LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS

Using public spaces

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Outdoor activities create the public scene life

DEPENDING ON:

Physical environment
- Weather
- Quality of space

Types of outdoors activities
- recurring event
- Spontaneous, informal
- Societal movement

Place de la République - PARIS
3 Types of outdoors activities

1° NECESSARY ACTIVITIES: compulsory, everyday tasks and pastimes

- Going to work
- School
- Shopping

Throughout the year: no choice.
3 Types of outdoors activities

2° OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES : wishes

- Taking a walk
- Standing around
- Sunbathing

Depends on time, place, weather
**3 Types of outdoors activities**

3º SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: *depends on the presence of others in public spaces*

- children at play
- greetings
- conversation
- communal activities
- **passive contact**
Outdoors activities - Where?

- Dwellings
- Private outdoors places
- Public buildings
- Publicly accessible spaces

Giving better conditions in public spaces allows more interactions and SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

URBAN DESIGN creates the primer form of social space: MEET, SEE AND HEAR PEOPLE is the starting point.
When optional activities meet social activities

PEOPLE WALK, SIT, THEN TALK

LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS AND THE NEED FOR CONTACT
- meeting and daily activities in a public space
- see and hear contact leads to more complex connections
Varying degrees of contact

NEED FOR PUBLIC SPACE TO BE ABLE TO HOST REGULAR / SPONTANEOUS MEETINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

The quality of a public space can generate an evolution of relationships between neighbors.

From formal greetings to friendship through public space. Getting closer to someone may mean meeting at different public spaces. Low intensity contact allows other forms of contact to grow.
Evolution of the use of public spaces

What happened to the public space where you could meet potential new friends? We need spaces for a PREREQUISITE CONTACT.

IF ACTIVITY BETWEEN BUILDINGS IS MISSING, THE LOWER END OF THE CONTACT SCALE ALSO DISAPPEARS.
FEELING SAFE in a public space makes you want to take potential DETOURS and spend extra UNPLANNED time outside.

The city has to offer a scene to look at with various activities.
Informal spaces

Spaces to cover the unpredictable, the spontaneous, the unplanned forms of contact.
BENCHES, WAITING FOR BUS, BEING PRESENT IN THE SAME SPACE...

SEE AND HEAR: making people curious about each other’s public lives.

A person we have often met on the streets becomes a person we know.

Benches are way more popular if they face at an urban scene than if they are isolated.
STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND PLACES IN BETWEEN PRIVATE LANDS are there to MAINTAIN ESTABLISHED CONTACTS:

- meetings planned on a short notice, involving neighbors, coworkers...
- DROP BY : meet on the streets. Daily activities around home, place of work.

SPACE TO GATHER between WORK and GOING HOME to an intimate environment.

Situations are then allowed to develop.
No more bland urban sprawl

GET RID OF :
- Lifeless cities
- Segregation
- Reliance on automobile
- Uniform landscape and activity
- Urban grid
Towards a stronger community life

Recreate small cities inside the city rather than expand the city through big axes. Focus on the community, and shared spaces through different fields: food, parks, social events...

No moment is like the previous or the following when people circulate among people.

Life between buildings starts with people more than with buildings themselves.

Offer multiples spaces that enable a continuous web of urban sceneries through people and time.

People should be able to freely appropriate public space

Use the little scale.
GET INSPIRED AND INFLUENCED FROM EACH OTHER’S ACTIONS

Having some short-lived gatherings: art show, educative event, local food discovery...
Activities that federate a community

Banks and office regroup less more people at their front window than other businesses:

- Newspaper kiosk
- Photography exhibit
- Clothing stores
- Movie theater

- various human activities that went on in the street space itself

Buildings and activities should expand to streets, go outdoors, extend the time you just spent inside...
Community buildings expand outdoors as an art scenery

LIFE IN BUILDINGS AND BETWEEN BUILDINGS SEEMS IN NEARLY ALL SITUATIONS TO RANK AS MORE ESSENTIAL AND MORE RELEVANT THAN THE SPACES AND BUILDING THEMSELVES.
Outdoor activities and quality of outdoor spaces

- Patterns of activities so every member of the community can feel concerned
- Living city = living community

- Closing some streets to vehicular traffic increases the pedestrian traffic
  LESS NOISE
  MORE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
  SAFER (kids, cycling paths...)

People walking, sitting, watching events, playing music and talking together.

HIGH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND THE QUALITY OF OUTDOOR SPACES.