CULTURE
URBAN
FUTURE

SUMMARY

GLOBAL REPORT
on CULTURE
for SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Sustainable
Development
Goals

FOREWORD

With over half of the world's population now living in urban areas, the road to sustainable development passes through cities in every corner of the globe. As the United Nations works to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, to be adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016, it is critical to bring together the best policies to make the most of our cities.

The challenges we face are steep and cities are on the frontlines of sustainable development issues such as education, food security, water management, the development of inclusive societies, and effective institutions. Yet cities are also one of humanity's most brilliant inventions for crafting solutions for the future. Fundamentally, cities bring creative and productive people together, helping them to do what they do best: exchange, create and innovate. From the ancient cities of Mesopotamia, to the city-states of the Italian Renaissance and the vibrant metropolises of today, urban areas have been among the most powerful engines of human development. Today, we must once again place our hope in cities.

Culture lies at the heart of urban renewal and innovation. This Report provides a wealth of insights and concrete evidence showing the power of culture as a strategic asset for creating cities that are more inclusive, creative and sustainable. Creativity and cultural diversity have been the key drivers of urban success. Cultural activities can foster social inclusion and dialogue among diverse communities. Tangible and intangible heritage are integral parts of a city's identity, creating a sense of belonging and cohesion. Culture embodies the soul of a city, allowing it to progress and build a future of dignity for all. This reflection has been at the core of UNESCO's work over the last decades, notably through the development of programmes such as the Creative Cities Network, the Learning and Smart Cities initiatives and the protection of historic urban landscapes. This vision has received new energy with the explicit recognition of the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development, and as one of the key conditions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 to 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

A human-centred city is a culture-centred space. We must translate this reality into more effective policies and sustainable urban governance. Cities have become living laboratories for determining how some of the most pressing challenges we face are negotiated, managed and experienced. We must strengthen the cultural assets of cities, the heritage that provides a sense of meaning and identity to their inhabitants, and the creative opportunities that enhance the vitality, liveability and prosperity of our cities.

This Report would not be possible without the contributions of a number of key partners of UNESCO. In this regard, I particularly wish to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government, whose support for UNESCO's work in the field of culture and sustainable urban development has been instrumental in bringing this publication to fruition.

Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO

INTRODUCTION

Today, for the first time in history, humanity is predominantly an urban species.

With the adoption of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the international community committed to ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and fostering environmental sustainability by 2030. Building on several decades of advocacy and operational programmes on the ground, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the integral role of culture across many of the SDGs, including those that commit to quality education, economic growth, sustainable consumption and production patterns and peaceful and inclusive societies. Significantly, culture is directly addressed in Goal 11, which aims to 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (October 2016, Quito, Ecuador) is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the New Urban Agenda in the context of the SDGs, and to ensure the crucial role of culture in taking this agenda forward into the next decades. The New Urban Agenda needs to address the enormous challenges implicit in this transformation, ranging from decent housing, creating green public spaces, and ensuring infrastructures and services to billions of people, while controlling land consumption, environmental pollution, hazards and risks, epidemics and social disruption.

Among these challenges, in a global situation characterized by a large number of metropolitan areas, is the preservation of the quality of urban life, the protection of urban identities, the valuing of local cultures and the promotion of cultural expressions, the arts and heritage, as pillars of sustainable social and economic development.

Culture is key to what makes cities attractive, creative and sustainable. History shows that culture is at the heart of urban development, evidenced through cultural landmarks, heritage and traditions. Without culture, cities as vibrant life-spaces do not exist; they are merely concrete and steel constructions, prone to social degradation and fracture. It is culture that makes the difference. How can culture be integrated into urban strategies to ensure their sustainability?

As the lead United Nations agency for culture, UNESCO has enhanced its efforts to promote the role of culture in urban development processes related to poverty reduction, gender equality, social justice, disaster risk reduction and quality of life. The urban context is directly linked to UNESCO's mandate and field of expertise, notably through its six Culture Conventions on tangible and intangible heritage, the diversity of cultural expressions and the cultural and creative industries, as well as the illicit trafficking of cultural goods. UNESCO generates innovative proposals and assists its Member States in the development of policies, norms and standards, and supports this through policy advice, programming, monitoring and benchmarking. With regard to the safeguarding of cultural heritage, the Organization has responded to the increasingly complex challenges brought on by global processes and has raised awareness of the need to safeguard the inherited values and cultural significance of cities. Over the years, UNESCO has been developing its networks to promote cooperation with and among cities and local governments for interaction and joint action.

In 2015, recognizing that culture is a key tool for promoting sustainable urban development through the safeguarding of cultural heritage and the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, UNESCO launched, as part of its Culture and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, the preparation of the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development 'Culture: Urban Future', elaborated with the support of a network of nine regional partners, high-level experts and international organizations covering all the regions of the world.

In line with the main entry points for culture in the 2030 Agenda, and in particular Goal 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', which dedicates Target 11.4 to 'Strengthen[ing] efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage', the Report proposes a reflection on managing change in cities with culture as a lever for development.

The report is intended as a policy framework document to support governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, as such, is a key contribution to the common United Nations' action within the framework of the New Urban Agenda. For the first time, the Report explores the role of culture for sustainable urban development. It analyses the situation, trends, threats and existing opportunities in different regional contexts, and presents a global picture of tangible and intangible urban heritage conservation and safeguarding, along with the promotion of cultural and creative industries as a basis for sustainable urban development.

Part I presents the current global situation of culture and sustainable urban development, based on the results of a global survey launched by UNESCO together with nine regional partners.

Part II focuses on thematic reflections on the role of culture to: (1) promote a people-centred approach to sustainable urban development; (2) ensure a quality urban environment for all; and (3) foster integrated policy-making, building on the power of culture.

The **Conclusions and Recommendations** draw on the findings of the regional and thematic parts of the Report, and in doing so propose concrete guidelines to support decision-makers at national and local levels, experts and other stakeholders involved in urban development policies and strategies.

The **Dossiers** highlight UNESCO's efforts to promote sustainable urban development through its networks and programmes, including sections dedicated to UNESCO's Strategic Partnerships for Cities; World Heritage and Cities; the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN); the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR; the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC); the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) for Sustainable Cities; Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Urban Development; and Water and Sustainable Cities.

Finally, the Report concludes with an **Atlas** which includes detailed maps situating the cities of the UNESCO networks presented in the Dossiers.

The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda come at a time when humanity is faced with several marked challenges, which will increasingly impact upon cities. The 2030 Agenda has provided the springboard to drive forward a holistic and inclusive approach to the future development of cities. In this respect, Goal 11 provides a clear road map for sustainable urban development. The inclusion of culture in this goal offers a unique opportunity to link policy areas that have not always been aligned and have advanced at different speeds.

Cities are increasingly asserting their importance on the international political, economic and cultural scenes. As spaces where diverse people meet, interact and develop projects and strategies, they will be the protagonists of the twenty-first century global society. Culture will no doubt be at the core of their future sustainability.

PART I

GLOBAL SURVEY ON THE ROLE OF CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

U rban heritage is a particularly extended field of activity, both in the academic and public policy sectors. In all regions of the world, issues related to urban heritage conservation and regeneration have been dominant in the architectural and planning professions, and in heritage management policies and processes, albeit on significantly different levels – both formally and informally. This certainly reflects the different approaches of scholars and policy-makers to the category of 'urban heritage' that came to the forefront only relatively recently, beginning with Europe and North America in the 1960s. However, no systematic research on the global situation of urban heritage has been carried out so far, due largely to the subject's great diversity and to the wide range of existing approaches.

While monumental and archaeological heritage have found a 'global' definition and enjoy a largely agreed international scientific system of principles and practices, the same cannot be said of urban heritage. Heritage professionals have tried to frame urban heritage conservation within established charters, such as for instance the 1987 ICOMOS Washington Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas. However, in reality, the existing practice diverges fundamentally from this system of established principles, even in regions where public policies are present and implemented. Indeed, the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is an attempt to address this diversity within a unified set of guidelines.

For this reason, UNESCO has conducted, in view of Habitat III, a study on the global situation of urban heritage in cooperation with a range of partners from all regions of the world. The findings are presented here in synthesized form. This research effort has confirmed not only the great diversity of situations that exist in the different parts of the world, but also the growing interest of governments, local communities and citizens in preserving their historic cities and settlements, and in fostering the role of culture in urban regeneration. The results of this study, conducted by several teams in different regions, also highlight the need to continue investigating this important and expanding heritage field, and developing professional networks for the promotion of culture and heritage as key drivers and enablers of sustainable urban development: an agenda UNESCO is committed to implement in the future. The full version of each regional report as submitted by the partnering institution, including the bibliography, are available on the UNESCO website.
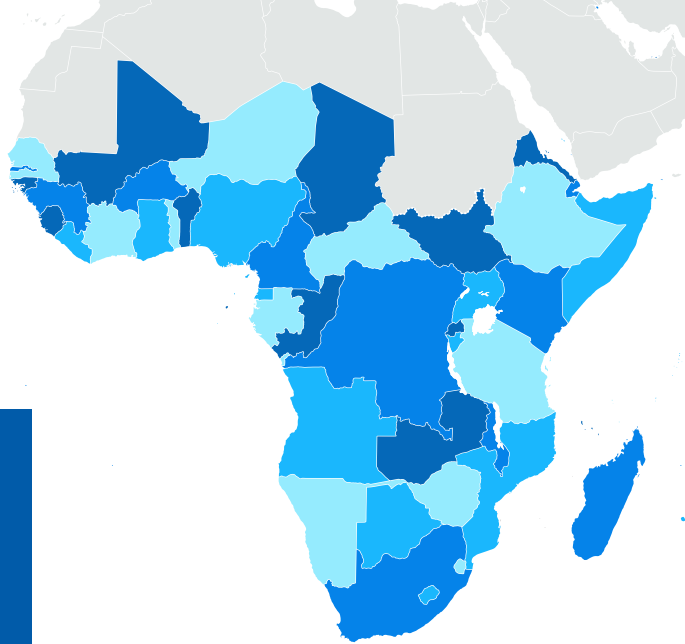
STUDY AREA

1

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Coordinator of the regional study:
ARTERIAL NETWORK

Created on Gorée Island (Senegal) in 2007, Arterial Network is a non-profit civil society network that brings together non-governmental organizations, institutions and companies of the creative economy, as well as artists and stakeholders from the African cultural sector. The network undertakes five core functions, namely capacity-building, market access, advocacy and lobbying, research, and organizational development and sustainability, in order to create an enabling and sustainable environment for democratic arts practices in Africa. The vision of Arterial Network is to develop a vibrant, dynamic and sustainable African creative sector engaged in improving the living and working conditions of artists and cultural practitioners as well as enhancing quality in the arts. With this aim, Arterial Network organizes events, conferences and educational programmes throughout the continent, and has developed partnerships with various universities and research centres in cultural fields.

Djenné (Mali)
© Quick Shot/Shutterstock.com*

HIGHLIGHTS

......∴. Sub-Saharan Africa has an important tradition of urban settlements, dating back as early as the eighth century, which is gradually being rediscovered.

......∴. The specificity of African cities, particularly relating to their pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial urban heritage, as well as the crucial importance of intangible practices, should be more widely acknowledged.

......∴. As part of Africa's current urban revolution, urbanization pressures and unregulated land use threaten urban heritage and generate a loss of traditional community values and practices.

......∴. Recognizing critical development challenges, notably access to education, basic urban services and infrastructure, is essential for encouraging inclusive and meaningful urban conservation.

......∴. In African cities marked by recently urbanized populations and inequalities rooted in colonial-era patterns of segregation, culture-based approaches are particularly relevant to fostering a sense of belonging.

......∴. As a new generation of cultural entrepreneurs emerges, culture increasingly provides a stage for community participation and renewed links between governments and citizens.

......∴. Urban development strategies have often disregarded the social and cultural realities of African cities. Culture can now become a strategic tool to regenerate marginalized and informal areas.

Cairo (Egypt)
© Jason Benz Bennee/Shutterstock.com*
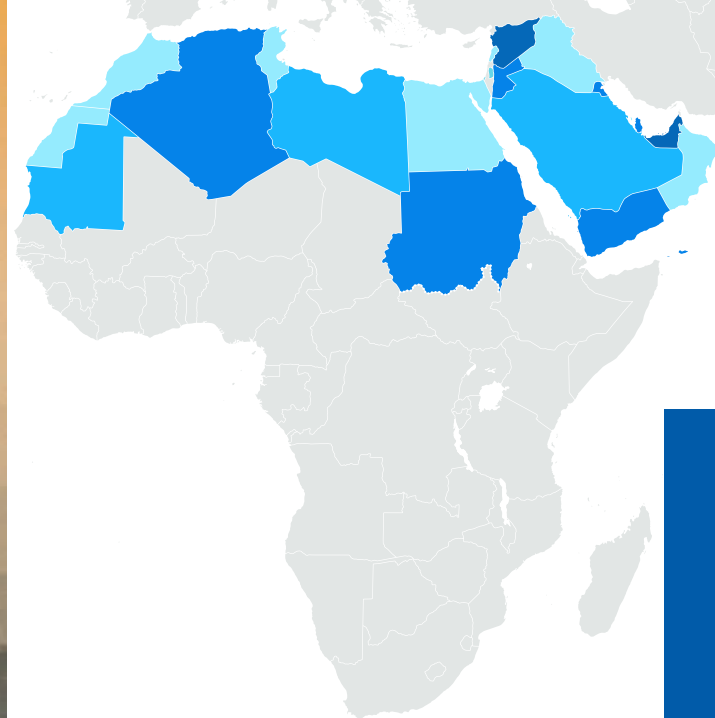
STUDY AREA

2

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

HIGHLIGHTS

......∴. While the advent of Islam in the seventh century marked the emergence of the region's urban culture, the Ottoman Empire strongly shaped the form and spatial layout of many of the cities in the Arab world from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.

......∴. Massive urbanization after 1950 profoundly transformed urban societies and fuelled social crises, while urban landscapes were radically reshaped in most of the Arab world.

......∴. Urban heritage is now increasingly recognized as an asset for cities in the Maghreb and Mashriq, and more recently in the Arabian Peninsula.

......∴. Although it decayed due to demographic and social transformations, the 'medina', a dense, mixed-use urban model specific to Arab cities, offers lessons for the future sustainability of cities.

......∴. The practice of joint family tenancy of historic buildings, together with insufficient legal systems, presents a major obstacle to urban conservation and regeneration.

......∴. The need for better integrated strategies for urban conservation and regeneration, with a particular emphasis on housing needs, is becoming increasingly urgent.

......∴. Urban heritage preservation is emerging as a key issue within many civil society movements, serving as a rallying point for community engagement, although truly participative urban governance is far from being achieved.

Coordinator of the regional study:
THE ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION (ALECSO)

The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) is a specialized agency, established in 1970 to support educational, cultural and scientific programmes and policies within the Arab world. Based in Tunis (Tunisia), the institution includes 22 Member States. ALECSO fosters the inclusion of culture in urban development strategies in the region and joins forces with UNESCO to promote a New Urban Agenda based on a culturally-sensitive approach to urban planning, conservation and regeneration. In this regard, ALECSO is planning to host and develop an observatory of historic cities in the Arab countries, with a view to enhance identification, safeguarding and monitoring of urban heritage.
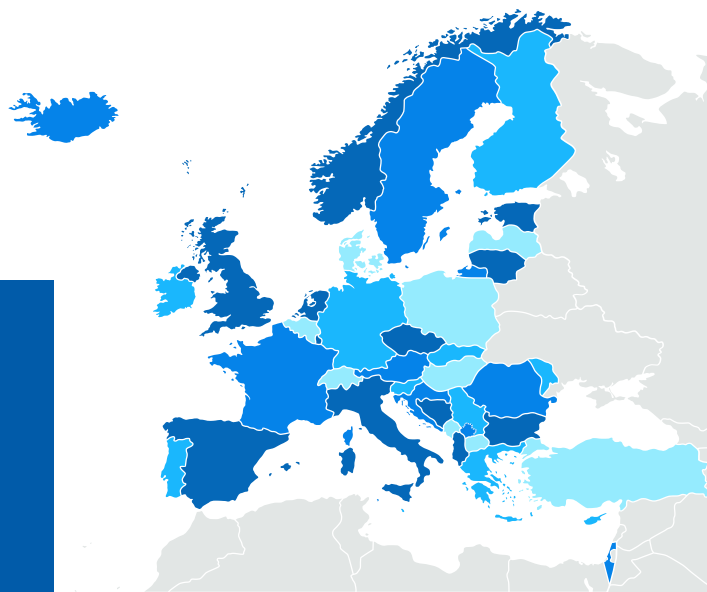
3 STUDY AREA

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Venice (Italy)
© Captblack76/Shutterstock.com*

Coordinator of the regional study:
UNIVERSITY IUAV OF VENICE

Established in 1926 as the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (University Institute of Architecture of Venice), the institute was renamed Università IUAV di Venezia (University IUAV of Venice) in 2001. Today, IUAV is a world-renowned educational institution and research centre with specific expertise in the fields of urban conservation, urban design and urban landscape management. Since 2008 it has hosted the UNESCO Chair in Social and Spatial Inclusion of International Migrants – Urban Policies and Practices. In 2016 a new UNESCO Chair in Heritage and Urban Regeneration was created.

Through its academic and operational experience, the University has acquired a thorough knowledge of European practices of urban conservation; over the last 30 years it has developed partnerships with 130 European universities and restoration schools. It is the home of one of the largest libraries dedicated to architecture and urban planning in Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stemming from its classical and medieval history, Europe has long been endowed with a very developed urban system, resulting from a layering process, whereby pre-existing structures were continuously transformed or reused.

- The methodological foundations of urban conservation and regeneration were first laid in the 1960s, followed by a gradual extension of the territorial and conceptual scope of urban heritage.

- European cities have undergone a widespread process of conservation and regeneration, and today represent one of the largest ensembles of preserved urban heritage in the world.

- Urban conservation and regeneration in Europe is largely led and funded by national and local public authorities and is closely tied to European Union-sponsored programmes.

- Culture has taken on a growing role in urban regeneration strategies, particularly those targeting the revitalization of public spaces and the rehabilitation of declining industrial areas.

- The practice of urban conservation has unlocked new approaches and instruments to achieve urban and environmental sustainability, emphasizing local knowledge, creativity and well-being.

- Mitigating 'museumification' and gentrification, while also promoting sustainable tourism patterns, remain the most pressing issues in preserving the authenticity of historic areas.

Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation)
© Dmitriy Krasko/Shutterstock.com*

STUDY AREA

4
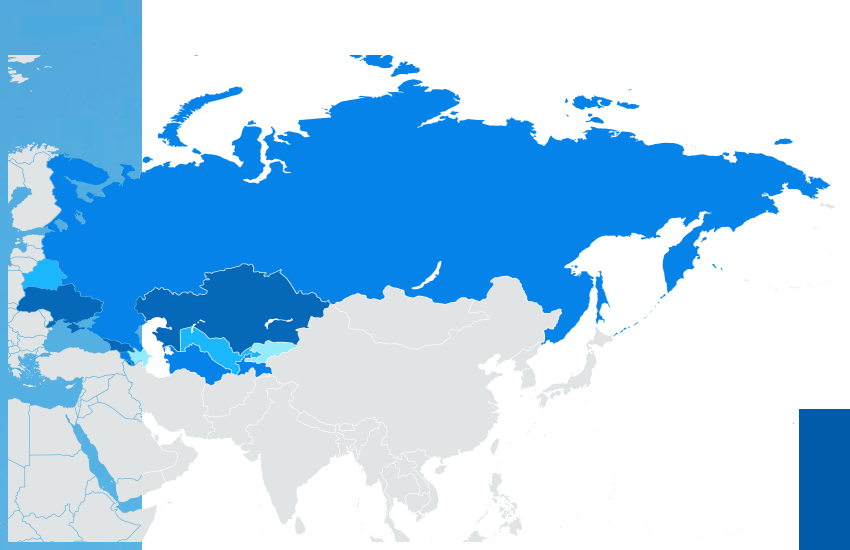
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

HIGHLIGHTS

......∴. Architectural styles and urban morphologies were shaped by Byzantine, Eastern Islamic and European influences, while Soviet planning fostered the emergence of standardized urban environments.

......∴. Cities continue to be defined by a diverse social and cultural mix, with rather limited gentrification processes, although social and spatial segregation has been on the rise over the last decade.

......∴. Community-level projects on urban heritage conservation are gaining momentum, while civic movements focused on urban issues have also begun to incorporate cultural aspects.

......∴. Culture plays a crucial role for dialogue, social cohesion and conflict mitigation, through multiple national and transnational cultural initiatives aimed at relieving ethnic tensions.

......∴. Culture is an emerging contributor to urban economies in the region, particularly in small- to medium-sized cities, through cultural tourism and a growing, although still relatively small, creative economy.

......∴. Urban conservation and regeneration practices are emerging through the reuse of former industrial buildings and Soviet era public spaces, as well as revitalization projects for historic cities.

......∴. City branding is also becoming an increasingly common practice, as the emerging architectural environment often blends the historic urban and fabric cultural memories with modern urban developments.

Coordinator of the regional study:
THE STRELKA INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Founded in the Russian Federation in 2009, the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design is a non-profit and non-governmental research and training institution dedicated to urban design and culture-based urban strategies. It proposes educational programmes on urbanism and sustainable urban development and conducts research activities in the field of architecture and urban design. The Strelka Institute builds on an extensive network of experts and professionals in different areas associated with culture and urbanism, including urban planning, cultural management and urban conservation. It is committed to various high-level research projects, such as the elaboration of the Moscow Strategic Master Plan, the conception of preservation and development programmes for several cities within the Russian Federation and the completion of a study on Russian Science Cities.
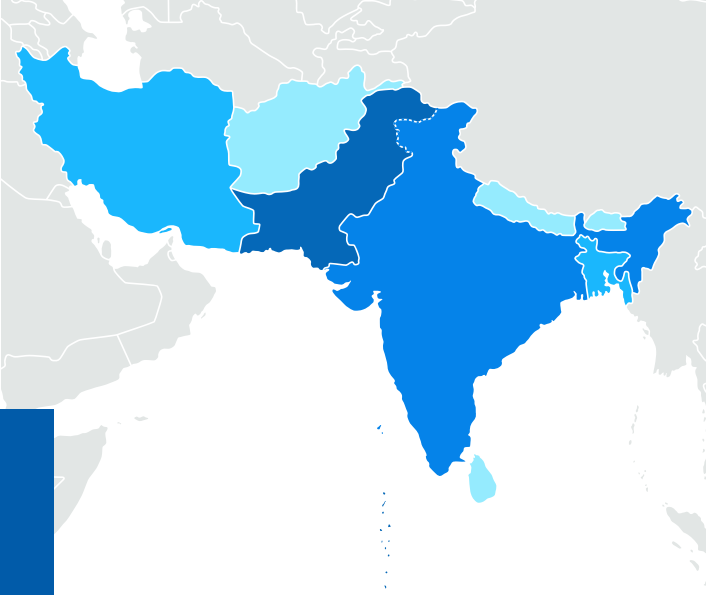
STUDY AREA

5

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Hawa Mahal Palace, Jaipur (India)
© f9photos /Shutterstock.com

Coordinator of the regional study:
THE SRISHTI INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology is an art and design institute set up in 1996 by the Ujwal Trust in Bangalore (India), with the objective of providing art and design education at the undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels. In the framework of its role as the UNESCO Chair in Culture, Habitat and Sustainable Development, the Institute has developed an integrated approach to conservation and urban development, focused on the strategic role of creative industries and heritage conservation.

The Srishti Institute has built several international partnerships in the field of cultural heritage and management, and has conducted numerous projects throughout South Asia. The Institute is a leading research centre in cultural industries development and management, urban conservation and planning, as well as sustainable urban development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Home to some of the oldest urban civilizations, South Asia now contains many of the largest and densest cities in the world, which are strongly marked by informality and urban poverty.

- The authenticity and integrity of the region's urban heritage is increasingly threatened by rapid urbanization, inadequate planning and standardized urban renewal projects.

- Risk mitigation policies and preventive management mechanisms are currently insufficient for the protection of urban heritage, particularly in view of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters.

- Urban conservation and regeneration processes have recently become the object of government policies, notably through an increased focus on public spaces, but they remain marginal in overall urban discussions and agendas.

- As heritage conservation is perceived to be a low priority within development agendas, the needs of the poor require particular attention in urban regeneration, building on the region's innovative use of pro-poor policy frameworks.

- In a context where community participation remains insufficient, culture-based urban strategies can offer an opportunity for broader, more equitable and effective community participation.

- Building inclusive and sustainable tourism strategies is essential, as mismanaged tourism tends to commodify urban heritage and alter its authenticity, while ignoring the needs of local populations.

Kyoto (Japan)
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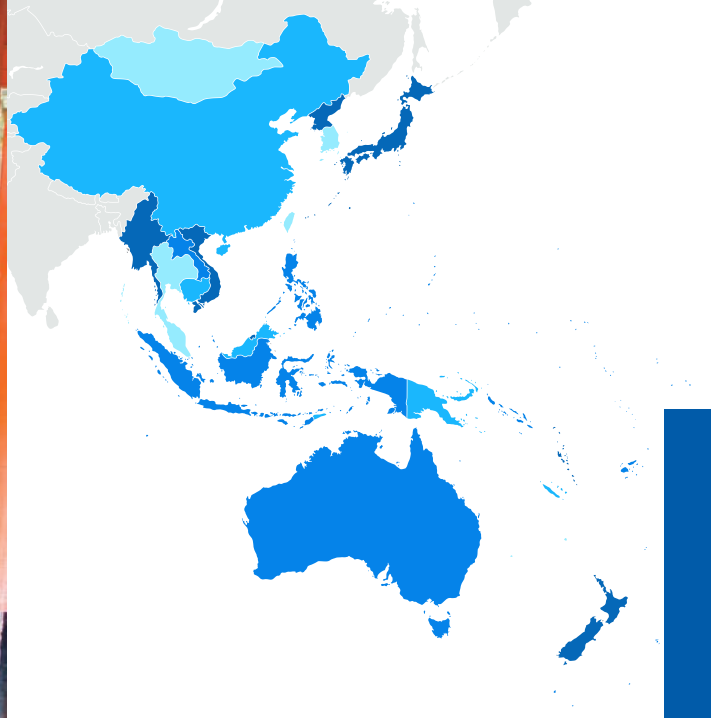
STUDY AREA

6

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The region is home to a rich, ancient urban tradition, reflected notably in trading urban centres, port cities or sacred sites, later influenced by the European colonial presence.*

- *Mass urbanization and real estate pressures have profoundly altered the socio-economic functions and spatial organization of cities, with a particular impact on historic areas.*

- *Although regeneration strategies have been initiated in several historic districts across the region, urban conservation is still addressed in isolation from wider urban development issues.*

- *Most cities have experienced gentrification in both newly built and historic areas, which has led to the unprecedented forced displacement of low-income populations.*

- *Urban conservation and regeneration have contributed to building cultural continuity and social cohesion, as well as fostering community participation, challenging top-down models.*

- *In light of increasing land speculation and widespread privatization of urban areas, public spaces have been a particular focus of urban conservation and regeneration efforts.*

- *In a context where environmental risk management practices remain insufficient, a culture-based approach can help build urban resilience.*

Coordinator of the regional study:
THE WORLD HERITAGE INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH FOR THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION (WHITR-AP)

The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Mandated by the State Parties of the World Heritage Convention and other State Parties of UNESCO, the Institute aims to strengthen the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, by building the capacity of professionals and organizations involved with World Heritage property inscription, protection, conservation and management, through training, research, the dissemination of information and network-building.

WHITR-AP has three branches in China: The Shanghai Centre at Tongji University focuses on the conservation of cultural heritage, such as the sustainable development of ancient towns and villages, architectural sites, complexes, and cultural landscapes.

The Beijing Centre at Peking University is in charge of natural heritage conservation, archaeological excavation, and the management of sites.

The Suzhou Centre, hosted by Suzhou Municipal Government, provides technical training and research on site management methods and restoration techniques.
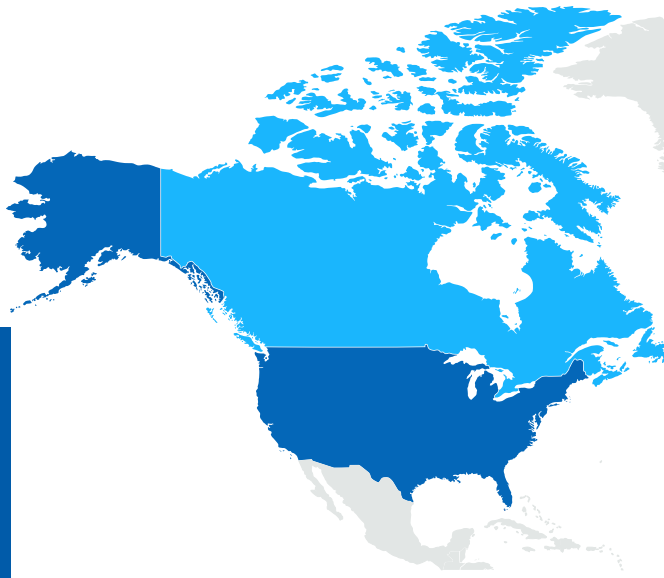
STUDY AREA

Canada, United States of America.

Toronto (Canada)
© Jonathan Castellino

Coordinator of the regional study:
THE SCHOOL OF RESTORATION ARTS AT WILLOWBANK

Willowbank is a Canadian independent educational institution, founded in 2006 and well-known for its School of Restoration Arts. The school offers a three-year diploma in Heritage Conservation combining academic and apprenticeship learning, and is also home to the Centre for Cultural Landscape, which provides a forum for cultural landscape theory and practice. By engaging in joint research programmes, Willowbank has developed a wide network of urban conservation professionals throughout North America. With a distinct, multidisciplinary perspective integrating theory and hands-on practice, Willowbank is known around the world for its expertise in urban conservation, the urban landscape, contemporary design in historic settings, urban and rural planning and community revitalization.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The history of North American cities began with the spread of European settlements from the seventeenth century onwards, which was strongly accelerated by the nineteenth-century Industrial Revolution.*

- *Modernist practices and the rise of the automobile were key in pushing urban development patterns towards concentric, high-rise development in city centres and suburbanization.*

- *Urban renewal efforts, as well as the priority given to new construction over adaptive reuse, led to the widespread destruction of dense, mixed-use and low-rise historic neighbourhoods.*

- *As immigration is a defining feature of North American societies, cultural diversity has shaped urban landscapes and fostered the emergence of social justice and participatory democracy movements.*

- *Culture has been at the core of many urban regeneration strategies initiated after the 1960s, particularly as part of post-industrial decline reversal strategies.*

- *The non-profit sector has been the most innovative advocate for urban conservation and regeneration, while the private sector has contributed a significant part of the needed investment.*

- *A new vision of sustainable urbanism is emerging, one that combines heritage, contemporary design and environmental awareness, and favours polycentric, dense and mixed-use cities.*

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
© T photography/Shutterstock.com*

STUDY AREA

8

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Although the built environment of the region's cities was strongly shaped by the colonial era from the sixteenth century onwards, it reflects a variety of cultural influences, including an important pre-Columbian urban legacy.

- While the rise in megacities and urban sprawl are major features of urbanization in the region, cities are also marked by strong spatial fragmentation, which has generated inequalities and prompted urban violence.

- Diverse climatic and geographic settings have produced various urban landscapes. The relationship between cities and the environment, as well as their exposure to natural risks are important regional features.

- While urban regeneration flourished in the region in the 1990s, it has expanded in the last decades, with the renovation of public spaces becoming a key priority in local policies.

- Despite growing political engagement with urban conservation, its impact on the wider urban development processes is insufficiently recognized, which calls for the development of more comprehensive urban management approaches.

- While urban conservation and regeneration have historically been government-led, they now involve a growing variety of civil society and private partners, resulting in innovative partnerships.

- Addressing the issue of housing in historic areas remains fundamental, especially as many areas have faced gentrification processes or a loss of residential functions.

Coordinator of the regional study:
PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CHILE

Founded in 1888, the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile is a public university belonging to the Catholic Church. As one of the most ancient and prestigious educational institutions in Latin America, the University, and in particular its Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urban Studies, has developed wide expertise in heritage conservation and urban development. The University is also responsible for the regional coordination of Red Alvar, a European and Latin American university network aimed at strengthening cooperation in the areas of teaching, research and capacity building, and participates in international urban conservation platforms. In addition, it leads a number of operational and research activities throughout the region, mobilizing high-level specialized skills on urban conservation and regeneration.

PART II

CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES: A THEMATIC APPROACH

SECTION A
PEOPLE

Building on the power of culture to promote human and inclusive cities

1 **HUMAN-CENTRED CITIES**

2 **INCLUSIVE CITIES**

3 **PEACEFUL AND TOLERANT SOCIETIES**

4 **CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE CITIES**

SECTION B
ENVIRONMENT

Improving the quality of the built and natural environment through culture

5 **HUMAN SCALE AND COMPACT CITIES**

6 **SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND GREEN CITIES**

7 **INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES**

8 **SAFEGUARDING URBAN IDENTITIES**

SECTION C
POLICIES

Integrating culture in urban policies to foster sustainable urban development

9 **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

10 **ENHANCED RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES**

11 **IMPROVED URBAN GOVERNANCE**

12 **FINANCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Casbah of Algiers (Algeria)
© REZA/Webistan*

HUMAN-CENTRED CITIES

The Arena Opera Festival, Verona (Italy)
© Courtesy Fondazione Arena di Verona*

INFOCUS

People and their well-being should be at the centre of local development initiatives to achieve sustainable cities and fulfil human aspiration.

Improving the liveability of cities depends on linking culture with transformations in the city's physical and social infrastructure.

Increasing awareness of place, identity and a sense of belonging can be supported through cultural heritage and activities that promote the cultural diversity of the city's inhabitants.

Territorial planning should be an integrated process that promotes connectivity between rural villages and small, medium, and large cities through culture.

" [Culture] can serve as a tool to promote understanding and tolerance among people to enable the 'living together' of the increasingly multicultural inhabitants of today's cities. Culture is also part of the objective for human-centred cities, to become places of civility, creativity and the fulfilment of human aspirations. Of course, the liveability of a city depends on its capacity to best meet the citizens' basic needs supported by physical and social infrastructure, but it can also be gauged in terms of the degree of happiness urban life can bring to its inhabitants. In this regard, before discussing the paths towards humanizing our cities, it should be stated at the outset that human-centred cities could be realized in a sustainable manner only if placed within the context of an inclusive, human-centred global economy.

Minja Yang, President, Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, University of Leuven (Belgium). Humanizing cities through culture. "

" In urban or regional settings, it is not only the buildings, but also the mode of social and cultural practices that weave them together and produce meanings. The spaces between buildings, the streets and public spaces are further examples of the power of cultural relations to create meaning and form; they also maintain the potential to disrupt and fail communities if they neglect to achieve the holistic notion of culture and the built environment [...] The mutual relationship between culture and environment produces meaning and values, mediated by people and their practices.

Andy C. Pratt, Centre for Culture and the Creative Industries, City University of London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Co-producing culture and the urban environment. "

INCLUSIVE CITIES

San Francisco (USA)
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IN FOCUS

Policies and plans can help foster cultural inclusiveness and mixity in urban areas.

Urban governance requires collaborative decision-making processes and ownership in a spirit of partnership among culturally-diverse groups, local government, civil society and the private sector.

Principles of cultural equity and recognition need to be embedded in all city policies and programmes to ensure the recognition of cultural rights of all groups.

Cultural diversity is an asset rather than a divisive force, and promoting intercultural understanding is essential to social cohesion in cities. The cultural identities of all people including migrants must be recognized and they must be assured equitable access to and benefit from cultural resources and initiatives.

Intercultural competences should be nurtured through education (for students, parents and teachers) and intercultural awareness training for local authorities and stakeholders.

"The governance of urban cultural diversity has become one of the principal challenges that cities face in our time – as well as one of the chief opportunities. Urban policies inspired by a spirit of inclusive pluralism can make the opportunities outweigh the threats and produce a true 'diversity dividend' (Wood and Landry, 2007). The search for this dividend is both an ethical and practical responsibility, for city-dwellers and their authorities alike. It is also a key ingredient of the ideal of 'culturally sustainable development' (Throsby, 2015). Not only is it a challenge of **intergenerational equity**, so that cultural variety can be transmitted to future generations but it is also one of intragenerational equity through which access to cultural production, participation and enjoyment is equitably distributed.

Yudhishthir Raj Isar, The American University of Paris (France), and the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney (Australia). Towards creative urban diversity: from the 'multicultural' to the 'intercultural'."

"In cities across the globe, new processes of diversification and the growth of super-diversity have sometimes wrought new modes of prejudice, segregation, discord and conflict. Similarly, these processes have also fostered new practices of cooperation, civility and conviviality (Vertovec, 2015). In many places characterized by new dynamics of urban super-diversity, there is evidence of emerging cosmopolitan cultural practices, complex social identities, shared social spaces, innovative entrepreneurial activity and inclusive social movements.

Steven Vertovec, Director, Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and University of Göttingen (Germany). The growth of super-diverse cities."

3

PEACEFUL
and TOLERANT SOCIETIES

Akumaa Mama Zimbi and the Hikpo Widows Alliance (Ghana)
© REZA/Webistan*

IN FOCUS

...... Promoting peaceful and tolerant societies requires that cities safeguard the identities of all residents and take steps to ensure that everyone feels safe and included in the city's planning and development.

...... Culture is essential to ensuring social cohesion in urban areas, both in its capacity as a bridge-builder for good relations, and as a source of identity and reconciliation.

...... Cultural heritage and creativity can help build identity and pride in communities where deteriorating urban environments, increased poverty, inequality and limited access to services and infrastructure have incited organized crime and violence.

...... Increased human mobility has made cities more culturally heterogeneous. Building and sustaining peaceful societies is contingent upon respect for cultural diversity.

...... In post-conflict situations, culture can serve as a resource for resilience, recovery, peace and reconstruction through mutual understanding; by contrast, deliberate destruction of cultural heritage fuels hatred and extremism.

> " Cultural resources in cities build a sense of belonging and identity among local communities, and promote social cohesion, inclusion and equity. The promotion, conservation and celebration of cultural activities are key elements for an inclusive city, and for improving the liveability and sustainability of urban areas. The cultural assets should not be seen as museum pieces or as past relics but should be testimonies to our ability to adapt to an ever-changing urban environment. Local authorities must recognize and celebrate the city's unique identity, whose characteristics have been shaped by all who live in it. This will be the foundation of a city's sustainability and resilience.
>
> Webber Ndoro. Director, African World Heritage Fund (South Africa). Leveraging culture for peaceful, tolerant and socially-inclusive cities. "

> " Concerns about the 'museumification' of historical heritage and debates about what should be conserved are not the only obstacles to preservation efforts. Equally troubling is the escalation of urban violence, often in the form of illicit or illegal activities within the historically significant but dilapidated areas where informality thrives. When local authorities lack the willingness or capacity to uproot networks of informality that are often sustained under the cover of violence, preservation efforts are further limited.
>
> Diane E. Davis, Harvard Graduate School of Design (United States of America). Urban violence and the challenges to historic preservation: can constraints become opportunities? "

CREATIVE
and INNOVATIVE CITIES

Vivid Sydney festival (2013), Sydney (Australia)
© Luckies/Shutterstock.com*

IN FOCUS

.... Promoting creativity and innovation, including digital technologies, in cities builds on human ingenuity and diversity as a resource for urban development and improving the liveability of cities.

.... Digital technology is a revolutionary force that is shaping how people produce, consume and experience culture, but also a force that needs an ethical anchor.

.... Innovation can support decision-makers to shape cities differently, deepen democracy and empower citizens and their involvement in governance.

.... Policy priorities should ensure public access, fairness, cultural diversity, transparency and the right to privacy.

"Digital technology is a revolutionary force and it needs a guiding picture of what we want from its power as citizens and cities. This needs an ethical anchor to guide politics, policies and investment, which should be about solving the global and local problems that really matter.

A human perspective should drive technologies rather than the reverse. Technology fever and innovative apps make one forget that it enables and is a servant to our bigger aims, such as encouraging more empowered citizens. Crucially, the innovative impulses unleashed should solve old problems with new possibilities for the economy, such as addressing inequality or creating quality jobs.

Decision-makers have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild our cities differently, including harnessing social media capabilities, interactive platforms or open data to deepen democracy, so making it more responsive to peoples' desires and needs. The crucial question is: will the public interest be given centre stage? Cities must remain alert to ensure their priorities and values are acknowledged, as the digital industrial complex has discovered the city as a major new market. Crucially, we should not only talk about new hardware infrastructures but also of empowering people to be 'smart citizens'."

Charles Landry, Urban advisor and writer, founder of Comedia (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
Culture and the Digital City: Its impact and influence.

"The largest urban transformation takes place through people, and the different cultural languages are the way to reach them. Our experiences have demonstrated that culture and creativity are powerful pathways to social and economic development."

Paulo Alexandre Barbosa, Mayor of Santos (Brazil).
Focusing on film for urban development.

HUMAN SCALE
and COMPACT CITIES

Jodhpur (India)
© f9photos/Shutterstock.com*

IN FOCUS

∴ Culture should be considered as a catalyst for mixed-use, human scale cities that integrate cultural and natural resources in order to be more sustainable.

∴ Urban heritage can contribute to sustainable development through creative strategies of urban regeneration and adaptive reuse.

∴ Cultural and natural resources can improve the quality of human habitat and the sustainability of the built environment.

∴ Local authorities need to build on creativity and heritage as assets to strengthen a sense of place and belonging.

"Since urban heritage is the accumulation of different developments throughout history, urban regeneration or adaptive reuse at the city level is multi-layered and represents a different level of complexity. The adaptation of cultural and natural heritage can contribute to keeping a contemporary city dynamic. Such an approach is contingent on strengthening a dialogue between past and present human occupation of space. Including urban heritage as part of planning processes means to accept development vis-à-vis the value of the given heritage, which, accordingly, informs strategies of urban regeneration and adaptive reuse
It is hence timely to review urban development to redefine the nature of urban form by envisioning layered patterns of use and functions. This would certainly create 'place-based' urban environments, thus bringing people together in spaces of mixed urban functions without jeopardizing the vibrancy of businesses and activities.

Hassan Radoine, National School of Architecture of Morocco (Morocco). Planning and shaping the urban form through a cultural approach.

"Peripheries are the most unjustly suffering parts of the city. They are often associated with a negative or derogatory adjective. The periphery is often labelled as distant, sad, desolate, dreary or dangerous. But in many cities, a majority of the population lives there. The power may be in the centre, but the energy, the desire to change things, the 'factory of desires', is in the peripheries.

Renzo Piano, architect and Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate 1998. Bringing 'beauty' to cities.

6

SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT
and GREEN CITIES
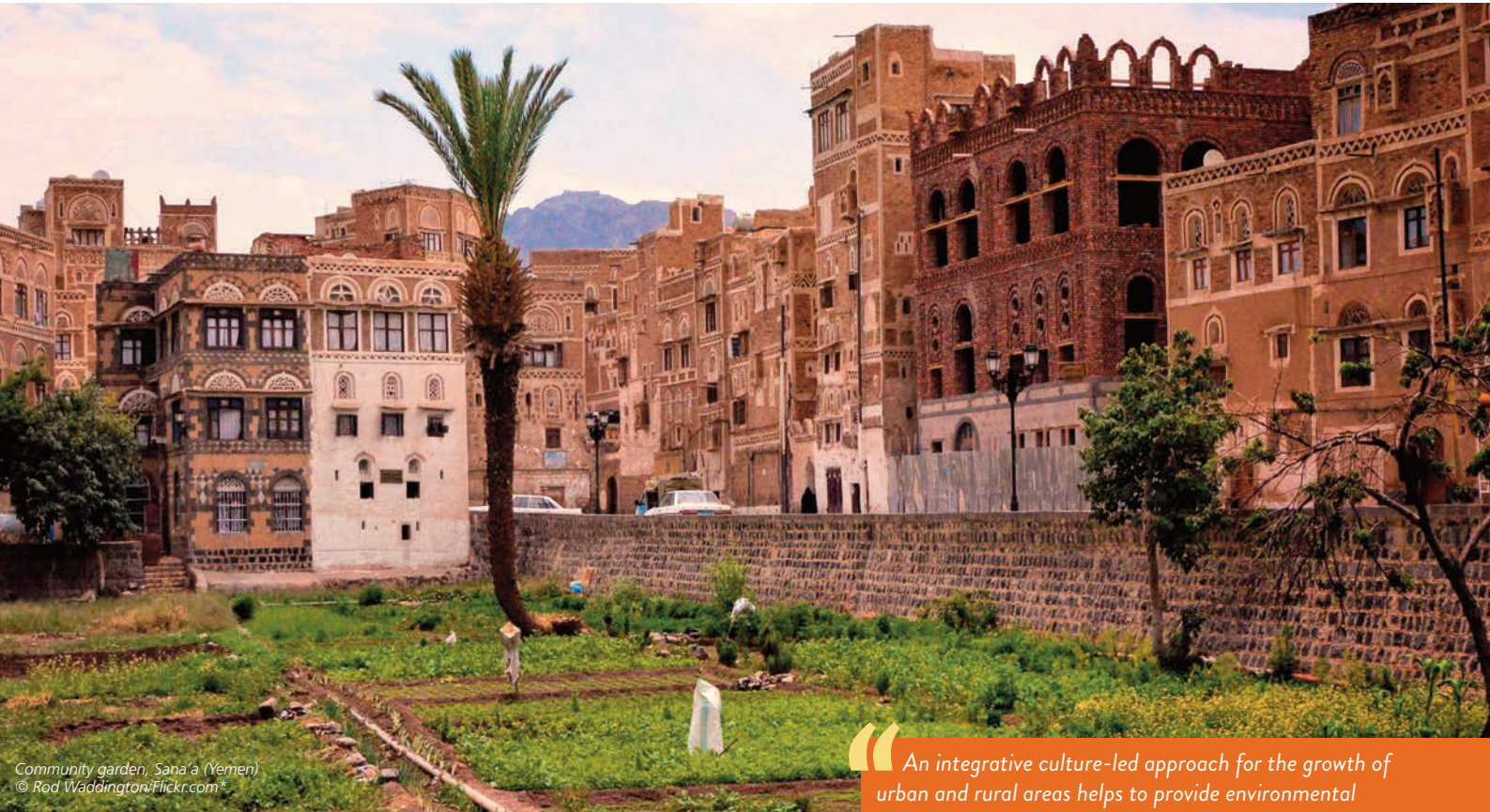
Community garden, Sana'a (Yemen)
© Rod Waddington/Flickr.com*

IN FOCUS

.... Implementing actions to harness culture's role in sustainable, resilient and green cities is an incremental process.

.... The understanding of traditional cultural practices including vernacular construction technologies is essential for resilience.

.... Resilience needs redundancy and multiplicity, which can be provided through cultural diversity. Recognizing social transformations encourages multiple identities.

.... Green in cities is not just for energy management but is an essential component of quality of life and environmental equilibrium, including supporting cultural events and activities.

.... Disaster recovery strategies that focus on restoring arts and cultural activities and cultural heritage revitalization promote healing and commemoration.

"An integrative culture-led approach for the growth of urban and rural areas helps to provide environmental sustainability, thereby giving impetus to a diversity of cultural heritage practices providing resilience for the city. Greening the urban environment through energy efficiency, controlled urban sprawl and urban natural areas will reduce the carbon footprint of cities. Finally, the proper understanding of traditional cultural practices can be a powerful tool to enhance the resilience of cities facing threats, such as natural phenomena and climate change.

Michael Turner, UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.
Heritage in cities: culture-based solutions to environmental concerns. "

"The impact of our changing climate is already leading many cities to start realizing the potential for ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, peatlands and urban green spaces, to provide huge opportunities for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. Conservation efforts like these offer practical, cost-effective and globally significant solutions to the many challenges faced in our burgeoning urban areas. But we must now give more prominence to these real solutions on offer and develop the business case for widespread investment in urban biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
Nature can help build better towns and cities. "

INCLUSIVE
PUBLIC SPACES
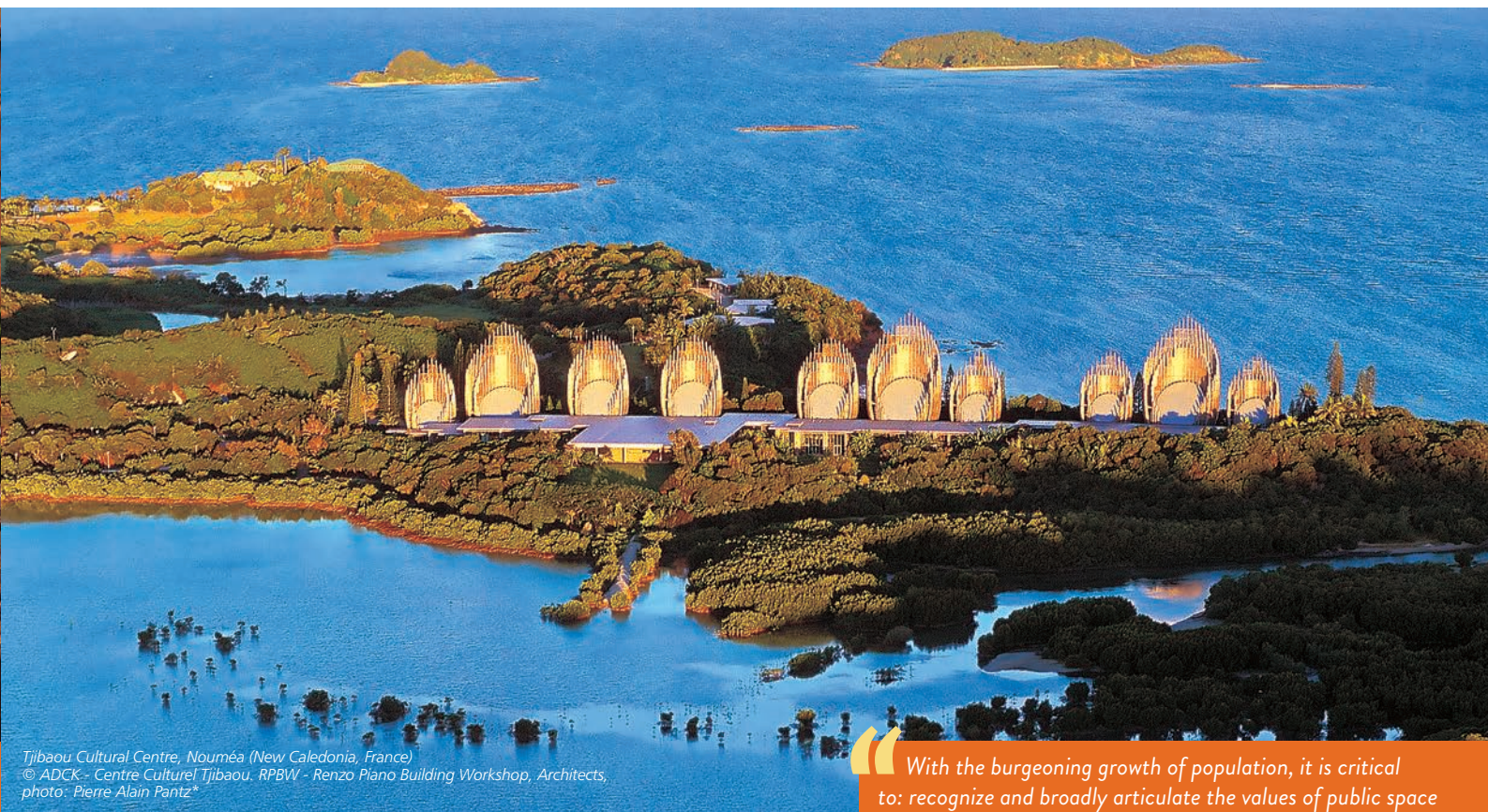
Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Nouméa (New Caledonia, France)
© ADCK - Centre Culturel Tjibaou. RPBW - Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Architects,
photo: Pierre Alain Pantz*

IN FOCUS

.... As cultural heritage assets for all citizens that foster social inclusion, vibrant public spaces should be accessible to all.

.... Public spaces should be respected, upgraded and supported by adequate resources, as protected areas inherited from prior generations that can be integral to creative expression and the transmission of practices of a diverse urban population.

.... Parks and protected areas within and near a city contribute to its climate change resilience.

.... Regenerating and upgrading public spaces in low-income areas of cities can foster social justice and equity.

" With the burgeoning growth of population, it is critical to: recognize and broadly articulate the values of public space for quality of urban living; encourage local advocacy for public space quality, quantity, care and use; safeguard and improve existing urban public space; integrate green best practices; and plan for and create new open spaces, particularly in low-income areas. The application of good governance recognizes and acts on the linkage between public spaces and sustainable development, respects the legacy of public spaces, seeks to improve existing space, adds new vibrant public spaces and benchmarks local public space quantity, quality, distribution and access, so that inclusive public space is available to all.

Patricia M. O'Donnell, Principal, Heritage Landscapes (United States of America). Enabling access to public spaces to advance economic, environmental and social benefits. "

" Art and culture are essential to the built environment, planning processes and experiential design. Integrated architecture, landscaping, public art and public space enhance the quality of life, benefit the economy and create a sustainable urban ecology. Art and culture provide the features necessary to create meaningful and memorable places. Infusing art and culture into the planning process increases public participation, encourages collaborative design and adds value to development projects. The planning profession also benefits from art and culture through more holistic approaches, community engagement and comprehensive visioning. Placemaking for sensory experience - sight, sound, smell, touch and taste - must be driven by art and culture that collectively and powerfully reinforce sense of place.

Richard Stephens, President, International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). Culture and urban planning. "

SAFEGUARDING
URBAN IDENTITIES

Entrance to the mausoleum of the Shirvanshah's Palace, Baku (Azerbaijan)
© REZA/Webistan*

IN FOCUS

.... Urban heritage conservation is a central component of a development agenda that promotes inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

.... Adaptive rehabilitation of urban heritage for contemporary uses is an effective safeguarding strategy, contingent on inclusive, multi-stakeholder governance and underpinned by respect for socio-cultural values.

.... Urban heritage conservation needs to move beyond a monument-based, full protection and government-financed approach, to ensure that urban heritage is not a liability but an asset for cities and their communities.

.... Institutions and most local authority structures, being directly linked to heritage management, should form part of a city's institutional arrangements for promoting sustainable development.

.... For cities to be sustainable, urban development must be accompanied by policies that support all urban communities to make their cultures sustainable.

> *The regulations affecting the use of tangible heritage must progress from preventing changes to its attributes and uses towards promoting the sensible adaptive rehabilitation of the urban heritage to satisfy contemporary needs. Procedures for managing tangible urban heritage need to move away from transferring all preservation costs to the private owners of monuments and buildings towards mechanisms that coordinate the contributions of all interested stakeholders in preserving and developing the heritage assets, including the government, private philanthropy and the beneficiary communities. The corollary of this statement is that the preservation of urban heritage should cease to be the sole responsibility of the government - local, regional or national.*
>
> Eduardo Rojas, Historic Preservation Program, Graduate School of Design, University of Pennsylvania (United States of America).
> Urban heritage for sustainable development.

> *Regardless of the cause of change affecting urban environments - growth or decline - the first step in the conservation and planning process is to understand what we have; which places, activities, practices and communities define cultural significance and how and which of these do we wish to sustain, conserve or regenerate? Increasing recognition of the many values that contribute to the cultural significance of a heritage place, beyond the bricks and mortar, demands new tools that map and inventory these in ways that capture not just the tangible and intangible values but also the relationships between them.*
>
> Susan Macdonald, Getty Conservation Institute, The J. Paul Getty Trust (United States of America).
> Getty outlook on the future of urban heritage.

SUSTAINABLE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Havana (Cuba)
© Julian Peters Photography/Shutterstock.com*

IN FOCUS

Urban areas must be 'rehumanized', both in terms of scale and in enhancing a sense of belonging. Systematic, comprehensive and culturally sensitive urban development models are required to promote inclusive processes that facilitate access, representation and participation in culture.

The role of culture for sustainable urban development goes beyond its value as a commodity or a resource to attract investments and boost branding. Decision-makers should build on culture for inclusive development, overcoming inadequacies of indicators and measurement of impacts, citizen participation and gender inequality.

Cultural vitality is necessary to city life as it permeates all spheres of living and lies at the foundation of freedoms, the public exchange of ideas and societal wellbeing.

The role of local governments is crucial to create and support spaces for dialogue and action; plan, design, implement and monitor policies and programmes; develop infrastructure; and ensure that the values of heritage, diversity and creativity are recognized, particularly in contexts where these may be neglected or threatened.

"The key transformations for local sustainable development in the next decades will be located in the interrelation and integration of civic domains, interlinking concerns such as heritage, housing, physical planning, inclusion, mobility, culture, nature, resilience and governance, ensuring full and active community participation. In these approaches, the incorporation of cultural considerations will be key to ensuring that the paradigm of sustainability is meaningful to people, incorporating local histories and knowledge, resonating with local identities and truly building from the aspirations of local communities.
On the other hand, culture must also be addressed as a domain in its own right. Protecting cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), promoting creativity and acknowledging cultural diversity require suitable policies, based on the relevant expertise. The distinctive features of cultural expressions and activities, as well as the diversity of perspectives must be appreciated and nurtured.

Nancy Duxbury, Jordi Baltà, Jyoti Hosagrahar and Jordi Pascual.
Culture in urban development policies: an agenda for local governments."

"Multifaceted crises of recent years have brought about new urban challenges, such as social problems, combined with cases of exclusion and misery for large groups of people, as well as delinquency and violence. Within this context, the contradictions and the devaluation of cities and urban areas bring back the discussion on the need to reorganize the urban productive base. This should be grounded on the quality of public space, the cultural and social identity of local societies, their culture and heritage, the need for large-scale cultural works, and the return of creativity.

Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias, National Technical University of Athens (N.T.U.A.) (Greece), President CIVVIH ICOMOS and ICOMOS Board Member. A multidimensional view of heritage as a factor of sustainable urban development."

ENHANCED RURAL-URBAN
LINKAGES
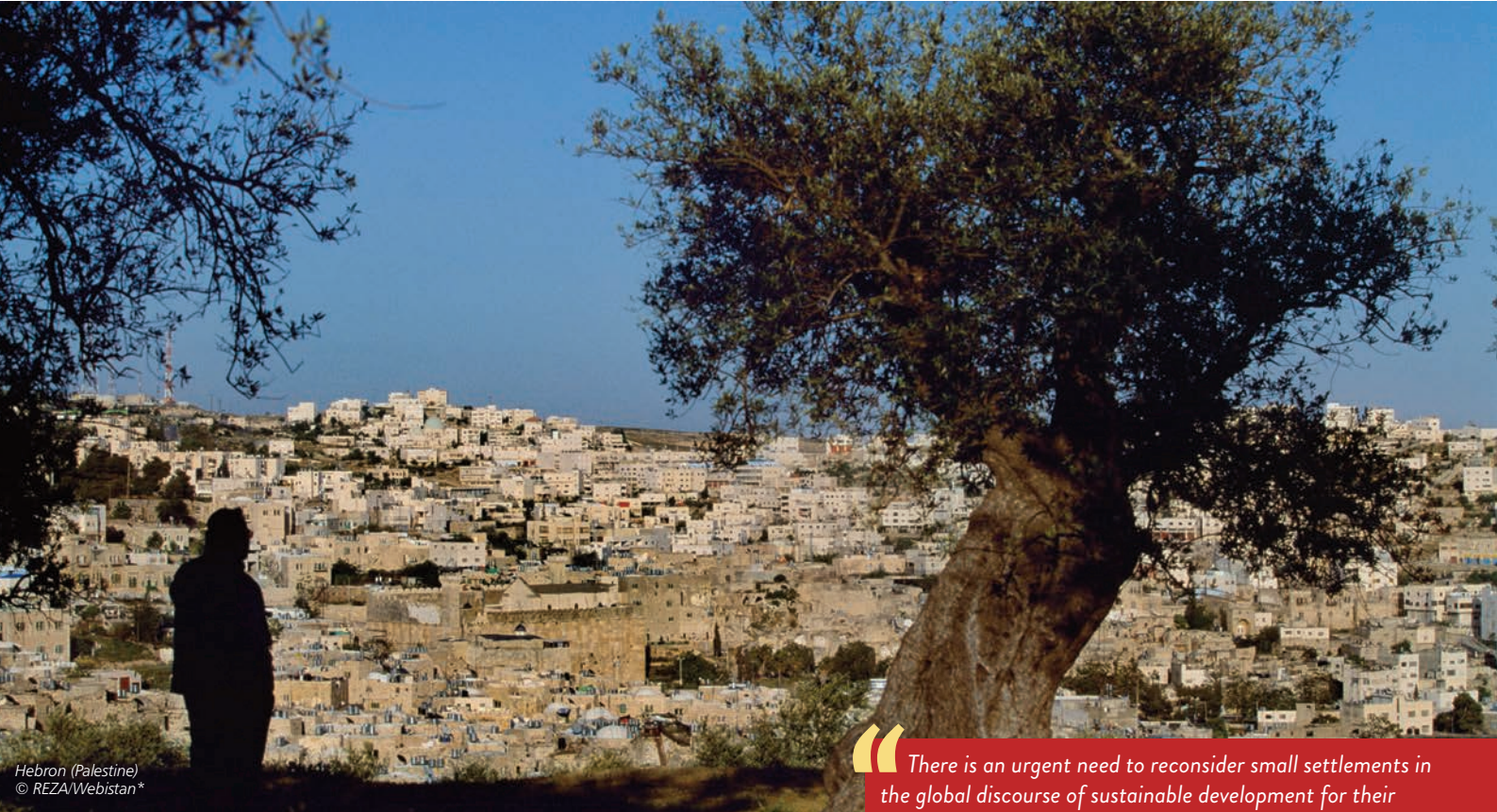
Hebron (Palestine)
© REZA/Webistan*

IN FOCUS

⋯⋯ Small settlements should be reconsidered for their unique contribution to fostering local creative and inclusive patterns of territorial development.

⋯⋯ The tangible and intangible cultural resources of small settlements should be safeguarded to enhance economic and social benefits in the relevant broader regional context.

⋯⋯ The size, location and economy of small settlements, while often seen as disadvantages, can offer opportunities to support local cultural development.

⋯⋯ Building positive partnerships between rural and urban areas is essential for enhanced and harmonious territorial development.

" *There is an urgent need to reconsider small settlements in the global discourse of sustainable development for their unique contribution in fostering creative and inclusive patterns of local territorial development. To ensure this, there is a need for ad hoc data sets for small settlements and ad hoc studies on how culture and creativity can effectively stimulate harmonious territorial development in different regions of the world. This will be fundamental in years to come in order to monitor the policy results. In countries where the rate of rural population is still significant, this should be considered as a high priority to ensure the overall sustainability of the urbanization transition.*

Giulio Verdini, University of Westminster (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
Culture as a tool for harmonious territorial development. **"**

" *What I would like to see is urban development that is close to nature, based on diversity, based on differences. This kind of diversity can be found in traditional areas, informal or spontaneous small constructions, and the villages inside the city. People who live in these areas are mostly the marginalized and the poor. We have to pay more attention to the weaker segments of the population because we have only just started to realize the important value of these areas.*

Wang Shu, architect and Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate 2012.
Connecting urban development to nature.[1] **"**

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[1] Extract of the plenary address by Wang Shu at the international conference 'Culture for Sustainable Cities', Hangzhou (China), 10—12 December 2015.

11

IMPROVED URBAN
GOVERNANCE

City infrastructure planning with roads and buildings
© kentoh/Shutterstock.com*

IN FOCUS

⋯⋯ Urban governance plays a crucial role in matching needs with offer, and preventing the destruction of urban resources and neglect of minorities.

⋯⋯ The impact of global forces and how cities define their urbanization project not only varies by country, but also by city and/or neighbourhood,

⋯⋯ Decision-makers should ensure the empowerment of all key stakeholders, at all levels, to ensure inclusive and sustainable governance. Urban strategies should integrate cultural diversity in their core to maximize resource efficiency and sustainable development.

⋯⋯ Cities can employ a cyclical process of adaptation, dissemination, implementation and monitoring of urban governance to better address resource efficiency and sustainability.

⋯⋯ Culture-based urban governance entails the commitment, collaboration, coordination and synergy between different stakeholders at all levels. Stronger regional cooperation and partnership should be promoted between cities to keep prospering together.

> " A smarter urban governance is desirable and possible... Fostering greater knowledge of urban resources and heritage, in particular, enables an informed and evidence-based approach to urban planning that fosters the respect for cultural identity and the environment. This cultural dimension of the city and its sustainable development perceives cities as a dynamic urban ecosystem, and relies on new forms of urban governance towards an integrative framework for smart urban governance. The key is to understand how this approach helps cities to further develop and become more sustainable, in particular while fostering the role of culture.
>
> Ana Pereira Roders, Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands).
> Smarter urban governance: towards an integrative framework. "

> " Tourism can be an element of such strategies, and is critical in attracting investment to historic areas. But tourism also changes the makeup of local communities unless incentives are provided to ensure that these communities remain stable as property values rise and visitors demand new experiences.
> To overcome these challenges, decline is countered with renewed investment, encouraged by incentives; the development of creative industries helps renew vitality. But many medium-sized cities, adjusting to new economic opportunities opened by tourism, urgently need the regulatory framework to ensure that changes are incremental and sustainable.
>
> Bonnie Burnham, President Emerita, World Monuments Fund.
> Two cities, one vision. "

12

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
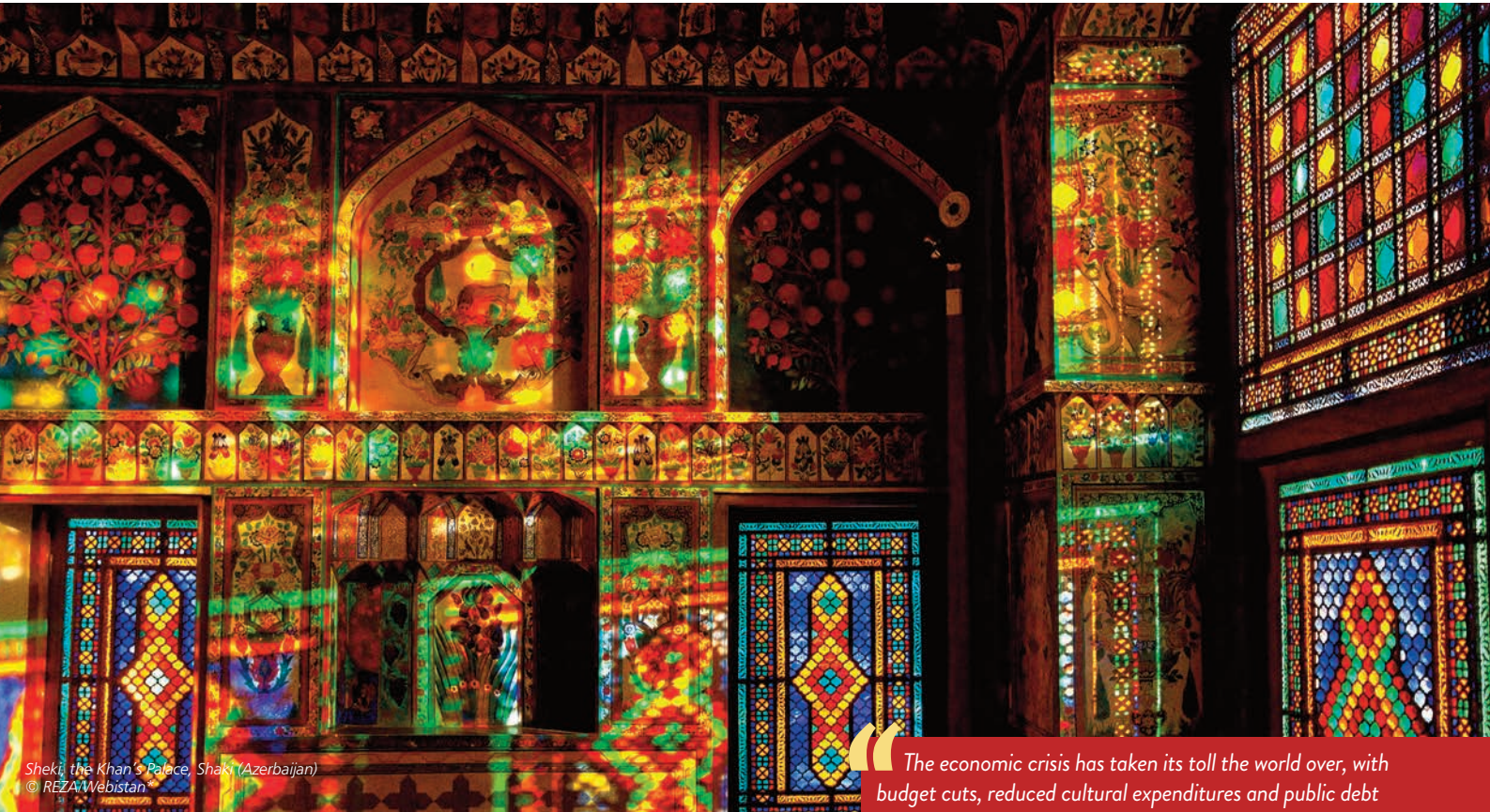
Sheki, the Khan's Palace, Shaki (Azerbaijan)
© REZA/Webistan*

IN FOCUS

.... There is variation between countries in the funding mix and dominant financial models (public funding, private interventions and so-called 'third sphere' financing) for culture. Financing is influenced by local conditions such as growth, level of income, public governance, fiscal system and banking structures. Financial mechanisms should be adapted to local conditions.

.... Local stakeholders should enhance their investments in cultural projects to contribute to job creation, stable incomes, welfare and enhancing the liveability of a place, taking into account that financial returns from private or public investment in urban cultural projects benefit broader outcomes.

.... While financing culture generally used to be a 'top-down' process, new stakeholders are now taking the lead, including communities and property owners in urban areas. Public-private partnerships should thus be enhanced.

.... Local authorities have a crucial role in improving the management and financing of cultural assets in their cities.

> The economic crisis has taken its toll the world over, with budget cuts, reduced cultural expenditures and public debt financing. There will be less financial resources for culture if there are no recognized economic values for projects, and there will be no recognized economic values if cultural impacts are not measured in a more systematic and holistic way, and shared and disseminated among all interested parties. Therefore, the agenda for integrating sustainable development in cultural decisions is timely. As the interest in culture has expanded, 'traditional ways' for financing culture have become constrained, or even obsolete. However, sustainable urban development objectives offer the opportunity to change our appreciation of culture as an economic resource, providing outcomes that justify specific and innovative financial public and private investments.
>
> *Christian Ost, ICHEC Brussels Management School (Belgium).*
> Innovative financial approaches for culture in urban development.

> In the contemporary world, the concept of sustainable development provides a guiding framework within which to formulate strategies to improve the welfare of human civilization. Investment in heritage rehabilitation in the historic cores of towns and cities can be interpreted as a process linking the economic, social and cultural development of the urban complex in a manner consistent with sustainability principles. Many historic cities around the world have followed this sort of development path, with significant payoff to current and future generations of their citizens.
>
> *David Throsby, Macquarie University (Australia).*
> Promoting sustainable urban development through investment in cultural heritage.

DOSSIERS

UNESCO'S NETWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Building on its mandate in education, the natural sciences, the social and human sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO's engagement for sustainable urban development reflects an interdisciplinary approach involving all its programme sectors. This manifold strategy is based on the assumption that, in order for cities to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, all aspects of urban life need to be addressed in a coordinated manner by planners and policy-makers. In this framework, UNESCO has established networks and partnerships involving a wide range of actors from the public and private sector in different thematic areas, which have been widely supported and developed by its Member States.

The Dossiers illustrate the focus and work of several of these partnerships and networks:

Dossier 1 presents UNESCO's strategic partnerships for cities established with international organizations, international funding institutions, foundations, the private sector, universities, research institutions, NGOs and civil society.

Dossier 2 illustrates the relevance of World Heritage status for urban areas and the challenges faced by World Heritage properties located in cities (including historic centres and monuments in an urban context).

Dossier 3 presents the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), established in 2004, and which operates in the framework of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Dossier 4 concerns the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, launched in 2004, which aims to create a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination.

Dossier 5 presents the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), which was launched by UNESCO in 2013 with the mission of supporting and accelerating the practice of lifelong learning in urban contexts.

Dossier 6 refers to the Urban Biosphere Reserves, established in the framework of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, which promotes the development of societies, which are sustainable and in harmony with the biosphere.

Dossier 7 illustrates UNESCO's actions in supporting Member States to build capacities to manage disaster and climate risk, including in urban areas.

Dossier 8 outlines UNESCO's work in addressing issues related to water and human settlements, focusing on the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate.

Rooftops of the Casbah,
Algiers (Algeria)
© REZA/Webistan*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. People-centred cities are culture-centred spaces

1.1. **Enhance the liveability of cities and safeguard their identities:** The conservation and safeguarding of urban cultural heritage in all its forms should be integrated into people-centred urban regeneration strategies to enhance the liveability of cities while respecting their identities.

1.2. **Ensure social inclusion in cities through culture:** In light of the evolving identities of cities, decision-makers should adopt proactive policies to recognize and promote cultural diversity as an asset for social inclusion in cities.

1.3. **Promote creativity and innovation in urban development through culture:** Creativity and innovation, including digital technologies, should be fostered as resources for sustainable urban development and to improve local livelihood.

1.4. **Build on culture for dialogue and peace-building initiatives:** Culture should be a core component of urban initiatives to facilitate social cohesion and mutual understanding, to counter urban violence and contribute to peace building.

2. Quality urban environments are shaped by culture

2.1. **Foster human scale and mixed-use cities by drawing on lessons learnt from urban conservation practices:** Urban heritage offers examples of human scale and mixed-use urban ensembles that can inform sustainable urban development models through integrating cultural and natural resources. Local authorities should review their urban development strategies by enhancing the knowledge of the historic cultural assets.

2.2. **Promote a liveable built and natural environment:** Urban cultural and natural heritage should be safeguarded to allow people and communities to connect with their urban environment.

2.3. **Enhance the quality of public spaces through culture:** The planning, design and use of public spaces should integrate a cultural approach, based on heritage and cultural and creative activities, to foster social inclusion.

2.4. **Improve urban resilience through culture-based solutions:** Local authorities should integrate heritage and traditional knowledge into urban strategies to address environmental concerns.

3. Sustainable cities need integrated policy-making that builds on culture

3.1. **Regenerate cities and rural-urban linkages by integrating culture at the core of urban planning:** Safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting creativity should be integral to urban strategies, from planning to implementation. The tangible and intangible cultural resources of small settlements should be safeguarded to enhance economic and social benefits in the broader regional context.

3.2. **Build on culture as a sustainable resource for inclusive economic and social development:** Decision-makers should lever culture to contribute to local economic and social development and provide equitable benefits for communities and individuals. National and local authorities should further develop indicators and data collection on the impact of culture at local level to refine policy-making.

3.3. **Promote participatory processes through culture and enhance the role of communities in local governance:** Culture-based urban governance entails the commitment, collaboration, coordination and synergy between different stakeholders at all levels. Stronger regional cooperation and partnership should be promoted between cities to continue prospering together.

3.4. **Develop innovative and sustainable financial models for culture:** Local authorities should ensure that appropriate financial support is dedicated to culture as a means of contributing to economic and social development, as well as urban liveability.

As the cornerstone of society, culture must lie at the heart of sustainable policies and strategies. Yet, despite its vital importance, key questions such as: 'How has culture influenced urban development across the world?' and 'How can culture make a difference to our urban future?' have often remained unexplored.

This Report, the first of its kind, explores the role of culture for sustainable urban development. It is intended as a policy framework document to support governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Urban Development and the New Urban Agenda.

In search of a common thread between the past and the future, the Report examines the contribution of culture to urban sustainability from two analytical angles: a global survey implemented with nine regional partners across the world; and key thematic insights. The Report thus analyses the situation, trends, threats and existing opportunities in different regional contexts, and presents a global picture of urban heritage safeguarding, conservation and management, as well as the promotion of cultural and creative industries, as resources for sustainable urban development. The Report also includes a set of maps and a section on UNESCO's strategic networks reflecting the Organization's various fields of competence.

Building on the findings of this global research and thematic reflection, the Report presents new guidelines and recommendations, rooted in culture, to ensure that the cities of tomorrow are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.