

DAiLY
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Better Together: Reflections for Pandemic Times

version 1.2

Contents

3	Introduction	25	Section 3:
6	Section 1:		The Future of Shared Experiences
	State of Human Connection	27	Choreographies
8	Virtual is Not Enough	29	Sensory Excitement
9	The Distance Between Us is What Unites Us	31	Sharing Time
11	Community Solidarity 2m/6' Apart	33	Everything Outside, Everything Mobile
12	Rules (Or Just A New Way Of Life)	34	Hybrid Spaces
13	Make Room for my Microparticles!	36	Enchantment
		37	Civic Participation
15	Section 2:	39	Conclusion
	Urban Principles for Planning Ahead	41	Merci Beaucoup
17	Social	42	About Daily tous les jours
18	Equitable	43	Oui!
19	Walkable		
20	Distributed		
21	Re-Naturalized		
22	Sustainable		
24	Resilient		

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Montréal, Québec
18.05.2020

Our studio DNA is about creating joyful collective experiences in—physical—public spaces. Gathering people together so they can, almost literally, “bump up against one another in the ordinary course of life.”*

As we started writing this, almost half of the world population was in lockdown.** Where we live, gatherings of two people or more are still illegal. Collective, public, gatherings: illegal.

People are dying. Our city is making international news as the 7th deadliest place in the world.***

The global economy is crashing.

* Michael Sandel, Why We Shouldn't Trust Markets With Our Civic Life, June 2013.

** Alasdair Sandford, Euronews, [Half of humanity now on lockdown as 90 countries call for confinement](#)

*** Tracey Lindeman, The Guardian, [Why are so many people getting sick and dying in Montreal from Covid-19?](#)

Maybe when this is all over we can



[fill in the blank]

Public life is dead. Long live public life.

How do we start to understand the impact of this massive current public health crisis on our shared public spaces? Can we still find enchantment in how we get together?

This short report highlights key ideas from four weeks of observations, scattered readings and a series of interviews with some of our peers.

It's meant as a preliminary guidebook for us—as we reconsider our practice as artists and designers, creating magical human-scale experiences in public spaces.

It remains, like everything else in the world right now, a work in progress.

Section 1: State of Human Connection

A window:
hi-definition, no lag,
full bandwidth love.



Family changed plans on how to celebrate woman's 100th birthday after COVID.
[KOB-TV](#)

**Quarantine week no. what again?!
Fear of contagion is not enough
to repress our need to connect and
converse: online, from balconies
or in hazmat suits. New rules allow
safe access to essential services.
But as we get used to physical
distancing, our experience of
outdoor spaces remains tensed.**

Virtual is Not Enough

The need to connect in ways that respect the rules of distancing has caused an explosion of creative online forums for socializing and showing love screen to screen—with virtual handshakes, cloud clubbing, home karaoke stations, online workouts, masquerades, etc.

We have quickly realized, however, that it's hard to truly connect over screens. Our brains tire from the virtual lag. So people are rushing to their windows, balconies and sidewalks to make connections IRL.

“We are in the middle of a big tech experiment, truth is, most of us hate it ... we miss each other, we cannot live without human contact.”

- Naomi Klein, Canadian social activist,
[What's the Future?](#)



A touching film compiles quarantine dispatches from around the globe.
Ivan Cash and Jacob Jonas, [Vimeo](#)



Outside-facing birthday celebration.
Julie Camp, [Riverfront Times](#)



Italians singing on their balconies.
Francesco Giase, [Getty Images](#)

“I'm just going to hug everybody when this is all over.”

- Dan Wood, WorkAC,
Interview by Daily tous les jours

The Distance Between Us is What Unites Us

While technology keeps us close to familiar faces in tiring ways, outside, we also miss the random encounters vital to civic life.

As we re-enter the public realm, humans start resembling [the robots that are already starting to replace us](#) in the public sphere.

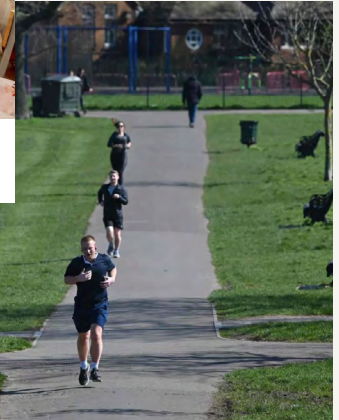
Despite these dystopian visions, we are all united in how we need to be far away from one another, and are already looking for ways to bridge this distance.

“We are currently in the process of trying on a new dimensional parameter for shared space.”

– Andrew Frontini, Perkins and Will, Canadian Architect, [Next Year in the Park](#)



Health workers cheer patients in Chinese hospital. Wang Yuguo, [The New Yorker](#)



Joggers running on Clapham Common in London, England. Justin Tallis, [The Telegraph](#)



First graders back to school in Hangzhou, with social distancing headgear. @chowleen, [Twitter](#)

State of Human Connection

“Support mechanisms that we need in crisis [... rely] on people actually coming together and knowing each other [...] we need to have more informal social networks set up to help each other.”

- Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang, New Cities, [The Big Rethink - Public Spaces](#)

“We'll only get through this period if we have enough recognition of our linked faith, of our mutual dependence, that we can respect and support one another's effort to stay alive. Our capacity to get through this hinges on how much we decide to take each other's well-being into account. We're seeing so much self-seeking behaviour, and not enough behaviour that is focused on the collective.”

- Eric Klinenberg, Knight Public Spaces Fellow, professor of social science at NYU and practitioner working on urban public spaces, [Knight Foundation Coast to Coast](#)



Socially distant line in Puerto Rico. Ricardo Arduengo, [New York Review](#)



People line up outside grocery store in Medford, Massachusetts, [Gulf News](#)

Community Solidarity, 2m (6') Apart

When a 15-minute walk is as far as we can go, it feels good to have a sense of knowing the people who live around us. As traces of support and community life are showing up just outside our doorsteps, we begin to realize the value of local social networks.



The "Essential Colors" project brought together some 50 artists to decorate Montreal's walls with colorful posters in tribute to essential workers. Olivier Jean, [La Presse](#)



People want to be part of something. Hundreds of Gaspé families take part in photo project. Caroline Vukovic, [CBC News](#)



DIY outdoor wall projection, from one house to the other. @micropainter, [Twitter](#)



Berliners leave donations on fences for people in need. Sarah Syed, [City Lab](#)

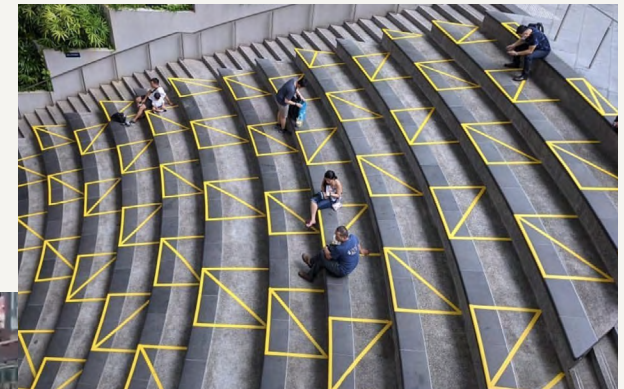
Rules (Or Just a New Way of Life)

As we redefine what our personal spaces are, our brains and bodies need to sync up so that the rules take up less cognitive headspace, and we can start engaging again.

Official rules will only hold if they can be translated into human, city-friendly solutions.

“Unwritten rules make people feel like outsiders while negative rules heighten our anxiety and limit our creativity [...] Positive rules [...] gave people confidence to engage without anxiety.”

– Zahra Ebrahim, city builder and organizer, Spacing, [5 IDEAS: Urban design challenges of spring weather in a pandemic](#)



Singapore social distancing indicators.
@tape_measures, [Medium](#)



Brooklyn's Prospect Park. Wong Maye, [Quartz](#)



Toronto artist Daniel Rotsztein's "Social Distance Machine.", [Toronto Stories](#)

Make Room for My Microparticles!

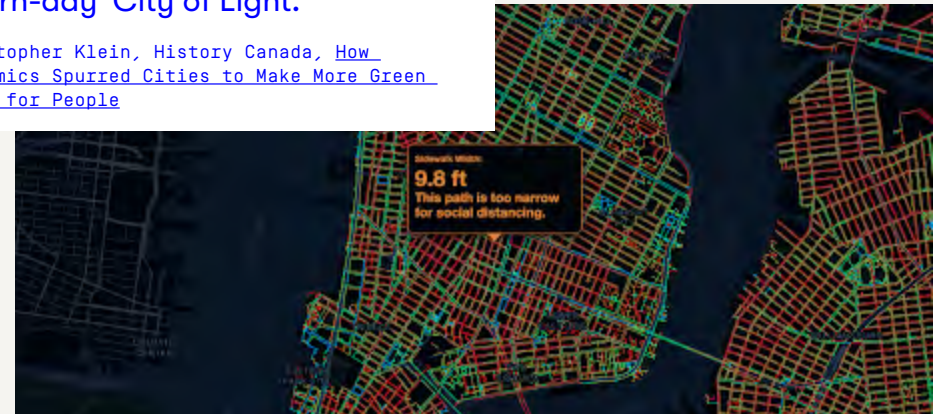
We see now that neighbourhoods that have invested in parks and large public spaces are much healthier. Viruses also spread more in places where there is a high level of air pollution. What does it take to transform all neighbourhoods into safe and healthy places?

Cities are showing flexibility more than ever, permitting closure of streets and reorganization of public spaces. This agility needs to be maintained to create the cities we want to live in, and to allow people to have more agency to change them as needed.

Whether we go the Haussmann route and tear down streets to make safer, wider walking paths, or use tactical urbanism, now is the time.

“Under the direction of Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann, French authorities tore down 12,000 buildings, built tree-lined boulevards and parks, erected fountains and installed an elaborate sewage system that transformed Paris into the modern-day ‘City of Light.’”

– Christopher Klein, History Canada, [How Pandemics Spurred Cities to Make More Green Space for People](#)



NYC researcher Amelia Harvey mapped sidewalks that are social distancing friendly, showing how much we have to change about our cities [or NYC] to be pandemic friendly/also giving access to the public to “safe routes”, [sidewalkwidths.nyc](#)

“The 2009 recession gave birth to ‘tactical urbanism,’ where out-of-work architects and designers were allowed to find temporary new uses for empty lots, which would otherwise sit empty after capital dried up. [...] Covid-19 presents a wholly different challenge—how to think about bringing people together while also needing to keep them apart.”

– Allison Arieff, NY Times, [The Magic of Empty Streets](#)

State of Human Connection

“We need to examine how the public realm can be both safe to occupy in the short-term, resilient to a possible next wave of contagion, and supportive of the democratic ideals we hold dear.”

– Andrew Frontini, Perkins and Will, Canadian Architect,
[Next Year in the Park](#)



Here comes the sun: social distancing blanket by Paul Cocksedge studio. Paul Cocksedge, [Designboom](#)

Section 2: Urban Principles for Planning Ahead



**Social
Equitable
Walkable
Distributed
Re-Naturalized
Sustainable
Resilient**

This humanitarian crisis is urging us to make changes to how we live. Different visions of the future city are being drawn—combining the best of old, current and emerging ideas. They provide context to imagine the future of collective experiences (and we find it rather energizing).

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Social

If informal social networks are important to create support mechanisms in times of crisis, public space should be designed to help you know your neighbours (at least a little bit).

“Societies where close social, physical contact [...] are the norm will naturally require a greater conscious effort to enforce social distancing. [...] However, tight social links also are associated to high levels of social capital and trust, which are key in overcoming collective action problems.”

– Claudia Baez Camargo, Head of Public Governance, Basel Institute on Governance, [Rethinking governance in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

“We’re not just facing an economic recession, we’re also facing a social recession, and we are going to need a massive investment in our social infrastructure.”

– Eric Klinenberg, Knight Public Spaces Fellow, professor of social science at NYU and practitioner working on urban public spaces, [Knight Foundation Coast to Coast](#)



All accross Mali, Tea groups called grins [des Grains] are formed bringing together groups of men of the same age in a public area, in particular on the street. These are often regular weekly gatherings amongst friends with their own habits and rules. [Cairn.info](#)



In Minnesota, Mom of three meets with her friends to socialize in an empty parking lot. We can do better than this right? Katherine Kaylor, [Insider](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Equitable

“People living in poor, unsafe, or dangerous conditions, bear a much heavier burden amid the stay at home orders. We also know that neighbourhood access to park space is strongly tied to socioeconomic factors, where low-income communities tend to be more park deprived.”

– Candice Leung, 8 80 Cities, [#POSTCOVIDCITY: How to Create a More Equitable Public Realm amid COVID-19](#)

Public spaces should be welcoming and accessible to all, all the time. People from different social, economic, generational and cultural backgrounds need to mingle somewhere, somehow (and it’s not going to be online).

“The coronavirus crisis highlights three key gaps in the park equity that cities will need to address once this is all over: accessibility, funding, and space.”

– John Surico, Journalist and urban planning researcher, City Lab, [The Power of Parks in a Pandemic](#)

“Nargess Mustapha [...] community organizer in Montreal North [...] recites a long list of reasons why Covid-19 has struck her neighbourhood so deeply: a lack of health services, inadequate transit access, people living in crowded apartments, poor relations with police – especially now that officers can hand out \$1,500 fines to those not respecting self-isolation measures. ‘Being able to socially distance is a sign of privilege,’ [...] the population density of one neighbourhood sector rivals that of New York City’s densest borough. ‘It’s hard to apply those rules in Montreal North.’”

– Tracey Lindeman, The Guardian, [Why are so many people getting sick and dying in Montreal from Covid-19?](#)



San Francisco has safe sleeping sites, providing services like showers and food for homeless people living in tents. Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez, [NPR VPR](#)



La Ruche, in France, is one example of inclusive affordable housing that built into its DNA flexibility of usage and shared open spaces. Ville de Bègles, [Pavillon de l'Arsenal](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Walkable

“This is the best time ever to think of a walkable city.”

– Wouter Vanstiphout, professor of design as politics at Delft University of Technology, [The Guardian](#), [Smart lifts, lonely workers, no towers or tourists: Architecture after coronavirus](#)

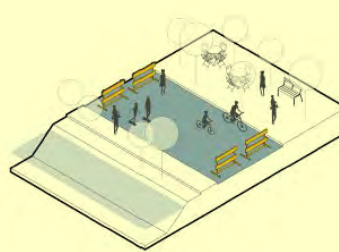
Suddenly it's possible...

Around the world, thousands of lanes or entire streets have been closed to car traffic in order to give more space to people: walkers, bikers and neighbours. Car space is becoming people space again.

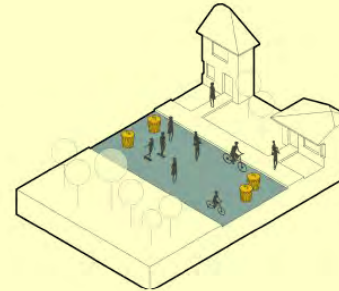
More public spaces are coming everywhere—open streets for walking and cycling mean we get to be together more!

“People are excited about street closures, and a new ability for the community to self-regulate their streets.”

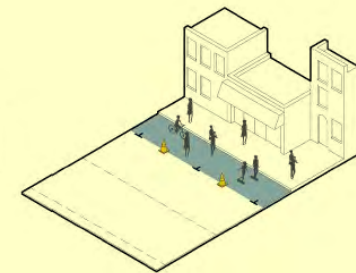
– Julie Flynn, Assistant Planner City of San Francisco, Interview by [Daily tous les jours](#)



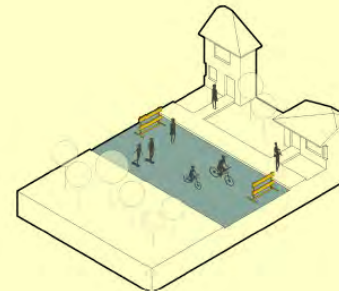
Open Streets



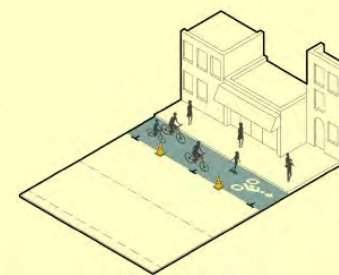
DIY Streets



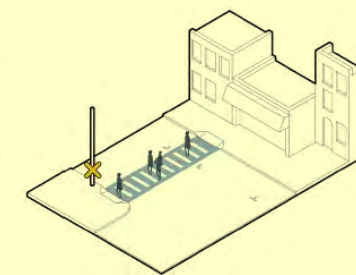
Open Curbs



Shared Streets



Temporary Bikeways



Pedestrian Signal

Local actions affecting walking and cycling during social distancing. [@day_wall](#), [Twitter](#)



Bogotá announces 22 km of new in-street bikeways created “overnight.” [@BrentToderian](#), [Twitter](#)



Milan plans to change 35 km of streets into pedestrian and cyclist-only streets. [The Guardian](#)



NYC commits to 100 miles of “Open Streets.” [@MikeLydon](#), [Twitter](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Distributed

People being confined to their homes has highlighted the need for more close, accessible resources. But decentralizing amenities are essential for many other reasons, including improving quality of life and reducing environmental footprint. For cities around the globe, networks of smaller centers have also proven more resilient than single large ones where everything converges.

How can we find a balance between the hyperlocal and the urban communal? Can we reshuffle the cards in a more equitable way so everyone gets a bit of everything?



Melbourne's pilot project focusing on neighbourhoods where all is accessible within 20 minutes is becoming a reference for how to re-draw our urban centers in a less centralized, less car-centric way. planning.vic.gov.au

"There are six things that make an urbanite happy. Dwelling in dignity, working in proper conditions, being able to gain provisions, well-being, education and leisure. To improve quality of life, you need to reduce the access radius for these functions."

- Anne Hidalgo, Paris mayor, quoted by Douglas McLennan, Post Alley, [Idea: Making Paris A "15-Minute-City"](#)

"If everything becomes decentralized, we need to form brigades that can bring projects to neighbourhoods, allowing us to act in a more civic way."

- Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, Executive Director, Space for Life, Montreal. Interview by [Daily tous les jours](#)



Every street should provide an opportunity to celebrate together - here, the ad-hoc NYC fire hydrant block party can provide inspiration. [Atlas Obscura](#)



Paris's mayor unveils plans to strengthen small 15-minute walkable neighbourhoods for the city. [Ubiq, Here 360](#)



A few large centralizing markets [left] versus a polka dot pattern of distributed micromarkets [right]. Shift Architecture Urbanism, [Medium](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Re-Naturalized

The past months have reinforced how access to nature is essential for human happiness. As it turns out, nature, unlike us, seems to be pretty happy right now. As a starting point for the “new normal,” can we leave more time and space for the mutual health of humans and nature?

“Seeing vegetation, water, and other people, while hearing bird song and being exposed to the weather [is to] have a sense of big nature in a city. These are designed characteristics that really uplift the spirit.”

– James Corner, Landscape Architect of NYC Highline, [Architectural Record](#), [Designers and Landscape Architects Weigh in on the Future of Parks and Public Spaces](#)



Flipping functions. Opening up private spaces for public use. @zachklein, [Twitter](#)

A map of sounds drawn reveals a new attention to natural elements. “I drew this map because I found myself listening more intently as I walked, forming new dictionaries of sound in my head.”
C.X. Hua, @CityLab, [Twitter](#)



The “FAIRE” pavilion unites familiar construction materials with living flora and fauna. One way to bring more nature and education to the city, [Chartier Dalix](#)

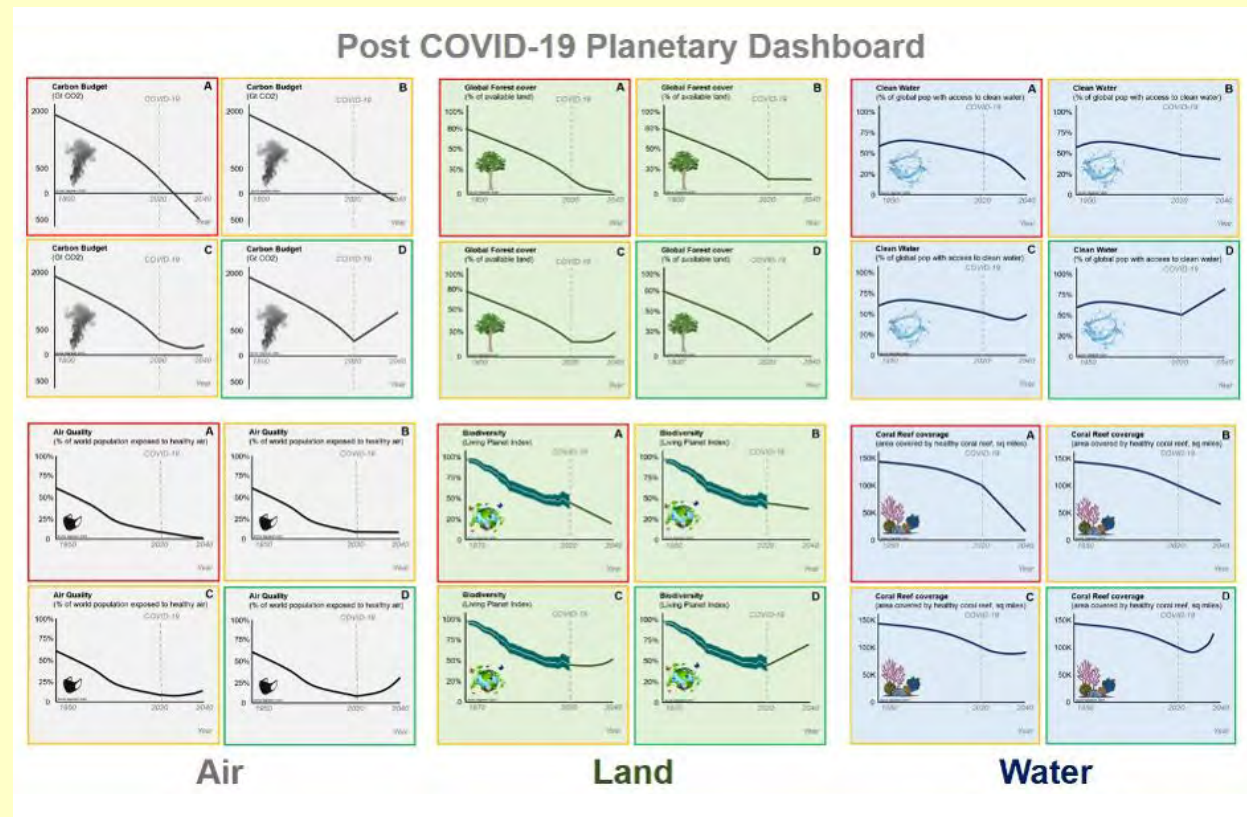
Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Sustainable

Investments (of money but also ideas) in the public realm can help our planetary ecological transition.

“It is right now that we have to fight so that the economic recovery, once the crisis has passed, does not bring back the same former climatic regime against which we were battling, until now somewhat in vain ... It would be a pity not to use the health crisis to discover other means of entering the ecological mutation without a blindfold on.”

– Bruno Latour, Translated by Stephen Muecke [unpublished], [What protective measures can you think of so we don't go back to the pre-crisis production model?](#)



Proposed planetary dashboard to guide post COVID-19 economic policy responses. Scenario D!
Nishan Degnarain, [Forbes](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

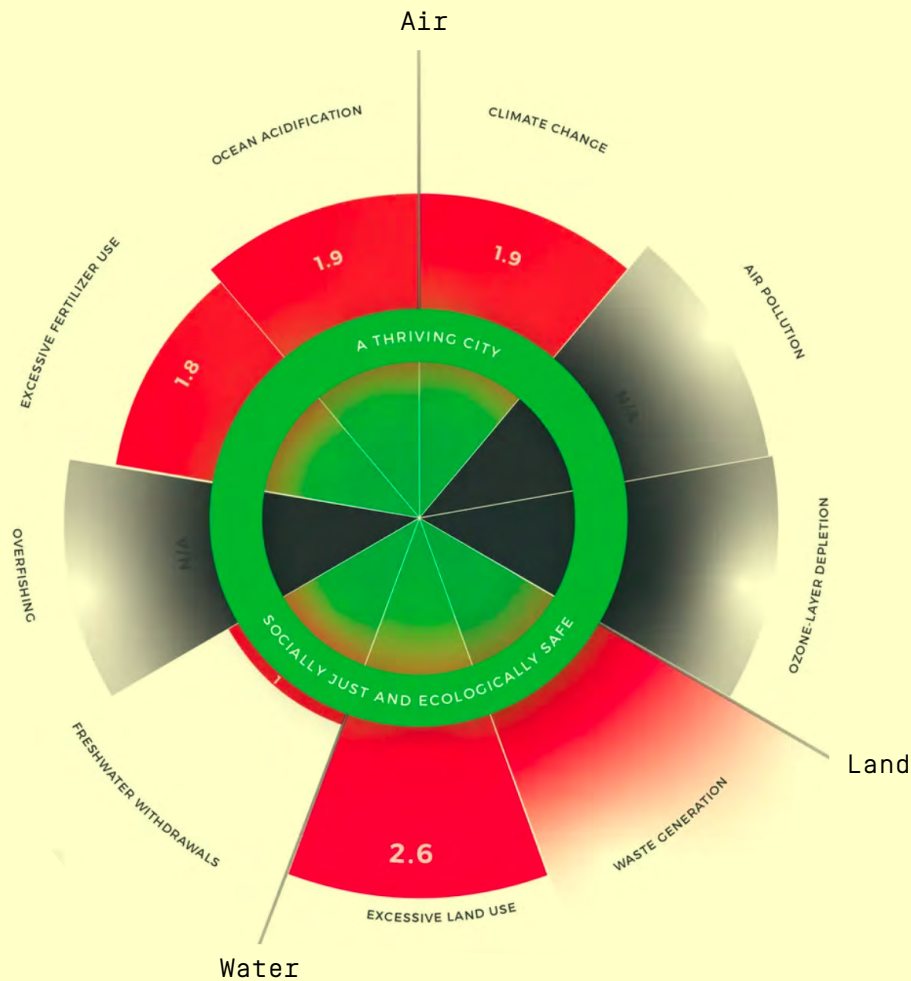
We also need to listen, and learn, from experts and scientists. Pandemics are warnings for climate action. We can help facilitate the translation of scientific necessities to everyday actions.

“I think it can help us overcome the effects of the crisis. It might look strange that we are talking about the period after that but as a government, we have to ... It is to help us to not fall back on easy mechanisms.”

– Marieke Van Doorninck, Amsterdam's deputy mayor, quoted by Daniel Boffey, The Guardian, [Amsterdam to embrace 'doughnut' model to mend post-coronavirus economy](#)

“The world is experiencing a series of shocks and surprise impacts which are enabling us to shift away from the idea of growth to ‘thriving.’ Thriving means our well-being lies in balance. We know it so well in the level of our body. This is the moment we are going to connect bodily health to planetary health.”

– Kate Raworth, British economist from Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute, Inventor of the model, quoted by Daniel Boffey, The Guardian, [Amsterdam to embrace 'doughnut' model to mend post-coronavirus economy](#)



The Doughnut economic model, adopted by the city of Amsterdam, is aiming to balance socio-economic and ecological needs, [Coyote Gulch](#)

Urban Principles for Planning Ahead

Resilient

This is not the last of it.

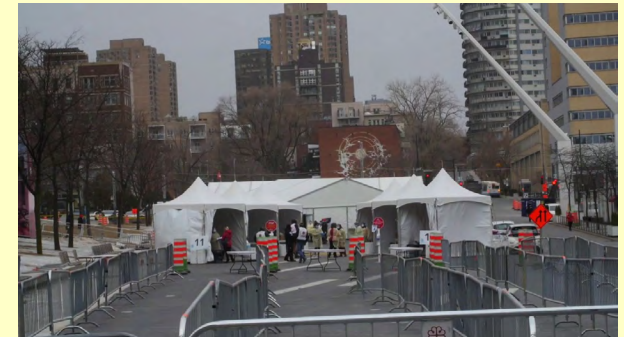
Improvements made to public spaces everywhere and the amenities they provide should be imagined for the best of days and for the worst, helping to make communities more resilient, connecting people, flipping functions.

“Disasters shake things loose. And the things that we regarded as fixed and unchangeable can suddenly be changed. It's been fascinating seeing people in power suddenly say, ‘Well, actually, we can put all these homeless people up in hotels. Actually, we can change unemployment insurance and sick leave. Actually, we can find \$3 trillion to throw at a problem.’”

– Rebecca Solnit, writer, author, activist and historian, Wbur, [What Disasters Reveal About Hope And Humanity](#)



Rooftops repurposed into tennis courts in Italy, [CNN](#)



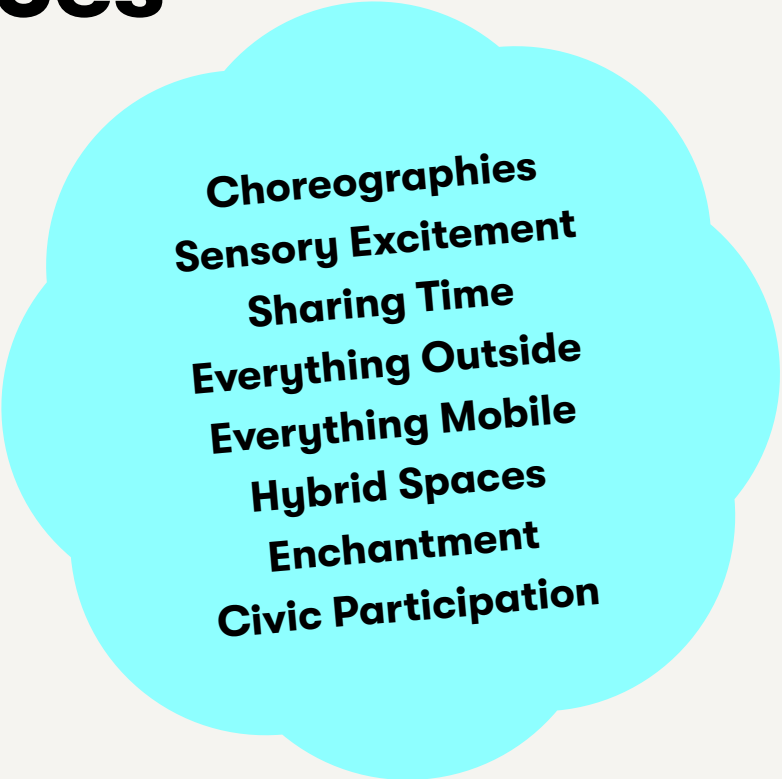
Mobile Covid-19 testing clinic in Montreal's Place des Festivals, [Montreal TV](#)



Japan's "refuge parks" benches that become stoves and manholes hiding emergency toilets reflect the survival instincts of a country that has learned to live with peril, [Reasons to be Cheerful](#)



Section 3: The Future of Collective Experiences



**Choreographies
Sensory Excitement
Sharing Time
Everything Outside
Everything Mobile
Hybrid Spaces
Enchantment
Civic Participation**

People are experimenting to maintain vibrant public life despite the constraints. What have we learned from our new behaviours? How do we build from them to enrich social experiences? Here are a series of inspiring considerations to create shared experiences.

Choreographies

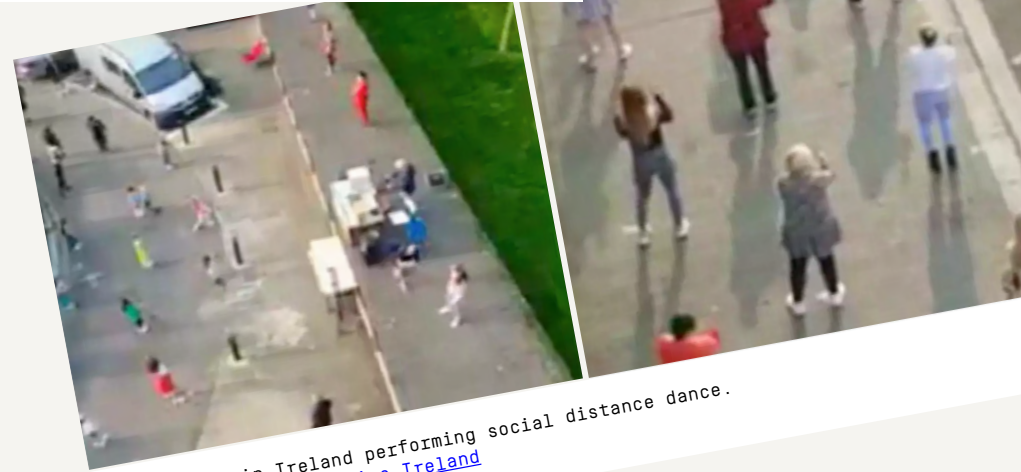
Sidewalk slalom, crossing to the quieter side of the street, standing on the X until the person ahead of you is done—there is a new choreography emerging.

There is renewed awareness of our own bodies, of each other's presence, and of the spaces between. How can we transform the “negative” space between us into something positive?

As we redraw circulations and reconsider our asphalt real estate, opportunities arise for new narrative paths, dancing detours and updates to shared streets etiquette.

“If this pandemic is teaching us anything, it is that we need to return to our bodies [...]. The pandemic has created something fascinating: a new way of moving, a new way of dancing in the streets [...]. Your partner is a stranger; the stage is the sidewalk.”

— Gia Kourlas, NY Times, [How We Use Our Bodies to Navigate a Pandemic](#)



Neighbours in Ireland performing social distance dance.
Derry Girls, [Head Topics Ireland](#)

The Future of Shared Experiences

“Social distancing isn’t just about honoring space; it’s also about celebrating it.”

– Gia Kourlas, NY Times, [How We Use Our Bodies to Navigate a Pandemic](#)

Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn. Angelo Vasta, [NY Times](#)

Sensory Excitement

Are we destined for a touchless society?
Probably not. However, no-touch rules create new opportunities to engage with each other through other senses, leading to more awareness and engagement.

We've been talking for some time about introducing sensory variety into urban spaces. Now is the time to take it to the next level.



Should we really need to push a button to cross the street? The city of Richmond has automated 20 high-use pedestrian crosswalks to help curb the spread of COVID-19, [Richmond News](#)

“Touch is not the only mechanism used for physical bonding [...]. Evolution from our primate progenitors has given us new ways to feel a connection with others that also trigger endorphins. They're things like laughter, singing, dancing, telling stories, religious rituals and so on, [...] the things we use in our everyday social interactions.”

– Robin Dunbar, Emeritus professor of evolutionary psychology at Oxford University, quoted by Chris Stokel-Walker, BBC Future, [How personal contact will change post-Covid-19](#)

“Sound is still so relevant as a way for people to connect; it's the only sense that people can work with now.”

– Julie Flynn, Assistant Planner City of San Francisco, Interview by *Daily tous les jours*

Touch
Taste
Hear
Smell
Sight



Therapeutic Telok Blangah Hill Park in Singapore, [National Parks Board \[NParks\] of Singapore](#)

The Future of Shared Experiences

Sight:
Large visual spectacles and starry skies.

Hear:
Music brings us closer on an emotional level than physical proximity can.

Touch:
Interface retrofits for elbows, hips, knees and toes.

Smell:
Aromatherapy for the anxious city?

Taste:
Urban agriculture and foraging weaved into everyday rituals.

“Elements in the garden should, as much as possible, distract users from stress. The purpose of the garden should be to provide a place of natural beauty to let users get away, both physically and emotionally, from interior environments that may be alien, stressful, threatening, or intimidating.”

– National Parks, [Therapeutic Gardens](#)



Think of all the places urban gardening is possible.
Martin Thibault, [CBC.ca](#)

The Montreal Botanical Gardens are turning a hectare of their land into a food garden for food banks, to sustain 100 people for an entire year. What spaces in our communities can we use to come together around the shared enjoyment of hyper-fresh, hyper-local food? Source: [Time Out](#)

Sharing Time

Our shared space is now organized meticulously to keep us apart. However, time is a factor that can unite us, by either being in the same space at different times, or in doing something at the same time in different spaces.

Same Time Different Place

The 8pm worldwide standing ovations exemplify the power of doing something at the same time, rather than in the same place.

“Society might come out of the pandemic valuing these big spaces even more, not only as the backdrop to major events and active uses, but as an opportunity to be together visually.”

– Alexandra Lange, architecture critic at Curbed, Politico, [Coronavirus Will Change the World Permanently. Here's How](#)



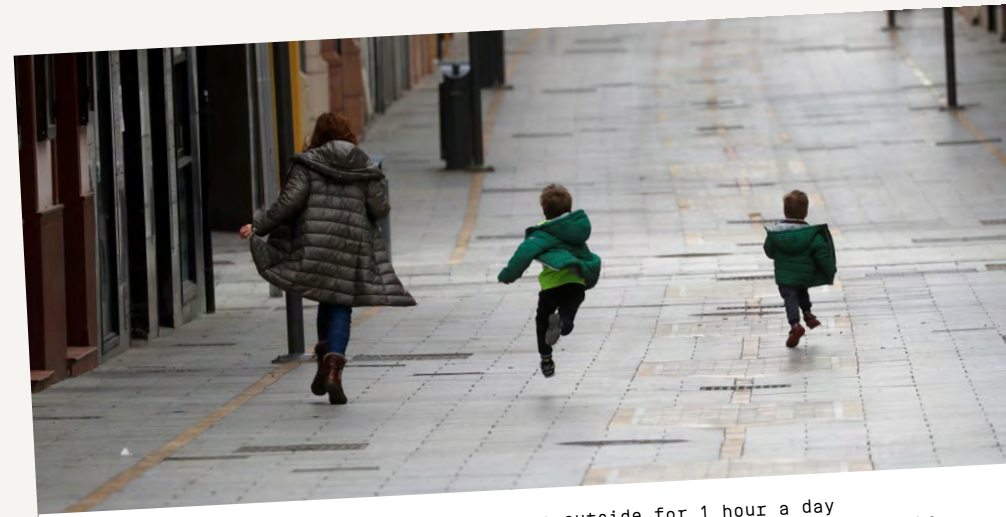
People in Mumbai clapping from their balconies to cheer on front line workers. Francis Mascarenhas, [In Pictures India](#)

Different Time
Same Place

**Two minutes apart
rather than two meters?**

As different people go through the same places throughout the day, there are connections to be made from traces and treasures left behind, or placed there for the future.

At the city scale, the timing of events, markets or festivals can be rethought. They can be made longer or more distributed, to help avoid crowds, while still feeding our souls with collective stories.



Phased schedules: In Barcelona, kids can go outside for 1 hour a day
- is this enough for their sanity? And to keep streets safe and empty enough?
Jon Nazca, [World Economic Forum](#).

Everything Outside, Everything Mobile

We might not want to go inside a theatre, for some time. Even grocery shopping has become a race to the checkout counter. But open air theatres and outdoor markets will surely have a renewed sense of purpose and with a bit more room between participants. Well, when it's not -40°C or +40°C.

Short distance touring is another way to reach lots of people, and different kinds of people, one small group after the other: an entire city can share the same experience, one neighbourhood at a time.

“If you take into account the 6’ space required all around a pedestrian, the space it requires is similar to what a car needs on the street.”

– Christopher Hawthorne, LA Chief Design Officer, New Cities, [The Big Rethink – Public Spaces](#)



NYC musicians playing concerts from their cars. Olga Morkova, [Time Out](#)



Let's turn businesses inside out, [#openstreets](#) for [#PhysicalDistancing](#), and creates market streets.

[#PublicMarkets](#) are [#essentialservices](#), and around the world are showing how resilient and adaptive they are during this COVID crises.

[#MarketCities](#) [#COVID19Streets](#) [#placemaking](#)



PlacemakingX @PlacemakingX · Apr 25

“More than ever, we must transform streets and public parking lots into (temporary) productive [#publicspace](#) that can facilitate [#streetvending](#).

[#Urbanplanning](#) and [#publicspaces](#) must be part of the [#urban solution](#).”
@PlacemakingNBI

[#Placemaking](#) [#Covid19Streets](#) [#StreetsAsPlaces](#)

[Show this thread](#)



Different cities taking different approaches to allocating outdoor spaces for vending.

~~Sing Along trucks.~~
~~Barber truck.~~
~~Planetarium truck.~~
~~Scratch that.~~
Sing Along on a bike.
Barber on a bike.
Planetarium on a bike.

“Temperature and time of year are a huge factor here, hot months are tough, we need places that are cool without being closed.”

– Nigel Cann, Senior Director for Gebal Co LLC, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Hybrid Spaces

The line between public and private space is softening, leaving room for new architectural typologies and new forms of conversation to emerge.

The ‘front yard’ is taking on new importance as a safe place to expand one’s personal bubble. It is a place for exchanges and also for self-expression. We have seen windows become local message boards with rainbows and personal message banners. Can we keep these informal care and communication spaces open beyond the crisis?



The “Balcony Boogie” led by fellow resident and fitness coordinator Janet Hollander at a senior’s home in Eugene USA.
[The Register-Guard](#)



Patsy Van Roost creates encouraging banners for your balconies and front porches. Patsy Van Roost, [Barron's](#)

“How can we find interstitial spaces that don't exist today?
Can we create more important neighbourhood cells,
like stairways that become places to meet—find ways to
multiply visual contacts in outdoor places, from a building
to another.”

— Laure Gayet, Urbanist and Co-Founder of Atelier d’urbanisme Approches,
Paris, France. Interview by Daily tous les jours

Hybrid Spaces

**Street
is the new :
park**

**Block party
is the new:
festival**

**Window
is the new:
billboard**

**Front yard
is the new:
plaza**

**Back yard
is the new :
farm**

Enchantment

The United Nations invited creatives around the world to communicate visually how to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We need to remind people to wash their hands and not to touch their faces, but also to 'stock up on peace, kindness and positivity.' Can urban infrastructure do this too? Art, culture and design have a role to play in transforming the public realm with ingenuity and a human touch.

The crisis has raised the importance of health and well-being in our society. A healthy city is not just a set of rules. Right now our urban environment is good at saying 'where to stand' and 'what not to do', but it should also communicate the happy things, the things that connect us on a higher level and make us care for one another, ultimately leading to stronger, more resilient communities.



Marinie Ruiz Cabañas. Submitted to [the United Nations Global Call Out To Creatives.](#)



"A [May 2020] YouGov poll has found eight out of 10 people [in the UK] would prefer the government to prioritise health and wellbeing over economic growth during the coronavirus crisis, and six in 10 would still want the government to pursue health and wellbeing ahead of growth after the pandemic has subsided, though nearly a third would prioritise the economy instead at that point."

- Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, May 10th 2020,
[Britons want quality of life indicators to take priority over economy](#)

Civic Participation

This public health emergency cannot mean the end of democracy. People are finding creative ways to keep using public space as a platform for collective expression.

Now is the time to unite.

Now is the time to be especially accessible for multigenerational and diverse audiences. Now is the time to keep our eyes open on the inequalities in our cities and act on them. Now is the time to rethink cultural and leisure offerings to bring people outside, to mix, in the open. Active participation in the public realm—playful participation included—can help plant the seed for civic engagement.

Now is the time for public spaces to truly be for the public, places for care and connection.



Protesting government infringement on democracy following abusive COVID measures in Israel, March 2020. Amir Levy, [Time](#)

“Elements of public space
we should fight to preserve:
freedom of access, freedom
of activity.”

– Dan Wood, WorkAC, NYC, Interview
by Daily tous les jours

“The future never proceeds in a straight line... we might be bent but we're not broken.”

– Shoshana Zuboff, American author and scholar,
[What's the Future? Interview Series](#)



The latest Climate Strike Online happened amidst the coronavirus crisis yet managed to take on public spaces with impactful messages coming together from around the world. @linus_steinmetz, [Twitter](#)

**We will get together better.
We still believe in joyful public
spaces. Joy builds trust.
Trust builds strong democracy.
Strong democracy makes
a resilient planet.**

Cheat sheet for post-pandemic public life

- ☐ Imagine new choreographies
 - ☐ Welcome nature
 - ☐ Think hyper-local
 - ☐ Make room safely for humans
 - ☐ Design beyond touch
 - ☐ Orchestrate synchronous connections
 - ☐ Go where people are
 - ☐ Transform front porches into plazas
-
- ☐ Plan for the worst
 - ☐ Put the climate first
 - ☐ Shift priorities
 - ☐ Consider everyone
 - ☐ Know your neighbour
 - ☐ Preserve democracy

oui!

Merci beaucoup

Interviewees & Conversations With:

Amale Andraos & Dan Wood,
Founders of WorkAC, New York City, USA

Ayah Bdeir,
Founder of littleBits, New York City, USA

Charles-Mathieu Brunelle,
Executive Director, Space for Life, Montréal, Canada

Julie Flynn,
City of San Francisco Assistant Planner, USA

Laure Gayet,
Urbanist and Co-Founder of Atelier d'urbanisme Approches,
Paris, France

Nigel Cann,
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Stuart Wershof

Special Thanks:

Daniel Linyee He
Fady Atallah
Kelsey Snook
Giovanna Borasi
Maggie Zhang

And to our young
advisory board:
Antoine, Leon Apollo,
Leyl et Sama

About Daily tous les jours

Daily tous les jours leads an emergent field of practice combining digital art, storytelling, performance and placemaking to reinvent living together in the 21st century.

Over the last ten years, the Montreal-based art and design studio has signed over 40 original artworks in more than 30 cities around the world.

Daily's work invites humans to play a critical role in the transformation of their environment, building more resilient cities. They created the world-acclaimed Musical Swings, a large-scale urban artwork that invites passers-by to make music together, with their entire body. Recent projects include Musical Shadows in Dubai UAE, an interactive pavement that reacts to people's shadows with singing voices; Hello Trees in Houston TX, an interactive promenade for humans to converse with trees, and the meditative experience of I Heard There Was a Secret Chord currently touring the US and Europe.



The studio earned numerous international recognitions, notably the Grand Prize at the UNESCO Shenzhen Design Awards, a Knight Cities Challenge Award for Civic Innovation, a Fast Company Innovation by Design Award, and an Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Award.

Daily actively contributes to the conversations about art, technology and public spaces, giving lecture to New Cities Summit, Design World Summit, SXSW, EYEO, TEDx and Ars Electronica.

“ When transforming everyday habits in the city into collective experiences, we are addressing important urban issues, such as isolation, inequalities, mobility. Our work intends to revive connections between communities and their city.”

— Mouna Andraos & Melissa Mongiat,
Co-founders

“A living work of art”

– Oprah Winfrey about Daily tous les jours' Musical Swings

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aw!!!