Public and Private Land – Access and Use

The 2040 City Debates, Session 2, 23/11/2020

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Birmingham underpass
Photo: Fabian Rivers

Planning public space for all citizens in the 2040 city

| 2040 Vision | 2020 Reality | Planning | 2040 Reality? |

Place-making for 2040 …

2040 Vision

HUNDERTWASSER

GREEN TOWN

1973 - 1978

competing ideas & needs

WHOSE vision ?

different values

… what about the marginalised / unheard voices?

2020 Reality

Photos by: David Parker | Emma Love | Daniel Coulomb

Broadgate, London | Birmingham, Eastside Park | Sao Paulo

Public?

Private?
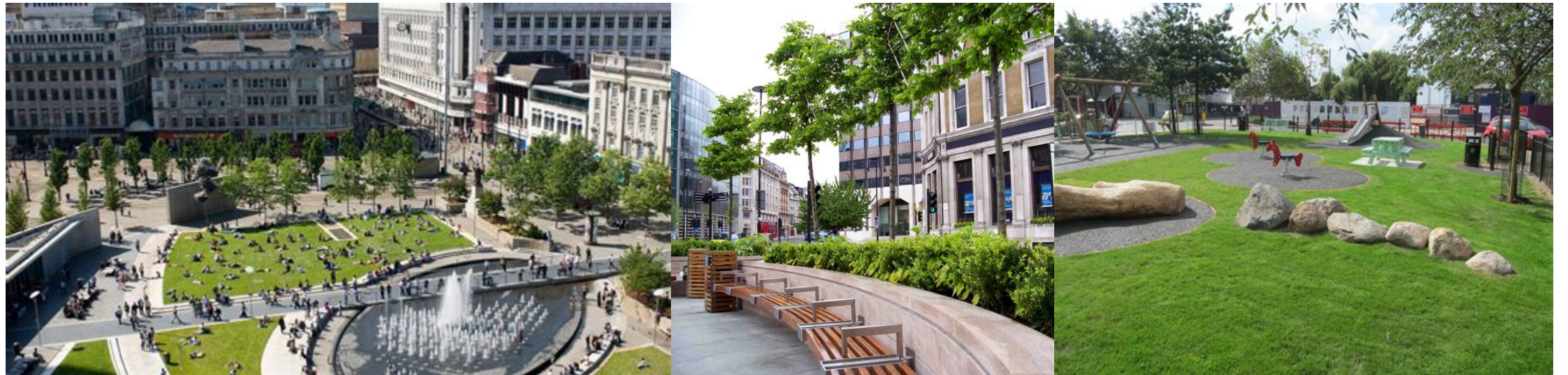
CONTROL - CHANGE - COMMITMENT - FIT FOR FUTURE - FINANCE

Sources: ds.emotion.com (top); Pinterest (bottom left); London.gov.uk (bottom middle and right)

Pseudo-public Spaces

"City administrations in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow and seven others decline to outline the spread of privately owned public areas, or their secret prohibitions – which may include protesting or taking photos"

'It's really shocking': UK cities refusing to reveal extent of pseudo-public space
by Jack Shenker, *The Guardian,* 26 September 2017

"… among the main sources of irrationality in the rationalist economy are hyperbolised concepts of individual 'autonomy' and hegemonic constructions of agency that **legitimate unjust appropriation** and **denials of dependency** on others, including nature, and forms of **reason/emotion** and **public/private dualism** that present disengagement and egoism as rationality and **marginalise ethics and emotionality**, including care for human others and for nature."

Val Plumwood (2002, *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason*. Abingdon: Routledge, p35)

Waking up at the wrong time?!

Planning

5 investment priorities in the Committee for Climate Change (CCC) June 2020 Progress Report to Parliament:

1. **Low-carbon retrofits and buildings that are fit for the future**

2. **Tree planting,** peatland restoration, **and green infrastructure**

3. **Energy networks must be strengthened**

4. **Infrastructure to make it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely**

5. Moving towards a circular economy.

Bold all **PLANNING** related and important for **PLACEMAKING**

Planning Public Spaces and Services

HIGH-DENSITY URBAN

Transport
Energy
Housing
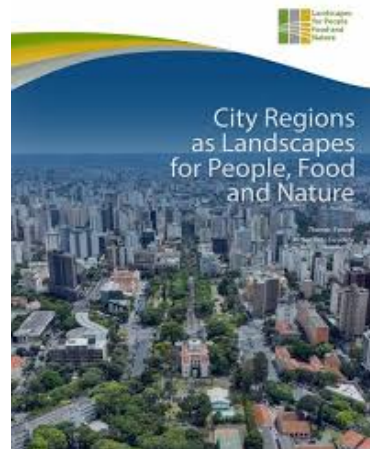Commerce
Industry
Agriculture / Food
Forestry
Recreation
…

LOW-DENSITY URBAN

'New' Urban Planning

Marcotullio & Boyle (2003)
Defining an Ecosystem Approach to Urban Management and Policy Development. Tokyo: UNU/IAS

Forster & Getz Escudero (2014)
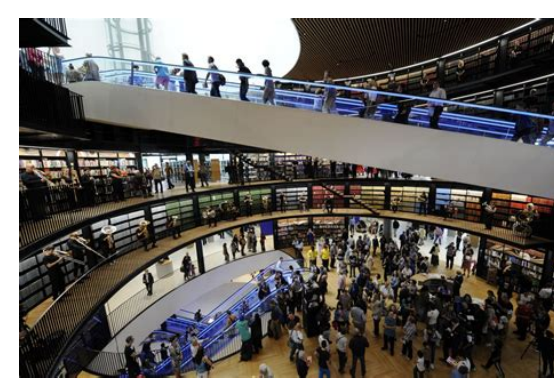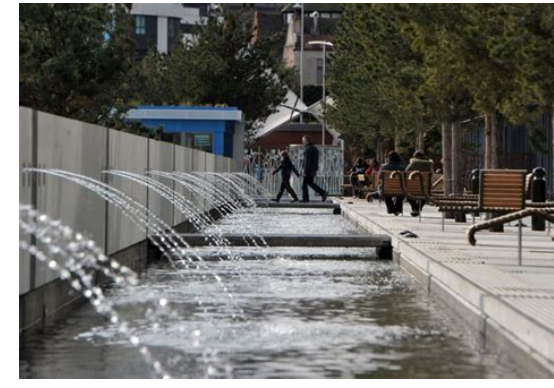City Regions as Landscapes for People, Food and Nature. Washington, DC: EcoAgriculture Partners

Nature

Human Health & Wellbeing

2040 Reality:
Climate Change!
City Change?
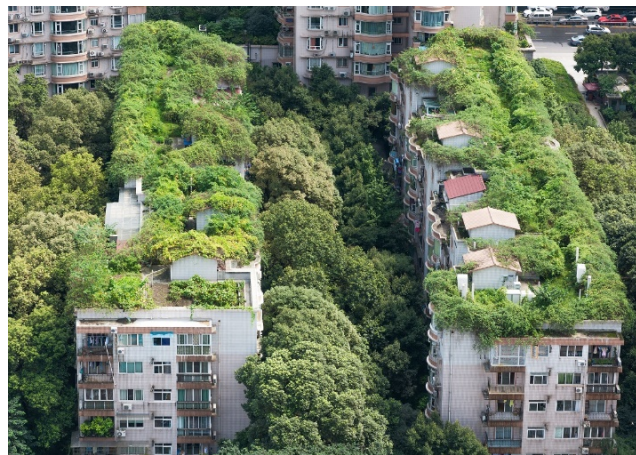Community Change?

Photo: Hannah Spash, Edgbaston Reservoir mural

2040 Reality?

- **Travel less**; more at home/**local**/regional

- Simplicity, **self-sufficiency**

- Houses with balconies and **'tree tenants'**; green roofs, roof gardens

- **Shared** space: socialise, play, grow food, street festivals, community art …

- **Water gardens**; **re-naturalised streams** and rivers; **repurposed** canals …

- **Low carbon** buildings and transport

- **Community visioning** using AR/VR

- **AI**: efficiencies but higher unemployment

- Those who **own or have access to land** and look after their patch to provide the 'ecosystem services' they need, are ☺

Urban Forest Gardens?

Planning **with** Nature and People rather than 'for' them

Transition / Transformation 2020-2040

- Become climate-change literate and trained in understanding **environment-health-economic linkages**

- Set stronger more specific CC policies to **direct development**

- Invest in low-tech, affordable, effective carbon-neutral solutions (e.g. **BGI**; **active transport**; **allotments**)

- Shift from consumption to sufficiency – emphasis on **wellbeing** rather than 'growth'

- Deep structural changes needed – **fair, ethical**

Cost to net zero expected be around £50-70bn/year; i.e. <1% of projected GDP over that period (expected to rise to £1 trillion by 2050)

THANK YOU
for listening

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