

REVISITING THE NOTION OF 'PUBLIC SPACES': PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

W.S.D. Perera¹, U. Kulatunga², M.C.K. De Silva³, and N. Dias⁴

ABSTRACT

Public spaces serve as vital components of urban landscapes, facilitating social interaction, community cohesion, and individual well-being. However, differences exist between the perspectives of urban planning professionals and the broader community regarding the conceptualisation, design, and management of these spaces, with professionals focusing on sustainability and urban planning principles, while community members prioritise immediate concerns such as safety and accessibility. This paper conducts a comprehensive narrative literature review to delve into this divide and propose strategies for bridging it. The literature highlights the multifaceted nature of public spaces, emphasising their role as venues for social engagement, cultural expression, and community identity formation. This approach synthesises various themes and perspectives, capturing the nuanced evolution of public spaces in response to contemporary challenges. One key theme from the literature is the divergent priorities between urban planning professionals and the general community. While professionals prioritise inclusivity, sustainability, and community impact, the public focuses on immediate issues such as safety, accessibility, and environmental quality. This disconnect underscores the need for a more nuanced and inclusive approach to public space design and management. To bridge this gap, the paper suggests adopting context-sensitive approaches that integrate localised narratives, identities, and placemaking practices. By prioritising equity-focused and accessible design strategies, public spaces can become truly inclusive environments that foster a sense of belonging for all. As societies evolve in response to technological advancements, cultural shifts, and changing demographics, the notion of public space must adapt, requiring ongoing re-evaluation to promote social cohesion, community empowerment, and well-being.

Keywords: *Community Perspectives; Placemaking; Public Spaces; Social Cohesion; Urban Planning.*

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, wstarshanaperera@gmail.com

² Professor in Building Economics, Department, University or Company, Country, ukulatunga@uom.lk

³ Senior lecturer, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, chathurads@uom.lk

⁴ Lecturer in Disaster Management, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom, Nuwan.dias@manchester.ac.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

Public spaces serve vital functions for community building, inclusion, health, and urban liveability (Andersson, 2021). They facilitate social interaction, promote social life, and contribute to the quality of urban social communities (Malik et al., 2018; Ferwati et al., 2021). Public spaces play a role in defining the character of a city and are valuable assets for urban sociology, contributing to economic, social, and environmental value-added (Malik et al., 2018). As benefits, public spaces provide comfort and satisfaction to visitors, enriching everyday urban life and serving as indicators of the quality of life (Kim et al., 2021). Nevertheless, there are economic advantages of public places such as business opportunities through public markets, informal selling, and locations for festivals and celebrations, promoting economic development and community revitalisation (Low, 2023). However, the concept of "public" has evolved and changed over time, initially referring to the theatre audience and later expanding to encompass a variety of people in public spaces (Özbayraktar et al., 2017). Therefore, even though the conventional meaning and perspective of public places are as described above, those perspectives may change, or the notion of public places may be challenged due to various factors. This study primarily examines urban public spaces while acknowledging the broader geographical and cultural variations.

Perspectives and usage of public spaces can differ across geographical and cultural contexts. Public spaces are influenced by cultural and geographical contexts, leading to different perspectives and usage patterns (Ewertowski, 2023; İnce Güney, 2014; Karuppanan & Sivam, 2013). Thus, cultural conditions can have an impact on how urban space is created, perceived, and used (Ewertowski, 2023). Climate, gender norms, and local values influence how urban spaces are perceived and utilised across neighbourhoods (Karuppanan & Sivam, 2013). Understanding the nuanced socio-cultural meanings attached to public realms by diverse community groups is critical for responsive urban planning (Mehta, 2014). However, there is often a disconnect between professional public space planning/design aims and the localised needs and priorities of residents. This can be attributed to various factors such as professional disagreements (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022), lack of community participation (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022; Malá et al., 2022), and challenges in small cities (Malá et al., 2022).

Nevertheless, technology has an impact on the challenge for the notion as the integration of technology, such as wireless networks and surveillance cameras, in public spaces is reshaping the first amendment implications, affecting privacy, public forum issues, and the nature of public versus private expression (Zick, 2006). Location-aware technologies and social media platforms contribute to altering the perception and practice of public spaces through the provisioning of location-specific digital information, which transforms social and spatial interactions (Zimmerman et al., 2014).

Moreover, perspectives on public space priorities likely differ across groups. Urban planning professionals emphasise strategic design for community impact and sustainability of public places (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022). The research emphasises the importance of an integrated approach to urban planning that considers the interplay between buildings, public spaces, and the broader urban context. Sustainable urban design requires attention to environmental efficiency, social connectivity, and economic viability, with a strong emphasis on local characteristics and the health and well-being of residents (Grierson, 2009; Santi et al., 2019). The strategic design of public places is

crucial for achieving long-term sustainability and positive community impact (Wheeler, 2016). In contrast, residents judge public spaces based on personalised needs and experiences related to safety, belonging, and accessibility (Şenol, 2022). Residents evaluate public spaces based on personalised needs and experiences, with a focus on safety, belonging, and accessibility (Cao et al., 2022; Weidemann et al., 1982). Quality green spaces and well-maintained public areas contribute to a sense of safety and community, which are essential for residents' well-being and mental health (Błaszczuk et al., 2020). These differing viewpoints highlight the complexity of creating inclusive public places suited to diverse users.

The implications of this disconnect on community well-being are significant, affecting health, well-being, and social cohesion (Fallanca & Stagno, 2022; Aelbrecht et al., 2022). The disconnect between professional and community perspectives could negatively impact public space planning/its functionality. For example, the disconnect negatively affects the ability of public spaces to accommodate and encourage social interaction, which is crucial for community well-being (Brain, 2019). Bridging this gap by aligning the viewpoints of urban planners and communities is important so that the maximum benefits of public spaces/ addressing the expectations of community needs can be achieved.

Hence, there is a need for a re-examination of the notion of public places. Accordingly, this study aims to redefine the notion of public spaces from a global perspective, considering diverse geographical, cultural, and social contexts. This study primarily focuses on urban public spaces, reflecting the varying expectations of professionals and community members. While geographical differences are acknowledged, the emphasis remains on the urban context due to its unique challenges and opportunities. The paper is structured as follows. It begins with an introduction highlighting the importance of public spaces and the evolving perspectives surrounding them. The literature review section explores various definitions and typologies of public spaces, along with the needs, and expectations of professionals as well as the general community, and challenges associated with them. Following this, the methodology section outlines the approach used for the narrative literature review. The discussion section delves into key themes such as professional perspectives, community expectations, and challenges in meeting these expectations. Finally, the conclusion offers insights into the implications of the research findings and suggests avenues for future research on redefining public spaces.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a narrative literature review to explore the gap between professional and community perspectives on public spaces. Unlike Systematic Literature Reviews (SLRs) or meta-analyses, which focus on quantitative synthesis, a narrative review allows for the integration of diverse perspectives and the exploration of theoretical nuances (Green et al., 2006). This method was chosen to capture the complex changes in public spaces influenced by recent global events and technological progress.

The choice of a narrative review is justified by the need to establish a theoretical foundation, integrate diverse perspectives, and provide a detailed thematic analysis that surveys alone cannot achieve. This method allows for a nuanced understanding of public spaces, bridging theoretical constructs with practical applications. In summary, the

narrative literature review method provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of public spaces, addressing the theoretical and practical dimensions of the research.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 WHAT ARE PUBLIC PLACES?

In Ray Oldenburg's conceptualisation of social spaces, public spaces have been identified with three distinct spheres: the intimate domain of the home, the structured environment of the workplace, and the dynamic realm of third places, which encompass public spaces such as cafes, parks, and libraries (Hummon & Oldenburg, 1991). Oldenburg contends that these third places play a crucial role in fostering community cohesion and facilitating public engagement (Hummon & Oldenburg, 1991).

When it comes to the term “public spaces or places” it suggests an image of accessible urban, suburban, rural, and wilderness landscapes. The term “public” connotes the idea that these settings are accessible to everyone—people of a community, State, or nation, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, physical handicap, or other characteristics. In this context, however, “public” does not necessarily relate to ownership, but rather to use. Some privately owned places and spaces are accessible to the public and some publicly owned areas are not (Altman & Zube, 1989). According to Holland et al., (2007), public spaces allow people to meet on ostensibly neutral ground in planned and unplanned ways, to interact with others within the context of the whole community. Carr (1992) defines public space as “*the common ground where people carry out the functional and ritual activities that bind a community, whether in the normal routines of daily life or in periodic festivities...[it] is the stage where the drama of communal life unfolds*”. This is in line with social cohesion which is defined as the willingness of members of a society to cooperate with each other in order to survive and prosper (Stanley, 2003). Well-designed public spaces can contribute to social cohesion and the quality of life of residents (Aelbrecht et al., 2022).

3.2 TYPES OF PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces can be public, private, inside, outside, restrictive, free, democratic, and inclusive, with changing everyday uses to accommodate recreational activities (Gehl & Matan, 2009). Further, types of public spaces include fully public, semi-public, and private sector-operated spaces, organised by criteria such as intended users, time limits, control, intended functions, and visual characteristics (Mantey & Kępkowicz, 2018). As public spaces, it can be identified different types of places. Carr, (1992) classified eleven different types of public spaces, based on how people use the space: public parks, squares and plazas, memorials, markets, streets, playgrounds, community open spaces, greenways and parkways, atrium/indoor marketplace, found/neighbourhood spaces, and waterfronts. Going beyond that, these types of public spaces are identified in older literature. For example, classic texts of Whyte (1980) examined how plazas, squares, and other open public areas function as gathering places. Cranz and Boland (2004) has influential research outlining the history and evolution of park ideals including recreational, picturesque, reform, recreational and sustainable park types. Furthermore, the seminal research of (Searns, 1995) analysed greenways through history advancing them as a distinct sustainable public linear space type. The United Nations' report on public spaces addresses six groups, including intensely used spaces, green open public spaces, public

activity spaces, public sector realm, city as a public space, and cyberspace (Özbayraktar et al., 2017). Thus, it can be identified that public places can be classified based on their function, purpose, accessibility, and usage, with various categories in urban planning and design. As a whole, a good public space is responsive, democratic, and meaningful, evaluating factors like inclusiveness, meaningfulness, safety, comfort, and pleasurable (Mehta, 2014).

3.3 NEED FOR PUBLIC SPACES

The need for public spaces from the perspective of people living in different areas must be properly studied. Because the meaning and the need for public spaces may be different from their view. Several researchers highlight humans' innate need for social interaction and connection and public spaces as venues for interactions, relationships, and a sense of community (Andersson, 2021; Kim et al., 2021; Olwig, 1989; Peters et al., 2010). The lack of public spaces limits these opportunities. Furthermore, Peters et al. (2010) say people from all ethnic backgrounds spend some of their leisure time in green areas. Kaźmierczak (2013) found that urban parks are more inclusive green places than non-urban green areas that are agricultural and green infrastructures that provide ecosystem services (La Greca et al., 2011) and that urban parks can promote social cohesion. The influence of green space on the community attachment of urban and suburban residents was highly discussed by Arnberger and Eder (2012) in their research. Nevertheless, studies show public spaces such as parks, gardens, trails etc provide psychological benefits including stress relief, attention restoration, improved mood and cognitive functioning (Kaplan, 1995; Ulrich et al., 1991). They are needed for psychological health. Further, public spaces promote exercise through walkability and recreation facilities. They facilitate social connection and a sense of belonging which contribute to wellness and longevity (Frumkin, 2003). When considering urban liveability and placemaking, public spaces such as libraries, plazas, and parks enhance the quality of life and attachments to place. They act as 'living rooms' and give character to neighbourhoods (Spaces, 2015).

The functionality of public spaces can be mapped with the fundamental human needs at different levels in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a well-known psychological theory that explains the motivation and expression of personality. It consists of five need categories: physiological, safety, belonging, esteem, and self-actualisation (Omodan & Abejide, 2022).

- When considering physiological needs, public rest areas, shelters, sidewalks and shaded spaces are supporting basic needs like rest, sleep, and warmth (Mehta, 2014).
- Safety needs: Well-designed public spaces with proper lighting, surveillance, and clear pathways can enhance feelings of safety and security (Kim et al., 2021).
- Belonging and love needs: Public spaces serve as gathering places where people can connect, socialize, and form relationships with others in their community (Andersson, 2021).
- Esteem needs: Public spaces that promote inclusivity, diversity, and equal access can contribute to individuals' sense of self-worth and respect (Andersson, 2021)
- Self-actualisation needs: Public spaces that offer opportunities for personal growth, creativity, and self-expression, such as art installations, community

gardens, or performance spaces, can contribute to individuals' pursuit of self-actualisation (Andersson, 2021)

3.4 PROFESSIONALS' PERSPECTIVES - EXPECTATIONS OF PUBLIC SPACES

Professionals, such as planners and urban designers, prioritise creating inclusive public spaces where everyone feels a sense of belonging. The design and management of public spaces are perceived as crucial for the well-being of city residents, with professionals understanding the challenges of creating spaces that positively impact communities (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022). A mixed research methodology identified eight design principles, with professionals prioritising four core design principles aligned with sustainable development (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022). The Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) was used to determine professionals' priorities, revealing disagreements on the rank of the design principles, possibly influenced by specialisation, gender, and experience (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022).

Professionals prioritise factors such as inclusiveness, desirable activities, comfort, safety, and pleasurable to ensure that public spaces are inclusive, safe, and comfortable for diverse communities. However, these professional priorities may sometimes overlook or conflict with community needs. For example, urban renewal projects aimed at improving infrastructure and aesthetics can lead to gentrification, displacing long-term residents and altering the socio-economic fabric of neighbourhoods (Ha, 2004). Similarly, design choices focused on high-end amenities can create spaces perceived as exclusive or inaccessible to certain community groups (Pampillln, 2017). These conflicting objectives can manifest in the form of limited access to improved spaces for marginalised populations, as seen in the redevelopment of public spaces in San Francisco (Marche, 2015). This highlights the need for careful consideration and alignment of professional and community perspectives to create truly inclusive public spaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new challenges and priorities for urban planners. Professionals have had to adapt designs to accommodate social distancing measures, increase sanitation protocols, and enhance the functionality of outdoor spaces to support physical and mental health (Honey-Rosés et al., 2021). The pandemic underscored the need for flexible and adaptive public spaces that can quickly respond to public health crises (Honey-Rosés et al., 2021).

Technological advancements have further influenced the expectations and design principles of professionals. The integration of smart technologies, such as sensors for monitoring air quality and crowd density, has become increasingly important. These technologies help create safer and more responsive public spaces by providing real-time data to manage and maintain these areas (Chitrakar et al., 2022). Moreover, the rise of digital public spaces, such as virtual meeting places and online community forums, has expanded the definition of public spaces and how they are used (Foth et al., 2016).

However, professionals face challenges in meeting these expectations, including the need to balance various design principles, the impact of specialisation and experience on prioritisation, and the lack of comprehensive tools for assessing public space quality (Askari & Soltani, 2019; El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022; Ferwati et al., 2021).

3.5 GENERAL COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES - EXPECTATIONS

The general public's perceptions of safety in public spaces are influenced by gendered and place-based preconditions, with different safety strategies for women and men, especially when alone (Şenol, 2022). For example, a third of all crimes in official statistics were committed in public places, with their structure dominated by theft, plunder, and illegal drug trade (Afanasyeva et al., 2020). The feeling of safety in public spaces is connected to a wider positive evaluation of the quality of space and feeling at home, suggesting that concerns about safety are linked to the overall quality and comfort of the environment (Brands et al., 2021).

When broadly assessing the general community's expectations of public spaces, they are multifaceted and include various aspects such as transparency of information, environmental management, personal safety, and health protection (Jean-Baptiste et al., 2017). Mostly, government-owned public spaces were preferred by users due to easy access and freedom for activities (Peiris & Fayas, 2022). There are some economic Implications of Meeting Community Expectations from Public Spaces. The community expects public spaces to provide business opportunities through public markets and informal selling, and locations for festivals and celebrations that promote a sense of belonging and place attachment as well as transmit cultural practices (Low, 2023). Not only that, during disasters, public spaces become locations of social solidarity and support, and they can be realigned to highlight their importance for socially just cities (Low, 2023). Moreover, public safety concerns, such as well-lit and well-maintained spaces, are paramount for community members, whereas professionals may focus on broader environmental health perspectives (Maas et al., 2009). The emphasis on health protection by the community includes immediate health benefits from public spaces, such as mental health improvements and opportunities for physical activities, which professionals also recognize but often within a wider strategic framework (Francis et al., 2012).

3.6 CHALLENGES IN MEETING COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATIONS OF PUBLIC SPACES

The organisation of public space commonly reflects the priorities of dominant socioeconomic groups, who exercise disproportionate influence over its provision, governance, and material form, potentially undermining the inclusionary character of public space (Collins & Stadler, 2019). Excessive control of public space by community groups can be problematic as it diminishes a user's ability to access open spaces, compromising the public realm (Chitrakar et al., 2022). Additionally, there is often a disconnect between the priorities of urban planning professionals and the localised needs of residents. Professionals may emphasise long-term sustainability and aesthetic considerations, while community members focus on immediate concerns such as safety, accessibility, and practical utility (El-Kholei & Yassein, 2022; Şenol, 2022).

Gentrification is a prime example of this conflict, where urban renewal projects designed to improve public spaces often lead to the displacement of long-standing community members, thereby creating no-access spaces for certain groups (Collins & Stadler, 2019). This can result in the exclusion of marginalised communities from areas intended to serve the public, highlighting the disparity between professional planning goals and community needs (Chitrakar et al., 2022).

Technological advancements pose challenges in meeting community expectations. While smart technologies can enhance safety and convenience, they can raise concerns about privacy and surveillance (Kitchin, 2016). Balancing the benefits of technology with the need to protect individual freedoms and ensure equitable access is a significant challenge for urban planners.

Moreover, the lack of comprehensive instruments to measure the quality of public space poses a challenge in assessing and meeting the diverse expectations of the community from public spaces (Mehta, 2014). Older people's experiences of public places are challenged by physical, social, and legal constraints, leading to specific considerations and disincentivises to be in public places at certain times and in certain ways (Holland, 2015). Moreover, women's experience in public places is challenged by factors such as normalised distaste, fear of crime, and difficulty managing street remarks, requiring gender-conscious appraisal (Gardner, 1989). Hence, there is a need for a redefinition of the notion of public spaces.

4. DISCUSSION

The literature underscores the multifaceted divide between urban planning professionals' emphasis on universal design principles aligned with sustainable development goals and community groups context-specific perceptions rooted in geographical, cultural, and social realities. For instance, while professionals may prioritise creating aesthetically pleasing and sustainable public spaces, community members might focus more on immediate issues such as personal safety and accessibility. Real-world examples, such as gentrification resulting from urban renewal projects and the creation of no-access spaces for certain community groups, illustrate these potential conflicts.

Bridging this disconnect necessitates context-sensitive approaches that integrate localised narratives, identities and placemaking practices rather than imposing universalising paradigms. Crucially, aligning professional expertise with fundamental community expectations around personal safety, accessibility, comfort and fostering a sense of belonging is vital for cultivating ownership and attachment to public spaces. Inclusive, participatory and community-driven processes that centre resident voices through stakeholder engagement, co-design and empowered decision-making are imperative for socially sustainable public realm development responsive to lived experiences. Accommodating the diverse needs and intersectional experiences of different community members based on gender, age, ability and socioeconomic status through equity-focused and accessible design is essential for achieving true inclusivity. Moreover, as societies rapidly evolve alongside technological advancements, cultural shifts and changing societal dynamics, the malleable notion of public space must adapt by re-evaluating how these realms are defined, designed and experienced. Ultimately, revisiting and redefining public spaces should create resonant environments that foster social cohesion, community empowerment and a deep sense of belonging while contributing to sustainability goals by profoundly aligning with the multifaceted identities, values and aspirations of the residents they aim to serve. Based on the above discussion, the conceptual framework shown in Figure 1 has been prepared.

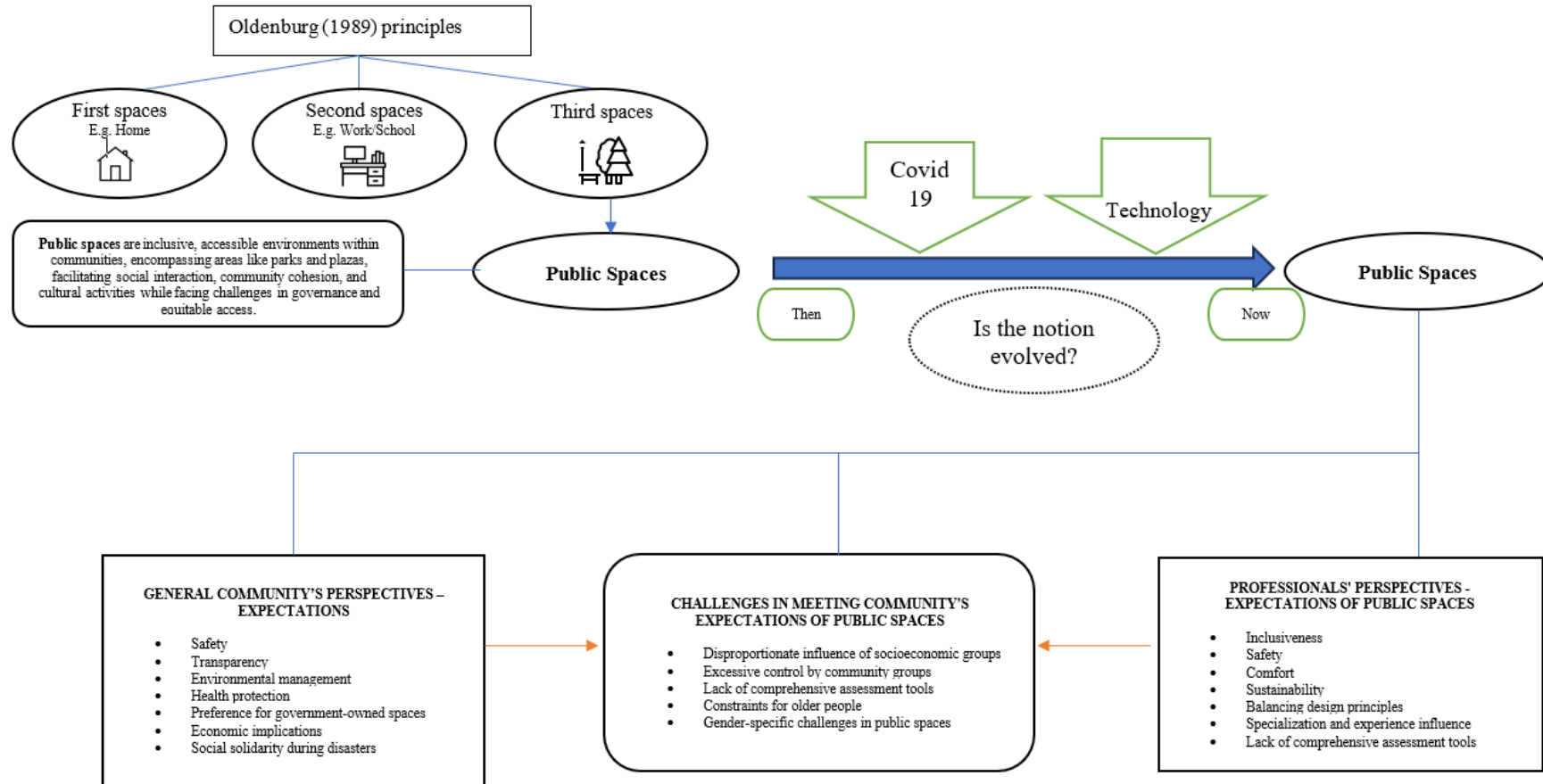


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study explored the differences between urban planning professionals' and community members' perspectives on public spaces, emphasising the need for inclusivity, sustainability, and community impact in public place design and management. The narrative literature review highlighted the multifaceted roles of public spaces in fostering social interaction, cultural expression, and community identity.

The findings underscore the importance of adopting context-sensitive and inclusive design principles that address both professional and community concerns. Urban planners should integrate localised narratives and participatory processes to bridge the gap between professional goals and community needs. This approach will enhance the functionality, safety, and accessibility of public spaces, promoting a sense of belonging and well-being for all community members.

Future research should focus on empirical studies that gather data from diverse communities to validate the findings of this narrative review. Investigating the impact of technological advancements on public space usage and exploring strategies for mitigating the effects of gentrification on marginalised communities are crucial areas for further study. Additionally, longitudinal studies examining the long-term outcomes of inclusive and participatory public space design initiatives would provide valuable insights for urban planners.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors greatly acknowledge the financial support provided by the ENSEMBLE Project in Collaboration with Canada.

7. REFERENCES

- Afanasyeva, O., Goncharova, M., & Shiyan, V. (2020). The condition and trends of crimes committed in public places. *Russian Journal of Criminology*, 13(6), 895–908. [https://doi.org/10.17150/2500-4255.2019.13\(6\).895-908](https://doi.org/10.17150/2500-4255.2019.13(6).895-908)
- Altman, I., & Zube, E. H. (1989). Public transformation, nostalgia, and illusion in public life and public place places and spaces. In M. Brill (Ed.), *Public Places and Spaces* (Vol. 10, pp. 7–29). Springer US. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4684-5601-1>
- Andersson, C. (2021). Public space and the new urban agenda. In *Public Space Reader* (pp. 420–425). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351202558-62>
- Arnberger, A., & Eder, R. (2012). The influence of green space on community attachment of urban and suburban residents. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 11(1), 41–49. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2011.11.003>
- Askari, A. H., & Soltani, S. (2019). Determinants of a successful public open space: the case of Dataran Merdeka in the city centre of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Landscape Research*, 44(2), 162–173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01426397.2018.1427221>
- Błaszczuk, M., Suchocka, M., Wojnowska-Heciak, M., & Muszyńska, M. (2020). Quality of urban parks in the perception of city residents with mobility difficulties. *PeerJ*, 8, e10570. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.10570>
- Brain, D. (2019). Reconstituting the urban commons: public space, social capital and the project of urbanism. *Urban Planning*, 4(2), 169–182. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v4i2.2018>
- Brands, J., Doorn, J. van, & Spithoven, R. (2021). Supplemental safety? exploring experienced safety in relation to other qualities of successful public spaces. *Journal of Urban Design*, 26(1), 59–74. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2020.1819781>

- Cao, Q., Yang, X., Li, S., & Cai, W. (2022). *A Study on the Perception of Public Space in Displaced Relocation*. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.220109.057>
- Carr, S. (2014). Public spaces. In *Authentic Learning for the Digital Generation* (pp. 39–50). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315794808-4>
- Chitrakar, R. M., Baker, D. C., & Guaralda, M. (2022). How accessible are neighbourhood open spaces? Control of public space and its management in contemporary cities. *Cities*, *131*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2022.103948>
- Collins, D., & Stadler, S. L. (2019). Public spaces, Urban. In *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (2nd ed., pp. 103–111). <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-102295-5.10212-4>
- Cranz, G., & Boland, M. (2004). Defining the sustainable park: A fifth model for urban parks. *Landscape Journal*, *23*(2), 102–120. <https://doi.org/10.3368/lj.23.2.102>
- El-Kholei, A. O., & Yassein, G. (2022). Professionals' perceptions for designing vibrant public spaces: Theory and praxis. *Ain Shams Engineering Journal*, *13*(5), 101727. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asej.2022.101727>
- Ewertowski, W. (2023). Public space in different cultural conditions: The cases of Glasgow and Poznań. *Quaestiones Geographicae*, *42*(2), 115–129. <https://doi.org/10.14746/quageo-2023-0019>
- Fallanca, C., & Stagno, E. (2022). Toward the development of a planning protocol for public space for improving health and wellbeing of communities. In F. Calabrò, L. Della Spina, & M. J. Piñeira Mantiñán (Eds.), *Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems* (Vol. 482, pp. 549–558). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06825-6_52
- Foth, M., Hudson-Smith, A., & Gifford, D. (2016). Smart cities, social capital, and citizens at play: a critique and a way forward. In *Research Handbook on Digital Transformations*. Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781784717766.00017>
- Francis, J., Wood, L. J., Knuiman, M., & Giles-Corti, B. (2012). Quality or quantity? exploring the relationship between public open space attributes and mental health in Perth, Western Australia. *Social Science & Medicine*, *74*(10), 1570–1577. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.01.032>
- Frumkin, H. (2003). Healthy places: Exploring the evidence. *American Journal of Public Health*, *93*(9), 1451–1456. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.93.9.1451>
- Gardner, C. B. (1989). Analyzing gender in public places: Rethinking Goffman's vision of everyday life. *The American Sociologist*, *20*(1), 42–56. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02697786>
- Gehl, J., & Matan, A. (2009). Two perspectives on public spaces. *Building Research & Information*, *37*(1), 106–109. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09613210802519293>
- Gonzalez Pampillón, N. (2017). Can urban renewal policies reverse neighborhood ethnic dynamics? *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2919283>
- Green, B. N., Johnson, C. D., & Adams, A. (2006). Writing narrative literature reviews for peer-reviewed journals: secrets of the trade. *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine*, *5*(3), 101–117. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0899-3467\(07\)60142-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0899-3467(07)60142-6)
- Grierson, D. (2009). Towards sustainable building design. *Design Principles and Practices: An International Journal—Annual Review*, *3*(3), 143–152. <https://doi.org/10.18848/1833-1874/CGP/v03i03/37682>
- Ha, S.-K. (2004). Housing renewal and neighborhood change as a gentrification process in Seoul. *Cities*, *21*(5), 381–389. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2004.07.005>
- Holland, C. (2015). Public places and age. In J. Twigg & W. Martin (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology* (pp. 477–484). Routledge. <https://lcn.loc.gov/2008353259>
- Holland, C., Clark, A., Katz, J., & Peace, S. (2007). *Social interactions in urban public places*. Policy Press. <http://oro.open.ac.uk/7445>
- Honey-Rosés, J., Anguelovski, I., Chireh, V. K., Daher, C., Konijnendijk van den Bosch, C., Litt, J. S., Mawani, V., McCall, M. K., Orellana, A., Oscilowicz, E., Sánchez, U., Senbel, M., Tan, X., Villagomez, E., Zapata, O., & Nieuwenhuijsen, M. J. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on public space: an early review of the emerging questions – design, perceptions and inequities. *Cities & Health*, *5*(sup1), S263–S279. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2020.1780074>

- Hummon, D. M., & Oldenburg, R. (1991). The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Community Centers, Beauty Parlors, General Stores, Bars, Hangouts, and How They Get You Through the Day. *Social Forces*, 69(3), 931. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2579492>
- İnce Güney, Y. (2014). Gender and urban space: An examination of a small anatolian city | Toplumsal cinsiyet ve kamusal mekan: Bir Anadolu kenti incelemesi. *A/Z ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, 11(2), 153–172. Retrieved July 1, 2024, from <https://www.az.itu.edu.tr/index.php/jfa/article/view/460>
- Jean-Baptiste, M., Daniau, C., & Perrey, C. (2017). What the local community and an environmental organization expect of the public authorities about the Salindres industrial site: A comparative analysis. *Environnement, Risques et Sante*, 16(3), 247–258. <https://doi.org/10.1684/ers.2017.1018>
- Kaplan, S. (1995). The restorative benefits of nature: Toward an integrative framework. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 15(3), 169–182. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0272-4944\(95\)90001-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0272-4944(95)90001-2)
- Karuppappan, S., & Sivam, A. (2013). Comparative analysis of utilisation of open space at neighbourhood level in three Asian cities: Singapore, Delhi and Kuala Lumpur. *URBAN DESIGN International*, 18(2), 145–164. <https://doi.org/10.1057/udi.2012.34>
- Kim, W., Lee, S., Chang, Y., Lee, T., Hwang, I., & Song, J. (2021). Facilitating in-situ shared use of IoT actuators in public spaces. *Proceedings of the 19th Annual International Conference on Mobile Systems, Applications, and Services*, 497–498. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3458864.3468444>
- Kitchin, R. (2016). The ethics of smart cities and urban science. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*, 374(2083), 20160115. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2016.0115>
- La Greca, P., La Rosa, D., Martinico, F., & Privitera, R. (2011). Agricultural and green infrastructures: The role of non-urbanised areas for eco-sustainable planning in a metropolitan region. *Environmental Pollution*, 159(8–9), 2193–2202. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2010.11.017>
- Low, S. (2023). Why public space matters. In *Why Public Space Matters*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197543733.001.0001>
- Maas, J., Spreeuwenberg, P., van Winsum-Westra, M., Verheij, R. A., Vries, S., & Groenewegen, P. P. (2009). Is green space in the living environment associated with people's feelings of social safety? *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 41(7), 1763–1777. <https://doi.org/10.1068/a4196>
- Malá, M., Sýkorová, M., & Felicioni, L. (2022). How municipalities should approach the transformation of public spaces. *Acta Polytechnica CTU Proceedings*, 38, 635–641. <https://doi.org/10.14311/APP.2022.38.0635>
- Malik, A., Akbar, R., Maryati, S., & Natalivan, P. (2018). Spatial analysis related to the location characteristics of park supply. Case study: Music Park and Pendawa Park, Bandung City, Indonesia. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 158(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/158/1/012028>
- Mantey, D., & Kępkowicz, A. (2018). Types of Public Spaces: The Polish contribution to the discussion of suburban public space. *The Professional Geographer*, 70(4), 633–654. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2018.1443475>
- Marche, G. (2015). What can urban gardening really do about gentrification? A case-study of three San Francisco community gardens. *European Journal of American Studies*, 10(3). <https://doi.org/10.4000/ejas.11316>
- Mehta, V. (2014). Evaluating public space. *Journal of Urban Design*, 19(1), 53–88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2013.854698>
- Olwig, K. R. (1989). Life between buildings: Using public space. *Landscape Journal*, 8(1), 54–55. <https://doi.org/10.3368/lj.8.1.54>
- Omodan, B. I., & Abejide, S. O. (2022). Reconstructing Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs towards inclusive infrastructure development needs assessment. *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*, 6(2), 1483. <https://doi.org/10.24294/jipd.v6i2.1483>
- Özbayraktar, M., Pekdemir, M., & Mirzaliyeva, G. (2017). Spatial character analysis of streets as public spaces: The case of Izmit Hurriyet and Cumhuriyet Street, Turkey. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, 245(7). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/245/7/072019>

- Peiris, M. T. O. V., & Fayas, M. (2022). Assessment of user perception on public and private spaces within urban context. *International Journal of Built Environment and Sustainability*, 9(2), 47–59. <https://doi.org/10.11113/ijbes.v9.n2.938>
- Peters, K., Elands, B., & Buijs, A. (2010). Social interactions in urban parks: Stimulating social cohesion? *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 9(2), 93–100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2009.11.003>
- Salim Ferwati, M., Keyvanfar, A., Shafaghat, A., & Ferwati, O. (2021). A quality assessment directory for evaluating multi-functional public spaces. *Architecture and Urban Planning*, 17(1), 136–151. <https://doi.org/10.2478/aup-2021-0013>
- Santi, G., Leporelli, E., & Di Sivo, M. (2019). Improving sustainability in architectural research: Biopsychosocial requirements in the design of urban spaces. *Sustainability*, 11(6), 1585. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11061585>
- Searns, R. M. (1995). The evolution of greenways as an adaptive urban landscape form. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 33(1–3), 65–80. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-2046\(94\)02014-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0169-2046(94)02014-7)
- Şenol, F. (2022). Gendered sense of safety and coping strategies in public places: A study in Atatürk Meydanı of Izmir. *Archnet-IJAR: International Journal of Architectural Research*, 16(3), 554–574. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-08-2021-0213>
- Simões Aelbrecht, P., Stevens, Q., & Kumar, S. (2022). European public space projects with social cohesion in mind: symbolic, programmatic and minimalist approaches. *European Planning Studies*, 30(6), 1093–1123. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2021.1959902>
- Spaces, P. for P. (2015). Placemaking and the future of cities. In 6th (Ed.), *The City Reader* (Issue United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), pp. 673–684). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315748504-83>
- Stanley, D. (2003). What do we know about social cohesion: The research perspective of the federal government's social cohesion research network. *Canadian Journal of Sociology / Cahiers Canadiens de Sociologie*, 28(1), 5. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3341872>
- Ulrich, R. S., Simons, R. F., Losito, B. D., Fiorito, E., Miles, M. A., & Zelson, M. (1991). Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 11(3), 201–230. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944\(05\)80184-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0272-4944(05)80184-7)
- Weidemann, S., Anderson, J. R., Butterfield, D. I., & O'Donnell, P. M. (1982). Residents' perceptions of satisfaction and safety. *Environment and Behavior*, 14(6), 695–724. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916582146004>
- Wheeler, S. M. (2016). Response to Nico Larco's sustainable urban design framework. *Journal of Urban Design*, 21(1), 47–49. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2016.1114381>
- Whyte, W. H. (2009). The social life of small urban spaces. In *Common Ground?* (pp. 42–49). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203873960-9>
- Zick, T. (2006). Clouds, cameras, and computers: The first amendment and networked public places. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.924614>
- Zimmerman, C., Hansen, K., & Vatrapu, R. (2014). A theoretical model for digital reverberations of city spaces and public places. *International Journal of Electronic Government Research*, 10(1), 46–62. <https://doi.org/10.4018/ijegr.2014010104>