

HUMAN-CENTRED URBAN DESIGN: SMALL INTERVENTIONS, BIG IMPACT FOR HABITABLE CITIES

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comprehensive investigation into human-centred urban design strategies aimed at fostering more habitable and inclusive cities. Drawing inspiration from small-scale interventions and tactical urbanism, the research explores the transformative potential of design at the human scale, emphasizing experimentation and interdisciplinary collaboration. The study begins by examining the blurred boundaries between buildings and furniture, highlighting the importance of small-scale experimentation in urban design. It addresses themes such as inclusivity, participatory process, urban interiors and the impact of play and care on urban space. Central to the investigation is how to enhance the quality of public spaces through low-impact, small-scale interventions. By examining desolate urban areas, particularly in American cities, the study underscores the need for more human-centric approaches to urban design, echoing the sentiments of architectural theorists like Aldo van Eyck, who emphasized creating cities that feel like large houses. The research also examines emblematic case studies, such as the 'Plazas de Bolsillo' initiative in Chile, which showcases the success of temporary, transformable urban interventions in revitalizing urban public spaces. Integrating principles of tactical urbanism, biophilic design and community engagement, these initiatives serve as models for creating vibrant and inclusive urban environments. Synthesizing insights from scholars such as Izaskun Chinchilla and Richard Sennett, the research contributes to the discourse on human-scale urban design and promotes innovative solutions for building healthier, more equitable and sustainable cities. Aligned with the theme of sustainable development and planning, this paper offers practical insights and theoretical frameworks for addressing contemporary urban challenges. The research seeks to inspire transformative change in urban planning practices and contribute to the creation of cities that prioritize the well-being and dignity of all inhabitants through a more human-centred approach.

Keywords: human-centred urban design, tactical urbanism, biophilic design, urban interiors, urban ecology, inclusive cities.

1 INTRODUCTION

Urban open public spaces are crucial to the vibrancy and liveability of cities. These spaces, which include parks, plazas, streets, and patios, serve as essential venues for social interaction, cultural expression, and community engagement. However, beyond their vibrant parks, many American cities other public spaces often fall short of their potential. Desolate, unsafe, and non-inclusive, many urban plazas are characterized by hard pavements, lack of greenery or shade, and absence of inviting areas for social gatherings. These deficiencies hinder their functionality as spaces for community building and social cohesion.

The inadequacies of urban public spaces raise an important question: How can we increase the quality of our plazas and streets to transform cities into places of encounter and connection? This question echoes the concerns of renowned urbanist Jane Jacobs, who championed the importance of vibrant, human-centred urban design. Jacobs' insights into the dynamics of urban life laid the groundwork for contemporary thinkers like Izaskun Chinchilla, Laurie Olin and Richard Sennett. These scholars further develop Jacobs' ideas, emphasizing the need for urban environments that prioritize care, inclusivity, and support for diverse human needs.



This paper explores the concept of Urban Interiors, which involves designing cities with the same care and consideration given to domestic spaces. As suggested by Aldo van Eyck (1918–1999), this approach suggests that cities should be designed to feel like large houses, with public spaces that are as inviting, comfortable, and functional as our interiors. This concept of urban domesticity integrates interior design principles into the urban fabric, with a design approach ‘from the inside out’, prioritizing the user experience to create spaces that foster inclusivity and community engagement.

Historical precedents for such human-centred urban design can be found in the concept of the Urban Salon. These were social spaces in European cities where people gathered to socialize, see, and be seen. The Urban Salon served as a venue for cultural exchange and collective interaction, creating a sense of belonging. These ‘urban living rooms’ integrate greenery, contributing to the biodiversity of cities and fostering a connection between people and nature.

Furthermore, the integration of biophilic design and urban ecology is examined as a strategy to enhance public spaces. Including green areas as part of streets and plazas, and community gardens in vacant lots, creates a symbiotic relationship between the built and natural environments, demonstrating how biophilic design can transform urban areas into healthier, more inviting spaces.

Additionally, the paper presents the idea of designing cities as playgrounds, where urban spaces should foster play and creativity for all. Aldo van Eyck’s work in Amsterdam, where he created over 800 playgrounds, serves as a historical precedent. These playgrounds were simple, modular, and engaging, encouraging users’ creativity and fostering a sense of community. This concept promotes the creation of public spaces that encourage play as a central activity of contemporary life, fostering interaction for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

This approach is also connected to the development of tactical urbanism, which involves temporary interventions that can quickly and effectively transform urban spaces. These interventions introduce a dynamic, participatory approach to urban design, transcending traditional methods by encouraging temporary, low-cost changes that enable communities to actively shape their urban environment. Examples include pop-up parks, pedestrian-friendly zones, and street art installations, demonstrating the transformative power of small-scale actions in revitalizing and humanizing urban spaces.

Ultimately, this paper explores several case studies of transformative interventions in urban design, including the Plazas de Bolsillo initiative in Chile, the Concéntrico festival in Spain, the UNI Project by Höweler + Yoon, and the BMW Guggenheim Lab. Each of these projects demonstrates how small-scale, temporary, and adaptable urban interventions can enhance the liveability and inclusivity of public spaces.

2 THE CARING CITY: ENHANCING SOCIAL INTERACTION

Jane Jacobs (1916–2006), in her seminal work *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), critiqued the urban planning practices of her time and championed the idea of vibrant, mixed-use neighbourhoods. She argued that cities should be designed for people, emphasizing the creation of lively, safe, and inclusive public spaces. Her ideas laid the foundation for modern urban design principles that prioritize human interaction and social cohesion.

Richard Sennett, who intentionally refers to the work of Jacobs in *Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City* (2018), explores the ethical dimensions of urban design, advocating for cities that promote openness, diversity, and democratic participation. He critiques the trend toward homogeneity in urban development and calls for more flexible, adaptive designs that



accommodate change and diversity. Sennett's work underscores the importance of creating urban spaces that facilitate social interaction and civic engagement, promoting a more inclusive and dynamic urban life.

More specifically, at the scale of urban furniture, Laurie Olin, in *Be Seated* (2017), delves into the intricacies of public seating design, emphasizing its profound impact on urban environments and social interactions. Olin argues that well-designed seating can transform urban areas into lively public realms, encouraging social interaction, rest, and contemplation. He highlights how the placement, form, and materials of seating influence how people use and perceive public spaces, supported by academic research on public space utilization and environmental psychology. The importance of sitting was one of the findings of William H. Whyte included in his *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (1980). His research involved meticulous observation and time-lapse photography in New York City, finding the importance of ample seating, which invites people to stay and engage with their surroundings; the role of inclusivity in designing spaces that attract diverse users; and the need for urban spaces to be flexible and adaptable to different uses.

Building on these works, Izaskun Chinchilla's 2019 workshop, *The Caring City*, presented at MADE LABS, critically examines how modern cities, shaped by industrialization, prioritize productivity over the essential needs of their citizens. She argues that urban environments have evolved to facilitate commercial and economic activities with regulations that support such functions, yet they overlook or even discourage non-productive but vital human activities such as resting, accessing free clean water, and engaging in leisure without consumption. This oversight extends to a broader societal disregard for activities traditionally categorized as feminine or reproductive, like caregiving, which Chinchilla identifies as an undervalued yet culturally and socially rich 'capital of care' [1].

In her workshop and writings, Chinchilla points out that many cities are designed without considering these essential needs, leading to environments that are inhospitable to people who require rest or hydration, including children, the elderly, and those with health conditions. The absence of such amenities forces people to seek alternatives in commercial spaces like cafes and restaurants, which further marginalizes those who cannot afford to spend money in these places.

Chinchilla's book, *The Caring City: Health, Economy, and Environment* (2019), expands on these ideas by inviting us to rethink architectural and urban models. The book emphasizes prioritizing the public and civic dimension of citizens' experiences when they care for themselves, for each other, and for the environment. Chinchilla proposes furniture that supports diverse human needs – such as rest, play, and social interaction – thus promoting a more inclusive and caring urban environment. This includes designing public seating that is comfortable and accessible, creating shaded areas for rest, and installing water fountains that provide free access to clean drinking water.

This concept aligns closely with Tatiana Bilbao's vision of enhancing the physical and emotional health of citizens. She addresses the architectural dichotomy between individual domestic space and its surrounding urbanism. Her exhibition *The House and the City: Two Collages*, held at 'T' Space Rhinebeck in upstate New York in 2019, investigated how architecture can encourage community engagement and social cohesion. Bilbao uses collage to test context-driven solutions in overly densified communities, emphasizing the importance of designing spaces that foster social interaction and collective well-being. She acknowledges the complexities of urban design, stating, I don't have the answers; I just have the questions, highlighting her exploratory approach to creating inclusive urban environments. As Bilbao succinctly puts it, Humans are social creatures and need to be part of a collective. So how then, does one design to encourage it [2]?



3 DESIGNING CITIES LIKE HOMES: URBAN INTERIORS

Aldo van Eyck (1918–1999), a pioneering figure in human-centred urban design, once wrote: A house must be like a small city if it's to be a real house, and a city like a large house if it's to be a real city [3]. In his 1962 essay 'Steps Toward a Configurative Discipline', Van Eyck's orphanage project in Amsterdam was his boldest attempt to design architecture as urban spaces, creating a friendly, open environment that felt as safe as a home. He aimed to create both a house and a city, a city-like house, and a house-like city, with corridors and halls that evoked city streets, featuring 50 doors opening onto the outside world [4].

Incorporating the concept of Urban Interiors, the design strategy envisions cities with the same care given to private homes, focusing on human needs, comfort, and well-being. This approach emphasizes the significant impact of small interventions on creating habitable and sustainable cities. By applying principles of interior design to urban planning, cities can foster environments that encourage social interaction, community engagement, and a sense of belonging.

The strategy includes elements typically associated with interior design, such as furniture, lighting, art, and colour, into public spaces. These features create inviting and comfortable environments that encourage people to spend time in public areas. For example, well-designed seating areas, adaptable lighting, and greenery can transform a barren plaza into a vibrant social hub. Incorporating these aspects also addresses practical needs like providing shade and protection, enhancing the overall safety of the space.

Inclusive and participatory design are crucial for public spaces to be accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or physical ability. This involves thoughtful design that considers the needs of diverse populations, such as ramps, wide pathways, and accessible seating areas. Engaging citizens in the design process, like asking children to envision urban spaces near their schools, is also vital. Incorporating diverse elements like play areas for children, quiet zones, workout spaces for adults, and interactive installations fosters inclusivity. These initiatives promote safety, intercultural and intergenerational learning, benefiting all age groups.

Reviving the traditional Urban Salon concept can provide valuable insights for current urban design, emphasizing community engagement and inclusivity. Historically, Urban Salons were large social areas in European cities where people gathered to interact, exchange ideas, and even flirt. Among the most prominent European Boulevards, the Paseo del Prado in Madrid stands out. Originally developed in the 16th century, it became a prominent urban salon in the 18th century. It combined nature, culture, and science, making it a lively public space that influenced urban development in Central and South America. Buenos Aires' Avenida de Mayo and Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma are examples of Latin American cities adopting similar principles, featuring wide, tree-lined boulevards designed for public use and enjoyment. Urban salons were normally wide pedestrian areas framed by big trees and lovely greenery.

Reimagining public spaces as extensions of interior living spaces integrates comfort, intimacy, and nature into the urban fabric. By treating public spaces as Urban Salons, prioritizing pedestrian access with permeable pavement, shade, wide sidewalks, pedestrian zones, and traffic calming measures can make these spaces more walkable and sociable. Additionally, hosting a variety of cultural and social activities, such as outdoor performances, art installations, markets, and festivals, can create dynamic and engaging public spaces.

4 BIOPHILIC DESIGN: PARK VS. PLAZA DICHOTOMY

Biophilic design connects urban environments with nature to enhance well-being and sustainability. It leverages the human affinity for nature by integrating natural elements like



plants, water features, and natural materials into urban spaces. Key principles include creating greenways, promoting biodiversity, improving air and water quality, and fostering community engagement through participatory design and educational programs [5]. Community gardens in vacant lots can also provide green spaces and communal activity opportunities.

Exposure to natural elements through biophilic design has been shown to reduce stress, boost mood, and enhance overall mental health. Green spaces also promote physical activity, contributing to better physical health. Furthermore, biophilic design fosters social connections by creating inviting and engaging public spaces where people can gather, interact, and participate in activities. This approach enhances the sense of community and overall well-being, making urban environments more pleasant and conducive to human health.

While practicing Qi Gong alongside elders working out in an outdoor gym in a plaza-like park in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, I observed a group of fit young people practicing yoga nearby, and later, others gathered for theatre performances. Was this a park or a plaza, or both simultaneously? Could we learn from these examples beyond considering the climate differences? In the United States, people gather in parks, much like in Japan, while in Europe, plazas serve as hubs for eating, dancing, performances, and social gatherings. Would we benefit from making plazas more human, friendly, and accessible, even if we prefer to meet in parks?

Public plazas play a crucial role in shaping urban life by fostering social interactions, cultural vibrancy, and a sense of belonging. They are essential venues for gatherings, events, and everyday activities. However, poor design, such as a lack of seating, green spaces, and shade, can make them feel unsafe and unwelcoming, leading to underutilization. Incorporating native vegetation, providing a variety of seating options, and ensuring inclusive design can enhance their liveability and make them more inviting and functional social hubs compared to parks.

The presence of gathering points, such as playgrounds or places where varying elements – bus stops, vending carts, outdoor seating – combine to create places for encounter. Food often plays a critical role in socializing. Well-designed entrances and visually accessible spaces are also critical for the sense of safety and well-being of the users. If a space is to be used, people need to see it and be able to get to it. Less dominance of space by vehicles, with more wide liveable crosswalks and sidewalks, also favours the usability of plazas.

Sustainability is another key component of urban design. By using eco-friendly materials and ecological design practices, cities can minimize their environmental impact. This includes recycling materials, disassembly architecture, and native species. For instance, biodegradable design allows for the creation of structures that can be easily demounted and repurposed, reducing waste and promoting a circular economy. Projects like the Dolce Gusto Neo Flagship Store (2018), a 3D-printed building designed to be disassembled and have its parts used as agricultural fertilizer, exemplify this approach.

5 CITY AS A PLAYGROUND:

MAKING STREETS AND PLAZAS MORE FUN

Between 1947 and 1971, van Eyck designed an estimated 700–860 playgrounds in Amsterdam, forming a massive city-wide network of activity. These places shaped an entire generation and radically shifted the approach to urbanism, turning the top-down modernist approach of the time on its head. For Van Eyck, the modernist approach was too centralized, hierarchical, and rigid. ‘Functionalism has killed creativity’, Van Eyck once said in an article in the Dutch magazine *Forum*. It leads to a cold technocracy, in which the human aspect is



forgotten. A building is more than the sum of its functions; architecture has to facilitate human activity and promote social interaction [6].

An excellent essay, Aldo van Eyck and the City as Playground, summarizes three design features of Van Eyck's playgrounds: First, they proposed a different conception of space, with equipment designed in a minimalist way to stimulate the imagination of children. Second, the playgrounds had a modular character, allowing basic elements to be endlessly recombined in different compositions based on local requirements. Third, the design aimed at interaction with the surrounding urban environment, recreating space through incremental adaptation rather than a tabula rasa approach [7].

In his book *Homo Ludens* (1938), Johan Huizinga explores the fundamental nature of play and its significance in human culture. He defines play as an activity distinct from other forms of thought and expression, highlighting its voluntary nature, limits, rules, and aim to achieve something. Play is a primary way that humans learn and develop. Historically, humanitarians saw playgrounds as solutions to urban issues such as cramped living conditions, poor air quality, and social isolation. However, play should bring freedom and dignity to users regardless of their age or ability. Contemporary urban design should rethink how play is integrated into daily city life, addressing the question: have we lost our sense of playfulness?

Cedric Price and Joan Littlewood's Fun Palace (1961) envisioned an adaptable and flexible space for public enjoyment and creativity. The Fun Palace allowed users to control their activities and continuously learn new ways of seeing and doing things. It emphasized user participation, adaptability, and imagination in shaping vibrant, inclusive communities. On the many projects she worked on, Littlewood always said: ask the kids [8]. Can we make streets and plazas more fun?

Play has the transformative power to shape urban environments positively. It encourages movement, interaction, and inventiveness, counteracting the isolating effects of current urban life. As new technologies lead to more indoor and secluded lifestyles, there is a growing need for spaces that fulfil our innate desire for human interaction. Creating non-invasive and temporary spaces for play can gradually reintroduce this vital activity into our cities. Affordable, adaptable, and sustainable interventions can make urban environments more playful and engaging, encouraging people to spend time outdoors and interact with their surroundings and each other. As shown in Fig. 1, the concept of inclusive play can foster community well-being.

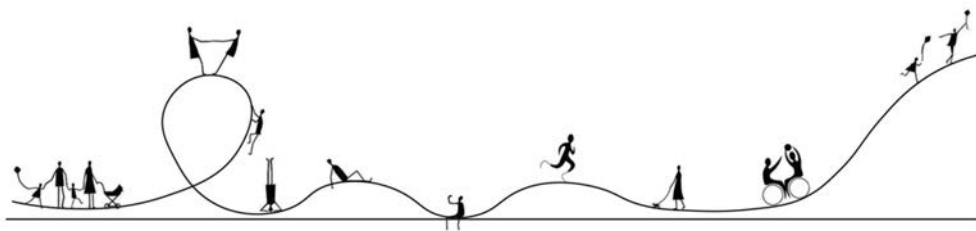


Figure 1: Every Body Plays (2003), by Daija Farmer, a former student of Marta Rodriguez's seminar: Design for Dignity and Ethics for the City.

Constant Nieuwenhuys used the concept of New Babylon to critique modernist urbanism. Developed from 1959 to 1974, Nieuwenhuys's vision proposed a speculative city where automation would free human life to focus on creativity, collectivity, and play. This was a direct response to the functionalist and utilitarian approaches of his time, exemplified by

figures like Le Corbusier. Nieuwenhuys argued that cities should be dynamic and adaptable environments that enhance human playfulness rather than rigid structures dedicated solely to efficiency and productivity. His ideas were influenced by Situationist concepts, particularly the practice of 'dérive' and psychogeography, which involved exploring and reimagining urban spaces based on their psychological impact on inhabitants, paralleling van Eyck's emphasis on place and occasion.

By incorporating inclusive playgrounds and other small-scale pop-up urban interventions, designers can create spaces that enhance community cohesion and improve the quality of urban life. Designed to encourage play and interaction among people, inclusive playgrounds foster social equity and healthier, happier citizens. Emphasizing accessibility, adaptability, and engagement, research highlights that introducing play in plazas and streets can bridge generational gaps, reduce stereotypes, and promote social inclusion by providing play spaces that welcome everyone. They encourage physical activities that are beneficial for social, emotional, and physical well-being, allowing the difference to interact and share cultural knowledge, designed with Universal Design principles to ensure accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities.

This focus on inclusivity and engagement parallels Isamu Noguchi's (1904–1988) playground designs. Noguchi's playgrounds, like the one in New York City's Riverside Park (1975), were also conceived to encourage inventiveness and joyous interactions among children and adults alike. He believed in creating spaces that transcended age barriers, promoting ingenious play and community bonding.

6 CASE STUDIES OF TACTICAL URBANISM

The concept of Plazas de Bolsillo, or Pocket Plazas, originated in Santiago, Chile, and exemplifies human-centred urban design through small interventions. These temporary public spaces are created on vacant lands using movable elements like tactical furniture, vegetation, urban art, and food trucks. They aim to revitalize unused areas and enhance community safety and health. Between 2016 and 2018, the Municipality of Santiago and the Ministry of Public Works created twelve such spaces in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago. These interventions transform public property into spaces for temporary public use, addressing the underutilization of urban areas and promoting social interaction. Their success has led to replication in other Chilean cities and inspired similar projects across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Aligned with tactical urbanism principles, the Pocket Plazas initiative emphasizes quick, low-cost, and creative interventions that significantly impact urban life. These spaces provide immediate benefits by transforming neglected areas into vibrant, safe, and accessible public spaces. Public–private partnerships often support their implementation, with public entities investing in adaptable furniture and strategic partners, such as food truck associations, maintaining the spaces. Globally, analogous interventions, such as NYC Plazas in New York or Pocket Parks in London, reclaim vacant lots and turn them into community assets.

Similarly, the Concéntrico festival in Logroño, Spain, transforms public spaces by inviting designers to reimagine and revitalize these areas through innovative installations. Held annually, the festival showcases temporary structures emphasizing sustainability, cultural sensitivity, and respect for the local environment. Projects like The Street in 10 Years program partner with Porto Academy to envision the future of urban spaces, focusing on adaptability and community engagement. Competitions like Celebrating the City reimagine traditional urban elements, enhancing the public realm and fostering a sense of community and belonging.



Another example is the UNI Project by Höweler + Yoon, developed for the nonprofit Street Lab Inc. between 2011 and 2013, which offers a practical application of adaptable urban interventions in underserved neighbourhoods. The UNI is a mobile, reconfigurable public space comprising 144 open-faced cubes that house books and can be configured into various layouts. This modular structure promotes social interaction, education, and community engagement. The BMW Guggenheim Lab, which travelled to New York City, Berlin, and Mumbai between 2011 and 2014, featured a flexible, carbon fibre structure hosting lectures, workshops, and community gatherings. The Lab adapted its activities to each city's local context, promoting innovative urban solutions.

Moreover, Toyo Ito's Rinbu installation at the Gwangju Design Biennale in 2015 integrates natural and artificial components to create a contemplative public space. Inspired by the Sosaewon Garden, the installation features spiralling bamboo structures and layered plywood paths, inviting visitors to sit and reflect. TAKK Architects also contribute significantly to this field by enhancing streets and plazas with engaging and interactive elements. Their projects, such as ARCA, use recycled materials and eco-friendly design principles to create portable structures that promote biodiversity and community gathering spaces.

Collectively, these case studies show the transformative potential of small-scale, adaptable interventions and their significant impact on the liveability and vibrancy of urban environments. The Plazas de Bolsillo initiative, Concéntrico festival, UNI Project, BMW Guggenheim Lab, and the works of Toyo Ito and TAKK Architects highlight innovative approaches to revitalizing urban spaces, prioritizing flexibility, inclusivity, and sustainability. These initiatives demonstrate how targeted, localized interventions can regenerate public spaces, improve social cohesion and public safety, and foster a stronger sense of community. As Manuel de Solà-Morales notes in *De Cosas Urbanas* (2008): the essence of urbanity lies in the concrete, tangible interventions that enrich the everyday lives of citizens.

7 CONCLUSIONS FOR HUMAN-CENTERED URBAN DESIGN

The challenge of transforming our urban plazas and streets into vibrant, inclusive spaces requires a multifaceted approach that integrates human-centred design principles, biophilic design, and tactical urbanism. Through a detailed examination of historical precedents, theoretical frameworks, and contemporary case studies, we can draw several key conclusions that inform a comprehensive strategy for urban renewal.

First, the concept of human-scale urban design underscores the importance of designing spaces that prioritize human interaction. Drawing inspiration from Aldo van Eyck's idea of creating urban environments that feel like homes, it is essential to infuse open public spaces with the same care, comfort, and habitability found in private residences. This approach demands a shift from viewing public spaces purely as functional areas to seeing them as extensions of our living domains where communal activities flourish.

Second, the integration of biophilic design into urban planning can transform public spaces into healthier, more inviting environments. Green spaces, natural elements, and community gardens not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of urban environments but also improve mental and physical well-being, promoting a symbiotic relationship between the built and natural worlds. Moreover, the use of eco-friendly materials, recycling, and adaptive reuse of spaces contribute to the creation of sustainable cities.

Third, the role of tactical urbanism in revitalizing public spaces is paramount. This approach involves temporary, low-cost interventions that can quickly transform underutilized areas into vibrant community hubs. Tactical urbanism emphasizes the importance of



adaptability and community involvement in urban design, ensuring that public spaces remain responsive to the evolving needs of their users.

Furthermore, there is a need for spaces that encourage creativity and inclusivity. Engaging citizens in the design process and considering the needs of diverse populations is crucial for creating accessible and inclusive public spaces. Integrating playgrounds and playful elements into urban design can transform streets and plazas into dynamic environments that foster physical, social, and emotional well-being. This approach challenges the traditional, rigid structures of urban planning and advocates for more fluid, engaging spaces that invite exploration and interaction.

Ultimately, the transformation of urban spaces into vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable environments requires a holistic approach that combines human-centred design, biophilic principles, and tactical urbanism. By drawing on the insights of past and present urban thinkers and practitioners, we can develop strategies that not only address the functional needs of cities but also enhance the quality of life for their residents. Through thoughtful design and community engagement, we can create urban spaces that are truly habitable, fostering stronger social connections and a deeper sense of belonging.

This vision aligns with broader movements in urban design that advocate for more inclusive and accessible public spaces. For example, initiatives like the installation of 'parklets' in busy city areas provide small pockets of green space where people can sit and relax. Similarly, community-driven projects that create shared public spaces for gardening and recreation emphasize the value of non-commercial, communal activities. These interventions highlight the potential of small-scale changes to foster a culture of care and inclusivity in urban design, transforming cities into environments that support both the physical and emotional well-being of their inhabitants.

In conclusion, the proposal to integrate play, biophilic design, and human-scale urbanism offers a compelling vision for the future of our cities. By treating plazas as living rooms and streets as playgrounds, we can create environments that support both the physical and emotional well-being of their inhabitants. This approach not only revitalizes public spaces but also promotes a more connected, equitable, and sustainable urban future, ultimately contributing to the creation of truly habitable cities.

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