

# DESIGN WITH THE COMMUNITY

## to produce public spaces in East Jerusalem

IPCC experience 2017-2020



This Project is Funded by



EUROPEAN UNION



ipcc

INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE & COOPERATION  
CENTER

# PLACEMAKING TOOLKIT

June, 2021

This publication has been produced with the support of the European Union under the project entitled “Facts on the Ground: Community Projects for Palestinians in East Jerusalem”

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the IPCC and it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.

**This Project is Funded by**



**EUROPEAN UNION**



**ipcc**

INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE & COOPERATION  
CENTER



# DESIGN WITH THE COMMUNITY

## to produce public spaces in East Jerusalem

IPCC experience 2017-2020



This Project is Funded by



**ipcc**  
INTERNATIONAL  
PEACE & COOPERATION  
CENTER

# PLACEMAKING TOOLKIT

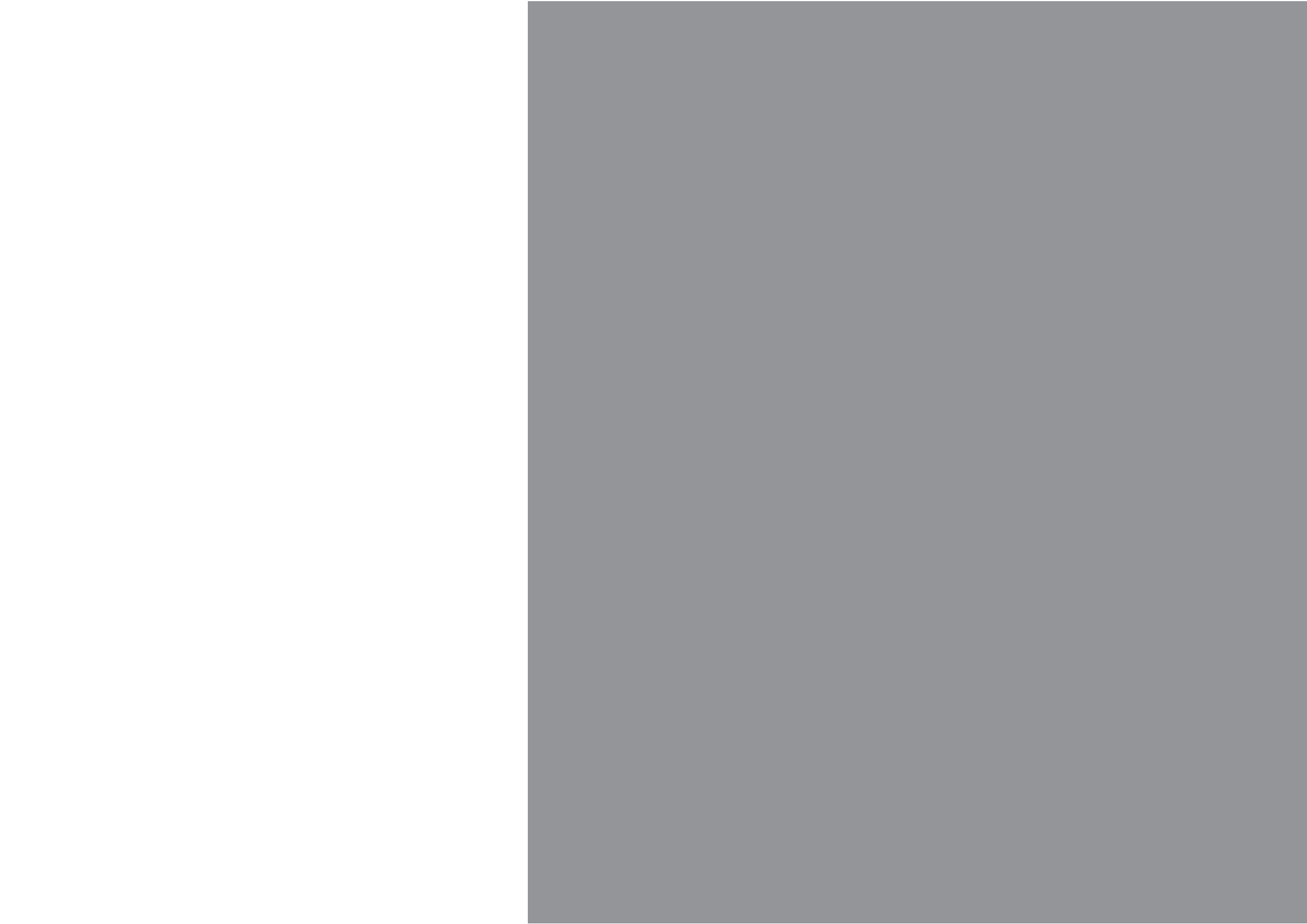
June, 2021



# Table of Content

Placemaking toolkit .....	1
Public space design in East Jerusalem.....	3
IPCC`s the place making model.....	6
IPCC`s framework for community initiatives and public space design initiatives selections criteria's.....	8
Initiatives selections criterias.....	10
Design studio in East Jerusalem.....	12
IPCC`s design studio.....	14
Selected site example 1.....	17
Selected site example 2.....	18
City park design example.....	21
Examples of city park sequences and activities .....	22
Silwan Al Bustan examples of applied design principles for park.....	24
Silwan Al Bustan examples of applied design principles for urban upgrade.....	25
The design principles to be followed.....	27
Qualities of the spaces to be reached.....	28
Urban elements effects of new design.....	29
Sequences of public space: effects of new design.....	33
Community voices at all stages.....	34
Urban signage examples.....	36





# Placemaking Toolkit

The culture of developing and using public space in Palestine in general and in Jerusalem specifically is problematic for several reasons: Israeli restrictions on Palestinian development, the shortage of public spaces, gaps between East and West Jerusalem, the fear using Israeli public spaces (especially during hostilities), and lastly, the domination of Israeli identity, character, and symbols. Additionally, Palestinians have not taken on the responsibility of designing their spaces and constructing a Palestinian identity for those spaces, thus realizing their urban rights.

Against the background of these challenges, the IPCC developed a placemaking toolkit to design public spaces with the community, using the 'place-making' tool, a multi-dimensional approach to urban planning, design, and management of public spaces.

Place-making is a continual process, aiming to engage the community at all of the following stages: developing a vision, setting priorities, designing, implementing, and activating the newly created spaces, social offerings, evaluating, improving, protecting, and fostering a communal attachment. Over the last three years, IPCC has developed place-making techniques and practices in the Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem, focusing on creating community spaces in the context of Israeli planning law, regulations and safety standards.







# Public space design in East Jerusalem

Today, the overcrowding of urban areas has arisen as a key issue across the world. Densely populated areas do not usually have the capacity for the open spaces necessary to ensure a good quality of life for inhabitants. This is the result of a multiplicity of constraints, including a lack of infrastructure and land for further development, lack of ownership, poverty, pollution, conflict and safety concerns.

Open spaces are either planned or in other circumstances emerge spontaneously. The use of these spaces for different activities including recreation and socialising by spending free time or as an daily routine, is an important part of life, and enriches the lives of the inhabitants.

We usually identify ourselves with the spaces that we spend the majority of our time; these areas shape our habits, attitudes and social behaviour, and so too, we in turn shape them.

Therefore, how we perceive and relate to these spaces depend not only on their physical attributes, such as scale, accessibility and purpose, but also on emotional cognition, the authenticity of the space. As a result we may define open spaces typology in accordance to the scale, accessibility, purpose, etc.

East Jerusalem today is one of the most challenging urban areas. It has been affected by political and economic instability, and its urban development has been severely restricted. Economic and planning constraints have limited the possibility of enhancing Palestinian life through providing open public spaces, which has led to an unsatisfying quality of life, with some neighbourhoods being void of public spaces altogether.

New Place-making initiatives have begun to enhance the living conditions of the inhabitants of East Jerusalem, through creating sustainable and attractive areas, as well as allowing for better community engagement at all stages of development. The placemaking activities were an excellent approach to enhance the living conditions of the inhabitants of East Jerusalem.

### Place-making techniques:

There is a focus on channelling community driven grass roots urban design, which allows for underutilized spaces to be re-designed by inhabitants, creating social, economic and cultural contributions by individuals to the community. A crucial principle in place-making is the fact that it is a dynamic and open process, which depends on utilising local knowledge and networking to define priorities and necessary modifications for the community. This process is important in demonstrating how small changes in construction and the creation of open spaces can yield high rewards, which is the first step in realizing lasting change.

### Practical participatory exercise:

This develops initiatives for how to promote the liveability of spaces at neighbourhood and city levels. These exercises aim to generate ideas, apply place-making techniques, and encourage groups to take responsibility and ownership of their ideas, and to later consult with the community and different stakeholders at a later stage.



Placemaking aims were set following the vision of the inhabitants, which have been distinguished in several aspects:

**Social:** activities, social interaction

**Ecological:** green areas, preserved trees, active and passive resting

**Visual:** attractive design, accessibility, vistas, relation with surroundings

**Emotional:** openness, appropriate design, gratitude, joy, excitement





## IPCC`s the Place-making model

The place making model developed by IPCC is based on three interactive components:

1. Building community capacities at neighborhood level by launching a training program aimed at building the capacity of potential Palestinian urban leaders with different educational and professional backgrounds (lawyers, architects, civil engineers, social workers, educators, business owners, and activists, among others). The training program includes practices on planning law, urban rights and interactive exercises on urban planning, public spaces, social entrepreneurship, and place-making techniques, as well as a general open discussion on how to introduce positive social change and on how communities can create and transform their own space.

2. Place-making offers a community-driven/grassroots approach to urban design, and is aimed at creating and activating spaces to enhance their social, economic, and cultural contribution to the community. The

main principle of place-making is to utilise local knowledge and networks when defining priorities and identifying needs, as well as to modify this process throughout the implementation phase.

3. Activating urban spaces: The community knows best which open spaces are needed and how they should be used. Place-making is a valuable tool to create and implement transformation initiatives and activities to make urban spaces sustainable and livable. Creating a successful, high-quality place requires the sustainable development of a model where social events and economic activities can play a major role in the development of the created places. This aims to support community outreach, generate ideas for events and support the organisation of these events.

# IPCC`s the Place-making model



## IPCC`s framework for community initiatives and public space design

IPCC developed a framework for community initiatives which include the following principles:

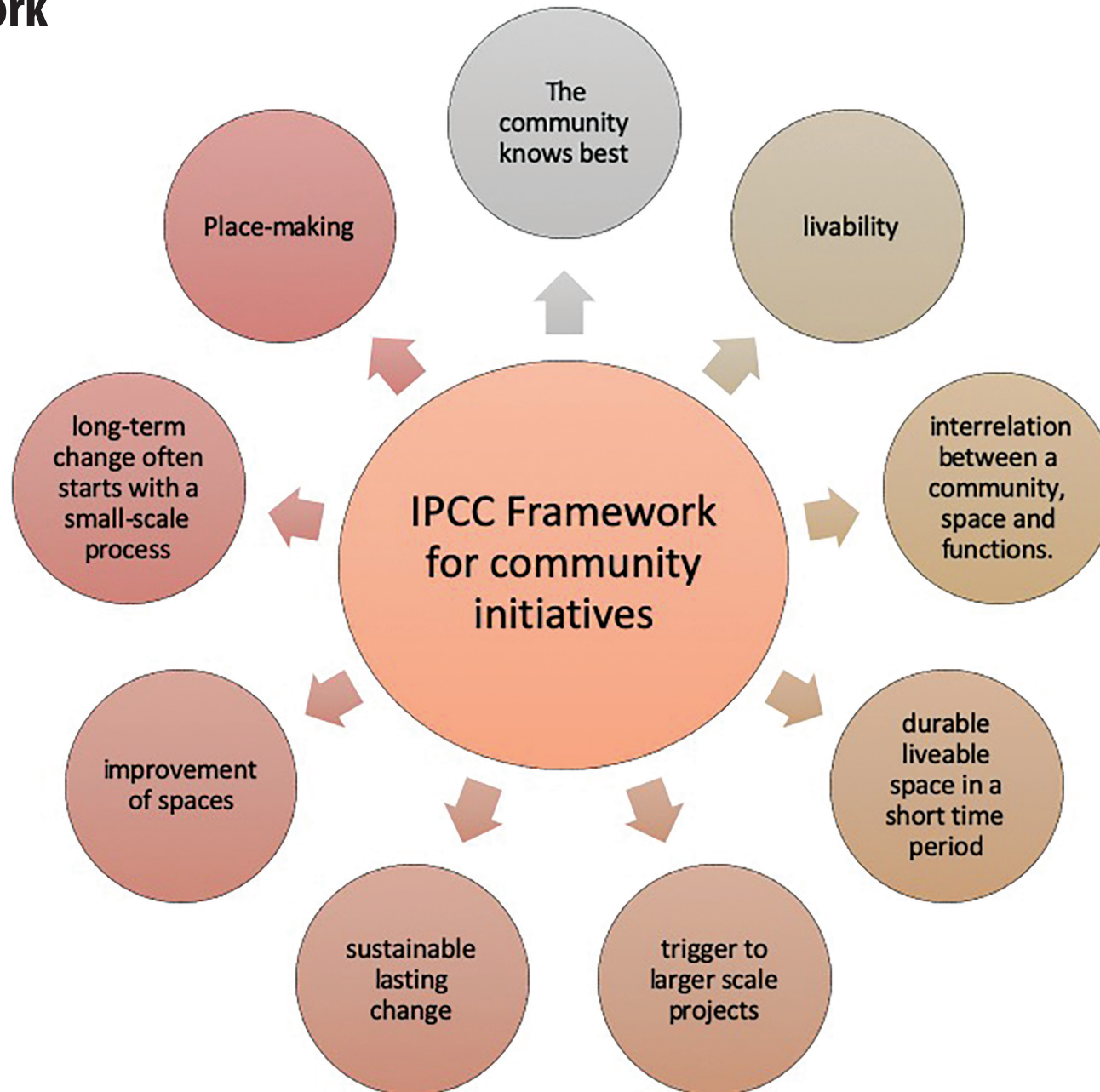
1. The community knows best, and has useful insights regarding what open spaces are and how they should be best put to use, as well as an understanding of the past experiences and constraints.
2. Improving liveability in Jerusalem begins at street and neighbourhood levels.
3. Liveability is not an infrastructure or service provision; it is a communal space and interrelation between a community, space and functions.
4. Place-making is an independent tool to develop independency from occupation, and to build a unified Palestinian identity and affiliation to spaces proposed and produced by the community.
5. One of the principles of this initiative is that the community should recognize that long-term change often starts with a small-scale process with local

ideas and affiliation, rather than big investments.

6. In Year One, the place-making process developed by this project was incremental, with production and improvement of spaces occurring over a period of time with many separate small projects.
7. Small-scale changes are the first step in realizing sustainable lasting change at the cultural level, as well as the physical level of the place-making initiatives.
8. Place-making is never a “complete” project because improvements and tweaks can always be made to increase a space’s usefulness. In some cases, it triggers larger scale projects and activities.
9. Through IPCC’s work on urbanism in general and this project in particular, we discovered that place-making can also be used to create and implement transformation initiatives and activities on a larger scale to turn open space into a durable liveable space in a short time period.



# IPCC's framework



## Initiatives selections criteria's

The process of prioritizing the initiatives was conducted as a community participatory approach involving community representatives, grassroots organizations, representatives of civil society organizations, activists, urban leaders, and beneficiaries of the urban clinic.

Initiative selection criteria:

1. Commitment of communities to engage in a process of envisioning, designing and implementing initiatives.
2. Agreement that initiatives should serve large diverse groups and incorporate multi-functional activities.
3. Should be a cohesive unit that creates greater value for the community.
4. Open to all, safe, and generates a sense of belonging and welcoming.
5. Promotes the Palestinian identity and interactions between different neighbourhoods.
6. Gives priority to vulnerable and high density neighbourhoods.
7. Initiatives should have a sustainable impact in the long-run.
8. Low-risk with possibility of high reward or impact.
9. Sustainability of space interventions and how it can be a generator for future spontaneous development on the social, economic and physical levels.

# Initiatives selection criteria



# Design Studio in East Jerusalem

*“Placemaking is the process through which we work together to shape our public spaces.*

*Rooted in community-based participation, Placemaking involves the planning, design, management and programming of shared use spaces. More than just designing spaces, Placemaking brings together diverse people (including professionals, elected officials, residents, and businesses) to improve a community’s cultural, economic, social and ecological situation”*

(<http://rethinkurban.com/placemaking/>)

*“Placemaking is the process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in.”*

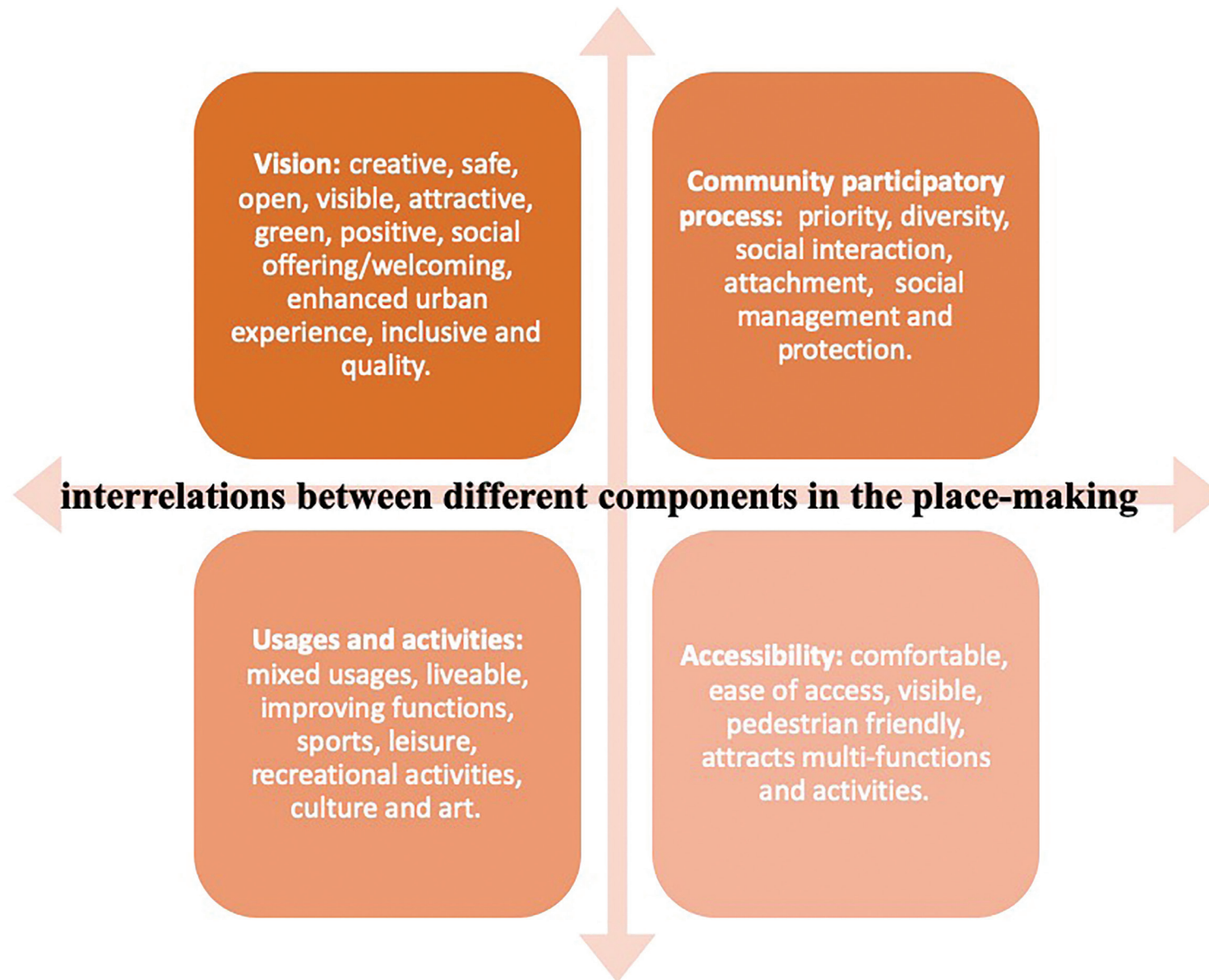
(<http://pznnews.net/media/13f25a9fff4cf18fff8419ffaf2815.pdf>)

The place-making methodology does not solely involve the design of a park or any other open space, it involves the interrelations between different components:

1. Vision: creative, safe, open, visible, attractive, green, positive, social offering/ welcoming, enhanced urban experience, inclusive and quality.
2. Community participatory process: priority, diversity, social interaction, attachment, social management and protection.
3. Usages and activities: mixed usages, liveable, improving functions, sports, leisure, recreational activities, culture and art.
4. Accessibility: comfortable, ease of access, visible, pedestrian friendly, attracts multi-functions and activities.



# Community initiatives design model in Place-making



# IPCC's Design Studio

The Design studio as a part of the Place-making initiative has been arranged in several stages, and has considered the needed interventions for public space improvement in different neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. The Design Studio participants are members of communities where the public space design is due to occur.

Proposals for public space design varied from those related to the entire public space and those related to the details. Both have been proposed as a part of Place-making process and in both cases with a participant from the community. The community have endeavoured to make their public spaces approachable, attractive, unique and welcoming.

## Place Making Design Studio

### Preparation

- Public space design aims/tasks/vision
- Define challenges
- Identify and select the site

### Evaluating neighborhood / Site

- Collect data (site assessment and analyses)
- Interview and discussion with inhabitants
- Create vision

### A public place design

- Brain Storming and discussion
- Translate the ideas into action
- Develop a conceptual design
- Presentation

### Implementation

- On site actions (implementation and usage)
- Long-term plans and management





# STAGE 1.

## *The introduction to the participants about Place-making and need for such activities within residential neighborhoods of East Jerusalem*

The introduction section discussed the challenges to introducing urban planning and design within East Jerusalem, and covered the expected results and outcomes of the design studio.

Presentations were prepared by the professionals who are involved in the planning issues in East Jerusalem, as well as by the engineers working in practice on the site and with the community. The presentations explored the current situation in East Jerusalem, and stressed the lack of maintenance and public spaces in Palestinian neighbourhoods, as well as the restrictions on the possibilities of creating public spaces in accordance with the requests of local communities.

The presentations also covered lessons learnt from previous projects and design studios, which aided participants in better understanding obstacles, restraints and the challenges of Place-making in East Jerusalem, as well as lessons to be learnt from other parts of the world.

The approach to Place-making has also been defined in this section. At the end, participants were divided into groups based on their professional profiles, and each group proposed a locality that they would be interested in working with in the future.



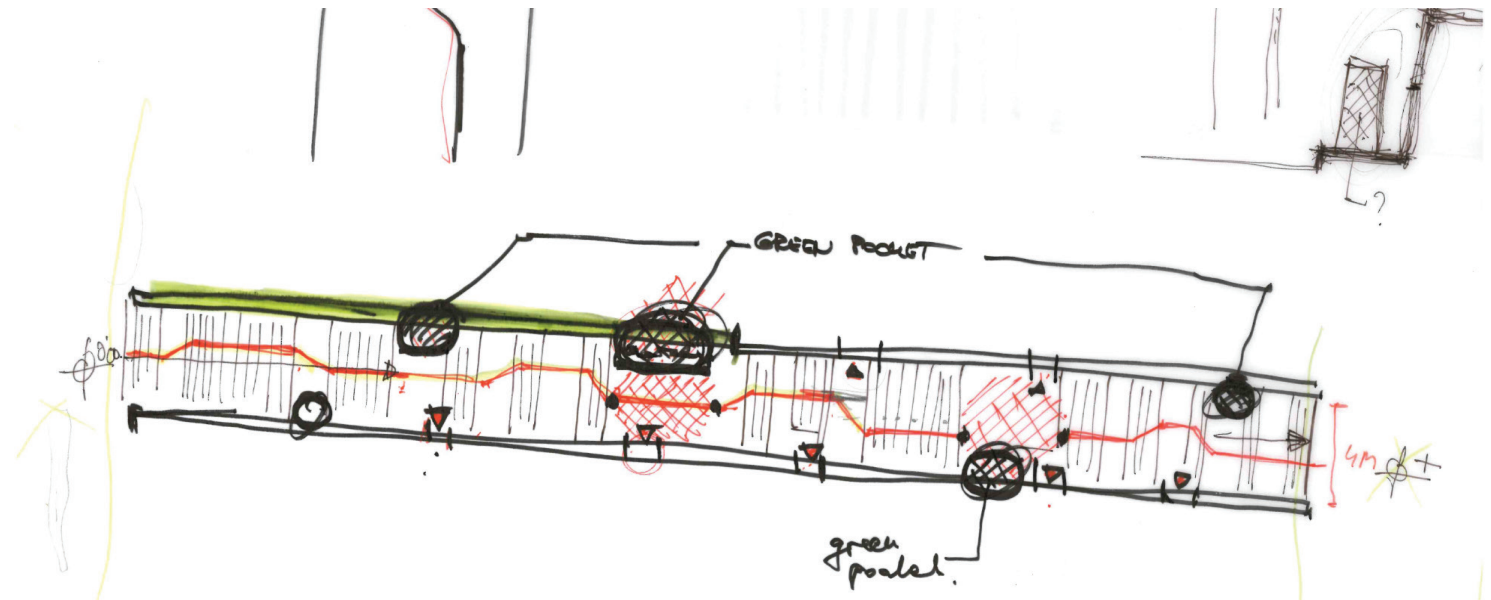
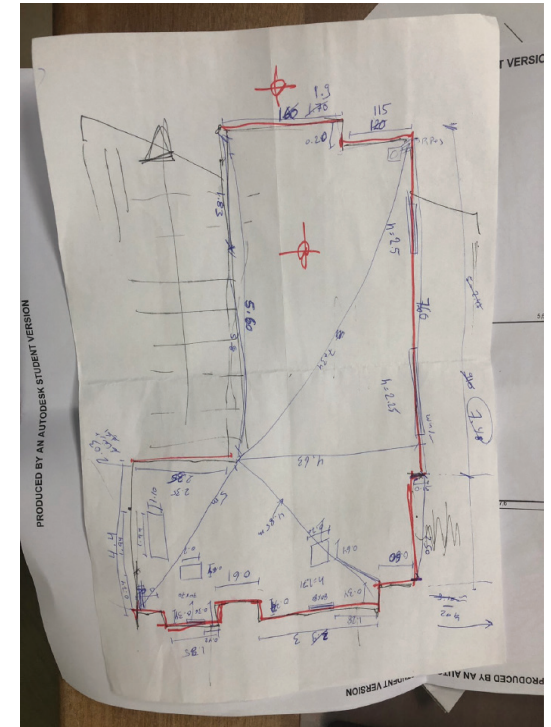
Tools used for site analysis:

- Transect walks would be a tool for mapping a community while gathering data about the area, and the places people use, as well as their behavior. The walking trail should pass through the points that are directly connected to the design area for the public spaces, and through the design area itself. This will help to identify key activities occurring, which will in turn help to envisage what the future of the area would consist of.
- Annotated sketching will help to visualise the culture and specificities of the area, which is helpful in understanding the site.
- Photo records would be used to catch the visual features of the site.

## STAGE 2.

### *Site visit and analyses*

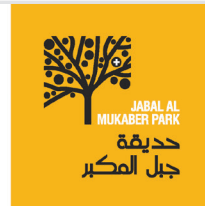
The second phase of the Design studio comprises of a visit to the sites and analysis of the different potential locations for groups working in close contact to the members of local communities. The tasks of the groups are to detect problems, needs, constraints and challenges of the area, and to analyse the site and its surroundings. All analysis is recorded in the form of on-site sketching, photos and measurements. Additionally, other methods such as interviewing community members are helpful in detecting their needs in order for Place-making to better cater to their requirements.





## SELECTED SITE EXAMPLE 1

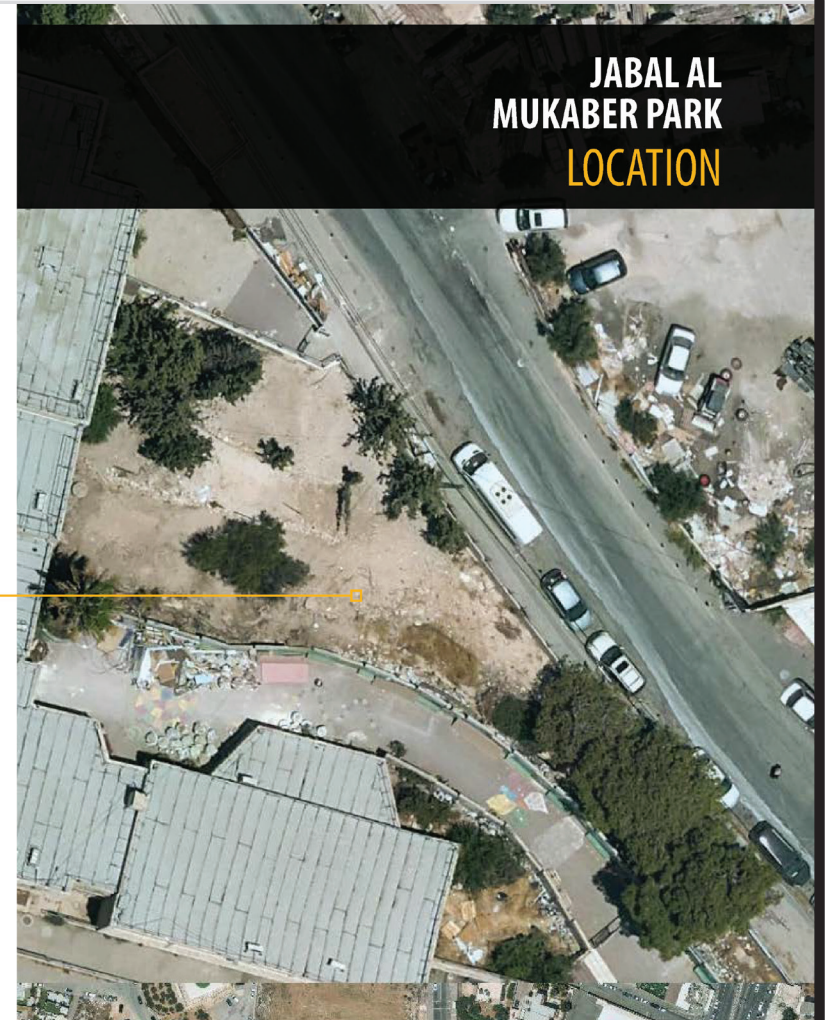
The location was selected for one of the group. It is an open green pocket with waiting area near school in Jabal Muqaber. This area suffers from total lack of public open area such as playgrounds, parks etc. Vacant plot is the only area that might be used as an open space for the local community. Also, it is located between two schools. In the interview with local community and school directors, it has been agreed to make park area used by school during half of the day while in the afternoon and free days it will be open for public use. Additionally, one free spot where usually parents waits for kids is attached to the free plot and it was part of the design task selected for the same group.



Jabal Al-Mukaber  
South of the Old city with a population of 25000

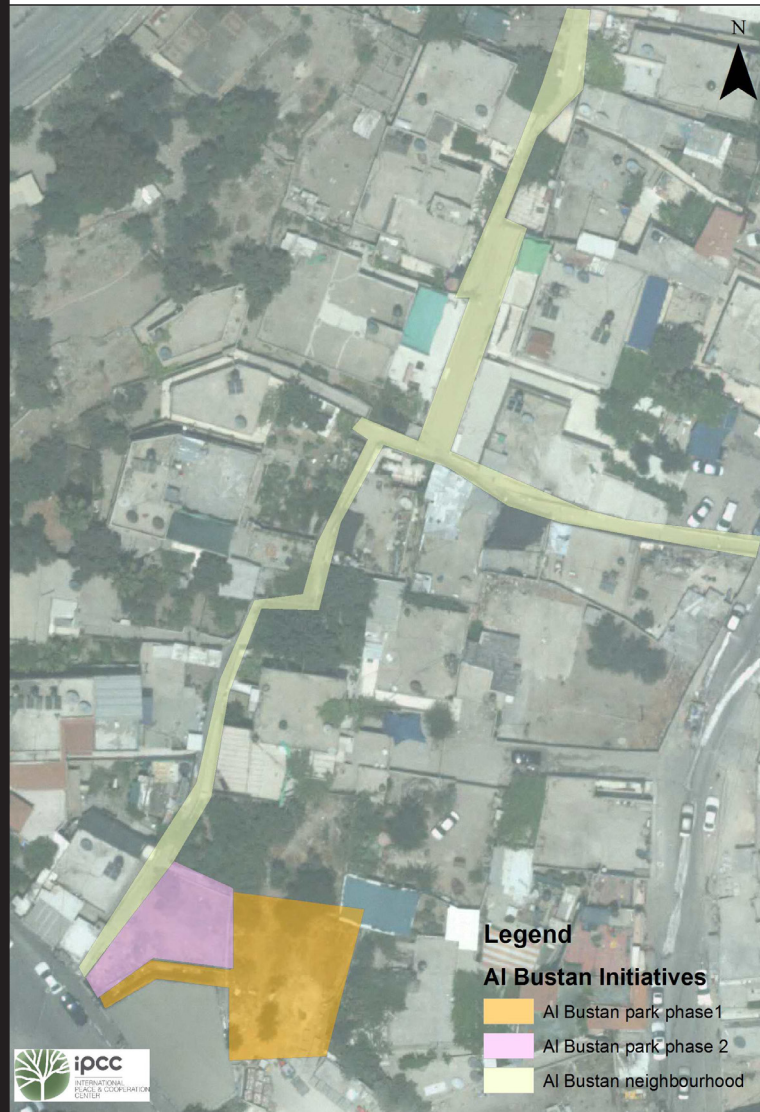


Jerusalem map





## SELECTED SITE EXAMPLE 2



One of the tasks was to design a pedestrian street in the neighborhood of Silwan called Bustan. The narrow street of varying width, the smallest measurement being 1.2 m, is set between houses and courtyards. It is used as the main passage from this area towards the main road as well a path to other houses in the area. The road contains a significant number of houses which lack the maintenance and design which would allow for the space to be more attractive. Some houses have added greenery, shade and painted walls, which can be used as a starting point for other changes to the road in addition to the other requirements stressed during interviews with the inhabitants. Many requested better decoration and use of light, as well as potentially designing a 'plaza' in the wider part of the road where people may socialise and children can play.





### STAGE 3: *Discussion and brain storming*

Groups were gathered to discuss the conditions and possible alterations to each site they have visited. The groups discussed their different perceptions of the site and compare the analysis they have conducted. As a result of the brain storming and discussions draft of possible solutions and designs for the sites was prepared in a form of sketches. Questions are raised about ideas, including those regarding design solutions, which are then accepted by the communities as well as by the Jerusalem Municipality. Ultimately, each group agreed on possible concepts for each site. One of the most important issues to be taken into account is safety, affordability, suitable material selections and issues of maintenance in line with proposals for sustainable solutions.

### STAGE 4: *Projects development*

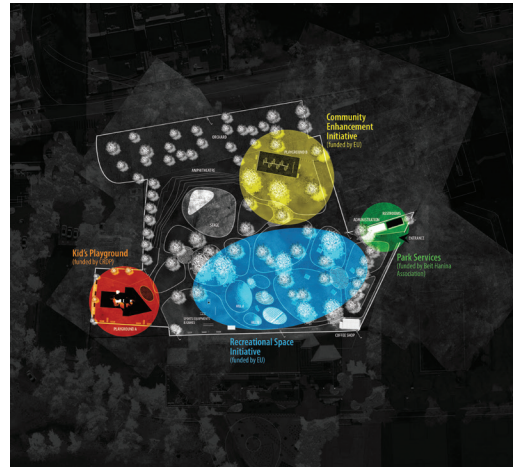
Project development included in particular drawings, diagrams and 3D preparation to present design ideas. At the end of this stage all the drawings for the final presentation were to be ready. Participants used standard software tools such as 3D studio Sketchup, AutoCAD, and Photoshop.

### STAGE 5: *Results presentation*

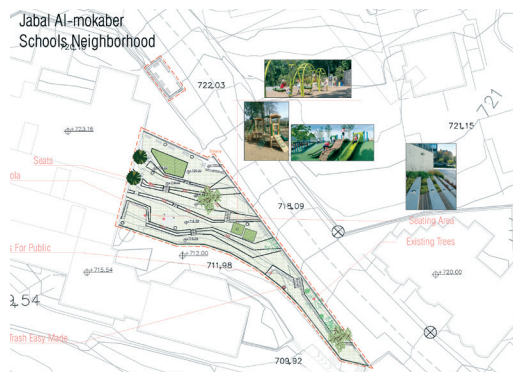
During the last phase, the participants presented their work through PowerPoint presentations. Each demonstrated a conceptual design, which is then discussed and commented on by participants and coordinators, in order to establish a background for future project development before it is shared with the wider community.



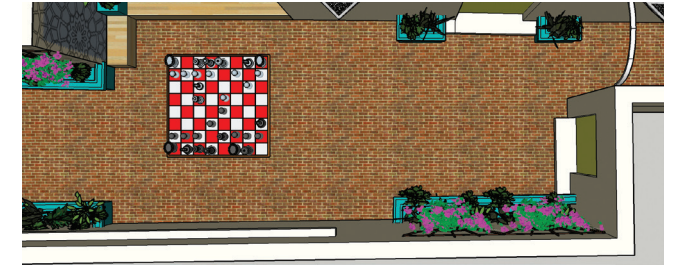
Studio discussion



Master plan



### Studio results







# City Park Design example

City park located in Beit Hanina encompasses an area of 7500 m<sup>2</sup>. The concept design was prepared in close contact and cooperation with the community, and was based on the idea of integrating three different spots for socializing, and physical activities and recreation.

The design was created without visible barriers between these areas, all of which are connected by walking paths. The idea behind this was to create a flourishing and picturesque open space, with playgrounds as well as fitness and picnic areas.

The effects of the natural morphology were achieved by applying small hilly spots, and enhancing the green and natural image of the park, through treating all trees and natural greenery with care. This will be an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a green oasis within a densely built-up area.



CITY PARK





## Sport activities

### Playgrounds with equipment



## Examples of City park sequences and activities

### Recreation







**Visual effects of  
natural  
terrain morphology**

**Picnic area**



**Colour used to emphasis  
different activities**



**Environmental  
education**





**Visual effects of  
Colours**



**Outdoor theater**



**Node of the  
space**

# SILWAN AL BUSTAN

## Examples of applied design principles for park

**Sport**





## Refurbishment of the existing elements



## Urban corners



**SILWAN AL BUSTAN**  
**Examples of applied**  
**design principles for urban**  
**upgrade**

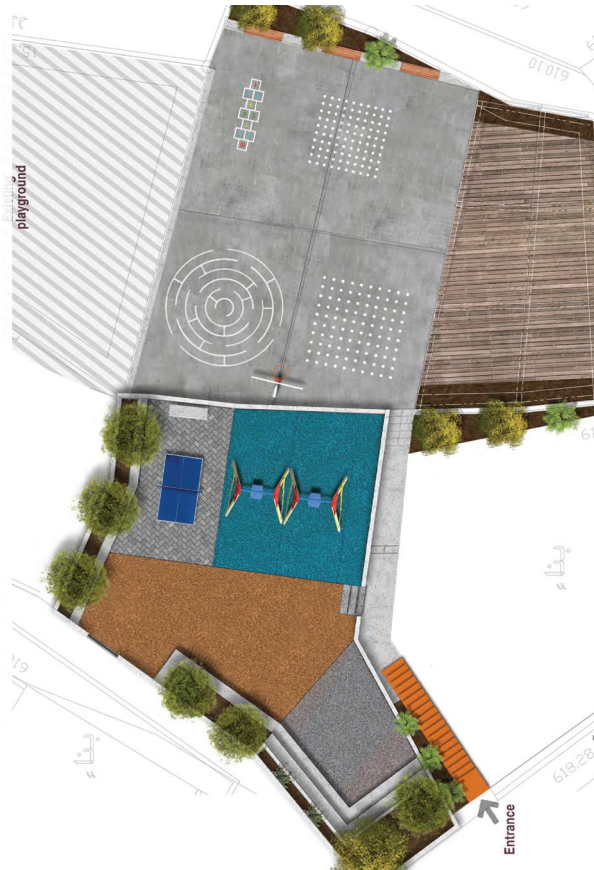
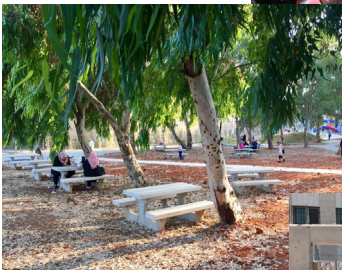


**SENSORY  
EXPERIENCE**

**PHYSICAL**

**ACTIVITIES**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



## **The design principles to be followed:**

- To use natural and recycling materials, compatible with the surrounding urban textures
- Design should not follow uniformity and repetition, but rather to give opportunities for each community to make its own stamp to the open spaces
- To provide more multifunctional spaces
- To follow exiting relation of the elements and spaces
- No imposed sculptural design to be applied within the parks but rather to give spaces to the street arts
- To pay attention to the approaches, vistas (toward and from the public spaces)
- To provide spaces suitable for elderlies, handicaps, etc.
- To have advanced spaces suitable for bikes (paths and parking plots)
- Parks should be following idea of enhancing green plots (trees, grass etc.)



## Qualities of the spaces to be reached:

### **Physical appearance: form**

The physical appearance of the public spaces is a quality which must be expressed through following:

Attractive Form (new design which reflects unique ideas and utilizes public space functions)

Human Scale (new spaces should be designed following anthropometry)

Relationship to the surrounding (no harm to the natural and built surrounding should be imposed, nor by physical interventions nor by the future usage, better connection to the surroundings should be provided and increased impact of the green )

Hierarchy (no dominance or accentuated spaces)

Local texture (application of appropriate materials, texture, colors, etc.)

### **Activities: more functions, vibrant node in the area, venue for social activities and events**

More variety in activities will have a positive impact on mental and physical health, socializing, social inclusion, economic status of the area etc.

### **Sensory experience: sounds, smell, touch and vision**

The quality of the space is important, and so the sensory experiences of inhabitants should be positive and create a welcoming atmosphere, engaging all senses.

Sound: no unpleasant noises should be allowed. The rustle of greenery and flowing of water may increase joy and relaxation.

Vision: to experience unique space by its appearance, to have no visual barriers.

Touch: texture of the used materials may increase a positive impact on overall sensory experience, impact of greenery also helps to engage this sense as well.

Smell: the experience of the place may be emphasized by the smell which may come from the picnic area, barbeque, plants and trees etc.



*Urban graffiti*  
*Cultural motives*  
*Welcoming space*

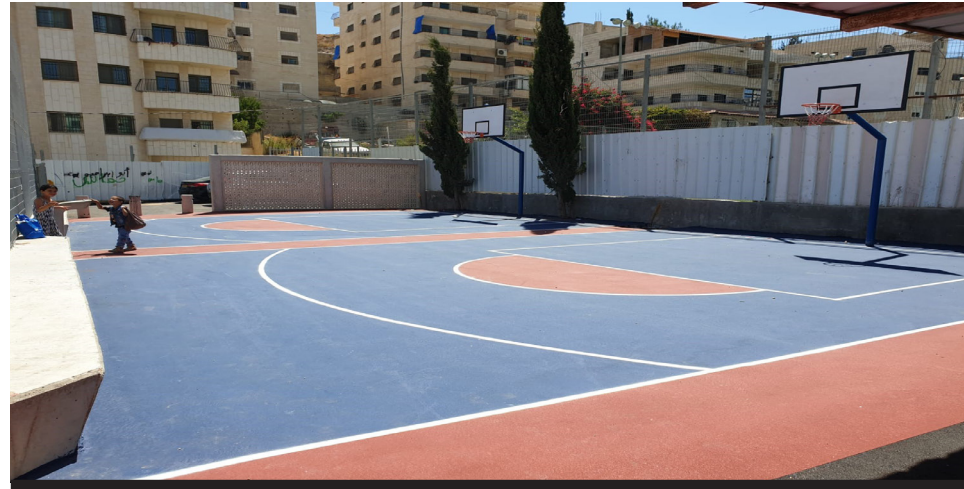
*Steel signs*  
*Visual effects*  
*Urban Stamp*  
*Focal point*



*House owner signs*  
*Unique design*  
*Decorative element*

**URBAN ELEMENTS**  
**effects of new design**





Playgrounds for different sports  
*Visual improvement*  
*Positive effects on youth behavior*

Outdoor  
 learning facility  
*Visual improvement,*  
*Ecologically acceptable*  
*materials*  
*Pleasant atmosphere*



Urban furniture  
*Simple design*  
*Ecologically acceptable*  
*materials*



Wood planter for  
 herbal plants  
*Decorative effects*  
*Ecologically*  
*acceptable*



**URBAN ELEMENTS**  
**effects of new design**





Wood planter for green roof  
*Positive visual effects*  
*Environmentally acceptable materials*



Planter for the flowers  
*Visual effects*  
*More pleasant atmosphere*



Waiting area  
*Urban improvement*  
*Functional and decorative element*

**URBAN ELEMENTS**  
**effects of new design**



Playgrounds surrounded by trees  
*Environmental improvement*  
*Healthy surrounding for*  
*-children*

Easy access  
*Open and welcoming sequence*



Activity corner  
*Decorative and*  
*playful effects*  
*safe playground*







Paths  
*Simple pavements  
walkable and  
accessible area*

Picnic area among the trees  
*Positive social attitudes*



Sitting area along the walking paths  
*Free views  
Easy access*

## SEQUENCES OF PUBLIC SPACE effects of new design



# COMMUNITY VOICES AT ALL STAGES

Community members of different age groups are actively participating during all stages including site selection, setting aims, discussions, choosing best solutions, defining design, implementation, and as a final users.

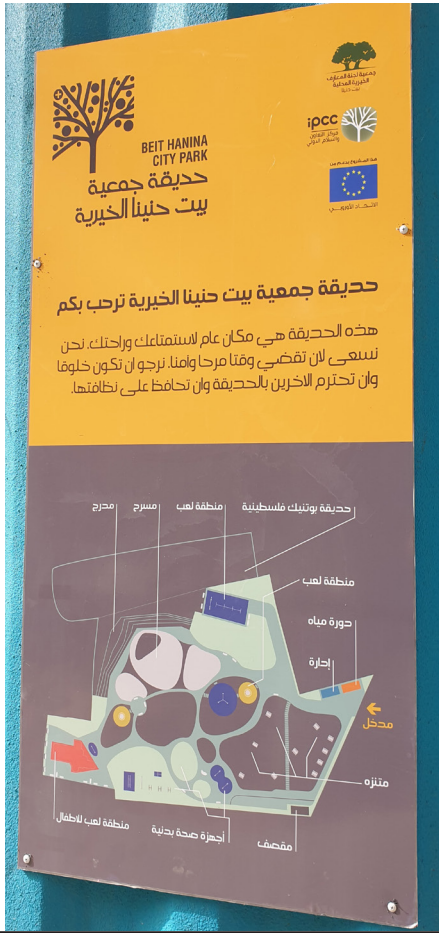




## COMMUNITY VOICES AT ALL STAGES







## URBAN SIGNAGE examples informative and easily perceptual boards

