

People and Public Space

Tacoma April 2008

- Turning the planning process around
- Making People Visible in the Planning Process
- Society is changing
- 12 Quality Criteria and User Groups

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GEHL ARCHITECTS
URBAN QUALITY CONSULTANTS

The traditional planning process



Spaces

Buildings

Life?

The result is mostly out of human scale and lifeless







We have to turn the design process back on its feet

A planning process where people come first



Spaces

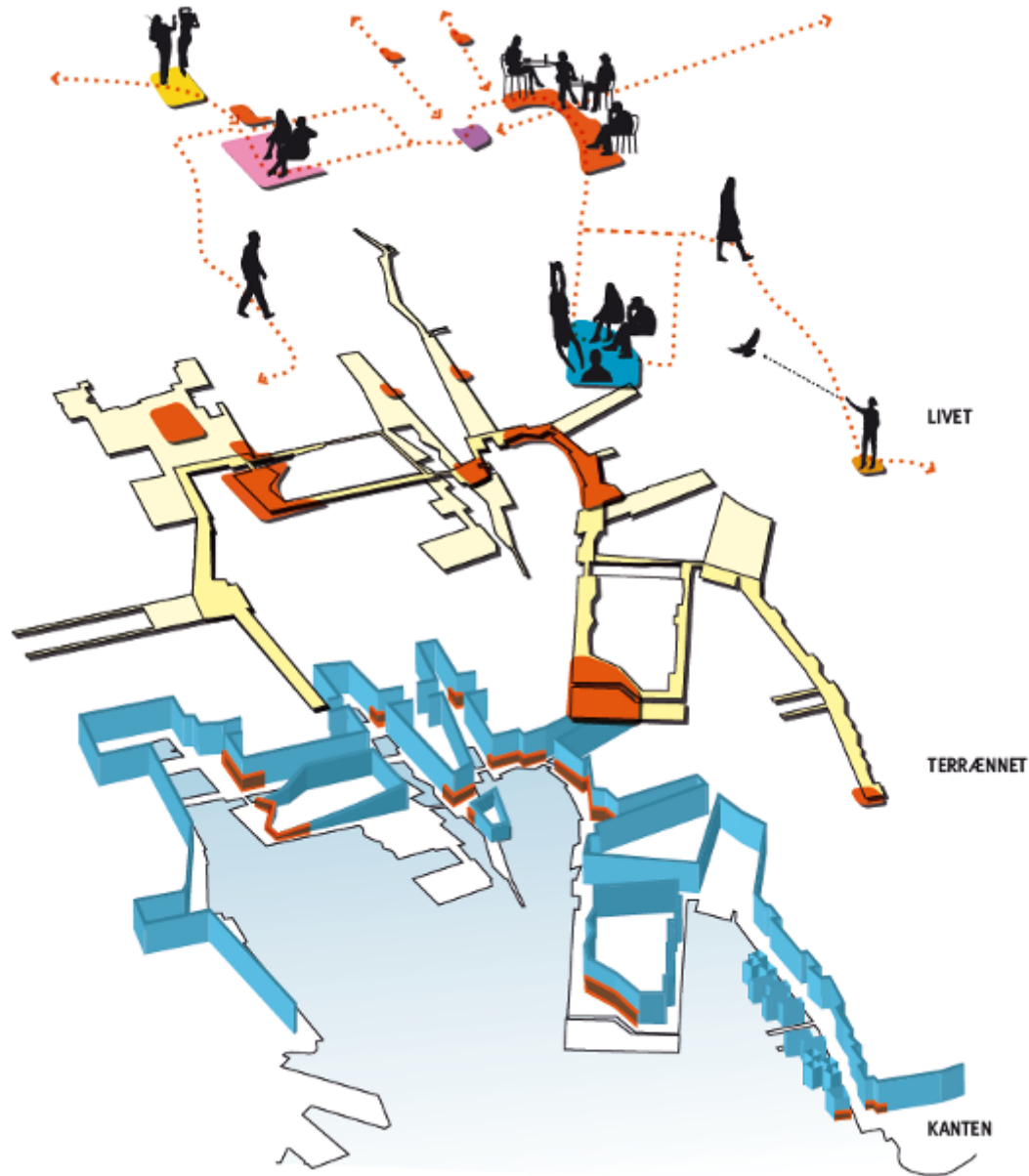
Life

Buildings

Sketch for Oslo Harbour by GEHL Architects

Bjørsvika, Oslo

Life – Space - Edge



Pedestrians are **invisible** in the planning process

Lots of data on vehicular traffic

- Always Traffic Departments with data about vehicular traffic
- constantly new models, marketing, high speed, noise, pollution, organisations etc.



No data on pedestrians

- same old model, no marketing, low speed, small size, no pollution, usually no organisations etc
- **No city department for Public Life**



Data is key - Making People Visible in Planning Public Space - Public Life surveys



Many of the reports can be downloaded as PDF-files on our website

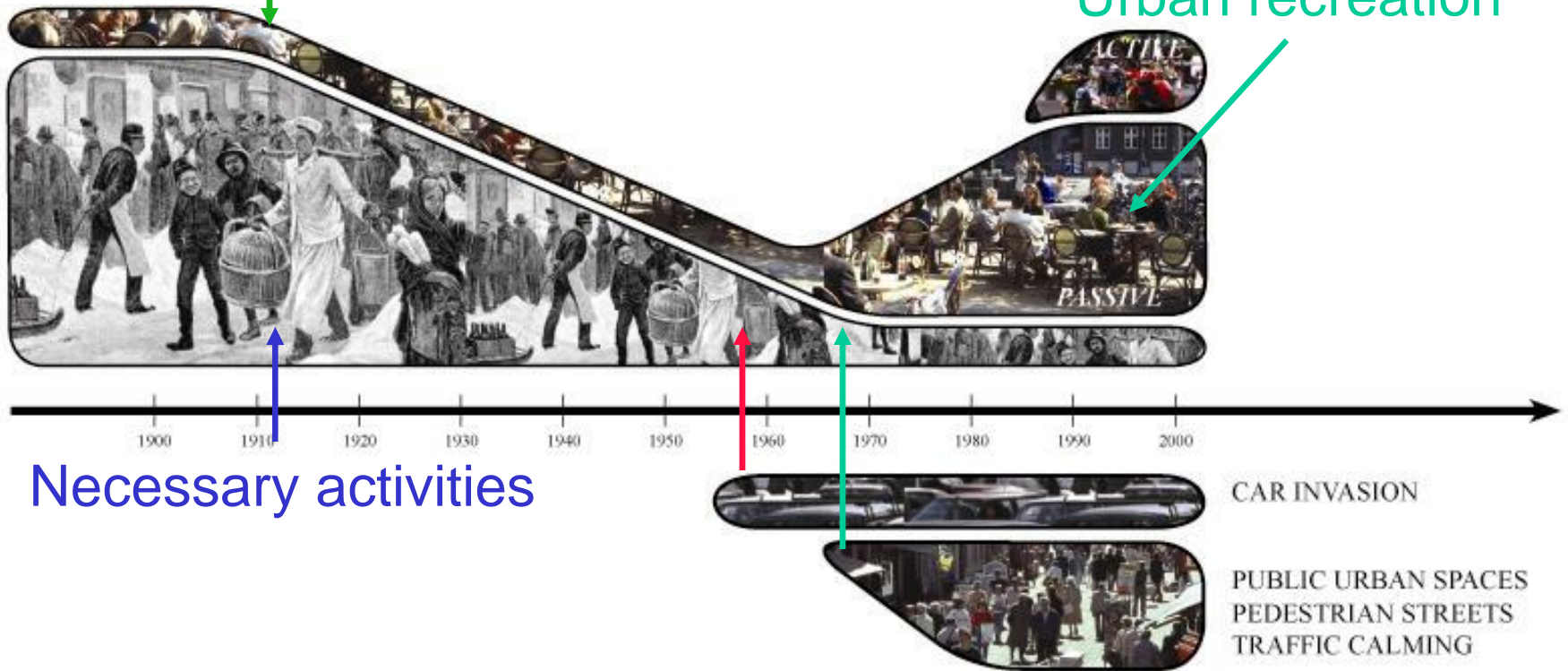
www.gehlarchitects.dk

Society is changing

..and so is the use of public space

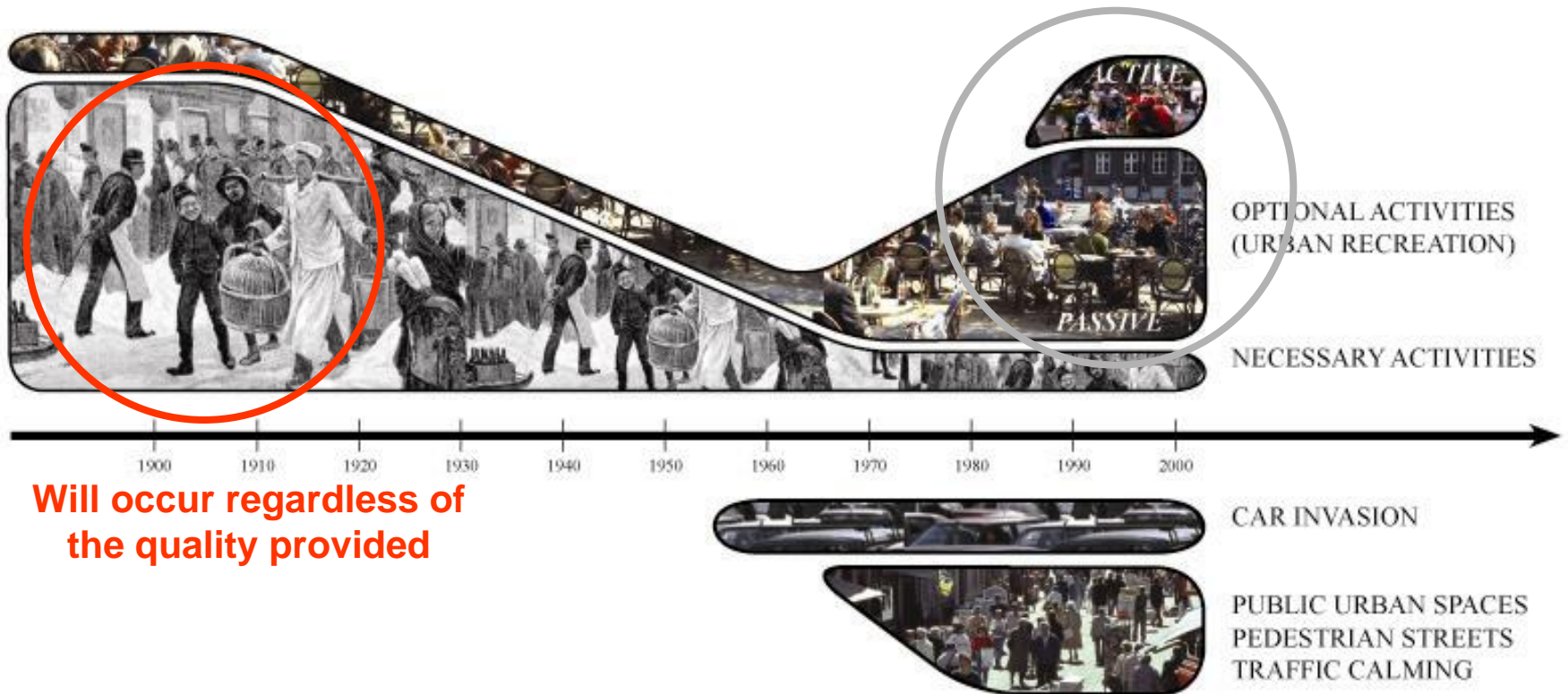
Optional activities

Meeting place
Urban recreation

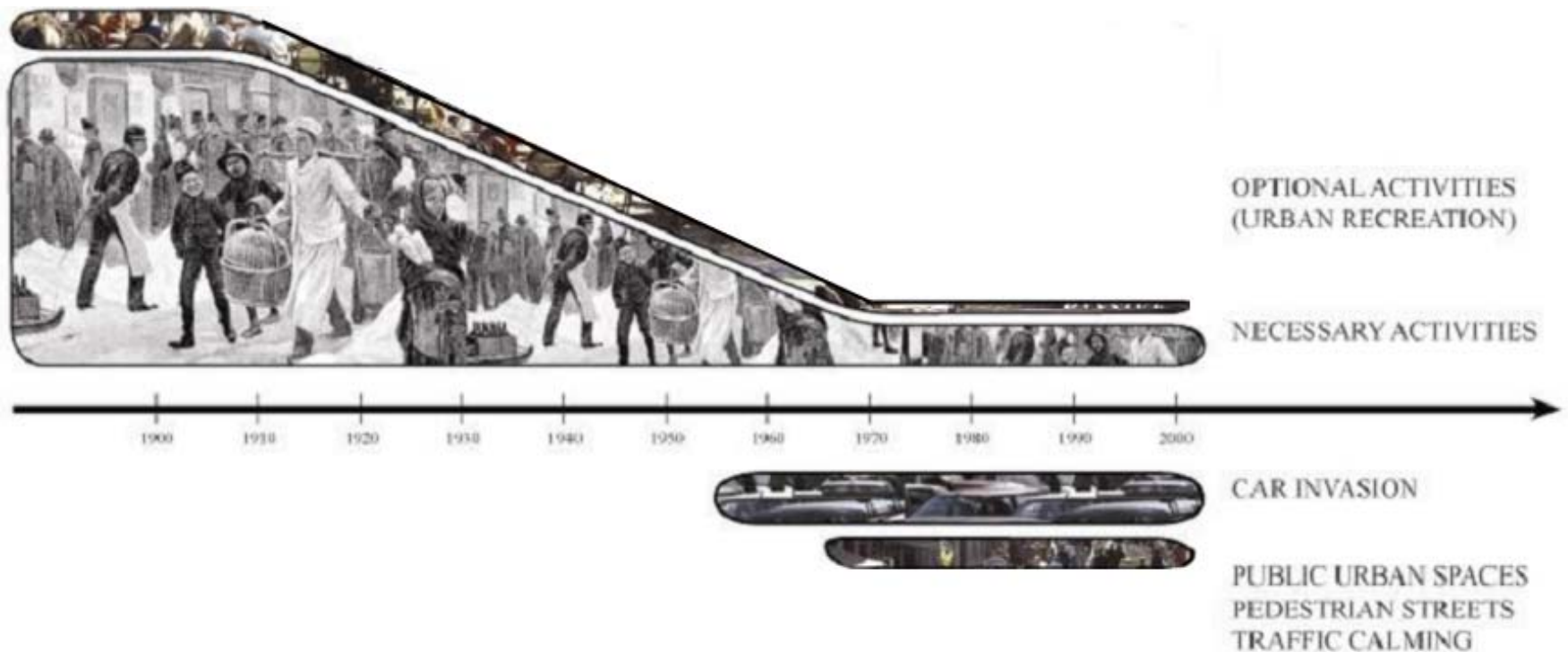


From necessary to optional activities

Will occur only if
good quality is provided



Public life - if good quality is not provided





12 Quality Criteria

Lars Gemzoe

Senior lecturer of Urban Design

Associate partner, GEHL Architects ApS – Urban Quality
Consultants

World Architecture Congress - Asia 2007

A vibrant city street scene. In the foreground, a woman in a bright red blazer and sunglasses walks towards the camera. To her left, another woman in a dark dress walks. In the background, many other pedestrians are walking. On the right side of the street, several people are sitting at an outdoor cafe table, engaged in conversation. The street is paved with light-colored tiles, and buildings with various signs like 'MODE' and 'BILLING' line the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a lively, pedestrian-friendly urban environment.

Designing for People

People, life and vitality are the biggest attractions in a city

We see it in peoples choice of seating facing the street



- or by choosing the bench in a human scale environment.



People like and seek interaction with other people



Cultures are different ...



Climates are different ...





But the way people inhabit and use space is very much the same

12 quality criteria

DESIGNING / DETAILING THE PUBLIC SPACES A KEY WORD LIST

P
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1. Protection against Traffic & Accidents

- traffic accidents
- fear of traffic
- other accidents

2. Protection against crime & violence (feeling of safety)

- streetlights / use of streetlights
- streetwatchers
- overlapping functions - in space & time

3. Protection against unpleasant sense experiences

- wind / draft
- rain / snow
- cold / heat
- pollution
- dust, glare, noise

PROTECTION

C
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4. Possibilities for WALKING

- room for walking
- untiering layout of streets
- interesting facades
- no obstacles
- good surfaces

5. Possibilities for STANDING / STAYING

- attractive edges
- »Edgeeffect«
- defined spots for staying
- supports for staying

6. Possibilities for SITTING

- zones for sitting
- maximizing advantages primary and secondary sitting possibilities
- benches for resting

7. Possibilities to SEE

- seeing-distances
- unhindered views
- interesting views
- lighting (when dark)

8. Possibilities for HEARING / TALKING

- low noise level
- bench arrangements
- »talkscapes«

9. Possibilities for PLAY / UNFOLDING / ACTIVITIES

- invitation to physical activities, play, unfolding & entertainment - day & night and summer & winter

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10. Scale

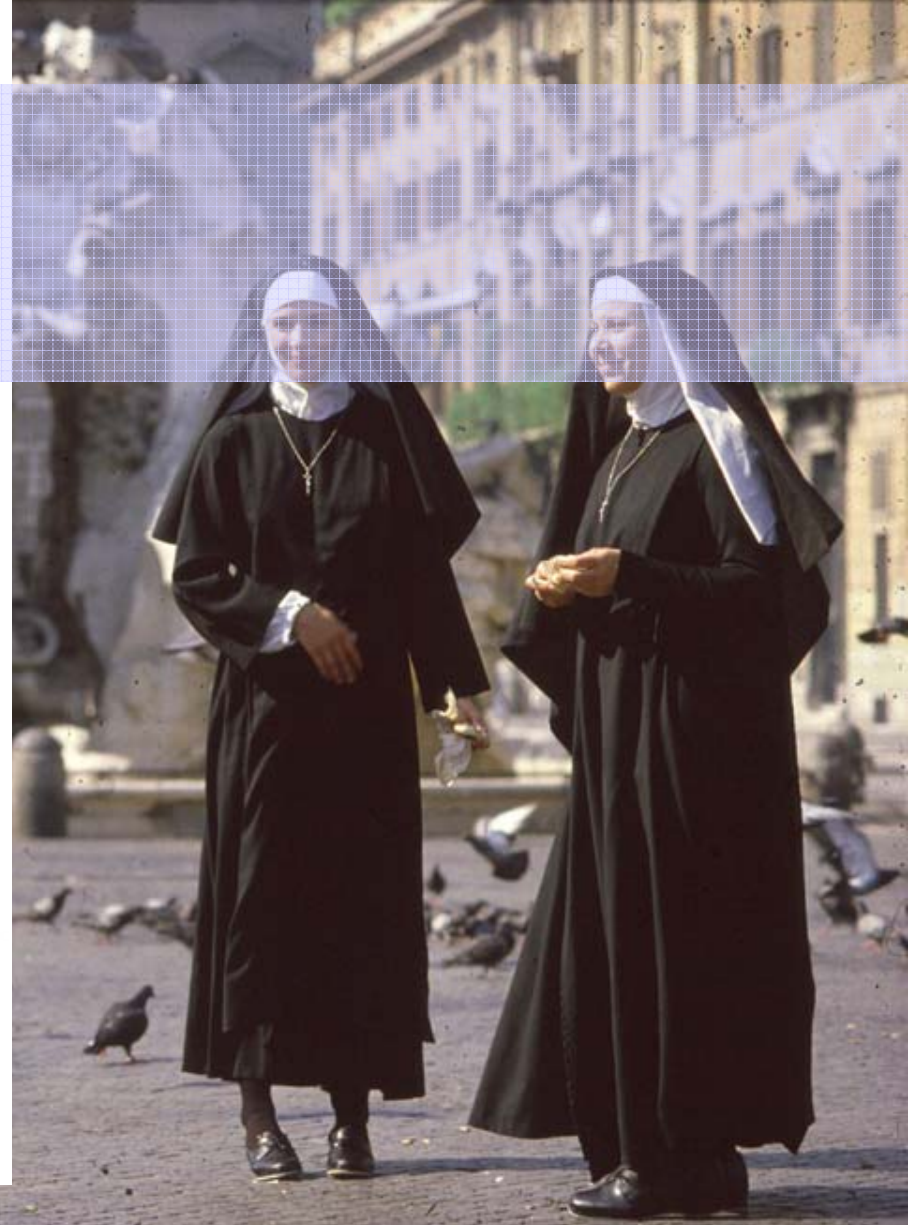
- dimensioning of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions related to senses, movements, size & behaviour

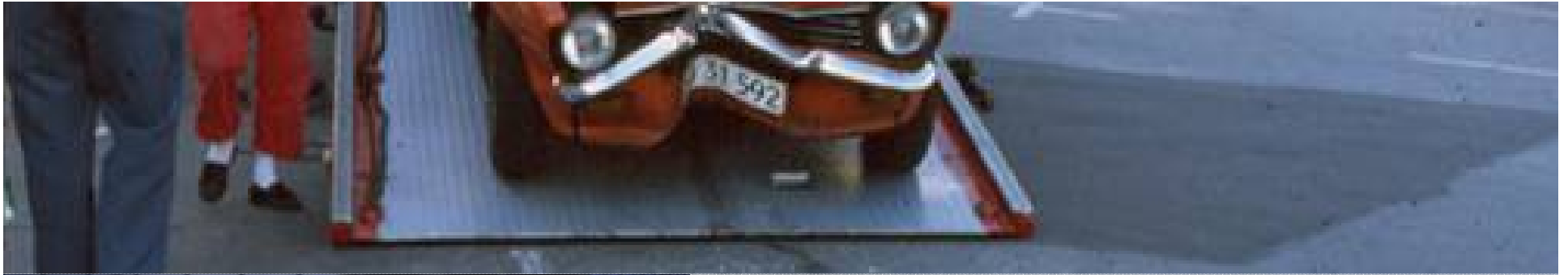
11. Possibilities for enjoying positive aspects of climate

- sun / shade
- warmth / coolness
- breeze / ventilation

12. Aesthetic quality / positive sense-experiences

- good design & good detailing
- views / vistas
- trees, plants, water





**Pedestrians should be protected
against traffic accidents ...**





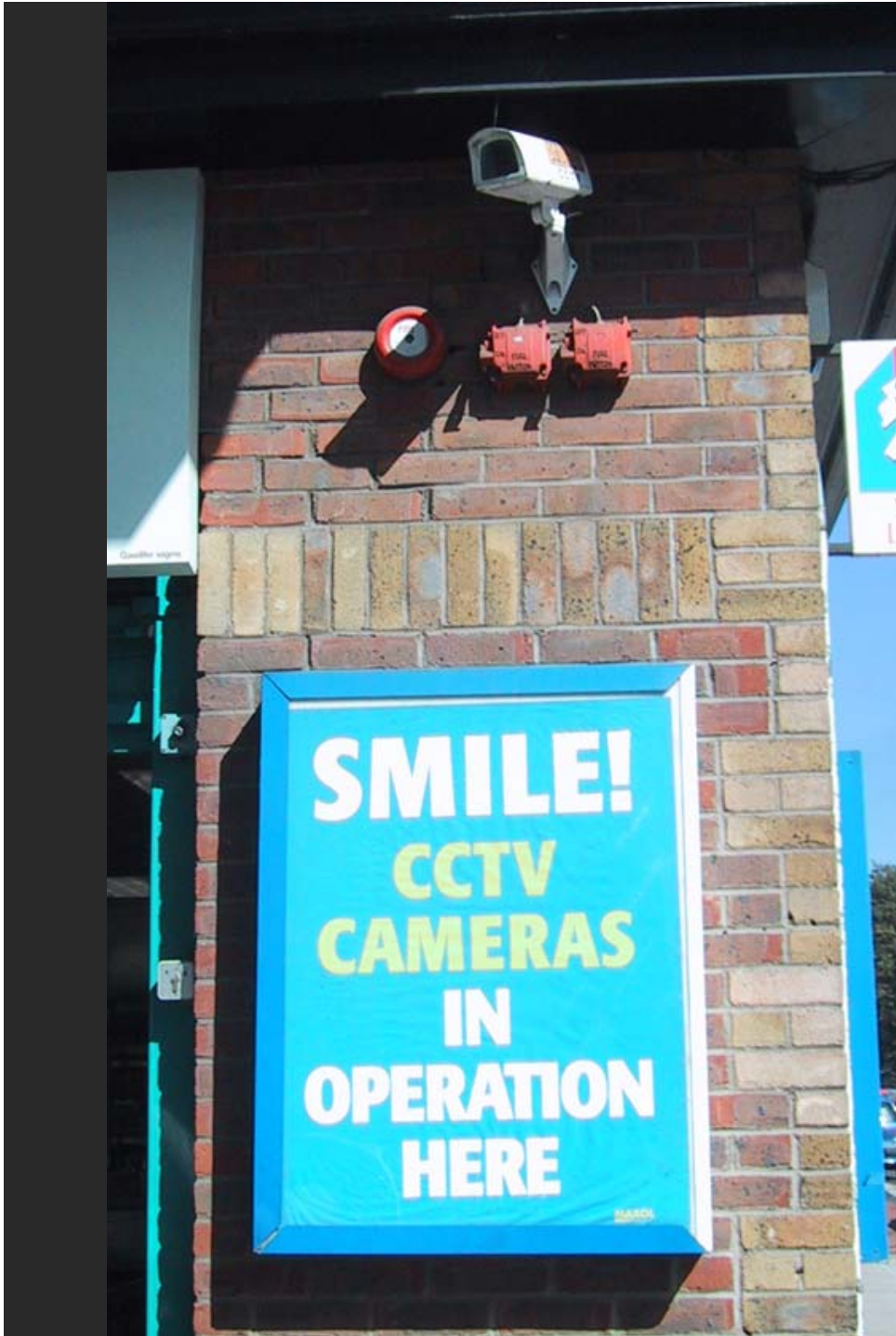
1. Protection against Traffic & Accidents

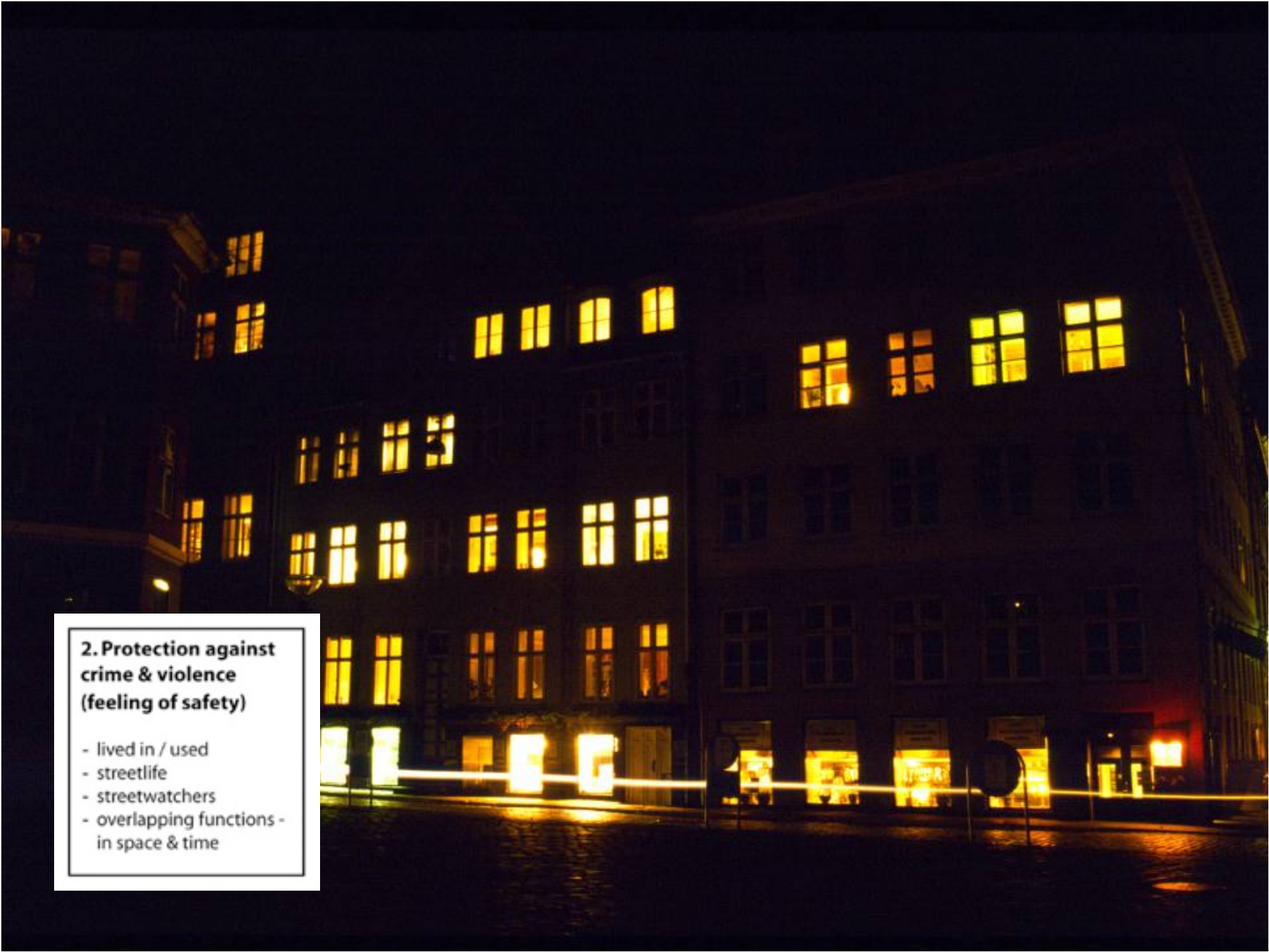
- traffic accidents
- fear of traffic
- other accidents



Pedestrians should be offered a safe environment free of crime and violence







**2. Protection against
crime & violence
(feeling of safety)**

- lived in / used
- streetlife
- streetwatchers
- overlapping functions -
in space & time

Pedestrians should be offered protection against unpleasant climatic conditions



3. Protection against unpleasant sense experiences

- wind / draft
- rain / snow
- cold / heat
- pollution
- dust, glare, noise

12 quality criteria

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COMFORT

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5. Possibilities for STANDING / STAYING

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6. Possibilities for SITTING

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- bench arrangements
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9. Possibilities for PLAY / UNFOLDING / ACTIVITIES

- invitation to physical activities, play, unfolding & entertainment - day & night and summer & winter

ENJOYMENT

10. Scale

- dimensioning of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions related to senses, movements, size & behaviour

11. Possibilities for enjoying positive aspects of climate

- sun / shade
- warmth / coolness
- breeze / ventilation

12. Aesthetic quality / positive sense-experiences

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- views / vistas
- trees, plants, water





Pedestrians should be offered a nice walking environment







4. Possibilities for WALKING

- room for walking
- untyring layout of streets
- interesting facades
- no obstacles
- good surfaces




People should be offered possibilities to stand

5. Possibilities for STANDING / STAYING

- attractive edges
»Edgeeffect«
- defined spots for staying
- supports for staying







6. Possibilities for SITTING

- zones for sitting
- maximizing advantages primary and secondary sitting possibilities
- benches for resting

People should be invited to stay and sit in a space





People should be offered a good view



7. Possibilities to SEE

- seeing-distances
- unhindered views
- interesting views
- lighting (when dark)



wrooom

People should be offered a noise free environment





8. Possibilities for HEARING / TALKING

- low noise level
- bench arrangements »talkscapes«





The space should be inviting for people activities





**9. Possibilities for
PLAY / UNFOLDING /
ACTIVITIES**

- invitation to physical activities, play, unfolding & entertainment - day & night and summer & winter

12 quality criteria

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ENJOYMENT

10. Scale

- dimensioning of buildings & spaces in observance of the human scale
- human related to senses, movements, size & behaviour

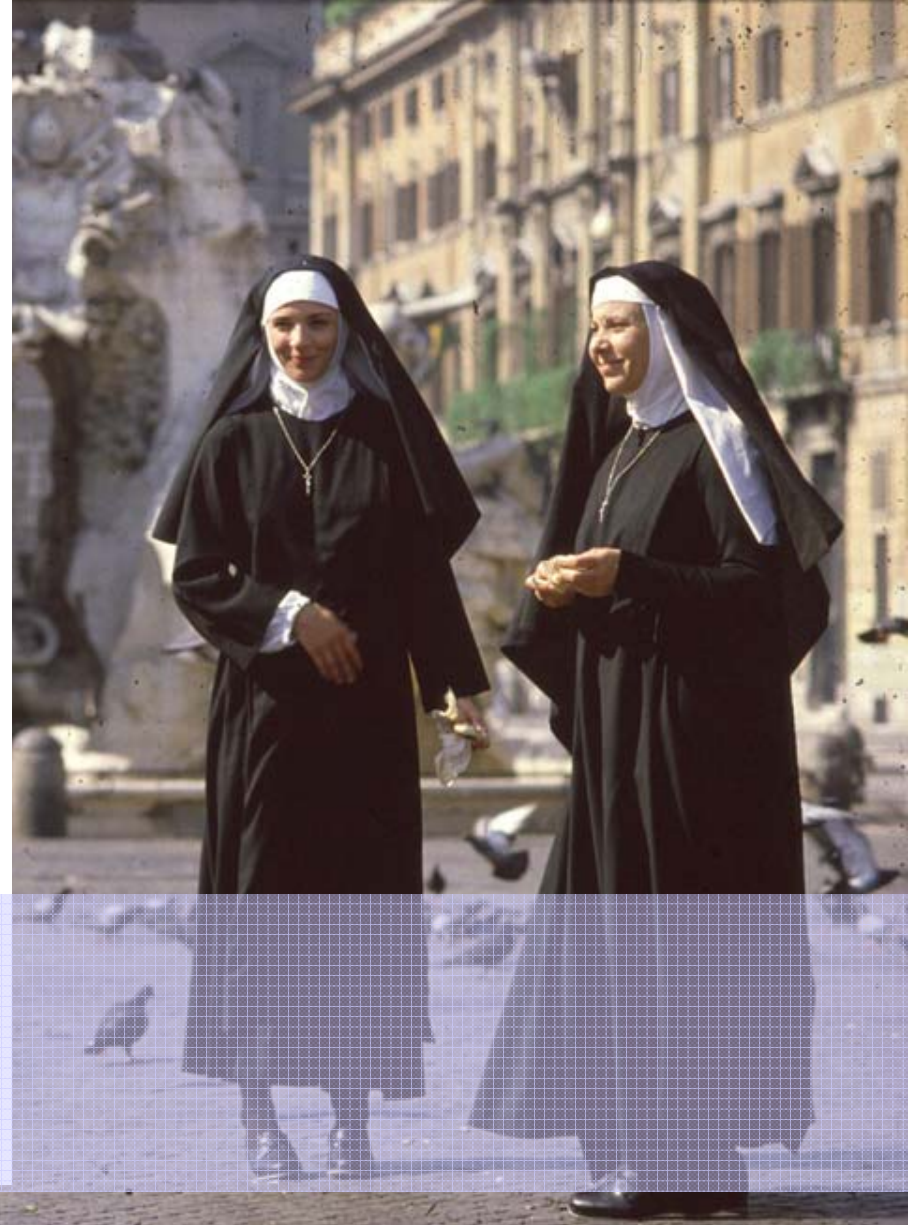
11. Possibilities for enjoying positive aspects of climate

- breeze / ventilation

12. Aesthetic quality / positive sense-experiences

- good design & good detailing
- views / vistas
- trees, plants, water

ENJOYMENT





Spaces should relate to a human scale

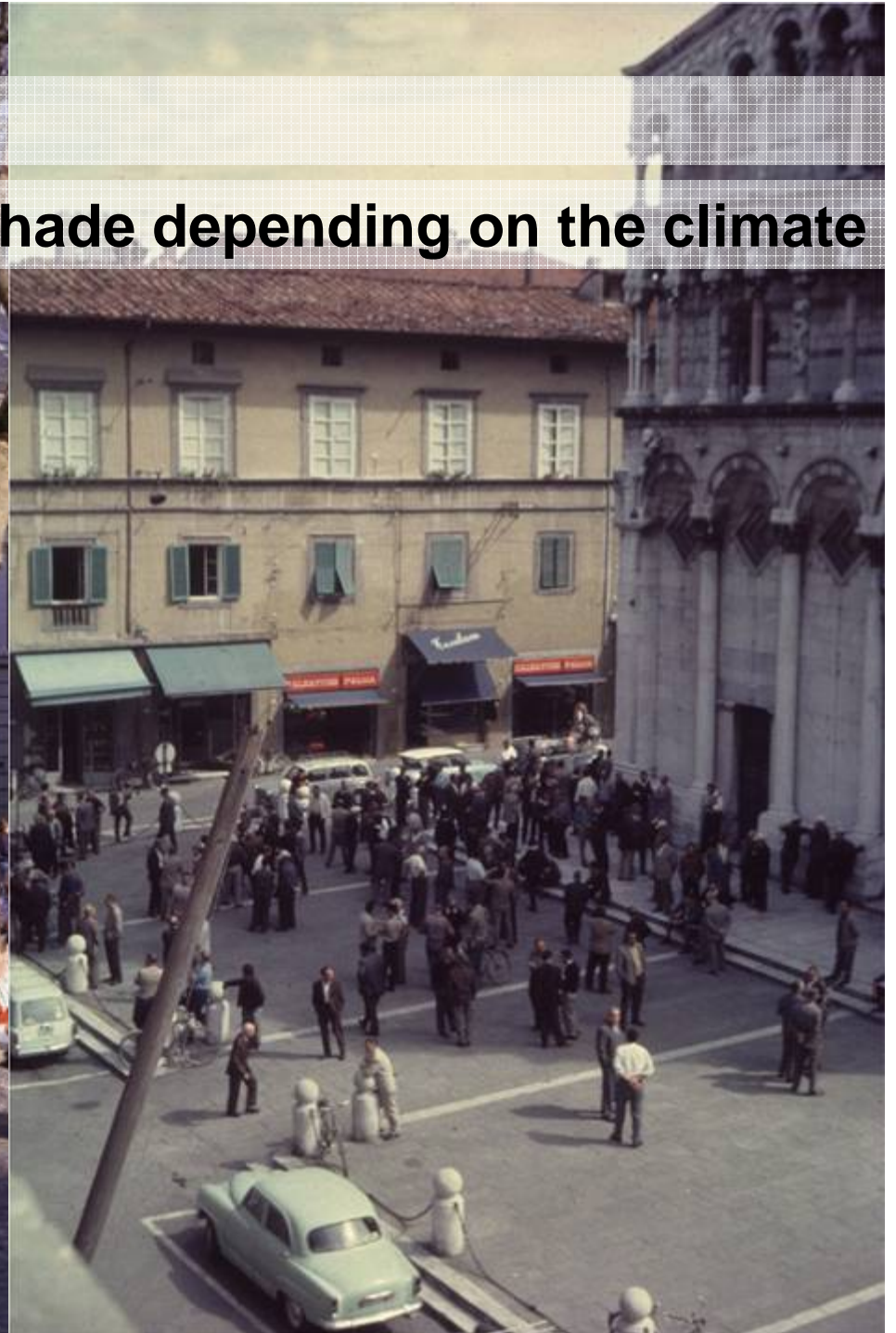


10. Scale

- dimensioning of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions related to senses, movements, size & behaviour

Spaces should provide sun ...

... or shade depending on the climate



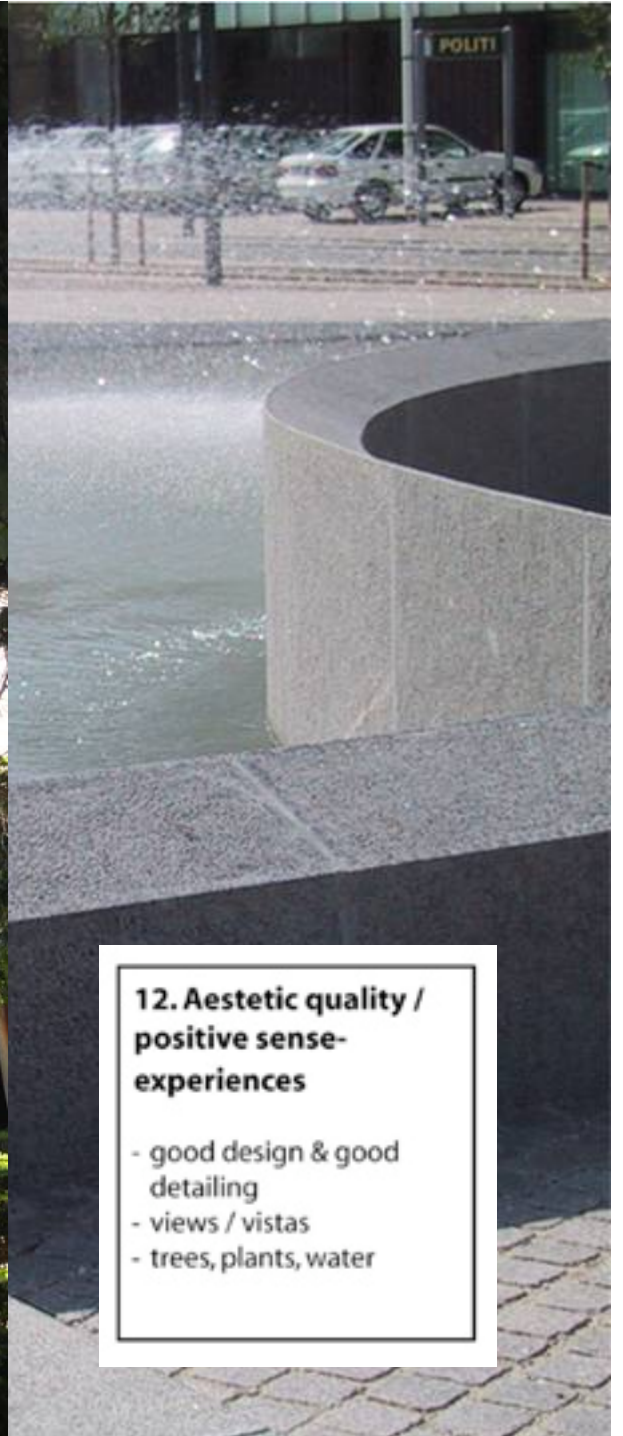


11. Possibilities for enjoying positive aspects of climate

- sun / shade
- warmth / coolness
- breeze / ventilation



A space should be architecturally well designed



**12. Aesthetic quality /
positive sense-
experiences**

- good design & good detailing
- views / vistas
- trees, plants, water

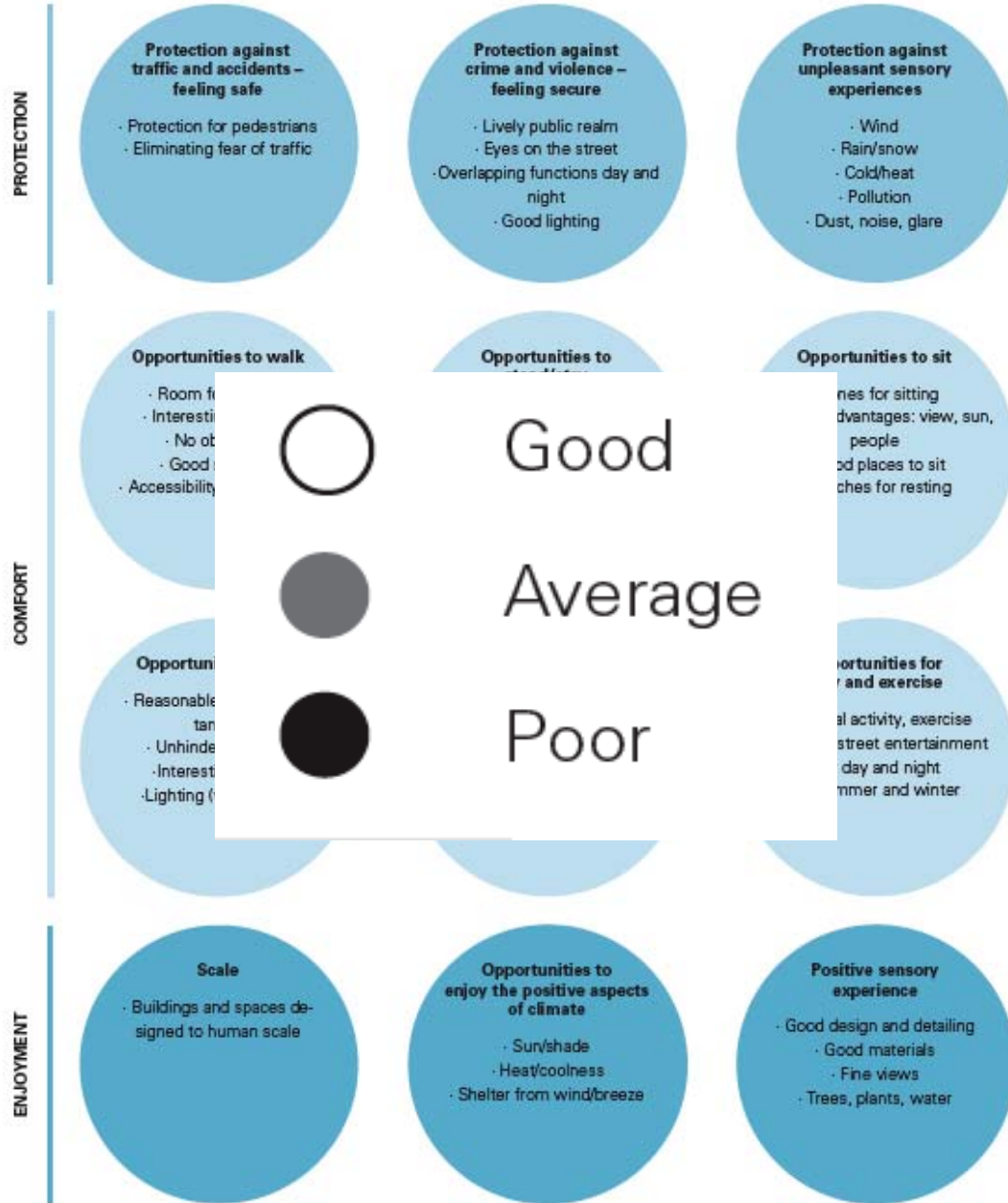
A vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban square, likely in a European city. The scene is filled with people walking, sitting on benches, and enjoying the outdoors. The architecture features colorful, multi-story buildings with many windows. Large, leafy trees provide shade, and a large tree trunk is prominent on the left. A sign for 'PEDER OXE' is visible on a building. The ground is paved with cobblestones. The overall atmosphere is lively and well-maintained.

When the 12 qualities have been applied to a space

- A good balance can be achieved

- We can make a “100 % place”

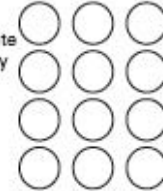
THE 12 KEY QUALITY CRITERIA



Two examples using quality criteria to evaluate city space

Nyhavn, quayside street in central Copenhagen

This example produces many white (good) fields due to the thoroughly good quality based on all criteria.



Kay Fisker Square, main square in new city district

An example of a square in the new town of Ørestad with a very poor rating in most areas covered in the list of quality criteria.



User groups

Which user groups can be expected to use the public space?



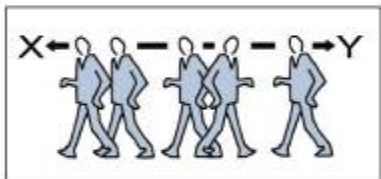
1. **The every day users:**

People that lives and works in the area.



2. **The visitors/customers:**

People that visits the functions in the area.



3. **The passers-by,
pedestrians in transit:**

People passing through the area.



4. **The recreational visitors:**

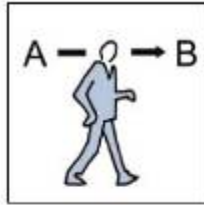
People that visits the area because the public space is delightful/to use the public space in relation to recreation, pleasure, exercise, play etc.



5. **The visitors to events:**

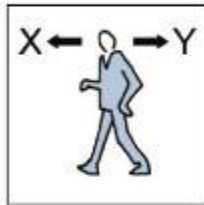
People that visits the public space because of special events.

What kind of activities can be expected in the public space?



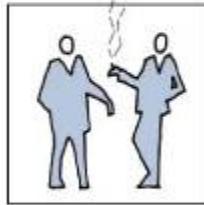
A Daily comings and goings:

To walk to and from.



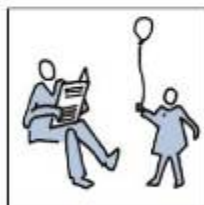
B Daily transit activity:

To walk through the area.



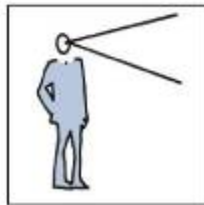
C Daily recreational activity:
(in connection to visits in the area)

Breaks and pauses.



D Recreational activity:

Recreation and play.



E Planned activity:

To be spectator/participant.

Types of human activity







	Quality of the physical environment	
	Poor	Good
Necessary activities		
Optional activities		
“Resultant” activities (Social activities)		

Illustration from Jan Gehl, *Life Between Buildings*

Necessary activities

Optional activities

Social activities



Visits to events

- depend on the size and character of the planned event

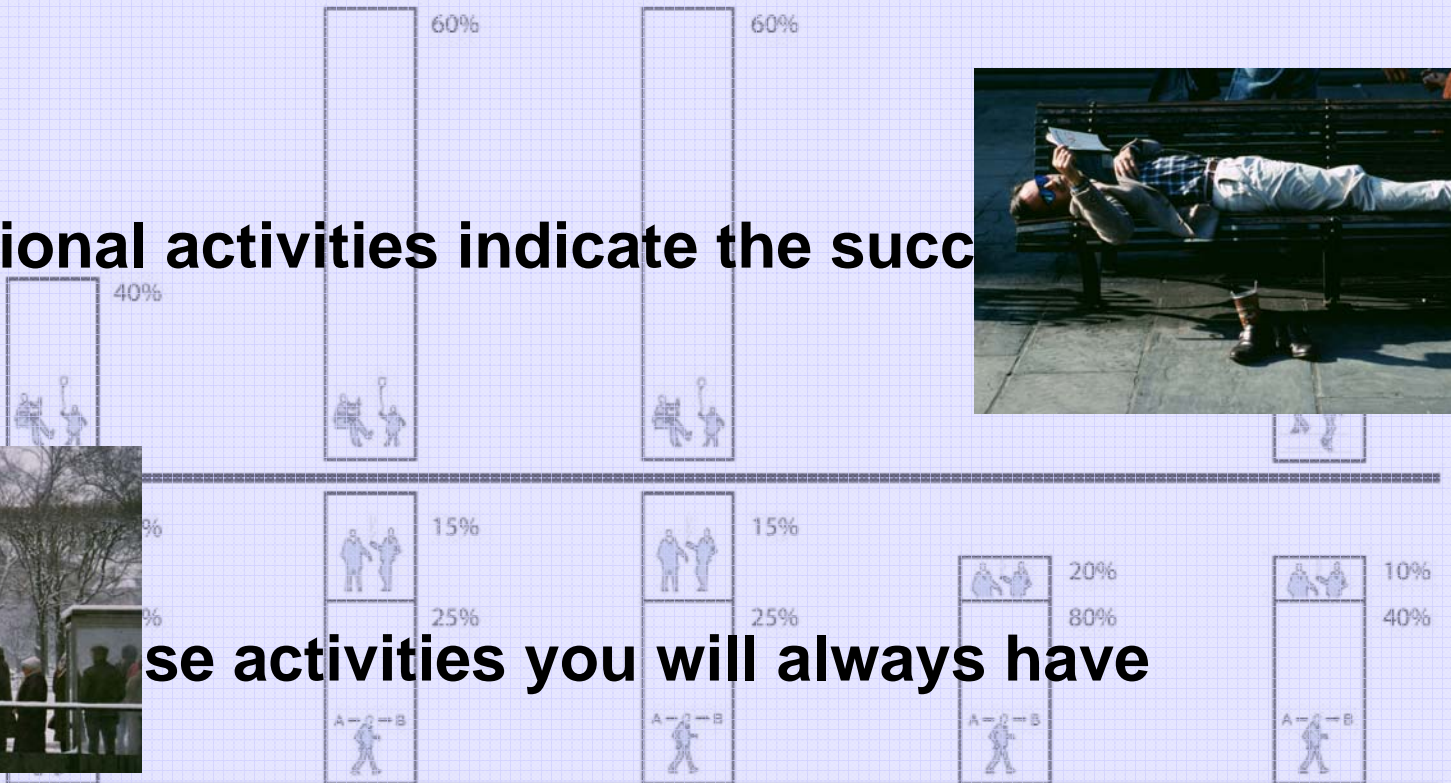


Depending on the character of the event, this category can change between a hundred to thousands of participants.

Optional activities

- extents and character depends on the quality and design of the public space

The optional activities indicate the success



Ordinary summer weekday



Good summer weekday



Summer weekday with event



Ordinary winter weekday



Good winter weekday



se activities you will always have



life



space



buildings

Thank you