

Livability

Livability refers to an urban system that contributes to the physical, social and mental wellbeing and personal development of all its inhabitants. It is about delightful and desirable urban spaces that offer and reflect cultural and sacred enrichment.

Livable City

The livable City as a link between the past and future: the livable city respects the imprint of history (our roots) and respects those who are not born yet (our posterity). The livable city is also called sustainable city. A city that satisfies the need of the present generation without compromising their future needs.

Viewing the City as a Living Organism

We must treat the city like a living organism... the urban phenomenon then, like life, is founded on a subtle balancing act. If we want a city to function properly as a society, then that balance must not be upset.

B. Cools. 1997. "The Future of the City"

Principles of a Livable City

The following principles are suggested as basic to the livable city:

- * One, in the livable city, all can see and hear each other. It is the opposite of the dead city, where people are segregated and isolated.
- * Two...dialogue is important
- * Three...the public realm offers many activities, celebrations, festivals that bring all of its inhabitants together, events that bring opportunities for its citizens to be together, not in the specialized roles and functions that they usually occupy, but as full human beings...
- * Four, a good city is not dominated by fear, not by a conception of fellow human beings as evil and subhuman...
- * Five, a good city offers the public realm as a place of social learning and socialization that is indispensable for children and young people. All of the inhabitants of the community serve as models and teachers...

* Six, cities must meet many functions – economic, social and cultural. In so doing, however, there has been a trend for the modern city to over-specialize in one or two functions; other functions are being sacrificed...

* Seven...all inhabitants confirm and value each other.

* Eight...aesthetic considerations, beauty, and meaning of the physical environment must have high priority. The physical and social environment are two aspects of the same reality. Just as it was a mistake to think that city inhabitants can have a good civic and social life in an ugly, brutal and physically inhospitable city.

* Finally...the wisdom and knowledge of all inhabitants are appreciated and used. People are not intimidated by experts, whether architects or planners, but show a sense of caution and distrust of those who make decisions about their lives.

LIVABLE CITY METAPHOR	COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION
The brain and nervous system of the Livable City	Governance and Participation Monitoring, Measuring, Learning	<p>A livable city engages the active involvement of a diversity of citizens in visioning, planning, implementing and monitoring regional plans and place-based solutions to challenges.</p> <p>The monitoring capability of a livable city is equivalent to the nervous system in a living organism. A livable city develops the capability to measure progress towards its goals, to encourage experimentation and test new ideas, to learn from experience, to adapt strategies in order to take into account dynamic circumstances and shifting priorities, and to quickly respond to opportunities and challenges.</p>

<p>The heart of the Livable City</p> <p>The organs of the Livable City</p>	<p>Common Values, a Sense of Identity and Place.</p> <p>Complete Communities, Vital Downtown Core, Industrial Clusters, Green Space.</p>	<p>A livable city contains an active public realm for reflecting the essence of itself, for creating and reinforcing a common identity, for dialogue about common values, for remembering history, for celebration and festivals, and for socialization of children and young people.</p> <p>A livable city contains complete communities with mixed-use and affordable housing close to shopping, employment, cultural centers and pedestrian-friendly transportation networks; a vital downtown core with public spaces and economic activity; industrial clusters with shared infrastructure; and green space including agricultural lands and parks.</p>
<p>The circulatory system of the Livable City</p>	<p>Natural Resource Flows, Green Corridors, Energy Grids, Communication, Transportation</p>	<p>A livable city is connected through the flow of resources that sustain its activities including water, materials, sewage, and waste; through access to energy resources; through green corridors for biodiversity habitat and recreation; through access to the communication systems including information and communication technologies; through a transportation network that prioritizes walking, public transportation and efficient movement of goods, and enables pedestrian-friendly communities.</p>

COIN

The coin of livability has two faces. Livelihood is one of them. Ecological sustainability is the other.

Livelihood means jobs close enough to decent housing with wages commensurate with rents and access to the services that make for a healthful habitat. Livelihoods must also be sustainable. If the quest for jobs and housing is solved in ways that progressively and irreparably degrade the environment of the city, then the livelihood problem is not really being solved. Ecological degradation buys livelihood at the expense of quality of life, with citizens forced to trade green space and breathable air for wages. To be livable, a city must put both sides of the coin together, providing livelihoods for its citizens, ordinary as well as affluent, in ways that preserve the quality of the environment. (D. Hahlweg 1997 "The city as a family"; city should be like a family).