

## A Handbook for Urban Public Spaces in Daily Life

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The research aims to preserve existing public spaces, secure public spaces in those areas where there is lack of provision and systematic support, and ultimately develop a project implementation handbook for administrators, practitioners and the wider member of the public. The handbook provides practical methods to overcome constraints such as insufficient funding, human resources etc whilst maintaining high design quality, and includes comprehensive case studies of the design process of successful projects.

Within this research the notion of public space has been identified as being the space which is readily accessible and inclusive for everyone within a community. The research placed particular emphasis on this inherent attribute of the public space being the realm of active everyday engagement and interaction, and classified such spaces into three different categories; infrastructure related public spaces(neighbourhood parks, areas surrounding rivers and streams, areas around public buildings, areas around infrastructures etc), individual public sites(open spaces etc), small scale individual public plots(derelict sites, alleyways, public housing landscape areas etc).

The main body of the research is divided into four parts in which the first part discusses the notion and value of public space in light of being the active space of everyday engagement.

Secondly, in order to understand the current state of public spaces, the research investigated in detail the problems, qualities and the potential of public spaces within Seoul, Seongnam and Yeongju.

Thirdly, the research analyzed in depth, case studies from Korea and abroad, paying close attention to the design methods and processes, specific spatial qualities etc. Based on such analysis, the research proposed five essential aspects in creating successful public spaces; securing appropriate sites, implementing proper project

planning, involving diverse community members, establishing systematic support, and putting in place a public space design strategy.

In order to secure appropriate sites for public spaces it is important to make effective use of existing public sites and also identify derelict sites with potential as great public spaces. The research suggested utilizing areas around infrastructures, restructuring and appropriating uses of existing public spaces, expanding our understanding and concept of public space, and considering the use of privately-owned areas.

Additionally, based on the analysis of various public space projects and planning systems within Korea and abroad, the research identified that the most important factor in creating successful public spaces depended on the ability of the public organization to think creatively within the physical context and appropriate an implementation plan according to the specific needs of the project.

The research highlighted the importance of pursuing an operational model which fosters active engagement from all relative parties including the community, and emphasized promoting design issues through various methods.

Apart from the above mentioned aspects, in order to achieve revitalization of public spaces, the existing planning system needs to be modified. There is an urgent need to establish the planning direction and strategy for public spaces on a national level, and create a detailed implementation standard, whilst providing proper support and training for experts, and inducing active engagement from the private sector.

Lastly the research proposed to establish a design strategy for creating an accessible and actively used public space. Whilst the previous aspects articulated the basic framework of creating successful public spaces, the fifth aspect is presented in relation to the actual design and implementation process. Ten principles of practical methods and requirements are introduced within this context, and can be further applied as a design standard and an assessment criteria for public spaces.

In the final part of the research, based on the basic direction and principles of high quality public spaces compounded by the implications of various case studies, a "Handbook for Urban Public Spaces in Daily Life" was prepared.

The handbook includes content on the practicalities of creating successful public spaces used in our daily lives which can be primarily utilized by central and local government bodies involved in new public projects or policy making, and also be used as a publicity material for those who are interested in such processes including public members, practitioners, and officers. It can be particularly useful to apply to those sites

which are, for various reasons, being neglected by the current management system so that the potential of these derelict blind spots within the urban area can be transformed into successful public spaces. The research believes that the handbook will provide the necessary groundwork to generate further improvements to the current planning and management system of public spaces.

In conclusion it is anticipated that through the information provided in the handbook there will be a heightened awareness of the design values of good public spaces, and an established foundation for ensuring successful public spaces which acts as the active realm of engagement in our daily lives.

**Keyword : public spaces, daily lives, handbook**