



IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING THE FACTORS THAT STIMULATE EFFECTIVE BEHAVIOR IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

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Abstract: The urban places that most of us inhabit are made up of buildings, streets, spaces and landscapes, various land uses, and a community of users. “Place is therefore a socio-physical construct and numerous claims are made about the power of place. The places in which we live, work, and play will influence for good or ill, the lives we lead, the opportunities available to us, and our personal and communal happiness, identity, and sense of belonging. In the environment, the buildings and the architecture are the reflection of a city and define the values of society. Place underpins cultural activities and social opportunities as well. Therefore, providing safe comfortable maneuvering areas for pedestrianized retail activities to take place simultaneously is important. If a public space has to be developed as a vital element within the urban structure it should be planned to optimize the influence of those factors which will increase its amenity, desirability, and hence the degree of its use, seen in the light of an Indian context. Hence understanding the cohesive potential of various places for creating a place is important and much needed.

Index Terms - people, places, public space, places, urban.

I. INTRODUCTION

The urban places that most of us inhabit are made up of buildings, streets, spaces and landscapes, various land uses, and a community of users. ‘Place’ is therefore a socio-physical construct and numerous claims are made about the power of place. Public life needs to be reconstituted comprising not only eventful uses but also enthusiastic uses. Such places should not only involve the functions of the buildings and the connecting spaces but also the public frontages and the spaces (the way the people use them).

Public space or square is defined as the ensemble of state-owned, free-access open spaces. They are like physical voids that offer breathing space amid the built environment. They have a dynamic relationship between form, space, and function. Their openness and robustness of it make them the centre of the city events and act as social nodes.

Urban public spaces in India present a distinct dichotomy of constancy and change. The constancy comes from the concept of public spaces being the underlying spirit of the Indian way of life. Tradition wraps public spaces with people and their defined activities that stamp the permanency factor on them. Integral spaces are the key to such constancy as the space, the architecture, the urban, art, people and function merge and have no distinct separation time. The entry of cars and vehicles has declined the roles of people in urban spaces. With the advent of modernism in cities the urban spatial structure has changed, Square was the integration, the role of an invitation to stop and look, which has changed the role of distribution and transmission.

HISTORICAL RELEVANCE OF PUBLIC SPACES

Historically public spaces have been an important element in the physical design of cities drawings its functions from the political, religious, commercial, and leisure life. The pedestrian use of these spaces was largely dependent on the form, internal function, adjoining land, and building uses as well as its connection to the city fabric of India. The analysis of such factors is done in a historic and descriptive survey, field or questionnaire survey, and study of a few existing public places in India. The people who use the squares, and streets come from a wide spectrum of age groups, occupations, religions, and classes. These spaces seem to have an appeal to the community as a whole. This research explores the link between the quality of a built environment and its value, in health, social, economic, and environmental terms, this is theorized as place value which alongside place quality dictates value and value defines quality.

Our everyday engagement with the places in which we live, work, and play influences us for good or ill, the lives we lead, the opportunities available to us, and our personal and common happiness, identity, and sense of belonging. Place underpins cultural activities and social opportunities. The place is political, influencing the provision of and access to common assets, including grey, green, and social infrastructure. The quality of places influences and is influenced by housing conditions, real estate markets, and our use of technology, and the experience of place is fundamental to our physical and mental, health and sense of well-being. The place has an impact on the way we govern ourselves, on our democracy and local decision-making on community togetherness and empowerment, and many more factors.

Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent the public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between the people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm to maximize shared values. More than just promoting better urban design. Placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution. Public spaces are for negotiating the interface between our homes, our businesses, our institutions, and the broader world. Public space is how we get to work, how we do our errands, and how we get back home. Public space is where policing ensures safety for some but not others. Public space is where nearly half of violent crimes happen. Public spaces are for buying and selling, or for meeting, playing, and bumping into one another. Public spaces are for conveying our outrage and our highest aspirations as well as for laying the most mundane utilities and infrastructure. And when we let it, public space can be a medium for creativity, expression, and experimentation. In short public spaces is where so many tragedies and triumphs of the commons play out. And that's why getting it right matters.

Most great places, whether a grand downtown plaza or neighborhood parks share commonly four key attributes that are mentioned herewith:

- They are accessible and well-connected to other important places in the area.
- They are comfortable and project a good image.
- They attract people to participate in activities there.
- They are sociable environments in which people want to gather and visit again and again.

II. NATURE OF PUBLIC SPACES

It is worth a more pragmatic and positive, less dogmatic and polemicized but (arguably) equally powerful set of notions that this paper concludes, recasting, in turn, each of the critiques of public spaces. To understand a few of the good public spaces as per the experiences and traveling, here are the various listed below:

1. EVOLVING (Sometimes neglected)

Spaces evolve through their life cycle as it is shaped and reshaped through processes of design, development, use, and management. Although neglect can and should be criticized, it is also a part of natural evolutionary processes that eventually (in many places) lead to renewal, either through regeneration or redevelopment or in the meantime as loci for more marginal or temporary uses. This life cycle may be long or short but is part of a normal place-shaping continuum in which innovation and change are and should be key feature.

BALANCING (Positively invaded)

The challenge of traffic is a perennial problem that continues to blight everyday public space in cities across the world. A subtle rebalancing of space is given to pedestrians for movements and socialization so that they are not corralled and kettled but trusted to move and navigate freely. To enable this the traffic is sufficiently slowed on all streets and spaces that do not form part of the strategic road network.

2. DIVERSE (Not intentionally exclusionary)

The principle of 'cities for all' is fundamental, still, it is important to acknowledge that not every space will or should appeal equally to every citizen. This is a form of inclusion rather than exclusion as it recognizes the diversity of lifestyles and preferences amongst urban populations and that cities should offer everything for everyone and everywhere. It is also a local one in terms of equality of use and access.

3. DELINEATED (Not segregated)

Whilst the creation of large gated compounds in cities (private or public) will always be problematic in limiting free movement and access to what might otherwise be common resources and sources as well as generating an unhealthy sense of 'us and them'. The appropriate division of public and private spaces is a necessary and important function of good urbanism. Indeed, the problems associated with creating spaces that are neither public nor private have been discussed and documented by many. Still, there remains an important need to carefully delineate the public and private spheres of the city. Something that extends beyond buildings to the external spaces of the city, recognizing that in the right place, private spaces for relaxation (whether individual or communal) are as important as the shared public parts of the city. Equally, the provision of public spaces in the wrong place can be more problematic than the absence of any public space.

4. SOCIAL (Sometimes insular)

Today the social spaces shared/advertised/ marketed on the internet are increasingly dominating the lives (at least for the youngsters) whilst the city itself is replete, as it always has been with a host of wholly private leisure spaces as an alternative to its traditional public ones. All of these spaces are entirely compatible and part of the contemporary city's complex mix. Ultimately, the public spaces are an important part of the host social interactive spaces from the large-scale gregarious to intimate, quiet, and even insular. Far from a withdrawal from urban life, it is conducive to such uses, public spaces still represent the definitive venues for public discourse, protest, encounters, collective experiences, and communications with the rich and varied social life of the city.

5. FREE (Public or privatized)

Ultimately the rights and responsibilities associated with spaces and implying experiences of public spaces, their creation, use, and management across the diverse local whilst traveling and experiencing is another important aspect to consider.

NEED OF PLACEMAKING

In India, the public spaces have always been the streets. The mixture of activities at the street level hides a rigid stratification within the society. The cities are and will be invariably divided into various quarters wherein each housing or catering to a group defined by ethnicity, religion, or wealth. The territories of each group may be rigidly marked such as the high walls of the rich or more subtly demarcated as in the narrow lanes leading off to main streets that create the boundaries of Muslim or Hindu neighborhoods. While each separate group has its own institutions and meeting places, religious temples or mosques, clubs and society as a whole have very few common meeting /gathering grounds. To experience themselves as part of a larger imagined community that transcends individual differences, people need to experience the expression of such cohesive and inclusive communities in real and physical terms a swell.

CONCLUSION

India is in a rapid urbanization phase, barring very few urbanized metropolitan cities, the majority of the small, medium-sized cities are rapidly mushrooming since the last decade. The cities usually have traditional settlements as an urban core, developed in the medieval period with an organic pattern and almost frozen in time. Not only in India but in most of the world, built environments have evolved gradually and the values about human preferences are getting embedded into it. For modern planners, environments with the organic spatial organization are usually chaotic due to obvious geometric irregularity which is considered as a disorder but still seems to be in harmony with the users. This harmony is getting lost in the emerging urban environments of developing cities, though these urban environments satisfy most of the physical parameters. Planners need to start designing spaces keeping this user placemaking ideology thereby refining and conceptualizing an urban area preference and their connections to the environment in mind. Such spaces should respond to the people's common associated and experienced inferences out of which few are enlisted below:

- The well-being of citizens including vulnerable groups, is influenced by the immediate environment wherein the public spaces have a direct impact on the life of the people.
- Public spaces are essential components of any urban space which poses multiple advantages for its citizens and their wellbeing. It is a key local initiative to provide free quality space for economic, social, and cultural activities.
- A well-managed public space provides healthy neighbourhoods, making them attractive and vibrant shared spaces.
- Posing as a fiscal space to manage informal economic activities, open and public spaces within the city serve several functions including climate change adaptations, and is reflected as an integral component when planning for resilience.

Hence to be successful, 'cities need destinations. They need destinations that give an identity and image to their communities. This in turn attracts residents, businesses, and investment including strong community destinations thereby balancing the use of urban societies for both static and dynamic activities. As quoted by many renowned designers all elements must be considered as multifunctional attributes. That is what Indian culture has grown with and is how the Indian temperament is built. Growth or building should not be just additive but should be basic to a balanced life. Therefore, all the elements of the environment must be designed to satisfy more than one situation. Architects and designers should not just be the vehicle for the expression of different attitudes but must be through their skill and ingenuity a builder of attitudes also.

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