

Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Biophilic Street - the characteristics of a healthy public space.

2. Format:

Written paper + Power Point slide show presentation

3. Author(s) Name: Agata Cabanek and Peter Newman

4. University or Company Affiliation: Curtin University

5. Abstract (300 words):

Biophilic design aims to connect the ecology of a place to its culture, history and beauty to create urban spaces that have the ability to regenerate life. This paper will examine the social, environmental and technical features as well as cultural indicators of thriving urban streets with visible biophilic elements. People spend ten times more time in streets than they do in parks, yet streets tend to be designed without a profound analysis of their potential for becoming healthy and thriving spaces, not only

communication links. Drawing on a number of case studies, this paper will describe how biophilic methodology and approach to urban street design has the ability to enhance humans' and nature's well-being, and leads to achieving urban sustainability goals.

By examining selected case studies, focusing on their environmental, social and health benefits, this paper will show that the transition from 'design as usual' to biophilic design is necessary in order to transform the urban streets into human-friendly, regenerative and nature-rich spaces.

This comparative analysis is an opportunity for a better understanding of what makes a healthy, human-friendly city and how a nature-centred design approach can convert windswept pavements into liveable urban public spaces. The paper will finish with a brief consideration of the implications of the research findings for guiding policies on urban design and planning.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Agata Cabanek is a PhD Candidate at Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP) in Perth, Western Australia. She holds a master's degree in landscape architecture. Her research interest includes sustainable landscape design, biophilic design, biophilic urbanism and eco urbanism.

Peter Newman is an expert in Sustainable cities, transportation and land use. He is the Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University (Perth, Australia) and works in CUSP. He has 40 years of academic and research experience and has been a Director of the Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy for the last 20 years. He sat on the Board of Infrastructure Australia and is a Lead Author for Transport on the IPCC. From 2010 Professor Newman also serves as the Science Director at CRC in Spatial Information, the Director of Program on Greening the Urban Environment at National Centre for Sustainable Built Environments and the Project Leader for Sustainable Cities for CSIRO Cluster on Health.