

Everyone Counts —Creating Inclusive and Friendly Urban Spaces

TANG Pai, DONG Nannan*

College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092, China

***CORRESPONDING AUTHOR**

Address: No. 1239, Siping Road, Yangpu District, Shanghai, 200092, China

Email: dongnannan@tongji.edu.cn

ABSTRACT

While making contributions to the prosperity of cities, diverse population groups have the equal right to enjoy quality urban life. However, senior citizens, children, and the disabled are vulnerable when it comes to the access to urban resources and the participation of city's decision-making. To make the well-beings brought by urban development available to all, it is essential for a city to be inclusive by paying more attention to the needs, benefits, and rights of the disadvantaged groups. The authors believe that the creation of inclusive and friendly urban spaces requires not only new design methods and approaches, but also changes of design philosophy and mindset.

KEYWORDS

Creation of Urban Spaces; Inclusive City; Shared Benefits; Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups; Children and Seniors; Public Participation

RECEIVED DATE

2022-06-25

EDITED BY

Tina TIAN

TRANSLATED BY

Tina TIAN, XIAO Jie

By 2030, 60% of the world population will live in cities, which occupies just 3% of the Earth's land^[1]. As urbanization speeds up worldwide, cities provide spaces and environments for the living and growth of individuals with varied levels of incomes and different religions and ages. While making contributions to the prosperity of cities, these diverse population groups have the right to enjoy quality urban life. However, uneven and unequal resource allocation in cities has resulted in the conflicts among different groups. In United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the idea of building inclusive and sustainable city is underscored^[2], which aims to create cities that attach equal importance to the contributions and demands of all population groups, because "everyone counts"^[3].

Recent research on inclusive cities concludes that spatial inclusion, social inclusion, and economic inclusion are three factors to an inclusive city^[3]. If interpreted from the perspective

of landscape planning, spatial inclusion provides necessities and essential infrastructure and services for citizens; social inclusion focuses on guaranteeing the equal rights of every citizen, particularly the right to engage in the city's decision-making process; and economic inclusion aims to give urban residents the opportunities to enjoy the benefits of the city's economic growth. Based on the consensus of building inclusive cities, the Chinese government stresses in the National Plan on New Urbanization 2014–2020^[4] that "people-first, fair and inclusive" is a fundamental principle in advancing new urbanization.

When examining individuals' whole lifecycle, we have to admit that everyone would become the disadvantaged, whether in childhood, late adulthood or adversity. For every citizen, an inclusive city not only extends special care for the young, the senior, and other vulnerable groups, but also strengthens confidence of people of all ages for a better life via such special care, eventually

towards a shared, prosperous, and bright future together. In the context of population aging and the new birth policy in China^[5], it requires cities to guarantee vulnerable groups' right to enjoy quality public services, particularly for the young and the elderly—this also mirrors the level of a city's civilization and humanity. Uneven spatial development of a city significantly impacts on the life quality and health of the elderly and the young, because their daily life largely centers on home and within a limited walking distance. Restricted by their traveling abilities, children and seniors have less access to all sorts of urban services and resources unevenly scattered in the city. As a result, their life quality depends greatly on the services provided by the nearby facilities.

For vulnerable groups, an inclusive and friendly city means safe home, healthy environment, convenient transport facilities, harmonious neighbourhoods, inclusive public spaces, and equal rights to take part in community decision-making. To build inclusive cities and promote sustainable urban development, we need to put more efforts into creating more inclusive public spaces and engaging all citizens, especially the disadvantaged, in the design of urban public spaces.

In the practice of building inclusive cities, landscape architects should pay attention to two aspects. On the one hand, they need to learn about the varied demands and usage patterns of different population groups for public spaces. The understanding on people' usage behaviours of urban spaces depends not only on landscape architects' thorough observation, but also on extensive explorations of the motives behind such behaviours. On the other hand, they need to ensure the site users engaged into the decision-making on public spaces, and encourage different user groups to express their thoughts and expectations for site use. The task of landscape architects is to create quality urban spaces that maximize the service based on the delicate balance of the needs of all site users by their expertise. In this sense, the essence of creating inclusive urban space is to respond to the diversity and disparity of the behaviours and needs of all population groups, and to provide special amenities and aids for the disadvantaged, thereby sharing the benefits of urban development among all citizens.

Under the theme of Inclusive Cities for All, this issue discusses the behaviour patterns and specific needs of different user groups of urban spaces, particularly focusing on children and seniors, and introduces inspiring ideas and new approaches to build inclusive cities for all-age citizens, as well as participatory design methods that are sustainable and more efficient for the promotion of public participation.

REFERENCES

- [1] United Nations. (2020). Sustainable Development.
- [2] United Nations. (2015). Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- [3] The World Bank. (2020). Inclusive Cities.
- [4] The State Council of the PRC. (2014). National New Urbanization Planning (2014–2020).
- [5] National Bureau of Statistics. (2021). Main Data of the Seventh National Census.

每个人都很重要 ——包容友好的城市空间营造

汤湃, 董楠楠*

同济大学建筑与城市规划学院, 上海 200092

*通讯作者

地址: 上海市杨浦区四平路1239号

邮编: 200092

邮箱: dongnannan@tongji.edu.cn

摘要

城市中多元的社会群体在为城市的蓬勃发展作出贡献的同时, 也享有城市提供的优质生活和丰富发展机会的权利。然而, 包括老年人、儿童及其他特殊人群在内的群体, 在获取城市资源、参与城市决策等方面往往处于弱势地位。为共享城市发展成果, 以全龄友好的视角推动城市以更加包容的姿态关注弱势群体的需求、权益和福利, 逐渐成为美好城市发展的重要目标。作者认为, 包容友好的城市空间营造既要求景观设计从业人员工作方法的精进, 更要求其设计理念的革新。

关键词

城市空间营造;
包容性城市;
共享服务;
弱势群体;
老幼群体;
公共参与

收稿时间

2022-06-25

编辑
田乐
翻译
田乐, 肖杰

到2030年, 全球约60%的人口将居住于仅占全球土地面积3%的城市区域中^[1]。随着城市化进程在全球范围的加速, 城市为不同经济水平、宗教信仰、年龄阶段的群体提供了生活空间和发展环境, 这些多元化的群体在为城市的繁荣发展做出贡献的同时, 也拥有共享城市优质生活的权利。然而, 在城市空间中, 不难看到资源分配不均衡、不平等, 进而造成不同群体之间排斥以抢夺有限资源的现象。联合国在《2030可持续发展议程》中强调了“包容且可持续的城市”的理念^[2], 其内涵可概括为建立平等重视所有人群的贡献和需求的城市, 强调“每个人都很重要”^[3]。

近年来, 相关发展研究指出, 包容性城市应通过空间包容、社会包容, 以及经济包容三个维度的相互支持来实现^[3]。从景观规划视角出发, 可以认为空间包容是为城市居民提供城市服务的基础; 社会包容强调所有人享有平等的权利, 尤其是城市决策的参与权; 而经济包容则旨在让广大市民共享城市经济发展成果。基于包容性城市发展共识, 中国政府

在《国家新型城镇化规划(2014—2020)》^[4]中也强调, “以人为本, 公平共享”是新型城镇化发展的基本原则之一。

从哲学视角审视人类个体的生命周期, 我们不得不承认, 每个人都会有处于弱势地位的阶段, 无论是弱小的童年时期, 还是苍老的老年时期, 抑或身处逆境。城市的包容性对于城市中生活的个人不仅仅意味着给与老幼和其他弱势群体特别照顾, 更是通过对弱势群体的特殊照拂, 带动全龄人群坚定对于美好城市生活的信心, 最终实现全龄人群共享城市繁荣。因此, 从社会学视角来看, 在中国社会老龄化程度持续加深及生育政策不断调整的背景下^[5], 为以老幼人群为主的弱势群体提供高质量公共服务, 既是城市发展的必然需求, 也是城市对所有城市居民人文关怀的重要体现。城市空间发展的不均衡对于老年人和儿童生活品质和健康水平的影响尤为明显。其原因在于老年人和儿童在日常生活中的空间行为轨迹较为类似, 往往呈现为以住家为中心、以步行距离向外拓展的

小范围生活圈。有限的出行能力导致老幼人群较难获取城市中呈分散分布的各类服务资源，所以其生活品质更加依赖于生活圈范围中的服务供给。

包容友好的城市环境对于身处弱势的人群来说，既是安全的居家住所、健康的生活环境、通达的交通道路，更是友好的邻里氛围、包容共享的公共空间，以及参与社区决策的平等权利。因此，从景观设计学的角度出发，如何以包容的态度为他们设计城市公共空间，如何鼓励他们参与到城市公共空间的设计之中，这是探讨包容性城市营造的起点，也是探讨中国可持续城市发展道路的重点。

在空间落位层面，包容性城市的营造对景观设计师提出了两个维度的要求。第一，景观设计师需深入理解不同人群的空间使用需求和使用行为特征。对行为的深入理解既包括对使用行为本身的细致观察，也包括对行为动因的深切体会——这也是景观设计师专业素养的体现。第二，景观设计师须让公共空间的使用者切实地参与到空间建设的决策过程中来，并在此过程中积极引导不同使用群体表达对于场地使用的理解和期许，以专业能力平衡各方需求，创造出服务能力最大化的优质城市空间。因此，包容性城市空间营造的核心是包容不同群体的多样化行为和差异性需求，并且对处于弱势的群体提供特殊帮助，以实现共享城市繁荣发展的根本目的。

本期“全龄友好和包容性城市”主题专刊主要基于分龄视角剖析城市多样人群，以老幼群体为关注重点，探究城市不同群体使用城市多元空间的行为特点和具体需求，以探索全龄友好的包容性城市建设前沿工作方法，以及更加有效且可持续的参与式设计方式。