

Sensibility Urbanism

Measuring Invisible Urban Values

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Proposer of:

- Harmonism
- Sensibility Urbanism

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Abstract

Modern urban planning relies heavily on quantitative indicators such as population density, economic productivity, and infrastructure performance. However, many essential qualities of urban life remain difficult to describe through numerical measures alone.

Sensibility Urbanism is an urban theory proposed by Kazuto Kojima that focuses on the sensory and experiential dimensions of cities. The framework introduces qualitative indicators that capture atmosphere, perception, and everyday experience.

Sensibility Urbanism is proposed as a new urban theory and measurement framework for understanding experiential urban values.

The theory is based on Harmonism, a philosophical concept that explores the ambiguous space between binary oppositions such as efficiency and richness or optimization and experience.

The Sensibility Urbanism Framework consists of three elements:

- Sensibility Metrics
- Urban Indicators
- Experimental Platforms

Together, these components provide a structured approach to observing and describing invisible urban values.

1 Introduction

Urban planning and development have traditionally relied on quantitative indicators such as land use efficiency, transportation performance, and economic productivity. While these indicators are essential, they do not fully capture the experiential qualities of cities.

Modern urban planning increasingly recognizes the importance of human experience, yet systematic methods for describing qualitative urban values remain limited.

Sensibility Urbanism addresses this gap by introducing a structured framework for observing and describing sensory urban experience.

The theory proposes that cities should be understood not only as physical systems but also as sensory environments shaped by everyday perception and behavior.

2 Harmonism: Philosophical Foundation

Sensibility Urbanism is based on Harmonism, a philosophical concept proposed by Kazuto Kojima.

Harmonism explores the ambiguous space between binary oppositions such as:

- YES and NO
- 0 and 100
- Efficiency and richness
- Optimization and experience

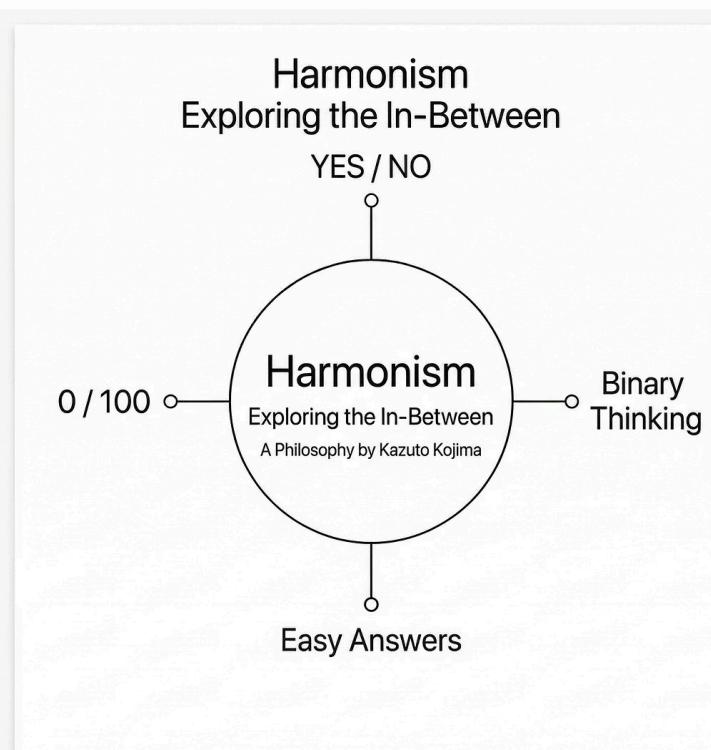
Rather than seeking definitive answers, Harmonism emphasizes continuous exploration within the in-between space.

This approach recognizes that human perception is inherently incomplete and that meaningful understanding often emerges through ambiguity.

Harmonism provides the philosophical foundation for Sensibility Urbanism.



Figure 1. Harmonism as a philosophical framework explores the ambiguous space between binary oppositions, providing the conceptual basis for Sensibility Urbanism.



3 Sensibility Urbanism Concept

Sensibility Urbanism proposes that cities can be understood through sensory experience.

The theory focuses on qualitative aspects of urban environments including:

- Atmosphere
- Memory
- Bodily perception
- Spatial awareness
- Everyday behavior

Rather than replacing quantitative urban indicators, Sensibility Urbanism complements them by introducing experiential indicators.

This approach allows invisible urban values to be observed and discussed.

4 Sensibility Metrics Model

Sensibility Metrics provide a structured model for describing urban experience.

The model consists of five domains:

Bodily Perception

Physical sensations experienced while moving through the city.

Emotional Memory

Personal memories connected to places.

Atmospheric Awareness

Recognition of subtle environmental qualities.

Spatial Experience

Perception of spatial relationships and movement.

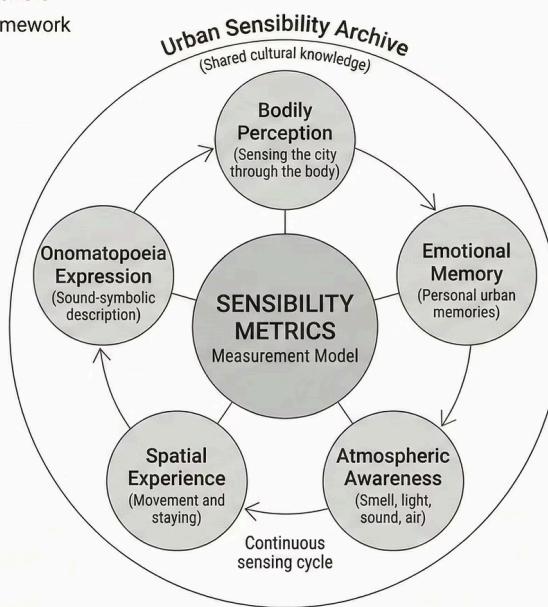
Onomatopoeia Expression

Use of intuitive and sensory language to describe places.

Sensibility Metrics Model

Measuring Invisible Urban Value

Kazuto Kojima / Sensibility Urbanism Framework



5 Urban Sensibility Indicators

Sensibility Urbanism introduces qualitative indicators that describe urban experience.

Time Experience

- Sunset Staying Rate
- Evening Atmosphere Awareness
- Seasonal Change Awareness

Behavioral Sensibility

- Detour Impulse Count
- Walking Drift Distance
- Pause Frequency

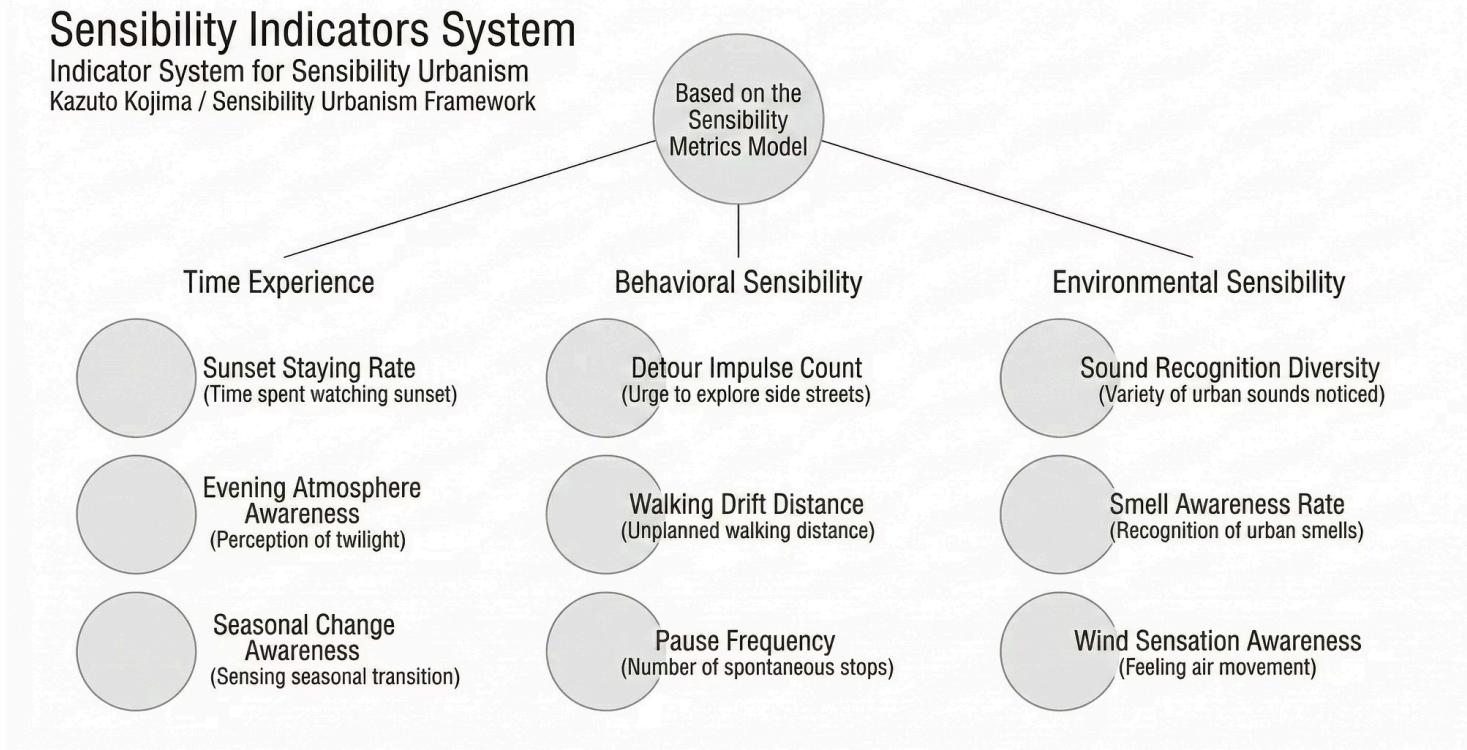
Environmental Sensibility

- Sound Recognition Diversity
- Smell Awareness Rate
- Wind Sensation Awareness

These indicators provide a structured method for observing sensory urban values.

| Category | Indicator | Description |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Time Experience | Sunset Staying Rate | Duration of staying to observe sunset |
| Time Experience | Evening Atmosphere Awareness | Recognition of evening environmental shifts |
| Time Experience | Seasonal Change Awareness | Perception of seasonal transitions |
| Behavioral Sensibility | Detour Impulse Count | Frequency of spontaneous route changes |
| Behavioral Sensibility | Walking Drift Distance | Distance of unplanned walking deviation |
| Behavioral Sensibility | Pause Frequency | Number of spontaneous stops during movement |
| Environmental Sensibility | Sound Recognition Diversity | Range of distinct sounds identified |
| Environmental Sensibility | Smell Awareness Rate | Frequency of conscious smell recognition |
| Environmental Sensibility | Wind Sensation Awareness | Awareness of wind as environmental quality |

Table 1. Summary of Urban Sensibility Indicators across three categories.



6 Sensibility Urbanism Framework

The Sensibility Urbanism Framework connects theory and practice.

It consists of:

Co-Creation

Participation by residents and communities.

Prototyping

Small-scale urban experiments.

Experimental Platforms

Creative hubs such as FabCafe Osaka.

Social Implementation

Real urban projects.

Sensibility Metrics

Measurement of experiential values.

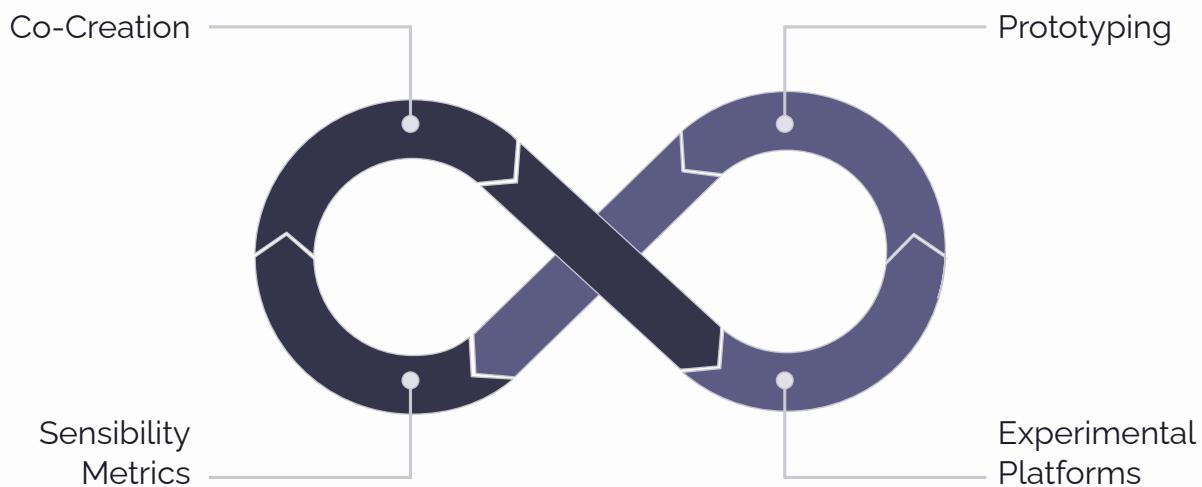


Figure 2. The Sensibility Urbanism Framework connects five components in a cyclical process linking theory, experimentation, and practice.

Sensibility Urbanism Framework

An Urban Theory by Kazuto Kojima (Harmonism)

City / Society
Urban Environment System

Sensibility Metrics

Measurement Model
Measuring Invisible
Urban Values

SENSIBILITY URBANISM

Urban Theory
Sensibility Urbanism Framework
Kazuto Kojima / Harmonism

Co-Creation

(People and community participation)

FabCafe Platform

(Experimental urban laboratory)

Prototyping

(Small experiments in the city)

Social Implementation

(Real urban projects)

7 Applications

Sensibility Urbanism has been applied in urban research and experimental programs.

Applications include:

- Sensibility-based urban workshops
- Community research projects
- Experimental urban programs
- Creative urban prototyping

These applications demonstrate how qualitative urban values can be explored in practice.



8 Relationship to Existing Urban Theory

Sensibility Urbanism relates to several fields including:

- Human-centered urban design
- Experiential urban research
- Participatory planning
- Urban phenomenology

However, Sensibility Urbanism differs in its emphasis on structured qualitative indicators.

9 Conclusion

Sensibility Urbanism provides a bridge between philosophy, measurement, and urban practice.

By introducing structured qualitative indicators, the framework allows invisible urban values to be observed, discussed, and shared.

This approach opens new possibilities for urban research and city development in the 21st century.