

# The impact of the digital future on the design of public urban spaces

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# Introduction

- Advanced technologies have the capacity to restore the role of genius , bring unity to the world and solve all our problems
- Technology is continuing to shape and mould our social, political and physical environments
- Digital technologies are used to govern cities and their infrastructure, to enhance our understanding of the urban environment, in the development of our social relationships and cultural identity, in health care and education, and in the interaction of citizens with government

- From spatial distributions (multi-media clusters, digital growth centers, silicon valleys);
- To telecommuting affecting flows and movements of people and information;
- To changing patterns of social networks;
- The urban implications occur on a number of levels: globally, nationally, regionally as well as specific localities.

- “can we utilize the developments in technology to inform change in the way places are designed and built, to work together with urban design and the physical urban infrastructure to develop socially cohesive, liveable, sustainable environments?”

1. The layer of digital information – augmenting space;
2. Physical installations
3. Social networks and communication
4. Community participation in planning engaging the networked audience.

# Layer of digital information – Augmenting space

- Data layer is changing relationship between people and the spaces they inhabit and this will in turn impact on the shape and development of urban form.
- ‘Augmented spaces have been defined as the physical space overlaid with dynamically changing information, multimedia in form and localized for each user’

# Museum of London

- The application called Museum of London Street Museum allows you to view historic images of the city which co-ordinate with your physical location.
- The images include everyday situations as well as major events like The Great Fire of 1666.
- This new layer of historic information across the City provides a 'unique perspective' of old and new London.

# Physical installations

- large screens
- automatic tellers
- digital signage
- surveillance cameras
- the missing elements such as, the removal of the public telephone booth



- the seven principles of good design set out in the Urban Design Compendium
  - Places for People,
  - Enrich the existing,
  - Make connections,
  - Work with the landscape,
  - Mix uses and form,
  - Manage the investment
  - Design for change

# Places for people

Can be interpreted in relation to ICTs and particularly public screens in terms of the contribution they can make towards enhancing the feeling of place and the inclusion of urban dwellers within the space

# Enrich the existing

By careful placement and design technologies can enrich the existing and extend the relationships between existing elements, content of the screen or technical imagery is an important consideration when assessing this principle, along with the physical dimensions of screens. Screens can animate an existing gathering point our waiting area with news, images or entertainment in a visual and auditory form.

# Making connections

Relates to movement and flow of people through a place, interactive maps and navigational tools can enhance this experience and issues such as congestion, lines of sight and areas of movement need to be assessed in light of behaviour around a screen as a point of interest.

# Working with the landscape

that is the physical constraints of a space is a marriage between the technical requirements of the screen such as power and reflection and the physical constraints of the site.

# Social networks and communication

- Hypercoordination
- Co-presence, distant focus
- Mobile Phones for perception of security
- Productive use of transition or travel times
- Constant connection of work and contacts
- Public dance or choreography of the mobile phone