Comparative Urbanisms

A study of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

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Abstract

UMKC students explore twenty-eight UNESCO creative cities through their built environments, urban histories, sustainability efforts and their designated creative city class. The study shows how these cities have developed differently despite sharing their use of creative aspects in planning.

Key Points

1. Kanazawa is known for its detailed craftwork in areas such as gold-leaf, pottery and kaga-yuzen silk dying. The city is molding their tourism and economic development around their unique creative heritage. Being one of the first cities designated to the UNESCO creative cities network, they continue to pave the way for other cities by embracing sustainable development goals and building synergies with other creative fields.

2. Brasilia, Brazil is unique compared to other cities due to the fact that it was constructed from scratch all at once and then inhabited, rather than growing and changing organically over a long period of time. It was created in 1960 by planner Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer, to be the location of the nation's capital and provide residence to the government's employees and families. Today, the city's population has grown to over 2.4 million.

3. SXSW (South by South West) is an annual film, music, and interactive festival in the city of Austin, Texas and it has become one of the most important places to experience cutting edge technology and digital creativity. The most recent SXSW in 2019 hosted a UNESCO Media Arts Exhibition featuring exhibits from artists in Austin, Guadalajara, Linz, and Lyon. The exhibition was in Austin Central Library's 3,000 sq. ft gallery where the work explored the intersection of art and technology.

4. Hannover, Germany was designated as a UNESCO Creative City for music in 2014 and caters to goal #11 of the UNESCO sustainability goals, Sustainable Cities & Communities. One main goal of Climate Alliance Hannover is to reduce carbon emissions by 40%, compared to 1990, by 2020. Sustainable goals like this give Hannover its nickname of The Green City.

5. As part of **Ghent's** continued dedication to sustainability, beginning in 2020, a low emission zone will be enacted around the city center. Admittance into the low emission zone will be based on a vehicle's euronorm score (a European environmental score for vehicles). The admission requirements will get stricter in 2025 and onwards.

6. The Unicorn Stable in Lodz, Poland is a recently developed light rail station. The station is on the same level as walking for pedestrians while the highway is set underneath. This creates a separation of transportation methods which allows for safer and more efficient walkability.

7. Parma has the advantage of having several exports like Parmesano Reggiano and Prosciutto di Parma that are protected. This makes Parma a mecca for everything Gastronomy.

8. As a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, **Dublin**, Ireland has a long tradition of producing great writers. James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, and Anne Enright have all called the Irish capital home. Joyce's famed work, Ulysses, prominently celebrates the city's streets, places, and people. His descriptions of the capital city and its denizens are an excellent study of urban life in early-20th-century Ireland.

9. Strategically located along the Britz Canal, between the Rhine and Neckar Rivers, these two world renowned institutions, help fuel the cities vibrant creativity and love for music. Their collaborative efforts along with the city's commissioner for music and pop culture form what is known as the "Mannheim model". This combination of public infrastructure investments and private programming support uses a four pillar approach to help musicians and small business become successful.

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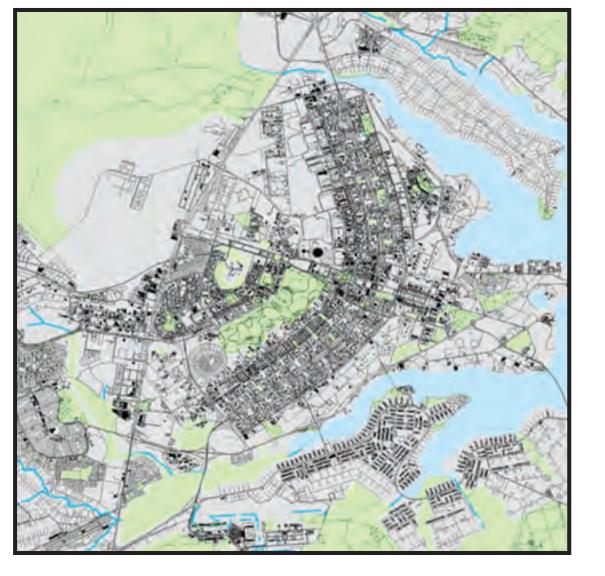
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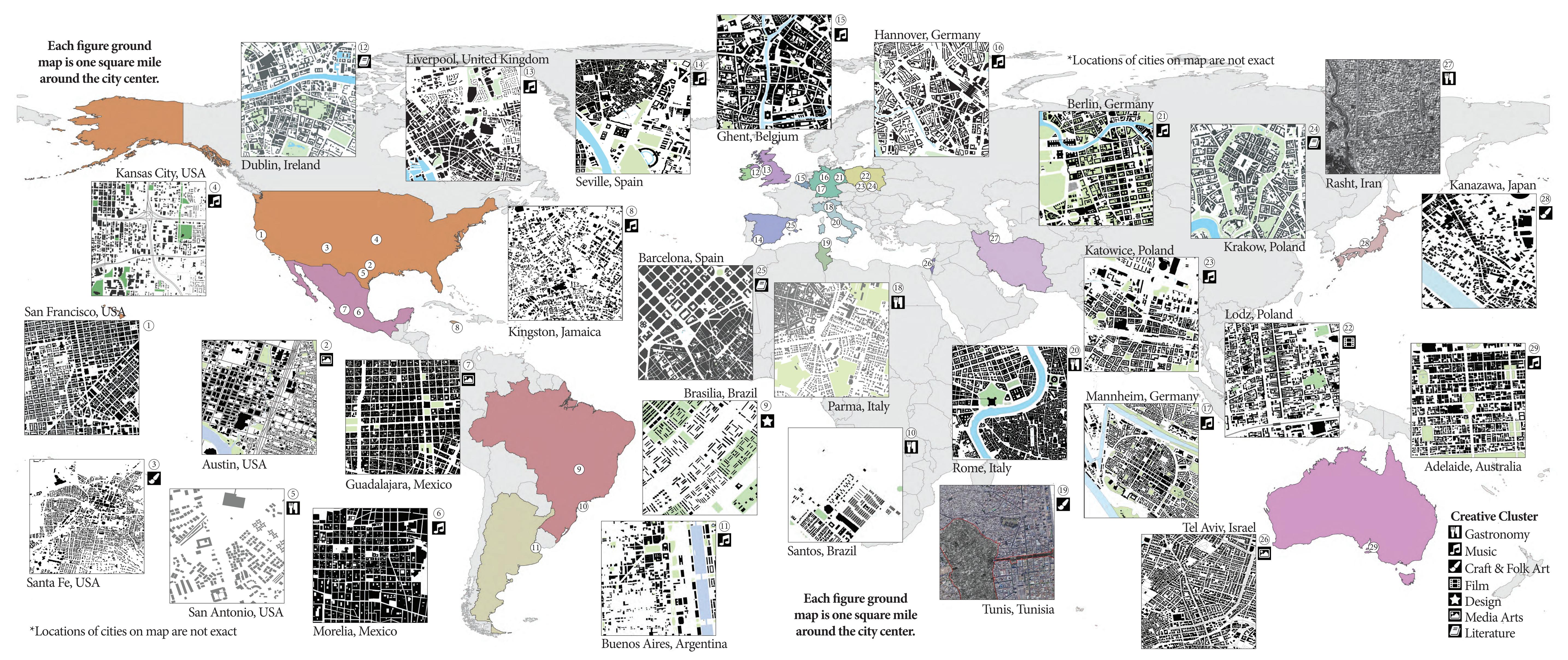
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Kanazawa's Samurai district reflects the delicate and intricate craft-work that the city is famous for.



Brasilia was constructed entirely from scratch in 1960 to be the new capital of Brazil.

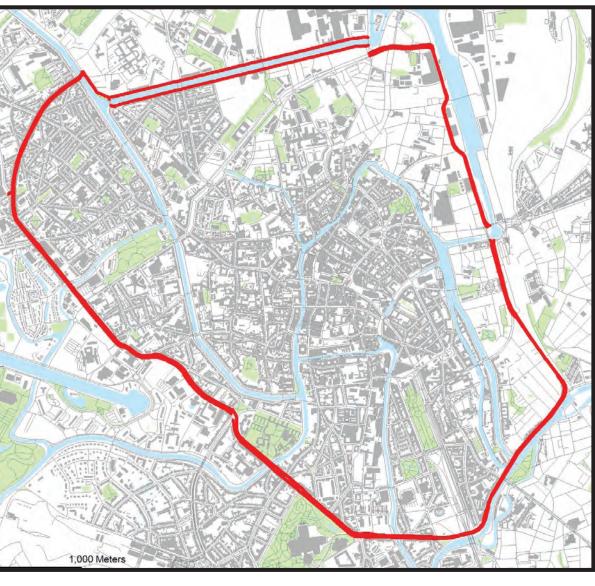




Austin hosted a UNESCO Media Arts showcasing local and international artists.



Hannover has the largest city forest in exhibit at SXSW 2019 Europe and 11% of the city is green space.



Ghent will enact a low-emission zone around its urban core by 2020.



Lodz's Unicorn Parma's population doubles for two days Stable has tram stops, pedestrian crossing and in the year during the CIBUS Food Expo. a highway underneath.

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Dublin's many great writers have passed through the halls of Trinity College.



Mannheim's Musikpark and are Germany's first music start-up centers.