

Jane's Walk-2010

Urban & Community Design: *Place Making Evaluation Tool*

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Urban & community design is concerned with the relationship between buildings, streets, and open space in a city, town or village. It can focus on a variety of scales. On a small scale, for instance, it might focus on the relationship between a street, sidewalk, front yard, porch, and house and how they work together to foster a sense of intimacy and comfort. At a district level, sustainable urban design is about creating a vibrant area that has activities occurring on a 24-hour basis, or that at least offers this potential.

Mixed-use neighbourhoods have housing, shops and services and offices close by which can create that 24-hour potential. It's not necessary for the space between buildings to be used the full 24 hours, but it makes it a safer place if there is the potential for residents to poke their heads out or come back late in the evening to discourage criminal or anti-social behaviour. This mix of uses creates a healthier, walkable community.

With a variety of spaces programmed into the ground floors of buildings – such as verandas in the case of houses and fruit markets and cafés in the case of commercial areas – the spaces between buildings can be lively and fun, as well as safe.

Parks also need to be programmed for a variety of activities, containing elements like a kids' playground, nature walk, and chess seating area. It is best if these elements are layered in the same area so that the park space is well used by many.

Neighbourhood	Granville Island	Granville South	Delamont East Kitsilano
1. Is there a mix of buildings in the area that allow a person to get their everyday errands done by walking? Ie, residential, retail /commercial, office, services, recreational			
2. Is there a good transition between private spaces, semi-private, semi-public and public spaces?			
3. Are there opportunities for 'eyes on the street', ie, casual surveillance by neighbours?			
4. Is there a 'sense of place' or unique identity or heritage? Is there a sense of specialness?			
5. Are there visual cues that this neighbourhood is well loved and taken care of?			

Streetscapes	Granville Island	Granville South	Delamont East Kitsilano
6. Do you feel comfortable on this street, is there a sense of intimacy? ie, public/private spaces transitions			
7. a) Is the residential streetscape (architecture & the soft/hard landscape) interesting? Are there doors facing onto the street, about every 25'? Are there patios(hard), attractive fences, and trees/shrubs (soft)?			
7. b) Is the commercial streetscape (architecture & soft/hard landscapes) interesting? Are there attractive storefronts and doors every 25'? Is there rain protection? Is there the right amount of visual detail in the architecture? Enough trees and shrubs?			
8. Is there enough activities programmed at the ground floor along the street? Are there enough sidewalk cafes, fruit markets spilling out?			
9. Do people normally enjoy themselves here? Do you see people strolling, window shopping and people watching? Are there benches? How successful is this street?			
10. Is this streetscape primarily designed for cars or bikes or pedestrians?			
Diversity			
11. Can and is this area be used by toddlers, kids, teens, adults and seniors? Is there something that attracts each group to this area?			
12. Is there housing in the area that would suit all age groups, from toddlers to seniors?			
13. Is there housing that addresses the variety of service workers' income that keep the neighbourhood vibrant? ie, Starbucks baristas			
14. Is there public transit and bike routes close by?			
Parks and Nature			
15. Are there enough parks in the area?			
16. Are the parks well programmed with things to do for a variety of people? Or are there dead spaces that are used inappropriately?			
17. Is there a variety of trees and shrubs, flowers and ground cover? Do you think they are drought tolerant or native species?			
18. Do the parks incorporate remnant eco-systems or restore them?			
19. Is there a minimum of hard , non permeable surfaces? Can the rain water seep back into the soil?			

