



# City Space Architecture

*studying  
making  
spreading  
sharing  
public space culture*

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## **City Space Architecture**

Non-profit organization, Italy

### STATEMENT

by Luisa Bravo, Founding Member and President

Public space is a key element for sustainable urban development.

Despite its broad and context-specific meaning, I believe you all agree if I say that public space is a common good, meant to be open, inclusive and democratic, a fundamental human right for everybody.

We often refer to public space's cultural richness, identity and diversity, but in our contemporary times public space is dealing more and more with inequalities, poverty and conflicts. Economic issues, huge real estate investments, privatization trends and gentrification processes are dominating aspirations of local communities. While a large group of scholars is currently questioning the ownership of the city, activists, private groups and organizations are advocating a better city, they are already at work to establish a fruitful collaboration with property owners, developers, planners and policy-makers: they bring incremental improvements to streets, blocks and neighbourhoods through small-in-scale actions of informal urban design and spontaneous interventions of micro-urbanism. Often results are temporary but they have a great impact on residential communities, against a small investment, because of their immediate ability to infuse places with value and meaning. These interventions are celebrating a movement for democratic change in cities, which is an expression of desires for good community places, of freedom to improve everyday life, following realistic expectations with short-term commitment, even when there is no client, no architect and no authority to sanction it.

In the time of urbanization, we must rethink what urban equity might mean.

We need a collective effort, to contribute to the process of producing knowledge and spreading awareness on the importance of public space.

On this matter, City Space Architecture is taking action: we founded 'The Journal of Public Space' with the Queensland University of Technology, based in Australia, and in partnership with UN Habitat. The Journal performs as a global, open access and public knowledge platform, aiming at implementing contents from the New Urban Agenda related to public space.

Let's make public space a priority for the future of our cities.

Stand up together for public space!