INTEGRATED PLANNING APPROACHES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROTOTYPE TOWARDS
INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN THE PLANNING OF INCLUSIVE,
PEOPLE-CENTRIC AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES

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AESOP

noumena

Sketch

Ice breaking activity

3 minutes sketch exercise of a drawing a building facade.
It can be an existing building, or you can draw your own design. It can be a cafe, a house, an office etc. The exercise aims to identify a building facades elements and how it meets the public space.

Understanding the Context
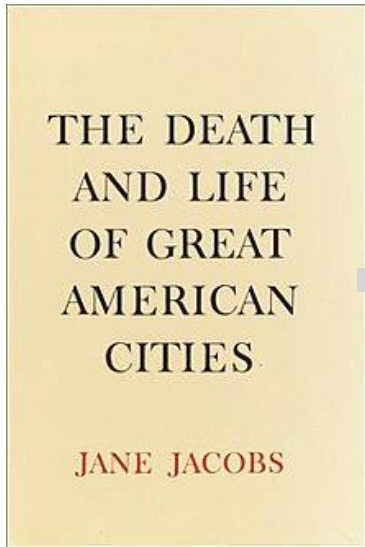## Urban Development between 1920s and 1960s

1959

1961
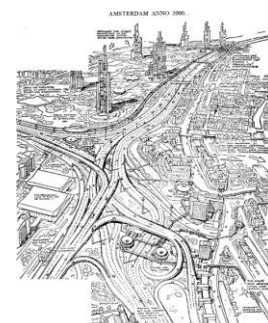
1. Le Corbusier - Plan Voisin for the reconstruction of Paris in 1925
2. Urban Planning experts
3. Jane Jacobs
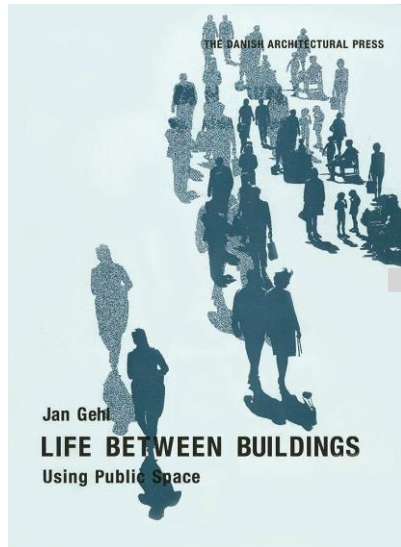4-5 Hastings Street, Detroit
6-7 Jokin Plan for Amsterdam

Reaction

Advocate for a transition of the focus to
humans instead of the car
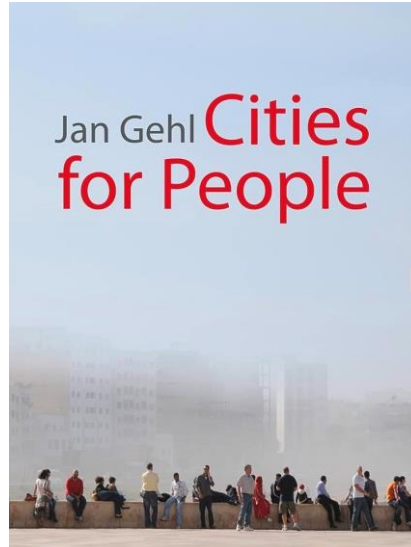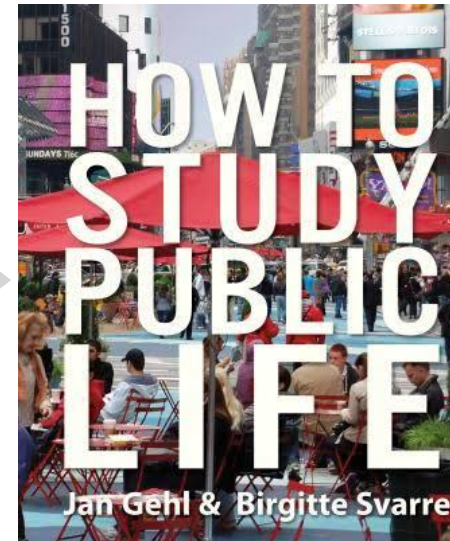
Key reading for Cities for People

The Death and Life of Great American Cities

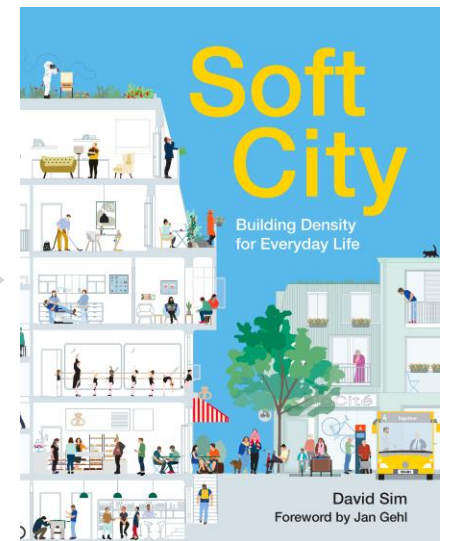1961, Book by Jane Jacobs

Life Between buildings

1971, Book by Jan Gehl

Cities for People

2010, Book by Jan Gehl

How to Study Public Life

2013, Book by Birgitte Svarre and Jan Gehl

Soft City: Building Density for Everyday Life

2019, Book by David Sim

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New focus on the human dimension

Jan Gehl played an instrumental role in infusing behavioural phycology with urban planning practices.

Advocated for an emphasis on data collection, reduction of car dependency and creating a pleasant environment between buildings through an understanding of the edges of the building.

Human Scale

Designing cities at a scale that is comfortable and accessible to pedestrians. This includes shorter building heights, narrower streets, and a focus on the human perspective

Mixed Land Use

Promotes mixed land use, where residential, commercial, and recreational spaces are interwoven, reducing the need for long commutes and enhancing local communities.

Active frontages

Highlights the significance of active frontages, which include street-level spaces like shops and cafes, that directly engage with the public realm. These frontages create vibrant streetscapes, encourage pedestrian activity, and enhance social interaction,

Reduced Car Dependency:

Advocates for reducing car dependency by improving public transit and discouraging excessive car use.

Walking and Cycling:

Promoting walking and cycling as primary modes of transportation to create healthier, more sustainable cities.

Public Life

Emphasises the importance of vibrant public life, including street-level activities, plazas, and parks, to foster social interaction and community engagement.

Streets as Social Spaces

Encourages streets to function as social spaces, not just transportation corridors, with features like street furniture, outdoor cafes, and cultural events.

Safety and Comfort:

Prioritises safety and comfort for pedestrians, with features like well-lit streets, clear signage, and protection from vehicular traffic.

Data-Driven Design:

Gehl's approach often relies on data collection and analysis to understand how people use urban spaces, informing better design decisions.

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The edge - where building and city meets

- Understanding the edges of building and focusing on the life between buildings
- Exploring the differences in the pedestrian experience between active and inactive building frontage

Texture and Details
City buildings hold attractions for pedestrians walking slowly. Appealing ground floors offer texture, good materials and a wealth of details.

Interesting   or boring

Mixed Functions
Narrow units and many doors supplemented by a wide variation in functions provide many points of exchange between in and out and many types of experiences.

Varied   or uniform

Vertical Façade Rhythms
Ground floors with primarily vertical façade rhythms make walks more interesting. They seem shorter too, compared to walks along horizontally oriented façades.

Source: "Close encounters with buildings," Urban Design International, 2006.

Vertical   or horizontal

Scale and Rhythm
The 5 km/h – 3 mph scale, compact and full of interest with narrow units and many doors.
The 60 km/h – 37 mph scale works for drivers on the move, but not for pedestrians.

5 km/h – 3 mph   or 60 km/h – 37 mph scale

Transparency
Walking in the city is enhanced for pedestrians if they can see goods on display and what is going on inside buildings. And that works both ways.

Open   or closed

Appeal to Many Senses
All our senses are activated when we are close to buildings that provide interesting impressions and opportunities.
In contrast, eight posters do not inspire.

Interactive   or passive

The edge - where building and city meets

- Exploring how different edge design encourage a diversity of activities that meet the needs of citizens and how the edges relate to the urban experience.

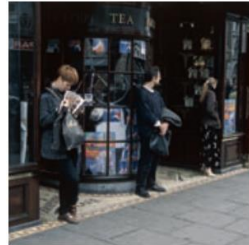

Chatting by

Entering and leaving
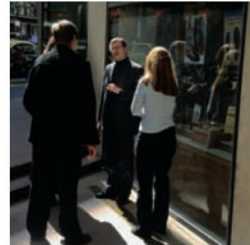
Walking alongside

Shopping next to

Interacting with

Looking at displays with

Standing alongside

Taking a break by

Standing in doorways

Sitting on

*Sitting next to*

Looking in and out of

74   cities for people
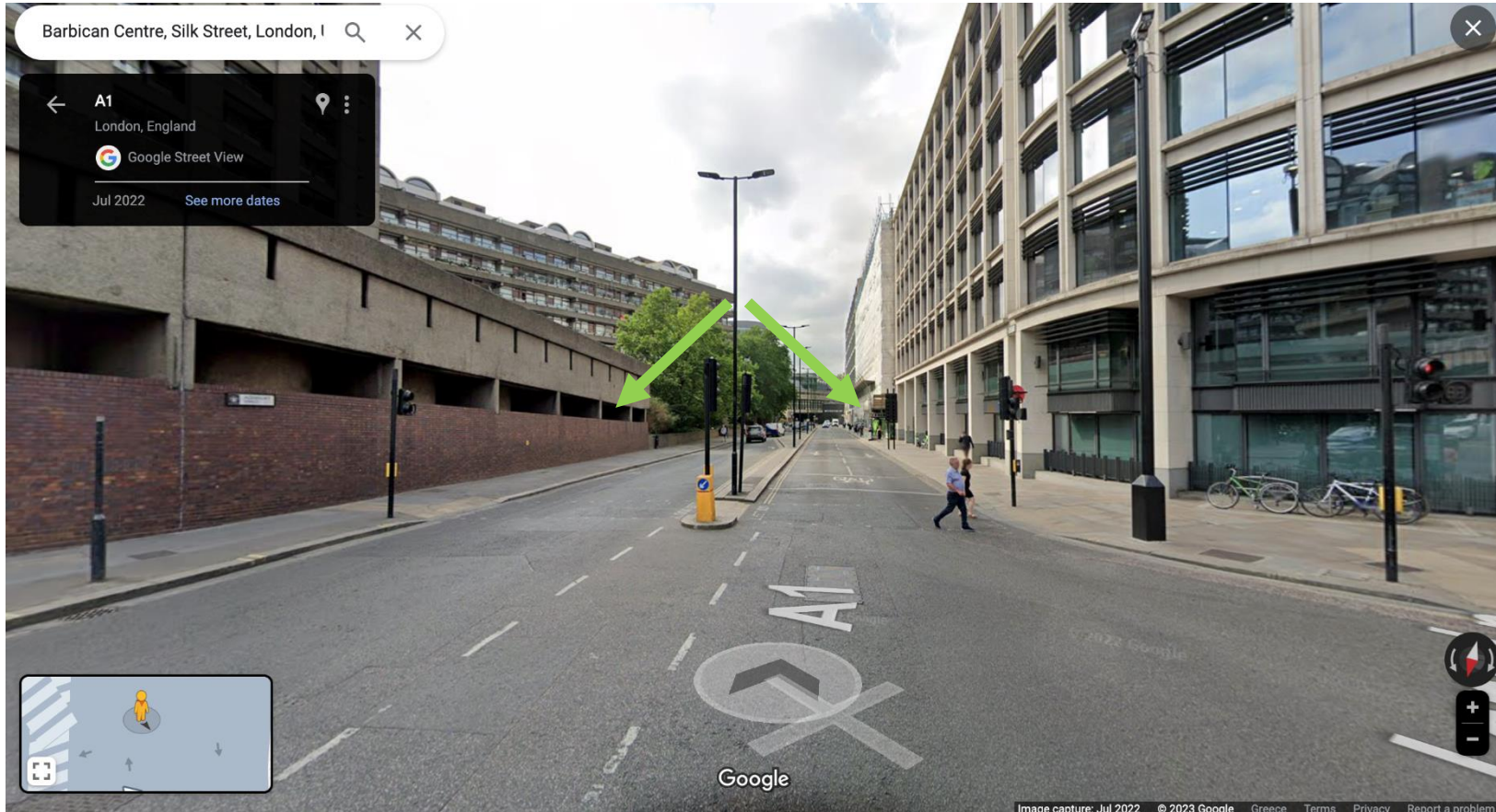
Ground floor frontages illustrate the degree of interaction between buildings and public spaces. Transparent frontages and frequent entrances provide a higher level of interaction and natural surveillance.

Applying theory in practice

Rotterdam- The Hudsons Housing

- The development adds 5 building blocks with 118 single-family homes, 24 apartments and 2 commercial spaces to the Bospolder-Tussendikjen district.

- The development location was cut up into smaller entities that in scale, form and typology ensure a seamless transition to the existing building blocks, streets and squares in the neighbourhood.

- Each of the five building clocks, has its own character, a courtyard on the ground floor and a car park underneath. The courtyards all have a unique layout, with a more collective or private structure. The façade's brickwork gradually becomes more open and changes colour from the neighbourhood side to the park on the other side. Blending with both the red brickwork architecture of the 20th century district and the lightness of the park.
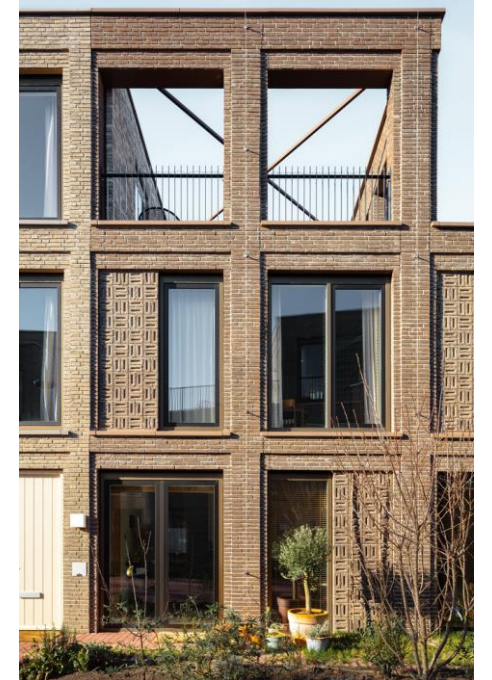
https://www.archdaily.com/998571/the-hudsons-housing-orange-architects?ad_source=search&ad_medium=projects_tab

Applying theory in practice

Brighton - New Road

- Landscape Projects, working with Gehl Architects from Copenhagen, were commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council to assess its pedestrian and visitor experience: its urban structure, movement patterns and open air activities, both in winter and in summer; and to provide advice on public realm improvement projects which would result in a more walkable, relaxed, attractive and accessible city.

- The most significant project to emerge from the study is at New Road: increasingly run-down – dominated by the needs of vehicles rather than people. To that end, the initial brief from the client was to close the street to all vehicles; to reclaim the street and create a pedestrianised linear square for sitting and eating and drinking and watching.

- informed by a detailed understanding of how people use the street and the surrounding theatres, restaurants and the Grade 1 listed Brighton Royal Pavilion and its gardens.
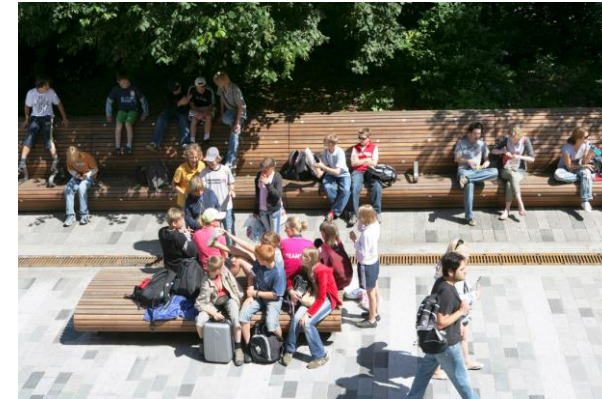

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Applying theory in practice

Tokyo – Residential neighbourhoods

- Gehl's theory emphasizes the importance of walkability, human-scale design, and vibrant public spaces, all of which can be observed in Tokyo's urban fabric. The following elements can highlight how Tokyo's neighborhoud encapsulate Gehl's theory:

- Extensive network of pedestrian-friendly streets, green spaces, and public transit systems.

- Tokyo's unique house building designs often feature an active frontage design, enhancing the walking experience by creating a sense of connection and interaction between residents and the street.

- The road network hierarchy and the mixed land use zoning that enables frequent small-scale shops/ restaurants fosters a sense of community and promotes social interaction.

- The deliberate lack of on-street parking spaces promotes a cleaner and safer pedestrian experience

- Japan's attention to safety and cleanliness ensures that its neighborhoods are not only functional but also inviting.

https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2019/10/1/lessons-from-the-streets-of-tokyo

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https://www.dezeen.com/2020/08/27/suzuko-yamada-daita2019-japanese-house-scaffolding/

https://www.archdaily.com/230533/house-na-sou-fujimoto-architects/50180b3528ba0d49f5001698-house-na-sou-fujimoto-architects-photo

Applying theory in practice

Seoul – motorway conversion to public space

- The Seoullo 7017 and Cheonggyecheon projects in Seoul are some examples of how cities can transform their motorways into human-centric public spaces.

Evaluation

🚶 **+76%**
Increase in pedestrian activity

🌡 **-4.5%**
Reduction in the urban heat island effect

🚗 **-45%**
Decrease in vehicle volume

🚙 **-10.3%**
Decrease in air pollution

🚌 **+15.1%**
Increase in bus ridership

🚌 **+3.3%**
Increase in subway ridership

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Applying theory in practice

Differences:

Specialised functions	Mix-use
Car-oriented development	Wide range of transport options
Controlled environment	Non-controlled environment
Semi-public/ private ownership	Private and public ownership
Some privileges	No or minimum privileges
Aesthetic uniformity	Aesthetic balance

How does the Cities for People theory apply in Cyprus?

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Unclearly defined public space. Is this a parking or a pavement for pedestrians ?

Inactive frontage. How does it impact the walking experience? How do we balance the need for privacy?
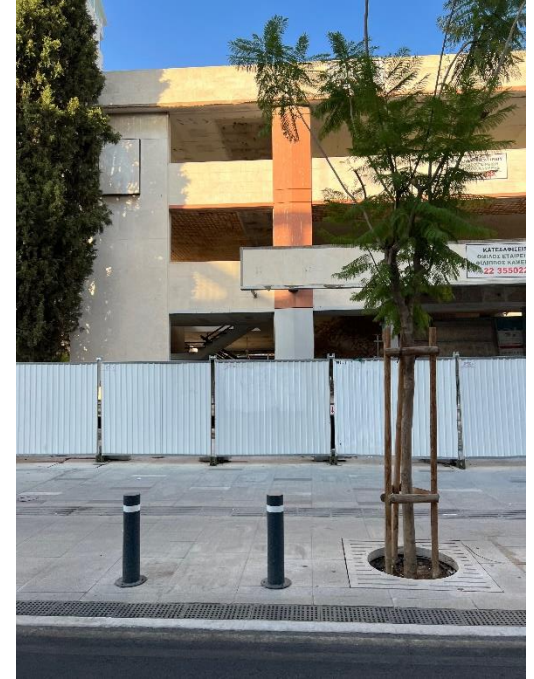
Can trees be a hazard to mobility?
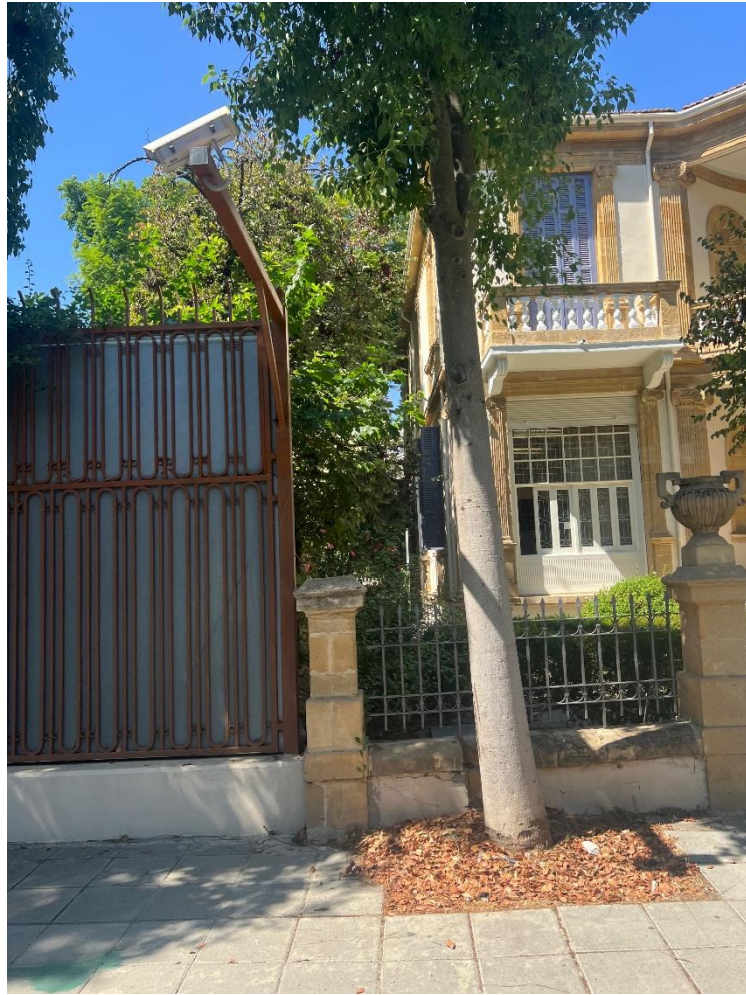
Construction sites

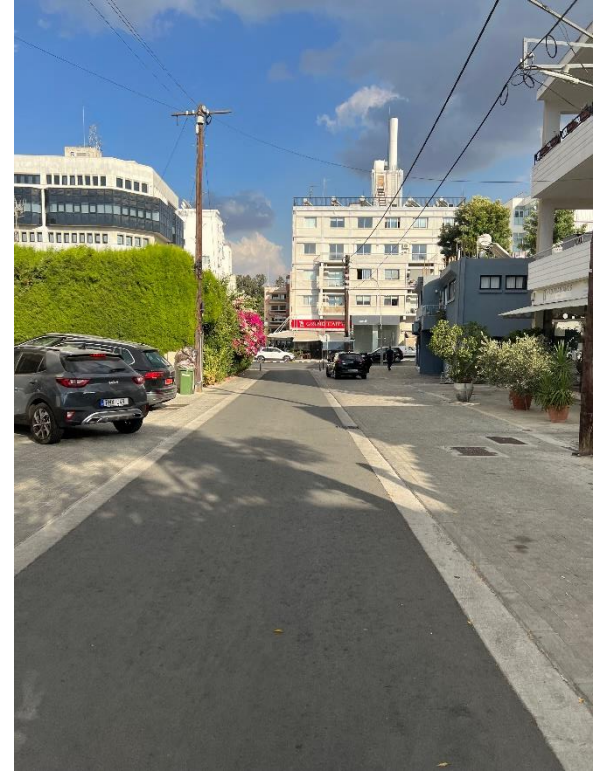**Abandoned housing**

Bad taste graffiti

Abandoned construction sites

What is their impact on our walking experience at a **multisensory** level?

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How do **fences** impact to the pedestrian experience?

What is the impact of cars at a street level?
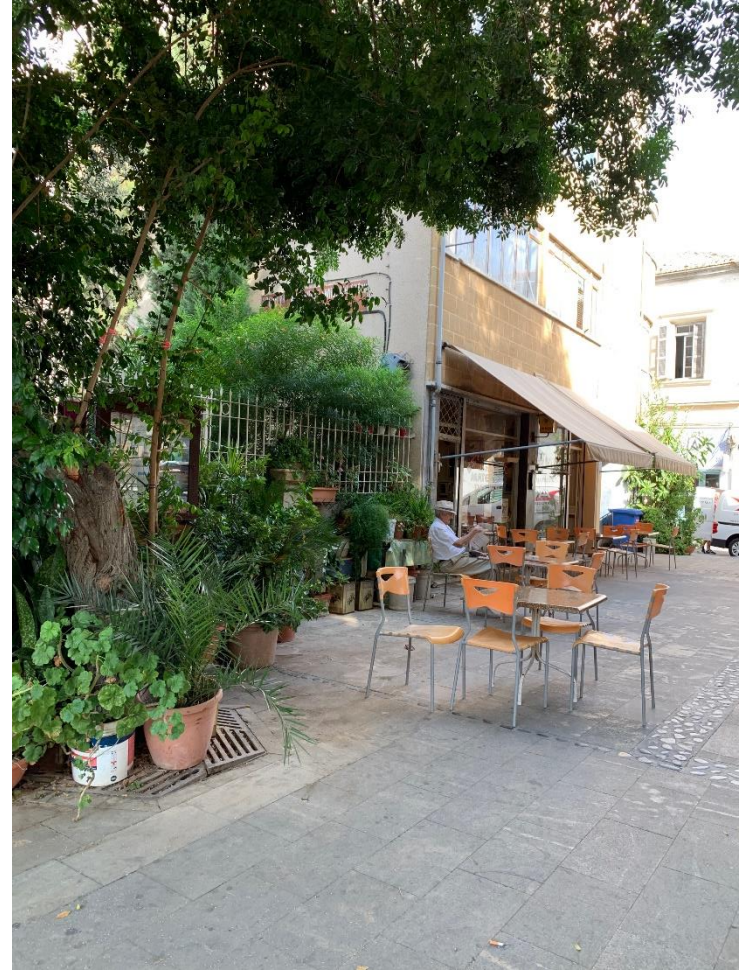
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What is the impact of waste management? Should buildings have designated space for waste storage? Can we manage waste at a street/ neighbourhood level? What are some best practices from abroad that can be applied in the context of Cyprus?

Is it all bad?

New focus on the human dimension

Green roof

Roof terrace

French window

Recessed balcony

Shutters

Balconies

Microclimatic enclosure

Loggia

Bay window

Biodiversity

Biodiversity

Glazed loggia

Arcade

Deck

Street trees

Water features

Connecting to nature

River swimming

Sketch

3 minutes sketch exercise of a drawing a building façade, taking into consideration the theory for People centric cities.
It can be an existing building, or you can draw your own design. It can be a cafe, a house, an office etc. The exercise aims to identify a building facades elements and how it meets the public space.

Presentation & Discussion

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thank you!

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