

# Public Space and homelessness

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# WHAT IS A PUBLIC SPACE?

“Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free”



Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
Nairobi, Kenya © Jose Chong





**PUBLIC  
SPACE**

**STREETS**

**OPEN PUBLIC SPACES**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

Santa Marta © UN-Habitat, Alessandro Scotti



# WHY INVEST IN PUBLIC SPACE?



- ✓ fosters social cohesion, citizenship and cultural interaction
- ✓ increases mobility and transport efficiency
- ✓ economy and livelihoods
- ✓ enhances safety
- ✓ improves health and well-being
- ✓ improves the environment
- ✓ improves quality of life

# Approaches to controlling public space

1. urban furniture of exclusion, and
2. local regulations on urban decorum and security.





# Regulating the use of public space

- Strategies for controlling and regulating certain types of behaviour in public spaces, which **outlaw activities** such as drinking, sleeping on benches, begging, washing in fountains and so on, are growing in many cities.
- In one year, from September 2008 to September 2009, 788 local ordinances were implemented in 455 Italian municipalities, in order to fight the “illegal occupation of public space” and to ensure “decorum in the city”

## signs in parks



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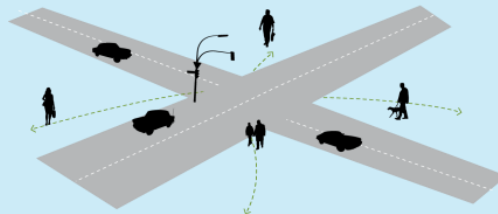


# THE TRADITIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

Buildings



Traffic

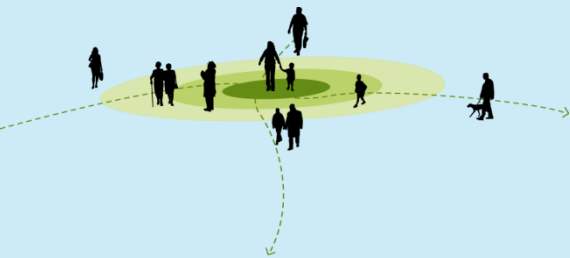


Life ?

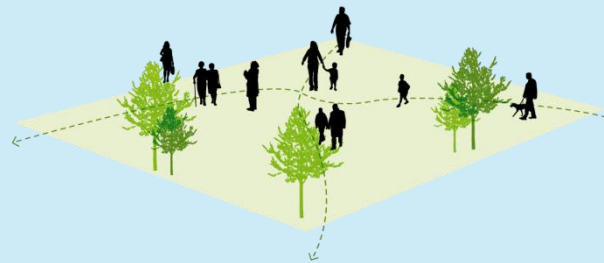


# PEOPLE FIRST

Life



Space

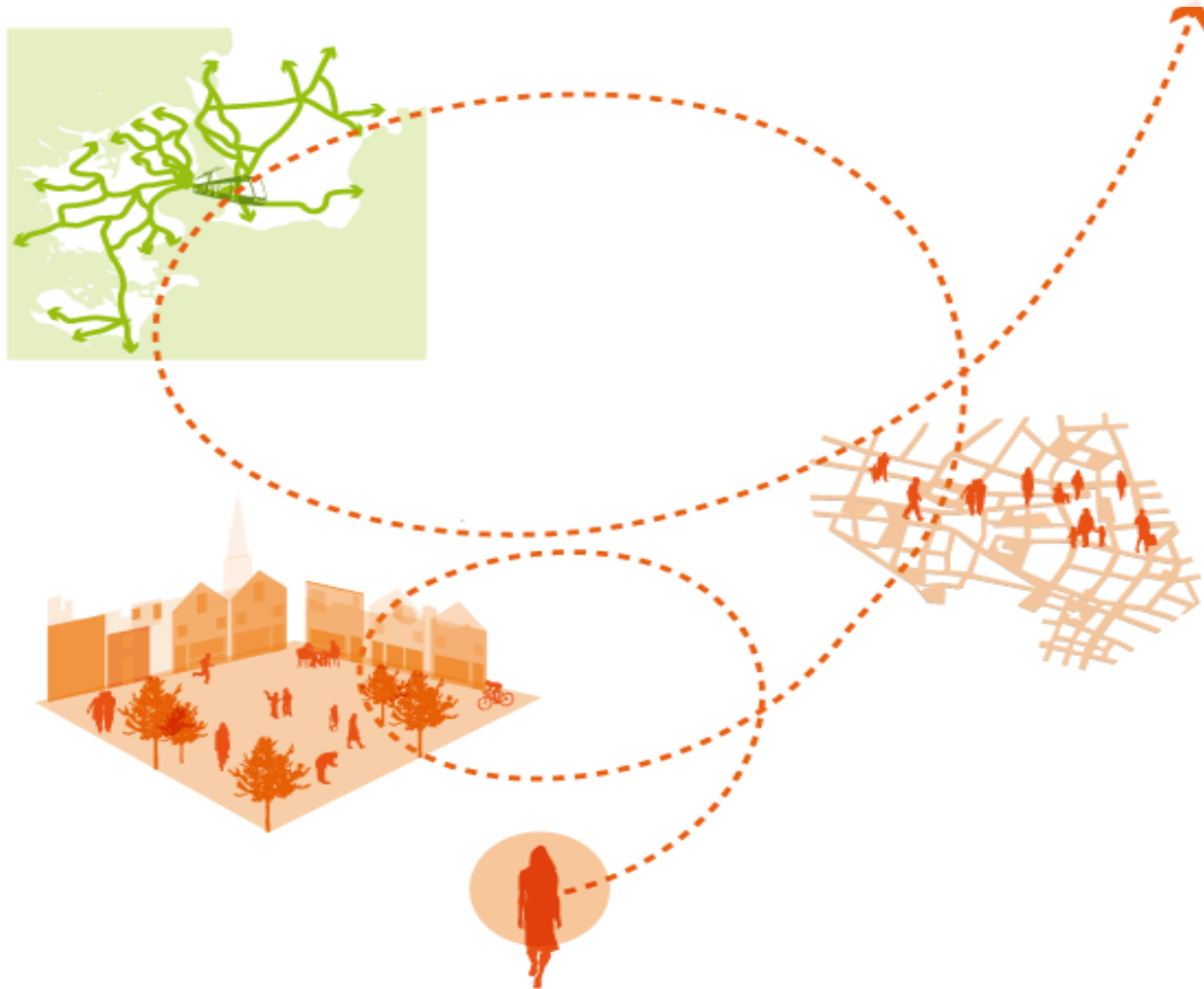


Buildings





# FOCUS ON PEOPLE AT ALL SCALES



“If we mainstream co-creation and public participation in the development of our parks, then we are going to get public ownership. This is exactly the kind of thing I will be looking at in the future”

**Project:**  
**End Street  
North Park**

**Location:**  
**Johannesburg,  
South Africa**

**Partner:**  
**GIZ, Joburg  
City, Sticky**

Cristo Botes  
CEO, Johannesburg Development Authority







With 38,000 vehicles and 460,000 people passing through daily, Warwick Junction is South Africa's largest transportation and trading hub.

**Project:**  
**Warwick Junction**

**Location:**  
**Durban, South Africa**

**Partner:**  
**eThekweni Municipality**













“If we change Dandora, we change Nairobi. If we change Nairobi, then we can change Kenya and the whole world.”  
- Charles Gachanga, Dandora Transformation League

**Project:**  
Model street

**Location:**  
Dandora,  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Partner:**  
DTL



**MUSTARD SEEDS COURT**  
**201**

*DANDORA IS NOT A SLUM ITS AN ESTATE.....*





















NO 5706

TAXI  
020 25481

**Project:**  
**Gautam Nagar**

**Location:**  
**Mumbai, India**

**Partner:**  
**MESN**

Gautam Nagar is a resettlement colony  
In Mumbai – 60,000 people







26/10/2015



# ..Transformations.....

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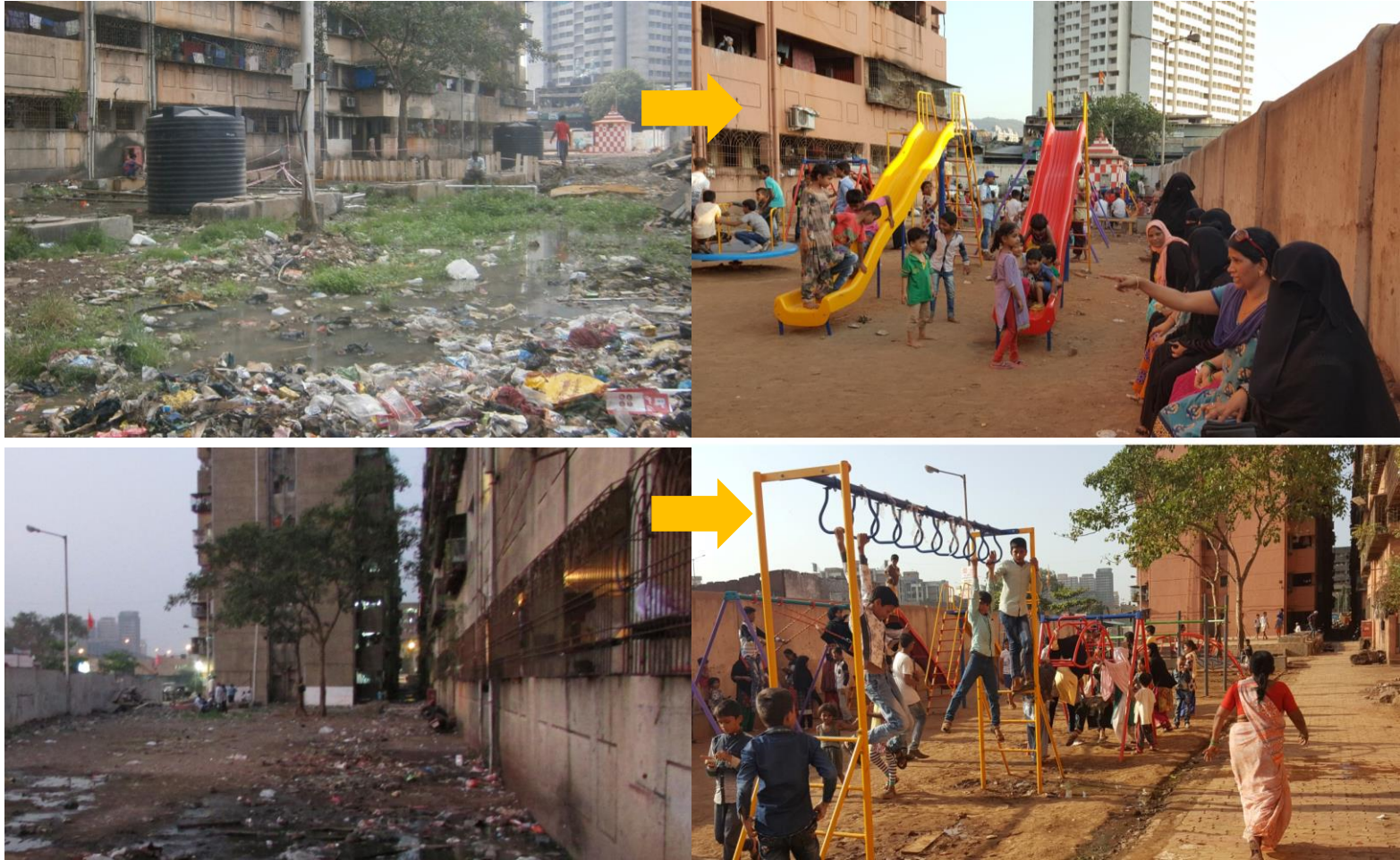


# Transformations





# Transformations





# Conclusion: Public space can tackle inequalities

- Public space is where everyone can meet on the same level regardless of **class, gender, age and ethnic differences**.
- Public space is **'the poor man's living room'** and important for marginalised groups.
- **Inadequate housing** should be compensated by generous provisions of good quality public space.
- **Planning and design of public space** is central to the provision of affordable housing
- There is a role for everyone in the **co-creation and management of public space**.
- **Review laws and by-laws**



