

Problem Statement and Research Question

Interacting directly or indirectly with blue spaces like rivers, canals, harbours and lakes, has a positive impact on people's mental and physical wellbeing. When public access to blue space is provided, and when the space is well designed, everyone enjoys the benefits. If waterfront projects are to contribute to making environmentally just cities, their design has to respond to subjective criteria that account for social and environmental concerns.

Urban planning and development influence who uses (blue) space, and how. As such, blue spaces should be designed to support a diversity of *users*, and a diversity of *uses*.

Blue spaces which are not designed to be inclusive to people of different ages, genders, cultures, incomes, abilities, etc., reinforce inequalities within the city, and disproportionately affect the lower classes.

Given the above, my research aims to answer the following question: what physical and experiential qualities are necessary for a waterfront project to contribute to achieving the goal of environmental justice in the city?