

# Introduction of Urban Design

## ❖ What is Urban Design

Urban design deals primarily with the design and management of public space (i.e. the 'public environment', 'public realm' or 'public domain'), and the way public places are experienced and used. Public space includes the totality of spaces used freely on a day-to-day basis by the general public, such as streets, plazas, parks and public infrastructure. Some aspects of privately owned spaces, such as building facades or domestic gardens, also contribute to public space and are therefore also considered by urban design.

While the two fields are closely related, 'urban design' differs from 'urban planning' in its focus on physical improvement of the public environment, whereas the latter tends, in practice, to focus on the management of private development through established planning methods and programs, and other statutory development controls.

## ❖ Urban Design Principles

Public spaces are frequently subject to overlapping management responsibilities of multiple public agencies or authorities and the interests of nearby property owners, as well as the requirements of multiple and sometimes competing users. The design, construction and management of public spaces therefore typically demands consultation and negotiation across a variety of spheres. Urban designers rarely have the degree of artistic liberty or control sometimes offered in design professions such as architecture. It also typically requires interdisciplinary input with balanced representation of multiple fields including engineering, ecology, local history, and transport planning.

Urban design may encompass the preparation of design guidelines and regulatory frameworks, or even legislation to control development, advertising, etc. and in this sense overlaps with urban planning. It may encompass the design of particular spaces and structures and in this sense overlaps with architecture, landscape architecture, highway engineering and industrial design. It may also deal with 'place management' to guide and assist the use and maintenance of urban areas and public spaces.

## ❖ Urban design considers

- Character and meaning – Recognizing and valuing the differences between one place and another

- Urban structure – How a place is put together and how its parts relate to each other
- Function and fit – Shaping places to support their varied intended uses
- Complementary mixed uses – Locating activities to allow constructive interaction between them
- Animation – Designing places to stimulate public activity
- Accessibility – Providing for ease, safety and choice when moving to and through places
- Legibility and wayfinding – Helping people to find their way around and understand how a place works
- Urban typology, density and sustainability - spatial types and morphologies related to intensity of use, consumption of resources and production and maintenance of viable communities
- Order and incident – Balancing consistency and variety in the urban environment in the interests of appreciating both
- Continuity and change – Locating people in time and place, including respect for heritage and support for contemporary culture
- Civil society – Making places where people are free to encounter each other as civic equals, an important component in building social capital

#### ❖ Urban design preference

- Establish the primacy of the street (buildings face to the street), street-level vitality, activities in the central areas (concentrations of civic, institutional, and commercial activity)
- Walkable and livable communities (pedestrian orient environment, multimodal transit system)
- Mixing land uses, housing and job balance, appropriate building densities, a variety of housing (type and price...)
- Area identity (a sense of place)

#### ❖ In order to achieve

- Economic revitalization
- Environmental protection
- Energy saving
- Ecological balance
- Natural resources conservation
- Historical preservation