



POLITECNICO DI TORINO

Master's degree programme in
Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning
Planning for the Global Urban Agenda

Academic Year 2020/2021

Master's Degree Thesis RIGHT TO THE CITY:

Rethink the Public Space in the City of the XXI Century

Supervisor

Prof. Cristiana Rossignolo

Candidate

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December 2021



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| ABSTRACT

The Right to the City today plays a fundamental role in the construction of urban space in contemporary cities of the XXI Century, which were developed and planned according to criteria of neoliberal functionalist and economic urban models that favor the privatization of public space. This new human right has certainly become a social and political demand of growing interest in many cities around the world.

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the exercise of the Right to the City from an urban perspective having as main protagonist the public space, because it is a space where this right is claimed and exercised, in addition to its different categories, its limitations and recently as it was affected during the current pandemic. The thesis focuses on the analysis of public space in the case studies of the cities of Turin, Italy and León, Mexico as cities that share characteristics in the use of public space. This research raises the challenges involved in establishing the right to the city in contemporary cities and a reflection on how to rethink the public space through future public policies that stimulate alliances between different actors and citizens in favor of building more inclusive and equitable cities that can guarantee the Right to the City in public space for all citizens.

ABSTRACT | ITALIAN

Il Diritto alla Città svolge oggi un ruolo fondamentale nella costruzione dello spazio urbano nelle città contemporanee del XXI secolo, sviluppate e progettate secondo i criteri dei modelli funzionalisti ed economici neoliberali urbani che favoriscono la privatizzazione dello spazio pubblico. Certamente questo nuovo diritto umano è diventato una richiesta sociale e politica di crescente interesse in molte città del mondo.

L'obiettivo di questa tesi è di analizzare l'esercizio del Diritto alla Città da una prospettiva urbana avendo come principale protagonista lo spazio pubblico, in cui tale diritto viene rivendicato ed esercitato, oltre alle sue diverse categorie, i suoi limiti e come la recente durante l'attuale pandemia lo ha colpito. La tesi si concentra sull'analisi dello spazio pubblico nei casi di studio delle città di Torino, Italia e León, Messico perché sono città che condividono caratteristiche nell'uso dello spazio pubblico. Questa ricerca pone le sfide che comporta stabilire il Diritto alla Città nelle città contemporanee e una riflessione su come ripensare lo spazio pubblico attraverso future politiche pubbliche che stimolino le alleanze tra i diversi attori e i cittadini a favore di la costruzione di città più inclusive ed eque in grado di garantire il Diritto della Città allo spazio pubblico per tutti i cittadini.

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| INTRODUCTION

In recent years, human rights have been recovered importance at International Forums where the Right to the City is becoming an important issue to be addressed for the contemporary cities of the XXI Century, for this reason during the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III in Ecuador (2016) the United Nations decided to address this issue and include it into the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) in the document of the New Urban Agenda (2016).

The contemporary cities of this century are facing great social issues, such as the increasing of marginalization of vulnerable groups, the inequity in the distribution of urban space, the lack and abandonment of public spaces besides the urban fragmentation which is caused mainly by the urban planning models that promote the privatization of the public space; therefore all these factors are causing the deprivation of Right to the City for its citizens.

In this sense, the public space has historically been the place where citizens can freely express their ideas and demand their rights, in this place the social relationships are strengthened between various social groups, economic inequalities are diluted and barriers of inequality are temporarily eliminated. The public space in cities embrace a wide range of open and private places such as the streets, gardens, squares, public buildings among others.

The study of the public space is fundamental for this research for being a crucial urban element in the configuration of contemporary cities which in recent years these places have been lost importance in cities and how the Right to the City has been diminished in these public spaces. For all these reasons, this research aims to study the Right to the City through the analysis of public space in contemporary cities of the XXI Century, how these cities have been transformed, and their evolution during this period since the these cities have been developed and planned according to the urban models of the XIX, XX, and XXI centuries.

Furthermore, this thesis is focused on the analysis and the assessment of the traditional public space such as the historical squares and gardens. For this reason, the purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether these places can guarantee or denied the Right to the City for its citizens.

The theme of the public space is studied specifically in two cities with different urban contexts where one city belongs to the Global North and the other to the Global South, this geographical distinction allows this research to analyze the public space and its characteristics with a broad perspective, in order to prove whether the Right of the City is guaranteed in both cities, in particular in the city of Turin in Italy and Leon in Mexico.

This thesis is interested in the study of tactical urbanism for being an innovative planning tool that allows intervened urban public space, these projects are characterized by the active involvement of the citizens, the low cost, and the modest use of materials. These initiatives are typically temporary interventions in which one of the main objectives is to recover public spaces in cities in order to reestablish a part of the Right to the City for its citizens.

In the last two years, due to the outbreak of Covid - 19 the public space has been the focus of the debate between the local authorities and the citizens, where the governments imposed restrictions on the use during the lockdowns in many cities around the world, in order to stop the spread of the virus and to protect the health of their citizens, however, this situation evidenced the unequal distribution of the public space especially in the Global South cities where it is scarce and unsafe.

This thesis is elaborated in five chapters:

The **first chapter** focuses on the main concept of this thesis that is the Right to the City, its evolution and transformation through the XIX, XX and XXI centuries where the economic - urban models prevailing in those centuries influenced the planning and design of contemporary cities, moreover, this human right has recently become an important topic for discussion at International congresses or forums, and cities are taking this right into consideration in order to built more equal and equitable spaces for all their citizens.

The **second chapter** delves into the theme of the public space, which is essential to understand the contemporary cities of the XXI century besides the Right to the City, the chapter studies the main definitions, the different classifications and the transformation of public space through the XX and XXI centuries where it lost prominence in the city. Furthermore, the chapter describes briefly how the public space during the current pandemic has been the center of attention again due to these urban places evidence the deficiencies and gaps of the urban fabric.

In the **third chapter** is described the methodological process that this research follows in order to analyze and evaluate different public spaces in the two study cities, Turin in Italy and Leon in Mexico, whose objective is to measure whether these public spaces can guarantee the free exercise of Right to the City, for the reason, that these cities were developed under the capitalist - neoliberal economic models.

The **fourth chapter** studies the urban context and the public space of the two cities under study, their planning tools at the different levels of government and the recent strategic plans and agreements in the theme of the Right to the City. In this case, four public spaces are analyzed with the purpose to evaluate the main objective of this thesis which is how the public spaces in the contemporary cities can guarantee the Right to the City for everyone. Likewise, a critical comparison is made between the two cities where public spaces are evaluated through their strengths and weaknesses.

The **fifth chapter** describes the ideas about to rethink and to reclaim the public in the contemporary cities in the XXI Century, through the tactical urbanism as a new planning method for the creation of public spaces using temporary interventions and the participation of citizens in its processes of elaboration. Furthermore, the chapter presents five International good practices that have been successful for addressing specific situations that arose in public space besides analyzing how these projects have had a positive impact on neighborhoods restoring a part of the Right to the City for its inhabitants.

**01 | RIGHT TO
THE CITY**

1.1 THE EVOLUTION OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE XIX - XX CENTURY

Since cities have been born over the years the geographical morphology, social concentrations, political ideologies, and economic model have played an important role in the configuration and distribution of the space. Undoubtedly the economic model is who have influenced more the development of the cities since the capitalism of the XIX Century to the neoliberalism.

The capitalism of XIX Century searched for surplus product and the urbanization depends on the mobilization of surplus product thus an inner connection emerges between the development of capitalism and urbanization.(Harvey, 2012) The politics of capitalism need to find profitable terrains for capital production and absorption. The rebuilding of Paris in 1853 under the design and planning of Haussmann is a clear example how to apply the politics of the capitalism, to solve a crisis of surplus capital and unemployment problem through the urbanization. Haussmann created a new lifestyle and a new infrastructure in center of Paris; however, this new redesign has a dark side which are the eviction and gentrification causing the relocation of the labour class to the periphery of Paris, these negative effects are still arising in the contemporary cities of XXI Century.

After fifty years this sort of urbanization collapsed and emerged a new model of urbanization "the Modernism". Modernism introduced the movement into the cities, due to the invention of the car, for the first time the people (usually the labour class or low-income class) who live in the periphery was able to drive from their homes to the city center for their work. The functionalism of modernism gave priority to cars and fast movement across urban space, the existing urban enclosures with closed views, such streets and squares were demolished in favour to create vast open spaces for the car traffic (Madinipour, 1999) in this current the development of the city was in function of the car. Later on, Jane Jacobs in her book "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" (1961) denominated this effect the "the death of the cities" for the dramatic increasing of the car traffic, the separation of the uses in the city and the special focus on the individual buildings.

In contrast, in 1930 the functionalism of modernism established new planning regulations for the development of the cities (Manifesto of Le Corbusier) in favour to the health and hygiene and to improve the conditions of life in cities, the buildings have to have at least good orientation and cross ventilation, in this period the public space was not the main priority.

After the Second World War, the state was directly involved in the regulation of the market, in the provision of public services and the production of built environment to provide a better distribution of the resources in favour to the equality. This period is called the "The Glorious Thirty" where massive urban projects were developed in order to rebuild the European cities and stabilized the economy. In United States of America Robert Moses played a crucial role in the stabilization of the American economy, following the ideas of Haussmann, his proposals were to redevelop and to transform the public space in New York metropolitan area with the construction of new highways, buildings, and new infrastructure.

In the following thirty years with the laissez – faire the scope of the figure of the state was reduced, from this moment the urban process was more bureaucratic, unaffordable, and inefficient, as a result the state transferred the production of the built environment to the private sector/spheres. In consequence, the spaces produced in this time were designed from the inside out, paying more attention to the buildings rather than the spaces outside and the right to the city lost importance (Gehl, 2011).

The XX century was witnessed functionalist proposals that caused excessive and chaotic urban growth which shaped and transformed large parts in many of the contemporary cities in Europe and in North America. Another negative effect is the use of the economic model (surplus) as a driver of urban transformation in the cities; the result is the "creative destruction" of the city through process of gentrification or evictions, in this case the low-income social class, the underprivileged and marginalized are who suffered more these processes where their rights to the city and public space are diminishing. The city in this period has ceased to be a place of agglomeration to be a capitalist product.

1.2 THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY CITY OF XXI C.

In the late XX century under the neoliberalism economic model the city experimented a decisive change in the conditions of the city as a meeting place for the exchange of information (Gehl & Gemzoe, 2002). The neoliberalism restored the class power to the rich elites, the results are indelibly etched into the spatial forms of our cities which increasingly become cities of fortified fragments, of a gated communities and privatize public spaces kept under surveillance. The city is splitting into different parts "microstates" where each fragment appears to live and function autonomously. This postmodernist penchant for encouraging the formation of market niches in urban lifestyles choices, consumer habits and cultural forms.

The legacy of the XX century is the result of the application of sectorial politics that gave rise to large housing operations where each segment was intended for specific social group causing social marginalization and the prioritization of the roads as a regulation and as an investment which creates ruptures in the social and urban fabric. The growth of the cities in this century has generated an urban fabric not continuous, it has become an impediment or barrier that guarantee the connection between the public spaces (Pérez, 2018). The current arrangement of cities, fragmented and specialized in their functions take shape through the requirements of the mobility and the automobile.

The design and planning of the city in this century is still following the ideas of the modernism and functionalism of the XX century where the priority is to create more space for the cars. The fragmented city tends to be physically wasteful, socially segregated, economically unproductive, culturally miserable, and politically ungovernable. The Spanish architect Sola Morales mentioned that the city is the result of the homogenized fragments where the planning plans have been reduced to a "simplistic and elementary" document of an exclusively legal nature, incorporating only "common sense orientation programs and guidelines".

In the case of the Latin American cities are the outcome of the urban modernism uncompleted, where the growth of the illegal city has been faster than the legal city in this part of the city the public space is poor and precarious. The Latin American cities are suffering the effects of the North American cities, the high concentration in the city centres and the overuse of the automobile, thus the degradation of the residential areas, the abandonment of the public spaces and the occupancy of the street traders are evident in these cities.

The cities of the XXI century shall be built under the citizenship participation in order to expand the rights for all, whilst the planning have to rationalize public actions, investments and serve to guide to the private sector.

1.3 THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IN THE XX AND XXI CENTURIES

During the last centuries, the concept of the "Right to the City" was disappearing in the public sphere, albeit the current urban policies, the planning and the development of the cities are still focusing on the economic model where the creation of new spaces follow the market, the private property and the idea of production (profit) without considering any form of social participation in the processes; therefore this way of design the cities caused secondary effects in the society as marginalization of the unprivileged groups, gentrification or evictions process are the result of the contemporary cities in this century, the increasing of abandoned urban spaces, polarized societies and a fragmented cities, indeed all these aspects are the current issues of many cities in Europe and in America.

In recent years, the ideas of human rights have been recovered importance in the political and social spheres worldwide, certainly, the right to the city became an important issue to be addressed in International Forums, debates, congresses due to the social inequalities produced by the rapid increase of the world urban population.

The concept of the Right to the city was first developed by French sociologist Henri Lefebvre in his book *Le droit à la ville* (Right to the City) in 1968. He defines the Right to the city as a right of no exclusion of urban society from qualities and benefits of urban life (Lefebvre, 1968). Lefebvre paid specific emphasis on the effects of the capitalism had over the city where urban space and governance were turned into exclusive goods; in his book he describes the "tragedy of the banlieusards" where the people were forced to leave their homes and live far from the city center, this situation is still occurred in this century mainly in Latin America cities with the purpose to transform urban areas for hosting mega events such as the World Cup or Olympic Games. Lefebvre mention that is vital to rescue citizen who is the main element and the protagonist of the city and to transform the urban space into a meeting point for building collective life.

Later on, David Harvey resumes the concept of Henri Lefebvre in his *Rebel Cities* where he describes what is the right of the city:

The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city. It is, moreover, a common rather than an individual right since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization. The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights (Harvey, 2012, p.4).

David Harvey criticized the urbanization of the last years where the construction of the cities was based on the economic model where the right to the city is in most of the cases in the hands of a small political and economic elite who are in the position to shape the city according to their own desire. Furthermore, Harvey said that the democratization of the right to the construction of broad social movement to enforce the concept it will be imperative in the current time.

Recently, the right to the city has had a particular influence in Europe and Latin America, where social movements have particularly appealed to the concept in their actions and promoted local instruments in terms of policy-making at local, state, and national level. The relevance that this concept has gained in the last years is such that in 2005 during the World Urban Forum in Barcelona was released the document "the World Charter for the Right to the City" and the United Nations included in the New Urban Agenda (2016) where established that the right to the city shall be a "city for all". During the Habitat III in Ecuador the United Nation elaborated a complementary document named "The Right to the City for All" (2016).

The World Charter for the Right to the City suggests how city inhabitants may exercise the right to the city, in order to gather the communities and measures that must be assumed by civil society, local and national governments, members of parliament and international organizations (Grahl, 2005), in summary all people may live with dignity in their cities. The charter is oriented to guarantee the international human rights as an instrument to strengthen urban processes, vindications, and struggles. In the first article "The Right to the City" mentions that all persons have the right to the city free of discrimination and to preserve cultural memory also includes the right to development, to a health environment, to the enjoyment and preservation of natural resources, to participation in urban planning and management, and to historical and cultural heritage.

The document establishes that the right of the city is a collective right of the inhabitants of cities, in particular of the vulnerable and marginalized groups based of their uses and customs, with the objective to achieve full exercise of the right to free self-determination and an adequate standard of living.

During the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Habitat III in Ecuador the United Nations addressed the topic of the right of the city, since represents a new paradigm that provides an alternative framework to rethink cities and urbanization. It envisions the effective fulfilment of all internationally agreed human rights, sustainable development objectives as expressed through the Sustainable Development Goals an the commitments of the Habitat Agenda (New Urban Agenda, 2016).

The Sustainable Development Goal 11 - Make Cities and Human Settlement inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable is the goal who addresses the concept of the right to the city in a broad context, the main objective is to build modern and sustainable cities through equality and social inclusion.

The document The Right to the City for All (2016) is a compilation of policy papers where defined the right to the city as the right for all inhabitants, present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive, and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to quality of life (Habitat III Policy Papers: Policy Paper 1 The Right to the City and Cities for All, 2016). The publication resume the Vienna Declaration (1993) where established that "the right to the city encompasses all civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environment as enshrined in existing international human rights treaties, covenants and conventions".

The right to the city for all states three pillars to examine the right to the city: (1) spatially just distribution, (2) political agency, and (3) social, economic, and cultural diversity.

Pillar 1: Spatially just resource distribution – mentions that the right to the city envisions a socially and spatially just distribution and planning of material resources, ensuring good living conditions across the human settlement continuum. These resources, accessible in both informal sectors and areas.

Pillar 2: Political agency – in order to achieve the right to the city when the structures, processes and policies enable all inhabitants as social and political actors to exercise the full content and meaning of citizenship. In this way, this pillar lessens the relatively high control by capital and State elites over decisions regarding the organization and management of the capital and its spaces, and reconfigures urban space, land, and property in a manner that maxims use value for all inhabitants.

Pillar 3: Social, economic, and cultural diversity – this pillar calls for the recognition of culture, neighboring, and stake holding as a lever for social cohesion, social capital, innovation, safer cities, self-expression, and identity. Central to city life is also the use of urban space.

In terms of implementation, the right to the city calls for the strategic alliance of key urban actors, including all inhabitants that needs to be trans-scalar and take place at the global, national, and local events. The right to the city further calls for an enhanced role for all citizens, particularly women, marginalized groups, and the urban poor.

It is vital that the city provides quality public spaces which enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes the diverse livelihoods, customs, memory, identities, and sociocultural forms of its inhabitants.

Nowadays, the concept Right to the City has become a "fashionable trend", for this reason it raised some criticism on how the original vision of Henri Lefebvre has been reduced to a "citizenship vision", which is focused more on the implementation of social and economic rights in the city rather than in the origin of the social conflict that is behind of the original definition.

Certainly, the contemporary cities of this centuries represent a big challenge in the urban planning, construction of the city and public space, citizens have the responsibility to participate actively in the making and shaping of the city whereas governments have the responsibility to ensure spatially and equitable distribution of the resources involving the key actors in the partnership approach. Furthermore, the right to the city shall be addressed with a wider perspective which implies responsibilities on governments and citizens to claim, defend, and promote this right through new guide polices and actions that allows the building of the city more equality, with social justice, participation, and sustainability.

Undoubtedly, the right the city plays a fundamental role in the construction of the urban space in the current time for having a strong relationship with the public space, it is the place where citizenship is built, in a sense, where people collectively appropriate the city, without public space there is not collective (Borja, 2012). The public space is crucial for the cities for being the public arena where people can demand the right to the city.

02



PUBLIC
SPACE

2.1 WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SPACE?

Since the cities were founded the public space have been playing a vital role in the social development of people on various levels, from small neighborhood complexes to large centers squares. Public spaces enable to conceptualize and represent the city in order to make an ideology of its receptivity to strangers, tolerance of difference, and opportunities to enter a fully socialized life, both civic and commercial. The public space is a space in which people can choose to be at, regardless of their ethnicity, age, ideologies, and gender. It is a space that allows and facilities a coexistence of different categories of people. Furthermore, the public space provides a platform or space in which people can come in contact with the social world outside and experience the opportunity of being with, seeing and hearing others with instils stimulation.

The public space is the main space for urban planning, urban culture, and citizenship. It is a physical, symbolic, and political space. they are spaces for collective use due to the progressive appropriation of people that allow walking and meeting, which order each area of the city and give it a meaning, moreover these spaces are part of the physical environment of collective expression and of social and cultural diversity. Madinipour defines the public space as the space who has political significance, symbolizing the power of the state, as exemplified in the parades of the statues of the elite, or where the state is challenged by its opponents as in demonstrations and revolutions, he also mentions that the public space shall be accessible to everyone, where strangers and citizens can enter without restrictions.

During the Biennial of Public Space in Rome (2017) the architect Pietro Garau defined the public space as all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. Each public space has its own spatial, historic, environmental, social, and economic features (Garau, 2017). In addition, Mostafavi mentions that the public space is partly what makes cities and it's peculiar of urban settlements. It is the clearest expression of the urban predicaments, the tension between the physical proximity and moral remoteness of city dwellers.

The author Matthew Carmona suggests that the public space can be classified through the characteristics: design, socio - cultural and economic perspectives. In the design perspective the space is characterized by physical type and functions, dominated, nuclear and flexible in the use, whereas the socio - cultural perspective is focused on the users of public space and their participation and lastly, the political perspective establishes that the public space is the place where the citizens express the power of their relationships between the public and private spheres (Carmona, 2010).

Certainly, public spaces are meeting places where people of ages share a space and multiple activities take place; these places can host from temporary markets which provide vitality to cities, to the possibility of recreational activities and physical activation for children and adults. These places represent the collective and individual memory of citizens, they feel part of a community, and education and culture are also promoted; freedom of expression is encouraged as it is considered a neutral space. Undoubtedly, the public spaces are an integral part of architecture and urban landscapes of cities where citizens express and demand the human rights: the right to the city.

2.1.1 THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC SPACE

The public spaces in cities embrace a wide range of places from open environments such as streets, pavements, squares, gardens, and parks which are created without a profit motive and for everyone's enjoyment as public libraries or museums; however, what characterize them are the free accessibility to citizens and the functional character. Furthermore, the global experience has shown how these varied types of public spaces can directly contributed to cities' functionalities, including social interactions, urban health, labor markets and urban environment (Kher, et al., 2020). It is essential for the public space guarantee the rights of the citizens where their differences are respected and appreciated.

The UN – Habitat in 2015 defined the public space as the space between buildings and facilities that are open to the public in this definition considered three types of urban spaces: streets and pedestrian access; open and green spaces, including parks, plazas, waterbodies, and waterfronts; and public facilities such as libraries, community centers, and municipal markets.

Additionally, the City – Wide Public Space Strategies (2019) document distinguishes three categories of the public space which are based on the accessibility and versatility, these three groups are: open spaces, streets, and urban facilities.

Streets: thoroughfares that are based inside towns, cities and neighborhoods used by pedestrians or vehicles in order to move from one place to another in the city. The main purpose of a street is facilitating movement and enabling public interaction.

Open spaces: there are areas within urban environment that are freely accessible to the public use and are intended primarily for outdoor recreation and informal activities, design, or physical feature. These spaces include parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks, and waterfronts.

Urban facilities: publicly - owned facilities might either be accessed freely or in some cases an access fee is requested. These facilities typically have operating hours within people can access some examples of these are civic/community centres, public libraries, public sports facilities and municipal markets.

On the other hand, the author Carmona (2010) considered an extensive list of how public spaces appear in the contemporary city. He classifies different types or urban public spaces as 'positive', 'negative', 'ambiguous' and 'private spaces' (Table 01) This classification meant to capture the multiple ways that public spaces appear in the world and how some of these are design and managed that prioritized travel and transportation while others foster social interaction.

Space Type	Distinguishing characteristics	Examples
'Positive' spaces		
1. Natural / semi-natural urban space	Natural and semi-natural features within urban areas typically under state ownership	Rivers, natural features, seafronts, canals
2. Civic space	The traditional forms of urban space, open and available to all and catering for a wide variety of functions	Streets, squares, promenades
3. Public open space	Managed open space, typically green and available and open to all, even if temporally controlled	Parks, gardens, commons, urban forest, cemeteries
'Negative' spaces		
4. Movement space	Space dominated by movement's needs, largely for motorized transportation	Main roads, motorways, railways, underpasses
5. Service space	Space dominated by modern servicing requirements needs	Car parks, service yards
6. Left over space	Space left over after development, often designed without function	'SLOAP' (space left over after planning), Modernist open space
7. Undefined space	Undeveloped space, either abandoned or awaiting redevelopment	Redevelopment space, abandoned space, transit space

Space Type	Distinguishing characteristics	Examples
Ambiguous space		
8. Interchange space	Transport stops and interchanges, whether internal or external	Metros, bus interchanges, railway stations, bus / tram stops
9. Public 'private' space	Seemingly public external space, in fact privately owned and to greater or lesser degrees controlled	Privately owned 'civic' space, business parks, church grounds
10. Conspicuous space	Public spaces designed to make strangers feel conspicuous and, potentially unwelcome	Cul-de-sacs, dummy gated enclaves
11. Internalized ' public' space	Formally public and external uses, internalized and, often, privatized	Shopping / leisure malls, introspective mega - structures
12. Retail space	Privately owned but publicly accessible exchange spaces	Shops, covered markets, petrol stations
13. Third place spaces	Semi - public meeting and social places, public and private	Cafes, restaurants, libraries, town halls, religious buildings
14. Private 'public' space	Publicly owned, but visually public space	Institutional grounds, housing estates, university campuses
15. Visible private space	Physically private, but visually public space	Front gardens, allotments. gated squares
16. Interface spaces	Physically demarked but publicly accessible interfaces between public and private space	Street cafes, private pavement space
17. User selecting spaces	Spaces for selected groups, determined (and sometimes controlled) by age or activity	Skateparks, playgrounds, sports fields / grounds / courses
Private spaces		
18. Private open space	Physically private open space	Urban agricultural remnants, private woodlands
19. External space	Physically private spaces, grounds and gardens	Gated streets / enclaves, private gardens, private sports clubs, parking courts
20. Internal space	Private or business space	Offices, houses, etc.

01 Table | Urban space classification elaborated by M. Carmona (2010)

2.1.2 THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CENTURIES XX AND XXI

The public space throughout history has been distinguished by its degree of symbolism, representativeness and belonging, its functions, its characteristics, and its role in the structuring of cities. The public space is the place of representation, in which society becomes visible. From the agora in the antique cities of Greek to the current squares where the massive political demonstrations of XXI century take place, from these spaces is possible to understand the history of a city. The relationships between the inhabitants, the power and the citizens are materialized, they are expressed in the conformation of the streets, squares, parks, citizen meeting places, in monuments and so on so forth.

In the XIX century the urban planning formalized the legal distinction between private space and public space, regulating building, public and private uses in order to guarantee public spaces and the diversity of functions and their collective uses (Borja & Muxi, 2000). Despite of this legal distinction, it is important to mention that in the following years specially in the beginning of the XX century the urban planning was focused on the development of streets, avenues, highways in favor of the car, thus the public space was not a priority.

In 1933 during the CIAM (International Congresses of Modern Architecture) in Athens the architect Le Corbusier published the Athens Charter which main theme was "the functional city", this document was about urban planning with the objective to redefine the relationship between the public and private spaces, which would reshape the urban space, creating large quantities of open spaces for hygienic as well as aesthetic reasons. On the other hand, the Modernism rejected this idea "the city and city space", the movement became dominant in the planning for the following years and many urban areas were affected for this current.

The consequence was the creation of vast expenses of space without any connection with the other spaces of the city and them can be only watched from the top of the high buildings or from car windows (Madanipour, 2017), in this period the scale of the city was changed. The public spaces of the city have become residual spaces, used for parking cars, or associated with particular, limited functions as the tourism and retail.

Certainly, the XX century has meant a decisive change in the conditions of use of the city as a meeting place for the exchange information (Gehl & Gemzoe, 2002) due to the neoliberal order. This system requires another criterion of what is public, on the part of the dominant private sectors. The public space has been transformed into close spaces such as shopping centers which are closed container, large spaces located mainly outside

the city or in strategic spaces connected by large roads. In addition, shopping centers or malls supplant the historical function of the square and the traditional street to transform them into places that represent the utopia and aspirations of the middle and upper classes (Pérez, 2018); as a part of the less favored sectors in their project of ascent to the higher life schemes of the social scale, unequivocal meaning of the fragmentation, dispersion, and specialization of the contemporary city. The shopping centers revalue the standardized monumental architecture, since it uses the same reference signs anywhere in the world.

In consequence, the urbanism of the XX century caused a crisis on the public spaces due to the dynamics of private property, public priority and privacy to real estate programs, the absence or degradation, the exclusive occupation of circulatory space by the car, the closed commercial offer, the citizen insecurity. The public space has become one more 'facility' of the city thus losing its functions, giving shape, and meaning to the city as a whole, guaranteeing routes and elements of continuity into the city. The traditional public space has become a series of facilities for consumption, they are scenarios converted into sites and places of temporary proximity in which fragmented social classes of the consumer society develop.

2.2 THE PUBLIC SPACE DURING THE OUTBREAK COVID - 19

In the previous years of the pandemic, the public space was recovering the center of the attention in the debate of urban planning, after the crisis that it was suffering during the XX century; the idea of transformation of the public space was focusing on the design and planning with the objective to improve the public health.

The pandemic has demonstrated how unevenly public space is distributed through many cities, especially in poor neighborhoods, where there are a few spaces such as green spaces, parks, or playgrounds (Public space and COVID-19, 2020). This phenomenon is more evident in the Global South cities where neoliberal policies have produced segregated and fragmented cities especially in Latin America, with important differences in the quality and quantity of public spaces between the high- and low-income neighbourhoods (Honey – Rosés et al. 2020). The Latin American cities have been suffering the effects of the modernism urbanism of the XX century that was developed in North America where the priority was focused on the automobile, for this reason the public spaces were not a priority in the guidelines of the urban planning. The public space in these cities is limited without any kind of planning and design, in the low-income neighbourhoods is compounded by the absence of safety and security, for this reason criminal groups have taken functional control of these spaces.

In the European cities the use and accessibility to the public spaces was denied at the beginning of the lockdown, after some months of restrictions the authorities allowed the use of some areas of the green and public spaces keeping the safe distance and for some hours, whilst in Latin America cities the dynamic was slightly different from Europe, the restrictions was not too severe in the use of public space for the fact that all people was not able to work online and the economic crisis; the people were forced to reconfigure and use the public space as street vendors.

Undoubtedly, The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted several gaps in public spaces including accessibility, flexibility, design, management and maintenance, connectivity, and equitable distribution across the city. However, this period brings an opportunity for city planners to liberate more street space for pedestrian and cyclist with temporary interventions as tactical urbanism, moving the urban development to more greener cities and low carbon economy.

03



**PUBLIC
SPACE
ANALYSIS**

3.1 | METHODOLOGY

Contemporary cities of the XXI Century are the result of capitalist - neoliberal economic models and functionalist - modernist urban planning, which have directly influenced urban planning and design of cities, affected public space and restricting the exercise of the Right to the City. Throughout the years, the scale of cities was transformed, and public spaces became residual spaces of the city, these factors caused a crisis in public space, in other words, public space in this period became one more amenity of the city.

The analysis of the public space has the objective to assess whether it is possible to guarantee and exercise freely the Right to the City in the contemporary cities of the XXI Century for all the inhabitants, as the International documents mentioned such as Habitat III: Right to the City and Cities for all (2016) and the ONU New Urban Agenda (2016).

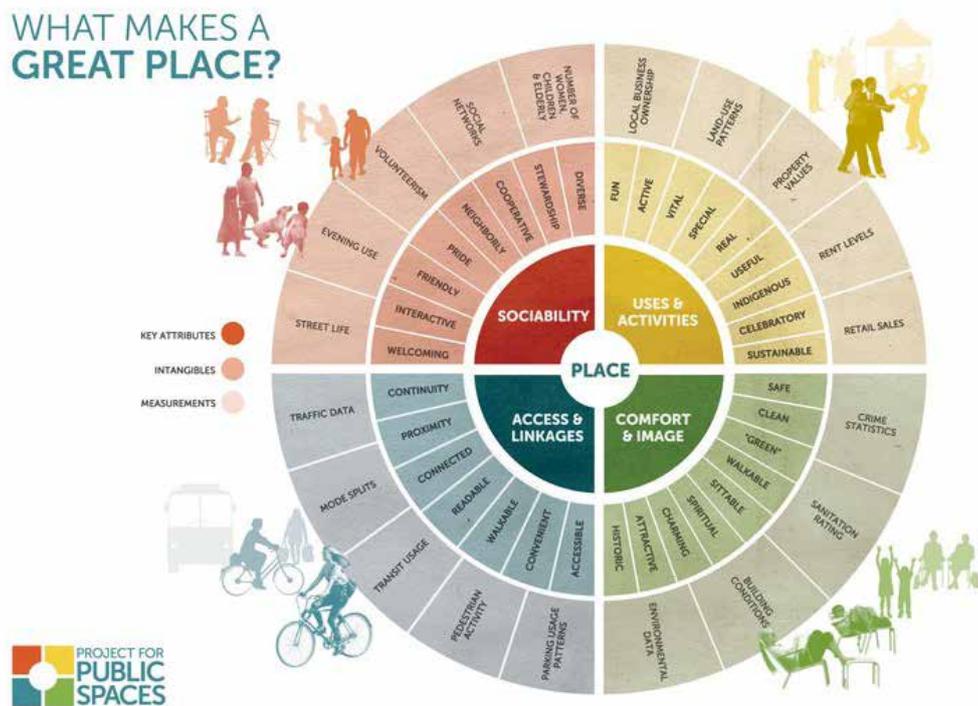
Certainly, the public space in cities embraces a variety of spaces with different characteristics, environments, functions and types, for this reason the present research is focused on the analysis of open or positive public spaces based on the classification types of urban spaces proposed by the author M. Carmona (2010), in this category are considered three types of spaces (Table 02), however this thesis analyzes only two categories: Civic space and Public Open space, for being spaces with free access for all citizens and there are representative places in the cities.

Space Type	Distinguishing characteristics	Examples
'Positive' spaces		
1. Natural / semi-natural urban space	Natural and semi-natural features within urban areas typically under state ownership	Rivers, natural features, seafronts, canals
2. Civic space	The traditional forms of urban space, open and available to all and catering for a wide variety of functions	Streets, squares, promenades
3. Public open space	Managed open space, typically green and available and open to all, even if temporally controlled	Parks, gardens, commons, urban forest, cemeteries

02 Table | Urban space classification - Positive spaces

The placemaking *What if we built our cities around places?*¹ (2018) is document that inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Placemaking methodology helps to strength the connection between people and the places they share.

This methodology facilities creative patterns of use in the themes of the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and supports its ongoing evolution. Furthermore, through different themes encourages collaborative process where citizens can shape their public realm in order to built a better urban design.



01 Diagram What Makes a Great Place? - Project Public Spaces (2018)

¹ The placemaking *What if we built our cities around places?* is a document elaborated by the American urban design office Project for Public Spaces where a multidisciplinary team shares their passion for the public spaces, this office is located in New York and for more than forty years have developed different projects and helped communities to imagine a new future and met their needs through public spaces.
 Retrieve from: <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

In this context, the public space will be analyzed from an urban perspective through the on-site observation process, using as a starting point the methodology established by the diagram *What Makes a Great Place?* which considers a series of questions in order to assess the public space in four different themes: Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities, Sociability.

Access & Linkages: Evaluate the connections that the place has with its surroundings, including visual links, moreover, analyze the connectivity with the public transport system or if the place is reachable by walking.

Comfort & Image: Assess the sense of comfort of the place through the perception of whether the space is safe, clean, and has places to sit.

Uses & Activities: This attribute evaluates the range of activities that a place offers in order to make the space attractive and interesting for visitors otherwise the place will be empty.

Sociability: This is the most important attribute for a place to achieve and the most difficult because it involves human behavior and social interaction.

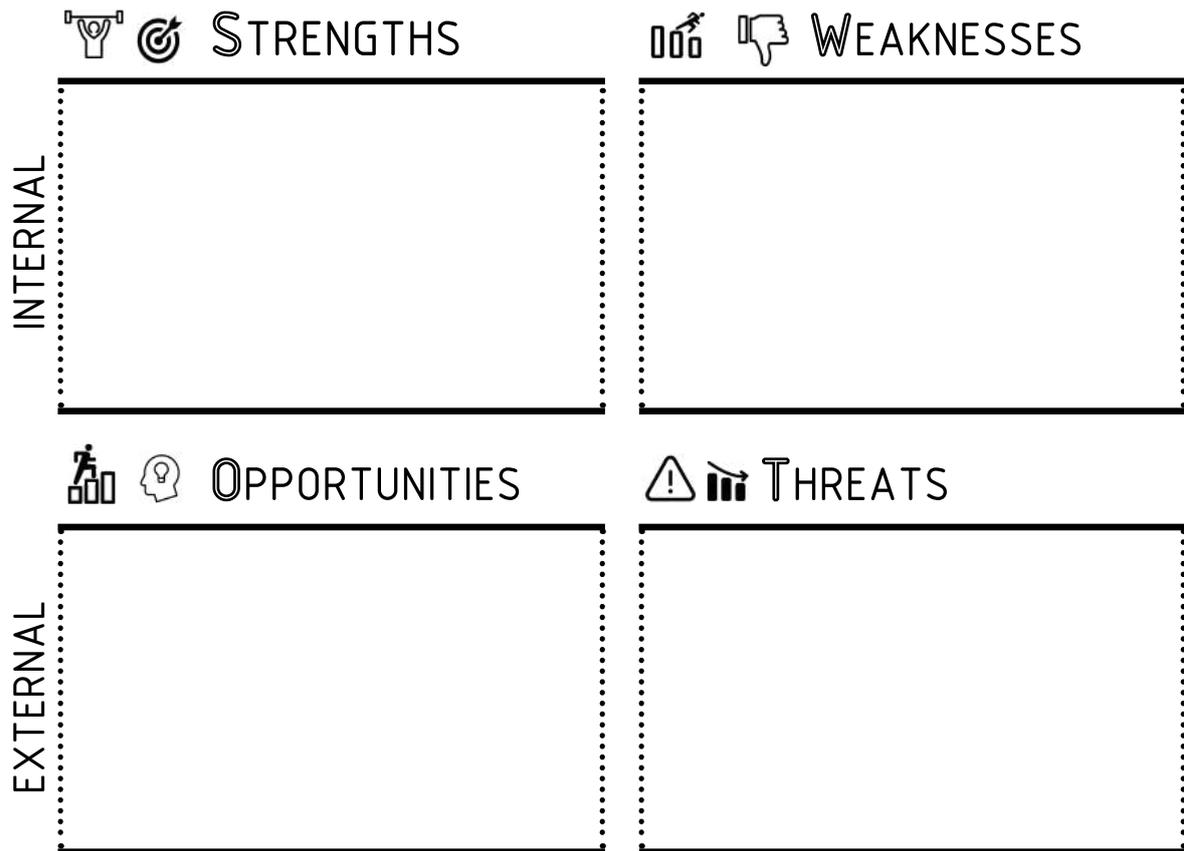
The analysis through these four attributes is useful for the reason that the thesis's objective is to measure the Right to the City that the users of the public spaces can access, moreover this methodology allows to obtain valuable information about social dynamics and its general features.

In this case, the present investigation considers part of the questions for each category for the reason that this thesis is focused on specific characteristics of the public space. The Table 03 is filled out during the field visit in order to evaluate each public space, according to the different categories, based on some attributes proposed in the diagram *What Makes a Great Place?* (2018).

Access & Linkages	YES	NO	Comments
Can you see the space from a distance? Is its interior visible from the outside?			
Can people easily walk there?			
Does the space function well for people with disabilities and other special needs?			
Do the paths throughout the space take people where they actually want to go?			
Can people use a variety of transportation options—bus, train, car, and bicycle—to reach the place?			
Comfort & Image	YES	NO	Comments
Does the place make a good first impression?			
Are there as many women as men?			
Are there enough places to sit? Are seats conveniently located? Do people have a choice of places to sit, either in the sun or shade?			
Are spaces clean Does the area feel safe? Are there security personnel present?			
Uses & Activities	YES	NO	Comments
Are people using the space, or is it empty?			
Is it used by people of different ages?			
How many different types of activities are occurring at one time—people walking, eating, playing baseball, chess, relaxing, reading?			
Which parts of the space are used and which are not?			
Sociability	YES	NO	Comments
Are people in groups? Are they talking with one another? Do they talk to people in other groups?			
Do many people use the place frequently?			
Does the mix of ages and ethnic groups generally reflect the community at large?			
Do people tend to pick up litter when they see it?			

03 Table | Attributes to evaluate a public space based on diagram What Makes a Great Place? (2018)

The SWOT analysis is a methodological tool used to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the planning processes, this technique is designed for use in the preliminary stages of decision-making processes and it used as tool for evaluation of strategic positions. Nevertheless, this thesis uses this matrix to evaluate and analyze the public space under study, that is crucial in order to obtain relevant information that allow to assess the thesis's objective.



04 Table | SWOT analysis

This research is focused on the study of public space in two cities with different contexts, the first located in Europe and the second located in North America, which determines similarities or differences in use, dynamics of the public space as well as analyzing whether the space guarantees the exercise of the Right to the City.

Furthermore, this thesis is analyzes the planning system of each case study from the National to the Local Level, in order to understand which are the planning bodies and tools involved in the development, management and regulation of the public space and how these planning tools can guarantee the Right to the City for its citizens in the contemporary city of the XXI Century.

3.2 | INTRODUCTION CASE OF STUDIES

The cities selected for public space analysis are the cities of Turin in Italy and Leon in Mexico; the reason why Turin was chosen as a case study is because the present master's degree in Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning takes place in this city and the second choice is Leon because I lived in this city for more than 10 years.



01 Map | Location of Turin, Italy

Turin (*Torino*) is located in the northwest of Italy and it is the capital city of the Piedmont region and the Metropolitan City of Turin. The city is surrounded on the western and the northern front by the Alps and on the eastern front by a high hill that is the natural continuation of the hills of Monteferrato.

The population of the city is 848 196 inh (ISTAT*, 2021) while the population of the metropolitan area is 2 212 996 inh (ISTAT, 2021). The surface of the city of Turin is 130 060 000 sqm.

* ISTAT - Istituto Nazionale di Statistica



02 Map | Location of Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico

Leon is located in the west of the Guanajuato state, the city is situated 384 km from the capital Mexico City.

The population of the city is 1 721 215 inh (INEGI*, 2020), while the population of the metropolitan area is 2 139 489 inh being the seventh more populated in Mexico. The surface of the city of León is 1 221 610 000 sqm.

* INEGI - Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía

3.2.1 | TURIN, IT – METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

In the case of Turin, the methodological approach is applied in four public spaces of the city, these places are selected for being the most representative and fulfil the objective of this analysis which is to evaluate if the public places guarantee the Right to the City.

The observation process is carried out in the field² during the month of October 2021 according with the methodology established. The process is described in the following paragraphs.

The analysis consists in perform three visits to the site, two during the week (morning and afternoon) and one at the weekend (morning or afternoon) in order to be able to observe properly the dynamics of the place and obtain the information necessary to carry out the analysis and subsequent evaluation.

It is used as a basis the diagram of which What Makes a Great Place? which evaluates and analyzes the conditions of mobility, accessibility, physical conditions of the place, as well as the perceptions of safety and comfort, among other characteristics.

During the visit, which last a maximum of 3 hours, a log is filled with the activities observed that day, as well as a photographic survey is carried out showing the various activities that people carry out in space, as well as the type of people who visit him.

Once the visits have been made, the information obtained is classified according to population, age, gender, as well as the type of activities they carry out, then the data obtained is processed in order to elaborate tracking maps and graphs. The SWOT analysis tool is used to identify its internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats of each of the public spaces.

² Field observation respects at all times the restrictions in open spaces in force by the Italian Ministry of Health due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2.2 | LEON, MX - METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The methodological approach of Leon is slightly different from Turin due to the current measures derived from the pandemic COVID-19 imposed by the Mexican Secretary of Health, it restricts temporarily the free access to public space as well as the permanence, for this reason, some public spaces under study are affected for these measures.

The four public spaces selected for the analysis are the most representative places in the city, except for one that is located in the periphery; this public space is interesting to be evaluated for this thesis due to the fact that evidence the urban fragmentation of the city.

The observation process is carried out in the field³ during the month of September 2021 and the methodological process is described in the following paragraphs.

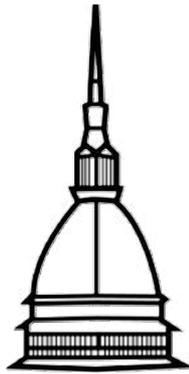
The diagram of What Makes a Great Place? is used as a base to evaluate the public space according with the main four attributes: Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities and Sociability.

The site is visited two times (morning and afternoon) during the week and the visit last a maximum of 1 hour while a log is filled in order to collect all the information about the behavior of the persons, the physical characteristics of the place and the social dynamic, moreover a photographic survey is carried out with the purpose to capture all the activities that people perform in the public space. The data collected the questionnaire is classified and analyzed according to range of population, age, gender and the type of activities.

In the case of some public spaces the recent process of transformation is also taking into considering with the purpose to evaluate if these interventions improve the place and enhance the quality life of the citizens.

³ Field observation respects at all times the restrictions in public spaces in force by the Mexican Secretary of Health due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

04 | CASE STUDIES



TURIN ITALY

4.1 | TURIN, ITALY

4.1.1 | PUBLIC SPACE IN ITALY - PLANNING TOOLS

Since antiquity the public space has been a very important element for the European cities, in the specific case of Italy that is a country recognized for its historical squares which have witnessed historical events. In recent years, interventions have been carried out in public spaces with the aim of improving their physical conditions and increasing social cohesion in those spaces. An important element of the public space is the regulation and management for this reason this research analyzes the spatial planning system and tools of Italy, in order to understand its structure and which are the political bodies who are in charge of this topic.

The Italian planning system is characterized by a relatively stable structure inspired by the traditional 'urbanistic' typology which is based on the centrality of the master plan at municipal level and the legislative framework that is still defined by the original National Spatial Planning Law n. 1150 dated 1942 (Lingua & Servillo, 2014). According with the Constitution of the Italian Republic, Title V - 1948) the State is composed by Regions, Provinces and Municipalities, in this case the Regions are entitled to design laws, within the main guiding principles laid down by the State.

PLANNING TOOLS | NATIONAL LEVEL

The Italian constitution of 1948 established that the functions related to the subject of planning is competing of the regions, as part of the extension of legislative powers that came into force in 1977, since this period the Regions started to promulgate Regional Planning Laws. For this reason, there is not a National Planning body in charge of these competencies, its function is regarding exclusively to establish coordination with the regions.

PLANNING TOOLS | REGIONAL LEVEL

In this case, the Region of Piedmont is the subnational level who elaborates the planning tools which are the Regional Territorial Plan (PTR) and the Landscape Plan of Piedmont Region (PPR), both instruments have general strategies and common general objectives which allow strengthens the connection between the two planning tools. In this level the Government of the Territory elaborates the PTR while the Direttore Environment Government develops the PPR in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities [*Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali*]. It is important to mention that these instruments establish general regulations and guidelines to the territory that the municipalities have compulsory follow.

The Regional Territorial Plan 2011 [*Il Piano Territoriale Regionale*] (PTR) defines the strategies and objectives of the regional level, and entrusts the implementation, through moments of verification and comparison, to the entities that operate on a provincial and local scale. It sets out the actions to be taken by the different planning actors, in compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and competence, to implement the objectives of the PTR itself.

The Landscape Plan of Piedmont Region 2017 [*Il Piano Paesaggistico Regionale*] (PPR) places the landscape at the centre of Piedmont's regional policies. The main principles are the sustainable development, conscious use of the territory, lower consumption of the agro-natural soil, safeguarding the landscape characteristics inserted in the single environmental contexts.

PLANNING TOOLS | METROPOLITAN LEVEL

In the case of Turin the city is a Metropolitan city and a municipality for this reason in this level the planning tool is the Provincial Territorial Coordination Plan (PTC2) [*Il Piano Territoriale di Coordinamento Provinciale*] 2011 elaborated by the Department of Land, Construction and Roads, this plan considers the whole territory of the metropolitan area, delineate the main structural features and define the criteria for disciplining transformations in accordance to the Regional planning tools.

PLANNING TOOLS | MUNICIPAL LEVEL

At the Municipal Level the planning tool is the Municipal Regulatory Plan (PRG) 1995 [*Il Piano Regolatore Generale*] elaborated by the Directorate Urbanism and Territory - Urbanism area, this plan focuses on land use regulation and establishes the 'borders' and 'zones' within which specific land use rights, moreover the PRG indicates the areas dedicated to public use, the areas reserved for public buildings and/or social or collective use. In the case of the public space and green areas which the area of interest for this thesis the Strategic Plan of the Green Infrastructure 2020 is the planning tool who coordinate and manage these topics in Turin.

The Strategic Plan of the Green Infrastructure 2020 [*Il Piano Strategico dell'Infrastruttura Verde*] elaborated by the Directorate Environment, Green and Civil Protection - Green public area in collaboration with Arpa Piedmont and other public and private entities. The plan is an analysis and programming tool to guide investments and policies for the management of the Turin public urban green space system in the coming decades, complementing the urban planning tools.

The plan considers the classification of the green heritage which characterize the city of Turin according to an organization for typological systems to the Historical Gardens of the central Urban area of Nineteenth-Century imprint have been gradually added over time the Great Parks of the peripheral areas - connected by Wide Avenues tree-lined and laterfrom Cycle Routes - the Hilly and River Parks and finally the Parks of the Urban Transformation Thorns, in this case the thesis is focused only in two categories which are the Parks and Historical Gardens and the Urban parks.

Parks and Historical Gardens:

Parks and historic gardens in the central urban area with intensive management and linked to residences historical and/ or noble. Examples are the Valentino Park, the Rignon Park, the Treasurer Park, the Royal Gardens, the Cavour gardens, the Balbo flowerbed, the Sambuy gardens.

Urban parks:

Parks and gardens of the semi-central urban area built in the second half of the Twentieth Century and characterized by a extensive management.

4.1.2 | RIGHT TO THE CITY IN ITALY

Throughout history, European cities have undergone major urban transformations due to various social problems such as migration, economic models, or devastating World Wars that in some cases erased completely cities, however, nowadays European cities seek to adapt their policies in order to address the current demands in the environmental, economic and social issues.

After the Second World War the European cities have been a period of reconstruction which implied that the design and planning followed the modernist and functionalist urbanism and the capitalist as economic model, therefore the urban sprawl and fragmentation increase as well as the social marginalization, in this sense the cities became less equitable for the citizens and the Right to the City have been denied.

In the case of the Italian cities some of them have been transformed along the years, as the city of Turin which in recent years is developing strategies in order to adapt the city to the new demands, for this reason at the Regional level the Territorial Plan of Provincial Coordination (PTC2) considered that the development of the territory and planning strategies shall be oriented to guarantee the "values" and "rights" such as: access to fair resources (fight against the marginalized territories and population) and socio-economic development, health, safety, mobility, culture, "beauty and harmony" of the places. In this sense is clear the concern to create more equitable cities that guarantee the Right to the City in the Piedmont region.

The Metropolitan city of Turin released a new Strategic Plan 2021-2023 in order to address the current situation that face the Metropolitan area, this plan creates an integrated vision of the future of the Metropolitan city and a shared development project, aimed to promote harmonious, inclusive and sustainable growth throughout the territory. The Strategic Plan was the result of a broad participatory process, which involved at different times and in different ways (public meetings, focus groups, work tables, interviews, questionnaires, sending written contributions) an extraordinary audience of local actors. The plan involved the academic world of Turin, such as the Polytechnic of Turin and the University of Turin.

The goal is to implement action and interventions aimed at overcoming the social, economic and territorial margins of the Metropolitan area. The Plan is divided into six axes and each axe is articulated in 24 strategies and 111 actions. In this case the axe who promotes the inclusion and cohesion is the fifth axe which objective is to promote equal opportunities for the entire metropolitan population, prevent and recover social exclusion in other words this axe seeks to restore the Right to the City for future generations.

4.1.3 | GENERAL FEATURES

The city of Turin is an important business and cultural centre in northern Italy, located on the western bank of the Po River, below its Susa Valley, and is surrounded by the western Alpine arch and Superga Hill. Turin is distinguished by its Baroque, Rococo, Neo-classical, and Art Nouveau architecture which a part of the historical center of Turin was inscribed in the World Heritage List under the name Residences of the Royal House of Savoy.

In antiquity, in the 1st century BC, the *Taurini* were an ancient Celtic-Ligurian Alpine people, who occupied the upper valley of the Po River, in the center of modern Piedmont. During the Roman era in the 1st century BC, the Romans founded Augusta Taurinorum. In the early modern period, Emmanuel Philibert made Turin the capital of the Duchy of Savoy in 1563, then of the Kingdom of Sardinia ruled by the House of Savoy, and the first capital of the Kingdom of Italy from 1861 to 1865. Turin is sometimes called "the cradle of Italian liberty" for having been the birthplace and home of notable individuals who contributed to the Risorgimento, such as Cavour.

In recent years Turin has hosted diverse International events such as 1934 and 1990 FIFA World Cups and in 2006 hosted the Winter Olympics, while it will host the tennis ATP Finals (2021 - 2025) and the Eurovision Song Contest 2022.



02 Mole Antonelliana



03 Castello del Valentino



04 Panoramic view of the River Po

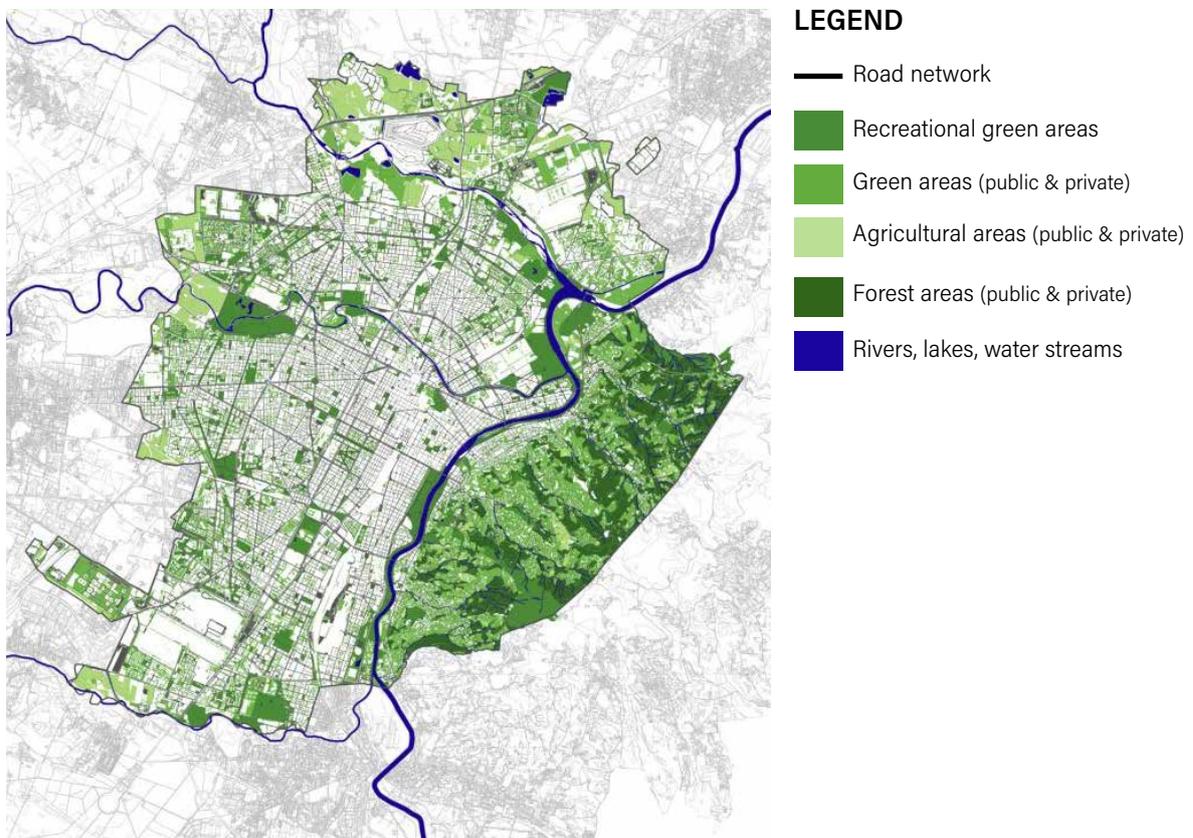
4.1.4 | THE PUBLIC SPACE IN TURIN

The green system of Turin has over 48,000,000 sqm of green area (public and private) which represents about 37% of the municipal area, 6 000 000 sqm are currently cultivated (about 12.5% of the total) and 9 500 000 are wooded areas (about 20% of the total). In this case the 38% of the total green area in Turin is public heritage while the 62% are privately owned and managed.

The Map 03 shows the different typologies of green areas classified according to the Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan 2020, the following categories are: Recreational green areas, Green areas (public & private), Agricultural areas (public & private), Forest areas (public & private) (public & private).

In the 70's Turin had a deficit of urban green which was **4 000 000 sqm** for a population of 1 100 000 inh, in this case, the surface per inhabitant was **3.6 sqm/inh.** (the World Health Organization recommends 9 sqm of green space/inhabitant) Nowadays the city of Turin is ranked in the first places in Italy by the availability of usable urban green per inhabitant.

In Turin the green assets under public management represent the **18 200 000 sqm** according to the information in the Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (Piano Strategico Infrastruttura Verde 2020), thus the city of Turin provides **18.2 sqm per inhabitant** which is more than twice the recommended minimum threshold by the WHO. In this case, this thesis is focused in the categories recreational and public green areas.



03 Map | Green areas (*Il sistema del verde*) in Turin 2020. Source: Piano Strategico dell'Infrastruttura Verde 2020

The city of Turin has a large area of public green areas as well as public spaces where it is possible to perform various recreational and exercise activities, this thesis is focused in the categories of traditional squares and historic gardens which are located in the city center, north and south of the city.

Piazza Cavour: is part of the historical gardens of the central urban area, the square takes the name of the politician Camillo Benso di Cavour.

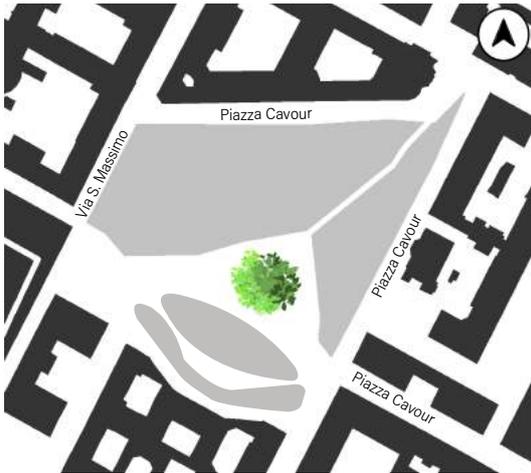
Piazza d'Armi: is one of the largest public green spaces in the city, this park is suitable for jogging, cycling and walking.

Piazza Santa Rita: is a public space located in district 2 in the Santa Rita neighborhood which offers a variety of services and shops.

Giardino Madre Teresa di Calcuta: located in the Aurora neighborhood, is one of the main parks in the zone and it is a meeting point for the young population.

The map 04 shows the location of the public spaces that are analyzed in this investigation with the purpose to evaluate the four attributes (Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities and Sociability) established in the diagram What Makes a Great Place? (2018) which is a useful tool to assess a public space in order to determine how the place can guarantee the Right to the City for all citizens in the city.





PIAZZA CAVOUR

- Via S. Massimo - Piazza Cavour
- Surface: 13 841.70 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

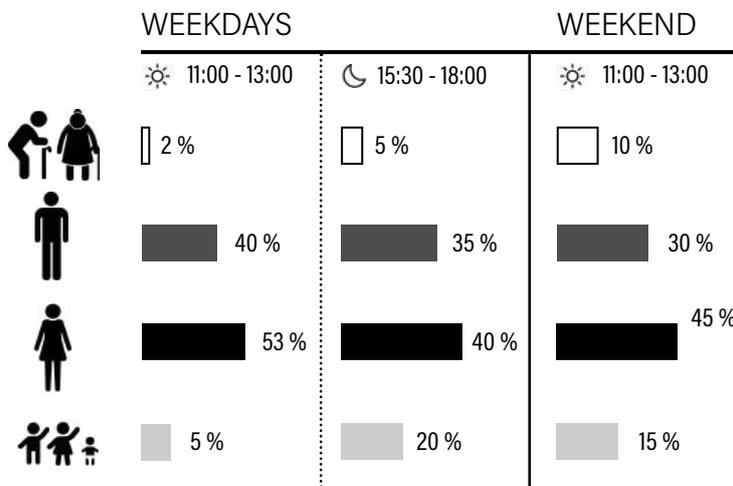
Piazza Cavour is a small garden - square located in the southern part of the historic center of Turin. In the square there are some monuments, one of them is dedicated to the politician and diplomatic of the Risorgimento Carlo Felice Nicolis, there is also a small bust dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi located in the hill and on the other side there is the a contemporary work that recalls the Piedmontese poet Pinin Pacot.

This square is distinguished for hosting the majestic 35 meters high plane tree which is 150 years old.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Bike station (TO Bike)
- Bird station
- Bus | Tram station 120m
- Parking around the park

POPULATION



During the period of observation in the different days is remarkable that the women use to frequent more the square rather than the men or kids. In the weekdays specially in the afternoon is notable the increasing of the children after the school. There is low presence of elder people in the place. In general the women or men who use the space have between 20 - 50 years.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR

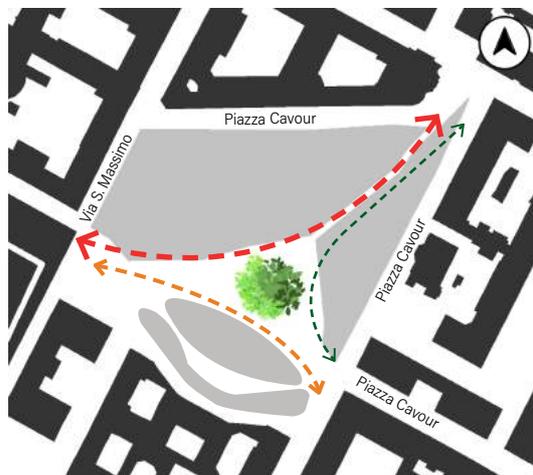


According with the observation the main activities that the people do while setting on the benches do are reading, meeting with friends, talking by phone or eating especially during the lunchtime. In the afternoon the square becomes a playground zone where the children play soccer and other games with their friends (even though the place is not designed as playground) while the parents talk with other people, after an hour passed the families started to leave the place.

It is important to point out that the area intervened with tactical urbanism represents a safe zone for the children when they get out of the school and their parents can wait for them, moreover, this zone is used during the sport lessons.

As a remark during the mornings the average people who cross the square are young people who speak different languages such as Spanish, English, French and other European languages.

TRACKING

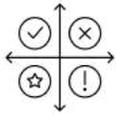


FLOW OF PEOPLE
— HIGH — MEDIUM — LOW

	WEEKDAYS		WEEKEND
	☀ 11:00 - 13:00	🌙 15:30 - 18:00	☀ 11:00 - 13:00
	60 %	65 %	55 %
	30 %	35 %	30 %
	10 %	5 %	15 %

The square is mostly used by the people as transitory; few persons remain in the space for more than one hour. The people who cross the space do mainly walking, then by bicycle and a few do by scooter as shows the above graph.

The tracking map shows the flow of people through the day, the red line indicates the major flow of people who cross from west to north the space this tendency is visible along the day, the orange line shows the medium flow and the green the lowest.



SWOT

STRENGTHS

INTERNAL

- The place is perceived as safe and it has a good urban image
- Strong presence of women in the place
- The square is accessible for all groups of population
- There is a safe zone intervened with tactical urbanism
- The space has a high flow of people during the day

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of playground area for kids
- Limited places to sit
- Absence of elder people in the place
- Low social heterogeneity in the square
- Few recreational activities to perform in the place

OPPORTUNITIES

EXTERNAL

- The place is well - connected with the public transport system
- Intervene more areas with the use of tactical urbanism
- Increase the urban furniture
- Reactive the bike station
- The place foster the social interaction of diverse groups

THREATS

- Deficient maintenance of the pavement
- Users who cross the with the scooters is a risk for the visitors
- Scarce urban furniture

PHOTOS

WEEKDAYS

☀ 11:00 - 13:00

In the mornings is evident the strong presence of the women in the square and the intense flow that the place has during this period.



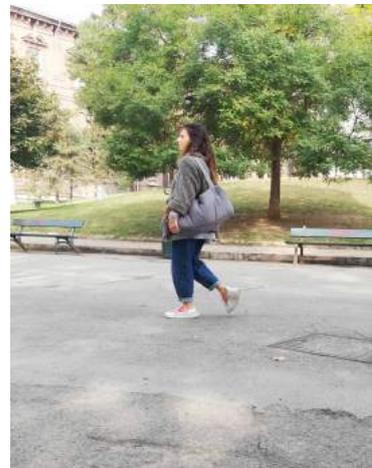
05 Intervention of tactical urbanism in front of the elementary school



06 The monument of Carlo Felice vandalized



07 Elder people seated while observe the people passing



08 Strong presence of women in the place



09 Panoramic view from the park to Via S. Massimo

WEEKDAYS

☀ 15:30 - 18:00

In the afternoons the dynamic of the square is completely different, there is notable the high presence of children who play games after school while their parents talking with other people.



10 Group of parents waiting for the sons in front of the exit of the elementary school Niccolo Tommaseo



11 Children are running in the park after the school



12 Kids are playing with their friends while their mothers are talking



13



14

13
A group of girls are having a conversation

14
Children are playing soccer in the main path of the park, the place is temporary transformed as a playground

WEEKEND

🕒 11:00 - 13:00

During the period of observation in the different days is remarkable that the women use to frequent more the square rather than the men or kids, during the weekend is still visible this tendency.



15
Group of elder men crossing the square

15



16 Monument of Carlo Felice Nicolis , the square has low flow of people

17

The strong presence of the women in the place is also evident during the weekends



17

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

This small garden – square has a privilege location for being in the historic center of the city, however it does not have the agglomeration of people as Piazza Castello or Piazza San Carlo, furthermore the fact that the place is reachable by walking and compatible with the public transportation make this square visually attractive for the locals citizens especially for women, which their presence along the day is remarkable and the children's presence during the afternoons due to the elementary school.

The strong presence of women in the place is relevant in terms of Right to the City due to this group tend to be the more discriminated from the public spaces, furthermore, the women take more into consideration the comfort and image of the space which reinforce and projects the perception of a safety place where the women can stay for a long period.

Since the place provide a good sense of comfort and safety for the users thus it can be inferred that is a great public space in the social aspects because it invites people to transit and stay. All these characteristics foster social interaction between the vulnerable groups (women and children), however in the case of the elder people their presence is almost null despite of the space is perceived comfortable and safe. In terms of design this place has some problems since does not have a playground area for the kids even though is located close to an elementary school, however the children find the way to adapt the space according to their necessities.

In summary, the Right to the City in this place is guaranteed especially for the women, children and elder people who are part of the vulnerable group, nevertheless, the multi diversity in ethnicity or race is not predominant, the social fabric is more homogenous.



PIAZZA D'ARMI

- Corso IV Novembre - Corso Ferraris
- Surface: 220 000.00 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

Inaugurated in 1974, the Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park is known by the Turinese as Piazza d'Armi and it is located in the Santa Rita neighborhood. Its redevelopment took place on the occasion of the 2006 Turin Olympic Games.

This large park houses some of the most important sports facilities in the city Pala Sports, Pala Alpitour and Stadio Olimpico Grande Torino. The park is an important meeting point for the southernmost districts of the city.

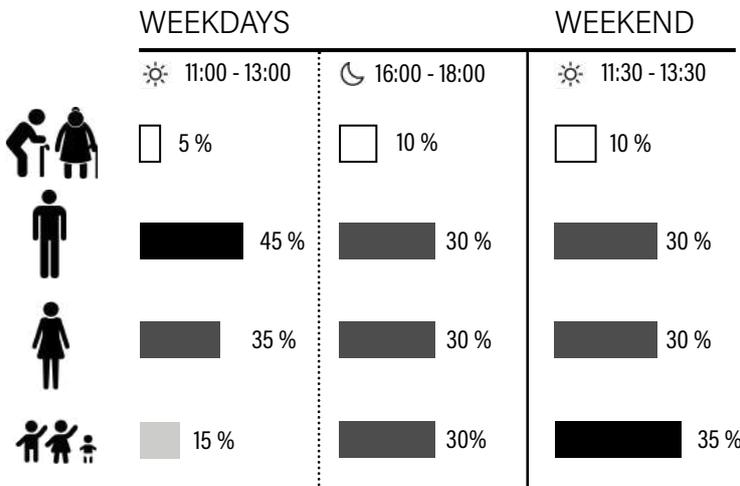
ACCESSIBILITY

Bike path sidewalks (Corso IV Novembre & Corso Ferraris)

Bus | Tram station 50m

Parking around the park

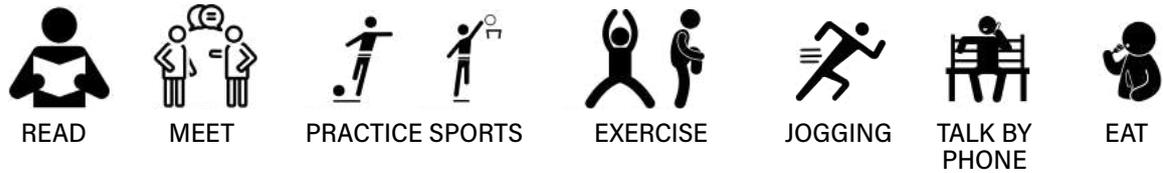
POPULATION



In the mornings the place is occupied primarily for men which is the 45 % followed by the women with 35%, while in the afternoon the presence of men, women and, children is well - balance. On weekends the tendency is similar as weekdays with a little increase in the percentage of the children.

It is remarkable that the presence of elder people in this place is minimum.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR

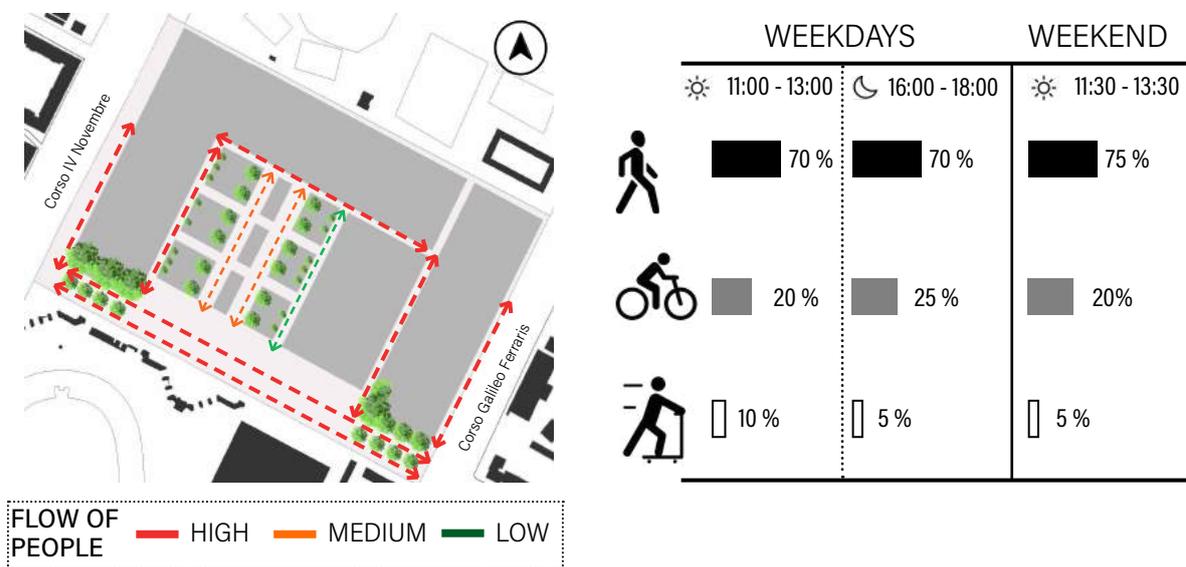


Undoubtedly, Piazza d'Armi is one of the most multifunctional places in the southern part of the city due to people from different ages can practice different sport activities. The people used to run around the park while the children play soccer in the garden areas and the young people play basketball in the courts. The people who is seated prefer to talk by phone or with their partner while observing the people running or playing.

During the weekends there are open classes of dance, and the space is almost full of people doing exercise.

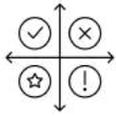
It is remarkable that the people who use the park is mainly mature and young between 20 - 50 years and the presence of children is also notable.

TRACKING



It is evident from the tracking map that the park has a high flow of people along the day primarily in the main internal avenue and its surroundings while in the secondary paths the flow is medium to low.

During the day the park has high flow the people use to cross it mainly by walk whilst the bikers and scooters represent a medium and low flow respectively.



SWOT

STRENGTHS

INTERNAL

- The place is perceived as safe and it has a good urban image
- The square has a good multidiversity
- The square is accessible for all groups of population
- The place is well - connected with the public transportation
- The square is well - equipped with a variety of amenities

WEAKNESSES

- Low presence of elder people in the place
- Limited urban furniture

OPPORTUNITIES

EXTERNAL

- Implement a zone for pets
- Increase urban furniture
- The square is accessible for all groups of population
- There is a safe zone interverned with tactical urbanism
- The space has a high flow of people during the day

THREATS

- The kids who play soccer in improvised garden areas
- Users who cross the with the scooters is a risk for the visitors

PHOTOS

WEEKDAYS

☀ 11:00 - 13:00

During the mornings is visible that the people is doing exercise such as running, walking and playing soccer, however there is low the flow of people.



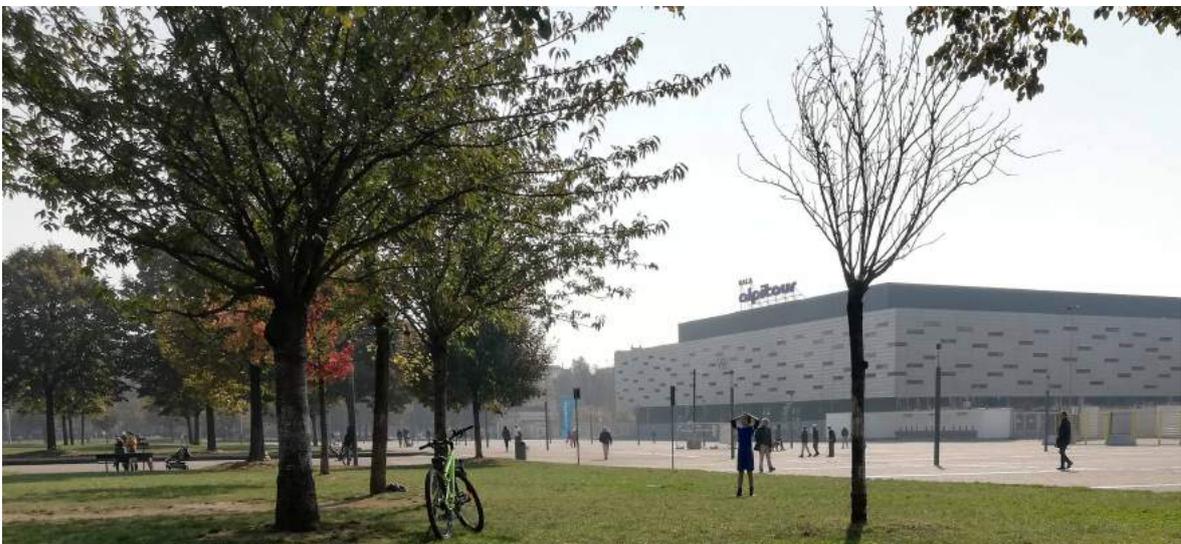
18 Elder people are eating breakfast in the bar



19 People walking and playing with dogs



20 Panoramic view of the Piazza d'Armi



21 Kids playing soccer

WEEKDAYS

☀ 16:00 - 18:00

In the afternoons the square is crowded of people doing exercise, the basketball court is occupied with young people while in the gardens the people is doing relaxing activities as yoga or pilates.



22 Kids warming - up in the main garden



23 People talking in groups



24 Panoramic view of the Piazza d'Armi in the afternoon



25 Young people playing basketball



26 Women doing pilates and yoga

WEEKEND

🕒 11:30 - 13:30

During weekends is observable the presence of different people from kids to elder people, each group are doing a variety of activities such as walking, dancing, running, playing soccer or just reading the newspaper.



27 View of the main avenue in the square



28 Playground for kids



29 Basketball court



30 People dancing in the main garden



31 Kids playing soccer

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

When the redevelopment of the park took place in 2006 for the Olympic Games, the municipality offered a new public space for the southern citizens of the city which in the past of years it becomes to be a meeting point for the locals, especially during the summer season where the citizens of ages, gender, ethnicity feel free to exercise their right to the city due to the fact that the park is well design and offers a variety of amenities for all users where they could practice sports, do exercise, play in the playground or just stay relax in the different areas of the space. The park itself is perceived as safe place despite of being a huge open space with high flow of people during all day.

During the period of observation, it was visible that the users are primarily mature, young people and, children in equal proportion of gender, for this reason, it is possible to infer that this place is multi-diverse in terms of a range of ages and gender, however, there is not visible a multi-ethnicity due to the park is more frequented for the local citizens. Furthermore, the presence of elder people is almost null this tendency can be attributed to the land-use patterns which are more related with sport activities rather than chill activities.

In general terms, it can be assumed that this place is diverse in gender and age, homogeneous in terms of ethnicity and race, and multifunctional in activities where is guaranteed the safety and enjoyment of the users which are one of the main goals of the World Charter for Right to the City and the document ONU Habitat III: Right to the City where there establish that a public space shall guarantee the exercise of the basic human rights in being an open space, accessible for all, safe and free of discrimination.

Lastly, the fact that the municipality took the decision in 2006 to redevelop this park into a greener space, equipped with diverse amenities in a certain manner strengthens the Right to the City for the southern citizens where they could exercise their social functions freely which in one of the most difficult to achieve for a public space, thus it can be assumed that the place has been successful. Furthermore, the place has a good connectivity with the public transportation network which make it reachable for all the population thus guarantee it accessibility for all as is established for the Right to the City.



PIAZZA SANTA RITA

 Via Tripoli - Corso Orbassano

 Surface: 6 122.00 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

The piazza is located in the Santa Rita neighborhood (district II), in the southwest part of Turin. The square houses the church of Santa Rita da Cascia on east side while in the west - north there are some food places and shops.

The place is well- known for the local citizens and its a meeting point for elder people during the weekdays.

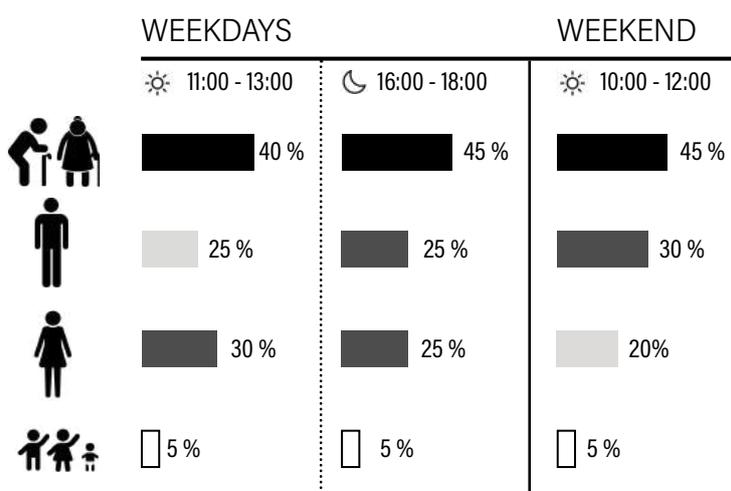
ACCESSIBILITY

 Bike station (TO Bike)

 Bus station 30-50m
Corso Orbassano & Via Tripoli

 Parking area around square

POPULATION



In this square is notable the presence of elder people during the mornings and the tendency is still visible along the day and weekends which is the 40 or 45 % of the population using the space. The presence of children is quite null.

In contrast, men and women represents the half of population who use or stay the space during weekdays and weekends.

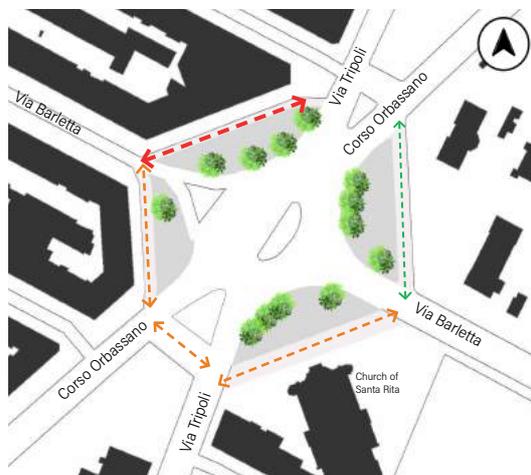
ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR



The square is occupied mainly for elder men who stay seated alone or in groups on the benches observing the people who cross the place while they read the newspaper or talk with their friends. There are other people who remain for a few time while they are waiting someone from the store or the supermarket. During the lunch time there are some workers who use the place for eating their meal.

The perception is that the space is used for local people and as meeting point for the old men especially before the lunch time. It is curious that the elder men talk between them even though they are strangers, their talks are random.

TRACKING

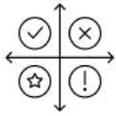


FLOW OF PEOPLE — HIGH — MEDIUM — LOW

	WEEKDAYS		WEEKEND
	☀ 11:00 - 13:00	🌙 16:00 - 18:00	☀ 10:00 - 12:00
	55 %	65 %	70 %
	35 %	30 %	25 %
	10 %	5 %	5 %

The people uses the square as a transitory space, a few people remain for more than one hour, the average is 30 minutes. The area with high flow is between the streets Via Barletta and Via Mombarcaro due to the location of the supermarket, the bank, the Mc Donalds and the shop while the sidewalk in front of the church has medium flow only has an increase during the Sundays.

There is an important presence of bikers due to the Mc Donalds who pick up delivers this represents the 30 - 25 % of the flow (red line).



SWOT

STRENGTHS

INTERNAL

- The square has high flow of people during the mornings (shop area)
- Strong presence of elder people
- The square is accessible for all groups of population
- The place promotes the encounter of the locals inhabitants

WEAKNESSES

- The square is not accessible for persons with disabilities
- Scarce urban furniture
- Part of the square is empty during the day
- Lack of vegetation

OPPORTUNITIES

EXTERNAL

- Increase the urban furniture with shade
- Implement temporal interventions with the use of tactical urbanism
- Foster the social interaction between other groups of the population
- Implement more recreational amenities

THREATS

- Low social diverse of groups
- The square is crossed by two main avenues
- Deficient cleaning during the weekends

PHOTOS

WEEKDAYS

☀ 11:00 - 13:00

In the mornings is evident the strong presence of older men mainly in the place where the shops are located, they use the place to meet with their friends. In this period the square has high flow of people.



32 Santa Rita's church



33 Older men talking with friends



34 Delivery men waiting for their package



35 Panoramic view of the Piazza Santa Rita



36 Older man sitting on the benches



37 Women talking in partners

WEEKDAYS

☀ 16:00 - 18:00

In the afternoons the presence of people is less than in the mornings, however, the zone where the shops are located maintains the high flow of people, a few persons remain seated on the benches while others just cross the space.



39 Men seated on the benches while waiting for their partners



38 People cross the square while others are sitting on the benches



40 Santa Rita's church - few people passing through the square



41 The piazza Santa Rita on the Sundays mornings

WEEKEND

☾ 10:00 - 12:00

On the weekends especially during the mornings, the square is empty, the presence of old men is still visible in the shop's zone, the flow of people is really low in these hours.



42 Terrace in the median strip



43 Older men talking with friends in groups



44 People walking through the square



45 Shop's zone - western side of the Piazza Santa Rita



46 Overview of the Piazza Santa Rita

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

The design of the Piazza Santa Rita is particular since is crossed by three streets Corso Orbassano, Via Tripoli, and Via Barletta which divide the surface into three pieces, this feature is important to mention due to the fact that in certain manner conditions the livability and enjoyment of the space, thus it is not visually attractive for the users, moreover, the strategic location into the neighborhood make it the space as transitory for this reason few people stay for a long time.

It is notable the strong presence of elder people mainly men who use this space as a meeting point where they can talk with friends or just read the newspaper, therefore it can be inferred that they have some appropriation and use it as an extension of their homes in order to improve their social skills which is one of the main purposes of the public space.

The fact that the space is divided and crossed by streets make the place unsecure in terms of design for the children despite of the square is surrounded by fences that do not guarantee the safety, thus the children cannot stay freely and enjoy the space, for this reason their presence along the day is quite low.

In overall it can be assumed that the Right to the City is available only for a portion of the population in terms of having a public space where they can exercise their social interactions, however the lack of amenities and the design condition the space and restrict the access for other groups of population such as the children, thus this square can be considered as not inclusive space according to the principles of the Right to the City. Furthermore, it is observed that the social fabric is homogenous for the type of people who use the space seems to be more local citizens rather than foreign. In this sense the diversity of age, race and ethnicity is not visible even though the place is perceived as safe and is reachable by walking or the public transport system.



GIARDINI MADRE TERESA

- Corso Vercelli - Corso Giulio Cesare
- Surface: 10 650.00 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

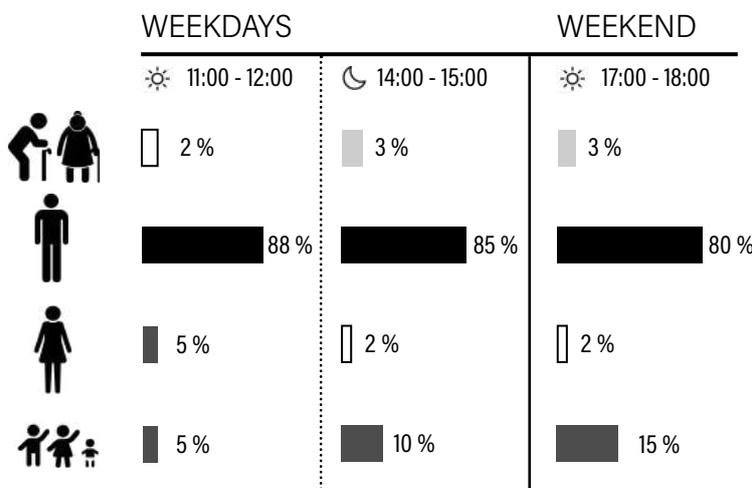
The garden was called "Ex-GFT" (*Gruppo Finanziario Tessile*), on 4 September 2015 was entitled Madre Teresa di Calcutta by the Municipality. The place is located in the Aurora neighborhood and is accessible from both avenues Corso Vercelli and Corso Giulio Cesare.

The park is divided into two parts by an internal avenue: in the one towards the south there are two zones for collective games as well as a playground while in the northern area has been to lawn with longitudinal hillocks. In the central part of the park there are some benches.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Tram station 70 m
Corso Giulio Cesare
- Bus station 20 m
Corso Vercelli
- Parking area Corso Vercelli

POPULATION



In the weekdays is remarkable the presence of men between 20 - 35 years while women and children are practically absent in the park.

In contrast, during the weekend is observed the presence of more children who play soccer or skate in the skating area. The presence of women or elder people is almost null in weekends.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR

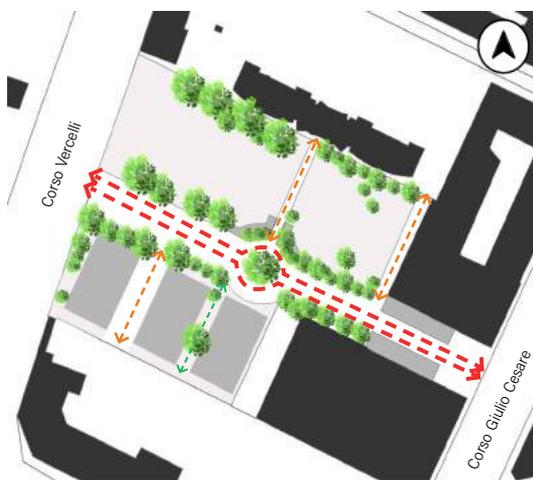


During the mornings the park is used mainly for men who listen music or videos loud while others pray or just talk by phone. In the afternoon is notable the presence of teens and children who play soccer or talk between them. The young people use this place as a meeting point especially the zone where is the tree in the internal avenue.

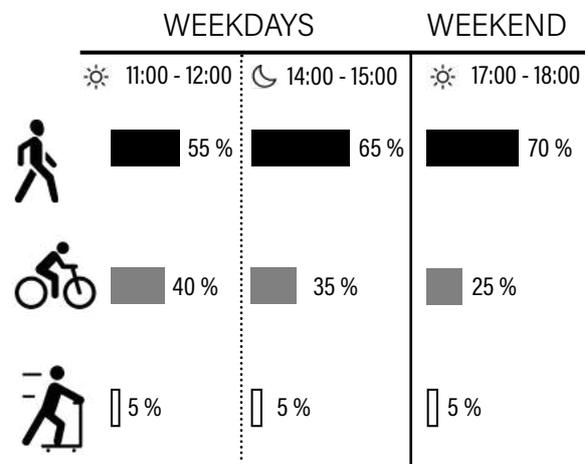
The people who stay in the park speaks diverse languages and they are from different nationalities. It is curious that the children who play soccer during the weekends speak Italian as universal language to communicate between them, despite of being from different countries.

There is a problematic observed, the main agglomeration of people is visible in the east side of the park behind the bushes and trees where the men are in groups or alone and they are drinking beer or alcohol and smoking weed while listen to music loud.

TRACKING

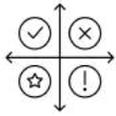


FLOW OF PEOPLE
— HIGH — MEDIUM — LOW



The flow of people during the mornings is low while in the afternoon increase 10%. It is remarkable that in the mornings the flow of bikes is quite high, and the tendency is still visible in the afternoon. However, the maximum peak of people crossing by walking the park is during the weekends which represents 70% of people's flow.

The major flow is visible in the internal avenue which connect both avenues Corso Vercelli and Corso Giulio Cesare, whilst the secondary paths have medium flow.



SWOT

STRENGTHS

INTERNAL

- The place is well - equipped with diverse amenities
- The garden fosters social interaction between people of different nationalities
- High flow of people during the day
- The garden facilitates the sports activities in teens and childrens
- The place is a meeting point for young men

WEAKNESSES

- Strong presence of young men
- The place is noisy
- Deficient cleaning in the green areas
- Few presence of women in the place

OPPORTUNITIES

EXTERNAL

- The place is well - connected with the public transport system
- Improve the social diversity
- Increase the general maintenance of the garden
- Involve more inhabitants of the neighbourhood in the maintenance activities

THREATS

- The people who drink alcoholic beverage in the garden
- Deficient maintenance of the vegetation
- Low social diverse of vulnerable groups
- The garden is perceived as problematic place for surrounding inhabitants

| PHOTOS

WEEKDAYS

☀ 11:00 - 12:00

In the mornings the presence of men is strong, they are different activities such as talking, chatting with their phones, or doing some exercise.



47 Overview of the garden



48 A men weight training in the gym zone



49 Men chatting with their phones



50 View of the playground



51 A women eating a lunch while people cross the garden

WEEKDAYS

☀ 14:00 - 15:00

During the afternoons the garden is more crowded, the strong presence of young men is maintained, and more movement of people is observed.



52 A women taking a rest



53 Group of men eating and smoking in the hill



54 Kids playing soccer in the court



55 Men seated on the benches while listening to music loud



56 A women walking with her dog

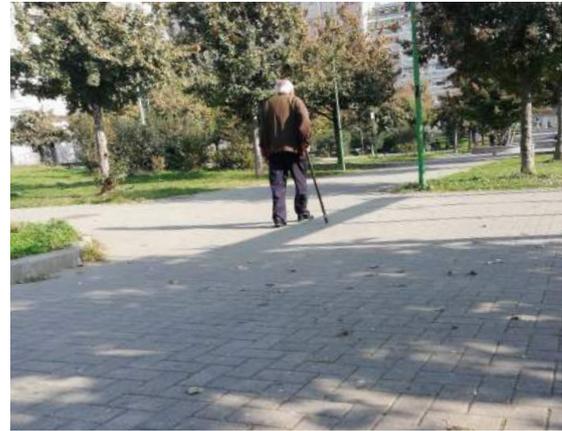
WEEKEND

☾ 17:00 - 18:00

On weekends the garden is crowded with people mainly men who are doing different activities such as playing soccer, drinking, listening to music loud and talking in groups.



57 Teens playing soccer while bikers cross the garden



58 Old man walking through the garden



59 Men seated on the benches chatting with their phones



60 Overview of playground



61 A man listening to music loud while his wife



62 Group of elder people talking with friends

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

The *Giardino Santa Teresa* after the renovation is well designed, has its playgrounds for children and teens, has good accessibility and connectivity with the transport system, moreover the benches have shadow along the day, and it is visible from the outside. However, all those aspects do not guarantee that the Right to the City is exercised inside of this park for all groups of the population.

Despite of the access to the Giardino is not prohibited for someone the place itself make it feel unsafe as a woman due to the strong presence of men in the place which they are constantly observing all the people who cross the place and trying to make eye contact with all the users, in certain way they are controlling their territory. This tendency is evident along the day and during the weekends where the men stay for a long time in groups or alone.

Nevertheless, it can be assumed that some inhabitants of the neighborhood have an appropriation of this park because they use it as a meeting point where they can freely stay, talk with friends, listen to music loud, drink alcohol and smoke weed, all those activities have a negative impact in the enjoyment of the space for the reason that the men are in groups and concentrated in some specific areas of the park where is almost inaccessible for rest of the users, thus the place is labeled as unpleasant space for the inhabitants of the neighborhood where the users feel vulnerability in terms of security.

In this case the Right to the City is denied for some part of the population primarily for women who are part of the marginalized group because they cannot stay freely without been observed from the men. This issue implies a violation of their rights as establish the World Charter of the Right to the City and the document ONU Habitat III: Right to the City where describe that all groups of the population can stay in a public space free of discrimination based on gender, race, nationality and migratory condition.



LEON MEXICO

4.2 | LEON, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

4.2.1 | PUBLIC SPACE IN MEXICO - PLANNING TOOLS

PLANNING TOOLS | NATIONAL LEVEL

The public space in Mexico and in the world is a central element of daily life where human interaction and the generation of culture take place. In recent decades, while cities have densified their population, homes have reduced their size, which in this case the importance of the quality public spaces increase as part of the solution to reach a quality life, a better environment, quality health, and safety of the people.

In Mexico at the federal level, the Secretary of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU) is in charge of preparing the six-year national development plan, of managing, coordinating, designing and executing public policies on land tenure, productive use of the national territory and urban planning. Within its functions is the implementation of plans, programs and projects related to the settlement of rural or urban communities and to coordinate sustainable development strategies with states and municipalities.

The SEDATU is in charge of the regulation of the public space in Mexico, for this reason recently on December 2020 elaborated a temporary NOM⁴ the "*PROY-NOM-001-SEDATU-2020 - Espacios Públicos en los asentamientos humanos*" where it defines, classifies and the functions of the public space, it is important to underline that this is the first norm of a series of norms that are proposed in order to generate certainty in planning processes. This first draft had the participation of international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank, UN Habitat, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the Organization for German Cooperation for Sustainable Development (GIZ).

The NOM project for public spaces in settlements aims to standardize the definitions, classifications and minimum characteristics of public space to promote coexistence and the integration of the social fabric in a safe, accessible and gender perspective.

In this case, the draft defines public space as: "the areas, open spaces or premises of human settlements destined for the use, enjoyment or collective exploitation of generalized access and free transit.

⁴ *Norma Oficial Mexicana (NOM)* is a regulation whose main objective is the promotion of quality for economic development. Establishes rules, specifications, attributes, guidelines, characteristics or prescriptions applicable to a product process, facility, system, activity, service, or production method.

They are considered as real estate of common use in the domain of the public power, excluding those destined to a public service and the property of the state whose use and enjoyment is restricted to the state apparatus in any of its similar government instances " (PROY-NOM-001-SEDATU-2020 - Espacios Públicos en los Asentamientos Humanos, 2020). The thesis will focus in the section (4.4.1.1) of the public equipment of the draft norm (*PROY-NOM-001-SEDATU-2020 - Espacios Públicos en los Asentamientos Humanos*) which considers the public space according to its function, that are the components of the urban centers and rural populations, whose adequate endowment determines the quality of life of the inhabitants by providing them with social welfare services and support for economic, social, cultural, recreational and inclusive activities. In this category are considered the green areas (parks, gardens, and orchards), squares (esplanade and sports courts), overlooks and open public spaces.

PLANNING TOOLS | STATE LEVEL

At the state level in Guanajuato, the Institute of Planning, Statistics and Geography of the State of Guanajuato (IPLANEG) is responsible for coordinating and implementing the state planning system and municipal plans.

The IPLANEG is in charge of developing the instruments for urban and territorial planning of the state of Guanajuato, such as the State Development Plan 2040 (PED) and the State Program for Urban Development and Territorial Ecological Planning (PEDUOET), which are updated every 6 years.

The PED establishes that public space belongs to the dimension of Environment and Territory where its objective is to favor the development of compact, inclusive, safe, sustainable and intercommunicated human settlements, with an infrastructure that favors its resilience, optimization in the use of natural resources and the use of renewable energies, whilst the PEDUOET establishes short-term strategies in the planning of the cities, in this case in the category of the public equipment proposes the promotion of inclusive public space with gender perspective which foster the social networks of the urban and rural communities.

PLANNING TOOLS | MUNICIPAL LEVEL

In León the Municipal Planning Institute (IMPLAN) is the decentralized public body which is responsible for generation and the establishment of the bases for the urban planning that guides the Municipality of León in its development in the short, medium, and long term.

The IMPLAN elaborates the Municipal Development Plan 2040 (PMD) and the Municipal Program for Urban Development and Territorial Ecological Planning (PEDUOET), the PMD contains the objectives and strategies for the development of the municipality for a period of twenty-five years, which must be evaluated and updated at least every five years, in accordance with national and state plans, whereas the PEDUOET of León is a municipal planning tool which establishes the guidelines to promote the occupation and consolidation of the city of León, as well as the protection and conservation of natural resources and the adequate development of social and economic activities in the municipal territory.

The PEDUOET of León addresses strategic orientations, directives and guidelines according with the International, National and State parameters, moreover the current plan is the result of the 2019 public consultation, in which citizens expressed their concerns and opinions on urban issues such as mobility, public space or the conditions of the urban environment.

In this case the public space is considered in the section Infrastructure of the PEDUOET of León where defines the public space as the territory of a city destined for the use, enjoyment or exploitation of the population, whose access is generalized and of free transit, these spaces can be open like squares, parks and green areas.

In 2015, the criteria for the typology of green areas were homologated, which was established in the regulation for Environmental Management of the Municipality of León, this typology considers the following classification:

Urban park: municipal real estate for common use, located within any population center of the municipality, with an area equal to or greater than ten thousand square meters, intended for afforestation, equipped with works or facilities dedicated to recreation and decoration, as well as the realization of cultural, sports and environmental education activities.

Public garden: municipal real estate for common use, located within any population center of the municipality, with an area equal to or greater than ten thousand square meters, intended for afforestation, equipped with works or facilities dedicated to recreation and decoration.

Urban green space: any urban park, public garden, green or landscaped area of any civic square, roundabout or median strip, located within any of the population centers of the municipality.

4.2.2 | RIGHT TO THE CITY IN MEXICO

The city is by definition a public and collective space built by generations of people in history, therefore its use and usufruct are of public and collective interest. The city is a complex and extraordinary historical social product, built by social groups over time so that people can live better (Delgadillo, 2012).

For decades the neoliberal economic model has been used for the development and planning of Mexican cities, which has increased marginalization, social inequality, as well as caused the fragmentation of the urban fabric. Today cities like León have a lack of public space because public policies have promoted its privatization, thus denying citizens a fundamental human right such as the Right to the City.

In this sense, the position of the federal government is clear in which it seeks to reduce the social inequality of vulnerable groups and promote policies, actions and strategies that promote people's well-being, however, there is no specific action or strategy in the National Development Plan 2019 - 2024 that promotes the development of cities from a more inclusive perspective where all the Mexicans can exercise the Right to the City in public spaces with total freedom of expression and discrimination regardless of social or political class to which they belong.

On the other hand, the state government considers in the State Development Plan 2040 the promotion of the Right to the City and to equity and inclusion in human settlements with a gender perspective, by promoting policies that promote citizen participation in the processes planning, these actions seek to reduce fragmentation in urban centers and reduce social inequality in municipalities.

Recently in October, the local government of León signed an agreement with UNESCO Mexico⁵ in order to promote actions and public policies in favor of the Right to the City, in which the right to gender equality is guaranteed, among diverse cultures and groups in vulnerable situations, with the aim of eliminating discrimination and offering a more equitable city for all.

⁵ Retrieve from <https://www.onu.org.mx/unesco-y-municipio-de-leon-arrancan-cooperacion-en-favor-de-la-inclusion-y-la-igualdad/>

4.2.3 | GENERAL FEATURES

León de los Aldama is located in the center of Mexico in the state of Guanajuato, it is the most populated city in the state with 1 721 215 inhabitants in 2020, being the seventh most populated metropolitan area in the country, moreover it is the sixth municipal economy in Mexico. The city of León is characterized by its neoclassical and baroque tints that are mixed with the European and Greco-Roman art of the city center that combined with the style of contemporary constructions which make the city special in the region.

León was founded on January 20, 1576 by the Viceroy Martín Enríquez de Almanza under the name of *Villa de León*, in 1830 the government rename the city as León de los Aldama in honor of the insurgents Juan Aldama and Ignacio Aldama who participated in the Mexican War of Independence. Since the 1940's the city's economy was based on the production chain of leather, footwear, supply stores, and leather goods, for this reason, is called "The Footwear Capital of the World", however, at the beginning of the XXI century, the economy began to be reoriented to services and the automotive industry.

Nowadays, the city is consolidating other economic activities such as highly specialized and diagnostic health care, higher education and research, as well as business tourism, although it is not the political capital of the state, the city is considered the economic, social, commercial and service capital.



63 Expiatory Temple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



64 Palace of Government

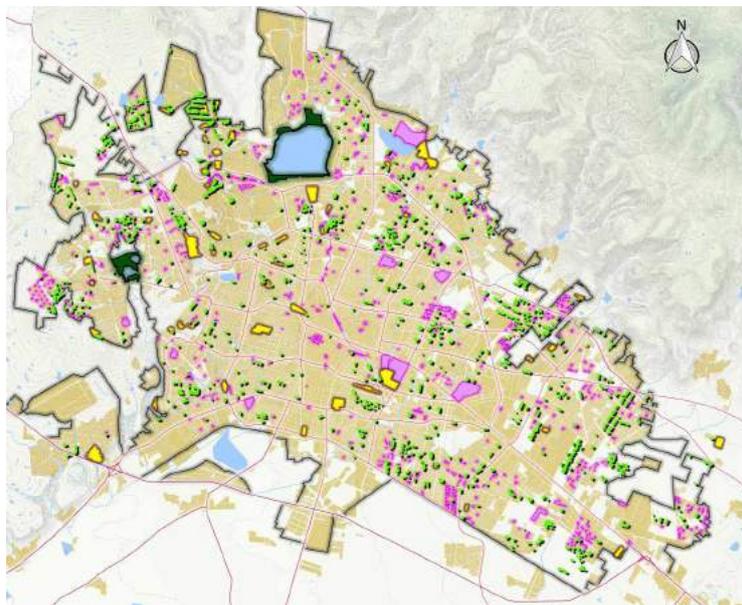


65 Arco de la Calzada

4.2.4 | THE PUBLIC SPACE IN LEÓN

Nowadays, León is facing a problematic in the public space for the lack of connection between the urban space and the housing, moreover, the increase of the privatization of public space decreases the Right to the City for the citizens.

The IMPLAN identifies 8 161 000 sqm of urban spaces in the city, however, only 2 988 200 sqm (36 % of the urban spaces) are considered as public spaces. The map 05 shows the different classifications of the public space in León, it is important to mention that this thesis does not consider the surface of the metropolitan parks as being public spaces with controlled access.



LEGEND

- Public spaces
- Public garden
- Urban park
- Metropolitan park

* The classification of the public space in León is according to the criteria established in the Regulation for Environmental Management of the Municipality of León in 2015.

05 Map | Public spaces and green areas in León 2021. Source: IMPLAN 2021

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 9 sqm of green space per inhabitant to ensure their well-being. In the case of León, considering the data of IMPLAN the city has 6 844 311 sqm of public spaces and green areas, therefore León offers only **3.98 sqm per inhabitant**, which is below if it is considered the parameter of the WHO.

Type of public space	Classification	Surface (sqm)
Green public space	Public garden	1 822 868
	Urban park	2 033 286
Public space		2 988 157
TOTAL		6 844 311

Population:
1 721 215 inh⁶

INDICATOR:
Sqm of Green space / inh

3.98 sqm of public space
per inhabitant

⁶INEGI - Population and Housing Census 2020

The city of León offers a variety of public spaces both in the periphery and in the urban center of the city, these spaces range from traditional and citizenship squares, communal spaces, cultural areas, fairs, recreation and exhibitions to sports units and Mini sports, courts, for this reason this thesis considers for its study and analysis the following public spaces because they are representative places of the city and that they offer different activities and interaction between social groups.

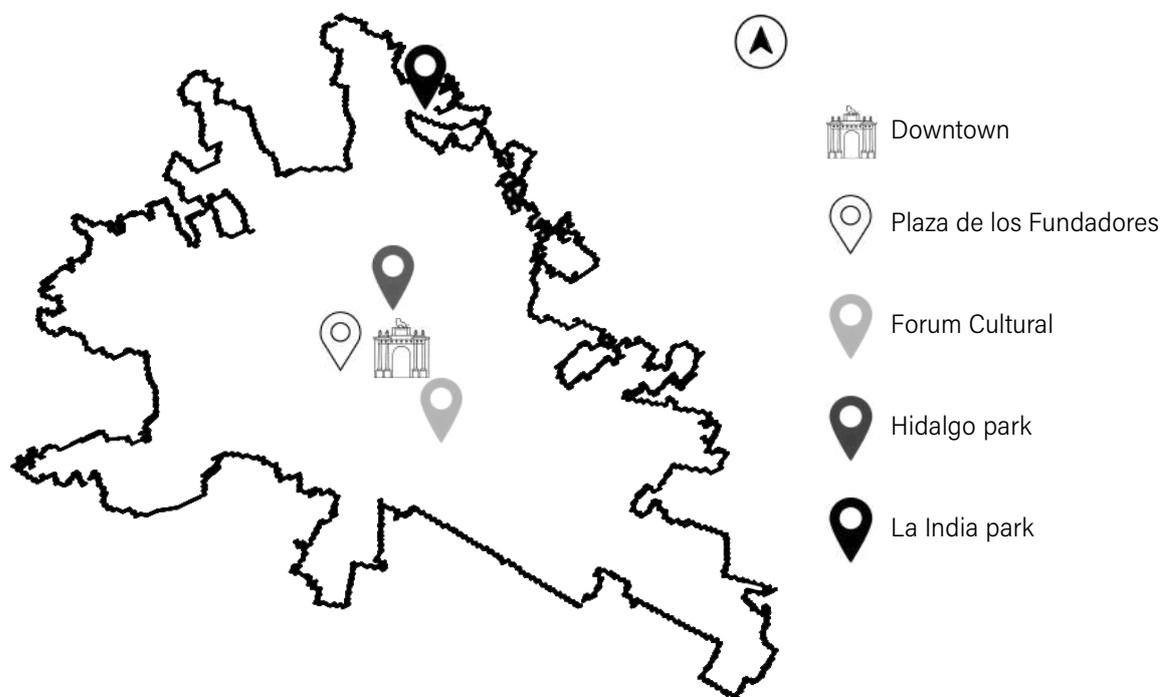
Plaza de los Fundadores: traditional historic square, located in the center of the city.

Forum Cultural: cultural venue located in the cultural and entertainment district.

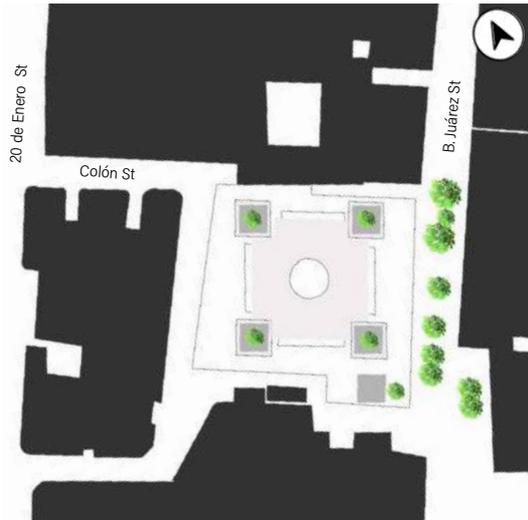
Hidalgo park: known as the green lung is one of the largest public parks in the city with free access, located near to the downtown on one of the most important boulevards López Mateos blvd.

La India park: It is a public space designed in collaboration with local authorities and the participation of citizens, it is located in the northern area of the periphery of the city

The map 06 shows the location of the public spaces that are analyzed in this thesis with the objective to evaluate the accessibility, comfort, mobility, equipment (amenities), the typology of users and the most important premise is whether in the public space the Right to the City can be exercised and guaranteed for citizens.



06 Map | Location of the public spaces analyzed in León



PLAZA FUNDADORES

 Benito Juárez St - Colón St

 Surface: 3 128.58 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

The "Plaza de los Fundadores" is located in the heart of the city of Leon, Its origins date back to colonial times, being the cemetery of the Villa of Leon, later on it was closed and give rise to the "Plaza de las Delicias".

During 1866 - 1929 it housed the Hidalgo Market called by the Leonese as *Mercado Parian*.

Finally in 1976 it became the *Plaza de los Fundadores*, which has the emblematic fountain of the lions in the center, it was made by the architect Ricardo Motilla Moreno on the occasion of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the city. There is a plaque with the names of the forty first Spanish settlers and founders of the city.

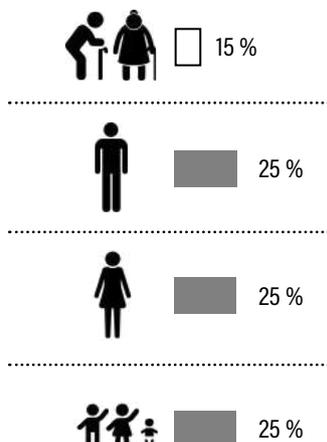
ACCESSIBILITY

 Bus station 180 m
Aquiles Serdán St

 Bus station 260 m
Pedro Moreno St

 Underground parking

POPULATION



Certainly, this public space is one of the most heterogeneous in terms of the range of population for being located in the city center.

During the mornings is visited by the elder people while in the afternoon is notable the high presence of the children and young people who play improvised games while their parents stay sitting on the benches eating or talking to each other.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR



MEET

The square is always an important meeting point for Leonese people, and it is an attractive place for tourist for being one of the first squares in the city.



EAT

During the day the mornings the square looks emptier due to the lack of shade, in this case the space works more for a place of transit, while in the afternoons is visible that the square is more crowded it can be observe children playing, adults eating or simply observing people who pass and there are some street vendors.



RELAX

The activities that people can do are limited for the reason that there are few benches with shadow and the constant flow of people who cross the square in different directions.

THE PUBLIC SPACE BEFORE THE INTERVENTION

The design of this square has been always conditioned to the underground parking that it houses, for this reason the vegetation is always scarce and the trees that could generate more shade cannot be planted. Over the years many renovations have been carried out mainly on the pavement in order to resolve the problem of leaks which affects the underground parking and with aesthetical purposes.

The images show how was the square before the renovation of some areas, it can be observed the lack of shade and scarce vegetation, few spaces to sit and without amenities. It is notable how the House of Culture Diego Rivera's façade and the fountain were in state of degradation.



66 View of the square before the remodeling



67 The House of Culture Diego Rivera before the restoration

PHOTOS



68 The pedestrian entrance to the underground parking



69 Lift to the underground parking



70 Panoramic view of the square



71 Parish of Sagrario



72 The emblematic fountain of the Lions



73 House of the Culture "Diego Rivera"

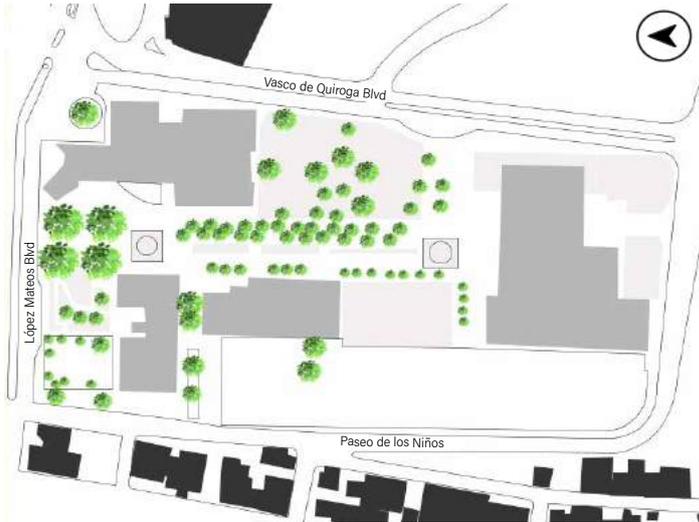
 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

Since the last century, the design and planning of the cities were based on automobiles, this model was followed for many cities in Mexico as Leon, for this reason, the public space is scarce and in a certain manner, it has been conditioned to the vehicles. In this case, the design of the square has been subjected to underground parking affecting its comfort, image, the activities that people can do in place, thus the square itself deny the Right to the City partially to the citizens by not offering a decent public space with good environmental quality and comfort where people want to gather and visit.

On the other hand, it can be considered that the public space is heterogeneous, especially in the afternoons where different age groups are observed, this is a positive aspect that helps the construction of a diverse social community which favors the conviviality in the public space, however this is only a part of the Right to the City that the citizens can exercise in the public space.

This square can become a great example for citizens as it is a space that promotes the local and cultural identity of the city, where cultural events will take place in collaboration with the Diego Rivera House of Culture which would contribute to the strengthening of the Right to the City and make this square a better public space.

The square has a privileged location in the city center, for this reason, has a great potential to become a great public space, it can improve its accessibility and the connection with the public transportation system where the aesthetical urban image or the underground parking issues do not be the priority. It is important to propose this public space that favors the citizen over the automobile, as established in the UN Urban Agenda and the Habitat III: Right to the City in order to build more quality, sustainable and inclusive public spaces.



FORUM CULTURAL


 López Mateos Blvd
 Vasco de Quiroga Blvd
 Paseo de los Niños Blvd


 Surface: 100 170.50 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

The Forum is an avant-garde public space, located in the cultural and entertainment district of the city, in 2006 the first section was inaugurated (the Library Wigberto Jiménez and the culture & art university campus), later in 2008 the Museum of Art Guanajuato was inaugurated and finally the venue was completed with the opening of the Bicentennial Theater in 2010.

In addition, the public space has two gardens (Sculpture garden & Jacaranda garden), the Art square, two parking lots and a service module.

ACCESSIBILITY

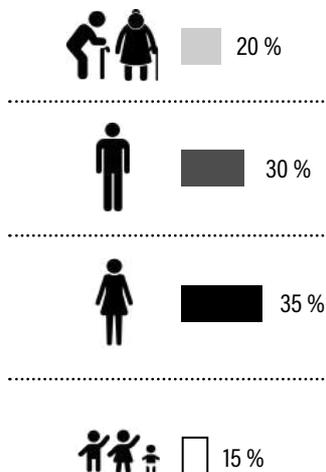

 BRT station 400 m
 López Mateos Blvd


 Bus station 300 m
 Calzada de los Héroes St


 Bike station
 Paseo de los Niños Blvd


 Underground parking

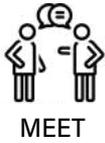
POPULATION



The Forum is a cultural place for this reason the place is more attractive for the adults and elder people rather than the children, in this case is notable the strong presence of young women and students during the day.

The place is visited for tourist due to the museum of art and the different events that take place in the year. In terms of diversity, it can be concluded that this public space is heterogeneous for the variety of people who visit the place in different hours of the day.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR



The people who visit the Forum can do different activities such as reading a book, meeting with friends, or just taking a break. During the year the Forum offers free cultural events that take place in the main esplanade where people can enjoy musical or dance performances.

During the Easter vacations, the theatre offers the event Opera picnic which consists of the broadcast of operas with the purpose of promoting the interest in this type of art, the event is carried out in the gardens of the theatre.

This public space is unique in the city for the reason that promotes the culture and art in the society as well as a place that allows the visitors to have the experience of enjoying a great place, even though it does not have the great equipment such as a playground for the children.

74 A jazz music event during the summer season in the main esplanade of the Forum.



75 During the Easter vacations takes place the Ópera Picnic event which is the broadcast of operas in the gardens of the theatre.



 | PHOTOS



76 View of the Sculpture garden



77 Wigberto Jiménez Moreno - State Central Library



78 View of the Bicentenario Theatre



79 Bicentenario Theatre - aerial view



80 Museum of Art and History of Guanajuato



81 Main internal avenue



82 The Jacaranda's garden

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

Certainly, the Forum Guanajuato is one of the public spaces in the city that has managed to promote culture through various activities that take place during the year such as the Opera picnic, the contemporary dance performances or classical music festivals. As a result, the place promotes the Right to the City of citizens for being an open space with free access and it fosters the social networks between citizens.

The public space has the perception as safe, quiet and with good urban image for this reason is visited mostly for women who carry put different activities such as meditation, reading or simply meet with friends, thus the public space can guarantee the Right to the City for this vulnerable group who is one of the most excluded of the public spaces.

On the other hand, in terms of mobility the public space has a weakness due to the place is not reachable easily by the public transportation, the closest bus stop is located 300 m by walking from the Forum, however, it evident the trend of the priority to the vehicle by having two parking lots and an exclusive accesses for the car, therefore the lack of connectivity conditions the Right to the City by excluding a part of the population who do not have a vehicle.

During the pandemic, this public space was affected as many others in terms of accessibility, which nowadays its access is controlled and guarded by security people despite of being an open-air space except for the museum, the theater and the university campus, as a result lose temporarily their free access and conditions the exercise of the Right to the City.

In overall, It can be assumed that this public space is one of the most complete for having green areas that allow the recreation, promote the art and culture for the citizens, foster the social relationships through the free cultural events and the facilities, for this reason in terms of the Right to the City the public space fulfil according to the document the UN Habitat III: Right to the City and the World Charter of the Right to the City.



PARK HIDALGO

- Julián de Obregón St - Chapultepec Av
- Surface: 38 000.00 sqm

GENERAL FEATURES

The Park is one of the oldest green areas in the city, which has remained since the time of New Spain (more than 200 years of existence). This place is considered for the citizens the green lung of the city for being in the middle of the urban area.

The park was called *"Paseo de Ojo de Agua"* until it was formally inaugurated in 1883 with the name Manuel González Park, later on for the celebration of the centenary of the Independence of Mexico it was decided to rename it Parque Hidalgo in honor of the Father of the Nation.

In the last years the park carried out a process of transformation which lasted four years, the project sought to rescue the public space from the state of abandonment despite of being an important public space in the city; currently the park has a new urban image with more seating areas along the park where people can meet others, a new skate area and playground, the project includes the complete restoration of the open - air forum and the service module.

ACCESSIBILITY



Bus station 40 m
BRT system



Parking zone
Aurelio Luis Gallardo St

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR



MEET



PLAY



RELAX

The park is most visited for the locals rather than the rest of population, it is an important meeting point for the families especially on weekends where they can have a lunch or spend time together.



PRACTICE
URBAN SPORTS



EAT

After the transformation the park become an important meeting place for teenagers due to they can practice some urban sports such as skateboarding.

THE PUBLIC SPACE BEFORE THE INTERVENTION

Before the municipality took the decision to rescue the park for the fact that is an emblematic place of the city which represents the memory and identity of the inhabitants of *Barrio Arriba*, the park was neglected, the playground was in poor conditions and the insecurity situation worsened day by day due to the lack of street lighting.

The images show the precarious conditions of the park, some areas were invaded by street vendors who did not allow the proper use of the park while the playgrounds represented a risk for children due to the wear and the vandalism.



83 A welder repairing the children's game



84 The public space occupied by street vendors



85 The public space before the intervention in 2015

The Hidalgo Park was recognized as a great green lung that the city offered for being one of the few parks with free access for citizens, some of the vegetation was not native but it was in good state of conservation.

Nevertheless, during and after the remodeling process many trees were cut down in order to make room for the amenities of the park, thus damaging its vocation as a green lung.



86 The public space after the intervention in 2020

This phenomenon is evident by comparing the two satellite images, the first corresponds to the year 2015 before the beginning of the remodeling where a large number of trees are observed in the west side of the park, while in the second image from 2020 the decrease of the vegetation is notable, today the small squares are located.

 | PHOTOS



87 Aerial view of the west park



88 Skate zone



89 Recreation area



90 Service modules and benches area

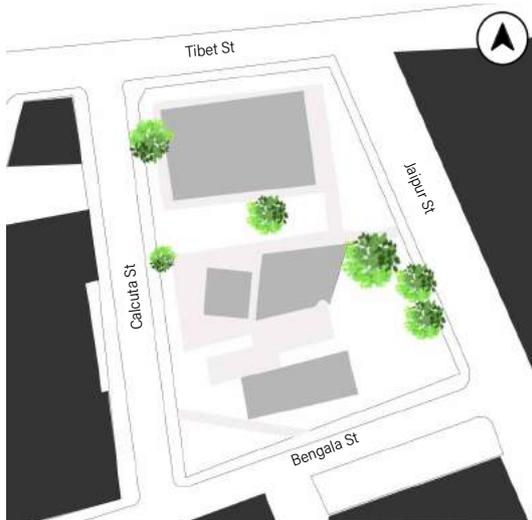
 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

The park with this new image restores a small part of the Right to the City to the local citizens through the remodeling of the park which includes new facilities and spaces that promote the coexistence of various age groups, in addition the renovation of the acoustic shell facilitates the realization of cultural events that promote local artists, thereby revitalizing the area and attracting more visitors. However, this transformation process has had a negative impact on the environmental side due to the fact that many trees were cut down in order to have enough space for the new amenities, which seriously affected its quality as the city's green lung, therefore reducing its environmental comfort.

The project was carried out between local authorities and the designer without considering the participation of local people, for this reason some areas are not fully functional and have been vandalized because people do not feel identified with the project. As a result of this new space, it is important that public spaces are rehabilitated but the process must change in order to involve the participation of the community as it is suggested in the UN New Urban Agenda (2016) and the document Habitat III the Right to the City(2016).

Another aspect to consider is the design of the park who is divided into two sections linked by a bridge for this reason it conditions the mobility and accessibility of people with disabilities, although the bridge has a ramp, the slope is not adequate, thus the space limits the use and enjoyment of the park for this vulnerable group and denied partially the Right to the City.

The renovation of the park once again evidence that the Right to the City is not restored with architectural or urban actions, which responds more to the aesthetic or physical needs of the place rather than a social need, although they contribute to recovering that Right, however it is not guaranteed that the public space functions as a safe place for everyone groups of the population where citizens can exercise that Right freely.



PARK LA INDIA

 Bengala St - Calcuta St - Jaipur St
 Surface: 4 231.50 sqm

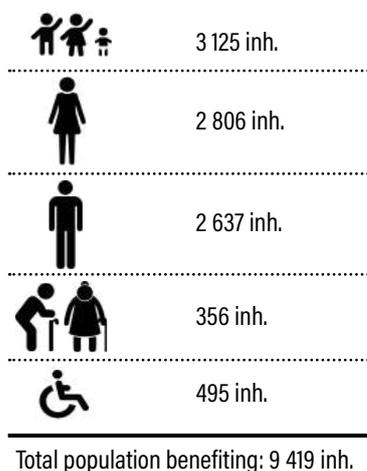
GENERAL FEATURES

La India park is located in the neighbourhood called *La India*, on the north side of the city close to the *Sierra de Lobos*.

The park was developed as part of the "*Manos a la Obra por León*" program with the aim of addressing the social needs of the population that is settled in the peripheral area of the city. The project was developed with the collaboration of the local inhabitants who would be directly benefited and with the municipal authorities. The objectives of this project are to promote coexistence, improve security and contribute to the social integration of the population.

The first stage of design, projection and citizen participation of the park was carried out in 2017, later in 2018 its construction began which lasted 4 months. The park has a multipurpose court, playground, exercise area and a cover area that is used mainly for meetings.

TARGET POPULATION



The target population is considered under the criterion of a radius of influence delimited between (400 - 500m), since it is considered a walkable distance of 15 minutes to reach the park, which allows the daily use of the space.

In this case, the children population is the most predominant in the zone, followed by the women and men. It is remarkable that the people with disabilities is quite high respecting to other parts of the city.

ACTIVITIES | BEHAVIOUR



MEET



PRACTICE SPORTS



EXERCISE



EAT



PLAY

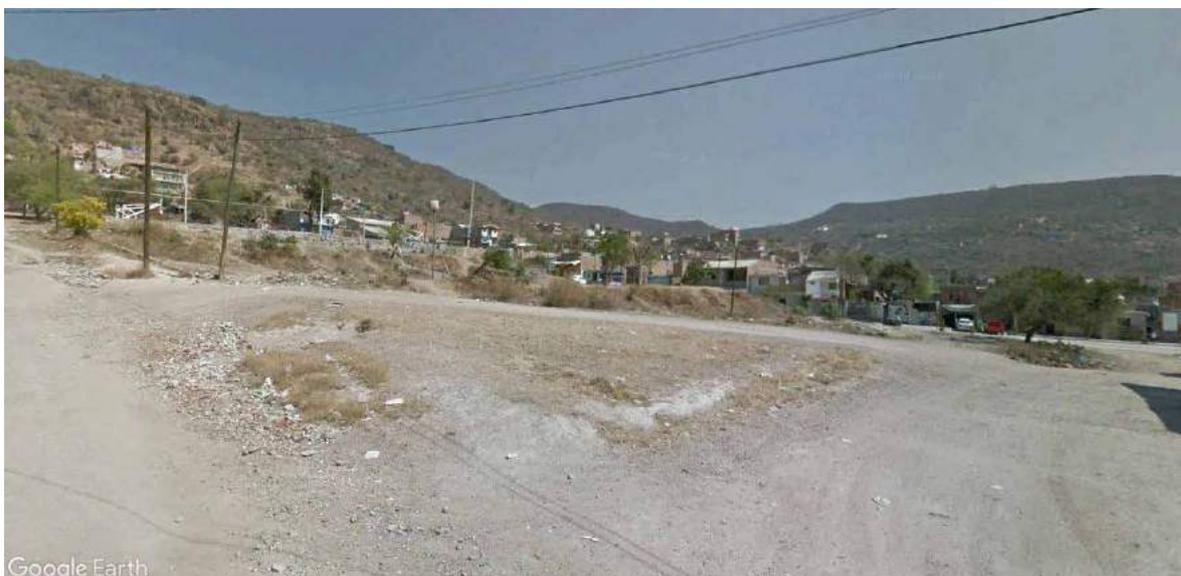
The park is well equipped with a multipurpose court, an exercise zone, a meeting zone and a playground area where the citizens can practice recreational activities, however during the observation it was visible that there were few children using the space despite the neighborhood has a high population who can access to the space easily, in less than 15 minutes by walk.

It is notable that the playground area is the zone most used by the inhabitants since it has a greater wear than the other facilities.

THE PUBLIC SPACE BEFORE THE INTERVENTION

In Mexico it is common for the peripheral areas of the city to be socially marginalized and with a few accesses to quality public spaces. This park was a clear example of the marginalization situation that its inhabitants lived day by day, for this reason the project sought to improve the urban image of the place, the quality of life of its inhabitants, as well as promote its development as a community.

The below photo shows how was the condition of the public space in 2017 where it is the visible state of abandonment and the lack of facilities, moreover, it is remarkable that the surrounded streets were without pavement and street lighting.



91 The public space before the intervention in 2017

 | PHOTOS



92 Playground area and main entrance - Bengala St



93 West view of the park - Calcuta St



94 Multipurpose court - Tibet St

 | **RIGHT TO THE CITY**

In Latin American cities it is common for peripheral areas of the city to find the most socially marginalized population, with limited access to basic services and with precarious urban infrastructure, this reality is not alien to Mexico and is presented in many other Mexican cities such as León. These social and urban phenomena respond to the rapid growth of the population and the lack of policies oriented towards the development of a more equitable and inclusive city, as it is described by the New Urban Agenda (2016).

The strategy carried out by the previous local government under the "*Manos a la Obra*" program sought to mitigate the social problems in the peripheral zones of the city through the construction of public spaces, which would be restoring a part of the Right to the City. The project was developed following the principles of the New Urban Agenda through the active social participation and with the collaboration of local authorities, whose purpose was to create a dignified, inclusive and safe space for its inhabitants. However, after two years it is notable that the space is underutilized for the locals despite of the high number of people who benefit from the park, which it is possible to infer that the people has low appropriation for the space.

It is important to mention that the space has a limited area of influence for the reason that it was planned as a public space for the neighborhood, thus its use and access is restricted for other inhabitants of the area, moreover, the lack of connectivity with the public transportation system, makes the public space unattractive for the citizens.

The India park is a clear example that through the construction of a new public space and the improvement of the urban environment are not sufficient elements to restore the Right to the City of the inhabitants of peripheral areas, which for many years have been forgotten by municipal governments. Although it is believed that through these actions the social issues are resolved and the Right to the City is ensured but it continues to be a limited strategy with low social impact, for this reason the local authorities have to propose comprehensive actions with long - term vision where the full exercise of the Right to the City is guaranteed.

4.3 | COMPARISON BETWEEN TURIN AND LEON

4.3.1 | PUBLIC SPACE - PLANNING TOOLS

Certainly, the planning systems and instruments vary from country to country and each one is governed according to the laws established in its Constitutions, for this reason, this thesis analyzed their respective planning system of the two case studies (Italy and Mexico) in order to achieve a critical comparison of their strengths a weaknesses aspect and how their structure influences the management of the public spaces.

Undoubtedly, the Italian planning system is complex in its structure, at the National level the Government of the Territory is in charge of coordination planning with the Regions, however this entity does not elaborate any strategic planning plan due to the Law no.1150/1942 where establishes that the competencies are transferred to the Regions in the theme of the urbanism, for this reason, the Regions elaborate laws and plans on the subject of planning, those plans establish general guidelines, strategies and actions which the metropolitan cities and municipalities have to implement in their respective Regulatory Plans. On the other hand, in Mexico the planning system and tools is clearer and structure, at the National the SEDATU Secretary of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development [*Secretaria de Desarrollo Agrario, Territorial y Urbano*] is the secretary in charge of preparing the National Development plan, in this sense the State and Municipal governments have to develop their plans according to the guidelines established by the National plan.

The theme of the validity of the plans is an important aspect to highlight, since the Italian plans have a long validity, for example the Regional Territorial Plan (the current approved version is from 1995) although they are partially updated, the plan is not renewed, for this reason, some information and plans are obsolete and there have been replaced by the update version. In contrast in Mexico every six years the National and State plans are renewed with the beginning of each government, in the case of the Municipalities their plans are renewed every three or five years depending of the type of plan, this policy obliges the authorities to carry out studies on various issues in order to obtain updated data and information, thus the governments can propose new strategies to tackle the current situations; however the fact that the Municipal plan is updated every 3 years generates sometimes discontinuity in strategies and actions, therefore valuable information is missed.

An important aspect to highlight is that in Italian planning system at the Regional and subnational levels have two general plans: the Regional Territorial Plan (PTR) and the Landscape Plan (PPR) which have common general strategies and objectives that allow strengthen their connections between the two planning tools. In this sense Italy attaches

great importance to the care of the landscape and the environments, as well as to the historical heritage.

A strength of the Italian planning tools is that most of the information contained in the Regulatory plans such as maps can be consulted and downloaded through the official websites as well as it can be used for academic purposes, on the other hand the Mexican planning system is more closed in the sense that the information available in the official websites is partially downloaded and some versions of the General plans, in the case of requiring some specific information, it is necessary to submit a request to the corresponding department or institution.

A common point shared by the two countries is that the plans are drawn up with the collaboration of other departments of the public administration, as well as with the participation of public and private stakeholders and the citizens. In the case of Italy the directorates that elaborate the plans belong to the main structure of the government, while in Mexico at the State and Municipal level the Institutes that carry out the strategic plans are decentralized public entities which means that are autonomous in their decisions.

Regarding to the public space and green areas each country has a different parameters to classified the public space according to its characteristics, in this sense the Italian planning system consider this topic at the Municipal level where specific plans are drawn up as well as their corresponding regulations, while at the Regional and Metropolitan level this topic is mentioned in the planning tools in general. In contrast, in Mexico recently a norm was released in the topic of the public where establishes the definition, characteristics, functions, its classification and the management; at the State level the planning tool only defines some general guidelines, it is to the Municipal level where a detailed classification is established, the municipality has precise information and as part of their functions elaborate plans and perform studies in order to increase and enhance the public space in the city.

Undoubtedly, these two countries have a different structure in the planning system and tools, however a common point is that the Municipal level is in charge of the management of the public space and the themes regarding to this topic which allow to have more control and acquire information.

4.3.2 | PUBLIC SPACE

The public space has been created as itinerant place where everyone has access and rights, there is possible see different social manifestations that allow to restore partially social inequalities and articulate the redistribution of wealth, undoubtedly the most representative public spaces in the cities are the traditional squares and public gardens, which throughout history have witnessed the urban transformation of contemporary cities. For this reason, this research has analyzed four public spaces in each city: Turin and Leon.

The analysis of these public spaces was in accordance with the methodology proposed in this research, it was performed an inspection of these spaces that was carried out through field observation where the four attributes (Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities, Sociability) established in the diagram What Makes a Great Place? (2018) were analyzed in order to evaluate their physical conditions, social dynamics and the most important aspect if the public space can guarantee the Right to the City for their citizens.

Access & Linkages

The Table 05 compares the accessibility of each public space analyzed in both cities, it is important to remark that the following results are according to the process of observation in field.

		ACCESSIBILITY			
		Public Space	Bus Tram	Bike Scooter	Automobile
TURIN	Piazza Cavour	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Piazza d'Armi	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Piazza Santa Rita	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Giardino Madre Teresa	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEON	Plaza de los Fundadores	✓	✗	✓	✓
	Forum Cultural	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hidalgo park	✓	✗	✓	✓
	La India park	✗	✗	✓	✓

05 Table | Comparative table of the accessibility in the public spaces analyzed

The results demonstrate that Turin's public spaces are well connected with the transport system and other means of transportation while in Leon the situation is slightly different some places are reachable with all the means of transportation available in the city which is the case of the Forum Cultural whereas La India park that is a public space located in the periphery of the city is accessible only by private car. There is evidence that the public spaces in Leon have a lack of connectivity with the means of transportation, moreover the priority that the car has in the city which reflects the urban development of the city.

Comfort & Image

In the aspect of the urban image, the public spaces in Turin show a good impression at first sight, they are clean spaces and it is observed the periodic maintenance of their vegetation and street furniture is in good condition, except for the garden *Madre Teresa* that a part of the place is neglected and dirty. On the other hand, the public spaces in Leon have good image due to some of these places have been recently renovated, thus their street furniture is new and their maintenance is constant.

In terms of safety, the public spaces in Turin, in general, are perceived as safe places despite the absence of security elements, except for the garden *Madre Teresa* where the perception is slightly different from the other spaces due to the high presence of men who observe the people that pass through the place, for this reason, the perception change for not being a safe place for women who are part of the vulnerable group. In addition, the only place where it was observed the presence of security elements was in the *Piazza d'Armi*. On the contrary, in Leon the *Plaza de los Fundadores* and the Forum Cultural are perceived as safe places for the reason, that they are located in strategic areas of the city and the periodic presence of security elements, whereas in the Hidalgo park the place is perceived safe only in some hours of the day and the India park is labeled as unsafe place for being located in the periphery of the city.

Uses & Activities

A characteristic of the public space of Turin is that the predominance of a specific social group in each place, for example in the *Piazza Cavour* young women dominate the space together with children, in the *Piazza Santa Rita* the elderly people are the predominant users while in the garden *Madre Teresa* the young men have a strong presence in the space, in contrast, the *Piazza d'Armi* is the most heterogeneous space as a variety of social groups that interact between them, however most of its users are young people and children. On the other hand in Leon the users of the public spaces are more heterogeneous and there was no evidence of the predominance of a social group.

In the case of Turin during the month of October 2021, there were no restrictions on the use of public space for this reason the places had an average occupancy during the day, some increase their activity during the afternoon such as *Piazza Cavour* and *Piazza d'Armi*. However, garden *Madre Teresa* had a high occupancy along the day by young men who use the space as meeting point. Regarding to the public spaces in Leon, most of them were crowded of people, however, the Forum Cultural was visibly empty due to the restrictions for the pandemic the access was controlled and its capacity was limited even though it is an open space.

Relevant to the activities that users perform in the public spaces, the half of the places analyzed in Turin offer different amenities for the visitors, such as *Piazza d'Armi* in which the users can practice sports activities and the children can play in the playground area, likewise in the garden *Madre Teresa* where the young men and children use to play soccer in the multipurpose court or practice skating in the skate area, while *Piazza Cavour* during the afternoons turns into a large playground area where the kids from the elementary school improvise games and adapt the space as a soccer field. In the case of *Piazza Santa Rita*, the place functions as a transitory space, only the bench area is occupied for elder men, this dynamic is similar to the *Plaza de los Fundadores* in Leon especially during the mornings where the people use to read the newspaper or meet with their friends.

Sociability

Certainly, the issue of sociability is one of the most important for public space because in these places people interact, exchange ideas and social groups from different economic strata coexist. In general terms, it can be concluded that the spaces in Turin each one has a different social dynamic due to the social groups that interact and predominate. On the other hand, it is remarkable how the type of users can define the dynamics of the place and sometimes restricting the use of space for some vulnerable social groups, thus this aspect has a negative impact on the exercise of the Right to the City.

The situation in Leon is slightly different from Turin since the social fabric is more homogeneous regarding to the users of public spaces in the city center, however the *India* park which is located in the periphery of the city shows the urban fragmentation and social marginalization of the city. This situation is similar in Turin in the case of the garden *Madre Teresa* where the space shows the multiculturalism of the neighborhood and the social deprivations of its inhabitants.

Summary

Certainly, the public spaces analyzed in both cities show strengths and weaknesses in the aspects of urban image, security, and social dynamics. In the case of Turin, in overall, the public spaces have a good urban image and there are perceived as safe places, except for the garden *Madre Teresa*. On the topic of accessibility, the Turinese spaces are better connected with means of transport than in Leon's public spaces. A strength of the public spaces in Turin is that they offer shaded seating areas for the users while in Leon for some places is a weakness there is the case of the *Plaza de los Fundadores* has limited places with shade throughout the day.

Undoubtedly, the two places that partially do not guarantee the Right to the City are the garden *Madre Teresa* in Turin and the India park in Leon, for the reason that there have been perceived as unsafe places for the vulnerable groups due to the heterogeneity of their social fabric.

In the theme of sociability, the public spaces of the two cities are slightly diverse, however, there are common points that share both cities. Each city has a remarkable space that demonstrates the deficiencies of the city in terms of the social fabric that is one of the main premises of the Right to City in order to guarantee this human right for all the citizens.

4.3.3 | RIGHT TO THE CITY

The Right to the City is a new human right, a social demand, a political slogan and academic issues, which has been gaining considerable interest in recent years in many cities around the world. It is an issue that has generated multiple debates both in political and academic fields where the scope and limitations of this new social right are discussed, by which it is claimed that cities are for citizens and not to generate private business, moreover, the society tries to recover the original principles established by Lefebvre in 1968 and taken up years later by David Harvey in his book *Rebel Cities* (2012).

In this sense, cities are adapting or creating plans and policies in order to promote this right through actions that improve the current conditions of the contemporary cities, such is the case of Turin, which recently developed a Strategic Plan 2021 - 2023 in which it seeks to overcome social and economic marginalization in the Metropolitan city of Turin and thereby be able to guarantee a more equitable and the Right to the City for the future generations. In 2011 the Territorial Plan of Provincial Coordination (PTC2) established that the strategies developed in the territory has to be oriented to guarantee the values and rights of the citizens, with these policies the Piedmont region demonstrates its concerns for creating more legitimate cities for all and responding to the current demands.

On the other hand, Latin American cities have historically developed their cities according to the capitalist - neoliberal economic models and following the principles of the urban planning of the 50's and 60's, for this reason the contemporary cities present serious problems of fragmentation in their social fabric and they are suffering marginalization their society. This is the case of the Mexican cities that have followed these models of urban planning and today face great social and urban problems that partially deny the Right to the City. However, in recent years the issue of the Right to the City has been taken up again and included in the strategic development plans in all the levels of the government, in order to reduce marginalization rates in cities and build new communities that favor inclusion and equity for all its inhabitants.

In this sense, the city of Leon recently signed a collaboration agreement with UNESCO in which seeks to promote actions in order to create public policies in favor to the Right to the City. Undoubtedly, this agreement sets a precedent for the surrounding cities and its an example for promoting this human right.

Certainly, both cities Turin and Leon in recent years have developed public policies and strategic development plans to address the demand for the Right to the City, which seeks to have more equitable cities for all, this principle is fundamental for cities as Turin who has a heterogeneity in its population and is very contrasting in some areas of the city. This trend occurs in Leon as well where the people who live in the outskirts of the city feel marginalized from the city center. For this reason, the recent document the Right to the City for all (2016) established that the right shall guarantee spatial justice for all citizens and further generations, one way to achieve this demand is through the public space which is space where people can reclaim and exercise this human right.

In conclusion, both cities, despite of belonging to different urban contexts, are adapting their planning tools in order to seek more equalitarian and to reduce social marginalization with the purpose to improve the quality of life and the conditions of the public spaces, in these places is where the right becomes visible. It is still too early to evaluate the results and effects of these policies implemented in both cities and analyze whether the measures taken have been adequate in the construction of new urban vision where the main premise shall be oriented for the principles of equality and equity rather the economic models.

05 | **RETHINK THE
PUBLIC SPACE
IN THE XXI C.**

5.1 | RECLAIM THE PUBLIC SPACE IN THE CONTEMPORARY CITY OF THE XXI CENTURY

The growth of the city in the XXI century under the urbanism of the previous century has generated that the urban fabric is not continuous, it become an impediment or barrier to guarantee the connection between the public spaces due to the privatization of public space through the obsession with competitiveness, the economic strength of the private initiative and the political weakness of the public authority; the creation of theme parks, business cities, gated communities, infrastructures at the service of private and individual vehicles, housing areas segregated by social class make evident the urbanism of the XXI century. The result are fragmented cities, specialized in their functions, shaped through the mobility, and following the conditions and requirements of the car.

The public space must be an organizing element of urban planning, whatever the scale or urban project, moreover, shall support various uses and functions that articulates the city in order to structure the urban region. The city is first of all the public space, the public space is the city.

The cities of the XXI century inherited the postwar urbanism who was focused on efficient functionalism, the result is the application of same sectorial policies that gave rise to large housing operations where each segment was destined for a specific social group and priority is almost always assigned to roads as regulation and investment, moreover, the proposals of the private developers eventually destroyed the urban planning; the consequence is a more fragmented, unsightly, and inefficient city where the public space became a residual element. Furthermore, the rapid grow of the cities produced neglected public spaces as parks or open spaces which become collectors of trash and pollution, streets that divide communities without consideration for pedestrians, and vehicular traffic that dominates the use of public spaces all of these issues caused the crisis of the public space.

The urban policies that have been applied to the public space in recent years were based on the homogenization of the space through the design formula that is repeated from place to place without taking care the context by the designers, developers, and clients in both public and private sectors (Carmona, 2010).

In order to build the city of the XXI century is fundamental to have a citizenship project, to expand the rights of the third generation, the right to place and mobility, to the refuge city and local identity, self-government and difference, to the legal equality of all the external projection of the city as an open entity (Borja & Muxi, 2003). The city of this century must recognize the right to the city for all, through the integration and non – exclusion that optimizes urban freedoms.

In 2006 during the Biennial of Architecture in Venice the participants claimed the demand to the construction of the public space from the citizen dialogue and the municipal government, furthermore, the new urban guidelines and interventions shall be based on the dialogue between the public and private sector in order to ensure the survival over time and to generate a fair, open and cohesive society.

The public space is a key element to recover the space of cities today, it is essential to redefine urban public spaces in areas of new growth. Recover the symbolic dimension to identify urban spaces as civic references, make connection or nodal places a meaningful place, attribute to the areas of new centrality characteristics of the central place such as monumentality, multifunctionality, exchange, places of encounter and expression. On the other hand, Jan Gehl in his book *Using Public Space* mention that the character of outdoor activities is greatly influenced by physical planning, through the choice of materials and colors to create a palette in a city, it is possible to planning decisions to influence patterns of activities and to create lively or lifeless cities.

Saskia Sassen mentions that one way to recover public space is through the use of the terrain vagues (vacant areas) which allow residents to connect to the rapidly transforming cities and to bypass the subjectively the massive infrastructures (Sassen, 2020). The use of abandoned or vacant areas has tended to turn them into a specialized element, one more "equipment" of the city, which often includes segregated and monovalent spaces, such as the space for dogs, one for children, others for parking and so on and so forth. It is fundamental the balance of functions between the public and private through the urban design and planning which decide the urban density of the city.

The public space in the of nowadays shall provide the capacity to design and development plans to ensure form, function, and connectivity of the city as a whole; to celebrate the diverse role of public space for political representation, social inclusion, recreational enjoyment, economic and well-being, and cultural expression and finally to implement laws and regulations that establishes system to create, revitalize, manage, and maintain public space, including participatory processes in order to define their use and accessibility to public spaces.

5.1.1 | TACTICAL URBANISM

Certainly, tactical urbanism represents a new approach to creating new public spaces in the contemporary cities of the XXI Century where the public spaces have been privatized or there are a lack of them, moreover the tactical urbanism is a citizen-led approach to the creation of new public spaces that uses short-term, low-cost and scalable interventions to catalyze long-term change (The Streets Plans Collaborative, 2016). In this sense the tactical urbanism seeks to achieve the Right of the City through the increase of public spaces which guarantee the collaboration of diverse groups of population, improve the image of the city and foster the social networks.

The tactical urban planning aims to replace a more traditional way of making the city, proposing flexible responses, developed by citizens through participatory processes, which use low-cost but strong visual impact materials, which can be created quickly and easily re-designed in response to user feedback (García, Lydon, 2015). In this way, tactical urban planning aims to ensure greater "social justice in the conception and appropriation of urban space" (Gadanhó, 2015), these aims are part of the principles established by the document Right to the cities for all (2016) which final objective is to guarantee this human right for all the citizens in the use of the public space.

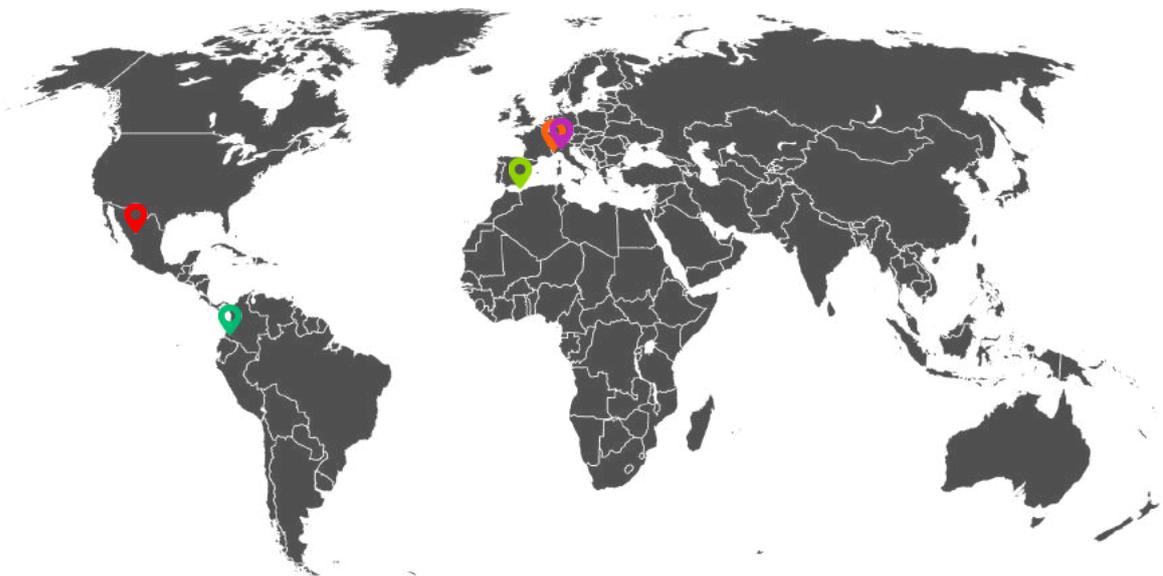
Tactical urban planning projects are typically small-scale, characterized by a modest use of resources, by the active involvement of citizens, who become creators, and users of the regenerated spaces. They are short-term (a few days) or medium-term (a few weeks or months) interventions; however, they aim to stimulate long-term change.

Undoubtedly, the current pandemic COVID-19 has obliged cities to implement restrictions on the use of public space and physical distancing in order to protect the health of the citizens, for this reason, many cities have put in place pilot projects and large-scale experiments, often using the approach of tactical urbanism, aimed at expanding the quantity of public space and improving the quality of the existing one, making it suitable for hosting recreational activities. cultural, outdoor sports, in compliance with the social distancing measures necessary to counter the advance of the virus.

5.1.2 | INTERNATIONAL GOOD PRACTICES OF TACTICAL URBANISM

In recent years, social groups in collaboration with local authorities and citizens have been developing temporary tactical urban planning initiatives as an alternative to urban design, their aim is to rescue or to transform public spaces in the city, for this reason this thesis analyze some international examples of good practices around the world. This projects have been a positive impact in the neighborhood and its society, moreover the initiatives help to restore the Right to the City for some marginalized social groups and improve the urban image and quality of life of the inhabitants.

The examples of International good practices are selected because these projects encouraged citizen participation of various social groups, as well as fostered the creation of new public spaces that respond to different citizen's need; the map 07 details the location of each one of them and the subsequent pages describe the initiatives, their participatory processes, and their results.



07 Map | Location of the International Good Practices of Tactical Urbanism

	Superblock	Barcelona, Spain		Spa Urbano	Chihuahua, Mexico
	Piazze Aperte	Milan, Italy		Me Muevo Segura	Bogota, Colombia
	Progetto Grandangolo	Turin, Italy			

SUPERBLOCK | Barcelona, Spain



95 Intervention in the Superblock of Poblenou in Saint Marti

Period of realization: 2016 - 2019

Description of the initiative:

The Barcelona Urban Mobility Plan (2013 - 2018) aimed to transform the public space through the creation of "*superillas*" (superblocks), blocks of nine blocks within which priority is given to pedestrians and bicycles: circulation of cars is allowed almost exclusively along the perimeter. The first Superblock "*Superilla*" was inaugurated in the Saint Marti district (superblock of Poblenou), a former industrial district chosen because of its low population density and lower intensity of vehicular traffic.

In 2018 the "Superblock" won the European prize for urban public space 2018.

Main objectives:

The main objective is to reduce the space occupied by cars in favor of pedestrians and cycling, generating new green axes and new squares through a new model of public space that is fairer and healthier, the result is that the inhabitants have a square or a green axis of up to 200 meters, significantly improving the offer of meeting spaces in the central area of the *Eixample* district or *Ampliamento*. This new model of public space creates safer spaces in order to foster social relations and improve local commerce.

Main stakeholders involved in the project:

City of Barcelona (The department of Ecology, Urbanism and Mobility), Higher Technical School of Architecture of Barcelona and Local residents.

Participatory process:

The first pilot intervention of tactical urbanism was in the superblock of Poblenou, the participatory process was led by the students of the Higher Technical School of Architecture of Barcelona in collaboration with the residents.

The Output of the intervention:

The result of this first phase implemented in the Superblock of Poblenou was the creation of playground areas for kids, new sports fields where the young people can practice diverse sports, the installation of new street furniture, and new amenities such as ping-pong tables were collocated in the area previously occupied by the machines which represent 2 000 sqm of the area gained in each intersection.



96 New public space in Poblenou



97 Relaxing sessions take place along the week



98 Street intervention in the Superblock of Poblenou

PIAZZE APERTE | Milan, Italy



99 New square NoLo

Period of realization: 2018 - Ongoing

Description of the initiative:

This initiative is held by the Municipality of Milan which is part of the "Periphery Plan", this plan was created in collaboration with the Bloomberg Associates, National Association of City Transportation Official (NACTO) and Global Designing Cities Initiatives. The aim is to enhance the public space as a place for relationships and socialization. It uses the tactical urban planning approach to bring the square back to the center of the neighborhood and the life of the inhabitants.

The first phase of this initiative carried out 15 interventions in various squares in Milan.

Main objectives:

The objectives are to enhance public space as place for socializing, to increase pedestrian traffic and to promote sustainable mobility.

Main stakeholders involved in the project:

Bloomberg Associates, National Association of City Transportation Official (NACTO) and Global Designing Cities Initiatives in collaboration with the participation of the volunteers of the Association for Milan and the students for the elementary school to universities.

Participatory process:

After the experimentation of the first *Piazze Aperte* launched in September 2018 the interventions in Piazza Dergano and Piazza Angilberto II. A year later, in September 2019 the Municipality of Milan launched the public call "Piazze Aperte in each neighbourhood" inviting the citizens to propose temporal tactical urban planning projects, allocating a maximum contribution of 50 000 euros for each construction. The projects could concern the creation of new squares, pedestrian areas, cycle paths, spaces for socializing obtained in residual spaces of the transformation of parking areas, using elements of street furniture such as benches, tables, vases, games for children and decorative elements.

The call considered the participation of citizens, associations, parent's communities, traders and informal groups in order to establish a collaboration agreement with the purpose to guarantee the management of the regenerated spaces.

The Output of the intervention:

The result of the first phases implemented in diverse zones of the city of Milan is the installation of new urban furniture (chairs, benches and fixed tables), equipment for play areas for children, ping-pong tables, potted plants, as well as artistic paintings on the streets.



100 Artist painting in a new public square



101 Ex-parking area converted into a new square



102 Intervention in piazza Loreto

PROGETTO GRANDANGOLO | Turin, Italy



103 Main entrance of the school and intervention of tactical urbanism on the sidewalk

Period of realization: 2021 - Ongoing

Description of the initiative:

It is a pilot project of tactical urbanism carried out on the sidewalk of the elementary school *Giuseppe Parini* in the neighborhood of Aurora, which is characterized by having a great cultural diversity and being one of the most populated in the city of Turin. This intervention is part of the Grandangolo project, which won the European call of the Urban Initiative Actions (UIA) as part of the project ToNite.

Main objectives:

The initiative has the purpose to improve the image of the sidewalk in front of the elementary school, the project is developed with social participation.

The objective's design is intended to send a message of inclusion, integration that tell the story of a large part of the inhabitants of the Aurora neighborhood.

Main stakeholders involved in the project:

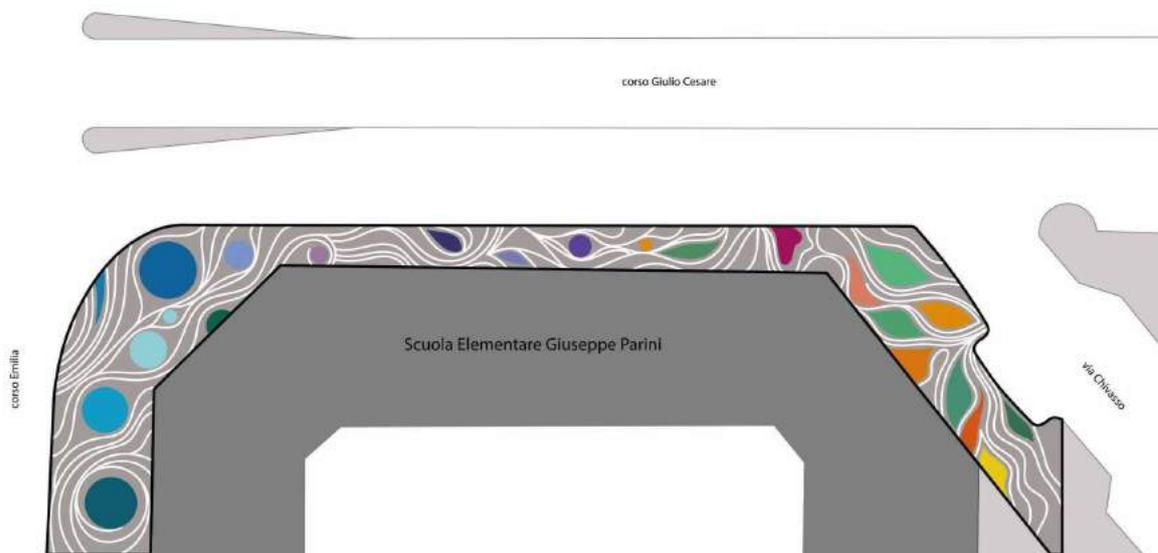
The project is led by the AuroraLab (laboratory of the Interuniversity Department of Sciences, Project and Territory Policies of the *Politecnico di Torino*, in collaboration with the students of Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape Planning of the *Politecnico di Torino*, the students of Sociology of the University of Turin and the students of the *Istituto Comprensivo Torino Giuseppe Parini*.

Participatory process:

The initiative was developed through the workshop *Rigenerare la periferie: l'università entra nel quartiere* which consisted in periodical meetings with the children in order to listen their proposals for the intervention, according to the main objective which are the issues of equality, diversity and equity, later on, the first sketches of the design of the sidewalk were held in collaboration with the children where they expressed their ideas. The themes selected for the design were the nature and space.

The Output of the intervention:

The final result of the proposal, which is currently in the development phase, is a design with curved lines that organically embraces the planets and leaves, which represent the metaphor of travel through the world of stars and the natural world.



104 Sketch of the proposal of tactical urbanism



105 A general view of the intervention on the sidewalk



106 View of the artistic drawing on the sidewalk Corso Vercelli

SPA URBANO | Chihuahua, Mexico



107 Aerial view of the Spa Urbano project

Period of realization: 2016

Description of the initiative:

Urban SPA is a project carried out as part of the "Desert Workshop" organized annually by the Higher Institute of Architecture and Design (ISAD) of Chihuahua.

Main objectives:

The objective is to create a small swimming pool in the center of the park, for the children of the neighbourhood through the use of recovery materials in the disused public fountain in the Ureta Park in the city center.

Main stakeholders involved in the project:

The project was led by the PKMN e Memela (Colective of Madrid) with the collaboration of the students of the Higher Institute of Architecture and Design, architects and local citizens.

Participatory process:

Participatory initiatives were carried out in which citizens expressed concern about the recovery of an abandoned fountain in the center of the Urueta Park. The project lasted two weeks: the first was dedicated to the development of the project, the second to its implementation, in collaboration with the residents of the area and numerous volunteers.

The Output of the intervention:

Nine metal tube towers have been built around the pool which during the day have the purpose of shading the area (they also serve to support some hammocks) while at night they become supports for lighting. The metal structure incorporates wooden benches that act as the edges of the tub, loungers and seats to watch the shows that take place around it.

In this way the swimming pool can remain in operation even in the evening and, around it, it is possible to carry out an intense program of animations.

Since its creation, Urban Spa has promoted new activities in the park, connecting previously separate areas and opening new kiosks, which attract more and more people to use the new space.



108 Children playing in the temporal pool



109 The construction of the main structure



110 A general view of the SPA Urbano project



111 The Spa Urbano in an evening event

ME MUEVO SEGURA | Bogota, Colombia



112 Main intervention in the Cultural garden

Period of realization: 2020

Description of the initiative:

It is a pilot project of tactical urbanism with a gender approach in order to improve the prevention of violence against women in public spaces, the project is carried out by the Municipality of Bogota in collaboration with the Secretary of the Woman.

Main objectives:

The project's objective is to improve and build safer urban centers for women, improve streets and pedestrian spaces with easy-to-perform but high-impact urban tactics.

Main stakeholders involved in the project:

The project is led by Bicistema that is a office of Architecture in collaboration with local authorities of the city of Bogota, the Secretary of the Woman and groups of women who belong to the neighbourhood.

Participatory process:

The project was developed in various phases, in the first phase groups of women identified the most dangerous points of the city's road and cycle network, through the use of an App developed for this purpose (SafetiPin). Following this mapping, some public spaces have been "adopted" by groups of women and citizens and on them tactical urban planning and cultural initiatives against gender violence have been carried out, designed and implemented through workshops held with groups of citizens, local artists and associations, based on the "lotus flower" methodology.

The Output of the intervention:

The intervention consisted in the creation of new safe public spaces which there were painted with artistic drawings, new playgrounds were installed, and a new cycle path was created.



113 A general view of the intervention



114 Local citizens painting artistic drawings in the public space



115 Improvised movie theater in the square during the evenings



116 Local people working in the space

06 | CONCLUSIONS

In recent years, the Right to the City is becoming a "fashionable trend" in the public debates and International forums to discuss this "new human right", however, the ideas are far from the original concept which the main objective was to address the social conflict that has been arisen in the contemporary cities of the XXI Century.

Certainly, the economic model is who have influenced more in the development of the cities since the capitalism and the neoliberalism have been used as an urban model to plan cities where the main purposes are to favour the privileged groups and privatize the public space, for this reason the today's cities are urban fragmented, socially segregated, economically unproductive and politically ungovernable. This is the case of most of the Latin American cities that were developed following these economic principles where the faster growth of the cities produces an urban sprawl, and the cities are fragmented with low density and precarious public spaces.

Today in many European cities such as Turin, there are promoting initiatives with the aim to reconquer public spaces through different actions, in order to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants; on the other hand in some cities the functionalist urban model is being perfected whose priority continues to be the automobile, such is the case of Leon that continues developing and planning the city under this concept where the last aim is to build an equitable city in which the Right to the City can be guaranteed, as a result, the city is increasing its urban fragmentation, sprawl and social segregation.

The public spaces embrace diverse typologies of spaces with different characteristics, functions and social dynamics, the thesis analyzed the category of the open public spaces in the city of Turin, Italy and Leon, Mexico. In this case the analysis of public spaces was focused in the traditional squares and historically urban gardens that are the most representative spaces in both cities. The methodology proposed through the field observation allowed to evaluate each public space according to the four attributes (Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities, Sociability) established by the diagram What Makes a Great Place? (2018).

In the category of the Access and Linkages the analysis evidence that the public spaces in Turin are well - connected with all the means of transportation available in the city, on the other hand, the public spaces in Leon have lack of connectivity despite these places are located in the urban center, moreover this assessment allows to identify the clear urban barrier that exists between the public spaces located in the periphery and the urban center that is evident in the city of Leon.

In overall in the category of the Comfort & Image the public spaces in both cities have a good urban image which is an important factor in the perception of safety, especially for the vulnerable groups, however, there are some factors that can decrease the comfort of the public space such as the low maintenance which it was evident in one public space in Turin, another important aspect to address is that the places located in the periphery are automatically labeled as unsafety places, for this reason, the public spaces can not guarantee the Right to the City for its users.

The analysis in the category of the Uses & Activities allows identifying that there is a clear predominance of one specific social group in the public spaces in Turin which it can be inferred that exist a certain homogeneity in the users according to each public space, this assumption does not mean that there are other groups of the population that use the public space. On the contrary, in the public spaces in Leon, the users are more heterogeneous there is not a clear predominance of one specific social group. This category evaluates also the occupancy of the public spaces in this case the analysis reflects the current situation that the public spaces have due to the pandemic COVID - 19 restrictions where the access are controlled by security guards as well as the capacity, this situation was evident in the public spaces in Leon where some of them were almost empty that in a certain manner deny the Right to the City for the citizens of Leon due to the fact that they can not access freely to the public space.

Furthermore, this category shows how the public spaces are adaptable due to the fact that the users can temporarily transform the places according to their necessities, this characteristic was more evident in the public spaces in Turin, where the kids can use the public space as a soccer field, this fact is demonstrated that the public space has to be designed through the participatory process where citizens can express their necessities, therefore public spaces can guarantee the Right to the City.

In the last category, Sociability is clear that the public spaces are the places where citizens can interact with other social groups, express and exchange their ideas, however, there are some social dynamics that condition the expression and interaction of all the visitors that preclude the exercise of this human right. This is the case of one garden in Turin where the predominance of one social group conditions the interaction between diverse social groups.

The tactical urbanism is presented in the last years as an innovative solution to intervene the public spaces in the contemporary cities for all the positive benefits that bring into the neighborhoods and how these interventions have been impacted positively in the inhabitants, however the expected results are not always obtained since this type of urban projects have their limitations and cannot solve all the social problems present in the current contemporary cities and can reestablish the Right to the City. Recently, Turin is performing the first intervention of tactical urbanism in the Aurora neighborhood which is one of the most multi-cultural zones in the city, the next years are crucial in order to evaluate if this kind of action has a positive or negative impact on the neighborhood.

Future research will be able to measure and evaluate through indicators or other methods the impact of the strategic plans and agreements that the municipalities of Turin and Leon are developing in this year, in which claim for the Right to the City in favour for all citizens especially for marginalized groups, these actions promote the construction of cities more socially and economically equitable, moreover, these municipalities are proposing planning solutions in order to reduce the fragmentantion of the urban fabric.

Undoubtedly, contemporary cities of the XXI Century are facing great challenges in the coming years, especially during the current pandemic where the public space has been revalued for the citizens and the Right to the City in some cases has been conditioned and denied for the citizens; therefore, the places shall be adapted for this new "normality" and the effects that this situation will bring in the planning and development of the cities that others research will be able to assess since the cities are constantly experiencing urban transformations.

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