

ARUP

Milton Keynes Development Conference

'A Changing Place - Planning for Growth and Diversity in MK'

Cities Alive

Designing cities that work for all

Wednesday 1st March 2023

ARUP

UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



Why cities for all?

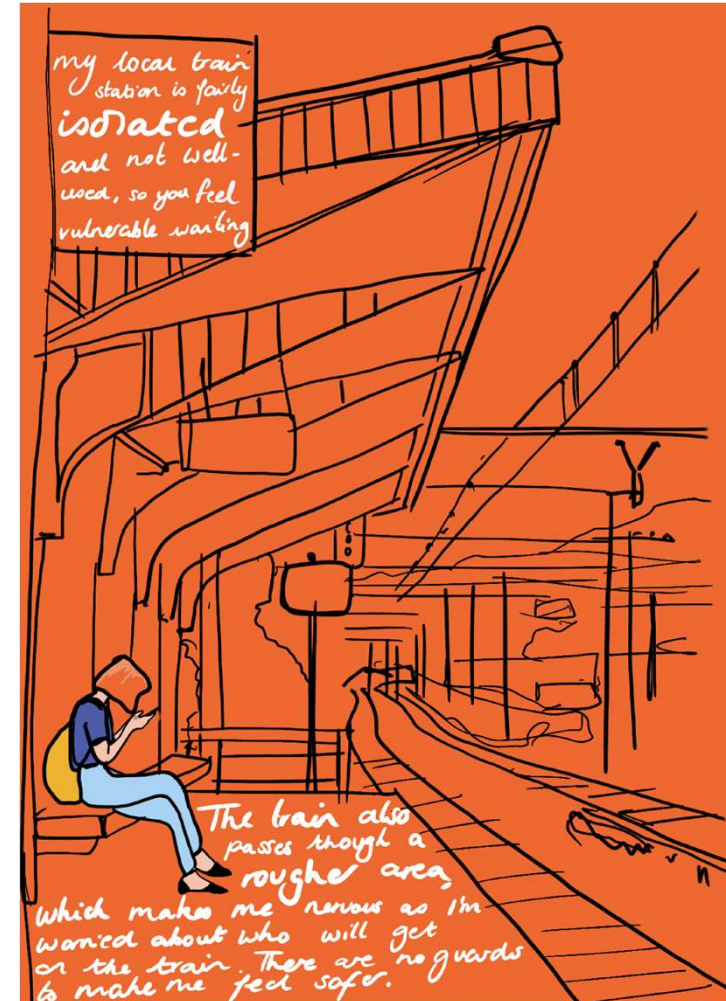
Setting the context

In cities across the world, marginal groups of all ages and gender identities face a range of barriers and vulnerabilities. In the world of urban planning and design, expectations are rising.

Barriers and vulnerabilities are made worse by global drivers of change such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, wars and conflicts.

An historic bias is built into our urban spaces. Across countries, cities have been largely designed without considering the diverse needs of all groups of society from women, children to LGTBQ.

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Why cities for women?

Setting the context

- In the UK, **97% of young women** have experienced sexual harassment in public.
- In Ireland, **55% of women** feel unsafe travelling on public transport after dark.
- In India, only **20% of women** are employed.
- **One in three women** globally do not have access to high quality, inclusive, and safe toilets that meet their needs.
- Across the EU, women earn **37% less** than men.
- Only 2-3% of statues across the world represent women.
- Globally, only **29% of women** are in senior decision-making positions.

Urgent action is needed to remove the gender bias built into cities and improve women's safety, their health, and access to education and employment.



Designing cities that work for women

Research approach

1. What **challenges** and **opportunities** do women face and see in cities around the world?
2. What's the **role of the built environment industry** in creating better spaces for women?
3. What **strategies** and **spatial interventions** can contribute to making the built environment a safer, more inclusive and equitable space for women to live, work, play and thrive in?

**770**

Respondents to our
global survey
– 87% are female
– 111 have a disability
– 151 minority groups

2

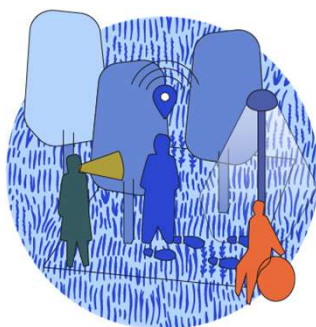
Global workshops held
– 40 global locations
– 20 countries
– 6 continents

14

Global Arup
Champions sharing
knowledge

Designing cities that work for women

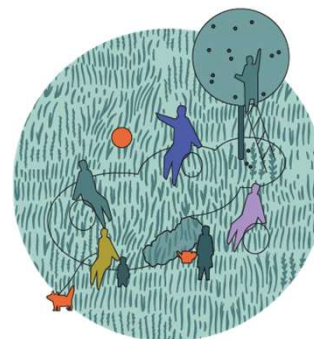
Thematic framework



Theme 1
Safety and security



Theme 2
Justice and equity



Theme 3
Health and wellbeing



Theme 4
Enrichment and fulfilment

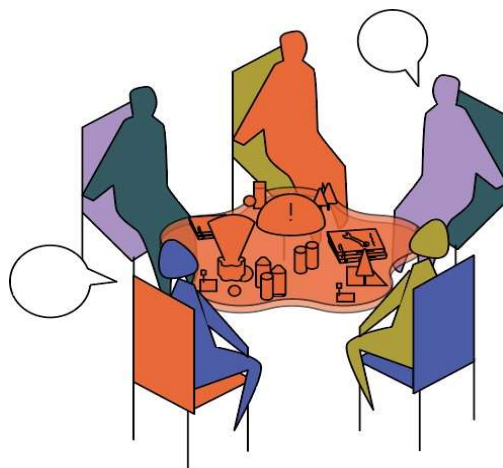
Making change happen



Putting into practice

Gender-responsive city making

An integrated, gender responsive and participatory approach to city making is needed. **Commitment and collaboration** from public and private stakeholders, as well as **women's active participation**, are integral.



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1. Gender-responsive project foundations
2. Gender-responsive project roadmap



Gender-responsive city making

Project foundations

Twelve foundational principles that create the optimum environment in which to deliver gender equity.

Key stakeholders



City leaders and policy makers



Built environment professionals



Developers and investors



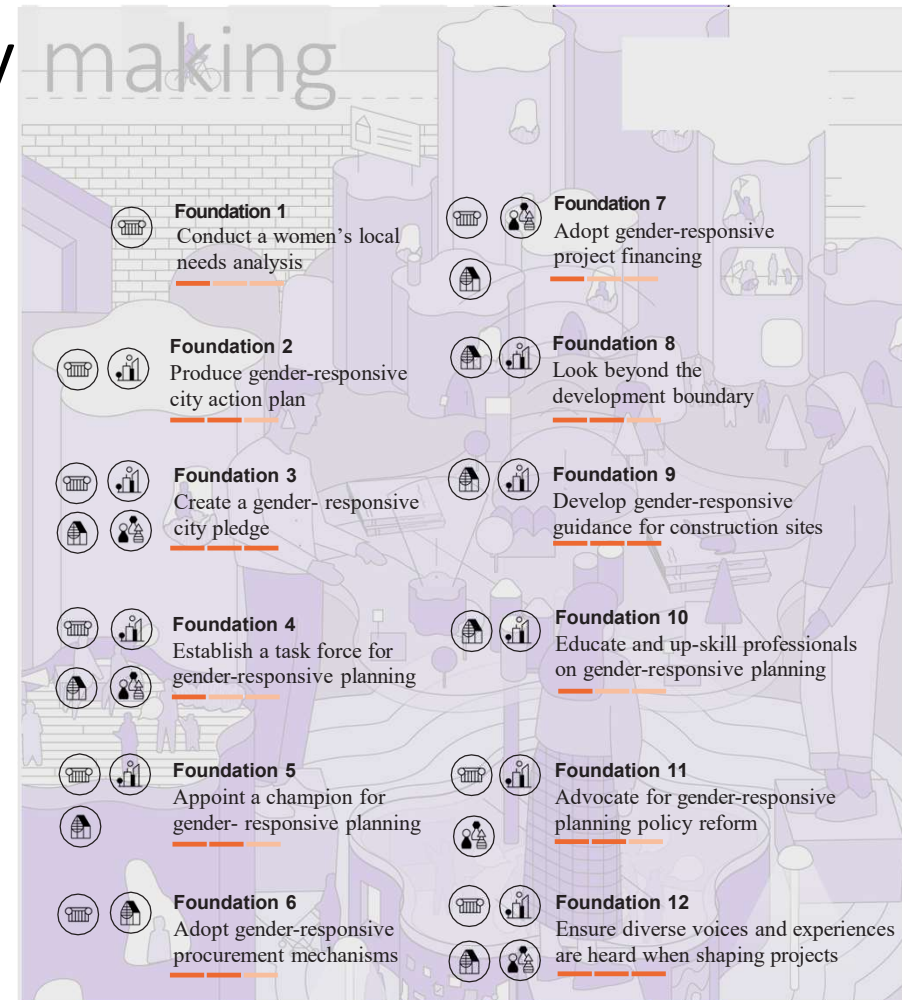
Community groups

Implementation timescales

Short term

Medium term

Long term

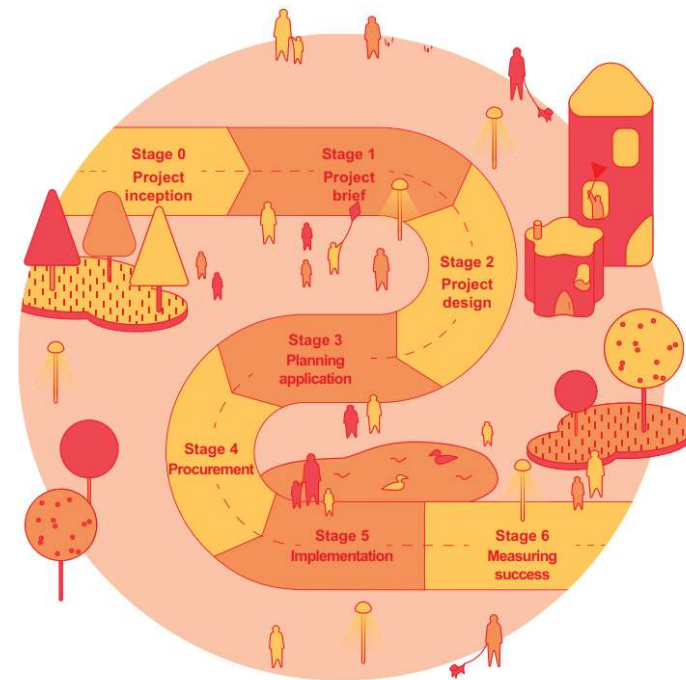


Gender-responsive city making

Gender-responsive project roadmap

Sets out the actions that should be implemented at every stage of a project. It ensures that:

- Women have a voice throughout the project lifecycle
- Inclusive and equitable working practices are used
- Project outcomes address the local needs of women



Designing for Urban Childhoods

City Leaders and Policy makers:

- Appoint child friendly champions
- Implement children's infrastructure policy
- Map , monitor and measure everyday freedoms

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a **unifying theme to navigate complex challenges** and **gain support for progressive ideas.**

Developers & investors:

- Look beyond the development boundary



Health and wellbeing



Local economy



Safety



Stronger communities



Nature and sustainability



Resilience



A catalyst for improving cities

A vision for inclusive, child friendly cities



Multifunctional green infrastructure



Sense of ownership



Playful encounters



Cultural and heritage spaces



Wild spaces



Construction sites



Multi-use community spaces



Intergenerational spaces



Traffic measures



Pedestrian priority



Community gardens



Neighbourhood mapping



Play streets



Playable spaces

How can you help make where you live, work and play be more inclusive – a place where people can thrive regardless of gender?

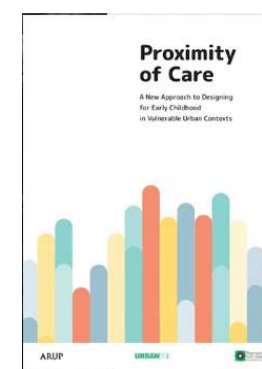
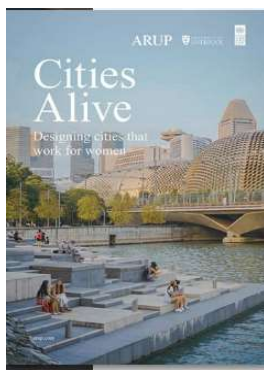
- Design to foster belonging
- Collaborate & co-create with all
- Avoid 'overplanning and over-designing'
- Micro-interventions
- Inclusive lighting

Plan making for future communities has to happen now



Cities Alive Research

Designing for Inclusive Cities



<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications>