

WINNING BACK THE PUBLIC SPACES – CITY PLANNING WITH PEOPLE IN MIND

Prof Jan Gehl, Dr.Litt

The paper argues for a much more people oriented city planning where it is not flashy buildings and traffic issues, but the people who use the cities which are given priority. The care for people in the city is seen the all important key to city quality.

At this point in history four very different city models can be found: "*The Traditional Cities*": (Example: Venice and other old "walking" cities) . People and public life still has a good time in these cities. "*The Invaded Cities*" which have become inundated with car traffic to such an extent that the people using the city are squeezed and harassed.(Examples: Naples, Madrid, many cities in UK and East Asia). Pedestrians and public life are gradually squeezed out in these places. "*The Abandoned Cities*": Cities were walking and public life has become completely phased out. (Many cities in North American are by now completely abandoned. Public life is non existent). "*The Reconquered Cities*": Cities where public life and walking have been strongly reinforced or reintroduced during the past 2-3 decades.(Examples: Barcelona, Lyon, Strasbourg, Freiburg, Copenhagen, Portland (Oregon), Curitiba (Brazil) and Melbourne).

The paper will discuss these city planning models and present a case for a people oriented approach to city planning. In societies characterized by an ever increasing privatization of daily life, the public spaces of the cities are becoming increasingly important, illustrated by the dramatic increase in public life in "The Reconquered Cities" where the city planners carefully invites people to use their city.

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Jan Gehl

References:

Books: "*New City Spaces*", "*Life Between Buildings*", "*Public Spaces - Public Life - Copenhagen 1996*", For information on the books visit : www.arkfo.dk