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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING AND URBAN
DESIG –Creating Theoretical Base For The Research On Composition Of
Cities

Champa H.S.^{*1}, Dr H N Nagendra²

^{*1}Research Student, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore, Mysore, India & Faculty,
Department of Architecture, Birla Institute of Technology, RAK, UAE.
Research Guide and Associate professor, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore,
Mysore, India.

Abstract

Kevin Lynch saw urban design as a branch of architecture; Michael South-worth on the other hand thought urban design as a branch of urban planning. Urban design is the process of shaping the man-made environment to fulfill the needs and values of a community in cities, towns and villages. The public spaces around buildings are as much of a concern in urban design as buildings themselves. There is a trend to formulate urban design as the interface between architecture and town planning, or the gap between them. Urban planning primarily concerned with the allocation of resources according to projections of future need. With planning tools and methodologies, land use as a distribution of resources and parceling out land for zoning purposes etc. are done at primary stage. The knowledge of planning becomes essential for all other interdisciplinary professions and the same is taught as the basic tool. Urban design makes imaged spatial arrangements like green lung spaces, housing typologies and boulevard, planning makes provision for spatial arrangements of known forms like land use, infrastructure, transport and built vs. open spaces therefore planning makes urban design focus on practical aspects more importantly before the three dimensional aspects are looked into.

Keywords: Urban Planning, Urban Design.

Introduction

One of the appropriate definitions of urban design is found in Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 (PPG1), United Kingdom representing an attempt by central government to define the scope of the subject area. It states that...urban design should be taken to mean the relationship between different buildings; the relationship between buildings and the streets, squares, parks and waterways and other spaces which make up the public domain; the nature and quality of the public domain itself; the relationship of one part of a village, town or city with other parts; and the patterns of movement and activity which are thereby established: in short, the complex relationships between all the elements of built and unbuilt space (DoE, 1997, para. 14).

On this definition, urban design is concerned with (DoE, 1997, para. 14).

1. all the constituent physical parts of the built environment to which the public have access
2. the way these parts fit together to create networks of space and activity
3. the functioning of those space networks
4. Their role as a social venue
- 5.

Urban design encompasses much more than the visual impact of buildings and space: social, environmental and functional dimensions must be considered alongside visual or urban form-based concerns. And urban design must be viewed as a process as well a product-based discipline.

1. Urban design is considered to be an approach as well as a methodology for city-building. Urban design deals with three-dimensional design of the built urban environment at the scale of the street, neighbourhood, and city, providing integration between landscape and buildings, and with the processes and strategies of development.
2. Urban design is at the intersection of several disciplines. By focusing on the public nature of all urban development, and by bridging the traditional jurisdictions of many professions, urban design has the potential scope to address the wholeness of the city.

Some theoreticians rather not to describe urban design but to explain what it is not (Koray 1999):

1. It is not land use policy, sign controls, and street lighting districts.
2. It is not strictly utopian or procedural.
3. It is not necessarily a plan for downtown, however architectonic, nor a subdivision regulation.

Descriptions explained above suggest that there is no easy, single, agreed definition of urban design. However general framework of urban design is determined.

Urban design is the process of shaping the setting (or public realm) for life in cities, towns and villages. The public realm needs to work along with the built form and transportation. In general terms, the public realm (i.e. streets, public squares, parks and open space) influences the type of urban environment we can create. The urban environment has a profound effect on how we live our lives both in our neighborhoods and the larger city.

1. At its heart, urban design incorporates a “people first” design philosophy. This design approach promotes healthy and socially interactive neighborhoods that contribute to the economic success of the City.
2. The value in building “people first” developments is wide ranging. Foremost, it encourages a compact urban form, which promotes alternative and healthy transportation choices (i.e. walking, cycling and transit), better use of municipal infrastructure and maintains the viability of neighbourhood businesses. Over the longer term, this development fosters a distinct community character that builds a brand and civic pride for the City and its neighborhoods.
3. Urban design is a discipline that seeks to integrate aspects from a variety of different fields, such as planning, landscape architecture, architectural design, sociology, geography, cultural studies and urban history (Thomsen 2013).

An urban planner was someone who was primarily concerned with the allocation of resources according to projections of future need. Planners tend to regard land use as a distribution of resources problem, parceling out land, for zoning purposes, without much knowledge of its three-dimensional characteristics (Koray 1999): or the nature of the building that may be placed on it in the future. Architect, on the other hand, designs buildings. A good architect will do all he can to relate the building he is designing to its surroundings, but he has no control over what happens off the property he has been hired to consider. There is a substantial middle ground between these professions, and each has some claim to it, but neither fills it very well. Land use planning would clearly be improved if it involved someone who understands three-dimensional design. On the other hand, someone is needed to design the city, not just the buildings. Therefore, there was a need for someone who could be called an urban designer." Undoubtedly urban design cannot stand alone between these three main professions. Urban design is an interdisciplinary concept and should be considered with the other disciplines. Planning is used as a tool in helping urban design in the process of designing and shaping cities, towns and villages. Urban Design speaks about the larger scale of buildings, of streets and public spaces, complete neighborhoods and regions, and cities, to make urban areas well-designed, attractive and ecological. It connects people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric. It magnets together planning, transportation policy, architectural design, land development, engineering and landscape. Urban design includes the preparation of design guidelines and governing agendas, or even legislation to control development, etc. and in this sense overlaps with urban planning.

Applications Of Urban Design

Activity Areas: Neighborhood, Town, Subregion/Region

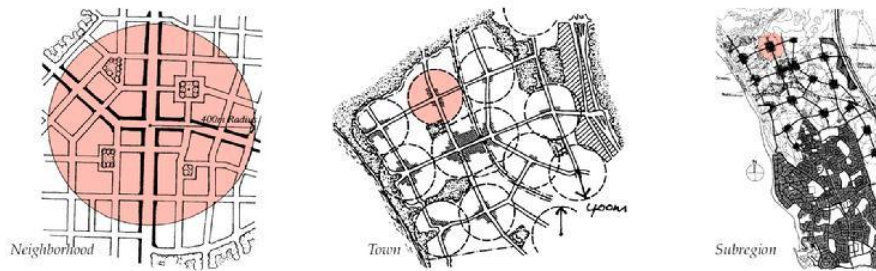


Figure 6. Scales of Suburban Activity: neighborhood, town, and subregional. Source: Western Australian Liveable Neighbourhoods: Community

While the two fields are closely related, they differ in two respects. (Urban design org) Urban design relates to the constructive design of urban areas like design of Pedestrian zones, Incorporation of nature within a city, aesthetics, etc and planning focuses on the management of development through established regulatory planning methods and programs like process concerned with the use of land and design of the urban environment, including air and water and infrastructure. Urban design focuses on the design, quality, character and appearance of places, including buildings and the spaces between them and Planning relates to the uses to which those places and spaces are placed and the ways in which they share to each other.

Urban design operates at three scales:



The region - city and town



The neighborhood -district and corridor



The block - street and building

This deals with acute concerns of human settlement and urban development. It creates a specialized field of growing complexity, retorting to the urban complexities. It relates to the social, behavioral, and cultural relationships between people and the form and quality of their built and natural environment; the financial, managerial, political, and participatory scopes of planning, design, and development leading to the modeling of urban areas and regions.

Planning And Urban Design

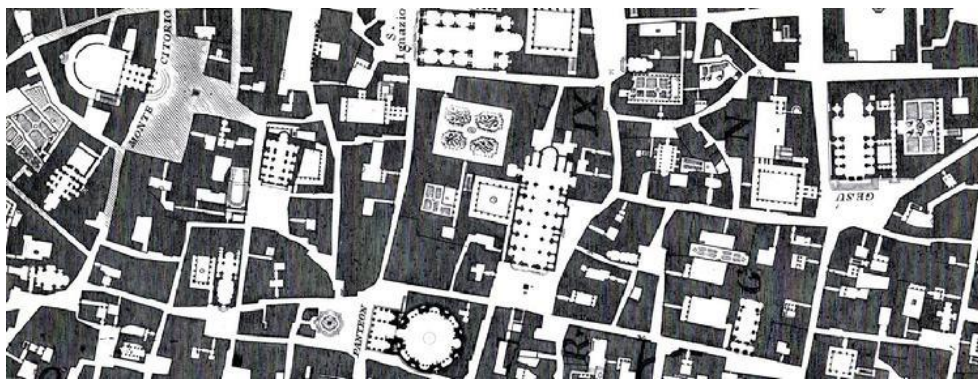
Planning is top to down approach, as well as a democratic bottom-up approach. Planning makes provision for arrangements such as land use, transport, open space, infrastructure that are dependent upon the outputs of known forms such as property development, housing, infrastructure, social and government services. It focuses on land use, rather than the use of living; on housing provision rather than a concept of home. Whereas urban design relates to spatial arrangements such as green pockets, urban boulevards, housing typologies, which are dependent upon the outputs of the very same known forms focusing on how land is to be used. Both planning and urban design stimulate ‘mixed use’ almost getting down to the level of mixing people, ideas, interests and resources.

Planning provides an essential framework for guiding and controlling development. It provides a vision for the area; categorizes the main objectives to realize that vision; defines the local context of people and places; sets out the design policy framework. The development plan provides a framework for local plans. It considers the importance of urban design in both influencing and helping to deliver the objectives shaped in the plan. It conveys a vision of what is to be expected from the plan. The plan explains how these relate to the land use strategy; for example, how growth areas will be related to transport infrastructure and where centers will be developed.

The urban design contributes to describe the sort of place it is hoped to create by physical development and therefore urban design in the planning system leads towards better practice. It is convenient to group design policies according to an aspect of development form like layout, scale, appearance and landscape to get a better to the vision for the area. The plan should explain how its urban design vision has been shaped by national policies and regional and local considerations. Planning, in other words, is a vision about the future, and the various policies and methods to implement it. Planning concentrates on guiding the overall scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout and access of new development in relation to neighboring buildings and guides the design to relate to specific areas or specific sites. The planning of a part also relates to how design issues are to be managed in the planning process. Although the urban construction is a fundamental principle, it should not serve as a model to copy and reproduce; every city should be integrated with the region's unique cultural, economic and political construction

1. For example, in the urban planning of Berlin, the extensive use of buildings and sidewalks, roads and green belts in an interspersed relationship, organized the city on a mobile grid.
2. Following the line of the motorway, parking garages would form a shield against traffic noise.
3. For the same reason, the ground tilts up along the sides to the feeder streets. The city has a downtown plaza, residents living in not suffering unsuitable living conditions, but also feeling the difference between the new city and the old city.
4. They integrated this design philosophy into their urban planning.

Some of the best urban design comes from Italy



Rome

Processes of urban change can take various forms, from evolutionary to emergent, and are driven by trans-scalar and dynamic relationships ranging from policy and infrastructure to local and bottom up agency. Approach towards design aims at exploring more closely the potentials and parallels between processes of Spatial Planning and Urbanism/Design. In particular, how the complexity sciences can create and enhance this discourse through an examination of processes of inevitable transformation. Concerns to be addressed are: The relation between processes of planning, urban spatial design, urban transformation and complexity; Approaches and tools to work with ongoing and inevitable urban transformation; The potential of utilizing multiple timelines and dynamic relationships between spatial development processes to enhance planning and design methodologies; Complexity as the basis for communication and collaboration between planners, designers and policy makers.

Successful streets, spaces, villages, towns and cities tend to have characteristics in common'. These are encapsulated in the following; 'Objectives of urban design (UD principles, London 2010):

1. Character – to promote character in townscape and landscape by responding to and reinforcing locally distinctive patterns of development and culture.
2. Continuity and Enclosure – to promote the continuity of street frontages and the enclosure of space by development which clearly defines private and public areas.
3. Quality of the Public Realm – to promote public spaces and routes that are attractive, safe, uncluttered and work effectively for all in society, including disabled and elderly people.
4. Ease of Movement – to promote accessibility and local permeability by making places that connect with each other and are easy to move through, putting people before traffic and integrating land uses and transport.
5. Legibility – to promote legibility through development that provides recognizable routes, intersections and landmarks to help people find their way around.
6. Adaptability – to promote adaptability through development that can respond to changing social, technological and economic conditions.
7. Diversity – 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.

Urban design is a public activity, with impacts felt in the public sphere and often well beyond the site boundaries. However, the nature of development as perceived by the private and public sectors differs greatly. It connects people, places, movement, urban form, nature and the built fabric. Urban design involves the creation of a sense of place to an area, a process of place making. This practice is achieved by creating distinguishable zones, exceptional design, aesthetically pleasing public places and vistas, distinguishable landmarks and focal points. Other vital features of place making include: energetic commercial centers, mixed-use development, human scale and environment sensitive design, safe and attractive public areas and ornate elements in the public realm. Urban design practice areas range from small public spaces or streets to neighborhoods, city or whole regions.

Urban planning (urban regions, regional, city and town planning) is a technical and political process concerned with the land use and design of the urban environment. Distinct characteristics of planning from remains of the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in the Indus Valley Civilization (in modern-day northwestern India and Pakistan) are the earliest examples of deliberately planned cities. The streets of these early cities were followed a grid pattern, with a hierarchy of streets from major roads to residential lanes. Archaeological evidence suggests that many Harrapan houses were laid out to improve residential privacy, the blank walls of these residences facing the roads and most of the houses had their own wells. These ancient cities had well planned drainage systems, an awareness of an ideal urban sanitation. This showed the relationship between planning and urban design and the importance of planning in urban design of a civilization.

Planning is introduction of the element of Time. Planners can help manage the growth of cities, through implementation of process like zoning, management of growth and also the management of the uses of land. Zoning is a technique of land-use planning as a tool of urban design. The purpose of zoning is to combine uses that are compatible and to segregate uses that are thought to be incompatible. Zoning is used to prevent new development into the existing and to preserve the character of a community.

Urban planning is a predominant discipline concerned with all aspects of human habitat. Planning provides an essential framework for guiding and controlling development. It provides a vision for the area; categorizes the main objectives to realize that vision; defines the local context of people and places; sets out the design policy framework. The development plan provides a framework for local plans. It considers the importance of urban design in both influencing and helping to deliver the objectives shaped in the plan. It conveys a vision of what is to be expected from the plan. The plan explains how these relate to the land use strategy; for example, how growth areas will be related to transport infrastructure and where centers will be developed.

Conclusion

The urban figure, i.e. the buildings, is represented as building masses, which are to be designed by architects. The urban ground, i.e. in between spaces and vacant land, are designed to a micro level of details. This approach is defined as the creation of the shape and scale of the spaces, including future building that are then designed by architects. The

contents of the structure may include street layout, landscape architecture, open space, water channels and other details. The structure may contain zoning, building codes and quality guidelines. The urban design contributes to describe the sort of place it is hoped to create by physical development and therefore urban design in the planning system leads towards better practice. It is convenient to group design policies according to an aspect of development form like layout, scale, appearance and landscape to get a better to the vision for the area. The plan should explain how its urban design vision has been shaped by national policies and regional and local considerations. Planning, in other words, is a vision about the future, and the various policies and methods to implement it. Planning concentrates on guiding the overall scale, density, massing of buildings and open spaces, height restrictions, landscaping, overall layout in relation to neighboring buildings and guides the design to relate to specific areas or specific sites. The planning of a part also relates to how design issues are to be managed in the planning process. In the process of creating an urban plan or urban design, the infill design is one tool of spatial organization in which the city's figure and ground mechanisms are considered independently and at the same time hand in hand for better outcome. Each professional understands their importance in different way but it is realized that planning and urban design knowledge is essential for all the people working on the physical setting of the urban area.

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