

Urban Design Elements and Values



Prepared by the staff

Urban Design Elements

What is **urban design**?

- Urban design is the process of **designing** and **shaping** cities, towns and villages.
- **Architecture**, focuses on the **design of individual buildings**,
 - **Urban design** deals with the larger scale of **groups of buildings, streets and public spaces, whole neighborhoods and districts, and entire cities**
 - Urban design occurs across **all parts of a city, from the inner city to the suburbs and outer metropolitan fringe.**

the **goal of Urban Design** is making urban areas:

- ❖ **Functional,**
- ❖ **Attractive,**
- ❖ **sustainable.**



➤ the outcomes of **urban design** are:

➤ Design of **‘people places’**

➤ City-wide **transport** and infrastructure **networks**,

➤ **urban infill** projects,

➤ regional **towns**,

➤ new **suburban developments**,

➤ **shopping malls, streets, office blocks, university campuses**
and **hospitals**

ELEMENTS OF URBAN DESIGN

➤ Urban Design involves the design and coordination of all that makes up cities and towns:

➤ 1. Buildings

- Buildings are the most **marked** elements of **urban design**.
- They **shape** and **articulate space** by forming the **street edges** of the city.
- Well designed **buildings** and **groups of buildings** work together to create a **sense of place**.



Buildings

Commercial



Residential



Mixed-use



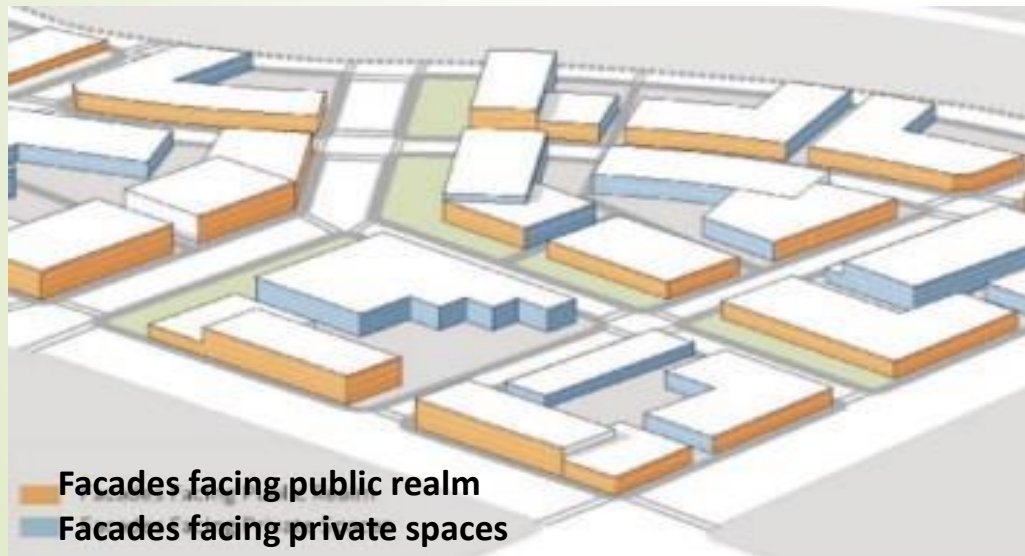
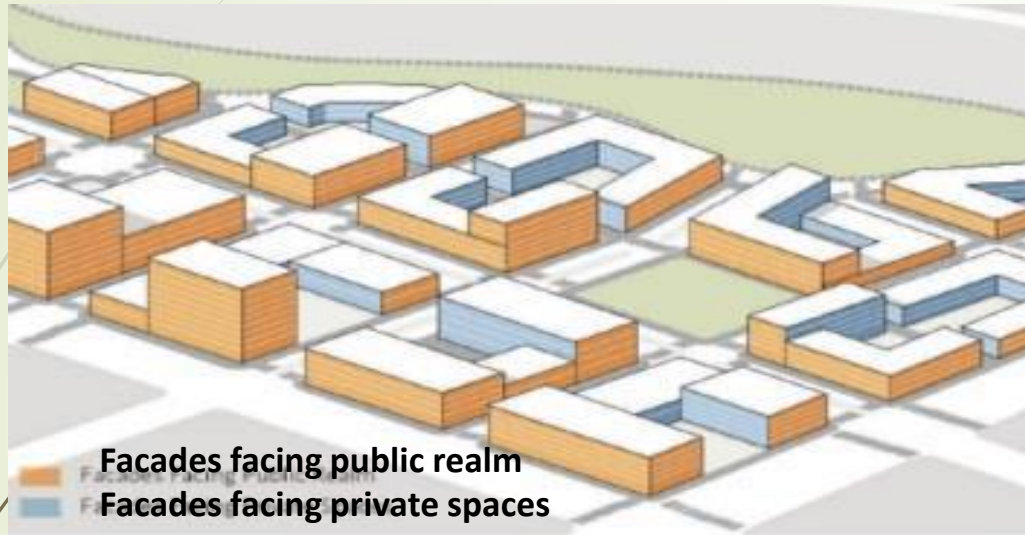
Industrial



Religious



The relationship between mass and space gives a sense of place.



2. Public Spaces

- Great public spaces are the **living room of the city** - the place where people come together to **enjoy the city** and **each other**.
- Public spaces make **high quality life** in the city possible .
- They form the stage and backdrop to the drama of life.
- Public spaces range from **grand central plazas** and **squares**, to **small, local neighborhood parks**.



Plaza:

A plaza is an **open urban public space, or gathering Space** such as a city square.



Green Areas: Green space or open space reserve, Protected areas of undeveloped landscape.



Play Grounds: A play grounds is an **outdoor area provided for children** to play on, especially at a school or public park.

Parks:

A park is a large public green area in a town, used for recreation.



Square

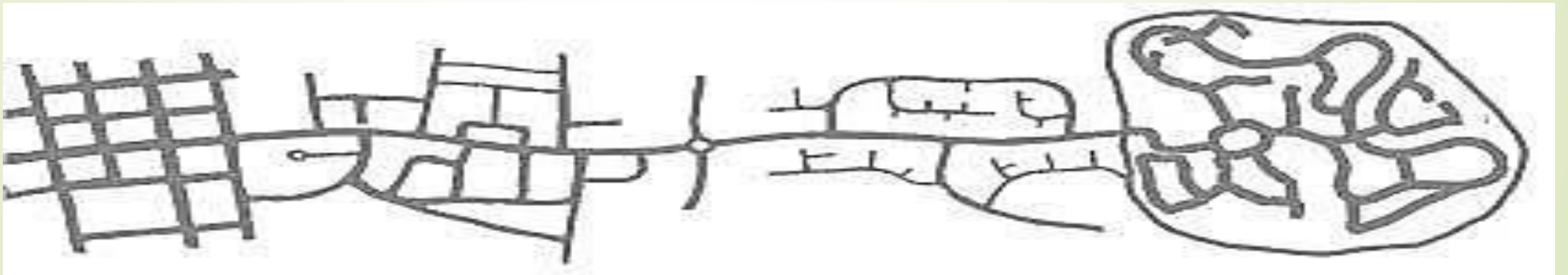




3. Urban Streets & its furniture

- Streets are the **connections** between **spaces and places**, as well as being **spaces** themselves.
- They are defined by their **physical dimension** and **character** as well as the **size, scale, and character of the buildings** that line them.
- Streets range from grand avenues such as the Champs-Élysées in Paris to small, intimate pedestrian streets.
- The **pattern of the street** network is part of what defines a city and what makes each city unique.





Collector, Local, Access

BOULEVARD

**a type of large ROAD,
usually running through
a city.**



Boulevard

Multilane arterial thoroughfare, divided with a median down the center, and perhaps with roadways along each side designed as slow travel and parking lanes and for bicycle and pedestrian usage, often with an above-average quality of landscaping and scenery.



Main street

It is usually a focal point for shops and retailers in the central business district, and is often used in reference to retailing and socializing.



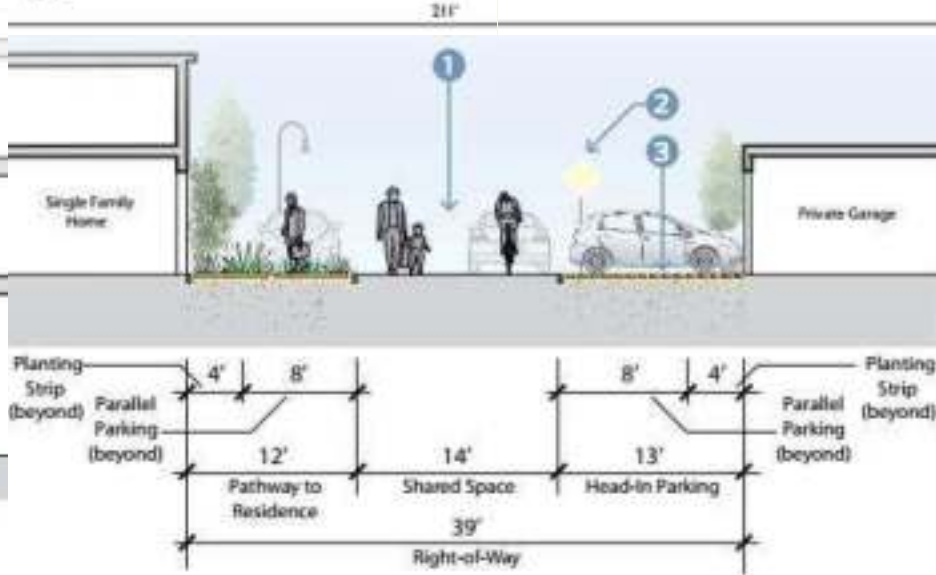
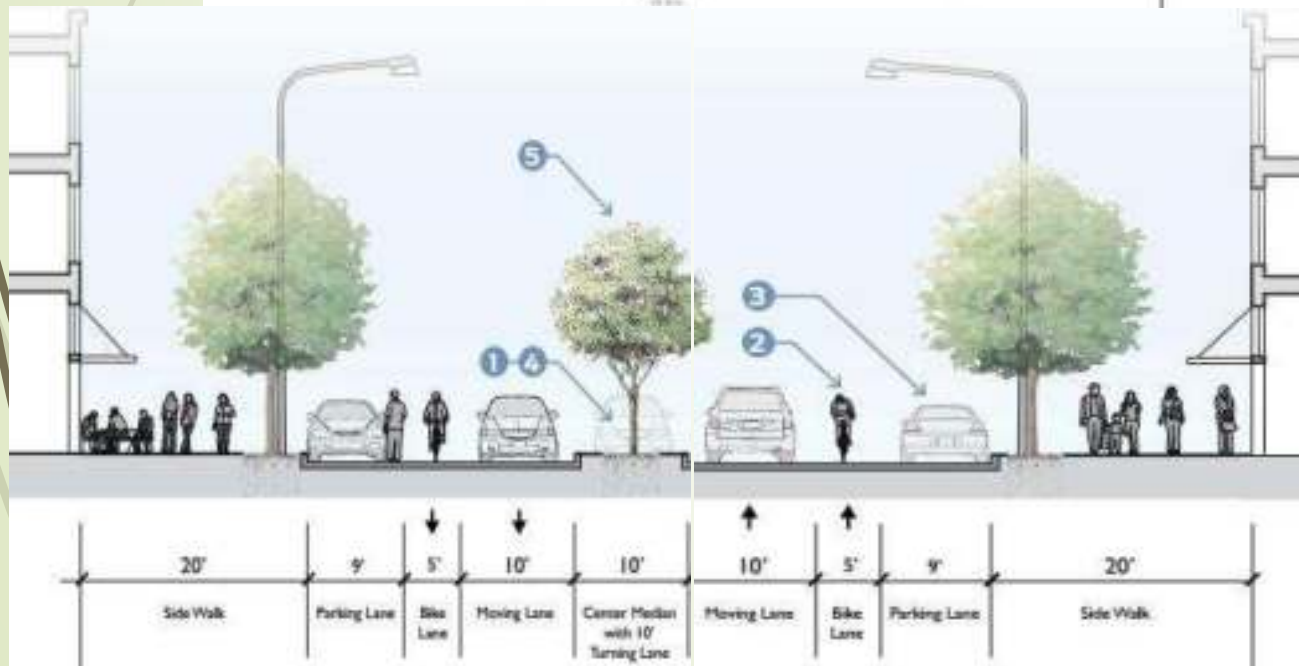
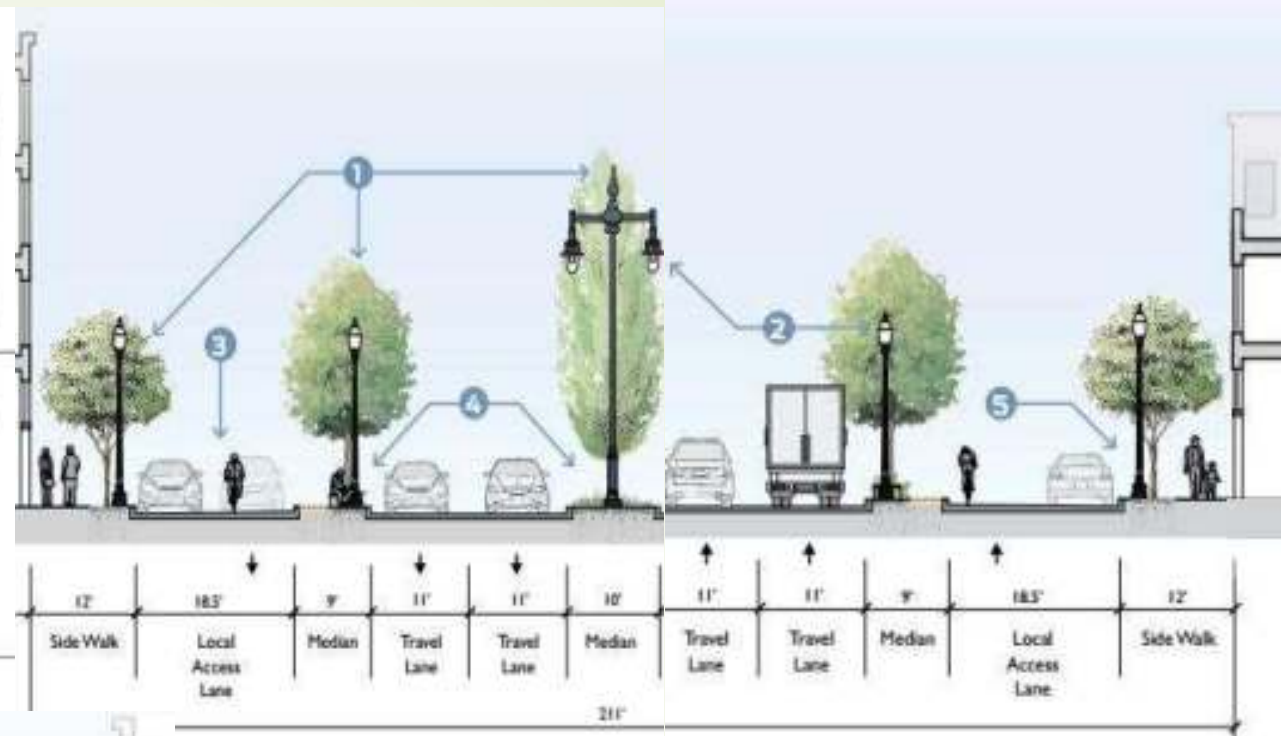


Alley

**a narrow passageway between
or behind buildings**



walkways



4. Transportation

- Transportation systems **connect** the parts of cities and help **shape** them, and enable **movement** throughout the city.
- They include **road, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian networks**, and together form the total movement system of a city.
- The **balance** of these various transport systems is **what helps define the quality and character of cities**, and makes them either friendly or hostile to pedestrians.
- The best cities are the ones that **elevate the experience of the pedestrian** while minimizing the dominance of the private automobile.



Pedestrian Movement

Vehicular Movement





Tram



Bicycle



Bus



Private Car

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are also considered transport since it allows pedestrian to go to other places.



5. Landscape

- The **landscape** is the green part of the city that weaves throughout - in the form of **urban parks, street trees, plants, flowers, and water** in many forms.
- The **landscape** helps define the character and beauty of a city and creates **soft, contrasting spaces and elements**.
- Green spaces in cities range from **grand parks** such as **Central Park in New York City** and the **Washington DC Mall**, to small intimate **pocket parks**.



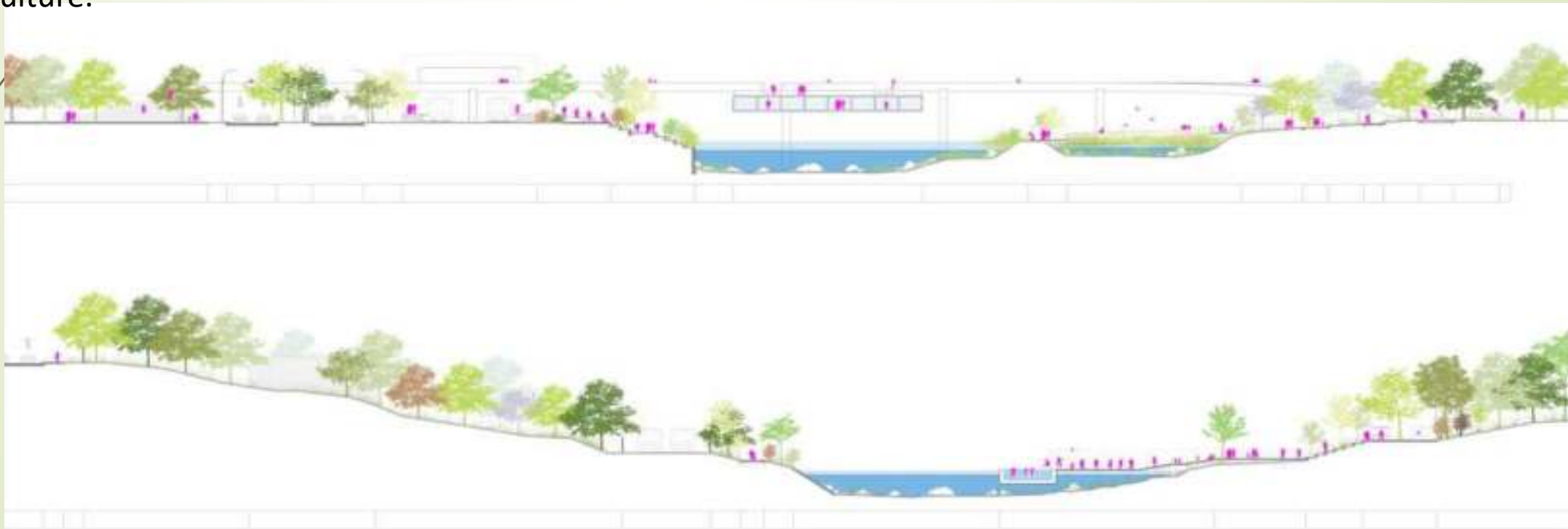
Naturalistically

A natural landscape is the Original landscape that exists before it is acted upon by human culture.



Formally ordered

A landscape that are made artificially



CENTRAL PARK

Central Park is one of those places that make New York such a great place to live.

The huge park, 341 hectare large (843 acres), is located in the center of Manhattan. Its design has served as an example for city parks around the world.




POCKET PARK

It is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land.

They also may be created as a component of the public space requirement of large building projects.

building projects.





**Trees along
boulevard
Bradford pear
trees along
Wilson Boulevard
in
Rochester,
New York**



Planters along the sidewalk



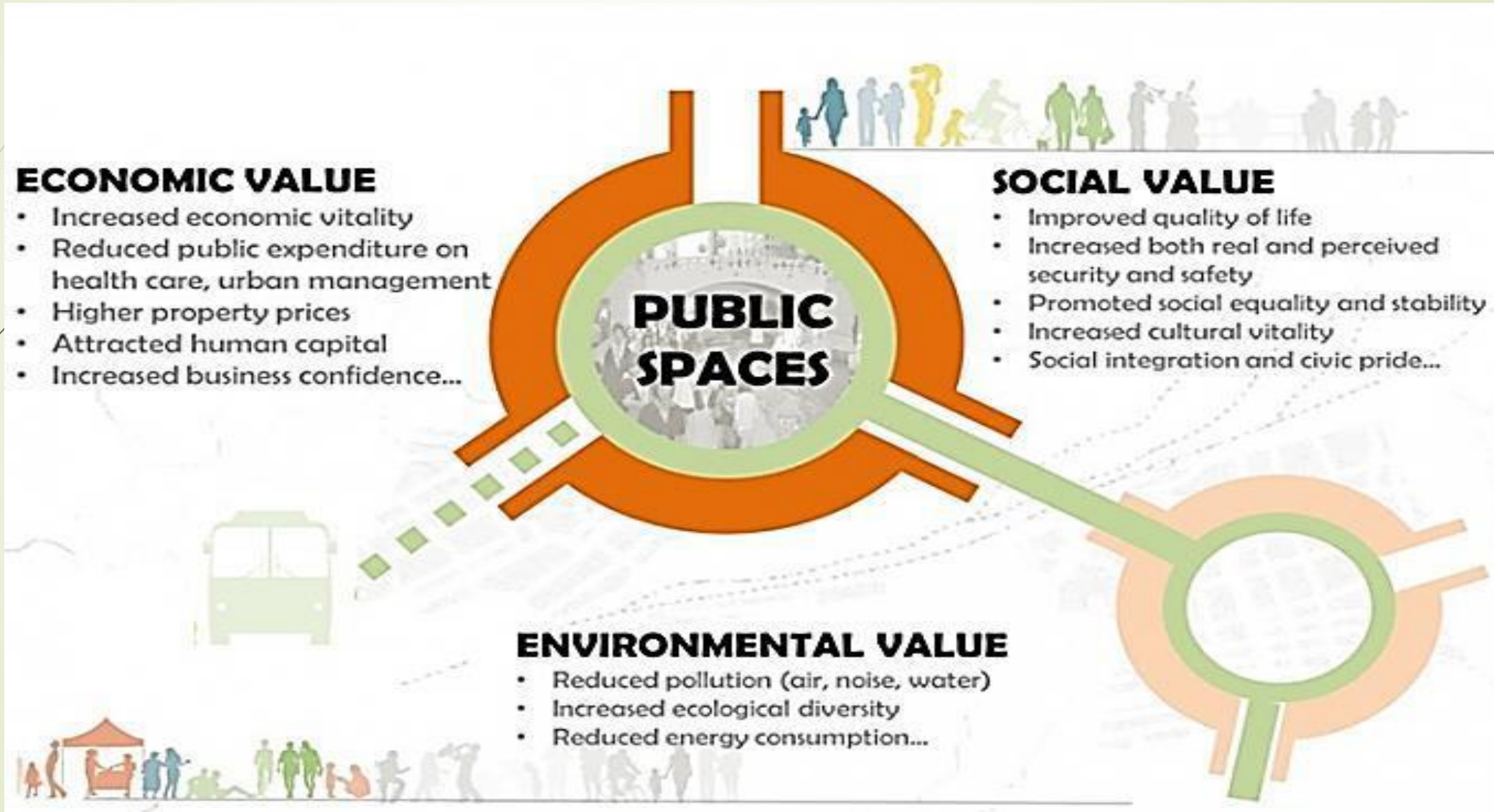
Urban Design weaves together these elements into a coherent, organized design structure.



Values and Benefits of Urban Design

- It is now widely accepted that:
- **well designed and well managed public spaces** are the vital assets for a city's livability and sustainable development,
- And have **social, health, environmental and economic** short and long term benefits
- **Poor urban design** may:
- lower the **quality of life**,
- Limit **employment opportunities**.
- and generate a wide range of **unsustainable costs** for the **community** and the **city as a whole**.

Value & Benefits of **Public Space**



Social values (good public spaces).

- 1. Enhances **social interaction** and user participation.
- 2. **Caters to all**, and especially the aging population.
- 3. Encourages a more **outdoor lifestyle**.
- 4. Fosters a **sense of belonging** and pride in an area.
- 5. Increase perceptions of **safety and security** within and beyond developments.
- 6. Provides opportunities for **physical activity*** and play.
- 7. Enhances the attractiveness of routes for **walking and cycling**, encouraging healthier lifestyle.
- 8. **Reduces road accidents** through appropriately managing different transport modes and prioritizing the pedestrian, etc.

2. Economic Benefits

- 1. **attract** local visitors and tourist.
- 2. **Responding** to occupiers demands requirements of users.
- 3. **Attracting investment** through high quality improvements.
- 4. Producing **high returns on investments** (enhancing rental and capital value* through good urban design).
- 5. **Reducing management, maintenance, energy and security costs.**
- 6. **Diversity** in places and raising their prestige, etc.

3. Environmental Benefits

- Investment in public space contributes to **environmental sustainability** by:
- 1. Reducing the impact of climate change.
- 2. Creating more **energy efficient** and **less polluting** development.
- 3. Minimizing **carbon emissions** through the choice of materials and construction technologies, as well as through the encouragement of **walking and cycling**.



Thank You