



ERASMUS+ CROSS

CITIZENSHIP AND RECOVERY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBURBAN SPACE

URBAN REGENERATION HANDBOOK

By 'urban regeneration' we mean an intervention capable of generating a recovery of compromised city spaces, generating redevelopment from both an architectural-structural and a social, cultural and environmental point of view. This term is inextricably linked to the evolution of the cities themselves and their history. In fact, it is developed as a result of the expansion of the cities and the production and development of new contradictions, from the need to intervene on unhealthy spaces born as a result of the process of industrialisation and expansion, to the need to intervene to find new destinations for old structures or abandoned spaces, following a change in the economic and productive fabric of the city.

With the affirmation of environmental policies aimed at reducing the impact of construction and soil consumption, "urban regeneration" becomes a central element in the European debate precisely because of aspects of spatial recovery, conversion and sustainability related to it.

However, we must be careful not to confuse it with the term, 'urban renewal', which often refers to interventions mainly of destruction and reconstruction of a more or less openly speculative nature, neglecting the dimension of sustainability and social impact.

Regeneration also brings with it many contradictions, pointed out by numerous sociologists or researchers, such as the uncritical exaltation of decorum as the central element of city authority interventions, often generating operations that are only in favour of a certain segment of the affluent population, coupled with the risk of gentrification and the consequent removal of the weaker segments of the population from the neighbourhoods or 'redeveloped' areas.



1) BE CREATIVE

Be able to see a space for what it could be, and not for what it already is, imagining an intervention capable of placing citizens and their needs at the centre, making spaces and cities citizen-friendly. Building spaces to be in and not just spaces to walk through.

2) IMPROVE SPACES

Choose a space that needs to be converted, a space that can be improved or modified according to the needs of the people who actually live in it.



3) PREFER HOLISTIC APPROACH



The objective of regeneration is the reuse or reorganisation of spaces that have already been built. The process not only takes care of the buildings but also of the people. The intervention must hold together several factors: environmental aspect, social aspect, physical aspect. Intervening in city spaces means intervening in the lives of the people who live these spaces, working towards a project that sees the contribution of different professions and disciplines

Regeneration

intervention in the physical-environmental-social-economic space



Redevelopment

intervention in physical space

4) PAY ATTENTION TO ACCESSIBILITY

Spaces should be usable by all and everyone without distinction of gender, ethnicity, economic status, sexual orientation and religion, taking into account people with limited mobility or walking difficulties in the first place. Building accessible and safe spaces is the first step to building cities that are truly home to all.



5) PROMOTE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Placemaking is a multidisciplinary approach to planning, design and management of public spaces. Placemaking seeks to utilise all the resources of a local community, both the material and, more importantly, the immaterial, such as inspiration, ideas, unexpressed potential and knowledge of the area, with the aim of building spaces that have an identity and a function.



Spaces that can improve the life of the city and neighbourhoods, both in terms of urban vitality, promotion of culture, happiness and well-being. To do this, it is essential that groups of active citizens. They become 'place makers', and actively participate in all phases of design and intervention, not only to increase the chance that needs will be met, but also to create a sense of collective attachment and responsibility to the product of the process.

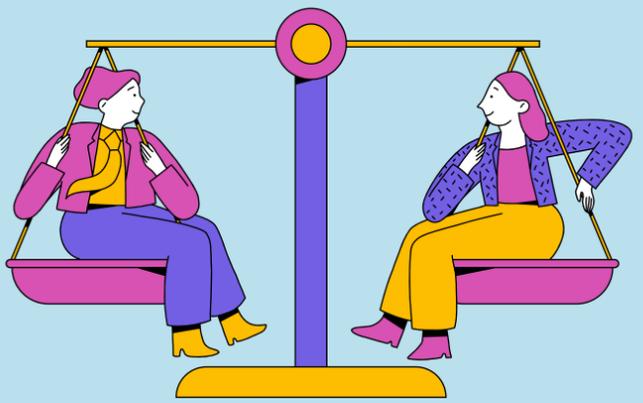
6) BE SUSTAINABLE

The objective of urban regeneration is to contribute to making cities sustainable and more people-friendly by counteracting the frenetic and indiscriminate use of building land. The intervention must therefore be sustainable and not involve further consumption of land or other resources. The environmental impact must be as limited as possible, and in the case of new constructions one must always try to use materials that are as sustainable as possible. One can, for example, imagine the presence of plants or trees to compensate for new constructions, or imagine in the conversion of spaces, some zones of intervention dedicated exclusively to the reduction of impact through practices that can be considered a tool to make the city more resilient with respect to climate change.



7) RESPECT THE CONTEXT

The intervention must fit into the local framework and not attempt to distort the context. To regenerate means to bring new life, but this must always be done taking into account the whole within which it is placed. This is why it is important to know the identity of the place in which we intervene, to enhance its culture and history, bringing ideas that can mix and contaminate with these experiences, with respect and making themselves available.



8) SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE SCALE

Interventions can be on different scales, from the regeneration of a square to the installation of a small sculpture or the creation of a mural, what counts is the path and the reasoning behind the intervention. Even a bench in a park can be a regeneration intervention, as long as it activates or has activated all the aspects we have now identified.

