



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Sustainable Place making a Safe Method for Urban Forms designing

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable Place making is about the transformation of the City of Pickering from a suburban community to a sustainable city. It's about transforming the City into a unique place that celebrates its past, capitalizes on its existing attributes and assets, while planning for today and future generations. It does not rely on conventional planning processes - the journey to achieve a truly sustainable city requires new and innovative ways of doing business.

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INTRODUCTION

There is 8 important way in Placemaking to improvement of Urban Forms designing:

1-simply, Placemaking involves looking at, listening to, and asking questions of the people who live, work and play in a particular space, to discover needs and aspirations.

2-Placemaking can be used to improve all of the spaces that comprise the gathering places within a community its streets, sidewalks, parks, buildings, and other public spaces so they invite greater interaction between people and foster healthier, more social, and economically viable communities.

3-In making each decision, choose the path that will lead to the best environmental outcome in the long term. Consider: Will this choice reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Encourage people to walk instead of drive? Improve air or water quality? Reduce consumption and waste? Lower the use of non-renewable energy sources? Contribute to residents' health? Since we need to live within the constraints of our planet, it's important to keep the size of Pickering's ecological footprint as small as possible.

4-In making each decision, choose the one that will increase social interaction, that will be inclusive rather than exclusive, that offers opportunities for encounters and conversations. The City of Pickering's public spaces (parks, streets, sidewalks, open spaces) should be welcoming to people of all ages and all cultures. This means paying attention to seating, safety, sightlines, noise levels, pathways, sun, shade, and shelter, and all the other details that make people feel comfortable in public.

5-Placemaking is about creating memorable spaces that people associate with a specific location. It is about respecting geography (the lake, the creeks, the farmlands, the hills) and history (Pickering's pioneer, industrial, and civic heritage). Every place in Pickering should be recognizably part of the City, distinguishable from other places and cities.

6-The vision can evolve quickly into an implementation strategy, beginning with small-scale, do-able improvements that can immediately bring benefits to public spaces and the people who use them.

7-Because change is occurring quickly, there is little time to create elaborate plans that may be out of date by the time they are made public. A more flexible way to respond is to keep experimenting with programs and policies to find out what works and what doesn't. Sometimes all that is needed are small tweaks and adjustments over time. Sometimes the changes need to be bold and rapid to seize unique opportunities. Some experiments will be more successful than others, but the only failed experiment is the one that was never tried.

8-Because change is constant, there is never a point at which everything is perfect, finished, complete, although improvements can be seen over time [1].

METHODOLOGY

The main steps of this study's methodology are as follows:

1. Review of planning, design, and other multidisciplinary literature that is related to sustainable development. The aim is to deconstruct ("take apart") a multidisciplinary text related to urban sustainable form. The outcomes of this process are numerous themes, "design concepts" in this case, that are related to urban form.
2. Pattern recognition "the ability to see patterns in seemingly random information". The aim is to note major patterns and concepts within the results of the first step. This second step looks for similarities or patterns within the sample and codes the results by concepts.
3. Identifying urban forms to recognize specific and distinctive urban forms.

RESULTS

Form is not easy to define; therefore, it is useful to operationalize the term in order to apply it in this study. Generally, urban form is a composite of characteristics related to land use patterns, transportation system, and urban design. Kevin Lynch defines urban form as "the spatial pattern of the large, inert, permanent physical objects in a city." Form is a result of aggregations of more or less repetitive elements. Urban form, then, is a result of the bringing together of many elements-concepts: the urban pattern. Urban patterns are made up largely of a limited number of relatively undifferentiated types of elements that repeat and combine. Hence, these patterns have strong similarities and can be grouped conceptually into what are called concepts. Specifically, elements of concepts might be street patterns, block size and form, street design, typical lot configuration, layout of parks and public spaces, and so on. This article assumes that there are concepts that repeat themselves and compose distinct urban sustainable forms. Therefore, the article uses qualitative methods to identify these forms and their design concepts (design concepts) and, eventually, to identify the concepts behind them. In a broad sense, qualitative studies ultimately aim to describe and explain a pattern of relationships, a process that requires a set of conceptually specified categories. Suggest a set of qualitative "tactics" that might help in generating meanings from different texts. Following them, a thematic analysis has been designed for identifying the forms and their design concepts and for conceptualizing the theoretical base behind these forms and concepts. Thematic analysis is an inductive analytical technique that involves discovering patterns, themes, and concepts in the data that includes planning and multidisciplinary literature.

The analysis has identified three concepts repeated and significant themes of urban form.

1-Diversity

Diversity of activity is essential to the sustainability of cities. Jane Jacobs popularized the diversity dimension, subsequently adopted and widely accepted by many planning approaches, such as new urbanism, smart growth, and sustainable development. Lack of concentrated diversity can put people into automobiles for almost all their needs. Jacobs writes, "In dense, diversified city areas, people still walk, an activity that is impractical in the suburbs and in most grey areas. The more intensely various and close-grained the diversity in an area, the more walking. Even people who come into a lively, diverse area from outside, whether by car or by public transportation, walk when they get there". For Jacobs, diversity is vital; without it, the urban system declines as a living place and a place to live. There are some similarities between diversity and mixed land uses; however, diversity is "a multidimensional phenomenon" that promotes further desirable urban features, including greater variety of housing types, building densities, household sizes, ages, cultures, and incomes.

2-Compactness

Compactness of the built environment is a widely acceptable strategy through which more sustainable urban forms might be achieved. Compactness also refers to urban contiguity (and connectivity), which suggests that future urban development should take place adjacent to existing urban structures. When the concept is applied to existing rather than new urban fabric, it refers to the containment of further sprawl, rather than the reduction of the present sprawl. Compactness of urban space built form includes development of previously undeveloped urban land, redevelopment developed sites, subdivisions and conversions, and additions of existing buildings or previously and extensions

3-Mixed Land Uses

There is a general consensus among planners and scholars that mixed land use has an important role in achieving sustainable urban form. Mixed-use or heterogeneous zoning allows compatible land uses to locate in close proximity to one another and thereby decrease the travel distances between activities. Mixed land use indicates the diversity of functional land uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and those related to transportation. Reducing the need for travel is on the agenda of achieving sustainable urban form, and mixed land use has a prominent role in achieving it. Mixed land use

reduces the probability of using a car for commuting, shopping, and leisure trips, since jobs, shops, and leisure facilities are located nearby[2].

DISCUSSION

What is critical to understand at the outset though, is that placemaking is a process, it is a means to an end; the end is the creation of Quality Places. People know and understand what Quality Places are when they are in them. However, it is more challenging to describe their characteristics abstractly.

A parking lot is a Place, as is a main street or a house or a residential subdivision. Our concern is with places that people care about and want to be in. That is because those places have a strong sense of place. Most people feel that way about their homes. We refer to places with a strong sense of place as Quality Places. These are places where people and businesses want to be. They are active, unique locations, interesting, visually attractive, often with public art and creative activities. They are people-friendly, safe, and walkable with mixed uses; they have good building dimensions relative to the street, and quality façades; they are often alluring with pizzazz. We have more formally separated the key elements of Quality Places, from key characteristics that are the result of good [2].

Creative Place making

“In creative place making, partners from public, private, non- profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative place making animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.” It is often the goal of Creative Place making to institutionalize arts, culture and creative thinking in all aspects of the built environment. Examples include:

Projects

Development built around and inclusive of arts, cultural and creative thinking such as museums and orchestra halls, public art displays, transit stations with art themes, live-work structures for creative people, etc.

Activities

new arts, culture, and entertainment activities that a vitality to Quality Places such as movies in the park, chalk art projects, outdoor concerts, inclusion of children’s ideas in planning projects by means of artwork, etc.

The key elements of Quality Places are:

- Mixed-uses
- Quality public spaces
- Broadband enabled
- Multiple transportation options
- Multiple housing options
- Preservation of historic structures
- Community heritage
- Arts, culture and creativity
- Recreation, and
- Green spaces.

Community Place making

Supports economic diversity in the community, providing multiple points of entry and interaction for people of all incomes. The more economically integrated a community is, the more access to opportunity exists for all . Contributes to a mix of uses and people that makes places more diverse, more interesting and more active, thus making spontaneous interaction more likely. Intensifying and mixing activities creates the promise that visitors can stumble onto the fun, mingle with other people, or happen upon opportunity .

Creates interesting places that capitalize on distinctiveness. A creative approach improves the aesthetics of a place, whether it is the look, feel, sound or even smell. The difference sets that place apart as more interesting than others. A place that expresses its distinctiveness and resists co- modification and sameness is more likely to have long-term appeal.

Is always presenting itself to the public and encouraging pedestrian activity. Whether open or closed, a place that is a consistently interesting and active presence to the street promotes more pedestrian activity and creates the public perception that the place is safer and more animated. More pedestrians mean more prospective customers on the street to support more small businesses.

Community gathering spaces include the neighborhood squares, plazas and/or parks which will be the heart of every neighborhood. The vision is that there will be several of these types of spaces in each neighborhood some will be more commercial in nature, others will form the recreational center of a

residential neighborhood while others are intended to be civic spaces around libraries, schools, churches, government offices, etc.

Connector spaces are the networks that are intended to both accommodate movement through and between neighborhoods' but also spaces that link destinations and facilitate community engagement. They consist of streets, sidewalks, and trails. These categories reflect the different types of spaces that will exist in most new communities; if designed with people and places in mind, rather than just mobility, they will together result in a healthier and happier neighborhood.

Plan for the management of the space: The best places are those that people love and use frequently, and the best way to achieve this is through a management plan that promotes ways of keeping the space safe and used. A good management strategy is based on understanding the patterns of how people use the space so that specific tasks occur in relation to how that space is used. Waste receptacles get emptied at just the right time and refreshment stands are open when people most want them. Good management creates a feeling of comfort and safety in a space, as well as the feeling that someone is in charge.

Provide high-quality attractions and destinations: Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place—and to return again and again. When there is nothing to do, a space will remain empty, which can lead to other problems. In planning attractions and destinations, it is important to consider a wide range of activities for: men and women, people of different ages and cultures, different times of day, week and year, and for people alone and in groups. Every neighborhood should aim to have at least ten destinations so that people have many local choices. Each individual destination or place should have ten things to do in order to provide something for everyone and create rich experiences. Some of the best community gathering places have numerous small attractions such as outdoor cafés, fountains, sculpture, or a small gazebo or bandstand for performances or even a vendor cart. When combined, they create a critical mass of activity greater than if each were isolated on its own [3].

Surround community gathering places and streets with active edges: The streets and sidewalks around a public space greatly affect its accessibility and use, as do the buildings that surround it. The goal should be that all "edges" have active uses at the ground floor. Buildings bases should be human scaled and allow for interaction between inside and outside. Active ground floor uses create valuable experiences along a street for both pedestrians and motorists. For instance, a cluster of shops or large bay windows that reveal indoor activity are more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot. On a neighborhood park or square, houses and apartment buildings should be designed with front porches, balconies and other semi-private spaces facing onto the public space to create an opportunity for positive visual and physical interaction between residents and people in the public realm [4].

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