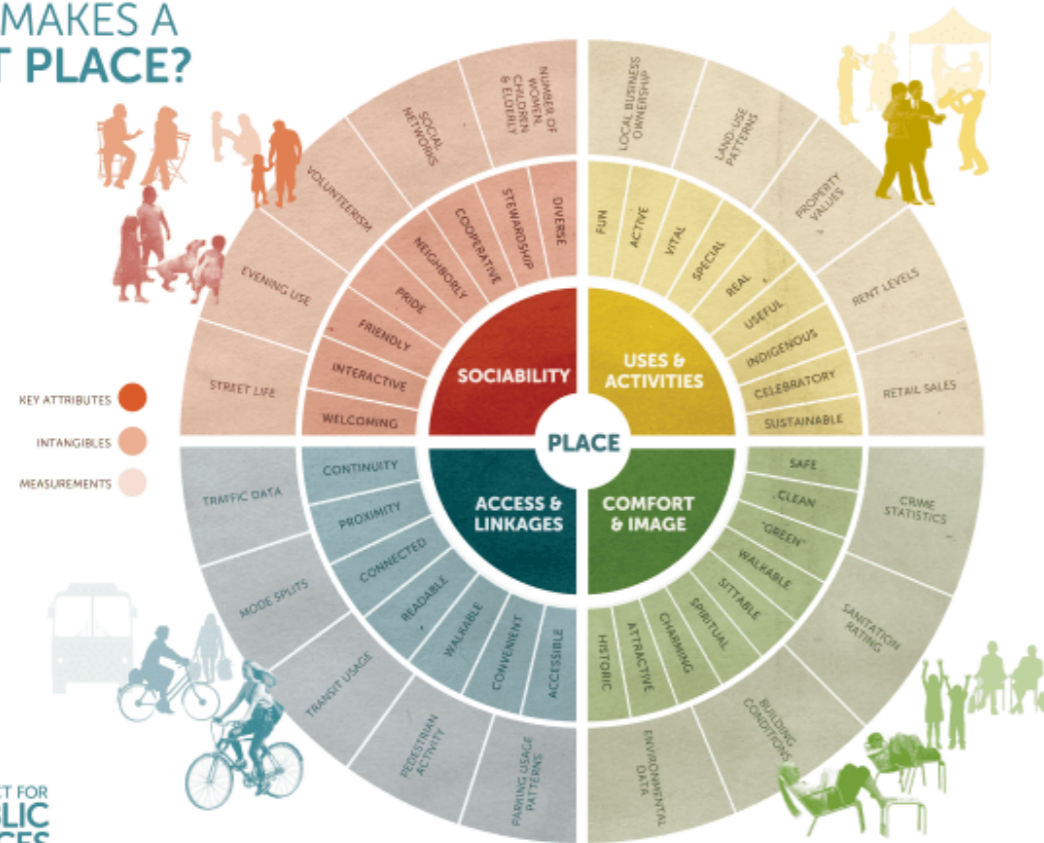


UAIG (URBAN AREAS OF ILLEGAL GENESIS) (RE) LIVING TO (RE) INTEGRATE

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WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



This paper will present an ongoing PhD research in the Doctoral programme Architecture of Contemporary Metropolitan Territories – Cities and Territories at ISCTE-IUL Lisbon Portugal entitled UAIG (Urban Areas of Illegal Genesis) – (re) living to (re) integrate. The Metropolitan Area of Lisbon (MAL) today shows about 3% of its area defined as urban area of illegal genesis (UAIG) corresponding to about 200.000 inhabitants. These areas spontaneously deployed in 60s and 70s of 20th century often have serious gaps in infrastructure, availability of public facilities and problems of spatial organization. The requalification of public space in these areas has launched new challenges to research in contemporary architecture. In a demanding society with strong participatory citizenship public space is increasingly assuming an important role in the urban design practices. Participation

means the collaboration of people pursuing objectives that they themselves have defined. A public space is one which in its design and in its use stimulates a sense of belonging to a wider community beyond the bounds of the strictly private sphere. It is then a scenario that fosters contract between different people mixing uses and meeting place for individual and collective interests. A direct observation of absence of public space in areas of illegal genesis in MAL shaped the PhD research question: How public space make UAIGs (re)living to (re)integrate it in Lisbon Metropolitan Area dynamics? Based on this starting question of the research project the main goal is to develop a strategy for requalification of public space in the UAIG through collaborative participatory processes. The methodology is based on methods and tools that allow: Mapping the network of UAIG in the MAL to have

an overall picture of the situation; Morphological, social and typological analyzes of the UAIGs local informal public space; Promoting micro participatory practices community design to transform public space and stimulates a sense of belonging. The main purpose of this study is to show how urban design practice can radically change cities for the better through participatory processes. As Giancarlo de Carlo (1969) states in his seminal text Architecture's Public remains the need for the inclusion of users in the design process and the inherently political role of the architect.