

12 Urban Quality Criteria



Protection

Protection against traffic & accidents — feeling safe

- Protection for pedestrians and cyclists
- Eliminating fear of traffic
- Safe crossings

Protection against crime & violence — feeling secure

- Lively public realm
- Allow for passive surveillance
- Diversity of functions 24/7/365
- Well lit / lighting in human scale

Protection against unpleasant sensory experiences

- Wind/draft
- Rain/snow
- Cold/heat
- Pollution
- Dust, noise, glare

Comfort

Opportunities to walk/cycle

- Room for walking
- Interesting facades
- No obstacles
- Good surfaces
- Accessibility for everyone

Opportunities to stop & stay

- Attractive & functional edges
- Defined spots for staying
- Objects to lean against or stand next to
- Facades with good details that invite staying

Opportunities to sit

- Defined zones for sitting
- Pleasant views, people watching
- Good mix of public and café seating
- Resting/waiting opportunities

Opportunities to see

- Reasonable viewing distances
- Unhindered views
- Interesting views
- easy orientation
- Lighting (when dark)

Opportunities to talk & listen

- Low noise levels
- Public seating arrangements conducive to communicating, 'talkscapes'

Opportunities for play & exercise

- Allow for physical activity, exercise, play & street entertainment
- Temporary activities (markets, festivals, exhibitions etc)
- By day and night
- In summer and winter

Enjoyment

Dimensioned at human scale

- Dimensions of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimension in relation to senses, movements, size and behaviour

Opportunities to enjoy the positive aspects of climate

- Sun/shade
- Heat/coolness
- Shelter from wind/breeze

Aesthetic qualities + positive sensory experience

- Good design and detailing
- Good materials
- Fine views/vistas
- Rich sensory experiences: trees, plants, water