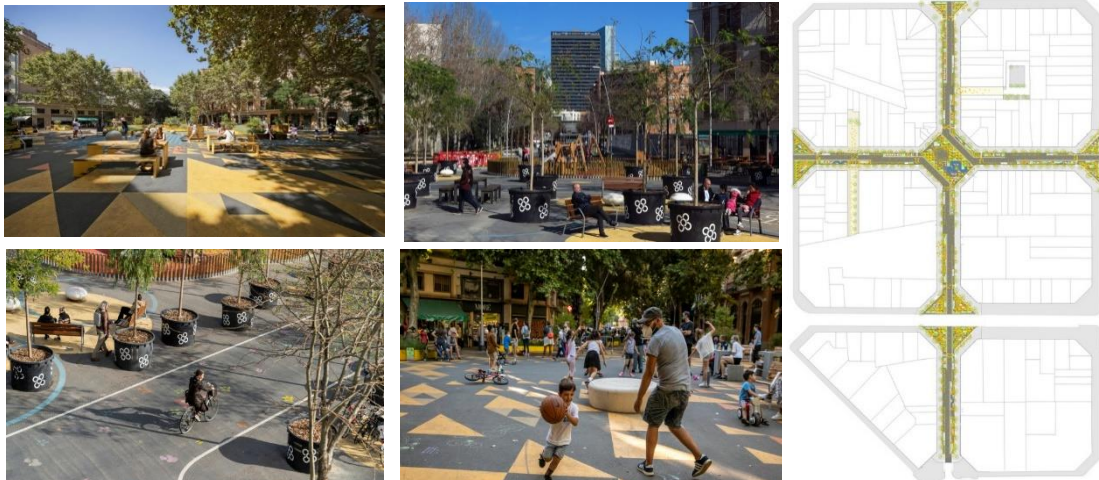
Figure 16: Superblock public space of Sant Antoni Barcelona,
Source:https://www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/en/tema/urban-planning-and-infrastructures/superblocks-are-having-positive-effects-on-health-and-well-

This public space offered people there new , safe and less polluted place to spend quality time in .They started it by limiting the car access to increase the green space. This is especially for children, who can use the public space to play without worrying about traffic. These effects also help to prevent the chronic health problems, therefor these measures will have direct impact on the well being of the citizens.

According to the results of the health survey as figure 17:

- 45% of women and 56% of men believed that well-being had increased in the streets affected by the initiative. ▮ ▮

- 60% of women and 66% of men thought that it was more comfortable for walking there.▮ ▮

- 68% of women and 74% of men appreciated the improved accessibility for cycling and special lanes for baby strollers. ▮ ▮
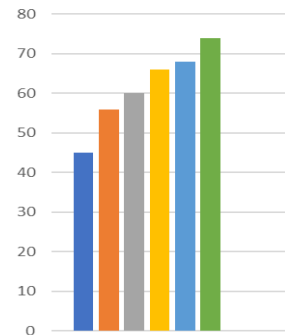

Figure 17: Health survey
Source:https://www.barcelona
.cat/infobarcelona.html

Superblock of Sant Antoni open space Analyzed Characteristics Of Urban Open Space

Character	No special character for the open space here
Accessibility	Well connected and accessed from the surrounding neighborhoods
Diversity	Cycling , walking ,and events gives variety of choices to be done
Safety& Comfort	It increased the feeling of the security which gives positive effect, sitting areas are comfortable , trees makes shadings, increase healthy well being
Legibility	The space is easy to be understand with

Adaptability	The place is for social , sports, and recreational activities
Passive engagements	The place is great for social gatherings and challenging games for all ages
Enjoyable and attractive	Its a more relaxed environment and a reduction in stress and enjoyable to the citizens
Active facades	There is some kiosk on the facades that serve the place
Green areas	There are green spaces for children to play in
Continuity and enclosure	Existence of continuity and enclosure
Urban self reliance	Making use of nature elements, , reducing harmful environmental exposures like noise and air pollution
Lighting	There is good lighting at night for the whole park
Historical	No historical buildings

Table 5: Superkilen characteristics
Source: Researcher

3. Tampa / Florida Down Town

Downtown Tampa is the place for beautiful parks and signature outdoor events. Between the Tampa Riverwalk, waterfront parks, public art, Downtown Tampa provides a wide array of things to do outside. The Tampa Riverwalk has transformed the downtown landscape, opening public access to the Hillsborough River, linking five museums, seven parks, and outdoor gathering places. The Tampa Riverwalk welcomes visitors and residents to walk, jog, bike as seen in figure 18.
The open space launches many activities as recreational , sports, markets and events.
The Park is transformed with sights, activities, and sounds system for children and adults of all ages. There is a place for offices for people who would like to work in the open air.
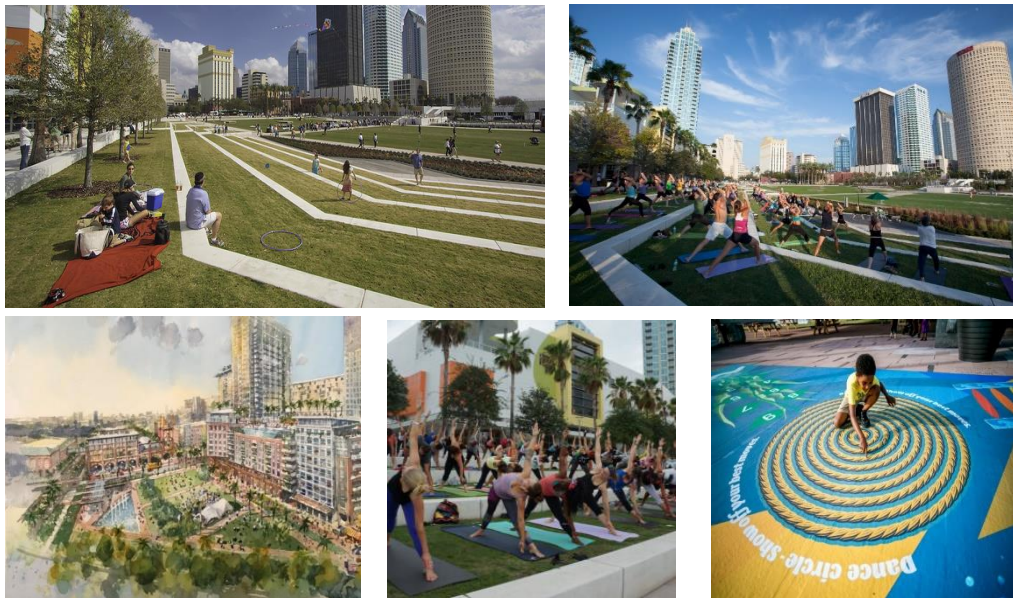
Figure 18: Tampa -Florida downtown open space ,recreational & sports activities
Source: https://www.tampasdowntown.com/outside-is-in/

The public realm is rich and diverse. It includes the significant parks and the riverfront park and cultural and entertainment .It is made up of sustainable connected , safe places, distinctive and diverse open spaces that are appreciated and well connected with the community . People want to feel safe and secure but there are some social and infrastructure problems that make people unsafe and less willing to use the park before. The government enhance the community to be safe through organizational support. As the parks will be improved and enhanced and will be more easily and safely accessible to the community through enhance all the connections including sidewalks, crossings, underpasses and bikeways as seen in figure 18.

Citizens want to have daily shopping needs restaurants cafes and surrounded by the park to be easily accessible on foot or by bike.

Tampa downtown open space Analysed Characteristics Of Urban Open Space

Character	Parks gives a signature to the place
Accessibility	Well connected and accessed from the surrounding neighborhoods
Diversity	Cycling , walking , sports, events and café gives varity of choices to the place , working places
Safety& Comfort	Citizens feel safe in the open space , sitting areas are comfortable , trees makes shadings.
Legibility	The space is easy to be understand with
Adaptability	For children and adults in all age
Passive engagements	People gather together in all ages
Enjoyable and attractive	Its enjoyable by the activities done but not attractive point
Active facades	No active facades
Green areas	The is green areas
Continuity and enclosure	Existence of continuity and enclosure
Urban self reliance	Making use of nature elements
Lighting	There is good lighting at night for the whole park
Historical	No historical reference

Table 6: Superkilen characteristics
Source: Researcher

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

A good use of urban public spaces is always linked to their adaptability and mutability in relation to the changeable needs of the citizens, environmental disasters and pandemic emergencies. Indeed, the Covid-19 represents an occasion to rethink for the places and spaces to allow more liveable cities for people, spreading their use in a healthy way. Public spaces are essential for the wellbeing of everyone in a community. They provide opportunity for recreation , relaxation, and socializing and sense of place. Enjoyable attractive, safe public spaces attract people to them.

The pandemic provided a unique circumstance for the city scale uses regarding mobility,while immediate responses showed the transformative power of planned urbanism.

The Parks provided open space for recreation and socializing .They also provide a space to be closer to nature, to relief .Parks also play an important mission in enabling people to be more physically active and healthy as people prefer to use the parks that are easy to reach and that feel safe and comfortable. Parks feel and become safer as more people use them. The success of the public spaces is not just a question of scale or quantity, but where the park is located and how it is arranged and managed .Parks must be connected directly to the pedestrian network and to be easily reached by citizens .

1. To ensure all people have convenient and safe access to and through the public spaces as seen in figure 18 a .
   a. It must be Connected with the public space to the surrounding pedestrian network.
   b. Pedestrians feel safer when a public space has an obvious through-path, with frequent escape routes linking to surrounding streets.
2. To achieve attractive and vibrant public spaces
   a. Diversity of activities in public spaces that extend the hours of use. The Aim for a public space to be attractive to a diversity of users and at different times of the day. As café, play facilities or community uses can assist in activating public spaces as seen in figure 18 b .
   b. Locate features towards the heart of the public space to let people go into and through the space. There should be a focus that invites people into the space by attracting people as seen in figure 18 c.
3. To create and support activity at the edges of public spaces
   a. Informal seating can be used on the edges of the public spaces as seen in figure 18 d
   b. Arrange windows and doors adjacent to public spaces its makes it feel safer as figure 18 e
   c. Slight change in the ground level provides boundary definition as figure 18 f
4. To ensure safety and amenity in public spaces
   a. Add public toilets, play and recreation facilities in accessible and active areas.
   b. Add low transparent fencing around children's play areas near busy streets or bicycle paths. As low fence between bicycle paths and children's play areas protects children who may wonder on to a street or bicycle path while maintaining its visibility from the street and surrounding areas as figure 18 g
   c. Using lighting to indicate paths and areas for night-time use for more safety.
5. To ensure comfortable and enjoyable public spaces as figure 18 h .
   a. Arrange paths, seating, and main areas to catch the sun during winter and be shaded during summer. Direct the trees to provide summer shade and shelters.
   b. Locate seating to provide users with an interesting outlook and views of the space and opportunity to watch passers-by. Increase the number of seats in areas that are popular with people. Popular areas are often those with good sightlines of the whole space and its entry points.

    c. In larger public spaces, install signs with maps to show connections and destinations, location of public facilities, and estimated walking times and distances.

6. To support a strong sense of place and local character.
    a. Select planting and landscape elements that support the existing character or preferred future character of the area and that engage the senses.

Figure 18 (a-h) : Examples
Source:https://www.urbandesignguidelines.planning.vic.gov.au/guidelines/publ icspaces#public_spaces_principles

7. To ensure attractive & functional squares and plazas and well used as figure 19 a.
    a. Locate the plaza where pedestrian volumes will be high. Such High pedestrian numbers help the place to feel safe and attractive.
    b. Allow sufficient space to accommodate activities and seating, in addition to the space for pedestrian through-paths
    c. A program for the events and activities for a wide range of users. Such Events and activities can include markets, performances, displays or community services.
    d. Provide permeable ground surfaces, where possible, for absorption of rainwater and reduction of stormwater run-off

8. To ensure successful and safe access to and through plazas and local parks as figure 19 b
    a. Arrange the paths across on the same level as the surrounding for the surrounding pedestrian network .
    b. Arrange the parks entrances and provide 2 main pedestrians paths through and across the park linked directly with the pedestrian path as figure
    c. Separated bicycle routes should be provided from children play areas and providing pedestrian paths

9. Supporting activities around the edges of the street spaces and plazas
    a. Active front side to the buildings of the street or plaza as figure 19 c .
    b. Façade Buildings should be engage with the street, such as cafes, for providing opportunities for interaction with the space and transition zone must be added between traffic lanes and street space or plazas as figure 19 d.

10. To encourage use of local parks at different times of the day by a wide range of users
    a. Provide areas and facilities suitable for physical and quite activities

b. Provide areas and comfortable seating for quiet pursuits. By Seating areas are important for encouraging people, particularly the elderly, to use and enjoy local parks and open spaces.

11. To ensure amenity and safety for local park users as figure 19 e and 19 f.
    a. Surround local parks, on at least three sides, with streets and buildings with active frontages to overlook the park.
    b. Provide seating's at the entry points of local parks.
    c. Locate the paths, facilities and children's play areas in local parks where they can be seen from surrounding properties, paths and streets.
    d. Position trees and planting to maintain sightlines between paths within a park and surrounding streets and properties.
    e. Provide lighting along main paths and in areas intended for night-time use, for safety

12. To ensure communal open space is accessible and functional as figure 19 g .
    a. Locate communal open space to be convenient and accessible to building occupants.
    b. Provide communal open space of a size that accommodates a wide range of activities and uses appropriate for the building occupants.
    c. Design communal open space to be usable in a range of weather conditions and at all times of the year.

13. To support a safe and enjoyable communal open space for its intended users
    a. Provide lighting in communal open space to support safe movement and evening use.
    b. Provide landscape areas with sufficient space and soil volume for trees to grow.
    c. Incorporate containers for trees and shrubs where free ground with sufficient soil volume is not available

14. To ensure communal open spaces well maintained
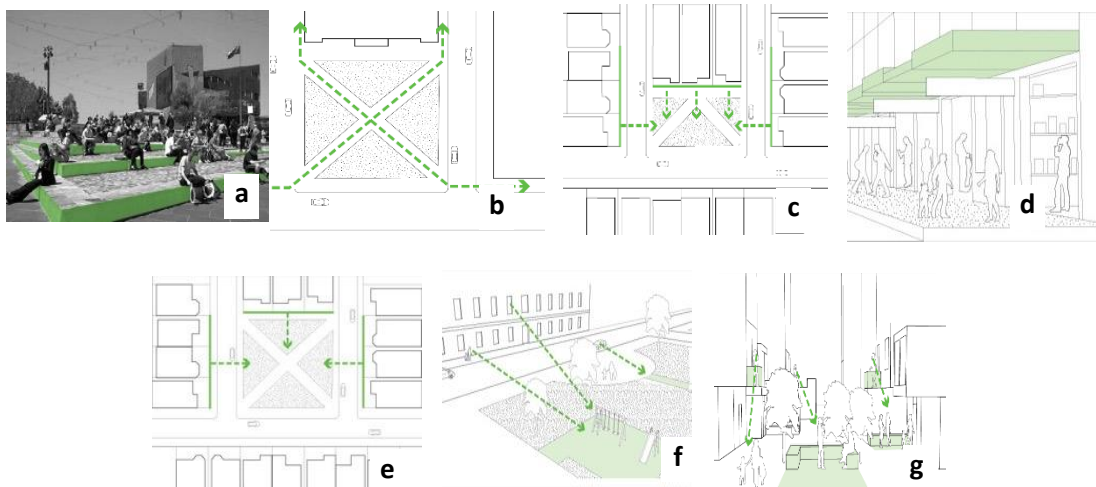   a. Create regular maintenance for the communal spaces

Figure 19 (a-g) : Examples

Source:https://www.urbandesignguidelines.planning.vic.gov.au/guidelines/publicspaces#public_spaces_principles

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