

Placemaking Toolkit Designing People Places

A toolkit for communities and designers to design public spaces and buildings in Palestine



Making Planning Work for All

Acknowledgments

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Foreword

Funded by the European Union, UN-Habitat oPt and the International Peace Cooperation Centre (IPCC) support Palestinian communities in Israeli controlled Area C with spatial planning assistance and capacity building. The assistance aims to improve the housing and human settlement conditions of Palestinians, addressing the urbanization challenges, and supporting the building of a Palestinian State.

The motto of this “Spatial Planning Support Programme” is “Making planning work for all”. Although making participatory plans to cater for the real needs of the Palestinian communities in Area C is a huge challenge per se, the ultimate aim remains to trigger the needed investments to ensure a more sustainable future. A key activity in the programme labeled as ‘Placemaking’ ought to bridge the land-use plan with community investments. In short, Placemaking is defined as the method to turn undefined spaces into meaningful places, through the preparation of community-guided design schemes for prior capital investment projects. Community visioning and negotiated designing process are key

elements in this approach. The Placemaking approach was tested in 4 small rural villages and 1 urban area, and has resulted in i) design packages for each pilot and ii) a Placemaking toolkit useful for other cases in rural as well more urbanized areas. In this publication we present the toolkit.

The work has been carried out under the lead of Ms. Jenny Donovan, an international expert on urban design, landscaping and placemaking, supported by a specialized and dedicated team of UN Volunteers. However, most credits go to the pilot communities and the community members whom invested a lot of their trust and time in a process that was rather new to most of them. The experiences and lessons learned from these interactive placemaking workshops were used as an input to this toolkit.

It is hoped for that the toolkit will inspire, encourage and empower Palestinian communities to shape and reshape their living environment, as well boost a new generation of Palestine planners, urban designers, architects and civil society activists to test and improve this truly participatory approach.

Fiona McCluney

Introduction

Palestine is blessed by a beautiful landscape, resourceful and resilient people and its towns and villages are the focus of a strong sense of community and belonging. This document seeks to provide those people with some hints and ideas about how they might make use of these assets and create 'people places' in towns and villages that contribute to the quality of life of the people who live in these communities.

Imagine a sense of community is a flowering plant. People places are the pot and the soil within which the seed is planted. With the right choices and careful attention the seed can flourish and grow to its full potential and beauty. Make the wrong choices (e.g. poor selection of pot, soil or placement) or fail to give it adequate attention and the plant will not grow or its contribution will be diminished as it grows weakly or dies prematurely. Getting it right requires commitment, knowledge and sometimes hard work but the end result makes these efforts worthwhile.

Despite the fact that Palestine has beautiful landscape and great natural and human potential for development, the protracted occupation has created a negative impact to spatial development, in oPt and in particular in Area C. The Israeli military planning regime applied to Palestinians in Area C, limits the possibility of Palestinian construction to 30 percent of Area C. Furthermore,

within this limited geographic area, Palestinians have so far been permitted to build in less than 1% of the land in Area C. This restriction has negative impact in overall development including spatial, economic and social development.

This document seeks to help communities to engage in the placemaking process and create surroundings that give you the best circumstances to flourish. It reflects the aspiration outlined in the **World Charter on the Right to the City** which resolves "that cities should constitute an environment of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all people, in conditions of equality and justice, and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social and ecological realization".

Achieving this is as much a matter of cultivating change in people's hearts and minds as on the ground. Placemaking is about enabling people to connect with their surroundings and feel empowered to fulfill their responsibilities to themselves, their families, their communities and the wider world.

This document is divided into three parts;

Part 1 is an exploration of what placemaking and people places are;

Part 2 provides some insights into the people who need to be involved and the steps along the way to getting a people place designed and built; and,

Part 3 provides some insights into the components that you might find useful to create a people place and the principals that might inform you about how to apply these ideas.

Part 1: What are people places?

Placemaking and People Places

Placemaking is a term that encompasses the diverse actions that seek to ensure people's surroundings offer them the best possible chances of thriving and fulfilling their potential in life.

This typically requires imbuing spaces in villages, towns and cities with characteristics that help their inhabitants meet the challenges they face, that reflect their values, nurture a sense of belonging and foster a sense of authentic human attachment.

There are many different people who can play a part in making this happen:

- Architects, planners, urban designers and engineers, etc. have particular skills in making physical changes in the built environment. They can be place-makers by ensuring their work has qualities that resonate with the surrounding community and provides those people (including those not yet born) with opportunities that contribute to their quality of life.
- Experts in managing spaces and education can help equip people with the skills and insights to make the best use of their surroundings.
- Administrators and government officers can guide necessary changes through the legislative landscape and can unlock resources by changing the rules governing development and launching programmes and initiatives that allow change to happen.
- Members of the community- to whom this document is aimed - have local knowledge, skills and existing social networks unavailable to anyone else. Your surroundings matter to you, you can offer "emotional capital" in making changes which is every bit as important as the physical capital or financial capital that is also needed to make things happen.

People places are places that are shared by a community and valued by them because of the way they are designed, built and used.

This document is intended to provide all these diverse parties with a starting point to work together and achieve people places in their community.

What types of places can be people places?

These are the streets, parks, other open spaces and community buildings that are the focus for community life and are shared by everyone in that community. In many parts of the world these are collectively known as social infrastructure. Designed well they can be places not just where people have to go but where they want to go and can be enjoyed by many people. These places exist not just on the ground but in people's hearts and minds.

Some communities already enjoy many places that fit this description but other communities are lacking them. The resilience of Palestinian communities being what it is, even where communities are denied these places a sense of community still thrives, bound by bonds of family, belonging, love, friendship and shared experience. However the ideas in this booklet reflect a belief that your surroundings should assist rather than hinder your ability to stay healthy, make friends, learn, be inspired, thrive and fulfil your potential.

People places are designed to meet multiple needs. They will have a primary purpose, for example streets that allow people to get from A-B, a park where they can play or libraries that allow them to borrow a book and access the internet. But they are also designed to meet a number of secondary purposes, for example streets that are also pleasant places to chat to friends, play and observe nature, parks that are beautiful and relaxing places to visit and libraries that offer information about your community and provide a peaceful and welcoming place to be. In this way people places support people who live nearby to enjoy surroundings that enhance their quality of life and connect them with their neighbours in safe, attractive and comfortable surroundings.

They encourage people to enjoy a wide range of incidental social and recreational activities not because they have to but because they will feel like they are missing out if they don't. Such activities typically include chatting to

friends, playing, observing the changing seasons, walking, games, sports and other recreational activities.

The diversity of people places

Every community is different. Each one comprises individuals who have their own way of seeing the world, their own aspirations, hopes and fears. Different communities occupy areas with a unique mix of challenges and assets; climatic, political, social. Add to this the diversity of streets, parks and public buildings and you will see there is no one recipe for a people place. The actual composition and look of a people place will be as varied as the communities they serve. However they typically have a number of consistent characteristics.

The design process

The design process for a people place involves a broad cross section of the community as well as experts who can offer appropriate professional insights; People places are designed to be relevant to the values and needs of the people who share them, who live near them or pass by them. People places should also be designed for the people who will share it in the future, those people not yet born or are too young and who will inherit it from us. Consequently a key component of a people place is making sure it is tailored to those needs that we know and is flexible enough to meet future needs we cannot yet identify.

This requires a commitment to community engagement: in designing the people place, using it, cultivating a sense of pride and ownership of it and empowering people to make well informed decisions about its future. This also requires ensuring that the threshold for participation is as low as possible to ensure a wide section of the community can participate in the process and low levels of education and traditional patriarchal values do not deter people from participating. This area is explored in more depth in the next section.



Multi-purpose places

People places make efficient use of space. Given the diversity of people's needs and the many demands placed on urban spaces people places are designed to reconcile many functions in the one space.



This is an example of a street that was called upon to serve two functions; it had to allow vehicles to travel along it and allow pedestrians to cross it from the adjacent school to the park on the other side of the road. The placemaking solution illustrated here slowed down traffic to a safe speed by measures that also made it a more pleasant and safer place to cross and in doing so created the sense of a village square in this important location.

Places for everyone

Designing people places means that the things that get built can be enjoyed by as many people as possible and by extension as few people as possible are

precluded from enjoying them. This means they are designed to ensure the barriers that sometimes inadvertently discriminate against certain groups of people are removed.

These barriers can be purely physical, such as places that can only be accessed by steps and that consequently disadvantage people in wheelchairs, or they can deter us because of how we perceive our surroundings, such as dark laneways that seemingly go nowhere that are often seen as unwelcoming and scary by many people, particularly women and older people.

Either way, such spaces are not people places as they do not welcome as many people as reasonably possible. Of course there will always be a need for some barriers for safety reasons (for example to protect people at abrupt changes of level or at places where children may play near busy roads) but where these barriers exist they should be consciously designed for a reason (e.g. safety) and not just be an accidental result of misguided design.

Example of an entry that combines steps, ramps and an informal waiting area to make sure no one is excluded from this school because of their mobility requirements



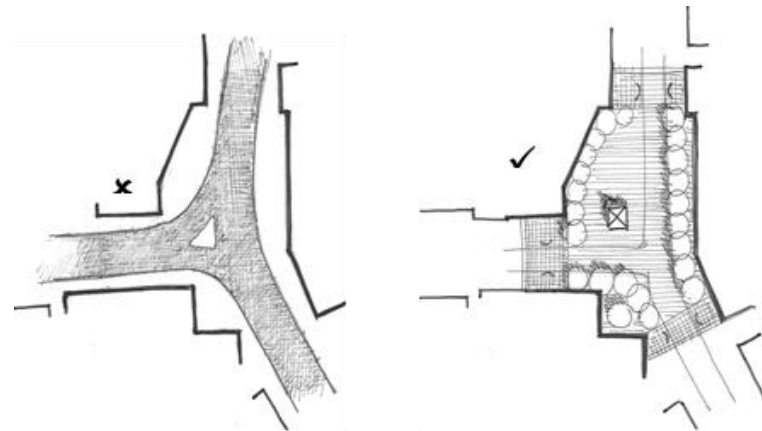
Why is designing 'people places' important?

A person's surroundings will impact on what they feel they can and can't do in their neighbourhood. The design of a street, park or public building can have a significant effect on the ability of its surrounding neighbourhood to nurture the people who live there and become the setting for a liveable and sustainable community.

For example a poorly designed street may make the people who live there feel unsafe and so deter them from leaving home or letting their children play outside.

Poorly designed streets also limit the opportunities for the people living in the area to get to know their neighbours, experience nature and have fun. Likewise parks that are unattractive, unsafe or function poorly are unlikely to be visited and so will offer little to the people who live nearby.

Poorly designed community buildings can be grim and unpleasant places that people try and avoid. Conversely if any of these are well designed they provide people with surroundings that allow them to simultaneously meet many needs without going out of their way, such as socialise, gain exercise, experience nature. In this way they provide people with surroundings that give them the best possible chances to fulfil their potential and thrive, individually and collectively, the hallmarks of liveable and sustainable communities.



The way public space is designed will make a big difference to its ability to contribute to the quality of life of those people who live near it or pass through it

The quality of the spaces in villages, towns and cities can make a difference by;

Providing people opportunities to get to the places they need to go in a safe, sustainable way.

Providing people with opportunities to express themselves, enjoy beauty and be moved and inspired;

And so give people a better chance to benefit from each other and their surroundings

Providing people opportunities to meet other people

... and thus improve their chances of learning, growing and reaching fulfillment

Different types of people places

Streets, laneways and footpaths

Streets are literally on everyone's doorstep and streets that are pleasant, safe and attractive will invite people to walk, play, enjoy their surroundings and enjoy the company of their neighbours.

Research from Europe and Australia has found that people who live on such streets have found that their houses sell for more, enjoy a higher level of pride in their area and a greater sense of belonging to a community (Marcus and Sarkassian 1986) (Manzo and Perkins 2006) and children are more likely to play outside and be healthier (Local Government Commission 2008).

Conversely people who have the misfortune to live on streets that are unsafe are effectively denied these benefits and are more likely to suffer from a sense of isolation, a lower level of participation in the community around them, a poor sense of connection to their neighbourhood and be less healthy (Wood Johnson Foundation 2005).

Streets laneways and footpaths that are people places will feel like they are inviting places to be, rather than just spaces to pass through. They usually encourage motorists to drive with greater care and at lower speed in order to strike a balance between vehicular traffic and everyone else who uses the street, the pedestrians, cyclists, business people and residents.

Part of making a street a people place might involve "reclaiming" it from domination by cars. This can help improve safety and foster a sense of peace in neighbourhoods that are becoming overwhelmed by speeding traffic.



Parks and open spaces

Parks and open spaces can provide the people who live nearby with access to a wide range of opportunities that contribute to their quality of life. For example they allow people to play sport, participate in exercise, experience nature, relax, gather and participate in cultural events.

However in order to benefit from these activities the potential visitors need to feel that going to the park will be worthwhile and a good investment of their time and effort. This requires parks and open spaces are welcoming,

comfortable, safe, easy to get to and supportive of the particular activity(ies) they hope to enjoy. If they fail to provide these qualities they are less likely to be used and the people who live nearby are less likely to enjoy the health, social and other benefits of open space.



Public buildings

Public buildings such as libraries, civic centres, neighbourhood houses and halls and the like are intended to serve the community and provide them with access to activities, services and/or events that they value. For people to benefit from these services they typically need to visit the building. There are of course many requirements for ensuring people feel like visiting the building but some of the essential ones are that the building is welcoming, safe, easy to get to and not depressing.

Failure to ensure these qualities may mean that the resources invested in creating or maintaining a building and all the committed efforts of staff and volunteers will not achieve the community benefits they are intended to achieve.

Ensuring public buildings are welcoming and relate well to its surroundings are an important part of making them people places.

Part 2: Getting a people place designed and built

This section looks at the people and groups that may need to be involved to create a people place and offers an example of a placemaking project to illustrate how such a project can move towards completion.

The importance of co-ordination

Making changes to your shared surroundings can be complex and usually requires co-ordination with many different agencies and groups. Quite often people are deterred from making changes or seeking to add their opinion to the design process because it appears too difficult.

Designing people places is about giving you a voice in the design process and aligning these different interests so they are all pointing in the same direction and all share a commitment to achieving a common goal.

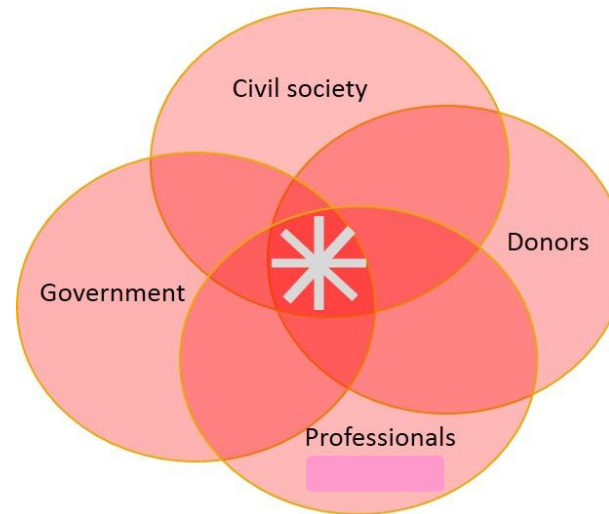
However, in order to use your time and effort effectively it is worth bearing in mind the following factors:

Understanding the roles of the different players in the placemaking process.

Think of any shared space in your community. It might have water and sewerage pipes beneath it (or is planned to do so), a road above it that is managed by local government, it might be used by pedestrians, drivers, goatherds, and will adjoin private land. All of these groups will be effected if you change the road. Understanding how any changes effects other people is an important part of designing people places.

Consequently there are many different players interested in getting projects designed and built successfully. A good project that works well and stands the test of time will typically need to get approval and/or co-operation from all of them. These players can broadly be grouped into the categories described below. Each of these players has responsibilities and limitations and it may help the

community to understand these when going through the design and building process in order that you might work more effectively with them.



People places come about when all the players are aligned and can harness their resources to achieve a shared goal

Civil society

This includes members of the community, community groups and private landowners (where these are effected). Typically the people in this group has very good local knowledge. You know what grows well and what doesn't and how people use the different spaces in their town or village. You also have the most direct benefit from improving their town or village. However, unfortunately people in Palestine have for many years been disempowered and have limited experience in planning and improving their communities. In order to make the best use of this local knowledge and commitment it is often necessary to collaborate with outside experts so that they may share the design process and work with government, donors to unlock the resources to get things done.

Government

Government at local and state level has responsibility to ensure that what gets built is in accordance with the relevant laws and ordinances. They will often need to approve any plans that a community makes to ensure it is in line with these laws and it is always worth checking before you do any final work to make sure it is ok with them.

Council officers have many other responsibilities and so it may not be possible for any particular officer to dedicate much time to helping communities formulate designs for their communities. In order to help the government give swift feedback and or approval to community ideas it is usually best to present your ideas in ways that relate to councils objectives and the rules they have to follow. This is one of the ways an outside expert (see below) can help.

Invariably the resources available to the government are never enough to implement all the good ideas and improvements they would like to do at once and they have to be carefully considered and prioritised. Getting Council to adopt a proposal and ensure it is broadly supported will be helped by demonstrating how it meets Councils other objectives, “killing two birds with one stone” as it were.

Donors

There are many national and international bodies who are committed to helping the people of Palestine. They can offer a wide range of skills and resources that might prove the difference between getting something done or not getting it done. However they are all bound by strict rules governing what they can and can't spend their money on and it will be necessary to understand these limitations and the gaps in funding to make sure all the gaps can be filled.

Professionals

Experts in the fields of planning, landscape, architecture and other related fields can apply their creativity, professional insights and experiences to the challenges

faced by the community to arrive at the best possible outcome. An appropriate professional should;

- Have a strong track record of working collaboratively with communities and Councils;
- Demonstrate a clear methodology that is easy to understand and reflects the one in these guidelines;
- Demonstrate an ability to translate issues into proposals and explain the connection; and,
- Ensure final reports are clear, attractive and establish meaningful and implementable proposals.
- Committed to responding to the agendas and issues of all stakeholders.

Finding such a professional and accessing the resources to pay such a person or group can be difficult. UN Habitat may be able to provide you with advice on this matter.

The Importance of community involvement

Perhaps the most important asset and the principal reason for making investments in a place is you – the members of the community. Evidence around the world suggests that projects that spring from the community are more likely to be looked after and achieve greater benefits for the amount of money spent.

In other words the investment of *emotional capital* by a community in a design for a place is as important as the financial capital of the people who build it and the creative and intellectual capital of the professionals who help you design it.

The ideas illustrated in these guidelines are intended to use local skills in design, implementation and maintenance as much as possible. This is so you can have a sense that this is your work and you have a greater sense of control over your

surroundings. This may also help you develop skills that you can use elsewhere and empower you.



Inclusive design exercise to establish the communities priorities and from that the design agenda that the project should follow.

Creating a genuine sense of engagement is not without its challenges. The design team may need to pay special attention to supporting the participation of women and gaining people's trust, particularly in places where previous initiatives and consultation exercises have raised hopes that have not been realised.

Remember the project does not finish when it is built

To get the most out of a project care needs to be taken to plan for its management, review (to check it is contributing to people's lives as intended) and eventual replacement. All of these stages provide an opportunity for the community to get involved in making these decisions and also in undertaking the work.

However, when you do finish a stage it might be a good idea to celebrate and acknowledge the achievement you have made and recognise the contribution others make. A get together and a shared meal can be a great way of building a sense of team and shared commitment in a project.

An example project to design a ‘people place’

An example of a people places/placemaking project is included in appendix 1 of this report. The process involved three workshops with the community and professional planners and designers from UN Habitat and the IPCC as well as much “behind the scenes” work before and after these workshops.

Workshops are open meetings between the experts and the community to discuss and agree aspects of the project and undertake design exercises that help progress the design. By following the structure outlined below these workshops can move progressively from broad issues to finer detail and eventually arrive at design solutions in a clear, logical way. This method will allow all participants gain a shared understanding of the issues faced in the community before moving on to potential solutions. This also enables the professional staff to at least partially see the village or town “through the eyes of the locals”.

A typical placemaking process might be divided into the following stages:

Before the first workshop there is an important need to build trust between the community and the professional staff undertaking the process in order to minimise barriers and build confidence, both in the process and the professionals working with the community. This requires the professionals to have made multiple contacts with the community, these points of contact should include- but not be limited to any- recognised community leaders. These contacts should collaboratively agree on a date and time to start the workshop process that is (as far as possible) respected by the professionals and gives people in the community as much notice as possible. Where possible these connections need to be made broadly; in particular by directly linking to men and women in the community. Also before the first workshop there is a need for the design team to undertake thorough background research to understand the areas **topography,**

climate and the flora and fauna indigenous to the area, the strategic context of the village and any relevant plans for the area.

In the instance of the example shown in appendix 1 the principal plan was the outline plan the International Peace and Co-operation Center (IPCC) had prepared for the area. The interventions identified in this plan might be seen as the framework within which the placemaking concepts fit to provide the greatest benefit for the community.

The first workshop with the community is to build up a shared vision of the process and the site as it is. During the workshop the design team should explain the process and the design team should make a commitment to the community to assist the development of a sense of shared ownership. It is important to explain that this process differs from other types of consultation exercises that the community may have taken part in, particularly as it doesn’t jump straight to solution but instead it comprises several steps and seeks to understand the underlying issues before arriving at solutions. Illustrating this point with examples of other studies done this way may help.

The first workshop then continues to explain the planning context for the study (see p3 of appendix 1). This sets the scene to undertake a series of design exercises to understand the issues that the community attribute to different parts of their shared surroundings. This is known as the social landscape and understanding it is as important as the physical landscape because it helps the design team see the community through the eyes of the locals. Understanding the strength of feeling that people attributed to different issues provides the “design agenda” for the project and tells the designers what they need to concentrate on to get the best outcome.

This is a summary of the social landscape; the values, hopes and fears that people connect to different parts of the village and some observations we made about its built and landscape qualities

The community said:
"We like...."
 Garden nice for daily leisure
 Natural reserve
 Strategic location of the village between the main road and the natural reserves

We dislike....
 Lack of shelter in park
 Effects of Occupation Factory pollution and noise
 Main road expanded in the expenses of the surrounding area
 Fences around the school is ugly
 Not lighting in the street
 Street dangerous because of speeding cars
 Dumpsite next to the site annoying
 Unsafe street because of animals



Izbet Tabib social landscape (detail)

After the workshop the design team undertook a conventional site analysis that would be undertaken for any project and then documented the social landscape for this community. This gave the design team something we could then present to the community to check we have got it right. This understanding led us to the areas that we felt should be the focus of our attention. These are summarised below.

Summary of suggested Proposals introduced in the second workshop

What are we suggesting?

Creation of an attractive, safe and walkable central spine through the village

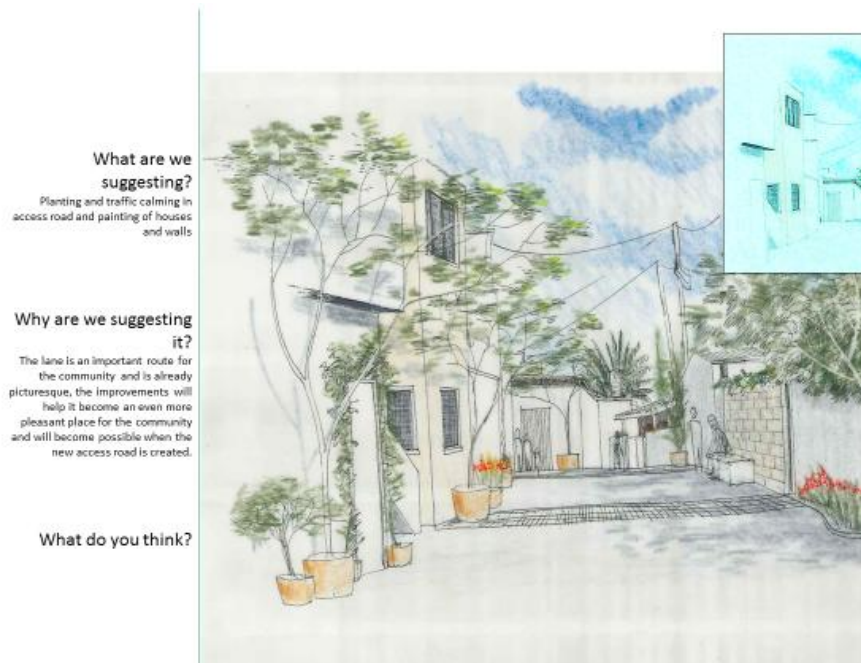
Why are we suggesting it?

With the creation of a new access road this one can safely be improved for walkers and slow vehicular access to help people going to school, park, bus etc



Izbet Tabib design priorities (detail)

The second workshop presented the findings of the first workshop back to the community for their consideration, amendment or confirmation. This was accompanied by some early ideas about the types of interventions that should be made and how they would help address the issues identified in the first workshop.



Izbet Tabib illustration of design concept (detail)

After this workshop the design team should then consider the issues raised by the community, keeping what the community recognised was good and reconsidering those issues that weren't supported by the community. Some considerable effort should be made to clearly communicating the design teams thought process and ensure the amended proposals are presented attractively and professionally. This will help demonstrate the design team are committed to the project and will help visualise what these proposals would mean for the community

The third workshop can then move towards a final set of placemaking concepts by reporting back the findings of the second workshop, identifying changes that were subsequently made again asked; have we got it right? (Refer p6 of appendix 1). The third workshop also provides an opportunity to test the ideas against the issues identified in workshop 1 and make sure they are relevant. To this end the proposals described not just the actions we were suggesting but also how it will make a difference.

In the case of the project shown in the appendix this process revealed further minor changes were required as shown on p7 and the final amended proposals are outlined on pages 8-17 of appendix 1.

Note: Feedback at all stages came from comments publically made at the meeting, one to one discussions with individuals in the community and an anonymous response form. This provided a variety of channels of feedback and ensured that people could find the medium that best suited them. An example feedback form can be found in appendix 2.

The final plans incorporated concepts, explicitly addressing how they addressed the communities concerns and notes about how they might be implemented and maintained.

Part 3 Designing People Places

This section looks at the design principles that might help communities and designers make design decisions and some typical design ideas that you might consider when preparing concepts for people places.

Some key principles

A people place will reflect the following principles:

Solve more than one problem with each concept

Access to land and resources is limited. People places seek to make the best use of these resources as possible. This means that wherever possible the creativity of the designer should be brought to bear on solving more than one problem at once and making sure that every space created serves as many people, with as many different needs as possible.

For example two commonly identified objectives are to minimise traffic problems and make places better for walking. In conventional design projects it is often considered that widening streets and installing separate footpaths separated from the road by kerbs might solve this problem. Indeed this is often true but it is expensive and in many places the narrow road corridor makes this very difficult without buying up private land which is costly and very disruptive. In these instances it might be better to design streets so they can safely be shared by pedestrians and drivers. In these cases there a number of changes can be made that are covered in this document which help ensure vehicles travel slowly and that improve the pedestrian environment.

Another important objective is to provide places where children can play. Conventional thinking suggests these are designated play areas. Whilst these certainly have a role children will play anywhere they can and the ideas in this document seek to ensure that as many of these environments, such as streets and areas around public buildings are 'play friendly'.

Consider change over time

Usually there will be several years between a plan being drawn up and its completion. In that time a site may lay partly or completely vacant and its

potential contribution to the surrounding community may remain unmet. During this time there may still many opportunities for the area to contribute to the community and leave a positive legacy for the eventual completion of the project and the quality of life of future generations.

In the first instance making a change to a place might simply be a matter of installing planting and/or making a temporary change to an area that can easily be moved or changed. Well selected actions like this may be enough to inspire people to think differently about a space and get used to making decisions that contributes to their quality of life. Such projects might be called pioneer projects.

Getting the best outcome from these pioneer projects will need the lead designer to make sure everyone understands their role in making it happen and also ensure none of the work will have to be removed later to build roads/pipes etc. or if it is it can be easily put back (e.g. plants in pots).

The detailed design work should make explicit reference to the design work done already to provide a sense of continuity. Sometimes it will be necessary to depart from earlier work, but when this happens the designer should explain why.



Installing pot plants can make a quick, simple and immediate change to an area and enables everyone to participate in making people places

When considering pioneer projects you may wish to think about the following:

Early planting of appropriate trees can help the final project benefit from an established landscape when it is built. In order that the trees do not limit future development options, consider planting them on the edges of the site.

Many sites contain a wealth of ecological values, offering a home to many different types of flora and fauna that are Palestine's invaluable ecological heritage. Care should be taken to understand what these are and manage them effectively in order that they may continue to support the areas ecological health. This usually requires commissioning the advice of a specialist.



Care should be taken with a pioneer use to use materials that may be easily relocated if needed. In many parts of the world shipping containers provide a cheap and flexible means of housing different activities and can, with appropriate design look visually appealing.



Re:start in Christchurch New Zealand, a temporary shopping centre made largely out of Shipping Containers, this transitional development demonstrated to the community that the earthquake that struck the city hadn't destroyed it; it was on the way up again.

Sometimes the pioneer projects are transitory; a temporary use of a space that leaves a positive legacy for future development. Either through the landscaping or other assets it has left behind it, or because of the sense it has created that things are getting better in a community. Landowners are often reluctant to allow their land to be used for a transitional use because it may be a management problem and the transitional use may prove very popular. These problems may be addressed, at least in part when the transition elements are:

- Subject to a management plan agreed with the landowner that outlines exactly who has what responsibilities.
- The transitional uses are accompanied by prominent signage and publicity that acknowledges the landowner and their generosity in allowing the use of the site for a transitional use for a temporary period.

Respect the soul of the place

People places maintain those familiar elements and seek to use characteristics that make a place special and that resonate with people. This often means looking beyond fashion or convenience or using the materials and design themes that are inexpensive and have been used recently elsewhere. Instead People Places use local materials and design themes where possible and a palette of plants and materials that are indigenous or have come to be valued by the local community. These are more likely to stand the test of time and be buildable by local people. People places also seek to ensure buildings and spaces work with the local landscape wherever possible and minimise large scale engineering work that may otherwise scar the landscape.

This may also mean looking around to see what materials can be re-used locally and provide an opportunity for local people to express themselves.



Reused tyre turned into a hanging basket



Seating provided in an open space using the areas characteristics, such as its topography and local stone

Don't build in accidental bias

Many spaces inadvertently reflect the priority of one consideration over others. An example of this are streets that are designed to facilitate car movement to the disadvantage of other functions the street may serve, such as walking, improving the areas amenity and comfort or servicing. Designing people places requires designing to reconcile these diverse objectives. In the example of car dominated streets this may mean giving more space to the landscape and footpath functions so both can function and perhaps introducing traffic calming measures, as described in the next section. In places where space is limited this

might require designing share ways as described in the next section that ensure that the needs of one type of use does not dominate.



Unless these are very pressing reasons to do otherwise, roadside spaces should be dedicated for landscaping and a separate uninterrupted area (typically at least 1.2m wide) should be dedicated for footpaths.

Build community and a sense of positive momentum

An important element of making a difference to a community is nurturing the feeling that things are getting better. To this end it is very helpful to move quickly to achieve projects that can be done soon and that achieve a positive legacy. To this end tree planting/installation of plants type landscaping is often a good "pioneer" project. Most villages already have the skills in this area and these types of interventions can achieve a big instant effect. It is also an accessible way for people to gain experience on co-ordinating work.

This requires that everyone feels engaged and involved. This may require meetings/publicity/mail drop to explain the scope of placemaking projects and

how they differ from other projects people may be familiar with. It may also be necessary to explain why this project is focussing on streetscape rather than the issues identified in existing plans as most pressing, such as sewerage and water. The response to this question would be that these achieve different outcomes, that these “people place” projects can help get the ball rolling before these ‘big ticket’ items can be implemented.

It might be an idea to set up a committee in your village to implement and help co-ordinate this work and maintain the improved areas. Such a committee might also oversee the work of outside contractors where these are called upon to implement the People Place proposals.

On many occasions a placemaking project may reveal that the only way to achieve improvements to the public realm is to make some changes in the adjoining private properties (in particular tree planting). Where this is the case it will be important to ensure land owners understand the reasoning why this is the case and agree to planting etc. on their land. Achieving this will be a matter of tact and diplomacy! Care should also be taken to acknowledge the contribution of the private landowners.



Trees planted on private properties adjacent to a road may offer the best way of contributing to the amenity of people walking along the road.

Ideally the funding agency should pay the members of the community to roll up their sleeves to do these interventions (this is cheaper than a big engineering firm!). Where work has been agreed on private land simple statements of instructions may be prepared for each landowner that might also double up as informal contract.

Getting planting done in one day or in a short intense spell can create a sense of festival and excitement and makes it easier to co-ordinate launch, do catering, get publicity etc.

With any work that you do, you need to make sure maintenance is considered to ensure your projects can continue to make a difference in the long run.

Where plant pots are needed you might want to see if they might all have a unifying element that gives your community a degree of consistency (not much is needed!). For example the pots may perhaps be of the same material but different sizes. This will help to tie an area together.

For each intervention there should be a sign or plaque acknowledging the community input, telling the story of whom or what the space is dedicated to and (where appropriate) interpretive material explaining the choice of trees and plants (the pros and cons of each species) with pictures of the plant when mature so if people are inspired by what they see they can replicate it at home.

The committee mentioned above might also run an annual competition for the best contribution made by members of the community.

Ensure responsibilities fall at the most appropriate level

A “People Place” is likely require many inputs from many different people and agencies.

If we are to get the most value from the available and scarce resources in Palestine the responsibilities between the community and other agencies will change as we move through the design process. This can help to make sure the process benefits from the involvement of those who were best equipped to help at each stage in the process. This process may well call on a lead designer to facilitate the design and project manage, assisted by someone with specialist

technical knowledge (horticulturalist, engineer) where possible to ensure responsibilities are distributed appropriately.

Such an evolution of responsibilities might be as described below:

Stage	Responsibilities	
Understand the context	[Experts]	
Understand priorities	[Experts]	
Create a vision for the future of the community	[Experts]	
Create a draft design	[Experts]	[Community]
Create a detailed design	[Experts]	[Community]
Implement	[Experts]	
Maintain	[Experts]	
Evaluate, review and adapt	[Experts]	

Some placemaking ideas

Placemaking projects in Palestine revealed the following objectives come up time after time in a variety of settings. Consequently the ideas in this booklet are presented in light of their impact on achieving these goals:

- Make places better for walking
- Make places more beautiful
- Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather
- Make places that provide a focus for community pride
- Minimise traffic problems
- Make places for children to play

The ideas that follow are not exhaustive and are not intended to replace the need for a landscape architect or urban designer, rather to help the community participate in the design process and work with their chosen design professional. It should always be borne in mind that not all ideas will be appropriate in all locations and your design advisor should be able to help you work out which of these ideas, or others, are appropriate in your area and make sure they make the maximum contribution to their surroundings.


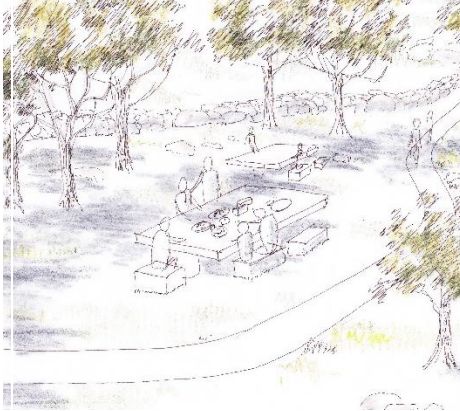


These ideas are divided up into built things and initiatives that encourage people to use and enjoy the space and are appropriate in different settings;

- in streetscapes and open spaces;
- primarily in streetscapes;
- primarily in open spaces;
- community Buildings; and,

✓ those ideas that might go anywhere!

Each idea lists the ways it can contribute to its surroundings so you can make sure it is relevant to the issues in your area. This is supported by a very brief outline of the key things to think about to make sure design decisions can be made in a way that everyone can engage in.

Ideas that may help improve open spaces

Idea	BBQ area	Picnic area	Raised planting beds	tree planting
				
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play

Things to consider

may add to the quality of streetscape or park if well designed

- may be "adopted" by local community
- may be controversial may be prone to vandalism/rubbish

will need to be carefully managed

To make the best contribution care may also need to be taken when thinking about the design and location of rubbish bins.

may add to the quality of streetscape or park if well designed

- may be "adopted" by local community
- may be controversial may be prone to vandalism/rubbish

will need to be carefully managed

To make the best contribution care may also need to be taken when thinking about the design and location of rubbish bins.

These can double as seats

They may allow the pre-development ground level to be retained around existing trees when the surrounding ground level changes

The change in surrounding ground level may affect irrigation and the trees may require additional irrigation

Tree planting can increase opportunities to experience the wonder of nature and provide opportunities for everyone to experience nature

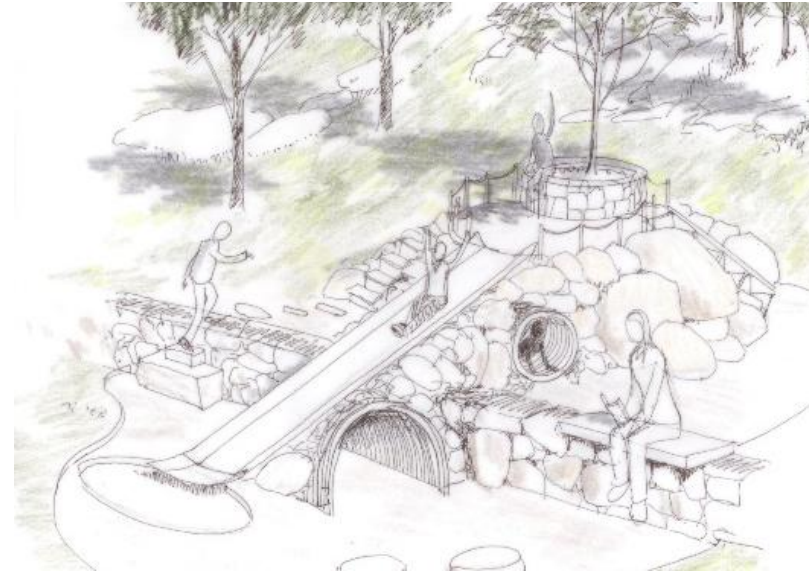
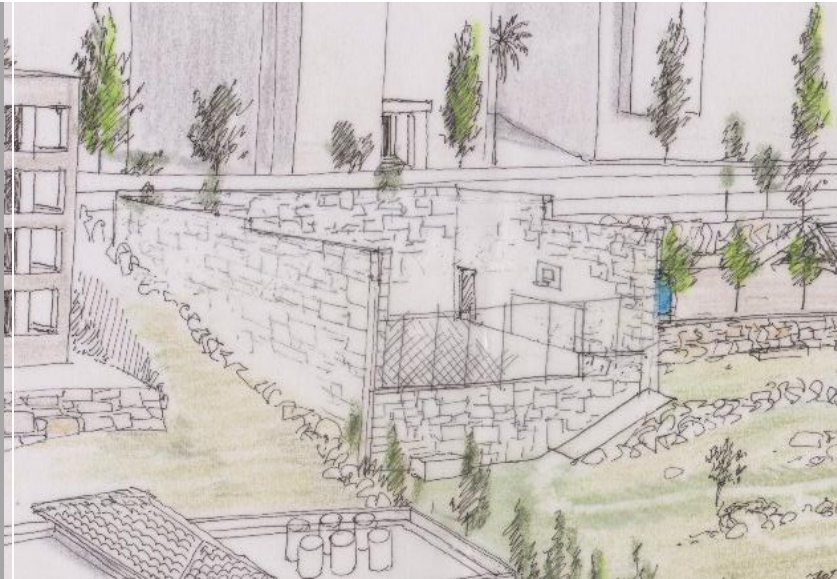
Care will need to be taken with tree planting to ensure the selected species does not become a trip hazard or have branches at eye level that may cause injury.

Tall trees can make a big difference visible from a long distance but they may cause overshadowing problems

Care will also need to be taken in the management of these areas to optimise their ecological and aesthetic values.

These areas might also provide an opportunity for picnic areas and bbq areas as outlined in this document.

Idea	Multi purpose hard court area	Play area
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How might it help?

- Make places better for walking
- Make places more beautiful
- ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather
- ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride
- Minimise traffic problems
- ✓ Make places for children to play

Things to consider

Potential activities include sport, outdoor cinema, performances

Minimal area 26 by 40m to ensure it can be used for a variety of sports

Ensuring the games are not visible from the street will make it more comfortable for girls to play sport

Co-locating the area with a changing room and store room will greatly enhance its useability

- Make places better for walking
- ✓ Make places more beautiful
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- Minimise traffic problems
- ✓ Make places for children to play



Provides an opportunity to make use of changes of level

Better places provide a range of experiences (things to go under, over, between and places to share and occupy) and challenges (things to climb up, jump between) etc.

Provides an opportunity to use local stone and reclaimed materials such as pipes.

Important to ensure that falls will land on a material that will minimise the likelihood of injury.

Seats should be provided nearby for parents and carers.

Idea	Buffer planting	Gathering place
		
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play
Things to consider	<p>Can provide a visual break between land uses.</p> <p>Can provide an attractive landscape setting for future development. To get the best outcome care will need to be taken to ensure that the species of</p>	<p>These work best when they don't require people to go far out of their way to get there. Therefore they should be on, or nearby important pedestrian routes and adjacent to key public buildings or commercial areas where</p>

tree are appropriate for the area and other planting is considered to create an appropriate groundcover and mid storey planting.

With appropriate space dedicated to landscape buffer planting may grow to be seen from a long distance and contribute to the areas skyline.


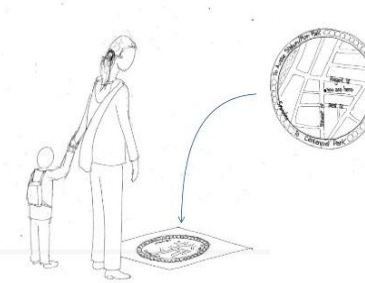


With careful choice of planting these spaces may provide areas of high habitat value and help enhance the areas ecological health.

people will have to go anyway.

Note the more a place is used the greater will be its maintenance burden.

This will need to be carefully considered when creating a gathering space.

Ideas that may help improve streetscapes or open spaces

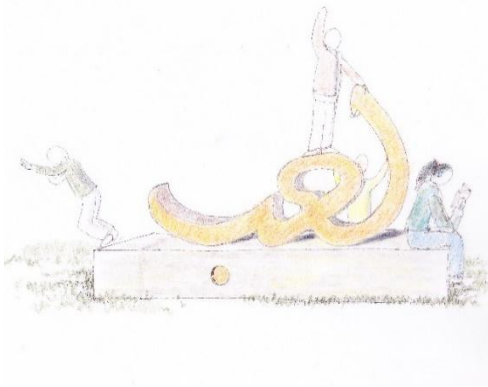
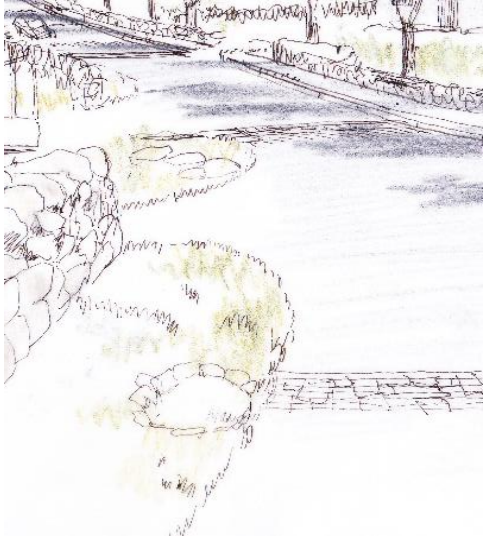

Idea	Change surface material	Directional Signage	Footpath installation or widening	Framing or revealing views
				
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play
Things to consider	<p>Some surface materials, such as cobbles or setts can make a space more attractive and slow down vehicles.</p>	<p>Directional signage of the type shown can be inlaid into the ground where it is unobtrusive but clearly tells people what direction to go in to get to</p>	<p>Care will need to be taken to ensure the surface material is not too intrusive or requires unsustainable maintenance.</p>	<p>Careful placement of buildings and landscape can enable people to enjoy landmarks from afar and may help them find their way through the area.</p>

Care will need to be taken to ensure the surface material is not too intrusive or requires unsustainable maintenance.

Note harder surfaces typically will change the way rain drains from a site. This creates both the opportunity to gather water and also an added responsibility to make sure it does not cause problems downstream.

where they want to.

Note harder surfaces typically will change the way rain drains from a site. This creates both the opportunity to gather water and also an added responsibility to make sure it does not cause problems downstream.

Idea	Public art	Rain gardens/water harvesting	Seating
			
How	✓ Make places better for walking	✓ Make places better for walking	✓ Make places better for walking

might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play
Things to consider	<p>Be careful! Public art can be controversial and will require careful maintenance if it is to continue to contribute to a community</p> <p>If public art is robust enough it may also serve as a play feature.</p>	<p>Rain gardens are features to capture rain water and recharge the water table.</p> <p>They can help communities demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.</p> <p>Signage illustrating how they work can help increase awareness in the wider community about how their community is facing future environmental challenges.</p> <p>Rain gardens and other “water sensitive urban design” measures can be co-ordinated with changes to street scapes that may be needed for other purposes (such as laying pipes)</p>	<p>Seats can easily be incorporated into low retaining walls by putting a “sittable” surface on top of the wall.</p> <p>Seats near trees can enjoy shade in summer</p> <p>Seats should be located adjacent to footpaths and/or located where people can enjoy spectacular views</p> <p>Seats with arm rests are preferred by older people with less mobility</p>


Idea	Street, village or open space thresholds	Temporary art features	Toilets	Traffic calming
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Example of temporary art feature on fence in Izbet Tabib by local artist Israa Tabib



<p>How might it help?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride ✓ Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play
<p>Things to consider</p>	<p>Many communities express a desire to create an imposing entry statement in the form of a grand gateway at the entrance to their community. Perhaps this objective might be better met by</p>	<p>They can change the way people think about an area and change a problem to an asset.</p> <p>They can also express a communities values and</p>	<p>they can take the worry out of going for a walk for many</p> <p>- they are likely to be expensive and will need to be well managed or may become a</p>	<p>Traffic calming (slowing vehicles down to a safe speed) can be done in a way that adds to the beauty of the street by landscaping, changing the width and alignment of the road or</p>





smaller, more sculptural priorities features that tell the passer by that they are arriving at somewhere special. Such features also provide an opportunity to incorporate seats and make visitors feel welcome as well as helping to slow them down.

problem themselves

changing the surface material.

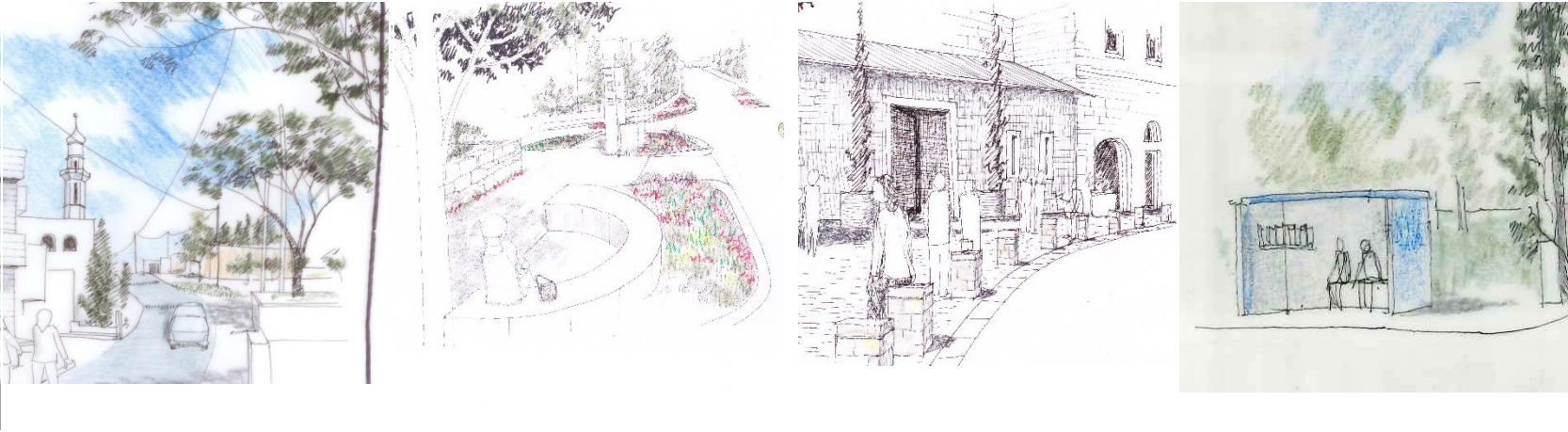
Planting tall trees on either side of the road will reduce its perceived width and encourage traffic to slow down.

Idea	Unifying features
	
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>
Things to consider	<p>A consistent landscaping theme along the length of an important route can be an effective way of linking the destinations at either end. This need not always require</p>



absolute consistency of materials or planting but might be achieved by a single element such as the presence of tree canopy over the footpath, or the installation of flowering plants of a consistent colour, or signage or the construction of a footpath from one end to the other.

Ideas that may help improve streetscapes

Idea	Roadside tree and shrub planting	Pause places	Bollards	Bus shelters
	<p>How might it help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking <p>Make places more beautiful</p> <p>Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather</p> <p>Make places that provide a focus for community pride</p> <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking <p>Make places more beautiful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather <p>Make places that provide a focus for community pride</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Minimise traffic problems <p>Make places for children to play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking <p>Make places more beautiful</p> <p>Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>
<p>Things to</p>	<p>Tree planting can increase opportunities to</p>	<p>These are compositions of seats and</p>	<p>Bollards can also double up as places to sit,</p>	<p>Repainting bus shelters or using them for</p>

consider

experience the wonder of nature and provide opportunities for everyone to experience nature

Care will need to be taken with tree planting to ensure the selected species does not become a trip hazard or have branches at eye level that may cause injury.

Trees can make a big difference visible from a long distance.

Care will also need to be taken in the management of these areas to optimise their ecological and aesthetic values.

On many occasions the road corridors will be too narrow to provide space for landscaping and footpaths. When this occurs it is better to ensure there is a safe, uninterrupted pedestrian environment by providing a dedicated footpath and negotiating with adjoining land owners to see if they are happy to have trees planted on their land.

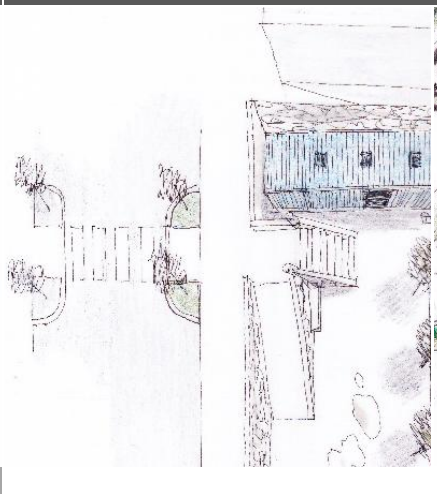
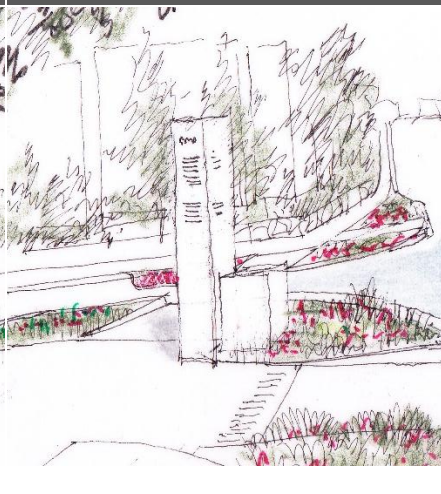
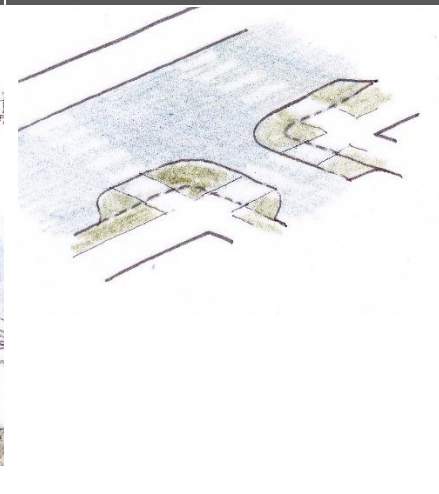

Planting vines can be an effective way of obscuring unattractive fences

landscaping, and possibly signage and other street furniture such as lighting or rubbish bins. They can make a big difference along an important pedestrian walk but will require careful management to ensure they stay attractive. These areas can provide the perfect opportunities for adoption of spaces by schools, businesses, etc.

if designed at the right height and size.

murals can be a very effective way of brightening them up.

Installation of seats and regular cleaning of bus shelters provides an effective way of a community to say that public transport is important and matters to them. Some places have found that the installation of a bookshelf can assist in recycling reading material that might make waiting for a bus a less boring thing to do.

Idea	Pedestrian crossing	Place marker	Kerb outstands to narrow roads at intersections	Shareway
				
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride ✓ Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather Make places that provide a focus for community pride ✓ Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride ✓ Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play

Things to consider

can be very effective when combined with landscaping and road narrowing to change the character of a place and making it seem less car orientated

Care should be taken to ensure it is aligned to where pedestrians want to go, and doesn't require pedestrians to go out of their way to use it.

may also improve amenity and comfort
can easily be combined with other features
can be controversial and are not appropriate everywhere

These features can provide the perfect opportunities for adoption of spaces by schools, businesses, etc.

These may have a great impact on the perceived character of your community. Care should be taken to ensure its design, materials and themes reflect well on the community.

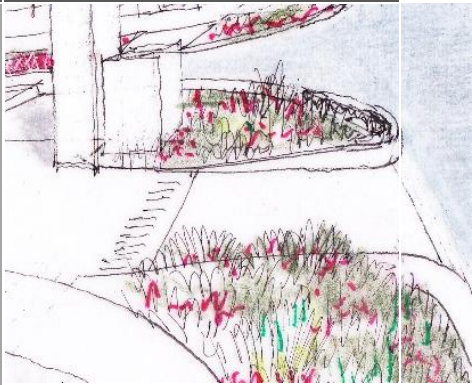
They can provide an opportunity to celebrate the history and values of a community

This can slow down traffic, make it easier to cross the road and by claiming more space for pedestrians it provides an opportunity to install landscape improvements or even play areas.

Care should be taken however to ensure that landscaping still allows approaching drivers to see if there is anyone about to cross the road.

On many roads there will not be enough room to separate pedestrian and vehicle movement and provide landscape improvements to support the areas amenity. In these areas it may be possible through signage and re-design of the road to make vehicles travel so slowly that it becomes a space that is shared by vehicles and pedestrians.

Idea	Drop kerbs/ramps
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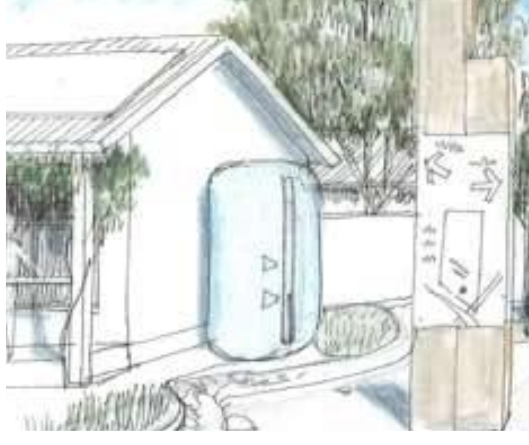
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| How might it help? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Make places better for walkingMake places more beautiful✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gatherMake places that provide a focus for community prideMinimise traffic problemsMake places for children to play |
|---------------------------|--|

Things to consider	makes it easier for wheelchair users and for people to push prams may require tactile strip to assist people with limited eyesight
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Ideas that might best be applied to public buildings



Idea	Incorporate shared facilities	Incorporate roof garden	Provide distinctive and grand entrance	Ensure entrance is visible and accessible from the street
				
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems ✓ Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride Minimise traffic problems Make places for children to play

Things to consider	Refer to the relevant standards for the different uses that you wish to incorporate in your shared facility	Are needs to be taken to ensure the building is structurally strong enough to support a roof	This can provide a minor landmark for the community that can play a big role in creating the mental image that people have of their community.
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Idea	Locate an attractive open space outside main entrance to the open space	Incorporate prominent water harvesting system or other sustainability measures
		
How might it help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Make places better for walking ✓ Make places more beautiful ✓ Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make places better for walking Make places more beautiful Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather ✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride

	<p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>✓ Make places for children to play</p>	<p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>
<p>Things to consider</p>	<p>Providing an attractive safe open space adjacent to an entrance of a public building provides a place for activity from the building to break out into.</p> <p>It can provide an attractive vantage point from which to view the public building</p>	<p>By making a feature of sustainability measures the community can tell the world and each other that sustainability matters.</p>

Ideas that could go anywhere

Idea	Historical/heritage signage	Gardening Competitions	Improved lighting
			
<p>How might it help?</p>	<p>✓ Make places better for walking</p> <p>Make places more beautiful</p> <p>✓ Provide places that are welcoming and</p>	<p>✓ Make places better for walking</p> <p>✓ Make places more beautiful</p> <p>Provide places that are welcoming and</p>	<p>✓ Make places better for walking</p> <p>Make places more beautiful</p> <p>✓ Provide places that a</p>

	<p>invite people to meet and gather</p> <p>✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride</p> <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>	<p>invite people to meet and gather</p> <p>✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride</p> <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>	<p>welcoming and invite people meet and gather</p> <p>✓ Make places that provide a focus for community pride</p> <p>Minimise traffic problems</p> <p>Make places for children to play</p>
<p>Things to consider</p>	<p>Can provide a way of linking people to the past and acknowledging the contribution made by different people to the community.</p> <p>Be careful! Recollections can differ and sometimes agreeing on the past can be a difficult thing to achieve.</p>	<p>Gardening competitions are a way of getting everyone involved in making places better.</p>	<p>Many people recognise the importance of lighting but lighting can be expensive to install and maintain.</p> <p>You should also be aware that when you install trees and other landscaping, it may affect existing lighting and make the street level darker.</p>

Further Reading

There are some great resources available on the net that you might find helpful in creating people places in your community.

There are a number of groups in the around the world that have sought to involve people in improving their surroundings to create better places for communities to thrive. To learn more about how they have done it, You might want to look at:

Sustrans www.sustrans.org.uk/ specialise in creating safe streets that are attractive and pleasant places to walk and cycle.

Groundwork <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/> specialise in improving everything from small sites to whole neighbourhoods.

There are also a number of published books and guidelines that you might find helpful, such as:

The UK Government has produced an “Urban Design Compendium” that includes many case studies from around the world

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/urban-design-compendium?page_id=&page=1

UN Habitat have produced a global toolkit on designing urban space <http://www.urbangateway.org/publicspace/about-global-toolkit-public-space>

The approach that has informed this work can be found in “Turning Spaces into Places” by UN Habitat Kosovo. <http://www.unhabitat->

[kosovo.org/repository/docs/UN-Habitat_Turning_spaces_into_places-c_478833.pdf](http://www.unhabitat-kosovo.org/repository/docs/UN-Habitat_Turning_spaces_into_places-c_478833.pdf)

A great source of information generally about community led planning in several locations around the world can be found in <http://www.communityplanning.net/>

A good book on this subject is *Placemaking on a Budget: Improving Small Towns, Neighborhoods & Downtowns Without Spending a Lot of Money* Paperback by Al Zelinka and Susan Jackson Harden, published by the American Institute of Architects 2006

Manzo, L.C., Perkins, D.D. (2006), “Finding Common Ground: The Importance of Place Attachment to Community Participation and Planning”, *Journal of Planning Literature*, 20(4): 335–350,doi:10.1177/0885412205286160.

Clare Cooper Marcus, Wendy Sarkassian *Housing as If People Mattered: Site Design Guidelines for Medium-density Family Housing*, University of California Press, May 1, 1988

Playshaper: The benefits of play friendly environments 2008 <http://www.playshaper.org.uk/the-importance-of-play/the-benefits-of-play.aspx>



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