UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

State of Palestine
Ministry of Local Government

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Placemaking Toolkit:

DESIGNING PEOPLE PLACES

A toolkit for communities and designers to design and implement public spaces and buildings in Palestine

2020

making planning work for all
التخطيط للجميع

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Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)
Ramallah, Palestine

Design and printing: Turbo Design, Palestine

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This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union under the framework of the project entitled: "Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C (2017 – 2020)" , which is managed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in partnership with Ministry of Local Government (MoLG). The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the international organization and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. Furthermore, the boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on the maps presented do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Acknowledgments

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Activities presented in the toolkit were carried out in close cooperation with village leaders and people from civil society from the targeted communities, namely: Abdallah Younis and Ti'innik (Jenin), Imneizel, and At Tuwani (Hebron), Izbet Tabib (Qalqiliya), Ras el Wad, Al Walaja, and Wadi an Nis (Bethlehem), Al 'Aqaba (Tubas), and Bruqin and Haris (Salfit); and with the Ministry of Local Government, especially Jehad Rabaya, Head of Survey and GIS Department, focal point for spatial planning in Area C, and Jihan Mitwalli, Head of Aerial Photography Department.

A first edition of this placemaking toolkit, including text and illustrative materials were prepared by Jenny Donovan in 2014. The following UN-Habitat Palestine members contributed to the first edition at the time: Fiona McCluney (Head of Office), Frank D'hondt (Portfolio Manager), Pren Domgjoni (Project Manager), Amneh Issa, Asmaa Ibrahim, Muhammad AbuRajab, Haneen Shakhshir Othman and Wafa Butmeh, (Urban Planner/ Community Developers).

The revised edition at hand was prepared with support from Fuad Sleibi (Community Mobilizer and Gender Officer), Laila Abu Baker (GIS and Planning Officer), Mohammad Abu Qaoud (Spatial Planner), Mona AlQutob (Project Coordinator), and Ahmad El-Atrash (Sr. Urban Programme Officer, UN-Habitat).

The placemaking interventions materialized under the Spatial Planning Support Programme for Area C, West Bank - Palestine have been financed by the European Union, UK's Department for International Development, Secours Islamique France, and the United Nations Resident's Coordinator Office in Palestine.

The revised version of the toolkit was discussed with a group of planning experts and representatives of local government units, the Ministry of Local Government, academic institutions and the private sector through a consultation meeting held in February 2020 in Ramallah city. The meeting came out with valuable recommendations and lessons learned, which are summarized in Annex (1).

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Introduction

Palestine is blessed with a beautiful landscape; resourceful and resilient people and its towns and villages are the focus of a strong sense of community and belonging. This document seeks to provide those people with ideas about how they might make use of these assets and create 'people places' in towns and villages that contribute to improved living conditions for all people who live in these communities.

Placemaking is all about turning 'public' spaces into 'living' places that support the wellbeing of local communities and that can be managed and maintained by that community. In the context of Palestinian communities in the Israeli controlled Area C, placemaking is best realized as a DIY–Do It Yourself Urbanism approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces to ensure they reflect a clear and broadly supported vision, organic orders, and proper functions. DIY is meant to reflect the principle of subsidiarity and promote any local Palestinian citizenry action that impacts public spaces, under a steadfastness framework that reciprocates with the practices of Israeli occupation authorities in Area C. Within the context of Palestinian communities administered by the Israeli authorities, DIY and 'informality' are interrelated, and the former could be regarded as a mode of the latter. It is argued that the informal mode of space production (informality), not only reflects a widespread mode of everyday life practices (DIY), but also could be considered a mechanism to unequivocally express the right to self-determination. This provides an important symbolism and this 'rights-based approach' to spatial planning and development is the takeaway for practice that is foreseen by advancing the concept of placemaking within the spatial planning practices of Palestinian communities.

Placemaking, as such aims at jumpstarting an engaged process to protect the rights and responsibilities of local Palestinian citizens. Working closely entails that participatory processes will be sustained, and citizens will be encouraged to partake in the local development processes, and the authorities will be more responsive to future needs and aspirations of the citizens. This will result in improving the conditions of the built environment, foster social cohesion, build resilience and foster tenure security, and enable spatial development. This marks an amalgam between statutory and non-statutory approaches in realizing the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the New Urban Agenda in Palestine, noting the prevailing geo-political context.

This document seeks to help communities to engage in the placemaking process and create surroundings that give you the best circumstances to flourish. It reflects the aspiration outlined in the World Charter on the Right to the City which resolves "that cities should constitute an environment of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all people, in conditions of equality and justice, and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social and ecological realization".

Achieving this is as much a matter of cultivating change in people's hearts and minds as on the ground. Placemaking is about enabling people to connect with their surroundings and feel empowered to fulfill their responsibilities to themselves, their families, their communities and the wider world.

This document is divided into three parts:

Part 1 is an exploration of what placemaking, and people places are,

Part 2 provides some insights into the people who need to be involved and the steps along the way to getting a people place designed and built, and

Part 3 provides some insights into the components that one might find useful to create a people place and the principals needed to apply these ideas.

PART 1 What are people places?

Placemaking and People Places

Placemaking is a term that encompasses the diverse actions that seek to ensure people's surroundings offer them the best possible chances of thriving and fulfilling their potential in life.

This typically requires imbuing spaces in villages, towns and cities with characteristics that help their inhabitants meet the challenges they face, that reflect their values, nurture a sense of belonging and foster a sense of authentic human attachment.

There are many different people who can play a part in making this happen:

- Architects, planners, urban designers and engineers, etc. have particular skills in making physical changes in the built environment. They can be place-makers by ensuring their work has qualities that resonate with the surrounding community and provides those people (including those not yet born) with opportunities that contribute to their quality of life.
- Experts in managing spaces and education can help equip people with the skills and insights to make the best use of their surroundings.
- Administrators and government officers can guide necessary changes through the legislative landscape and can unlock resources by changing the rules governing development and launching programmes and initiatives that allow change to happen.
- Members of the community- to whom this document is aimed - have local knowledge, skills and existing social networks unavailable to anyone else. Your surroundings matter to you; you can offer "emotional capital" in making changes which is every bit as important as the physical capital or financial capital that is also needed to make things happen.

People places are places that are shared by a community and valued by them because of the way they are designed, built and used.

This document is intended to provide all these diverse parties with a starting point to work together and achieve people places in their community.

What types of places can be people places?

These are the streets, parks, other open spaces and community buildings that are the focus for community life and are shared by everyone in that community. In many parts of the world these are collectively known as social infrastructure. Designed well they can be places not just where people have to go but where they want to go and can be enjoyed by many people. These places exist not just on the ground but in people's hearts and minds.

Some communities already enjoy many places that fit this description, but other communities are lacking them. The resilience of Palestinian communities being what it is, even where communities are denied these places a sense of community still thrives, bound by bonds of family, belonging, friendship and shared experience. People places are designed to meet multiple needs. They encourage people to enjoy a wide range of incidental social and recreational activities not because they have to but because they will feel like they are missing out if they don't.

The diversity of people places

Every community is different. Each one comprises individuals who have their own way of seeing the world, their own aspirations, hopes and fears. Different communities occupy areas with a unique mix of challenges and assets; climatic, political, social. Add to this the diversity of streets, parks and public buildings and you will see there is no one recipe for a people place. The actual composition and look of a people place will be as varied as the communities they serve. However, they typically have a number of consistent characteristics.

The design process

The design process for a people place involves a broad cross section of the community as well as experts who can offer appropriate professional insights; People places are designed to be relevant to the values and needs of the people who share them, who live near them or pass by them. People places should also be designed for the people who will share it in the future, those people not yet born or are too young and who will inherit it from us. Consequently, a key component of a people place is making sure it is tailored to those needs that we know and is flexible enough to meet future needs we cannot yet identify.

This requires a commitment to community engagement: in designing the people place, using it, cultivating a sense of pride and ownership of it and empowering people to make well informed decisions about its future. This also requires a wide section of the community participation in the process and low levels of education and traditional patriarchal values do not deter people from participating. This area is explored in more depth in the next section.

Figure 1:Community Participation in sketching designs

Figure 2: Participation of schoolgirls in one of the Placemaking workshops, Bruqin (Salfit), 2018

Multi-purpose places

People places make efficient use of space. Given the diversity of people's needs and the many demands placed on urban spaces people places are designed to reconcile many functions in the one space.

Figure 3: Example of Placemaking solution to serve two functions (vehicles and pedestrians' mobility)

This is an example of a street that was called upon to serve two functions; it had to allow vehicles to travel along it and allow pedestrians to cross it from the adjacent school to the park on the other side of the road. The placemaking solution illustrated here slowed down traffic to a safe speed by measures that also made it a more pleasant and safer place to cross and in doing so created the sense of a village square in this important location.

Places for everyone

Designing people places means that the things that get built can be enjoyed by as many people as possible and by extension as few people as possible are precluded from enjoying them. This means they are designed to ensure the barriers that sometimes inadvertently discriminate against certain groups of people are removed.

These barriers can be purely physical, such as places that can only be accessed by steps and that consequently disadvantage people in wheelchairs, or they can deter us because of how we perceive our surroundings, such as dark laneways that seemingly go nowhere that are often seen as unwelcoming and scary by many people, particularly women and older people.

Either way, such spaces are not people places as they do not welcome as many people as reasonably possible. Of course there will always be a need for some barriers for safety reasons,for example to protect people at abrupt changes of level or at places where children may play near busy roads, but where these barriers exist they should be consciously designed for a reason (e.g. safety) and not just be an accidental result of misguided design.

Figure 4: Example of an entry that combines steps, ramps and an informal waiting area to make sure no one is excluded from this school because of their mobility requirements

Why is designing ‘people places’ important?

A person’s surroundings will impact on what they feel they can and can’t do in their neighborhood. The design of a street, park or public building can have a significant effect on the ability of its surrounding neighborhood to nurture the people who live there and become the setting for a livable and sustainable community.

For example, a poorly designed street may make the people who live there feel unsafe and so deter them from leaving home or letting their children play outside. Poorly designed streets also limit the opportunities for the people living in the area to get to know their neighbors, experience nature and have fun. Likewise parks that are unattractive, unsafe or function poorly are unlikely to be visited and so will offer little to the people who live nearby.

Poorly designed community buildings can be grim and unpleasant places that people try to avoid. Conversely if any of these are well designed, they provide people with surroundings that allow them to simultaneously meet many needs without going out of their way, such as socialize, gain exercise, experience nature. In this way they provide people with surroundings that give them the best possible chances to fulfil their potential and thrive, individually and collectively, the hallmarks of livable and sustainable communities.

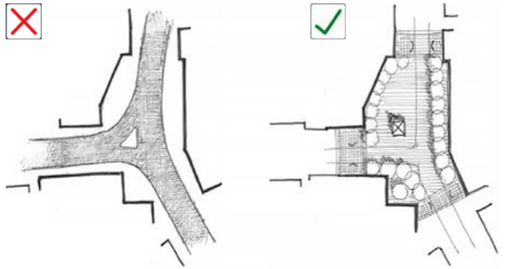


Figure 5: The way public space is designed will make a big difference to its ability to contribute to the quality of life of those people who live near it or pass through it

Figure 6: How to improve the quality of the spaces in villages, towns and cities

Different types of people places

Streets, laneways and footpaths

Streets are literally on everyone’s doorstep and streets that are pleasant, safe and attractive will invite people to walk, play, enjoy their surroundings and enjoy the company of their neighbors.

Research from Europe and Australia has found that people who live on such streets have found that their houses sell for more, enjoy a higher level of pride in their area and a greater sense of belonging to a community (Marcus and Sarkassian 1986) (Manzo and Perkins 2006) and children are more likely to play outside and be healthier (Homes and Communities Agency 2013).

Conversely people who have the misfortune to live on streets that are unsafe are effectively denied these benefits and are more likely to suffer from a sense of isolation, a lower level of participation in the community around them, a poor sense of connection to their neighborhood and be less healthy (Community Planning 2020).

Streets laneways and footpaths that are people places will feel like they are inviting places to be, rather than just spaces to pass through. They usually encourage motorists to drive with greater care and at lower speed in order to strike a balance between vehicular traffic and everyone else who uses the street, the pedestrians, cyclists, business people and residents.

Part of making a street a people place might involve “reclaiming” it from domination by cars. This can help improve safety and foster a sense of peace in neighborhoods that are becoming overwhelmed by speeding traffic.

Figure 7: Example of making a street a people place

Figure 8: Placemaking intervention in Al Walaja (Bethlehem), 2019

Parks and open spaces

Parks and open spaces can provide the people who live nearby with access to a wide range of opportunities that contribute to their quality of life. For example, they allow people to play sport, participate in exercise, experience nature, relax, gather and participate in cultural events.

However, in order to benefit from these activities, the potential visitors need to feel that going to the park will be worthwhile and a good investment of their time and effort. This requires parks and open spaces that are welcoming, comfortable, safe, easy to get to and supportive of the particular activity(ies) they hope to enjoy. If they fail to provide these qualities, they are less likely to be used and the people who live nearby are less likely to enjoy the health, social and other benefits of open space.

Figure 9: Parks and open spaces providing nearby people with access to a wide range of opportunities contributing to their quality of life

Figure 10: Placemaking intervention in Tinik (Jenin), 2018

Public buildings

Public buildings such as libraries, civic centres, neighbourhood houses and halls and the like are intended to serve the community and provide them with access to activities, services and/or events that they value. For people to benefit from these services they typically need to visit the building. There are of course many requirements for ensuring people feel like visiting the building but some of the essential ones are that the building is welcoming, safe, easy to get to and not depressing.

Failure to ensure these qualities may mean that the resources invested in creating or maintaining a building and all the committed efforts of staff and volunteers will not achieve the community benefits they are intended to achieve.

Figure 11: Ensuring public buildings are welcoming and relate well to their surroundings are an important part of making them people places

PART 2 Getting a people place designed and built

Partnerships

This section looks at the people and groups that may need to be involved to create a people place and offers an example of a placemaking project to illustrate how such a project can move towards completion.

Making changes to ones shared surroundings can be complex and usually requires co-ordination with many different agencies and groups. Quite often people are deterred from making changes or seeking to add their opinion to the design process because it appears too difficult.

Designing people places is about giving you a voice in the design process and aligning these different interests so they are all pointing in the same direction and all share a commitment to achieving a common goal.

To ensure time and efforts are used effectively, it is worth bearing in mind the following factors:

Understanding the roles of the different players in the placemaking process

Think of any shared space in your community. It might have water and sewerage pipes beneath it (or is planned to do so), a road above it that is managed by local government, it might be used by pedestrians, drivers, goatherds, and will adjoin private land. All these groups will be affected if you change the road. Understanding how any changes effects other people is an important aspect of designing people places.

Consequently, there are many different players interested in getting projects designed and built successfully. A good project that works well and stands the test of time will typically need to get approval and/or co-operation from all of them. These players can broadly be grouped into the categories described below. Each of these players has responsibilities and limitations and it may help the community to understand these when going through the design and building process in order that you might work more effectively with them.

Figure 12: Different stakeholders playing effective roles in designing and building places

Civil society

This includes members of the community, community groups and private landowners (where these are affected). Typically, the people in this group have very good local knowledge. They know what grows well and what doesn't and how people use the different spaces in their town or village. They also have the most direct benefit from improving their town or village. However, unfortunately people in Palestine have for many years been disempowered and have limited experience in planning and improving their communities. In order to make the best use of this local knowledge and commitment it is often necessary to collaborate with outside experts so that they may share the design process and work with government, donors to unlock the resources to get things done.

Government

Government at local and central level has responsibility to ensure that what gets built is in accordance with the relevant laws and ordinances. They will often need to approve any plans that a community makes to ensure it is in line with these laws and it is always worth checking before you do any final work to make sure it is aligned with official procedures.

Local authority's officers have many other responsibilities and so it may not be possible for any particular officer to dedicate much time to helping communities formulate designs for their spaces. In order to help the government, give swift feedback and or approval to community ideas it is usually best to present your ideas in ways that relate to councils' objectives and the rules they have to follow, including master plans, action plans or strategic development investment plans. This is one of the ways professional and experts can help.

Invariably the resources available to the government are never enough to implement all the good ideas and improvements they would like to do at once and so they have to be carefully considered and prioritized. Getting Council to adopt a proposal and ensure it is broadly supported will be helped by demonstrating how it meets local authorities' other objectives.

Donors

There are many national and international bodies who are committed to helping the people of Palestine. They can offer a wide range of skills and resources that might prove to be the difference between getting something done or not getting it done. However, they are all bound by strict rules governing what they can and can't spend money on and it will be necessary to understand these limitations and how they can fill the gaps in funding the people space.

Professionals

Experts in the fields of planning, landscape, architecture, urban design and other related fields can apply their creativity, professional insights and experiences to the challenges faced by the community to arrive at the best possible outcome.

An appropriate professional should

- Have a strong track record of working collaboratively with communities and local authorities,
- Demonstrate a clear methodology that is easy to understand and reflects the one in these guidelines,

- Demonstrate an ability to translate issues into proposals and explain the connection,
- Ensure final reports are clear, appealing and establish meaningful and implementable proposals, and
- Committed to responding to the agendas and issues of all stakeholders.

The Importance of community involvement

Perhaps the most important asset and the principal reason for making investments in a place is local people – the members of the community. Evidence around the world suggests that projects that spring from the community are more likely to be looked after and achieve greater benefits for money spent.

In other words, the investment of *emotional capital* by a community in a design for a place is as important as the financial capital of the people who build it and the creative and intellectual capital of the professionals who help design it.

The ideas illustrated in these guidelines are intended to use local skills in design, implementation and maintenance as much as possible. This is so you can have a sense that this is your work and you have a greater sense of control over your surroundings. This may also help you develop skills that you can use elsewhere and empower you.

Figure 13: Inclusive design exercise to establish the communities priorities and from that the framework of the design agenda and project. Haris (Salfit), 2018.

Creating a genuine sense of engagement is not without its challenges. The design team may need to pay special attention to supporting the participation of women and gaining people's trust, particularly in places where previous initiatives and consultation exercises have raised hopes that have not been realized.

Remember the project does not finish when it is built

To get the most out of a project care needs to be taken to plan for its management, review -to check it is contributing to people's lives as intended and its eventual replacement. All these stages provide an opportunity for the community to get involved in making these decisions and in undertaking the work.

Ways of doing to design a 'people place'

Typically, the process involves three workshops with the community and professional planners and designers as well as much "behind the scenes" work before and after these workshops.

Workshops are open meetings between the experts and the community to discuss and agree on aspects of the project and undertake design exercises that help progress the design. By following the stages outlined below, these workshops can move progressively from broad issues to finer detail and eventually arrive at design solutions in a clear, logical way. This method will allow all participants to gain a shared understanding of the issues faced in the community before moving on to potential solutions. This also enables the professional staff to at least partially see the village or town "through the eyes of the locals".

More specifically, a typical placemaking process might be divided into the following stages:

Before the first workshop there is an important need to build trust between the community and the professional staff undertaking the process in order to minimize barriers and build confidence, both in the process and the professionals working with the community. This requires the professionals to have made multiple contacts with the community, these points of contact should include, but not be limited to any recognized community leaders. These contacts should collaboratively agree on a date and time to start the workshop process that is (as far as possible) respected by the professionals and gives people in the community as much notice as possible. Where possible these connections need to be made broadly; in particular, by directly linking to men and women in the community. Also before the first workshop there is a need for the design team to undertake thorough background research to understand the areas topography, climate the flora and fauna indigenous to the area, the strategic context of the village and any relevant plans for the area.

The first workshop with the community is to build up a shared vision of the process and the site as it is. During the workshop the design team should explain the process and make a commitment to the community to assist the development of a sense of shared ownership. It is important to explain that this process differs from other types of consultation exercises that the community may have taken part in, particularly as it doesn't jump straight to solution but instead it comprises several steps and seeks to understand the underlying issues before arriving at solutions. Illustrating this point with examples of other studies done this way may help.

The first workshop then continues to explain the planning context for the study. This sets the scene to undertake a series of design exercises to understand the issues that the community attribute to different parts of their shared surroundings. This is known as the social landscape and understanding it is as important as the physical landscape because it helps the design team see the community through the eyes of the locals. Understanding the strength of feeling that people attribute to different issues provides the "design agenda" for the project and tells the designers what they need to concentrate on to get the best outcome.

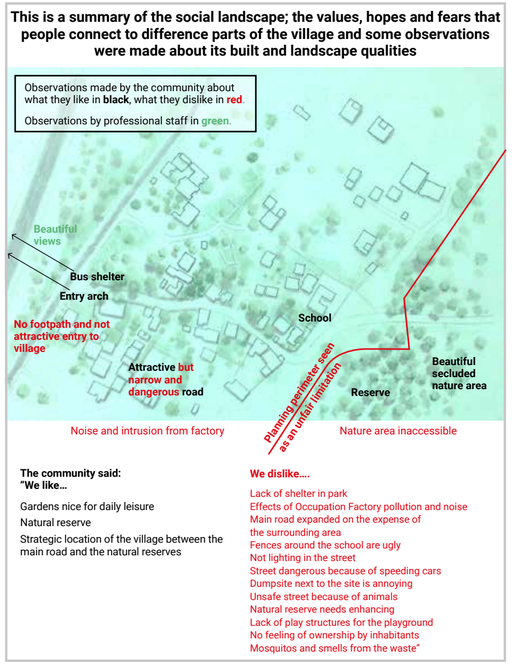


Figure 14: Izbet Tabib (Qalqiliya) social landscape

After the workshop the design team should undertake a conventional site analysis that would be undertaken for any project and then document the social landscape for this community. This would give the design team something that could then be presented to the community to check and validate. This understanding would lead to the areas that should be the focus of attention. These are summarized below.

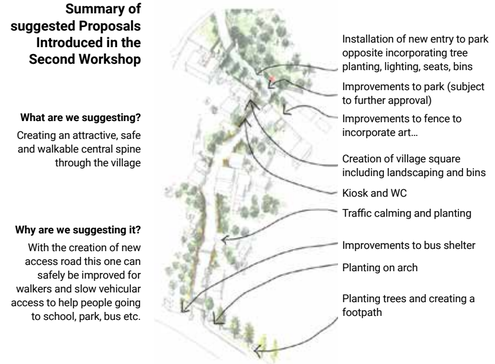


Figure 15: Izbet Tabib (Qalqiliya) design prioritie

The second workshop should present the findings of the first workshop back to the community for their consideration, amendment or confirmation. This is accompanied by some early ideas about the types of interventions that should be made and how they would help address the issues identified in the first workshop.

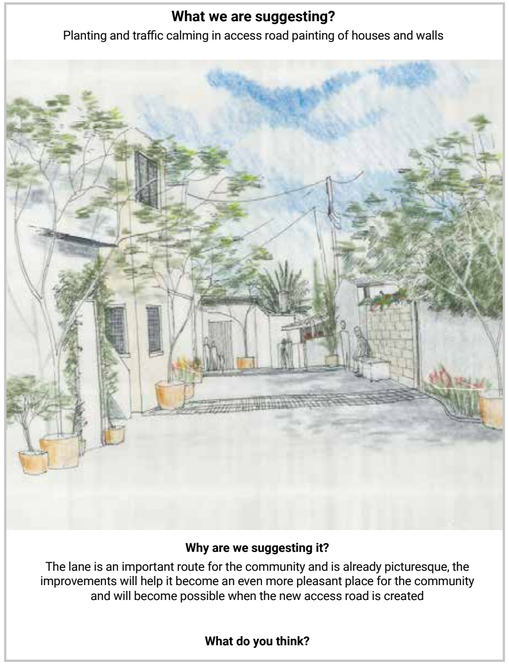


Figure 16: Izbet Tabib (Qalqiliya) illustration of design concept.

After this workshop the design team should then consider the issues raised by the community, keeping what the community recognized was good and reconsidering those issues that weren't supported by the community. Some considerable effort should be made to clearly communicating the design teams thought process and ensure the amended proposals are presented attractively and professionally. This will help demonstrate that the design team are committed to the project and will help visualize what these proposals would mean for the community

The third workshop can then move towards a final set of placemaking concepts by reporting back the findings of the second workshop. The third workshop also provides an opportunity to test the ideas against the issues identified in the first workshop and make sure they are relevant. To this end the proposals described not just the actions that were suggested but also how they will make a posituve difference.

Note: Feedback at all stages might arise including comments publically made at the meeting, one to one discussions with individuals in the community or through an anonymous response form. This would provide a variety of channels of feedback and ensure that people could find the medium that best suited them.

The final plans would incorporate concepts, explicitly addressing how they addressed the communities concerns and notes about how they might be implemented and maintained.

PART 3 Designing People Places

This section looks at the design principles that might help communities and designers make design decisions and some typical design ideas that one might consider when preparing concepts for people places.

Placemaking key principles

A people place will reflect the following principles:

Solve more than one problem with each concept

Access to land and resources is limited. People places seek to make the best use of these resources as possible. This means that wherever possible the creativity of the designer should be brought to bear on solving more than one problem at once and making sure that every space created serves as many people, with as many different needs as possible.

For example, two commonly identified objectives are to minimize traffic problems and make places better for walking. In conventional design projects it is often considered that widening streets and installing distinct footpaths separated from the road by kerbs might solve this problem. Indeed, this is often true but it is expensive and in many places the narrow road corridor makes this very difficult without buying up private land which is costly and very disruptive. In these instances, it might be better to design streets so they can safely be shared by pedestrians and drivers. A number of changes can be made, covered in this document, which help ensure vehicles travel slowly and that improve the pedestrian environment.

Another important objective is to provide places where children can play. Conventional thinking suggests these are designated play areas. Whilst these certainly have a role, a child will play anywhere they can and the ideas in this document seek to ensure that as many of these environments, such as streets and areas around public buildings are 'play friendly'.

Consider change over time

Usually there will be several years between a plan being drawn up and its completion. In that time a site may lay partly or completely vacant and its potential contribution to the surrounding community may remain unmet. During this time there may still be many opportunities for the area to contribute to the community and leave a positive legacy for the eventual completion of the project and the quality of life of future generations.

In the first instance making a change to a place might simply be a matter of installing planting and/or making a temporary change to an area that can easily be moved or changed. Well selected actions like this may be enough to inspire people to think differently about a space and get used to making decisions that contributes to their quality of life. Such projects might be called pioneer projects.

Getting the best outcome from these pioneer projects will need the lead designer to make sure everyone understands their role in making it happen and also ensure none of the work will have to be removed later to build roads/pipes etc. or if it is it can be easily put back (e.g. plants in pots).

Figure 17: Installing pot plants can make a quick, simple and immediate change to an area and enables everyone to participate in making people places

The detailed design work should make explicit reference to the design work done already to provide a sense of continuity. Sometimes it will be necessary to depart from earlier work, but when this happens the designer should explain why.

When considering pioneer projects one may wish to think about the following:

Early planting of appropriate trees can help the final project benefit from an established landscape when it is built. In order that the trees do not limit future development options, consider planting them on the edges of the site.

Many sites contain a wealth of ecological values, offering a home to many different types of flora and fauna that are Palestine's invaluable ecological heritage. Care should be taken to understand

Figure 18: Example of ecological heritage located in a site

what these are and manage them effectively in order that they may continue to support the areas ecological health. This usually requires commissioning the advice of a specialist.

Care should be taken with a pioneer project to use materials that may be easily relocated if needed. In many parts of the world shipping containers provide a cheap and flexible means of housing different activities and can, with appropriate design look visually appealing.

Figure 19: Restart in Christchurch New Zealand, a temporary shopping centre made largely out of Shipping Containers, this transitional development demonstrated to the community that the earthquake that struck the city hadn't destroyed it; it was on the way up again

Sometimes the pioneer projects are transitory; a temporary use of a space that leaves a positive legacy for future development. Either through the landscaping or other assets it has left behind it, or because of the sense it has created that things are getting better in a community. Landowners are often reluctant to allow their land to be used for transitional use because it may cause a management problem and the transitional use may prove very popular. These problems may be addressed, at least in part when the transition elements are:

- Subject to a management plan agreed with the landowner that outlines exactly who has what responsibilities.
- The transitional uses are accompanied by prominent signage and publicity that acknowledges the landowner and their generosity in allowing the use of the site for transitional use for a temporary period.

Respect the soul of the place

People places maintain those familiar elements and seek to use characteristics that make a place special and that resonate with people. This often means looking beyond fashion or convenience or using the materials and design themes that are inexpensive and have been used recently elsewhere. Instead People Places use local materials and design themes where possible and a palette of plants and materials that are indigenous or have come to be valued by the local community. These are more likely to stand the test of time and be buildable by local people. People places also seek to ensure buildings and spaces work with the local landscape wherever possible and minimize large scale engineering work that may otherwise scar the landscape.

This may also mean looking around to see what materials can be re-used locally and provide an opportunity for local people to express themselves.

Figure 20: Reused tire turned into a hanging basket

Figure 21: Seating provided in an open space using the areas characteristics, such as its topography and local stone

Avoid unintentional bias

Many spaces inadvertently reflect the priority of one consideration over others. An example of this are streets that are designed to facilitate car movement to the disadvantage of other functions the street may serve, such as walking, improving the areas amenity and comfort or servicing. Designing people places requires designing to reconcile these diverse objectives. In the example of car dominated streets this may mean giving more space to the landscape and footpath functions so both can function and perhaps introducing traffic calming measures. In places where space is limited this might require designing share ways that ensure that the needs of one type of use does not dominate.

Figure 22: Unless there are very pressing reasons to do otherwise, roadside spaces should be dedicated for landscaping and a separate uninterrupted area (typically at least 1.2m wide) should be dedicated for footpaths

Build community and a sense of positive momentum

An important element of making a difference to a community is nurturing the feeling that things are getting better. To this end it is very helpful to move quickly to achieve projects that can be done soon and that achieve a positive legacy. To this end tree planting/installation of plants type landscaping is often a good "pioneer" project. Most villages already have the skills in this area and these types of interventions can achieve a big instant effect. It is also an accessible way for people to gain experience on coordinating work.

This requires that everyone feels engaged and involved. This may require meetings/publicity/mail drop to explain the scope of placemaking projects and how they differ from other projects people may be familiar with. It may also be necessary to explain why this project is focusing on streetscape rather than the issues identified in existing plans as most pressing, such as sewerage and water. The response to this question would be that these achieve different outcomes, that these "people place" projects can help get the ball rolling before these 'big ticket' items can be implemented.

It might be an idea to set up a committee in targeted communities to implement and help co-ordinate this work and maintain the improved areas. Such a committee might also oversee the work of local contractors where these are called upon to implement the people place proposals.

On many occasions a placemaking project may reveal that the only way to achieve improvements to the public realm is to make some changes in the adjoining private properties (in particular tree planting). Where this is the case it will be important to ensure land owners understand the reasoning why this is the case and agree to planting etc. on their land. Achieving this will be a matter of tact and diplomacy. Care should also be taken to acknowledge the contribution of the private landowners.

Figure 23: Trees planted on private properties adjacent to a road may offer the best way of contributing to the amenity of people walking along the road.

Ideally the funding agency should encourage community contracting methodology, where the members of the community can roll up their sleeves to do these interventions (this is cheaper than a big engineering firm). Where work has been agreed on private land simple statements of instructions may be prepared for each landowner that might also double up as an informal contract.

With any work that you do, you need to make sure maintenance is considered to ensure your projects can continue to make a difference in the long run.

For each intervention there should be a sign or plaque acknowledging the community input, telling the story of whom or what the space is dedicated to and (where appropriate) interpretive material explaining the choice of trees and plants (the pros and cons of each species) with pictures of the plant when mature so if people are inspired by what they see they can replicate it at home.

The established local committee might also run an annual competition for the best contribution made by members of the community.

Ensure responsibilities fall at the most appropriate level

A “People Place” is likely to require many inputs from many different people and agencies.

To be able to get the most value from the available and scarce resources in Palestine, the responsibilities between the community and other agencies will change as one moves through the design process. This can help to make sure the process benefits from the involvement of those who were best equipped to help at each stage in the process. This process may well call on a lead designer to facilitate the design and project management, assisted by someone with specialist technical knowledge (horticulturalist / engineer) where possible to ensure responsibilities are distributed appropriately.

Such an evolution of responsibilities might be as described below:

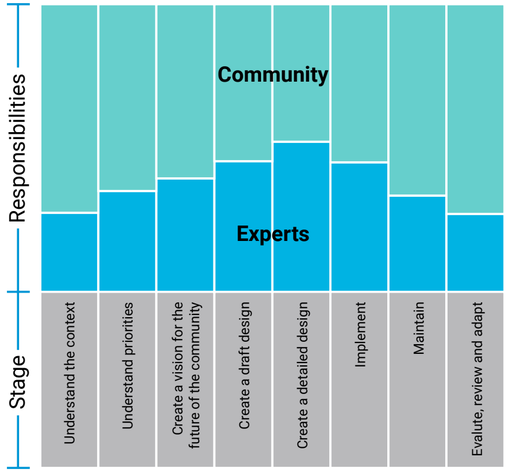


Figure 24: Responsibilities in the Placemaking Processes

Placemaking ideas

Placemaking projects in Palestine revealed the following objectives, which come up time after time in a variety of settings. Consequently, the ideas in this toolkit are presented in light of their impact on achieving these goals:

- Make places better for walking
- Make places more beautiful
- Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather
- Make places that provide a focus for community pride
- Minimize traffic problems
- Make places for children to play

The ideas that follow are not exhaustive and are not intended to replace the need for a landscape architect or urban designer, rather to help the community participate in the design process and work with their chosen design professional. It should always be borne in mind that not all ideas will be appropriate in all locations and your design advisor should be able to help you work out which of these ideas, or others, are appropriate in your area and make sure they make the maximum contribution to their surroundings.

These ideas are divided up into built things and initiatives that encourage people to use and enjoy the space and are appropriate in different settings, including:

- in streetscapes and open spaces,
- primarily in streetscapes,
- primarily in open spaces,
- community buildings, and
- those ideas that might go anywhere.

Each idea lists the ways it can contribute to its surroundings so one can make sure it is relevant to the issues in her/his area. This is supported by a succinct outline of the key things to think about to make sure design decisions can be made in a way that everyone can engage in.

Improve open spaces

BBQ area

How might it help?

Things to consider

- May add to the quality of streetscape or park if well designed
- May be "adopted" by local community
- May be controversial, may be prone to vandalism/rubbish
- Will need to be carefully managed
- Care may also need to be taken when thinking about the design and location of rubbish bins

Picnic area

How might it help?

Things to consider

- May add to the quality of streetscape or park if well designed
- May be "adopted" by local community
- May be controversial, may be prone to vandalism/rubbish
- Will need to be carefully managed
- Care may also need to be taken when thinking about the design and location of rubbish bins

Raised planting beds

How might it help?

Things to consider

- These can double as seats
- They may allow the pre-development ground level to be retained around existing trees when the surrounding ground level changes
- The change in surrounding ground level may affect irrigation and the trees may require additional irrigation

Tree planting

How might it help?

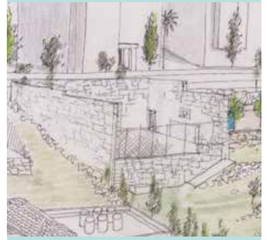
Things to consider

- Tree planting can increase opportunities to experience the wonder of nature and provide opportunities for everyone to experience nature
- Care will need to be taken with tree planting to ensure the selected species does not become a trip hazard or have branches at eye level that may cause injury
- Tall trees can be visible from a long distance, but they may cause overshadowing problems
- Care will also need to be taken in the management of these areas to optimize their ecological and aesthetic values, recalling irrigation methods
- These areas might also provide an opportunity for picnic areas as outlined in this document

Table 1: Ideas to improve open spaces

Make places better for walking
Make places more beautiful
Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather
Make places that provide a focus for community pride
Minimize traffic problems
Make places for children to play

Multi-purpose hard court area



How might it help?

Things to consider

- Potential activities include sport, outdoor cinema, performances
- Minimal area 26m by 40m to ensure it can be used for a variety of sports
- Ensuring the games are not visible from the street will make it more comfortable for girls to play sport
- Co-locating the area with a changing room and storeroom will greatly enhance its usability

Play area

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Provides an opportunity to make use of changes in levels
- Better places provide a range of experiences (things to go under, over, between and places to share and occupy) and challenges (things to climb up, jump between) etc.
- Provides an opportunity to use local stone and reclaimed materials such as pipes
- Important to ensure that falls will land on a material that will minimize the likelihood of injury
- Seats should be provided nearby for parents and carers

Buffer planting

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Can provide a visual break between land uses
- Can provide an attractive landscape setting for future development
- To get the best outcome care will need to be taken to ensure that the species of trees are appropriate for the area, and other planting is considered to create an appropriate groundcover and mid story planting
- With appropriate space dedicated to landscape, buffer planting may grow to be seen from a long distance and contribute to the area's skyline
- With careful choice of planting these spaces may provide areas of high habitat value and help enhance the areas ecological health

Gathering place

How might it help?

Things to consider

- These work best when they don't require people to go far out of their way to get there. Therefore, they should be on, or nearby important pedestrian routes and adjacent to key public buildings or commercial areas where people will have to go anyway
- Note the more a place is used the greater will be its maintenance burden. This will need to be carefully considered when creating a gathering space

Table 1: Ideas to improve open spaces

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Improve streetscapes (or open spaces)

Change surface material

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Some surface materials, such as cobbles or setts can make a space more attractive and slow down vehicles
- Care will need to be taken to ensure the surface material is not too intrusive or requires unsustainable maintenance
- Note harder surfaces typically will change the way rain drains from a site. This creates both the opportunity to gather water and also an added responsibility to make sure it does not cause problems downstream

Directional Signage

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Directional signage of the type shown can be inlaid into the ground where it is unobtrusive but clearly tells people what direction to go in to get to where they want to

Footpath installation or widening

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Care will need to be taken to ensure the surface material is not too intrusive or requires unsustainable maintenance
- Note harder surfaces typically will change the way rain drains from a site. This creates both the opportunity to gather water and also an added responsibility to make sure it does not cause problems downstream

Framing or revealing views

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Careful placement of buildings and landscape can enable people to enjoy landmarks from afar and may help them find their way through the area

Table 2: Ideas to improve streetscapes (or open spaces)

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Public art

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- Be careful! Public art can be controversial and will require careful maintenance if it is to continue to contribute to a community
- If public art is robust enough it may also serve as a play feature

Rain gardens/water harvesting

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- Rain gardens are features to capture rainwater and recharge the water table.
- They can help communities demonstrate their commitment to sustainability
- Signage illustrating how they work can help increase awareness in the wider community about how their community is facing future environmental challenges
- Rain gardens and other "water sensitive urban design" measures can be coordinated with changes to street scapes that may be needed for other purposes (such as laying pipes)

Seating

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- Seats can easily be incorporated into low retaining walls by putting a "sittable" surface on top of the wall
- Seats near trees can enjoy shade in summer
- Seats should be located adjacent to footpaths and/or located where people can enjoy spectacular views
- Seats with arm rests are preferred by older people with less mobility

Street, village or open space thresholds

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- Many communities express a desire to create an imposing entry statement in the form of a grand gateway at the entrance to their community. Perhaps this objective might be better met by smaller, more sculptural features that tell the passer by that they are arriving at somewhere special. Such features also provide an opportunity to incorporate seats and make visitors feel welcome as well as helping to slow them down

Table 2: Ideas to improve streetscapes (or open spaces)

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Temporary art features

Example of temporary art feature on fence in Izbet Tabib by local artist Israa Tabib

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- They can change the way people think about an area and change a problem to an asset
- They can also express a community's values and priorities

Toilets

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- They can take the worry out of going for a walk for many
- They are likely to be expensive and will need to be well managed or may become a health and security problem themselves

Traffic calming

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- Traffic calming (slowing vehicles down to a safe speed) can be done in a way that adds to the beauty of the street by landscaping, changing the width and alignment of the road or changing the surface material
- Planting tall trees on either side of the road will reduce its perceived width and encourage traffic to slow down

Unifying features

| How might it help? |

| Things to consider |

- A consistent landscaping theme along the length of an important route can be an effective way of linking the destinations at either end. This need not always require absolute consistency of materials or planting but might be achieved by a single element such as the presence of tree canopy over the footpath, the installation of flowering plants of a consistent colour, signage or the construction of a footpath from one end to the other

Table 2: Ideas to improve streetscapes (or open spaces)

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Improve streetscapes

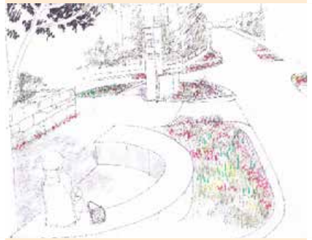
Roadside tree and shrub planting

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Tree planting can increase opportunities to experience the wonder of nature and provide opportunities for everyone to experience nature
- Care will need to be taken with tree planting to ensure the selected species does not become a trip hazard or have branches at eye level that may cause injury
- Trees can be visible from a long distance
- Care will also need to be taken in the management of these areas to optimize their ecological and aesthetic values
- On many occasions the road corridors will be too narrow to provide space for landscaping and footpaths. When this occurs it is better to ensure there is a safe, uninterrupted pedestrian environment by providing a dedicated footpath and negotiating with adjoining land owners to see if they are happy to have trees planted on their land
- Planting vines can be an effective way of obscuring unattractive fences

Pause places



How might it help?

Things to consider

- These are compositions of seats and landscaping, and possibly signage and other street furniture such as lighting or rubbish bins. They can make a big difference along an important pedestrian walk but will require careful management to ensure they stay attractive
- These areas can provide the perfect opportunities for adoption of spaces by schools, businesses, etc.

Bollards

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Bollards can also double up as places to sit, if designed at the right height and size, and prevent unauthorized parking of vehicles

Table 3: Ideas to improve streetscapes

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

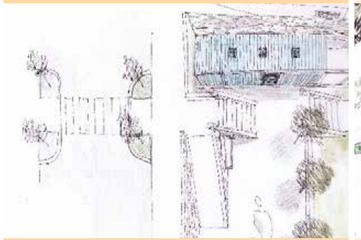
Bus shelters

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Repainting bus shelters or using them for murals can be a very effective way of brightening them up
- Installation of seats and regular cleaning of bus shelters provides an effective way for a community to say that public transport is important and matters to them. Some places have found that the installation of a bookshelf can assist in recycling reading material that might make waiting for a bus a less boring thing to do

Pedestrian crossing



How might it help?

Things to consider

- Can be very effective when combined with landscaping and road narrowing to change the character of a place and making it seem less car orientated
- Care should be taken to ensure it is aligned to where pedestrians want to go and doesn't require pedestrians to go out of their way to use it
- May also improve amenity and comfort
- Can easily be combined with other features
- Can be controversial and are not appropriate everywhere

Place marker

How might it help?

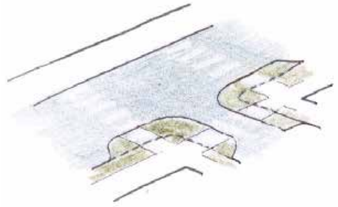
Things to consider

- These features can provide the perfect opportunities for adoption of spaces by schools, businesses, etc.
- These may have a great impact on the perceived character of your community. Care should be taken to ensure its design, materials and themes reflect well on the community
- They can provide an opportunity to celebrate the history and values of a community

Table 3: Ideas to improve streetscapes

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Kerb outstands to narrow roads at intersections



How might it help?

Things to consider

- This can slow down traffic, make it easier to cross the road and by claiming more space for pedestrians it provides an opportunity to install landscape improvements or even play areas
- Care should be taken however to ensure that landscaping still allows approaching drivers to see if there is anyone about to cross the road

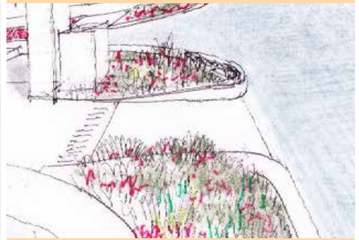
Shareway

How might it help?

Things to consider

- On many roads there will not be enough room to separate pedestrian and vehicle movement and provide landscape improvements to support the areas amenity. In these areas it may be possible through signage and re-design of the road to make vehicles travel so slowly that it becomes a space that is shared by vehicles and pedestrians

Drop kerbs/ramps



How might it help?

Things to consider

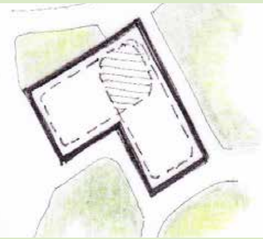
- Makes it easier for wheelchair users and for people to push prams
- May require tactile strip to assist people with limited eyesight

Table 3: Ideas to improve streetscapes

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Ideas for public buildings

Incorporate shared facilities

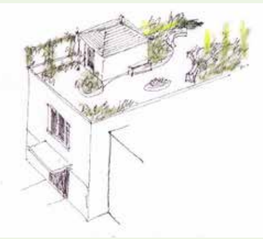


How might it help?

Things to consider

- Refer to the relevant standards for the different uses that you wish to incorporate in your shared facility

Incorporate roof garden



How might it help?

Things to consider

- Ensure the building is structurally strong enough to support a roof, and has an efficient drainage system

Provide distinctive and grand entrance

How might it help?

Things to consider

- This can provide a minor landmark for the community that can play a big role in creating the mental image that people have of their community

Table 4: Ideas for Public Buildings

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Ensure entrance is visible and accessible from the street

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Providing an attractive and safe entrance to a public building taking into account different access abilities and safety requirements for step and ramp design

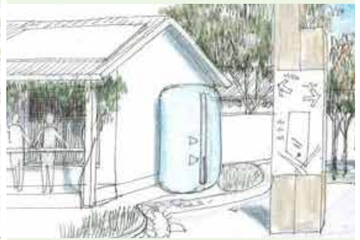
Locate an attractive open space outside main entrance to the open space

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Providing an attractive safe open space adjacent to an entrance of a public building provides a place for activity for building users to break out into
- It can provide an attractive vantage point from which to view the public building

Incorporate prominent water harvesting system or other sustainability measures



How might it help?

Things to consider

- By making a feature of sustainability measures the community can tell the world and each other that sustainability matters
- Make places that encourage composting

Table 4: Ideas for Public Buildings

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

Ideas that could go anywhere

Historical/heritage signage

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Can provide a way of linking people to the past and acknowledging the contribution made by different people to the community
- Be careful! Recollections can differ and sometimes agreeing on the past can be a difficult thing to achieve

Gardening Competitions

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Gardening competitions are a way of getting everyone involved in making places better

Improved lighting

How might it help?

Things to consider

- Many people recognize the importance of lighting but lighting can be expensive to install and maintain
- You should also be aware that when you install trees and other landscaping, it may affect existing lighting and make the street level darker

Table 5: Ideas that could go anywhere

Make places better for walking | Make places more beautiful | Provide places that are welcoming and invite people to meet and gather | Make places that provide a focus for community pride | Minimize traffic problems | Make places for children to play

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Annex (1)

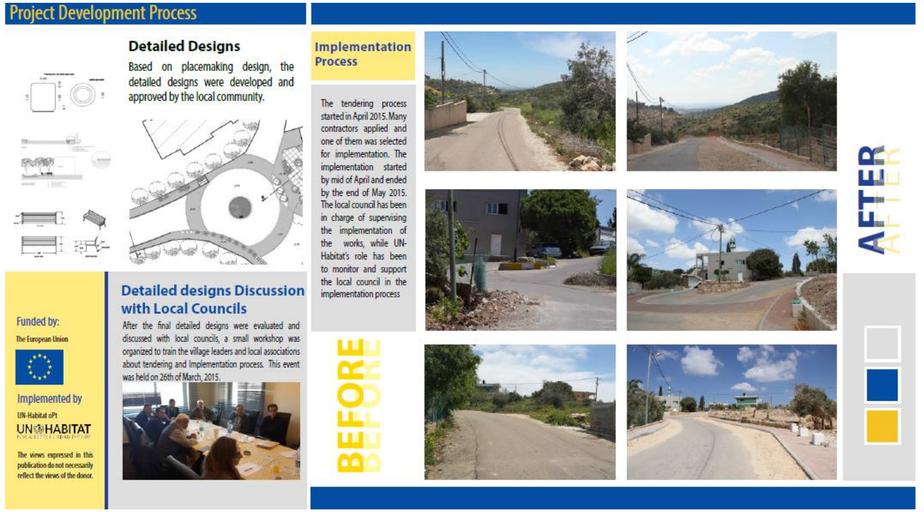
Recommendations of Consultation Meeting, February 2020

- Documentation of good practices and the preparation and endorsement of a nation-wide policy paper on public spaces.
- The need to prepare a community outreach plan to gain people's confidence and commitment to the project, also to overcome problems and challenges that arise during the implementation phase.
- Focusing on the importance of including the historical city centres within the placemaking interventions and enhancing the linkage between them.
- Focusing on natural resources, such as water springs and solar energy and the use of eco-friendly building materials.
- Promoting and supporting the local economic development in the communities through spatial-focused interventions based on the special characteristics of each community.
- Work on the inclusion of other experiences at a larger scale, such as cities and towns. This will enrich the placemaking process by including additional inputs and elements making the placemaking toolkit more inclusive.
- Emphasizing on the idea of designing a place that is linked historically and spiritually with people's minds, not merely a physical space.
- To ensure sustainability, it is paramount that coordination is maintained between the Ministry of Local Government and Local Government Directorates as they are the main interlocutor to achieve the plans agreed with all stakeholders, especially Local Government Units.
- Enriching the toolkit with regulations that would support the sustainability of the interventions post-implementation phase (before the design phase: ensure local ownership and commitments by raising awareness and collective thinking and experiences that have been accomplished on the ground. During the implementation phase: use durable materials. Post-implementation: follow-up and supervision by the beneficiaries and management of the public space, including open hours, and diversification of community-led activities).
- Agree on in-kind contributions by the beneficiary party (i.e. local communities) to create a spirit of ownership and commitment to these interventions.
- Promoting for the importance of placemaking interventions to foster a sense of commitment and ownership of the project and involving all groups: women, children, people with special needs ..., during all phases (during and after the design and implementation phase).
- Preparing a procedural manual for designing social infrastructure projects and interventions, not only limited to the functional purposes but rather reflecting on the needs and aspirations of the local community, through documenting the experiences of other partners such as the Municipal Development and Lending Fund.

Annex (2): Implemented Placemaking Projects in Palestine

Abdullah Al Younis – Jenin

عبدالله اليونس - جنين



Ti'innik – Jenin

PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people.

ABOUT TI'INNIK

Inhabitants	1298
Males	619
Females	679
Water Network	Yes
Electricity Network	Yes
Sewage Network	No
Waste Collection Services	Yes
Intervention Area	550 m²
Contract Value	EUR 26,144

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2017)

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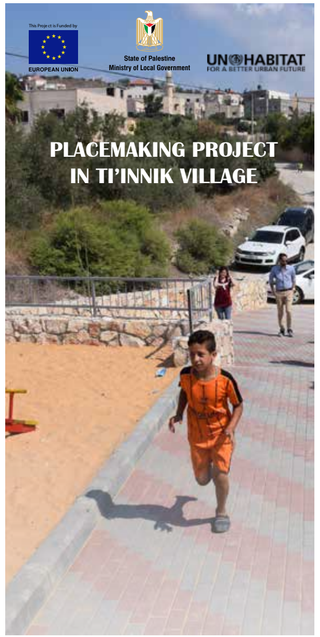
Creating a public space between Ti'innik's two schools to be accessible for the young generation in particular and the wider public in general, serving as a playground and a comfort and relaxing space.

Before:

After:

Installing a mosaic informative panel to identify the village



تعنك - جنين

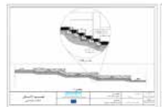
BACKGROUND

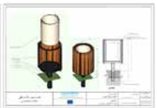
As a part of the EU-funded Project in the West Bank, entitled: 'Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C,' the placemaking Project in Ti'innik took place, as a follow up action derived from the statutory Detailed Local Outline Plan, which has been prepared with and for the local community and then submitted for approval to the Israeli Civil Administration. The local outline plan designates the roads and public spaces, along with residential houses, etc. Furthermore, an Action Plan has been developed with community validated selection and prioritization of community infrastructure and facilities. MoLG prioritizes interventions in this community to leverage community investment. The area for project implementation and the design idea were derived during citizen's participation workshops organized by UN-Habitat and in cooperation with MoLG back in 2015. During the workshops participants have expressed their interest for improving the built environment such as: improving the access to main public facilities, planting of greenery, improving the pedestrian pathways, connection with playground areas, etc. The participatory process of design has been complemented now under the EU-funded programme at hand. The entire process of placemaking design workshops took on average 8 weeks. Furthermore, the specific interventions agreed for implementation has been identified through this process based on the available budget.

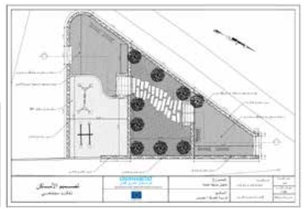
The placemaking process allows the community and experts to work together to achieve plans that apply a high standard of design to an agenda set by the community

DETAILED DESIGNS

The interventions and detailed designs are designed to be inexpensive, focusing on using local skills and materials and well related to the local context.







Imneizel – Hebron

Placemaking Project
Imneizel

Background

Location
A small rural village 8.5km south of Yatta and 5km southeast of Samu, Hebron Governorate

Population
380 inhabitants

Total built up area
73 donums

Project's Budget
$20,751

Planning Support to the Palestinian Communities

The project is funded by the Office of the European Union Representative and is currently implemented by UN-Habitat in partnership with the International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC).
The overall goal of this programme is improved resilience of Palestinian communities in the Israeli controlled Area C of the West Bank through sustainable local development, building rights and access to basic services proposed.
Placemaking is an approach to complement the village plan with focus on public spaces and community involvements.

Placemaking

Placemaking Process

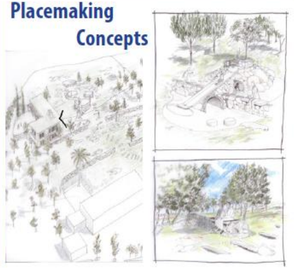
The placemaking process allows the community and outside experts to work together to achieve plans that apply a high standard of design to an agenda set by the community

-The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people

-The interventions and detailed designs are designed to be inexpensive, focusing on using local skills and materials and well related to the local context.

-The plans and the narrative about how they were generated was compiled into promotional booklets to help convince potential funding partners to fund these

Placemaking Concepts



Placemamking Outputs

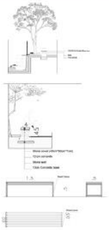
The placemaking process allows the community and outside experts to work together to achieve plans that apply a high standard of design to an agenda set by the community. The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people. The interventions and detailed designs are designed to be inexpensive, focusing on using local skills and materials and well related to the local context. The plans and the narrative about how they were generated was compiled into promotional booklets to help convince potential funding partners to fund these projects.

Placemaking usually focuses at the entire spine of the village, with proposed interventions to improve the visibility of the place, including:

- Install seats, shelter and a number of play features on slope behind school, seeking to retain trees. Link these areas to school via steps set in the landscape.
- Install seats on existing retaining wall.
- Improving existing school playground.

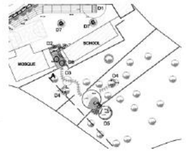
امنيزل - الخليل

Project Development Process



Detailed Designs

Based on placemaking design, the detailed designs were developed and approved by the local community.



Funded by:
The European Union

Implemented by
UN-Habitat oPt
UN HABITAT

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Detailed designs Discussion with Local Councils

After the final detailed designs were evaluated and discussed with local councils, a small workshop was organized to train the village leaders and local associations about tendering and implementation process. This event was held on 26th of March, 2015.

Implementation Process

The tendering process started in April 2015. Many contractors applied and one of them was selected for implementation. The implementation started by mid of April and ended by the end of May 2015. The local council has been in charge of supervising the implementation of the works, while UN-Habitat's role has been to monitor and support the local council in the implementation process

BEFORE

AFTER

Izbet Tabib - Qalqiliya

Placemaking Project
Izbet Tabib

Background

Location
A small rural village 7km to the east of Qalqilia city, Qalqilia Governorate

Population
225 inhabitants

Total built up area
23 donums

Project's Budget
$29,061

Planning Support to the Palestinian Communities

The project is funded by the Office of the European Union Representative and is currently implemented by UN-Habitat in partnership with the International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC).
The overall goal of this programme is improved resilience of Palestinian communities in the Israeli controlled Area C of the West Bank through sustainable local development, building rights and access to basic services proposed.
Placemaking is an approach to complement the village plan with focus on public spaces and community involvements.

Placemaking

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-The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people

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Placemaking Concepts

Placemamking Outputs

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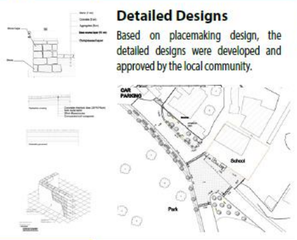
Placemaking usually focuses at the entire spine of the village, with proposed interventions to improve the visibility of the place, including:
•Improvements to new entry to park opposite school incorporating tree -planting, seats, and bins
•Traffic calming in access road and painting of houses and walls
•Planting vines on the arch and installing a sign welcoming people
• Installation of footpath, landscaping and seats on entry road

عزبة طبيب - قلقيلية

Project Development Process



Detailed Designs

Based on placemaking design, the detailed designs were developed and approved by the local community.

Funded by:
The European Union

Implemented by
UN-Habitat oPt
UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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Detailed designs Discussion with Local Councils

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Implementation Process

The tendering process started in April 2015. Many contractors applied and one of them was selected for implementation. The implementation started by mid of April and ended by the end of May 2015. The local council has been in charge of supervising the implementation of the works, while UN-Habitat's role has been to monitor and support the local council in the implementation process

BEFORE

AFTER

Ras el Wad – Bethlehem

Placemaking Projects
Ras Al-Wad

Background

Location
A small rural village, exits 6.5 km the South-East of Bethlehem, Bethlahem Governerate.

Population
577 (IPCC,2007)

Total built up area
441donums

Project's Budget
$ 17,937.64

Planning Support to the Palestinian Communities

The overall goal of this programme is improved resilience of Palestinian communities in Area C through sustainable local development, building rights and access to basic services proposed.
Placemaking is an approach to implement the village plan with focus on public spaces and community involvements.
The project is funded by the Office of the European Union Representative and is currently implemented by UN-Habitat in partnership with the International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC).

About Placemaking

Placemaking Process

The process involved three workshops with the community and much "behind the scenes" work before and after these workshops.

-The first workshop explains the process and seeks to understand the issues that the community attribute to different parts of their shared surroundings.

-The second workshop presents the findings of the first workshop back to the community for their consideration and confirmation, resulting in first design proposals.

-The third workshop discusses and concludes the design proposals

Concept based on Placemaking

Placemamking Outputs

As a result of a placemaking process, the priorities of the local communities had been visualized by a placemaking designer. The sketches are illustrative, very close to the future reality, and easy to be understood by local people. Usually, the interventions and detailed designs are not very expensive, focusing on using local materials and well related to the local context. All these outputs were conducted in reports and booklets composed of sketches and narrative parts as a tool for fundraising.

Placemaking Concepts

Placemaking usually focuses at the entire fine of the village, with proposed interventions to improve the visibility of the place, including:

- Improve the environmental and visual quality (tree planting)
- Provide accessible and safe pedestrian connections
- Improve safety with street lighting.
- Community empowerment, increase sense of ownership

راس الواد - بيت لحم

Project Development Process

Detailed Designs

Based on placemaking designs, the detailed design were developed and approved by the local community.

Implementation Process

The tendering process started in April 2015. Many contractors applied and one of them was selected for implementation. The implementation started by mid of April and ended by the end of May 2015. The local councils and associations has been in charge of supervising the work, while UN-Habitat role has been to monitor the process.

Detailed design Discussion with Local Councils

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Implemented by
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UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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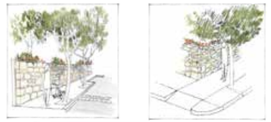
BEFORE

AFTER

Al Walaja - Bethlehem

PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

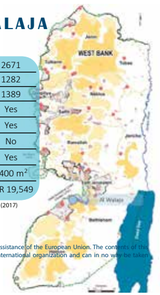
The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people.



ABOUT AL WALAJA

Inhabitants	2671
Males	1282
Females	1389
Water Network	Yes
Electricity Network	Yes
Sewage Network	No
Waste Collection Services	Yes
Intervention Area	1400 m²
Contract Value	EUR 19,549

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2017)



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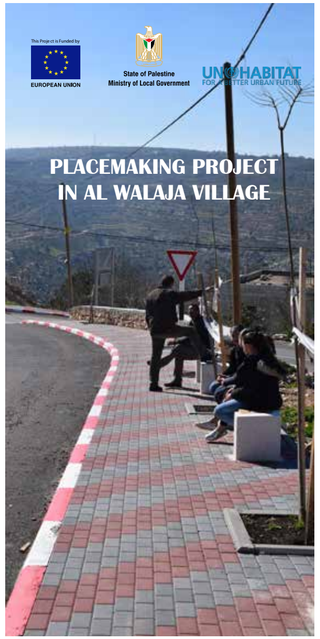


الولجة - بيت لحم

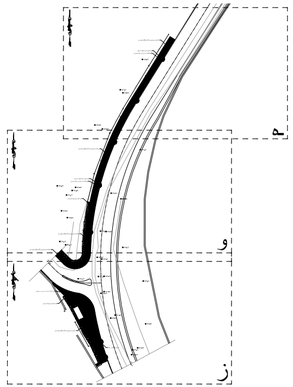
BACKGROUND

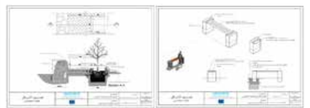
As part of the EU-funded Project in the West Bank, entitled: 'Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C', the placemaking project in Al Walaja took place, as a follow up action derived from the statutory Detailed Local Outline Plan, which has been prepared with and for the local community and then submitted for approval to the Israeli Civil Administration. The local outline plan designates the roads and public spaces, along with residential houses, etc. Furthermore, an Action Plan has been developed with community validated selection and prioritization of community infrastructure and facilities. Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) prioritizes interventions in this community to leverage community investment. The area for project implementation and the design idea were derived during citizen's participation workshops organized by UN-Habitat and in cooperation with MoLG back in 2015. During the workshops participants have expressed their interest for improving the built environment such as: improving the access to main public facilities, planting of greenery, improving the pedestrian pathways, connection with playground areas, etc. The participatory process has been complemented now under the EU-funded programme at hand. The entire process of placemaking design workshops took 8 weeks. Furthermore, the specific interventions agreed for implementation has been identified through this process based on the available budget.

The placemaking process allows the community and experts to work together to achieve plans that apply a high standard of design to an agenda set by the community

Develoing the main entrance of Al Walaja village by making it safe and comfortable for pedestrian movement. The main bus stop area was rehabilitated, tiled and shaded with trees, and benches were installed.c to the plants and trees. The intervention and detailed designs are designed to be inexpensive, focusing on using local skills and materials and well related to the local context.

DETAILED DESIGNS





Wadi An Nis – Bethlehem

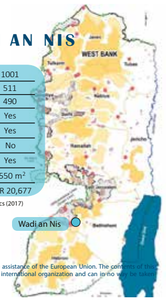
PLACEMAKING CONCEPTS

The sketches produced in this process are illustrative, very close to the future reality and easily understood by local people.

ABOUT WADI AN NIS

Inhabitants	1001
Males	511
Females	490
Water Network	Yes
Electricity Network	Yes
Sewage Network	No
Waste Collection Services	Yes
Intervention Area	1550 m²
Contract Value	EUR 20,677

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2017)



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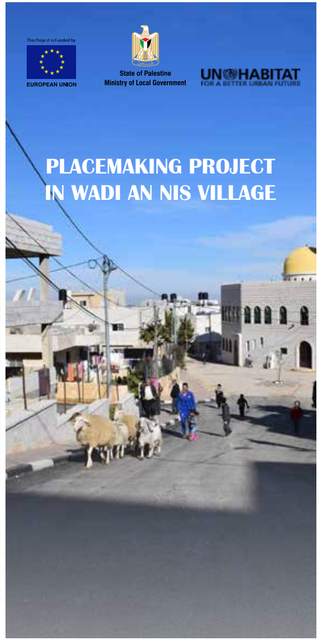

واد النيص - بيت لحم

BACKGROUND

As part of the EU-funded Project in the West Bank, entitled: 'Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C', the placemaking project in Wadi an Nis took place, as a follow up action derived from the statutory Detailed Local Outline Plan, which has been prepared with and for the local community and then submitted for approval to the Israeli Civil Administration. The local outline plan designates the roads and public spaces, along with residential houses, etc. Furthermore, an Action Plan has been developed with community validated selection and prioritization of community infrastructure and facilities. Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) prioritizes interventions in this community to leverage community investment. The area for project implementation and the design idea were derived during citizen's participation workshops organized by UN-Habitat and in cooperation with MoLG back in 2015. During the workshops participants have expressed their interest for improving the built environment such as: improving the access to main public facilities, planting of greenery, improving the pedestrian pathways, connection with playground areas, etc. The participatory process has been complemented now under the EU-funded programme at hand. The entire process of placemaking design workshops took 8 weeks. Furthermore, the specific interventions agreed for implementation has been identified through this process based on the available budget.

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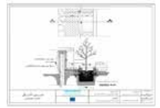
DETAILED DESIGNS



The intervention is located at the center of the Village, connecting the four main nodes; the Village Council Building, the medical clinic, the main Mosque and the main school. The project is forming an improved set of networks and connections focusing on safe pedestrian movement throughout the site. Speed bumps and roundabout were constructed to facilitate the movement of cars and calm down the traffic. The sidewalks will contain benches, as relaxing points shaded by trees.