

Urban Design tools and master planning

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Urban Planning



What is town planning?

The **art** and **science** of organizing *land use*, *built structures* and *communication routes* to provide best possible degree of *economy*, *beauty* and *convenience* in terms of the available resources and time.



Image: cabe.org.uk

Why town planning is needed?

- Increasing/decreasing urbanization
- Growing/declining population
- Better use of resources
- Social inequality
- Managerial challenges
 - Lack of innovations
 - Lack of coordination
 - Unsustainable development
 - Poor management
- Social, economic and environmental challenges
 - Urban security
 - Public health and safety
 - Financial crises
 - Climate change
 - Environmental degradation
 - Social change



Aims of town planning

- Long-term *guidelines* for *town development*
- Physical *improvement* of *built environment*
- Preservation of *environmental* and *cultural resources*
- Fulfillment of *social* and *economic needs* of town population
- Reduction of *poverty* and *inequality*
- Assurance of *healthy*, *aesthetically* pleasing, convenient, comfortable and secure living environment



Image: palmbout.nl

Purposes of town plan

- Identify *housing needs* and recommend measures to meet them.
- Identify *transportation needs* and propose alternative systems and modes to meet them.
- Identify open-space, preservation areas and present mechanisms to protect/use these areas.
- Identify priority *investment areas* and recommend measures to *stimulate local development*.
- Identify *area-specific strategies* and recommend place-specific measures.



Content of city /town masterplan

- Land use
- Built structures (arrangement of buildings, urban blocks, etc.)
- Open urban and green spaces
- Transportation and communication routes
- Utility networks, etc.



Image: florence-expo.com

Master Planning Issues to cover



Urban problems/constrains/issues

- Evolution of cities/towns + Values and problems of urban fabric
 - Deformations of urban fabric
- Population projections
- Economic projections
 - •Economic indicators (number of jobs; diversity of economic base, etc.)
 - •Economic effects (land-use allocation; transportation, etc.)



- 1. Tenure forms (rent, ownership, etc.)
- 2. Affordability (cheap accommodation, luxurious accommodation, etc.)
- 3. Diversity of types (detached, single-family homes, apartment houses, etc.)

Source: Steiner, Butler (2007) Image: missingmiddlehousing.com

Housing conditions

Housing indicators:

- demographic structure of population;
- population density (pers./ha);
- housing saturation (sq.m/pers.);
- average household size (pers.);
- housing structure:
 - by age;
 - by amenities;
 - by tenure form.

Housing needs

Groups with special housing needs:

- homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- disadvantaged persons and families;
- elderly persons;
- youth and young families;
- large families;
- single-parent households;
- persons with disabilities, etc.

Social infrastructure

Social infrastructure – the network of *public objects* (buildings and sites) that accommodate and provide *social services*, such as culture, education, health, sports, recreation, tourism, religion, etc.

Planning of social infrastructure

Factors influencing distribution of social infrastructure:

- visitor flows;
- number of visitors;
- accessibility;
- place attractiveness;
- population and job density;
- income level;
- legal regulations, etc.



Development of city/town/local center

Main tasks:

- representativeness and attractiveness;
- functional diversity and vitality;
- balance of jobs and residents;
- efficient land-use;
- network of urban public spaces and green areas;
- sustainable mobility.

Specialized tasks:

• protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage, etc.



Value of green spaces

- Protective protecting from adverse weather conditions, industrial and transport pollution and noise, etc.
- Microclimatic creating and maintaininga favorable microclimate in urban areas.
- Aesthetic creating harmony of natural and anthropogenic elements within urban landscape, breaking urban fabric into manageable parts, etc.
- Visual highlighting, separating(isolating)urban places and spaces.
- **Ecological** conserving natural areas and supporting habitats, etc.
- **Recreational** providingopportunities forvarious forms and types of recreation, etc.
- **Regulative** controlling the physical expansion of urban areas, limiting density of built structures, etc.

Principles of Urban Design







What is a principle?

An expression of the quality of a final design.

Why I like principles

They establish a **comprehensive agenda** – you must consider all of the issues.

They **do not deny the complexity of issues** and **outcomes**.

They link to areas of research and knowledge.

They are **not prescriptive about outcomes** like standards.

	Maslow's hierarchy of human needs	Some design considerations
	Physiological food, shelter, health	 adequate accommodation, utilities and services comfort ecologically sound and stable
-	Safety and security protection from danger, pollution; privacy	 road safety surveillance privacy accessibility/permeability/robustness
	Affiliation belonging, community	 community facilities a sense of identity/place legibility, visual appropriateness
	Esteem status and recognition Self-actualisation creativity	 ownership individuality, belonging opportunities for personalisation and participation in design
	Cognitive/aesthetic intellectual and sensual stimulation	 variety cultural/recreational opportunities quality townscape and landscape, richness

BENTLEY ALCOCK MURRAIN MCGLYNN SMITH

RESPONSIVE SUBSICIAL SUBS

How does design affect choice?

The design of a place affects the choices people can make, at many levels:

- it affects where people can go, and where they cannot: the quality we shall call permeability.
- it affects the *range of uses* available to people: the quality we shall call *variety*
- it affects how easily people can *understand* what opportunities it offers: the quality we shall call *legibility*.
- it affects the degree to which people can use a given place for *different* purposes: the quality we shall call *robustness*.
- it affects whether the detailed *appearance* of the place makes people *aware* of the choices available: the quality we shall call *visual appropriateness*.
- it affects people's choice of sensory experiences: the quality we shall call richness.
- it affects the extent to which people can put their own stamp on a place: we shall call this per-sonalisation.

According to Responsive Environments a good design will deal with all of these issues well

These are now considered dated, but they remain influential in the UK





By Design (1990) What we should be trying to achieve – UK Government

To promote character in townscape and landscape CHARACTER by responding to and reinforcing locally distinctive A place with its own identity patterns of development, landscape and culture. To promote the continuity of street frontages and **CONTINUITY AND ENCLOSURE** A place where public and private spaces are the enclosure of space by development which clearly defines private and public areas. clearly distinguished To promote public spaces and routes that are QUALITY OF THE PUBLIC REALM attractive, safe, uncluttered and work effectively for A place with attractive and successful outdoor areas all in society, including disabled and elderly people. To promote accessibility and local permeability by making places that connect with each other and EASE OF MOVEMENT A place that is easy to get to and move through are easy to move through, putting people before traffic and integrating land uses and transport. To promote legibility through development that LEGIBILITY provides recognisable routes, intersections and A place that has a clear image and is easy to understand landmarks to help people find their way around.

ADAPTABILITY A place that can change easily To promote adaptability through development that can respond to changing social, technological and economic conditions.

DIVERSITY A place with variety and choice To promote diversity and choice through a mix of compatible developments and uses that work together to create viable places that respond to local needs.

From Urban Data Collection to Urban Design

We must break our analysis and design down into connected layers of thought:

- Topics 3+3
- Scale
- Tools of solution (design/planning proposal)
- Other



Web map

Features of interest

Roads and topography

Postcode

Surburb

Address

Cadastre

ABS Mesh Blocks

ABS Statistical Areas (SA) 1





© ASF-UK Photo taken by Isis Nunez Ferrera, in Nairobi, Kenya 201



seppo

Permeability

Designing movement, connectivity, permeability and streets



 Permeability and connectivity – design of networks to allow choice of routes for all forms of movement. Short and direct routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Highway design safety. Management of relationship between modes. Managing impact of traffic to support places





Permeable layouts support walking and cycling

Disabled people Children Others Walking Cycling Ambulance/Fire Public Transport Other vehicles



Networks for walking and cycling can be placed over those for vehicles



Pedestrian and cyclist network



Vehicular network







Consider how best the site can be connected with nearby main routes and public transport facilities. The typical cul-de-sac response creates an introverted layout which fails to integrate with its surroundings. A more pedestrian friendly approach that integrates with the surrounding community. It links existing and proposed streets and provides direct routes to bus stops.



This street pattern then forms the basis for perimeter blocks which ensure that buildings contribute positively to the public realm.



Edward MacLachlan.

Sometimes the road is designed first, and the place is then dominated by the character of the road



Design the place first and then put in the road







Variety







Figure 4.11 Alternative proposals for a development: (a) is highways-led; while (b) is more attuned to pedestrian activity and a sense of place.

Pattern of access should reinforce patterns of use and character



Horizontal mix

- 20 Restaurant | Nightclub Pool
- 19 Apartments
- 18 Apartments
- 17 Apartments
- 16 Apartments
- 15 Hotel
- 14 Hotel
- 12 Hotel
- 11 Hotel
- 10 Hotel
- 9 Hotel
- 9 100
- M Office
- 8 Café Hotel Lobby Restaurant
- 7 Meeting | Conference Spa | Fitness
- 6 Cinema Spa | Fitness
- 5 Cinema Modern Archives
- 4 Cinema
- Modern Archives
- 3 Cinema Grocery
- 2 Cinema
- Grocery
- 1 Cinema Café Entrance Coffeeshop | Newstand Hat Shop Grocery
- B Storage Mechanical
- SB Loading



Vertical mix



MOTORIZED ~ TRAFFIC THE EFFECTS OF FUNCTIONAL ZONING


Neighbourhood design

Interconnectedness Hierarchy





Assumes 5ha of communal area/400 dwellings - DETR (LDW) land use study - at 2.2 persons per dwelling is 42ha of communal space/7,500 persons

- **Building scale** (dwelling, office, shop for changing life style and diversity)
- Home place scale (street, home, zone, block for active streets, community interaction)
- Neighborhood scale (local area, locality, etc. local facilities with attractive walking routes)
- **District / Small town scale** (Town , quarter good public transport and cycle access to centre)
- **City scale** (City region, functional bioregion with good linkage to the city and beyond



Figure 1.20 Nested scales: district/small town, neighbourhood and home place



Density. Low or high?







Legibility





THE REPORTED FOR SERVICE

Helping people find their way around

Making a place legible







- Streets,
- Rail lines,
- Trails.

Berlin's Kurfürstendamm; Champs-Elysées in Paris

- Strategic meeting points,
- Squares,
- Junctions or
- Train stations. Dam in Amsterdam ; Plaza Mayor in Madrid.

LANDMARK

 Physical objects serve as public reference points,
Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum Malmö's Turning Torso



EDGE

- Clear transition zones and linear boundaries, waterfronts
 - Green zones

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- Quarters,
- Neighbourhoods
- Other sections of the city with distinctive character,
 London's Soho ;
 Toronto's Chinatown;
 Little Italy



Robustness







Frontage puts "eyes on the street" and investment in facades and streetscape





When streets don't have frontage they become "**dead space**" "Blank walls proclaim the power of the institution and the inconsequence of the individual, whom they are clearly meant to intimidate." WILLIAM H. WHYTE

The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces



William H. Whyte

Project for Public Space





Putting it all together



Sense of Place: place making The urban designer creates **places**



Think about distinctive character of the space







Avoid designing placelessness





The scale of places is very important And should focus on the needs of people

Scale at the centre of Brasilia



Thank you. Question?

10 MIN COFFEE BREAK?

Urban Design/Planning Masterplan

Proposals



Three new types of guidance at different scales

- *Strategies*: often city or town centre-wide, often public realm or movement focused, selective interventions linked into a coherent whole.
- Masterplans: often comprehensive redevelopment, neighbourhood or new district scale, can be required of developers of larger scale/long term projects.
- Design or Development Briefs: can be used in conjunction with the above or on their own. Site specific design advice for important, complex or controversial sites.

Masterplans are only required where the scale of change is significant and the area subject to change is more than a few buildings. Creating successful masterplans

A guide for clients



Masterplans can

- help shape the three-dimensional physical form that responds to local economic and social dynamics
- help identify the *potential of an area* or site for *development*
- unlock previously under-developed land
- engage the *local community* in thinking about their role in a development or regeneration process
- help *build consensus* about the future of an area and identify priorities for action
- increase *land values*, and make schemes viable

Masterplans can

- attract *private sector investment* and identify public and private sector aspirations and roles
- giving clarity to the roles and responsibility of organisations involved in development or regeneration
- helping *promote an area* and market its development or regeneration
- helping to stitch new development seamlessly into an existing community and heritage
- Encourage *political leadership*
- celebrate the natural assets of a place, for example the landscape, topography and ecology.

Urban designer's produce: Policies and strategies



Adopted June 2011





Urban designer's produce: Masterplans



Creating successful masterplans

A guide for clients



Urban designer's produce: design codes:









Urban designer's produce: studies of character to protect historic areas





Figure 38: Traditional letter box, Richmond Road



Figure 39: Air Raid Warden sign, outside no. 13 Wellington Avenue



Figure 40: Traditional shopfront of The Bristolian, Picton Street

7.5.10 Montpelier has a fine collection of original and traditional shopfronts throughout the Conservation Area. Picton Street, a purposebuilt shopping street, contains an array of individual shopfronts which have retained a number of their traditional features even where the shops themselves have been converted to residential. Elsewhere are clusters of shopfronts that appear as groups, unified by a continual entablature or fascia depth. In addition a number of individual shopfronts, though few of these are still in commercial use.

Local Townscape Details are shown on Map 8
Urban designer's produce: design guidance





Essex Planning Officers Association



Conserve natural resources and minimise pollution in the layout, construction and ongoing use of development





9.1 sustainable building features

Urban designer's produce: briefs for particular sites and environmental improvements



Masterplan





FIGURE 6.1: MASTERPLAN

Land use





FIGURE 6.4: LAND USE STRATEGY

FIGURE 6.5: EMPLOYMENT DIAGRAM





Employment

FIGURE 6.6: FACILITIES DIAGRAM







Facilities





Landscape and open spaces

Route hierarchy



Types of street



FIGURE 6.17: SPACE TYPOLOGIES AND MOVEMENT

Pedestrian and cycle routes



FIGURE 6.14: PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE MOVEMENT PLAN

Bus route



FIGURE 6.15: PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN

Densities





FIGURE 6.8: RESIDENTIAL DENSITY

Building heights





Townscape character



FIGURE 6.21: URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

100

Types of open space



FIGURE 6.25: LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE

Urban Task Force: what makes a successful masterplan?

- Visionary—raise aspirations and achieve consensus
- **Deliverable-**--clear means of implementation
- Fully integrated into the planning system while allowing new uses and market opportunities
- **Flexible** provide a basis for negotiation and dispute resolution
- The result of a **participatory process** allowing all stakeholders to express their needs and priorities

Tick box: 7 principles for building better cities

PRESERVE - Preserve natural ecologies, agrarian landscapes and cultural heritage sites.

- MIX Create mixed-use and mixed-income neighborhoods.
- WALK Design walkable street and human scale neighbourhoods.
- **BIKE** Prioritize bicycle networks and auto- free streets.
- **CONNECT** Increase density of road network, limit block size.
- **RIDE** Develop high quality transit and affordable BRT (Bus Rapid Transit).
- FOCUS Match density and mix to transit capacity.

Critique:

"A critique of Masterplanning as a technique for introducing urban design quality into British Cities" Dr Bob Giddings and Bill Hopwood

- top-down approach by experts, often clearing out existing activities, creating large single use areas of private or ambiguous ownership.
- It promotes the scheme as a product.
- Focusing on the visual.
- Offers no more than a seductive illusion of urban design.
- Not taken seriously: "Clients require masterplans run for down inner-city areas which have become the soulless repository of thousands of cars. For the price of just one of those cars, and – more often than not – in only a few weeks, you are expected to redesign a city."

Urban Design graphics

Drawing and thinking about urban design



You need to develop notations for the things we need to be thinking about



Opportunities and constraints diagram





P Potential for landscaped parking areas addressed by buildings and contained by bunding

Use diagrams to explain the design dimensions of a scheme





Future uses concept

Chelson Meadow Future Country Park



Types of block structure



J.

Parking tends to be on plot with driveways and garaging.

Thank you. Question? Urban sprawl repair principles



Sourcce: Gehl Architects





Repair in urban core



Communities for preservation and emulation



Sprawl development



Sprawl repair targets



Sprawl as is or devolution

Undeveloped land

SINGLE-FAMILY SUBDIVISION						
TRANSFORMATION	CATEGORIES	BEFORE	AFTER	IMPROVEMENT OF URBAN INDICATORS		
	Site acreage, acres	58	58	1.00		
	Total built area, ¹ sq. ft.	1,900,000	2,700,000	1.4		
	Total building footprint, ² sq. ft.	380,000	530,000	1.4		
	Total building area, ³ sq. ft.	880,000	1,900,000	2.2		
	Total occupant load, occupants	4,400	8,400	1.9		
	Occupant density, occupants per acre	77	144	1.9		
	Parking area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	75	65	0.9		
	Thoroughfare area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	157	73	0.5		
	Thoroughfare length per capita, ft. per occupant	1.2	0.8	0.6		

BUSINESS PARK							
TRANSFORMATION	CATEGORIES	BEFORE	AFTER	IMPROVEMENT OF URBAN INDICATORS			
	Site acreage, acres	126	126	1.0			
	Total built area, ¹ sq. ft.	3,490,000	6,780,000	1.9			
	Total building footprint, ² sq. ft.	530,000	1,610,000	3.0			
	Total building area, ³ sq. ft.	1,450,000	5,440,000	3.8			
	Total occupant load, occupants	15,000	29,000	2.0			
	Occupant density, occupants per acre	115	235	2.0			
	Parking area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	88	57	0.6			
	Thoroughfare area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	52	33	0.6			
	Thoroughfare length per capita, ft. per occupant	0.7	0.5	0.7			

SHOPPING MALL						
TRANSFORMATION	CATEGORIES	BEFORE	AFTER	IMPROVEMENT OF URBAN INDICATORS		
	Site acreage, acres	230	230	1.00		
	Total built area, ¹ sq. ft.	5,150,000	14,500,000	2.8		
	Total building footprint, ² sq. ft.	1,290,000	3,770,000	2.9		
	Total building area, ³ sq. ft.	1,770,000	11,500,000	6.5		
	Total occupant load, occupants	19,000	50,000	2.6		
	Occupant density, occupants per acre	84	216	2.6		
	Parking area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	77	66	0.9		
	Thoroughfare area per capita, sq. ft. per occupant	100	55	0.6		
	Thoroughfare length per capita, ft. per occupant	1.00	0.4	0.4		



2-8. Neighborhood model



2-9. Sprawl model





2-15. Comparison of the Transect in sprawl and in traditional urbanism, showing the lack of direct correlation between the two



The transformation of rural sprawl into a hamlet is achieved through the repair technique of re-platting and clustering. The black footprints in figure 4-5 are existing buildings, and the red in figure 4-6 are proposed buildings.

4-5. Existing rural sprawl



Out of 16 existing parcels, nine are subdivided into smaller lots, while only two houses need to be purchased and removed to achieve this new arrangement into a hamlet. Fifty-two new units are added, making the total number 66. This density will be able to support a hamlet (a clustered rural development with limited commercial uses) that later can grow into a village (a freestanding, complete neighborhood providing the basic daily needs).

> Proposed buildings Existing buildings

4-6. Rural sprawl repaired into a hamlet





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Figure 4-22 shows the existing condition of a portion of the residential enclave and figure 4-23 is its proposed transformation into a diverse and balanced neighborhood, which will become the center for other suburban enclaves adjacent to the subdivision. The existing structures are shown in black, the new infill in red.

Existing buildings



Increasing density significantly, combined with other actions at the larger regional context, is required to make transit viable for this area. Houses that are removed are replaced with denser building types such as townhouses, live-work units, and those that will accommodate apartments or offices above shops. The precise location and number of these infill buildings will depend on the local market projections for both the residential and commercial uses. The intention of this repair is not only to transform the development into a neighborhood, but also to provide amenities and create a center for the surrounding developments.

Proposed buildings Existing buildings

4-23. Subdivision repaired into a neighborhood center
Deficiency: Single building type and use

Remedial Techniques:

Introduce new building types and mix of uses: retail, office, and civic

Outcome: Variety of building types and mix of uses to support neighborhood center







Deficiency: Residual open space



Remedial Techniques: Define open and civic space

Create a neighborhood green/playground

Repair the collector into an avenue



Locate a bus stop coordinated with municipality

Outcome: Hierarchy and spatial definition of public realm













Figures 4-42 and 4-43 show a typical multifamily subdivision before and after repair. Its transformation into a mixed-use and transit-ready town center requires a radical intervention.

4-42. Existing multifamily subdivision



4-43. Multifamily subdivision repaired into a town center

Existing buildings

The overall urban structure of the subdivision is reorganized. A new square is formed at the intersection of the bordering arterial roads, and a main street is created, leading from the square to the existing lake, which becomes a public amenity. Four- and five-story buildings are added (new buildings are shown in red, existing in black) to support mixed uses.







Deficiency: Single building type and use

Remedial Techniques:

Introduce new building types and mix of uses: residential, retail, office, lodging, and civic

Outcome: Variety of building types and mix of uses to support a town center





Deficiency: Residual open space

Remedial Techniques: Define

open and civic spaces





Outcome: Hierarchy and spatial definition of public realm







Outcome: Walkable urban fabric

Introduce new street, creating smaller blocks Introduce liner buildings to mask parking and create forecourts Introduce live-works and townhouses Define public spaces ------Introduce mixed-use, mid-rise buildings for transition from towers

and slabs





6-3. Existing slab and tower block



6-4. Repaired block with townhouses and mixed-use buildings

Deficiency: Single building type and use. Suburban houses; oversized lots; 14 dwellings at 3.5 units per acre

Phase One: Alleys and outbuildings along cross-block alley; 28 dwellings at 7 units per acre

Phase Two: Outbuildings along alley and corner stores; 38 dwellings at 9.5 units per acre Single building type
Deep setbacks

Remedial Techniques:

Introduce alley -

Infill with backbuildings

Transform corner units into corner stores or live-work units





6-17. Existing condition: Typical suburban residential block



6-18. Phase One: New alleys and outbuildings



6-19. Phase Two: Backbuildings





7-11. Suburban drive-through



7-12. Liner buildings on a main street



Outcome Two: Building reuse and new liner buildings

> Divide the building to house multiple businesses Reorganize parking

the front Introduce sidewalks and parallel parking





7-17. Existing strip center



7-18. Conversion into a recycling center

Thank you. Question?