

International

URBAN DESIGN WEEK 2013



Urban Design Week 2013: 14-22 September 2013

Theme for 2013: Active Urban Design: Physical activity and urban design

What is urban design week?

Urban Design Week is an annual National event that champions urban design by promoting and encouraging awareness of places through good practice, fostering innovation in the built environment, and celebrating urban culture and lifestyles. Urban Design Week was first launched in the United Kingdom but other countries are encouraged to participate by promoting it to make this a truly international event. If your organisation in your country is willing to also stage Urban Design Week do please let us know. events@urban-design-week.org.uk

How can I be involved urban design week?

Anyone from individuals, businesses schools, local residents associations, Civic Societies local authorities, professional organisations, and central government can organise events, commission projects or host a seminar. Organisations may prefer to collaborate with others in partnership.

What type of events can I run in urban design week?

Urban design is about creating sustainable places and spaces in making pieces of urbanism that we all can enjoy and cherish. Consider running an event, a lecture, seminar or award presentation, a walkabout or urban safari, a workshop, a petition, a campaign, a street audit (Placecheck www.placecheck.info), a street make-over or an exhibition. Consider commissioning a project, a report, or a piece of research. Consider organising events around the 10 urban design qualities below. It is hoped to produce some guidance on the types of events that can be organised that demonstrate good urban design practice.

If your organisation or company is interested in sponsoring Urban Design Week please get in touch to find out how you can get involved.

Theme for Urban Design Week 2013: Active Urban Design

Active Urban Design relates to strategies for facilitating physical activity across a range of interventions in the built environment to create better quality places and spaces for people that will contribute towards a more sustainable and healthy city.

What qualities of place should we think about during Urban Design Week to support Active Urban Design?

1. Making better healthier places- Creating sustainable places that make good urbanism, great city streets and quality public spaces.
2. Connecting places –public realm strategies: Better connected places facilitate walking and cycling.
3. Investing in public transport and integrating with planning– high capacity/double-deck trains, trams, underground & buses: Better public transport offers people choices in moving around cities and towns and reduces car dependency.
4. Building healthier communities – making it easier to walk and cycle-reducing obesity.
5. Collaborating with various agencies to encourage children to walk and cycle to school.
6. Creating economic self-sufficiency through diversity and local production.
7. Creating Safer Cities- places that are safer encourage more walking and cycling.
8. Creating energy efficient cities- renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions.
9. Greening the city- bringing nature into the city; planting trees for bio-diversity.
10. Adding value through urban design- urban parks and squares provide outdoor spaces for people to carry out sport, play, and other outdoor activities.
11. Champion Urban Design – Has your organisation, public or private a designated design champion with responsibility for buildings and the public realm?
12. Investing in Urban Design Skills – Have people in your local authority or practice the necessary urban design skills?
13. Celebrating cultural life-festivals, al fresco eating and drinking, art.
14. Involving people in creating better healthier places (urban design charrette/workshop). Placecheck www.placecheck.info; street audits, etc.

Carry out a Placecheck of your City, Town, or Neighbourhood during Urban Design Week. Is it a healthy place?

- Organise a group of people in your local area such as students at university, schoolchildren supervised by a teacher, local amenity society, neighbourhood group, local authority or even local business groups.
- Use the Placecheck criteria downloadable from the Placecheck web site above to ask questions about the place where you live, study or work.
- Survey the place. What do you like about it? What do you dislike about it? What should be done? Use digital or mobile telephone cameras to capture images to support this.
- Think about the quality of the street(s). Is it active and vibrant or is it decaying?
- Are there vacant houses and shops?
- Is it a safe street by day and by night?
- Is it good for walking, good crossing points and comfortable underfoot?
- Is it good for cycling and has cycle parking facilities?
- Is traffic speed and noise an issue?
- Does the public transport system interface well with the street?
- Is there a presence or absence of trees?
- Do the streets connect with each other making it easier to get to other places or are there barriers to movement?
- Does the street furniture perform well and look attractive?
- Is the street clean or is there rubbish scattered around?
- What could be done to improve the street?
- Who should be involved?
- How could improvements be funded?

Examples of events for Urban Design Week 2013

Big Ideas

- **Promote active lifestyles in cities**
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/ddc/html/pubs/publications.shtml>
<http://blog.designcouncil.org.uk/2013/06/25/fit-cities-new-york/>
- **Improve cycling in your city**
<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/transport/cycling-revolution>
- **Arrange for traffic-free streets in city centres for a day**
<http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/whatson/oxford-street-traffic-free-day-article-8182.html>
<http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Traffic-banned-city-centre-roads-month/story-18777903-detail/story.html>
<http://www.london.gov.uk/get-involved/events/summer-streets-four-traffic-free-sundays-in-july>
- **Commission a Public Realm Strategy for your city.**
<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/public-realm-spd.htm>
<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/majordevelopments/PublicRealmAndMovement/Pages/PublicRealmMovementStrategy.aspx>
- **Create an Urban Beach.**
<http://www.archive.org/details/TheBristolUrbanBeach>
- **Commission a major new public space in your city.**
<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/mayor/publications/environment/mayors-great-spaces>

Petit Projects

- **Organise a street party**
<http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/whatson/feast-on-the-bridge-article-4696.html>
- **Give your street a make-over.**
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/liveable-neighbourhoods/diy-streets>
- **Walk, cycle or use public transport for a week.**
<http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/>
- **Stage an urban design charrette involving people in the design process.**
<http://www.cabe.org.uk/strud/examples/hertfordshire-charrette>
- **Set up a green jobs strategy.**
<http://www.majoracartergroup.com/services/consulting-services/green-jobs-strategy-development/>
- **Organise a competition for public spaces.**
<http://www.londonlegacy.co.uk/design-competition-attracts-worldwide-interest-to-create-new-public-space-for-london/>
- **Urban Design and kids play**
<http://www.urbanbeings.co.uk/Projects/Toddle/Toddle.html>

