

# URBANSCAPES

Inclusive, Livable, and Vibrant  
Urban Spaces and Places



## **URBANSCAPES encompass:**

### **Cityscapes**

The city through the lens of urban planning, urban design and architecture, which contributes to the overall urban environment and aesthetics.

### **Public Urban Spaces**

The public spaces within cities such as parks, plazas, streets, waterfronts, public buildings.

### **Urban & Social Fabric**

The physical and social environment with an emphasis on public spaces, buildings and their associated activities.

### **Streetscapes**

The detailed aesthetic and functional design elements of streets, including roads, facades, lighting, landscaping, street furniture and pavement.

**The Urbanscapes Group aims to foster strong collaboration across different practice areas focused on the challenges of delivering innovative and well-designed urban spaces and places that can serve as catalysts for creating productive, livable, inclusive and vibrant cities.**

# PUBLIC SPACE

## 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
- Improved social integration
- Increased civic pride

## ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

- Reduced pollution (air, noise, water)
- Increased ecological diversity
- Reduced energy consumption
- Improved waste management
- Disaster resilience

# Background & Context

**Well-designed public spaces that are integrated with the urban and social fabric of cities can deliver better economic, social and environmental values. This, in turn enhances the livability and prosperity of the community, especially the poor.**

Attractive and well-designed public spaces contribute to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well being of cities. They also directly affect the city's reputation and perceived quality of life. Yet public spaces in many cities are poorly integrated or often neglected in planning and development processes. In some cities, they don't even exist. Streets, which could also serve as public spaces, are relegated to mere road networks catering to vehicles rather than people. This affects mostly the poor, who make use of the streets much more than the others.

**There is an increasing need for cities to implement:**

- **Better streetscape design focused on pedestrian walkability.**
- **Enhanced inclusive public spaces for communities.**
- **Improved parks for recreational uses and environmental sustainability.**
- **Project leveraging city assets such as historical buildings or waterfronts city revitalization.**

# Did you know that making well-designed public spaces more accessible to people is a key target of the Sustainable Development Goals?

**SDG 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**Target 11.7:** Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities by 2030.

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

# Public Spaces in Developing Countries

**Many developing countries have not realized the full potential of urbanization. Cities across the developing world can become more livable, prosperous and inclusive.**

- 1. In developing countries, public spaces can serve the poor in a variety of ways.**
- 2. Despite their importance, public spaces are poorly integrated or are often neglected in the process of planning and city development.**
- 3. Improving public spaces are important in city transformation.**
- 4. Inclusive and safe public spaces are important in alleviating the lives of poor people in cities.**
- 5. Public spaces are urban spaces that can provide opportunities for improved livability, sustainability, innovation, vibrancy and vitality for cities.**

# Urbanscapes are about

## Safety & Inclusion

*Metrocable/Public Spaces  
Medellin, Colombia*



Many of Medellin's poor neighborhoods are informal settlements located at the periphery. A metrocable system and a series of public space improvements connected these settlements to the formal city at the center and provided a source of civic pride.

**IMPACT:**

- ✓ Reduced crime rate
- ✓ Increased urban mobility
- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased access to public infrastructure
- ✓ Increased social inclusion

## Recreation & Resilience

*Sabarmati Riverfront  
Ahmedabad, India*



The Sabarmati riverfront often flooded the homes of Ahmedabad's urban poor who lived in life-threatening conditions along riverbed. The prime objective for this project were environmental improvement, flood mitigation, and provision of housing for the poor.

**IMPACT:**

- ✓ Improved flood protection
- ✓ Increased access to public infrastructure
- ✓ Improved recreational space
- ✓ Increased social inclusion

## Downtown Renewal

*Cheonggyecheon Stream,  
Seoul, Korea*



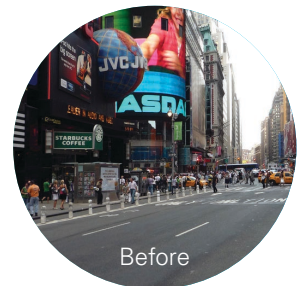
The project boosted the urban economy by transforming land occupied by a highway into an urban park along the Cheonggyecheon stream. The urban renewal project was the catalyst for revitalizing the business and industrial center of downtown Seoul.

**IMPACT:**

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced pollution
- ✓ Reduced heat island effect
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Increased property values

## Streetscape Improvement

*Times Square  
New York City, USA*



The project aimed to improve the functionality and safety of Times Square, an icon for entertainment, culture and urban life in New York City. The project involved upgrades to physical and operational conditions of the streets, sidewalks and sub-surface infrastructure.

**IMPACT:**

- ✓ Improved pedestrian safety
- ✓ Reduced traffic congestion
- ✓ Improved capacity for public events
- ✓ Improved recreational space



## Environmental Transformation

*Nanjido Park  
Seoul, Korea*



Seoul's official dumpsite from 1978-1993 will be transformed into an ecology park by 2020. An island on a branch of the Han River, Nanjido once held the dubious title of world's tallest waste dumpsite, consisting of 92 million tons of garbage.

### IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Improved air quality
- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Improved recreational space

## Historic Preservation

*Historic District  
Lahore, Pakistan*



This World Bank-assisted project to restore centuries-old streets and homes in the historic Walled City involves replacement of infrastructure, street paving, sub-surface infrastructure, and encroachment removal.

### IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased tourism
- ✓ Increased economic activity
- ✓ Increased community engagement
- ✓ Increased civic pride

## Ecological Integration

*Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park  
Bishan, Singapore*



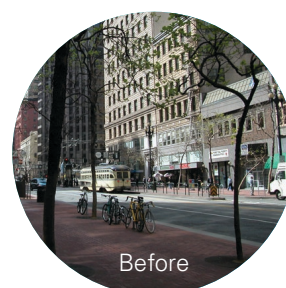
Park upgrades transformed a utilitarian concrete channel into a naturalised river, creating a new urban river park. New look-out point constructed using the recycled walls complement the natural wonder of an ecologically restored river.

### IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced pollution
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Increased property values

## Innovation & Engagement

*Living Innovation Zones  
San Francisco, USA*



This program seeks to invigorate San Francisco streets with platforms for innovation, connection and play in public outdoor places. It aims to create a framework for creativity and partnerships between diverse individuals and organizations.

### IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased civic engagement
- ✓ Increased access to innovation
- ✓ Increased social inclusion
- ✓ Increased cultural vibrance

## We want to leverage World Bank projects that focus on slum upgrading, public health, cultural heritage conservation, and urban transport because they already have elements important to Urbanscapes.

Project	Year	Sector	Country	Urbanscapes Relevance
Urban Planning Technical Assistance to the Municipality of Panama	2015	Historic and cultural preservation	Panama	The strategic plan developed this new design guideline to improve the relation between buildings and public space, promote mixed land use, allowed new developments in Calidonia while protecting the existing historical resources.
Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project	2015	Urban transport; water, sanitation and flood protection	India	Investments to support improvements in a range of urban services, i.e. water, sewerage, municipal solid waste, urban transportation, septage management and storm water drainage - with an emphasis on promoting a sustainable urban environment sustainability.
Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project	2015	Urban transport; flood protection; slum upgrading	Tanzania	Infrastructure investment incorporating transit and pedestrian oriented design principles, and introducing the use of retention ponds for flood mitigation. These areas also function as public green spaces during non-storm events. The project also included investments to upgrade low-income communities, including roads and road-related infrastructure, environmental related works and community related amenities, including parks, markets, and bus stands.
Sri Lanka Strategic Cities Development Project	2014	Urban transport; water, sanitation and flood protection	Sri Lanka	The project development objective was to improve selected urban services and public urban spaces in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Kandy city and Galle city. Urban Interventions included urban upgrading such as the enhancement of selected streetscapes and public spaces, restoration and adaptive reuse of historic and landmark buildings, and development of an integrated master plan.
Cultural Heritage Preservation and Tourism Sector Support Project	2014	Historic and cultural preservation	Haiti	Physical cultural heritage sites and tourist circuits within the historic city center supported by urban upgrading of the Cap-Haïtien historic city center, including conservation and rehabilitation of selected historic sites such as the former prison, Maison Antenor Firmin, the Alliance Française and the connected streetscapes and development of architectural regulations and guidelines for the historic city center.
Kabul Municipal Development Program	2014	Urban upgrading	Afghanistan	Upgrading of basic municipal infrastructure, including neighborhood or community roads and drains, culverts, footpaths, street lighting, community parks, community solid waste collection points and water supply.
Jamaica Integrated Community Development Project	2014	Urban upgrading	Jamaica	Basic infrastructure and access to services supported under the project, including the construction of community integrated spaces and mobile mediation centers.
Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project	2014	Urban transport	Philippines	Urban realm enhancements improved connectivity between transport nodes and land use development. The Fuente Osmeña Circle is designed to accommodate different functions such as, leisure space, focal point for commercial activity, and pedestrian crossing. (continued)



Project	Year	Sector	Country	Urbanscapes Relevance
Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project (continued)	2014	Urban transport	Philippines	The project financed goods, works, and services to support the provision of reconfigured north-east quadrant of Fuente Circle, including a pedestrian / BRT only zone, enabling improved and safer pedestrian access to the recreational area of Fuente Circle as well as additional landscaping along the BRT corridor.
Nepal: Pro-poor Urban Regeneration Pilot Project	2013	Historic and cultural preservation	Nepal	The project development objectives were to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of poor and vulnerable households in selected wards of the historic core of Lalitpur City by piloting urban regeneration activities and demonstrating the feasibility of an integrated urban regeneration approach to decision-makers in the Kathmandu Valley.
Metro Colombo Urban Development Project	2012	Flood protection	Sri Lanka	The project supports priority improvements to flood and drainage management infrastructure in the Colombo Water Basin, including improving embankments and developing a liner/nodal park along the east and southwest shores of Beira Lake and establishment of a natural park around degraded wetlands in Beddagana.
Mekong Delta Region Urban Upgrading Project	2012	Slum upgrading	Vietnam	Construction and rehabilitation of social infrastructure facilities such as schools, markets, community halls, and green spaces are supported.
Second Regional Development Project	2012	Historic and cultural preservation	Georgia	Urban regeneration of Tskaltubo includes rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure and utilities in the central area; upgrading of public spaces, parks, and construction of tourism amenities, and restoration of public buildings with vernacular architecture. The proposed activities aims to help improve livability and hospitality in a culturally-informed manner, enhance attractiveness for visitors, revitalize the urban nucleus, and attract increased volume of private sector investments around the medical and spa tourism cluster.
Zanzibar Urban Services Project	2011	Historic and cultural preservation; flood protection	Tanzania	Institutional strengthening and infrastructure development in the Zanzibar Municipal Council (ZMC) on Unguja Island. The project supported the conservation of a public seafront and the historic buildings along Mizingani Road while preserving and enhancing the traditional seafront setting and its historic and architectural context within the Stone Town, which has been declared as a World Heritage City by UNESCO.
IN National Ganga River Basin Project	2011	Waterfront revitalization	India	Priority infrastructure investments supporting demonstrative investments in riverfront management (e.g. improvement of the built environment along river stretches, improvement of small ghats and electric crematoria, and the conservation and preservation of ecologically sensitive sites).
MX Urban Transport Transformation Program	2010	Urban transport	Mexico	Support for modernizing traffic management, efficient allocation of public space for transport related services, and non-motorized transport.

# Activities

## Brown Bag Lunches & Conferences

- September 2015* **Placemaking Approaches in Transforming Public Spaces into Vital Places**  
Project for Public Spaces (PPS)
- November 2015* **Putting People First for Livable Cities**  
Gehl Architect
- Planning & Managing Urban Spaces**
- March 2016* Land and Poverty Conference
- March 2016* Transport and ICT Global Practice Learning
- October 2015* UN-HABITAT Safer Cities, New York
- October 2016* UN-HABITAT III, Quito
- September 2015* **Healthy Cities**  
The Guardian
- January 2016* **Livability / Social Urbanism: Stakeholder Led Urban Design**  
Sustainable Development, Quality Infrastructure Investment, Tokyo
- October 2016* **The Making of A High-density Livable City: Singapore's Urban Transformation**  
Michael Koh, Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC)
- November 2016* **Thoughts on Urbanscapes**  
Jessica Schmidt, Ramon Munoz-Raskin, Beatriz Eraso Puig,  
Christoph Aubrecht, Sangeeta Kumari, WB
- November 2016* **Technical Deep Dive on "Compact Cities"**  
Co-led by the GSG on Urban Strategy and Analytics, the Urbanscapes KSB,  
and the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC)
- December 2016* **How Policy Impacts Our Cities; How Cities Impact Our Health**  
Apoorva Shenvi, the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities  
Joseph Ross, Columbia University
- May 2016* **SUPERBLOCKS: Barcelona's Plan to Give Streets Back to Residents and Re-imagining the Urban Landscape**  
Salvador Rueda, Urban Ecology Agency of Barcelona (BCNecologia)

## Workshops & Symposiums

<b>Session on Urban Regeneration and Public Spaces</b> Part of KRIHS-WB Annual Workshop	<i>November 2015</i>
<b>Urbanscapes Symposium: Public Spaces for City Transformation</b> Two day even with global participants	<i>April 2016</i>
<b>Vitalizing Cities with Public Space</b> Organized jointly by KRIHS	<i>November 2016</i>
<b>Inclusion through Better Urban Planning</b> Half day event highlighting World Bank projects	<i>June 2017</i>
<b>Vitalizing Cities with Public Space (II): Waterfront Development</b> Organized jointly by KRIHS	<i>July 2017</i>

## Site Visits

<b>Medellin, Colombia</b>	<i>September 2015</i>
<b>Suwon, South Korea</b>	<i>December 2015</i>

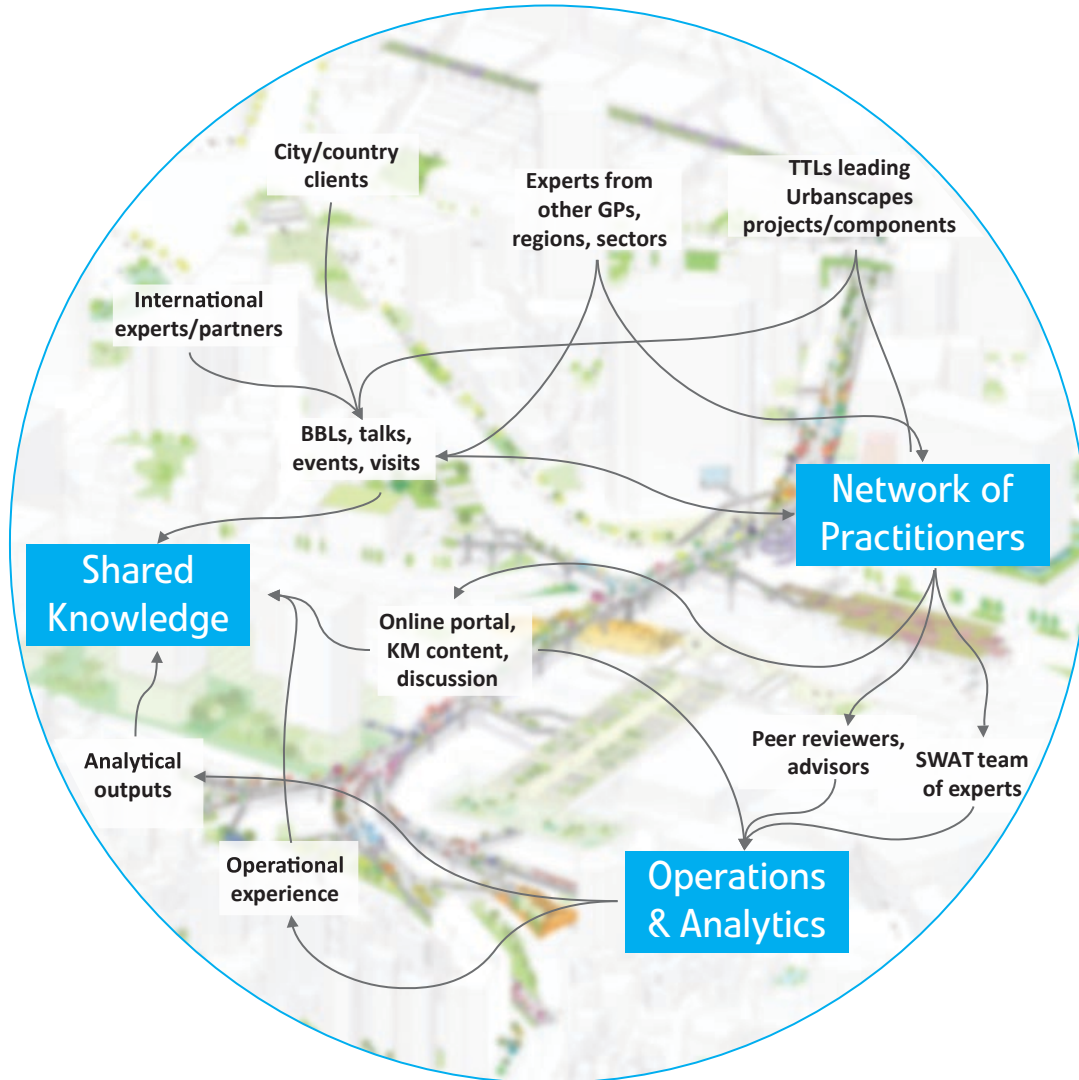
## Technical Support to Operations

<b>Kandy, Galle, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</b>
<b>Dhaka, Bangladesh</b>
<b>Karachi, Pakistan</b>
<b>NLTA global study on public spaces</b> (funded by KGGTF)
<i>Cities in other regions to follow</i>

## Plans for the Year

<b>Strengthen collaboration with other Global Practices and regions</b>	<i>FY 2018</i>
<b>Operationalize Urbanscapes and policy support</b>	
<b>Organizing a series of events</b> (BBLs, Webinar, Workshop, Site visits etc.)	

## URBANSCAPES GROUP



### Timeline

#### Immediate Term: Building Knowledge and Expertise (FY16)

- Stocktaking of past and current World Bank projects
- Knowledge sharing of international experiences
- Identifying and establishing a global team of experts
- Setting up a Community of Practice with cross-Global Practice support

#### Medium Term: Analytical Study and Awareness Raising (FY16 - FY17)

- Developing case studies on global practices
- Conducting analytical study on the benefits of public spaces
- Developing indicators for measuring improvements in public spaces
- Organizing a series of events such as study tours, workshops and talks, traveling exhibitions

#### Long Term: Operationalizing Urbanscapes and Policy Support (FY16 - FY18)

- Identifying and prepare Bank projects with clients
- Setting up and deploy a SWAT team of experts
- Organizing project preparation events for client cities
- Delivering guidance notes with public space strategy and guidance enabling systematic support for public spaces in client countries/cities, providing potential financing instruments and institutional framework.

### Urbanscapes KSB Team

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