

## 2A.2 - Minimalist Parameters for Public Spaces

Çiğdem Fındıklar Ülkü (0000-0003-4540-1134), Mehmet Çağlar Meşhur (0000-0003-3145-6636)  
Konya Technical University, Turkey

The minimalist lifestyle, which has been very popular in the last decade, especially in developed countries, mostly emerged as a reaction to the phenomena such as the increase in consumption habits and mass consumption. Similarly, in the face of negative consequences such as urban areas produced by the influence of neoliberal policies, rapid consumption of resources, the emphasis on the investment value of land in recent years, a minimal/simple perspective and understanding is needed in urban planning and the approaches that shape the space. Minimalist philosophy has always been seen in most of the belief systems and societies in different terminologies such as Zen, Wabi, Sufism, etc. It is an intentional downsizing the possessions in order to live a meaningful life. Therefore, minimalists may voluntarily choose consuming, recycling, and reusing sustainably, or looking for smaller-scale life forms (Vannini and Taggart, 2013). Minimalism often related with individual possessions. However, from the moral aspect of minimalist philosophy, public spaces as publicly owned lands are the central subject of this study. The property systems prevailing in pre-capitalist societies were often based on the understanding that the public was essential to use the land. Especially after the Industrial Revolution, with the intense development of high technology and mass urbanization trends and intentions, the philosophy of producing the built environment has started to leave that understanding.

The society produces the city and at the same time the city influences the society, vice versa. As stated by many urban planning theorists such as Jane Jacobs, Jan Gehl, Matthew Carmona, the physical environment affects human behaviour and lifestyle. But “before deciding what kind of physical environment to build, it should be determined what kind of world and what kind of life is desired” (Sim, 2019, p.293). In this context, the study focuses on looking at the urban space from a minimalist perspective with the aim of describing the urban codes and property relations that minimalism as a sociological phenomenon will reveal on the public space. Within the scope of this minimalist approach, qualitative and quantitative analyses were made by determining minimalist parameters on streets and public spaces, which are among the main urban coding topics (Marshall, 2011). Pedestrian activities, urban furniture, trees and green spaces, the relationships between road width and building height, open space dimensions, width of pedestrian crossings-arcades, simplicity of buildings have been examined in different public spaces. Results show that urban coding systems of public spaces differ according to the governance of cities. Property policies that are emphasizing the usage value of land are more likely to provide minimalist parameters for public spaces than the policies that put first the investment value of land. The parameters that emerge as a result of the comparisons are noteworthy for obtaining innovative policies of governance by institutions or societies that attach importance to minimalism.

References:

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## 2A.3 - Inclusive engagement for vulnerable population in co-creating NBS: the case of ‘Villaggio Barona’ social housing within the CLEVER Cities project

Iliriana Sejdullahu (0000-0003-1782-0534)<sup>1</sup>, Israa H. Mahmoud (0000-0003-0161-6096)<sup>2</sup>, Eugenio Morello (0000-0003-2382-6123)<sup>2</sup>, Marina Trentin MSc.<sup>1</sup>, Alice Beverlej MSc.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ambiente Italia srl., Department of Adaptation and Resilience, Italy. <sup>2</sup>Laboratorio di Simulazione Urbana Fausto Curti, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano, Italy. <sup>3</sup>KService Impresa sociale, Italy

The pandemic situation has been impacting the EU-funded CLEVER Cities project (H2020 grant agreement no.776604) since the beginning of the Covid-19 appearance, putting particularly pressure on physical co-creation activities. In this project, the Urban Living Lab 1, namely CLEVER Action Lab1 (hereafter CAL1) of the front-runner city Milan, has been promoting and implementing Nature-based Solutions (hereafter NbS) - green roofs and walls. One of the four selected pilot projects of CAL1, the subject of this paper, consists in building four green roofs in terraces of social housing buildings named “Villaggio Barona” situated southwest of Milan. Different vulnerable groups of people live in each of the buildings, amongst the elderly, people with HIV/AIDS, and people with psychiatric illnesses, while one of the buildings is open for public use.

The paper presents the empirical knowledge acquired by putting into practice the “Co-design pathway” developed in CAL1 to engage citizens and local stakeholders in implementing green roofs and walls (Mahmoud et.al., 2021). It builds on the process established in the CLEVER Co-Creation Guidance (Mahmoud et. al., 2018), and has tested various tools and digital participation instruments as all co-design activities were held online. In addition to the co-design meetings, it will illustrate the completed co-creation pathway of “Villaggio Barona”