

Urban transformations of the digital era

– Bringing the city back to people



Storyline

- **Urban regeneration as a bundle of practices**
- **High expectations & strong jeopardizing pressures**
- **Awareness helps in bringing cities back to people**
- **Even in the era of global real estate, let me tell how**
- **Even in the digital era, let me tell how**
- **Turning the networks and cooperation into a legacy**

Bundle of practices





High expectations



Strong jeopardizing pressures

Some models fashionable once – and time and again





Some come in disguise



(Alleged) traffic infra projects



c) Aidinger & Wolf



<https://developmentlandurbanism.com/2013/04/12/the-producer-city/>



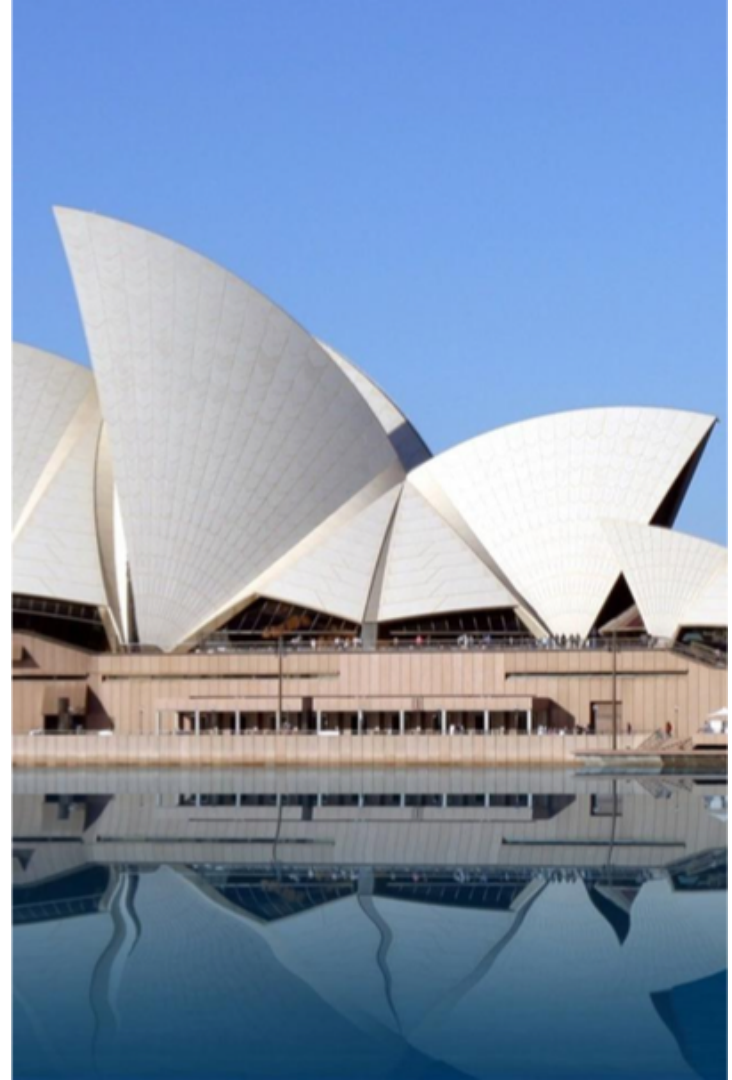
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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/11/Kundgebung_s21.jpg/1920px-Kundgebung_s21.jpg

Flagship projects



http://images.adsttc.com/media/images/5264/acf3/e8e4/4ef4/c200/021b/large_jpg/wdch_built_01_gp_pr.jpg?1382329540



Megaprojects

are surprisingly popular
despite their rather poor
track record in terms of
outcomes



Prestige projects

Masdar City, Abu Dhabi

\$22 billion 6km², 40,000 residents and 1,500 businesses in the desert
Originally intended as “world’s only city to be powered by renewable energy”



Prophesies

Megaprojects are often
hoped to be self-fulfilling
prophesies

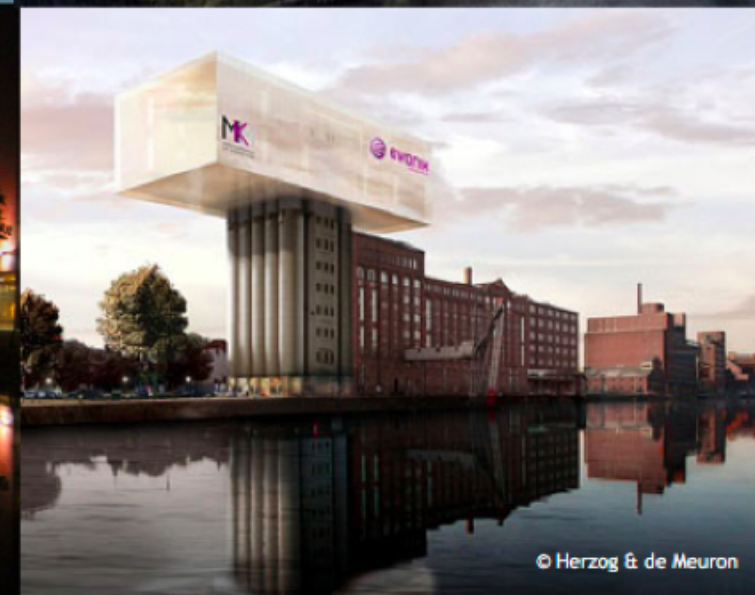




© Ralf Hohl



Photo: Monika Peters



© Herzog & de Meuron

Evidence of a change



Many pitfalls

- **Tricky points in urban regeneration projects**
 - **old contracts and plans have long shadows**
 - **strategic misinterpretation and optimism biases are common**
 - **difficult enough even without residents**



Photo: Gernot
Schwarz

Citizens as “complications”

- megaprojects often planned without accountability to the citizens due to business secrets
- participation in planning may not help as megaprojects are ‘special cases’
- long time frame vs. intermediate uses and changing preferences



Means and ends

Often the ultimate problem is the missing and/or mismarketed relation between means and ends





Baltimore Sun file photo <https://chuckmanchicagonostalgia.wordpress.com/>



Copyright: City of New Haven



Photo: Angela Henderson-Cobb

Means and ends

Projects are often ends as such although they are sold to the city and its citizens as means

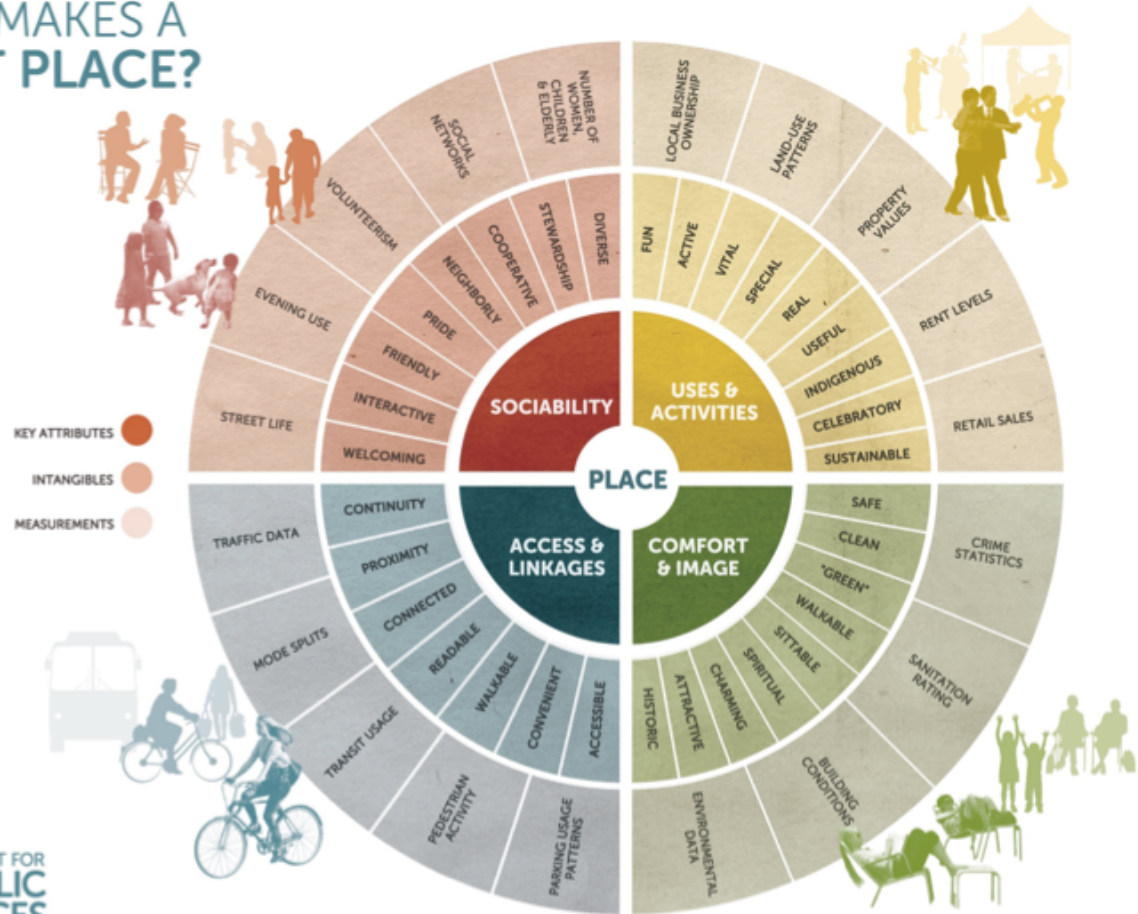


No excuses

- Many aspects speak for closer inclusion
 - audiences are increasingly capable and willing to question and to **contribute**
- there is a bunch of methods & legislation is mostly ok
- investments in engagement pay back in quality in the long run
- taxpayers' money is often involved, esp. if something fails
- recipes of good quality urban environment are well-known – and they include people



WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?





CHANGE THE WORLD

CITY BY CITY



A Change Maker's Guide to
Fast Forward Sustainability

Leen Gorissen
with Erika Meynaerts



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What hinders us then?

The financial capital
seeking resting places in
our built environment

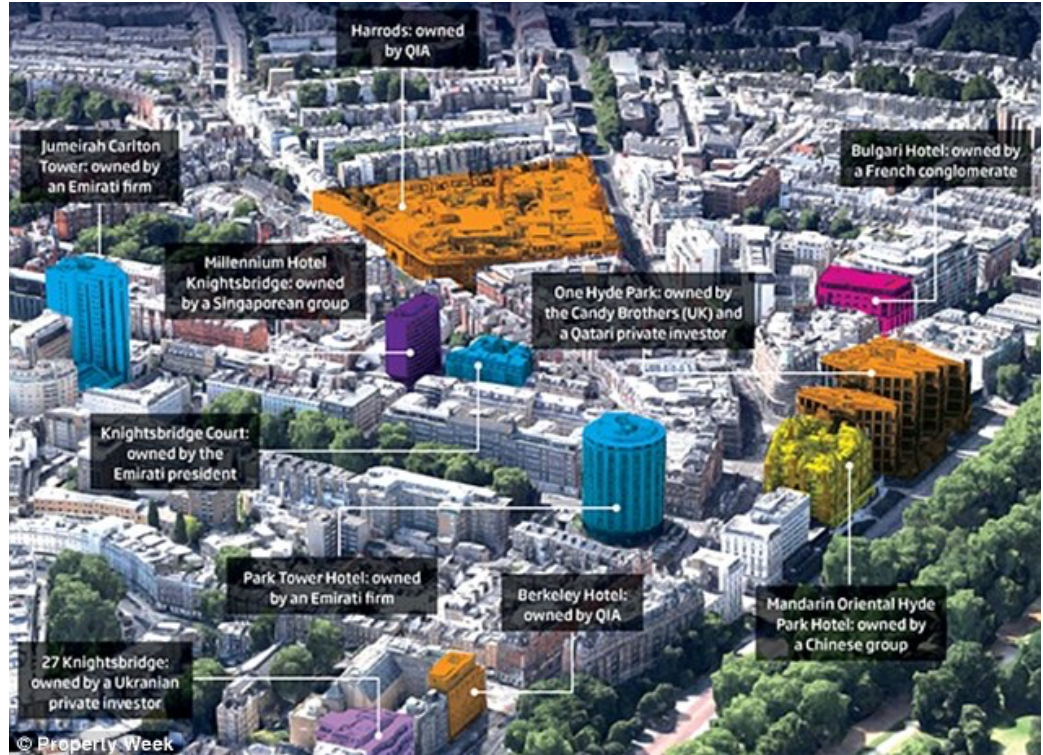


What is valued?

Not only location, not only the income

Not only the rates of return on investment

But the artificial scarcity that the capital can create



Replicating our values in the built environment

We must require and ensure that they show

How to measure success?





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EYE CONTACTS

The miracle of cities

It is the eye-level contact, shared physical presence on the streets, in public transport, in the parks.

It gives EVERYBODY the experience of being able to contribute.

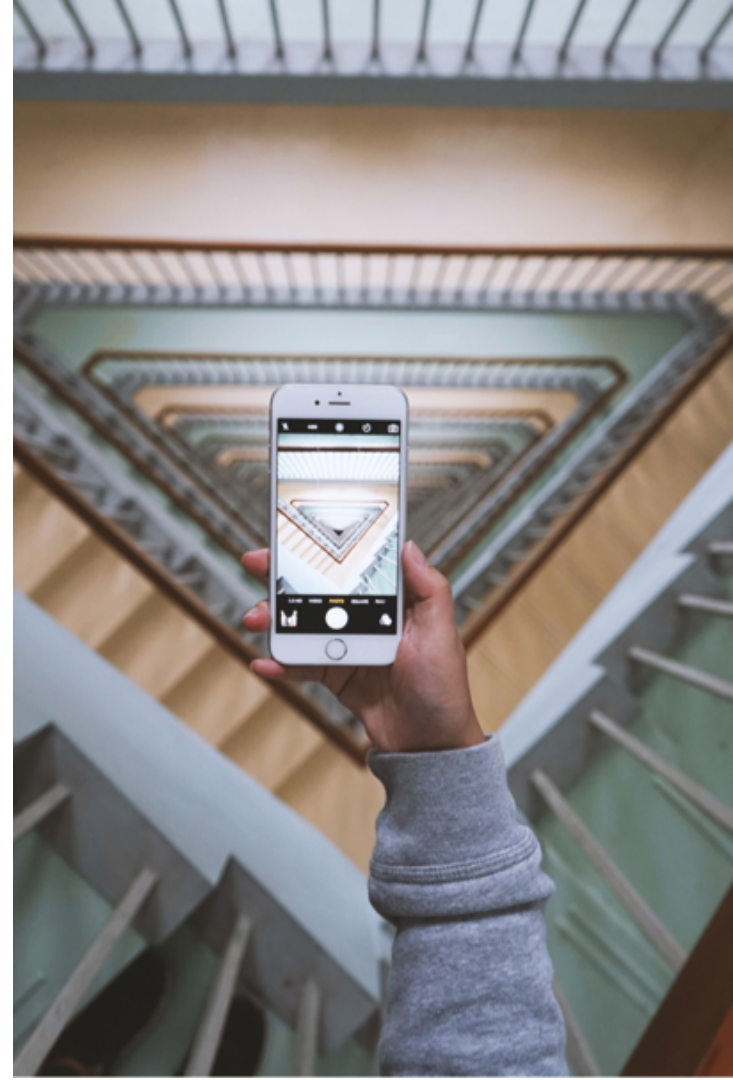
It is both the means and the ends.



What hinders us then?

”Governments are turning away from regulation at the same time as inherently monopolistic platform corporations focus on creating regulatory systems – which citizens are happily adopting.”

- Nordic Digital Promise – Four theses on a hyperconnected society -



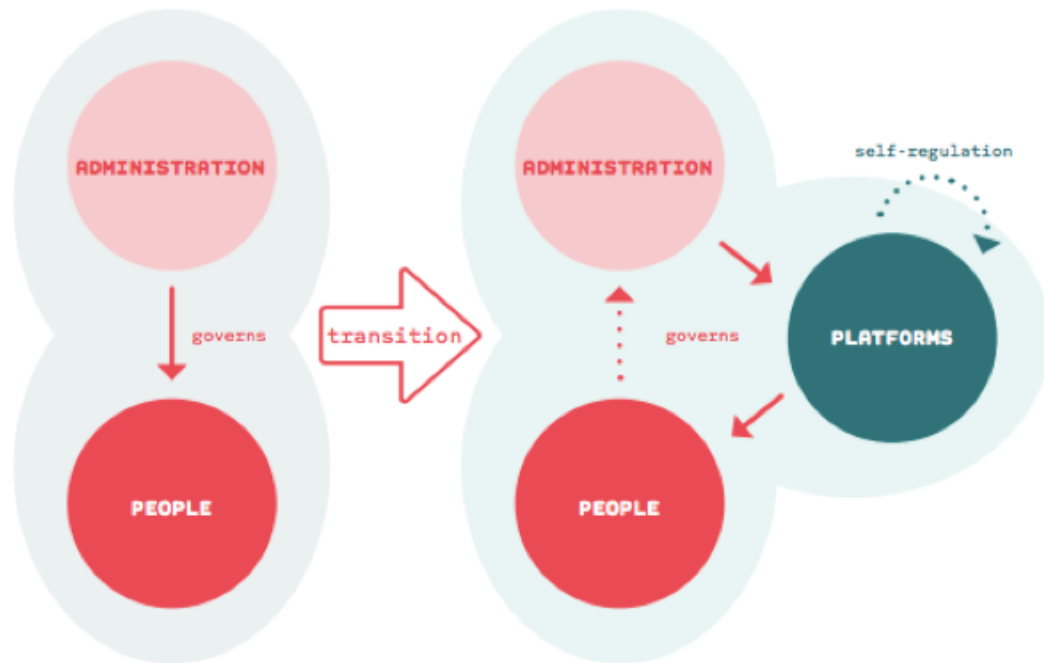
What gets optimized?



Replicating our values in platforms

We need recursive regulation, i.e. regulation of platform companies that regulate us.

FIGURE 5:
PARADIGM SHIFT: FROM GOVERNING ADMINISTRATION
TO GOVERNING PLATFORMS THAT REGULATE USERS



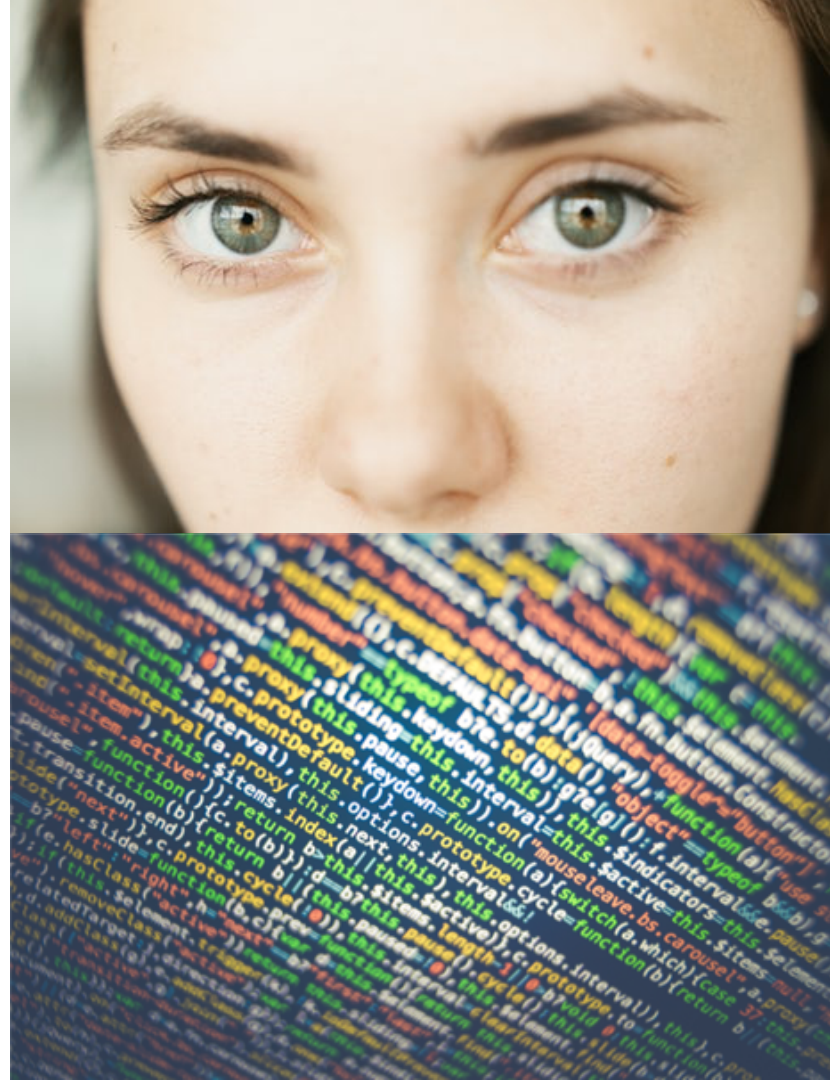
Institutions

Protecting the internal
goods of central
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Thank you!

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