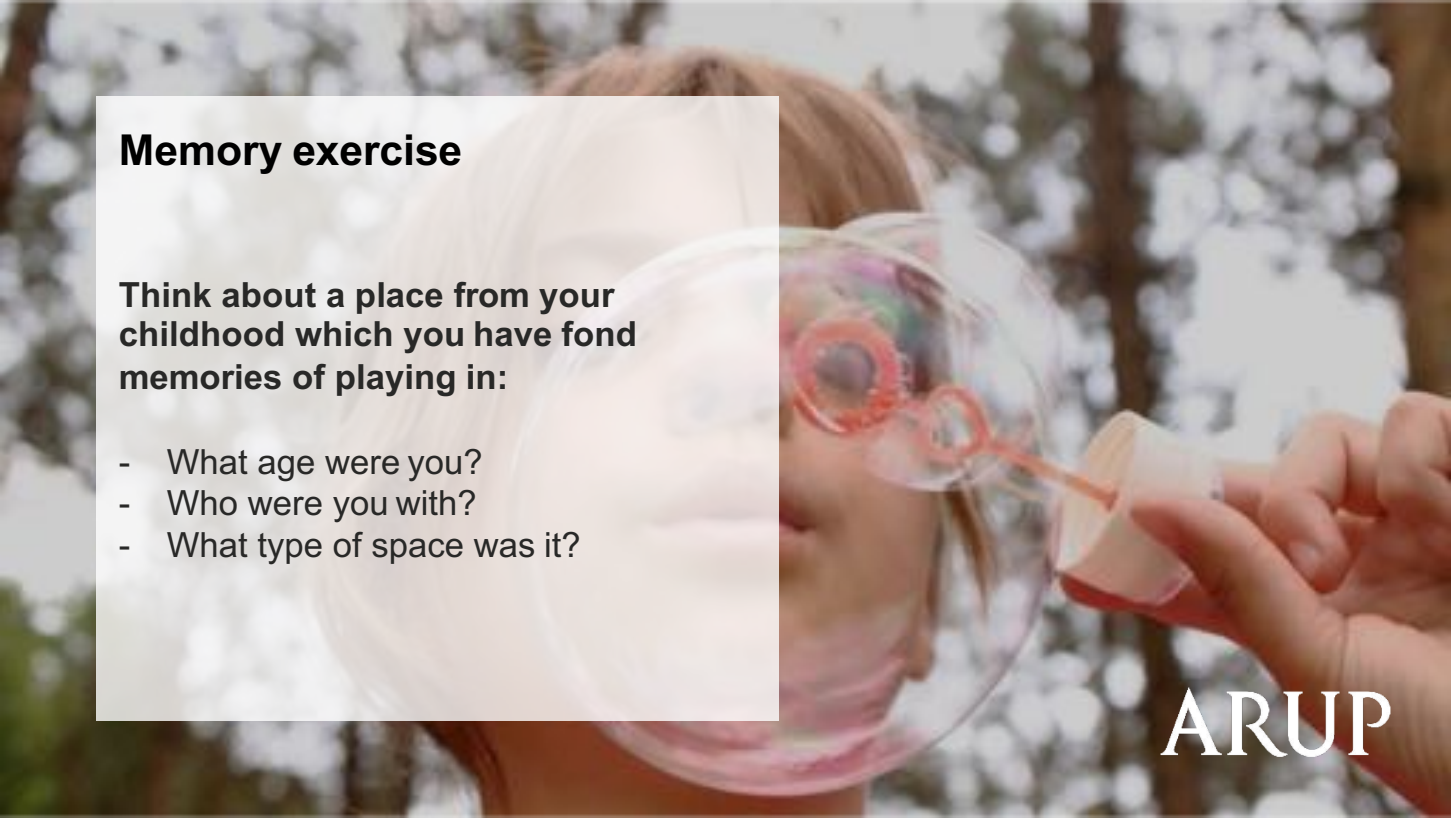
#UrbanChildhoods
@ArupUKIMEA
www.arup.com/urbanchildhoods
Image: © John Sturrock
ARUP



Memory exercise

Think about a place from your childhood which you have fond memories of playing in:

- What age were you?
- Who were you with?
- What type of space was it?

ARUP

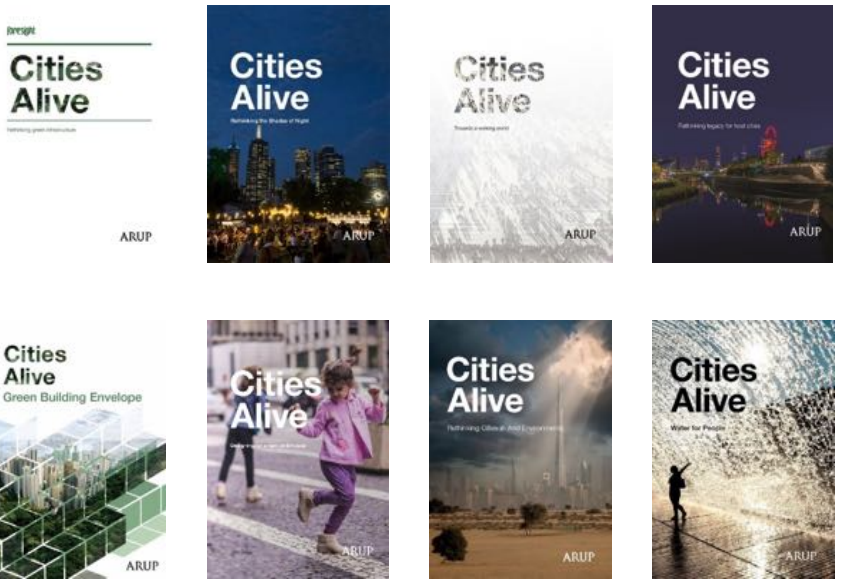
Cities Alive

Designing for urban childhoods

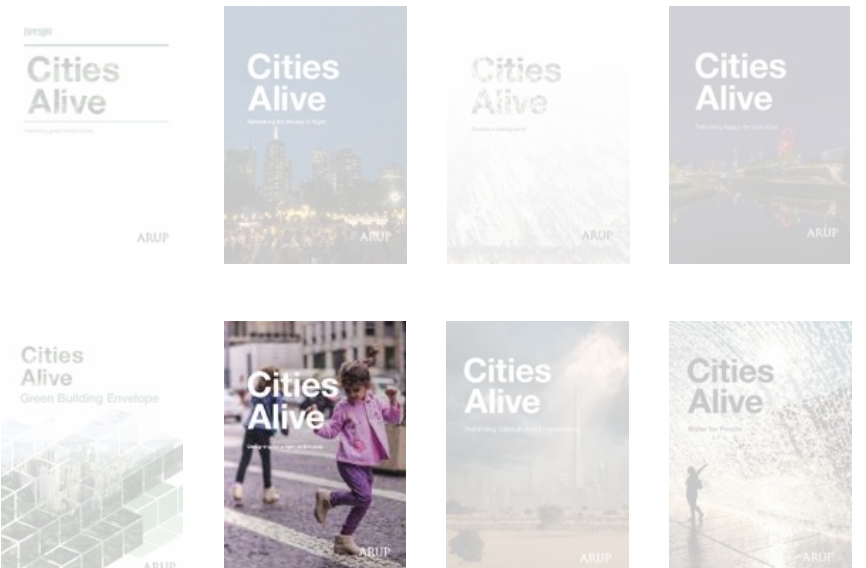
Image: CC Leonardo Veras

ARUP

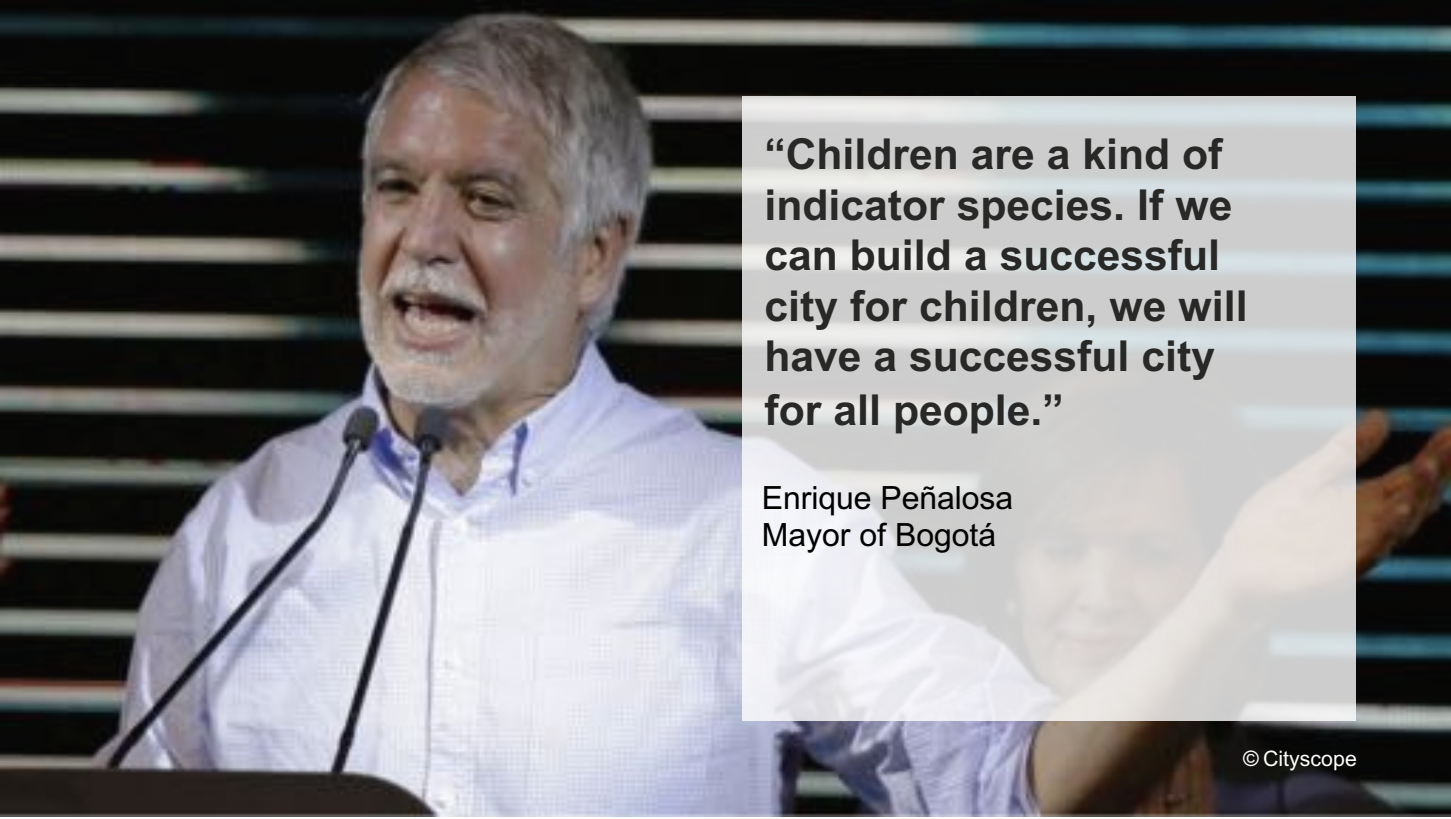
Cities Alive



Cities Alive: Designing for urban childhoods



Cities Alive: Diseñando para la infancia urbana



“Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people.”

Enrique Peñalosa
Mayor of Bogotá

© Cityscope

Global context

70% of world's children to live in cities by 2050 [1]

80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active as a result of urbanisation.[2]

[1] UNICEF, 2017
[2] WHO, 2017

Local context

British children are **weaker** than 16 years ago.[1]

1/3rd of the most deprived boys in England obese by 2030.[2]

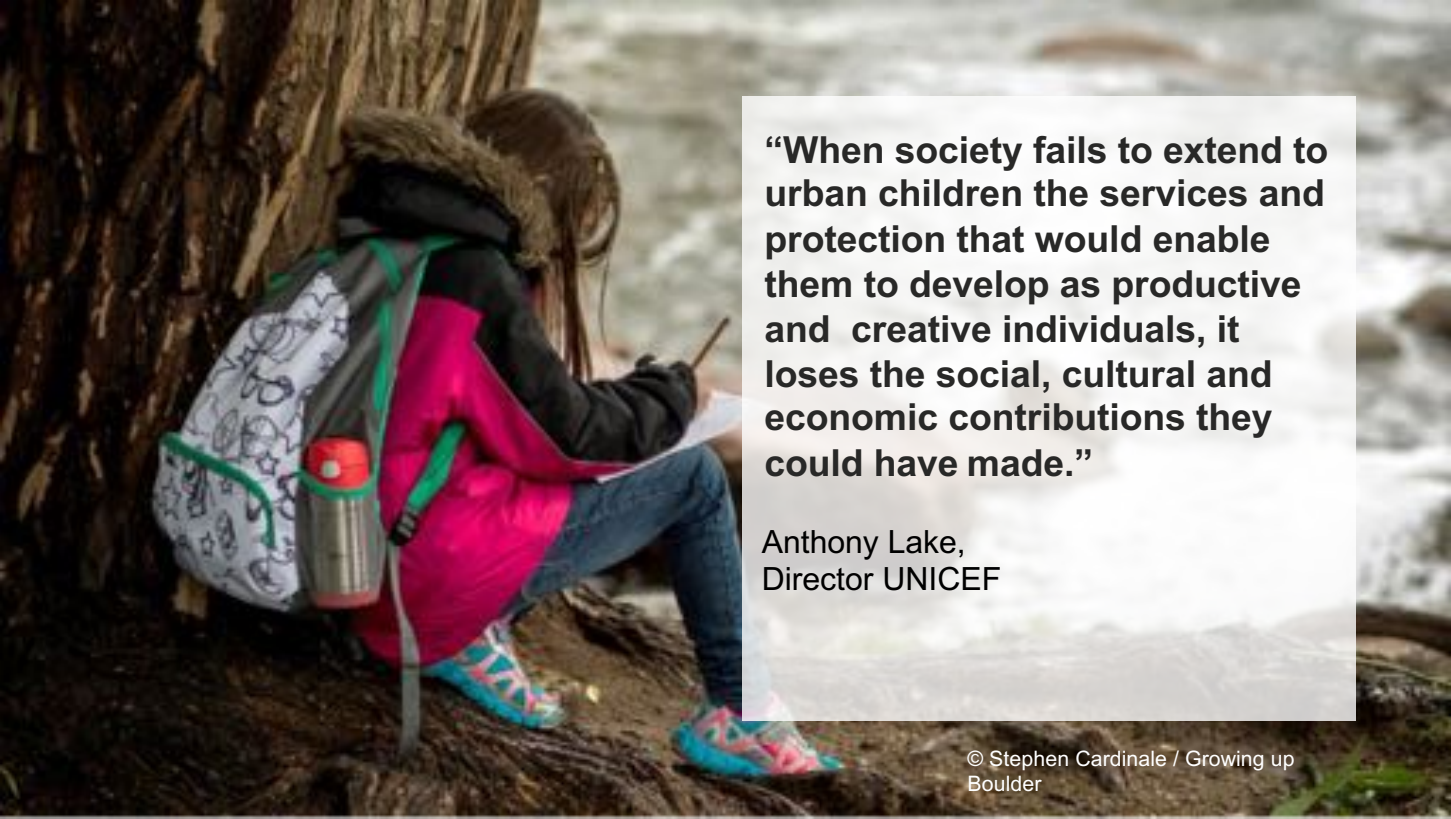
1. University of Essex, 2018
2: RCPCH, 2018

The role of the built environment

Child development:
The early years of a child's life are very important for their health and development.[3]

[1] *Unicef (2011). Child development. Unicef.org*

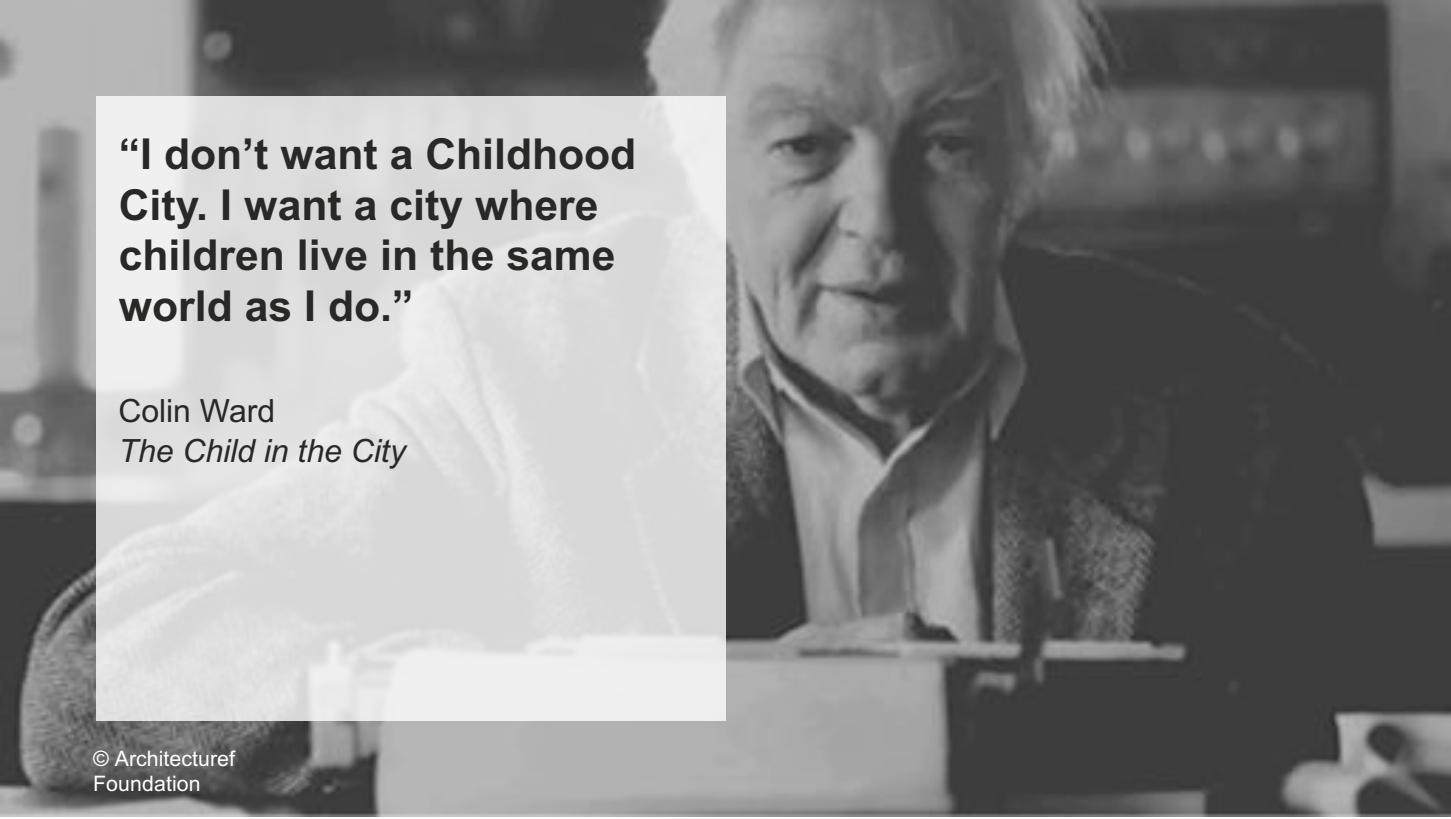
CC BY NC ND: Jeff Laitila



“When society fails to extend to urban children the services and protection that would enable them to develop as productive and creative individuals, it loses the social, cultural and economic contributions they could have made.”

Anthony Lake,
Director UNICEF

© Stephen Cardinale / Growing up Boulder



“I don’t want a Childhood City. I want a city where children live in the same world as I do.”

Colin Ward
The Child in the City

© Architecturef Foundation

The core challenges for urban childhoods

Traffic and pollution

Crime, social fears and risk aversion

Isolation and intolerance

High-rise living and urban sprawl

Inadequate and unequal access to the city

Everyday freedoms

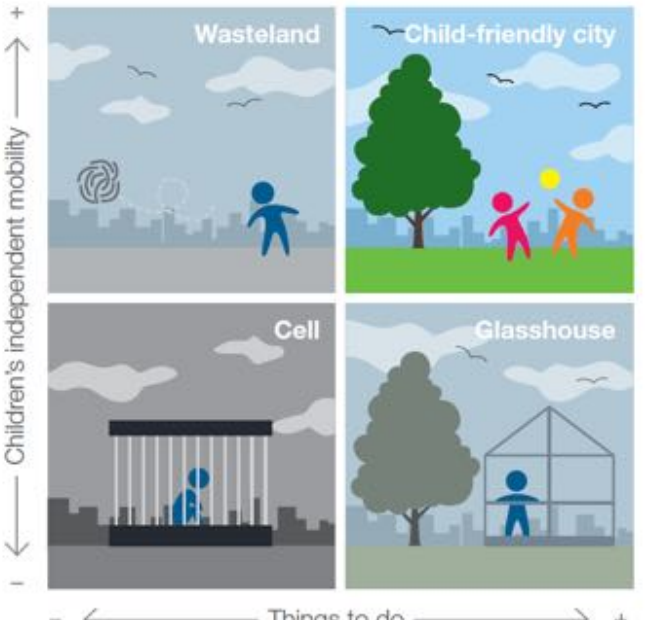
Playful behaviours and freedom to explore should be **part of everyday life**, throughout the city.

© City of Tirana

Children’s infrastructure

The **network of spaces, streets, nature and interventions** which make up the key features of a child-friendly city.

© Pennsylvania Horticultural Society



Places to go, things to do

Child-friendliness as a relationship between **the availability of things to do** in an environment and the **levels of freedom or independent mobility** a child has to explore and enjoy them.

Illustration © Arup, based on the work of Marketta Kyttä

Opportunity areas

- Streets and spaces near peoples homes
- Intergenerational, multifunctional spaces
- Influencing everyday journeys
- Interventions at the neighbourhood scale
- Reducing car dominance
- Connected green infrastructure networks

© David Killick

A catalyst for improving cities

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a **unifying theme to navigate complex challenges** and **gain support for progressive ideas.**

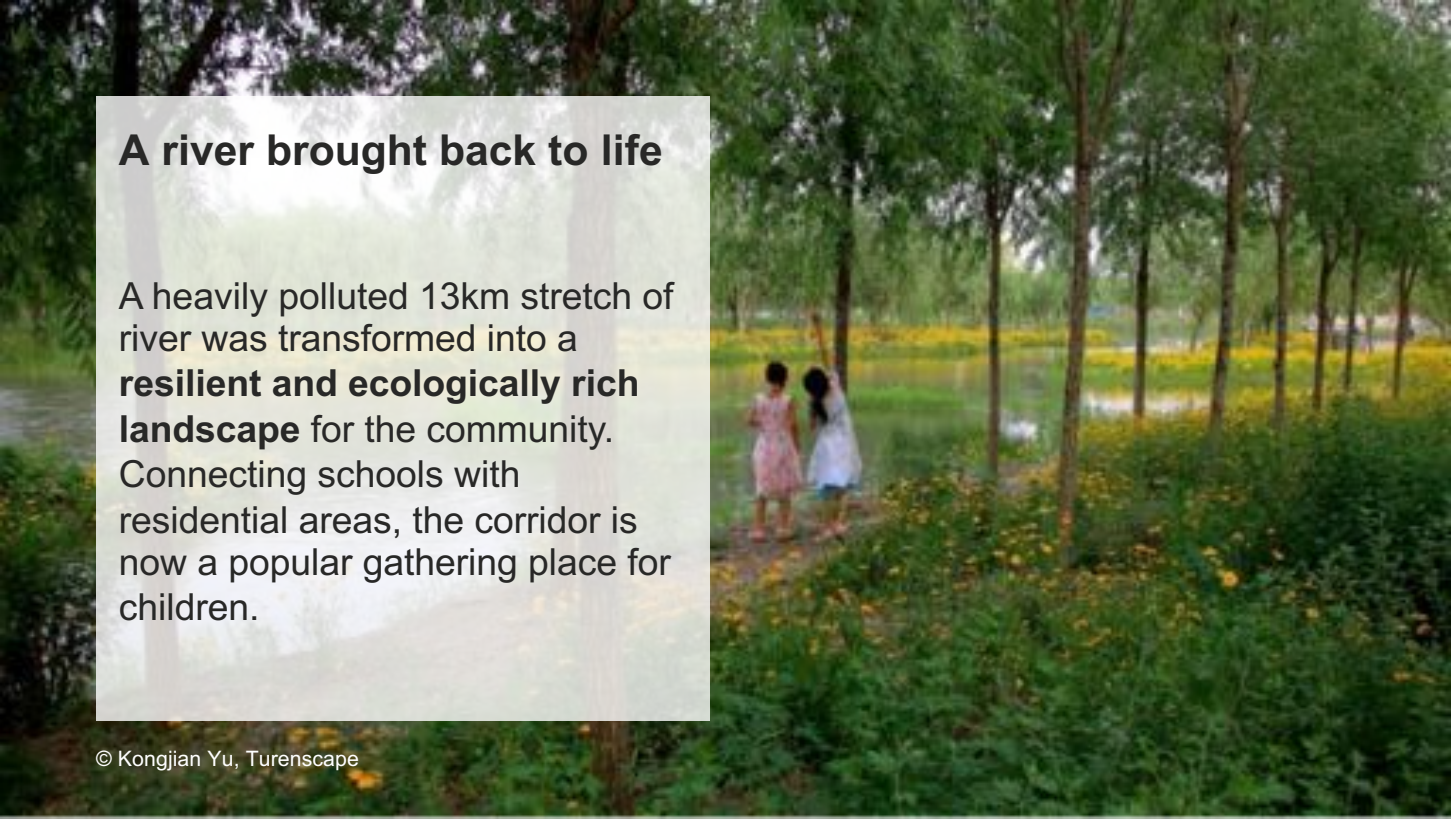
© SCAPE Landscape Architecture D.P.C. / Ty Cole

CC Leonardo Veras

The benefits of child-friendly cities

Global case studies

© Kongjian Yu, Turenscape



A river brought back to life

A heavily polluted 13km stretch of river was transformed into a **resilient and ecologically rich landscape** for the community. Connecting schools with residential areas, the corridor is now a popular gathering place for children.

© Kongjian Yu, Turenscape

Recommended interventions

Multifunctional green infrastructure

Sense of ownership

Playful encounters

Cultural and heritage spaces

Wild spaces

Construction sites

Multi-use community spaces

Intergenerational spaces

Traffic measures

Pedestrian priority

Community gardens

Neighbourhood mapping

Play streets

Playable spaces

Recommended actions

City leaders and policy makers

Developers and investors

Built environment professionals

1 NO POVERTY
2 NO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 RENEWABLE ENERGY
8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
010 011
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Access for all to adequate, **safe and affordable housing and basic services** and upgrade slums

Access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable **transport systems for all**, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport

Inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for **participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning** and management in all countries

Protect and safeguard the world's **cultural and natural heritage**

Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces**, in particular for women and children**

#UrbanChildhoods

@ArupUKIMEA

www.arup.com/urbanchildhoods

ARUP