

BARCELONA EXPO 2014
Towards a Democratic Ecology of Cities
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1. Our central objective:

Open spaces must form the basis of city planning

2. Placing Natural Assets in public realm:

It is necessary to integrate various natural assets with open spaces in-order to put them in public realm and for their inclusion into city's development plan. Natural assets include, rivers, ponds, lakes, creeks, wetlands, beaches, mangroves, hills and forests. This integration will help overcome the North-South divide between Nature & Development differences.

3. Developing green connectors :

Developing green connectors interlinking various open spaces and natural assets facilitates the expansion of blue and green cover and their relationship with community life in neighborhoods. Simultaneously, neighborhood planning must become the basis of city planning to ensure a bottom-up process. Developing such green connections invite peoples' engagement with nature.

4. Open Spaces Planning an effective democratic instrument:

Planning and development of open spaces must be adapted as an effective democratic instrument for facilitating participation and mobilizing public engagement. This must be pursued in-spite of increasing marginalization of more and more people from the mainstream urban development works and benefits. The state of open spaces reflects the quality and dignity of public life. Open spaces relates to every persons life in cities. Therefore its planning is an effective instrument for social engagement and change.

5. Ecology of cities movement:

Democratization of open spaces and ecology of cities have to be a sustained public movement coupled with public dialogues and campaigns.

The state of open spaces reflects the dignity of public life and quality of environment of a city.

6. Dynamic ecology and challenges:

Interestingly, urban ecology is and will be forever dynamic due to constantly changing socio-political conditions, both national & international, and relationships between communities & people themselves. The ecology of cities do reflect the class character of its promoters. Therefore it is class based. To critically understand and interface these changes with nature – existing and regenerated under neo-liberal globalization, free-market economy, aggressive real estate business and commodification of land, resources and development works including environmental projects, constantly dodges and distances us from the achievement of much desired sustainable ecology of development. Un-barricaded, free and open forever.

Dealing with such complex ecology of cities is truly our challenge.

7. Democratize ecology of cities:

Inspite of all the adversities and challenges, development of open spaces and public engagement would be the only way forward in the achievement of a equal, just & sustainable ecology of cities.