



ARCH 322 PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING I

The Image of the City

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The Image of The City



The Image of The City

- ❖ What does the city's form actually mean to the people who live there?
- ❖ What can the city planner do to make the city's image more vivid and memorable to the city dwellers?

Kevin Lynch

IMAGE OF THE CITY

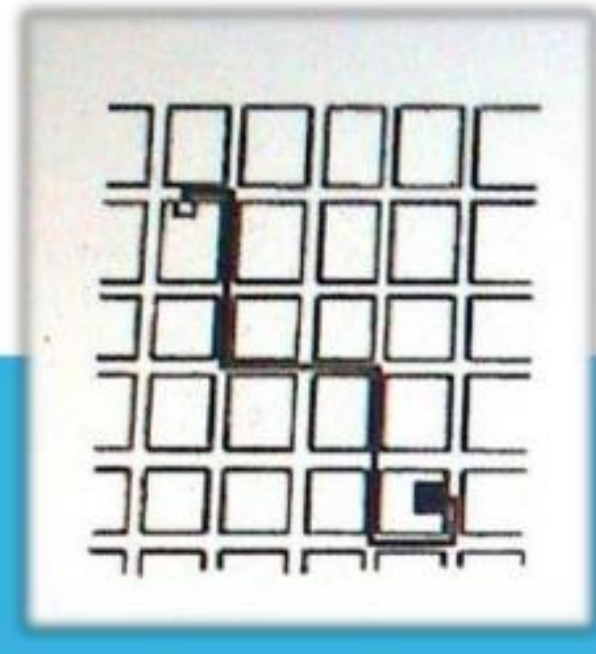
KEVIN LYNCH SAYS THAT:

- A city is constructed in space, but of a vast scale.
- A city is described with its surroundings and elements.
- Explains that people's perception of the city is important.
- *Going through a city from the viewer's mind is "image of the city".*
- Elements like nodes, paths, districts, edges, landmarks make a city.
- To make a visual plan (map).
- Analyzing the forms and public areas.
- Understand problems, opportunities and use them in designing a city.

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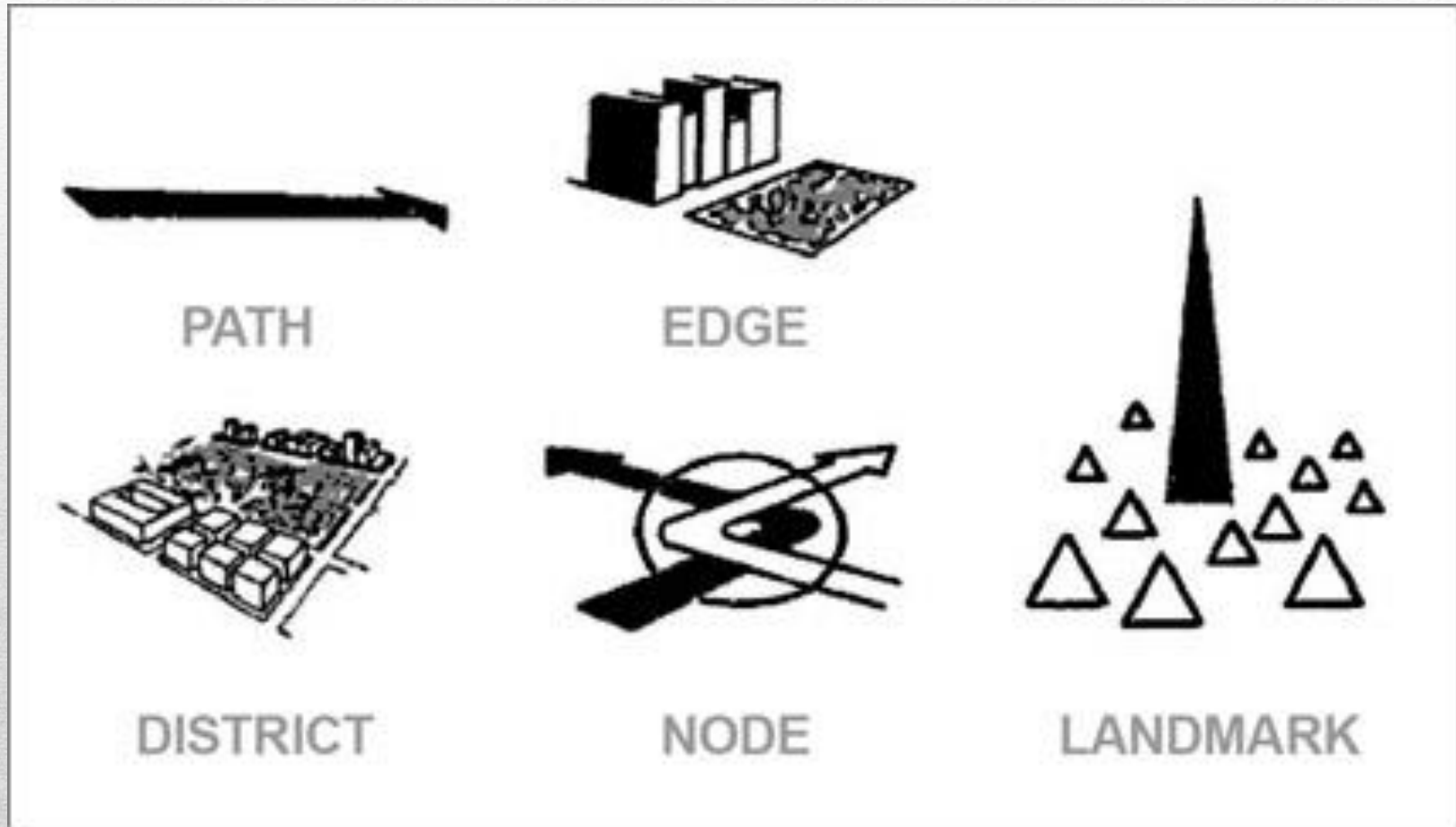
CONCEPT OF LEGIBILITY

- *It is said to be the ease with which people understand the layout of a place.*
- To understand the layout of the city, people make a mental map, which contains mental images of the city constraints.
(varies from every individual)



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Kevin Lynch found that there are five basic elements which people use to construct their *mental image* of a city:



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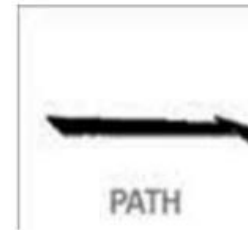
ELEMENTS OF THE CITY DEFINED BY LYNCH :

Along with actual city, mental representations contain many unique elements.

- PATHS :

Channels by which people move along.

Eg: roads, sidewalks, rails, etc.



- EDGES :

Dividing lines between 2 phases.

Eg: seashores, railway lines, etc.



- DISTRICTS :

Are medium to large sections of the city, characterized by a wealthy neighborhood.

Eg: suburbs, college campuses, etc.

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- LANDMARKS :

Point of reference. it makes one orient oneself.

E.g: signs, buildings, stores, etc.



LANDMARK

- NODES :

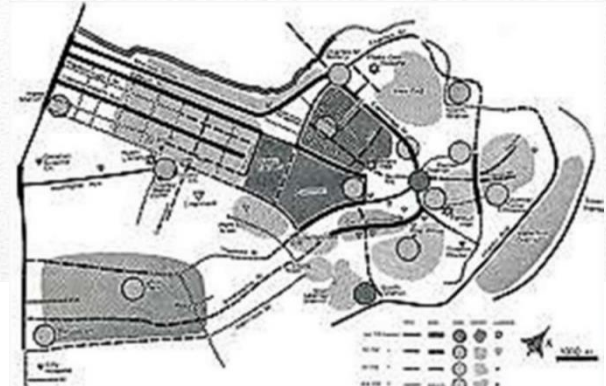
Area of strategic spots where extra focus is given.

E.g: busy intersection, popular city center, etc.



NODE

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CONCEPT OF IMAGEABILITY

- Another term introduced by Lynch, *is the quality of physical object, which gives a observer a strong vivid image.*
- High imageable city would be well formed, would contain distinct paths.
- They should be instantly recognizable.
- Well formed city is highly dependent upon the elements because, that would make the viewers their city imageable.
- *Remembering your city on images is meaningful.*
- E.g: Well designed paths include special lighting, clarity of direction, etc.
- Similarly with nodes, landmarks, districts, edges.
- These elements placed in good form, increase human ability to see and remember patterns and it is these patterns which make easier to learn.

Paths are the channels along which the observer moves. They may be streets, walkways, transit lines, canals, railroads.
-Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City.



PATHS

Edges are the linear elements not used as paths by the observer. They are the boundaries and linear breaks in continuity: shores, railroad cuts, edges of development, walls.
- Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*



Districts are the medium-to-large sections of the city which the observer mentally enters "inside of," and which are recognizable as having some common, identifying character.
- Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City



Nodes are points, the strategic spots in a city into which an observer can enter, and which are the intensive foci to and from which he is traveling. They may be primarily junctions or concentrations.
- Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*



Landmarks are another type of point-reference, but in this case the observer does not enter within them, they are external. They are usually a rather simply defined physical object: building, sign, store, or mountain.

- Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City.



MONUMENTS

The Image of The City

Mental image :

The image which the user form in his mind about the architectural and urban components of the city and their places so he can direct his motion through the city after that.

Mental image properties :

The overall mental image of an urban environment will be:

1. Partial : not covering the whole city
2. Simplified : omitting a great deal of information
3. Unique : each individual has his/her own
4. Distorted : not necessary has real distance or direction.

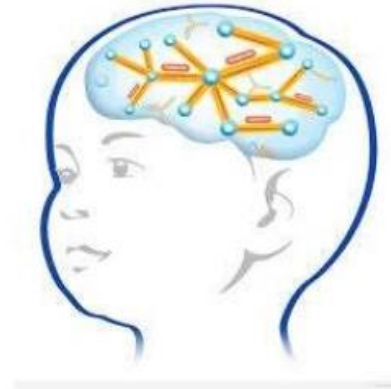


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Perception process :

Perception is a complex processing, involves gathering, organizing and making sense of information about the environment. It is shaped in five steps:

1. Pay attention
2. Thinking – organizing – keeping information
3. Giving a meaning
4. Evaluation : preferring or not
5. Recognizing and using



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Mental Schema

a schema : describes an **organized pattern of thought** that **organizes** categories of information and the relationships among them

Differentiate by :

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Culture
4. Religion
5. Personal Experience



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CREATING A MENTAL MAP

A person's perception of the world is known as a mental map.

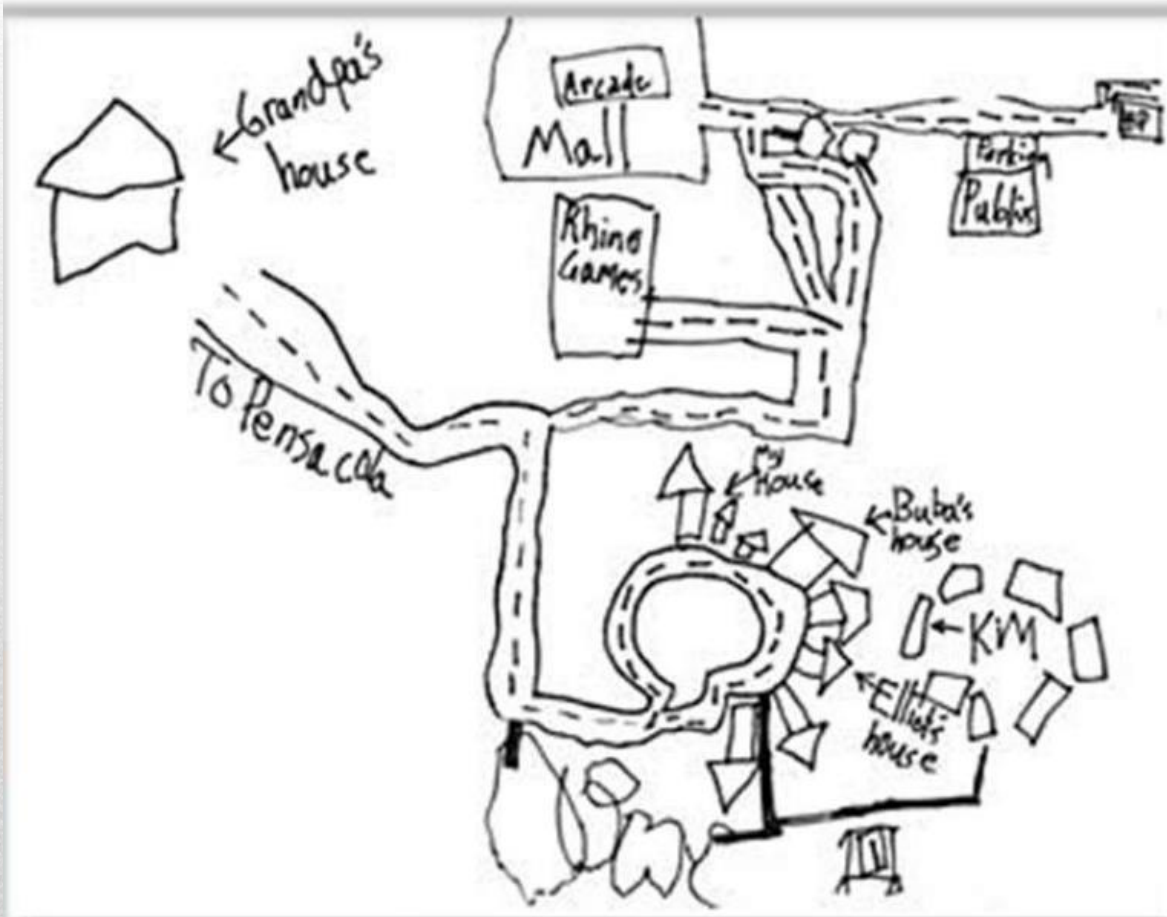
- A mental map is an individual's own map of their known world.
- Mental maps of individuals can be investigated .
- By asking for directions to a landmark or other location.
- By asking someone to draw a sketch map of an area or describe that area
- By asking a person to name as many places as possible in a short period of time.

MENTAL MAPS CAN BE EVALUATED BY:

- This can be evaluated in terms of identity, what makes this particular image unique among cities, structure.
- How the image is spatially formed and meaning.
- What values are attached to the image through which one can locate himself.

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Every person has a different mental map according to his/her understanding of the city.



Urban Spaces



Definition of urban open spaces

Urban open spaces are:

All types of spaces between buildings in the town which include paths- squares- gardens - parks





September 2, 2019



Importance of urban open spaces

Functional importance:

- They give form and shape to the city.



Importance of urban open spaces

Functional importance:

- They provide space needed for recreation.





September 2, 2019

Importance of urban open spaces

Social importance:

- They Create chances for interaction between people.





Importance of urban open spaces

Aesthetic importance:

- They Preserve natural beauty .



Importance of urban spaces

Economic importance:

- They provide places for economic activities.



Typologies of open spaces

There are many types of open spaces such as:



Water ways



parks



Green areas



Playing field



playground

Typologies of open spaces

There are many types of open spaces such as:



plaza



square



Streets

Typologies of open spaces

Water ways:

include both natural lacks, rivers and streams which represent rich wildlife habitats and offer recreational value.



Typologies of open spaces

Water ways:

include manmade lacks and canals that offer recreational value



Water ways can also be used as movement paths.

The Park :

“Is a natural preserved area available for recreation .”



The park

The landscape:

- Its landscape shall consist of meadows, waterbodies, woodlands, and open shelters.



meadows



waterbodies



woodlands



open shelters

The park :

- The Surroundings:
- The park is Surrounded by the city from one side and open to the natural lands from other sides

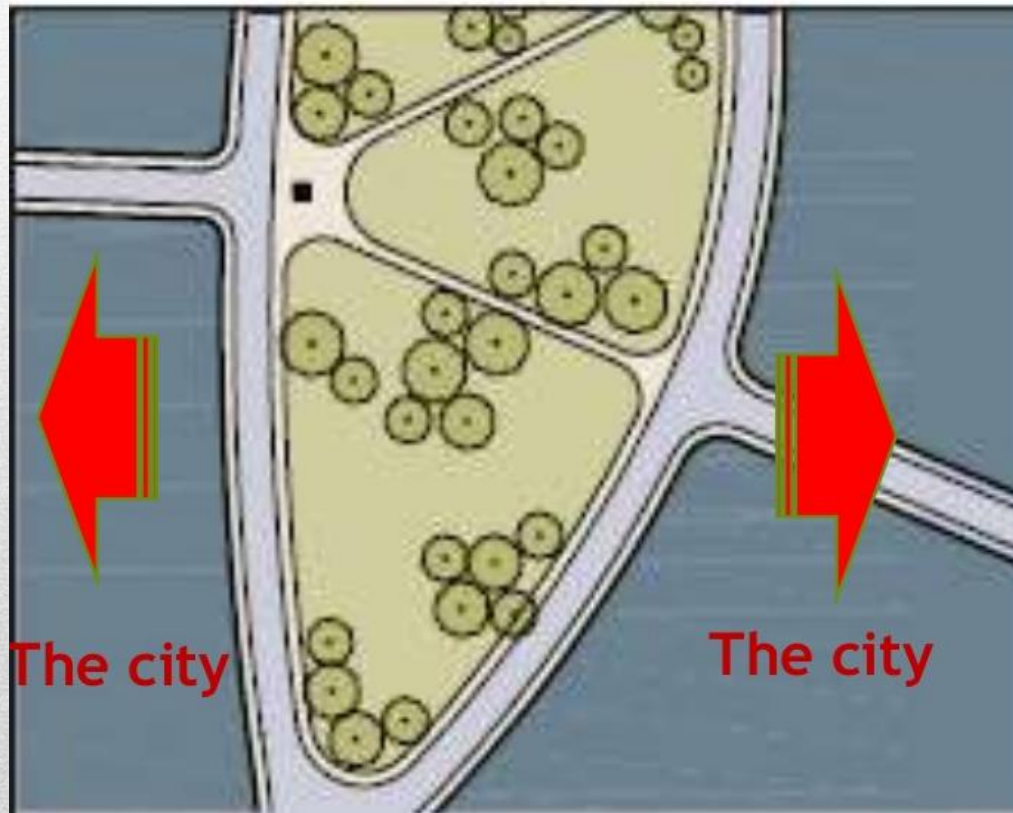


- The size:
- The minimum size of the park is 8 acres

The Green

The Surroundings:

- The green is Surrounded by the city elements from all sides.



The Green

The landscape:

- its landscape shall consist of lawn and trees



lawn



trees

The Green

- The green can be naturalistically or formally disposed.
- The size:
- The minimum size shall be 0.5 acre and the maximum size shall be 8 acres



Naturalistically disposed



formally ordered

The Playing fields

Are open space dedicated for **playing sports** such as football, basket ball, golf courses.....

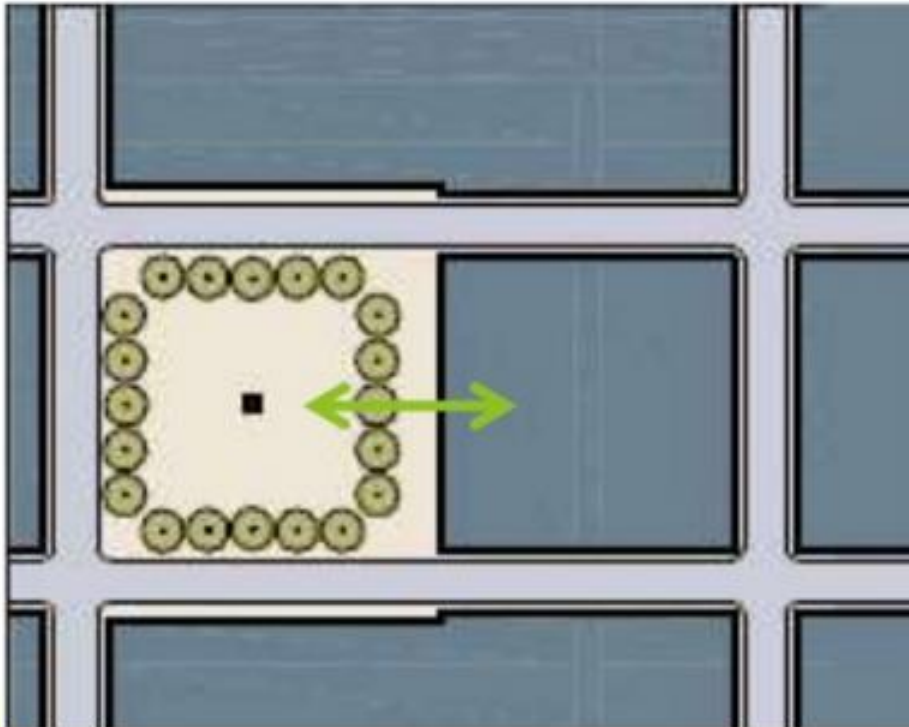


- The size:
- Depends upon the type of sport

The Plaza

The Surroundings:

- Is defined by buildings frontages and usually attached to important building.



The plaza

The landscape:

Its landscape shall consist primarily of **pavement**, Trees are optional

The size:

The minimum size shall be 0.5 acre and the maximum size shall be 2 acres



The Square

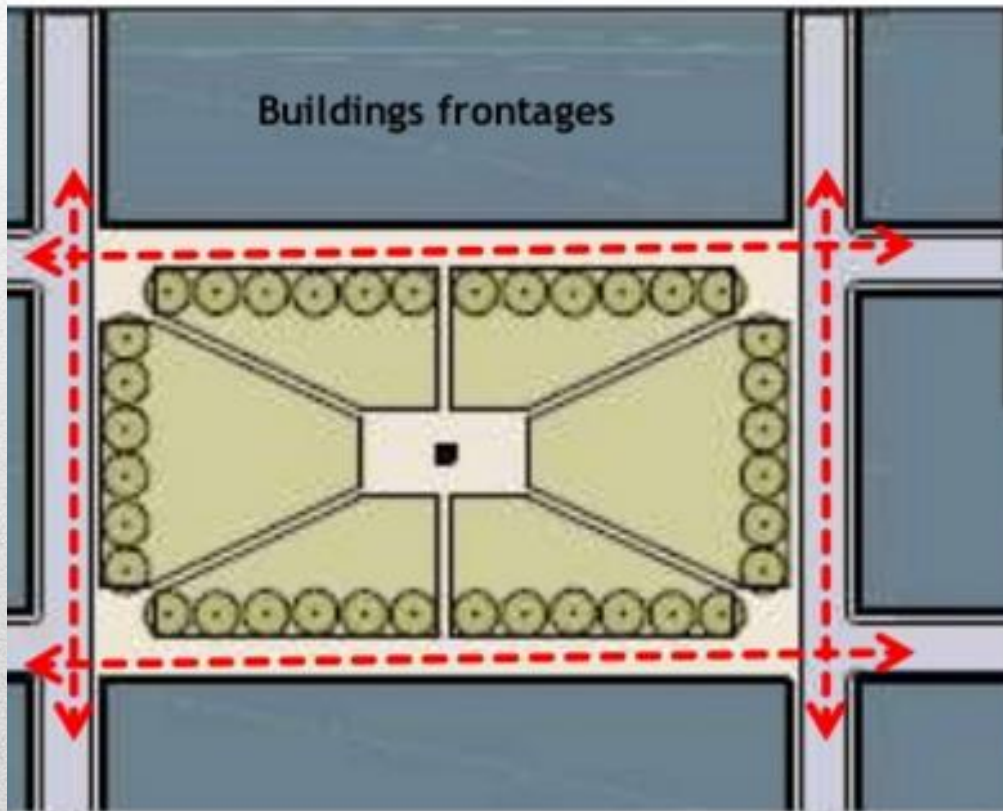
“Is an open space available for civic purposes”



The Square

The Surroundings:

- Is defined by buildings frontages and is located at the intersections of important thoroughfares.



The Square

- The landscape:

Its landscape shall consist of, lawns and trees
And shall be formally disposed.

- The size:

The minimum size shall be 0.5 acre and the maximum size shall be 5 acres



The streets

“Are the connections between spaces and places , and they are considered as spaces themselves.”

- Types of streets

There are many types of streets differs in scale, characters, types of buildings that line them such as main streets or pedestrian paths.



What makes successful spaces

1. Distinctiveness:

- Means that the spaces reflect the local character of the area and have a variety of uses, built form, features, colors and materials that give the spaces and buildings their own identity within the overall character of the surrounding urban environment.



AL Azhar park which
locates in the heart of
Islamic Cairo, its details
reflect the local
character of the area

What makes successful spaces

2. Accessibility:

- Means that Good connections lead to open spaces and good connection from open spaces to other parts of the city.



3. Safety:

- People use urban spaces without fear of tripping or falling, or being attacked.



Safe urban spaces have buildings facing onto them



Safe urban spaces have separate bicycle lanes and wide, well-lit paths

What makes successful spaces

4. Comfort:

- comfort include:
- **environmental factors** (shading from sun, wind, etc).
- **physical comfort** (comfortable and sufficient seating, etc).
- **social and psychological comfort** (privacy, etc)



Shading



Comfortable
seats

5. provision of passive and active engagement:

- passive engagement:
- “Means people stay calm and watch” passive engagement are provided in urban spaces by fountains, views, public art, and so forth.



Active engagement:

- Means more contact with others in urban spaces.
- Design of the urban space can create opportunities for contact
- the arrangement of urban elements such as benches, fountains, can encourage the social contact.





6. Enjoyable:

- Representing variety of pleasant events. Such as concerts, art exhibitions, festivals, and other social events.



Thank you for your attention...