

Learning Places Summer 2016

# **Annotated Bibliography**

## **What Makes a Public Space Public?**

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**Neil Seenarine**

**Sotir Zhupa**

Neil Seenarine

American Planning Association. (n.d). Characteristics and Guidelines of Great Public Spaces. Great Places In America: Public Spaces. Retrieved from <https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/spaces/characteristics.htm>

This article describes what is a public space and gives guidelines on how a space can qualify as a great public space. It gives many examples of the classifications or categories of great public spaces that is known. First the article establishes an idea of what a public space could be, then it continues to give guidelines for a public space by asking questions based on features, elements, activities and sociability. The article then designates characteristics of great public spaces and asks more questions but in a rhetoric form to give guidance on how to make a great public space.

This article contributed to architecture section of the podcast by giving a better definition and understanding of what a public is. It gave a definition that allowed the integration of the architecture section into the podcast which was quoted and referred to while talking. One message that the article gave is that a public space gives a sense of community by being able to accommodate everyone and this message was given in the architecture section. Accommodation comfort and safety are points that was pulled from this article but it also refers to value to the community and purpose and use sections as well.

Noorul Ain

Buchwach, A. , Brian Stone, Jr. , (2012, May 4). Using public spaces freely ( Ownership and management of public spaces) Retrieved from [https://smartech.gatech.edu/bitstream/handle/1853/43465/AllisonBuchwach\\_Using%20Public%20Spaces%20Freely.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://smartech.gatech.edu/bitstream/handle/1853/43465/AllisonBuchwach_Using%20Public%20Spaces%20Freely.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

This paper explains what are public spaces and what is the purpose of public spaces. It explains that a public space is public when it can be accessible for anyone. It should be welcoming, having entrance accessibility and seating area. It should also be clean and secure. Markets and art shows should be allowed as well. It also talks about ownerships of public spaces, like privately owned or publicly owned. It means if the place is privately owned, it has more regulations and less hours of use. It is sure to have cameras installed and security around the area. If it is publicly owned, it's fewer rules, but wouldn't have very good management, or proper security and public cleaning. Another thing is that people can go there whenever they want in that space. Also it discusses that privately owned management build less public spaces because they want money.

This paper talks more about the ownership of public spaces, which is the first section of our podcast. Ownership of any public space is really important. And now more public spaces are run by private management, so this paper explains it very well how the privately and public management affect any space. Also it discusses ,like in our podcast, that not only the city owns all public spaces, there are always private owned public spaces. An example of this can be privately non-profit companies, but they are public. There are also places we used like in our podcast, Bryant Park, that is a public space but there is no public money involved in it.

Devin Guerrero

Dena Levitz,(Oct. 26, 2011), Paying for Public Parks, Retrieved from [http://www.citylab.com/politics/2011/10/paying-public-parks/355/#disqus\\_thread](http://www.citylab.com/politics/2011/10/paying-public-parks/355/#disqus_thread) .

In "Paying for Public Parks", Dena Levitz addresses how budget deficits in free public places will result in the contemplation of charging people to use these public spaces. Ms. Levitz provides examples of what budget deficits these public places are going through which is why the public should begin paying to enter these places, for example, due to a wildfire in the Botanical gardens, located at the Golden Gate, charging people to enter this public space is a necessity to restore this particular space.

This article relates to our podcast which is, what makes a space public. What makes a space public has to do with many factors, including the cost or fee to enter this space. This articles discusses the pros and cons of certain cost and fees individuals have to abide by to enter this place. This article has helped me expose information on the cost or fee to enter a place, which is a main factor in determining what makes a space public.

Noorul Ain

Four key qualities of a successful place. (n.d.). Retrieved December 17, 2016, from <http://www.placemakingchicago.com/about/qualities.asp>

This article talks about the four qualities which makes any public space a successful public place. Those four things are access, which means the place should be easy to access and anyone can go there whenever they want. The place should be comfortable , which explains it should be clean, and having comfortable places to sit like benches and chairs. Also, Activities such as having concerts, community art, and shows make a space successful because these events welcome people to the space.The last thing is sociability, which includes people who see their friends and neighbors, and they should feel comfortable at the public place.

This article is related to our podcast because our podcast talks about what makes a public space public. This article explains what elements makes public spaces public, like accessibility, activities, and how comfortable people feel to using the space. In our podcast we explained the same elements, meaning places should be accessible for anyone and for activities such as concerts protests, arts and markets. A public space should be attractive to the eyes and very welcoming. Finally, it should be for everyone, meaning it should be a social place for people to interact with each other comfortably.

Devin Guerrero

Rownfree, Joseph. (May,2006) The social value of public spaces, retrieved from <https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/2050-public-space-community.pdf>

In the Social Value of Public spaces, Joseph Rownfree discussed how a free public space is beneficial & impactful to the locals in the community. A free public spaces encourages people to extend their knowledge and familiarity with their locality. In addition, it helps create a wider sense of attachment and discovery, along with fun. At paid public locations, some have the opportunity to relate to this, but many can't. This relates to my podcast in many ways, and one example Is the Price increase at Yosemite park, one of our Biggest parks, resulted in many locals to not come back. If it were a free public spaces, everyone can have the chance to extend their knowledge and familiarity with their locality which is beneficial.

Neil Seenarine

McColl, L. (2002). Making spaces places: creative activities can make idle public spaces engaging centres of civic life. (Saving Place). *Alternatives Journal*, 28(3), 21+. Retrieved from [http://go.galegroup.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=cuny\\_nytc&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA89810059&asid=fbce57a01e9f669bfc262a485a27de7e](http://go.galegroup.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=cuny_nytc&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA89810059&asid=fbce57a01e9f669bfc262a485a27de7e)

This article conveys that public spaces are shared spaces and emphasizes that it is for the community. It defines good public spaces as places that encourages us to be free, elevate ourselves from being publicly separated, helps us to socialize and experience other cultures. The article gives three criteria's for designing a good public space but states that the designer is not the primary person that contribute to good public spaces. The author shows with examples, that making a good public space is also the responsibility of the community and that any space can be transformed into a public space.

This article contributed to the architecture section of our podcast since it gave three factors for the design of public spaces. It does not focus on the architecture or design of public spaces but it did ask a similar question and answered it with the three criteria's which would have to be included in the architecture of the space. The main focus of this article was on the community and how it can affect any public space thus also contributing to the section on the value to the community. It also touched on the purpose and use of spaces since it shows that even a sidewalk can be a good public space.

Bryan Ortiz

@pps\_placemaking. "Home." *Project for Public Spaces*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Nov. 2016.  
<http://pps.org/reference/grplacefeat>

This article talks about what makes a successful space in general terms. It lists off the different qualities that make it successful, such as accessibility, activities, a place that is comfortable, and sociability. It even has a whole diagram which show keywords and examples in each category. After the diagram, it asks questions in each category and answers those questions.

This helped my podcast a lot because the questions helped me question our topics and what I could say about it. During our discussion about our topic, this article helped me ask questions with my colleagues and helped them in their topics as well.

Sotir Zhupa

Shrem, J. (2012). Impact of Public Libraries on Students and Lifelong Learners. *New York Comprehensive Center Educational Technology Team*, Retrieved from [http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/nyla/nycc\\_public\\_library\\_brief.pdf](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/nyla/nycc_public_library_brief.pdf)

This source is an informational brief on the impact of public libraries on students and lifelong learners. It was prepared by the New York Comprehensive Educational Technology Team, written by Jonathan Shrem, and published in October of 2004. This article talks about how early childhood learning opportunities in libraries can affect a child's development in school and how the exposure to different types of materials and digital literacy, because in the 21 st century everything is becoming digitalized and is an important skill to know. Along with this the article discusses opportunities that are provided by public libraries such as summer programs and after school tutoring programs that help students advance in school.

This source was important in the value to the community section of my the podcast because I talked about how public libraries give kids a chance to explore new reading material and also gives children that don't have computer at home an opportunity to learn how to use them. I also used this article when talking about tutoring programs in many public libraries that help kids in subjects where they are struggling in. This article exemplified the value of a public space, namely libraries, on a community and more specifically kids.

Bryan Ortiz

Walsh, R. W. (2006). Union Square Park. *Economic Development Journal*, Vol. 5(2), pg 38-46. Retrieved from <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu:2048/ehost/detail/detail?vid=7&sid=53c4780d-d90b-4066-ba05-a7a491a6161a%40sessionmgr4006&hid=4109&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhtvc3QtbG12ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRI#AN=21259740&db=a9h>

This journal talks about the ways that Union Square park was worked upon and was remade into the space we all know. Robert Walsh talks about how institutions and corporations with strong leaders helped bring this area into a fantastic shopping and residential center in NYC. From the very beginning in the 1830s, it was a park mostly for those who lived in the area. As it expanded, the revitalization began in the 1970s by groups such as the BID ( Business Improvement District) who worked to improve the park and the neighborhood surrounding it.

This journal helped me understand the ways these groups improved Union Square into what it is. With the journal's examples, I learned what it takes to make a public space public, such as giving something to do, and making the space comfortable so more people will visit.

Sotir Zhupa

Woolley, Helen., Rose, S. (2004, March). The Value of Public Space: How High Quality Parks and Public Spaces Create Economic, Social and Environmental Value. *Cabe Space*, Retrieved from <https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/the-value-of-public-space1.pdf>

This is a report that talks about different ways public spaces have value in the world and how they benefit people around them. Some of the aspects it discusses, that related to my section, are economic value, benefits for children and young people and social dimensions of public spaces. In the economic values it shows that if a public space is free to enter than it provides an opportunity for low income families to have access to fun as well as needed resources. A point that I made in the podcast if a family can't afford internet at home then they can send their kids to a public library to complete any school work they might have. As for the benefits to children and young people the report talks about how children need a place to play, they give the example of parks, but can be related to other building too I gave the example of when I was a kid I would go to the library to play computer games.

The last part of the source which I used in my podcast is the social dimensions, this refers to how public spaces bring people together in a community. I used the example of the community center in my neighborhood and how they hold morning and afternoon meals for the elderly. This brings the elderly together and gives them an opportunity to socialize with people of their own age and sometimes ethnicity,

giving them a sense of belonging especially if they have lost their spouse and children don't talk to them often.