

Co-Living Synergy. Binding Social Networks in the City

Today, 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 percent by 2050. The cities are growing, densifying and expanding. On the dark side of urbanization and rapid growth, the city centres work as dense machineries for businesses, commerce, automobiles and computerization.

International organizations and movements like European Placemaking Network, Project for Public spaces, The City at Eye Level, Future of Places Research Center etc. work on research, implementation, networking and advocacy centered on the key issues like segregation, urban loneliness, human friendly environment and social integration. The main theme to be discussed is a *public space* as fundamental component of sustainable urban development and as a *driver* for social and economic development.

In a building scale a public space is a *shared space*. In this case, living in a community, sharing common facilities and activities, could improve one's life in the city in multiple dimensions. Humans are species who used to live in crowds from the ancient times. Therefore nowadays' urban lifestyle forces us to go against our nature by every-day routine spent in alienated offices and apartments, often time not having our own circle of people around. A strong community creates its own identity, sense of belonging, ownership and respect. Besides that, living in an active community generates a *synergy* that stimulates and spreads social connections and productivity.

The aim of this project is to build spaces for social interaction not just inside the community quarters but also around it. This way a network of connections and a circulation of creative, productive synergy would be fostered in the city.