



Considerate Urbanism

Considerate urbanism is a human-kind approach to urbanism that invites us to go beyond the 3D physicality of space, to consider how we experience, feel and connect in urban space and cities.



Connecting with the Spatial Self

The **spatial self** is the spatial extension of our human identity and connection with our surroundings. It is not just spaces taking on human characteristics, but humans taking on spatial characteristics. We see this manifest in places. Places go beyond their physical dimensions and become an extension of ourselves, shaping our understanding of who we are and fostering a sense of belonging.

Considerate urbanism seeks to resensitise us to our surroundings and connect us emotionally to our places. It also asks us to create urban surroundings that create more nourishing, meaningful and **healthy lived experiences** to help foster that emotional connection.

We are not separate from urban, in the same way we are not separate from nature; we exist together as a **single system**. We tend to typify and characterise urban as gritty, hard, and dangerous. But these are our human habitats. We created them. Can we find beauty, tranquility and inspiration in urban environments like we do in nature? Should we have to “escape” urban to connect with nature – to ourselves?

Let’s connect with our **inner city** to explore the kind of urban habitats and experiences that could bring us the same joy, wonder, peace, sanctuary and healthy experiences that nature can.

From Car-Based to Care-Based Urbanism

Our urban fabric accommodates vehicles much better than it accommodates the needs of people and our environment. This is because we have been building our cities primarily around the **needs of the car**. Are we really going to base our urban future on the needs of the car too?

Our culture of demolition. Building **urban fabric** to last decades instead of centuries. Cutting cost and quality corners with our building materials. Considerate urbanism extends to caring for our buildings and built fabric, so that it stays healthy and resilient too. We need our culture and mindset about how we build to be as care-oriented as where and why we build.

What urban ideas will we make real next? They need to be ideas that make cities work better for people and planet. Ideas for a fairer, more ethical, and human-friendly form of **urbanism that cares** about what we need, how we want to live and feel in urban space.

Asking questions like, what do people need to **live successfully** in a city or place? How can we care for everyone’s needs and wants? What do we need to do to ensure we are looking after our buildings and environments so they can look after us? Can we all feel good in urban environments, not just some of us? Centring care, empathy, affinity, emotion, and human experience to move us from car-based urbanism to **care-based urbanism**.

Lived Experience Led

Considerate Urbanism recognises that cities are more than bricks and mortar, they are also an experience. We believe everyone has the right to **positive urban experiences** and everyday life. To achieve this, we think the design and development of cities needs to be lived experience led.

This means making urban environments, urban life, and urban experiences more considerate of people and our diversity, needs, behaviours, emotions, and our relationships with our planet and each other. It is mindful of the impact **urban change** has on ourselves and others. It is considerate of the sensory, emotional, and **psychological dimension** of urban space and urban experience.

Considerate Urbanism empathises with a **wider spectrum of people**, needs and lived experiences. So, people can tangibly see and say that they and their needs have been seen, acknowledged, and accounted for in their experience and use of the city. It fosters kindness, empathy, affinity, and caring urban behaviours to bind social fabric together. It’s urbanism that likes you – and is like you.

Considerate Urbanism covers a broad **range of topics** under three tenets of social justice, economic inclusion and environmental resilience, including: health, equality and inclusion, equity and social justice, accessibility, identity, belonging and culture, biophilia and nature-based solutions, regenerative and inclusive economies.

The “Next City” will be the Social City

As more of us will live out our lives in cities; they become the thing most of us will share and have in common. This means we need to **make cities the solution** and not the problem. How can we live on this planet better together?

We think we are moving into the age of the social city. Predicated on the quality of human interaction, behaviours and experiences. This age of the social city comes at a time of major flux. Climate change is showing us that our lifestyles and systems are **environmentally unsustainable**. **Economic disparity** and persistent poverty is showing us that our economic system is unjust and inequitable. **Social justice** movements show us that people still feel unseen, unheard, and unvalued.

We need to rethink the fundamentals of what we base our urban form, lifestyles and functions on. We need whatever comes next to enable the massive changes needed for us to adapt successfully to a more socially, economically, and environmentally resilient world.

As we navigate this new and emerging world, now more than ever, we need to be kind and considerate to each other. We think there is a humanising emotional revolution going on. And the time for the **Social City** is now.

Considerate Urbanism is a movement, mindset and method for a more considerate form of urbanism to emerge:

1 MOVEMENT

Platform to collaborate, learn and deliver considerate urbanism. Unifying diverse people and approaches for kinder, healthier, caring, and more inclusive and equitable places.

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2 MINDSET

Transitioning from car-based to care-based urbanism to meet our social, economic and environmental challenges. Elevating emotion, empathy, lived experience and human behaviour in how we see, make and use urban space.

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3 METHOD

Accelerating change using tools and methods rooted in human lived experience, engagement and diverse expertise.

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