

EDITORIAL

## **2020: A Year without Public Space under the Covid-19 Pandemic**

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On 8-13 February 2020 City Space Architecture, the publisher of The Journal of Public Space, participated in the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi as an exhibitor, and in collaboration with 16 global institutions<sup>1</sup> promoted the exhibition 'PUBLIC SPACE IS VITAL FOR AN EQUITABLE URBAN FUTURE'. On April 7, while about 40% of global population was under coronavirus lockdown, City Space Architecture and the School of Architecture at The Chinese University of Hong Kong jointly announced the online initiative '2020: A Year without Public Space under the COVID-19 Pandemic' through The Journal of Public Space<sup>2</sup>: after one month of consultation, by email and through online meetings, with academic scholars and colleagues from different geographical locations, we, public space scholars and activists, felt the urgency to build social and health resilience by establishing an open environment for discussion and learning, while taking advantage of technology and virtual platforms that many could access for free.

Throughout 2020, social distance dictated by COVID-19 health emergency severely affected everyone's access to public space and with it creating a range of impacts on different levels. The world-wide lockdown destabilized the global economy and challenged country leaders, while at the human level the pandemic generated isolation and loneliness, with a significant rise of helplessness and fear, deeply impacting on the most vulnerable groups. In many countries, people were asked to stay home and rearrange daily routines and work activities in indoor domestic spaces, looking at the world from behind a window. Outdoor physical activities were no longer allowed.

Many governments seemed to lack proper strategies to manage the risk of massive contagion. People died alone in hospitals, numbers were increasingly and scarily high. In the

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<sup>1</sup> The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Healthbridge Foundation of Canada, Block by Block, Project for Public Spaces, University of Auckland, Columbia University, Federal University Rio de Janeiro, Auckland City Council, KTH Centre for the Future of Places, IHC Global, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Sustasis Foundation, Global Utmaning, Public Space Research Group (PSRG), Ukrainian City and Regional Planning Research Center, General Assembly of Partners (GAP) Older Persons. Read a report here:

<http://www.cityspacearchitecture.org/?e=53>

<sup>2</sup> Full announcement of the online initiative:

<https://www.journalpublicspace.org/index.php/jps/navigationMenu/view/covid-19-program>

Global South, the poor living in informal settlements had scarce access to water, washing hands and maintaining proper hygiene was dangerously impossible.

Some of the key questions during the long, stressful lockdown emerge: how can we face this unprecedented emergency and get prepared to its consequences, with specific regard to health disparity? Will public space restrictions stay in place after the recovery period? Should we just aim to return to a pre-COVID status quo, or for a 'better normal'? And more generally, what will be the future of public space?

As the pandemic was moving across different continents and urban conditions, through our online initiative we exchanged experiences of care, solidarity, entrepreneurship, academic perspectives, artistic interpretations and creative practices of human resilience, engaging more than 100 speakers during 20 webinars from May to September 2020, and more than 2700 registered attendees from over 80 countries, including representatives from UN-Habitat. The key idea of the initiative was to include diverse speakers from different parts of the world and disciplines to discuss their experiences. Thus, at the beginning, a Call for Speakers and Call for Advisors on Public Space<sup>3</sup> was launched, leading to the establishment of a global community now affiliated with City Space Architecture.

The initiative culminated in a two-day online symposium under the same name<sup>4</sup> in November 2020, organised in cooperation with Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and with the support of major Universities and international institutions, and hosted by The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

This special issue of The Journal of Public Space has been a core component of this initiative since the beginning. A Call for Papers was made in April 2020 at the launch of the webinar series. Eventually from 35 submissions, 20 research papers and commentaries were selected to provide insights from different locations on six continents. In addition, UN-Habitat, as key supporter of the initiative, contributed a viewpoint which puts forward key recommendations on planning of public spaces for healthy communities with particular views on the Global South.

Most of the contributions are tentative in nature, as they were produced in the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. This preliminary status was accepted since the initiative aimed to kick-off an ever-growing joint learning process based on international exchange in view of the evolving and deadly global crisis. Some of the contributions became stepping stones for more substantial research projects, with opportunity to relate local research to a wider horizon provided by the exchange activities of the initiative. This special issue encapsulates key learnings globally from the early stage of the pandemic, which stand relevant to this day when we face squarely the same issues as we step into gradually and navigate the post-COVID era.

This journal issue starts with V. Mehta's observations that the "elimination of events and programming and the cordoning off of standardized equipment has left public space in an unembellished state of bareness." According to Mehta, citizens faced with this situation took over other types of urban spaces, such as neighbourhood streets, in a self-driven and creative process of expansion and adaptation. The use of such neighbourhood streets was also observed by J. Mwangeli Malonza in Kimisange, Rwanda, as well as G. Mews and M.

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<sup>3</sup> Call for Advisors: <http://www.cityspacearchitecture.org/?p=call-for-advisors-on-public-space>

<sup>4</sup> Website of the symposium '2020: A Year without Public Space. Reflection & Outlook': <https://www.publicspace-covid19.com/>

Muminovic, who describe how families and children in Australia adapted and transformed such spaces with their own creativity.

Furthermore, S. Low highlights the importance of public space for social connection and hence the potentials risks if we fail to appreciate such during the social distancing period. P. Huong, P. Thuong, L. Duong and N. An from Vietnam investigate with their survey the attitudes toward pandemic control and access to public spaces among local youth in Hanoi in the early phase of the pandemic. A key phenomenon during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the increased use of digital platforms as a way to compensate for the restricted use of physical spaces. Thus, F. Schreiber focuses on the enhanced role of digital neighbourhood platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany. Another study on the changing use of social media is provided by M. Manfredini, who focuses social activities in Auckland's vast sub-urban malls during the pandemic.

The question how the new public space adaptations will continue and expand on city-level after the pandemic is addressed in M. Hartevelde's text by referring to examples from Rotterdam and the Netherlands in general. Similarly, K.F. Hsu addresses how in Singapore, changes made during the pandemic, could inform the future planning of neighbourhoods and ensure their availability to all while J. Chong, S. Rana and M. Ojal from UN-Habitat identify pathways of how public and green spaces could contribute toward the future-proofing cities and communities with particular view on the situation in the Global South. The severe issue of health disparity is discussed in several contributions. The texts by M. Mitrasinovic on New York, and Y.F. Chan, S. Cheung and H. Tieben on Hong Kong and Taipei explore how the earlier existing social-spatial polarizations increased health risks for urban poor and migrant populations during the pandemic. The text on Hong Kong and Taipei, however, also demonstrates how these cities were able to draw essential lessons from the earlier SARS epidemic which allowed them to significantly reduce the number of infections and fatalities. I. Morely likewise offers a historical perspective, and reviews how British cities, in response to the health crises of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, developed their systems of green spaces. These historical examples bring valuable lessons to creating a more equitable urban recovery after the current crisis. Health disparity and access to public space under the pandemic is also discussed in the two papers on India: S. Babu describes the ordeal of millions of migrant workers forced to drift across different parts of the country, while S.P. Nadimpalli focuses particularly on the example of female migrants in Hyderabad during the pandemic.

The role of specific spatial situations is investigated in three other contributions. M. Mehaffy, T. Haas, and P. Elmlund postulate how specific urban forms and spaces in European and American cities affect the spread of infections and use of public space under the pandemic. B. Melis, J. Antonio, L. Hernandez, Y.M. Khemri and A. Melis analyse in a comparative study shifting spatial thresholds in Algerian, Mexican and British cities. A similar perspective on thresholds, or "in-between spaces", is offered by K. Tamura. He explores "Porch Placemaking", through which porches allow residents to engage safely with neighbors during the pandemic. N. Stevens and S. Tavares explore similar ideas within sub-urban conditions, by studying public spaces under lockdown in Queensland, Australia, using a systems approach and positing new activities and functions for these spaces in the post-pandemic era.

D. Radović and D. Boontharm responded to the call for papers by organizing a round table with eleven other participants from different parts of the world on May 1, 2020, jointly

searching for the most relevant questions regarding the crisis of public space in the times of Coronavirus.

The journal issue ends with the contribution of photographer C. Anstett, who produced also the cover image. With her photos, Anstett captures an artists' initiative in Seattle, in which bordered-up windows of closed-down shops were painted to bring together and uplift the community in a time of crisis and isolation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear the fundamental role of public space in our cities, not just for social life but also in regards of the functioning of the entire economic and urban system. The long confinement has seriously affected the way we use, live and understand our common urban spaces and the way we relate to each other as human beings. We now live in the so-called 1,5-meter society, where health and safety are considered as priorities in order to prevent urban shocks, and social and ecological resilience is the unavoidable challenge for urban leaders.

In the 'next normal', the shared civic space will no longer be as we know it. After decades of inspiring academic discussions and urban theories, opposed to relentless slowness of decision-makers, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the process leading to a necessary positive change: it is time to develop a new thinking and a new approach to urban complexity built around public space, spreading awareness on the importance of public space culture in building resilience, and changing the mindset of new generations of global citizens towards a more comprehensive understanding of our cities and societies.

### **Acknowledgment**

We would like to thank all the speakers, who accepted our invitation and made this initiative so successful, and all the Universities and institutions that generously supported our work, by sharing information across their networks and through social media.

A special thanks to Ying-Fen Chen and Stephanie Cheung, from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, who managed the Zoom events and produced the recordings (available on the YouTube channel of City Space Architecture) and the summaries (published on the website of The Journal of Public Space -> COVID-19 initiative).

Finally, we would like to thank all the registered attendees, 2700+ from over 80 countries, that actively participated in the global discussion on public space during the COVID-19 pandemic, interacting with us with great enthusiasm.

#### **To cite this article:**

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## 2020: A Year without Public Space under the COVID-19 Pandemic

Online initiative jointly developed by City Space Architecture and the School of Architecture at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and disseminated through The Journal of Public Space

Co-funded by the RGC Fund Project: "Built Environment and Planning for Healthy Cities", School of Architecture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Curators: Luisa Bravo and Hendrik Tieben

<https://www.journalpublicspace.org/index.php/jps/navigationMenu/view/covid-19-program>



### Series I (May 2020)



#1 / Reframing the Role of Public Space during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic



#2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



#3 / Health Disparity and Public Space in High Density Environments



#4 / Expert Group Discussion with the Audience

### Series 2 (June 2020)



#1 / COVID-19 Challenges and Responses in Informal Settlements



#2 / Speculative Cities: thinking forward. Exploring speculative practices and how they relate to and/or change public space in the current and post COVID-19 conditions

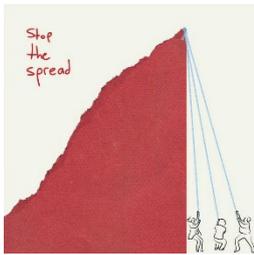


#3 / Creating accessible and inclusive public spaces with/for resilient communities



#4 / Global Design Studio in the Age of Pandemics

**Series 3 (July 2020)**



#1 / Towards Healthy Cities in the Age of Pandemics



#2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



#3 / Rethinking public spaces. Exploring the interplay of the analogue and virtual realm and its effects on public and social life in cities

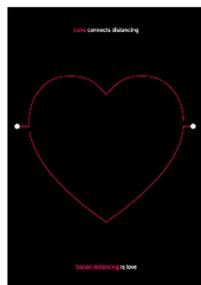


#4 / Future Safe and Sustainable Urbanization. Expert Group Discussion with the Audience

**Series 4 (August 2020)**



#1 / The Impact of the Pandemic to Street Life, Urban Culture and Beyond



#2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



#3 / Cities Learning from Pandemics



#4 / The Role of Renewable Energy in post COVID-19 Public Spaces

**Series 5 (September 2020)**



#1 / Tactical urbanism as a crisis response and as mobiliser for systemic change



#2 / Right to the city for children: from value driven discourse to transformative actions



#3 / Parks, Piazzas & Pandemics: Promoting Safe Access to Public Places with Data Analytics



#4 / Our Future Cities: public space initiatives, innovative policies and creative actions to recover during and after the pandemic



## Series I (May 2020)

### #1 / Reframing the Role of Public Space during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Jeff Hou, Urban Commons Lab, University of Washington, USA
- Setha Low, Public Space Research Group, Center for Human Environments at the Graduate Center of City University of New York, USA
- Luis Alfonso Saltos Espinoza, Observatorio Ciudadano por el Derecho a la Ciudad y Espacios Públicos de Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Mona Helmy, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, The British University in Egypt (BUE), Egypt

### #2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Jay Wahl, Kimmel Center for The Performing Arts, Philadelphia, USA
- Yena Young, Plastique Fantastique, Germany
- Manfredo Manfredini, The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Andrea Baldini, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
- Kirsten Meredith Hanna, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
- Franco Manai, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

### #3 / Health Disparity and Public Space in High Density Environments

- Gregor H. Mews, Queensland University of Technology / Urban Synergies Group, Brisbane, Australia
- Miodrag Mitrasinovic, The New School, New York, USA
- Mindy Fullilove, The New School, New York, USA
- Mahak Agrawal, The Spatial Perspectives, India
- Fan Ning, Health in Action, Hong Kong
- Jens Aerts, ISOCARP Urban Health Community of Practice / BUUR, New York, USA

### #4 / Expert Group Discussion with the Audience

- Lance Jay Brown, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, New York, USA
- Miquel Martí Casanovas, Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
- Sharmila Jagadisan, School of Architecture, Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, India

## Series 2 (June 2020)

### #1 / COVID-19 Challenges and Responses in Informal Settlements

- Gregor H. Mews, Queensland University of Technology / Urban Synergies Group, Brisbane, Australia
- Rasmus Bering, Dreamtown, Copenhagen, Denmark
- KT Suresh, Senior National Lead, Urban & Labour, Action Aid India
- Josephine Mwongeli Malonza, University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda
- Tatenda Churu and Casper Chigama, House of Art Association, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 

### #2 / Speculative Cities: thinking forward. Exploring speculative practices and how they relate to and/or change public space in the current and post COVID-19 conditions

- Fiona Hillary, Program Manager, RMIT University, Master of Arts (Art in Public Space), School of Art, Australia
- Maggie McCormick, Adjunct Professor, RMIT University, School of Art, Australia / Honorary Professor, Reutlingen University, Germany

- Katrina Simon, Associate Dean, Landscape Architecture, RMIT University, School of Architecture and Urban Design, Australia
- Davisi Boontharm, Professor in Architecture and Urban Design, I-AUD Meiji University, Japan
- Mark Jacques, Professor of Architecture (Urbanism), Industry Fellow, Architecture and Urban Design, RMIT University, Australia
- Sarah Fayad, Researcher and Teaching Assistant, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA
- Emily Sexton, Artistic Director of Arts House, Melbourne, Australia
- Andrei Nikolai Pamintuan, Creative Director, Pineapple Lab, Philippines
- Sophie Jerram, Letting Space and Urban Dream Brokerage in response to post earthquake conditions, New Zealand

### #3 / Creating accessible and inclusive public spaces with/for resilient communities

- Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, World Blind Union, Toronto, Canada
- Katherine Kline, GAP General Assembly of Partners Older Persons, New York, USA
- Shu-Ti Chiou, Health & Sustainable Development Foundation, School of Medicine, Yang-Ming University, Taiwan
- Nelson Saule Junior, Global Platform for the Right to the City, Polis Institute of Studies, Training and Assistance in Social Policies, São Paulo, Brazil
- Silvia Tavares and Nicholas Stevens, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia
- Wael Sinno, UN-Habitat Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon
- Alessandro Melis, Cluster for Sustainable Cities, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom / Curator of the Italian Pavilion 'Resilient Communities', 17th Venice Architecture Biennale (2021)

### #4 / Global Design Studio in the Age of Pandemics

- Miodrag Mitrasinovic, Parsons The New School, New York, USA
- Terri Tan, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong & Sian Singh, Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand
- Stephanie Cheung, iDiscover, Hong Kong
- Georgeen Theodore, Interboro Partners, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA
- Setha Low, Public Space Research Group, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, USA
- Ali Madanipour, Global Urban Research Unit (GURU), Newcastle University, United Kingdom
- Manfredo Manfredini, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Annabel Pretty, Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand

## **Series 3 (July 2020)**

### #1 / Towards Healthy Cities in the Age of Pandemics

- Manfredo Manfredini, University of Auckland, School of Architecture and Planning, New Zealand
- Kevin Lau, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Leigh Wilson, University of Sydney, Australia
- Lee Beattie, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Kim Dirks, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- 

### #2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Martin Zebracki, School of Geography, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
- Susan Moffat, Global Urban Humanities Initiative, University of California Berkeley, United States
- Luke Hespanhol, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, Australia

- Linda Di Pietro, Indisciplinate, Italy / affiliated to IN SITU - European Platform for Artistic Creation in Public Space
- Giulia Gualtieri and Viviana Cordero, Huasipichanga, Ecuador / The Netherlands
- Floor van Ditzhuyzen and Bas Sala, We Love Public Space Festival, The Netherlands
- 

#3 / Rethinking public spaces. Exploring the interplay of the analogue and virtual realm and its effects on public and social life in cities

- Astrid Ley, Department of International Urbanism, University of Stuttgart, Germany
- Carlos Smaniotto Costa, CeIED Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Education and Development, Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal
- Franziska Turber, Foresight Consultant, Z\_Punkt, Germany
- Federico Bastiani, Social Street, Bologna, Italy
- Franziska Schreiber, Department of International Urbanism, University of Stuttgart, Germany
- Tat Lam, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, School of Architecture, Hong Kong / Founder, CEO, Shanzhai City
- Jessica Cheung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, School of Architecture, Hong Kong / Shanzhai City
- Melissa Permezel, UN-Habitat, Innovation Unit

#4 / Future Safe and Sustainable Urbanization. Expert Group Discussion with the Audience

- Charles R. Wolfe, Seeing Better Cities Group, London, United Kingdom
- Dhanya Rajagopal, Design Trust for Public Space, New York, United States
- Gregory Scruggs, Seattle, United States
- Yasser Khalil, Ajman Municipality, Ajman, United Arab Emirates
- Furaha G. Abwe, Urban Planning for Community Change, Arusha, Tanzania

**Series 4 (August 2020)**

#1 / The Impact of the Pandemic to Street Life, Urban Culture and Beyond

- Maurice Hartevelde, Delft University of Technology, Urban Design | Public Space, The Netherlands
- Angeliki Anagnostou, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Fabiano Micocci and Vaso Trova, University of Thessaly, Department of Architecture, Greece
- Edna Peza, Université de Paris, France
- Vikas Mehta, University of Cincinnati, United States

#2 / Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- David McGillivray, Strategic Hub for Culture and Creativity, University of the West of Scotland / FESTSPACE, United Kingdom
- Ali A. Alraouf, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar / ISOCARP - International Society of City and Regional Planners
- Clarissa Lim, Malaysian Institute of Art / Hubs for Good program from the British Council, Malaysia
- Laura Sobral, Instituto A Cidade Precisa de Você [The City Needs You Institute], Brazil
- Magdalena Rembeza, Gdańsk University of Technology (GUT), Poland

#3 / Cities Learning from Pandemics

- Ian Morley, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Ana Medina, Universidad de Las Américas, Ecuador
- Ayanda Roji, City of Johannesburg's Parks and Zoo Agency, South Africa
- Jason Luger, Northumbria University, United Kingdom

- Cecilia Andersson, UN-Habitat, Manager of the Global Public Space Programme

#### #4 / The Role of Renewable Energy in post COVID-19 Public Spaces

- Agatino Rizzo, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Alessandra Scognamiglio, ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development), Italy
- Björn Ekelund, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Daniele Santucci, Climateflux, Germany
- Robert Ferry and Elizabeth Monoian, Land Art Generator, United States
- Taichi Kuma, Kengo Kuma and Associates, Japan
- Jorge Toledo García, Ecosistema Urbano, Spain
- Vincent Kitio, UN-Habitat, Chief of the Urban Energy Unit

### **Series 5 (September 2020)**

#### #1 / Tactical urbanism as a crisis response and as mobiliser for systemic change

- Graeme Hanssen, Human Power Initiative, Yasar University, Turkey
- J. Antonio Lara-Hernandez, Institute of Mobility and Urban Territorial Development in Yucatan, Urban Resilience Research, Mexico
- Rossella Ferorelli, Municipality of Milan / SMALL - Soft Metropolitan Architecture & Landscape Lab, Italy
- Boopsie Maran, Places for Good, New Zealand
- Pritika Akhil Kumar, Co:Lab, India
- Paula López Barba, Imagina Madrid, Spain

#### #2 / Right to the city for children: from value driven discourse to transformative actions

- Gregor Mews, Urban Synergies Group / Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Tim Gill, independent researcher, United Kingdom
- Robyn Monro-Miller, International Play Association on Right to Play (UN-Convention of the Rights of the Child), United Kingdom
- Paul Tranter, School of Science, University of South Wales in Canberra, Australia
- Joshua Lam, Hong Kong Public Space Initiative, Hong Kong
- Benjamin Shirtcliff, Iowa State University, United States

#### #3 / Parks, Piazzas & Pandemics: Promoting Safe Access to Public Places with Data Analytics

- Kevin Fan Hsu, Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore
- Zhongwen Huang, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Digital Planning Lab, Singapore
- Chong Lee Tan, National Parks Board (NParks), Singapore
- Damiano Cerrone, Demos Helsinki, Finland
- Jo-Ting Huang-Lachmann, Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), INNOVA project, Germany
- David Grahame Shane, Columbia University GSAPP (Graduate School of Arch, Planning and Preservation), United States

#### #4 / Our Future Cities: public space initiatives, innovative policies and creative actions to recover during and after the pandemic

- Husam Al Waer, University of Dundee, School of Social Sciences, Scotland
- Sabine Knierbein, TU Vienna, Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space, Austria
- Rashiq Fataar, Our Future Cities, South Africa

- Frank D'hondt, Secretary General, ISOCARP, The Netherlands

Supporting Universities and institutions (alphabetical order):

- A Cidade Precisa de Você, Brazil
- Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore
- Centre for the Future of Places, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- Cluster for Sustainable Cities, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
- co+labo radović, Architecture and Urban Design Laboratory, Keio University, Japan
- College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, & Orville Simpson Center for Urban Futures, University of Cincinnati, USA
- Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, USA
- Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, The British University in Egypt (BUE), Egypt
- Department of Architecture, University of Thessaly, Greece
- Department of International Urbanism, University of Stuttgart, Germany
- ETSAB Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Spain
- I-AUD, Meiji University, Japan
- IN SITU - European Platform for Artistic Creation in Public Space
- Integrated Urbanism & Sustainable Design (IUSD), Cairo Lab, Ain Shams University, Egypt
- Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Observatorio Ciudadano por el Derecho a la Ciudad y Espacios Públicos de Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Public Space Research Group, Center for Human Environments at the Graduate Center of City University of New York, USA
- QUT Design Lab, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Research LAB for Urban Settlements and Landscapes, Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
- RMIT University, School of Art, CAST - Contemporary Art and Social Transformation Research Group, Australia
- Urban @ Parsons, The New School, USA
- Urban Commons Lab, University of Washington, USA
- Urban Design | Public Space, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), The Netherlands
- Urban Relational Informatics Lab, The University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Urban Synergies Group, Australia

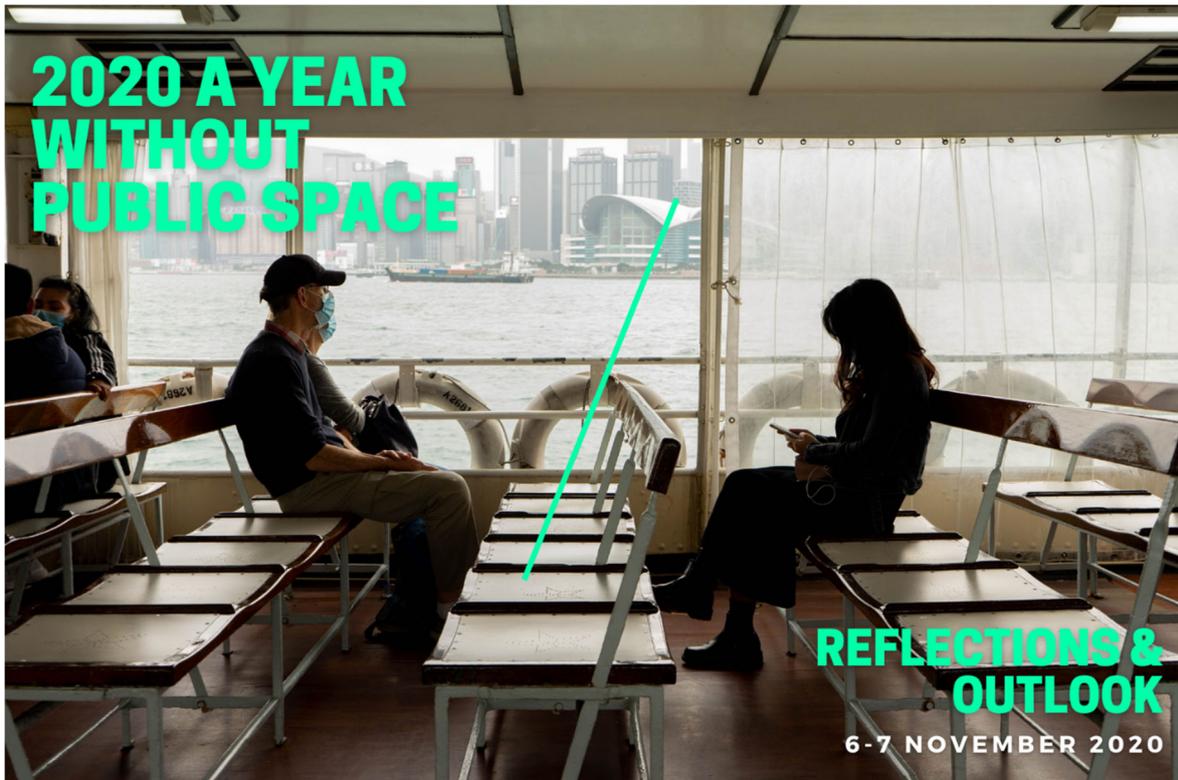
and

- UN-Habitat, Global Public Space Programme
- UN-Habitat, Urban Energy Unit
- UN-Habitat, Innovation Unit

## Readings

UN-Habitat (2020), UN-Habitat launches COVID-19 Response Plan and Campaign targeting the world's most vulnerable communities, *Press release* (April 23, 2020) - <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-launches-covid-19-response-plan-and-campaign-targeting-the-world%E2%80%99s-most-vulnerable-0>

UN-Habitat (2020), UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan - <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-covid-19-response-plan>



## DAY 1 | 6 NOVEMBER

### Opening Remarks | 9AM

Hendrik Tieben, Associate Director, School of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)  
CY Chiu, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, CUHK  
Tung Fung, Director, Institute of Future Cities, CUHK

### Reframing the Role of Public Space in the Age of Pandemics | 9:15AM

Diane Joy Brand, Dean, Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries, University of Auckland, New Zealand  
Setha Low, Director, Public Space Research Group, Graduate Center of City University of New York, USA  
Mahak Agrawal, Founder, The Spatial Perspectives, India  
*Moderated by Miodrag Mitrasinovic (Parsons School of Design)*

### Emergence of Digital Public Space: Harnessing the Power of Data | 11AM

Tat Lam, Chief Executive Officer, Shanzhai City, Hong Kong  
Timothy Jachna, Dean, College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, University of Cincinnati, USA  
Manfredo Manfredini, Associate Professor, School of Architecture and Planning, University of Auckland, New Zealand  
*Moderated by Jeroen Van Ameijde (CUHK)*

*\*All times shown are GMT +8*

### Cities and Health - Governmental and Institutional Roles in Building Resilient Communities | 1:45PM

Mee Kam Ng, Associate Director, Institute of Future Cities, CUHK  
Min Jay Kang, Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan  
Riduan Ngesan, Senior Placemaking Executive, Think City, Malaysia  
*Moderated by Corrin Chan (Hong Kong Institute of Architects)*

### Innovative Approaches and Creative Practices | 5:15PM

Maggie McCormick, Fiona Hillary, Contemporary Art and Social Transformation (CAST), RMIT University, Australia  
Floor van Ditzhuyzen, Architect, Researcher and City Guide, Public Space Detective, The Netherlands  
Katelijn Verstraete, East Asia Arts Director, British Council  
*Moderated by Luisa Bravo (City Space Architecture)*

### Campus as Public Space in the Age of Pandemics | 8PM

Peter Lennie, Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network  
Raymond Chan, University Dean of Students, CUHK  
José Escamilla, Director, TeCLabs, Tecnológico de Monterrey University, Mexico  
*Moderated by Hendrik Tieben (CUHK)*

## DAY 2 | 7 NOVEMBER

### Cities and Health - Role of Research and Design in Creating Sustainable and Healthy Cities | 9AM

Lee Beattie, School of Architecture & Planning, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Kevin Lau, Research Assistant Professor, Institute of Future Cities, CUHK

Jason Gilliland, Director, Human Environments Analysis Laboratory, Canada

Moderated by Kai Gu (University of Auckland)

### Cities and Health - Creating Healthy Neighborhoods | 10:45AM

Leigh Wilson, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney, Australia

Kim Dirks, Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Albert Lee, Director of Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, CUHK

Moderated by Kevin Hsu (Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore)

\*All times shown are GMT +8

### Cities and Health - Combating Health Disparities in High Density and Informal Communities | 1:15PM

Jean Woo, Director, Jockey Club Institute of Aging, CUHK

KT Suresh, National Lead Policy & Campaigns (Urban & Labour), Action Aid India

Wael Sinno, Area Coordinator, UN-Habitat, Lebanon

Moderated by Gregor H Mews (Urban Synergies Group/ QUT)

### Roundtable Discussion and Closing Remarks: 2020 Reflection and Outlook After A Year Without Public Space | 3PM

Jim Walker, Founder, Walk 21 Foundation, UK

Jose Chong, Global Public Space Programme, UN-Habitat

Luisa Bravo, Founder, City Space Architecture, Italy

Maurice Hartevelde, Assistant Professor, Urban Design, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Moderated by Hendrik Tieben (CUHK)

### Virtual Hong Kong Public Space Tour led by Walk in Hong Kong | 4:45PM

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## VIRTUAL HONG KONG PUBLIC SPACE TOUR LED BY WALK IN HONG KONG

7 November 2020 | 4:45 PM (GMT+8)



2020: A Year without Public Space under the Covid-19 Pandemic

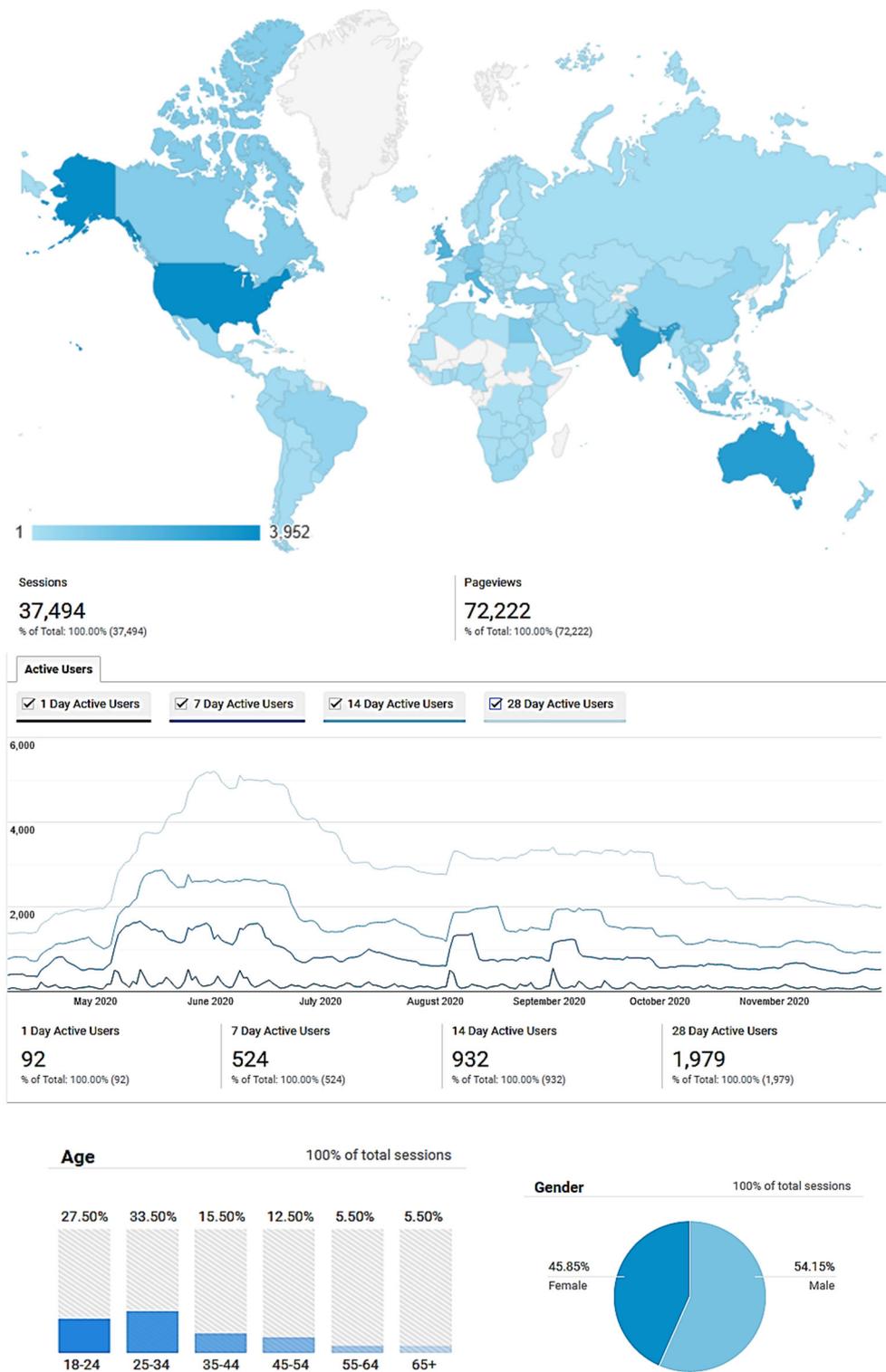


Figure 1. Global impact of the online initiative ‘2020: A Year without Public Space under the COVID-19 Pandemic. Data retrieved from Google Analytics for the account The Journal of Public Space, in the period 7 April 2020 (day of the public announcement of the initiative) – 30 November 2020.