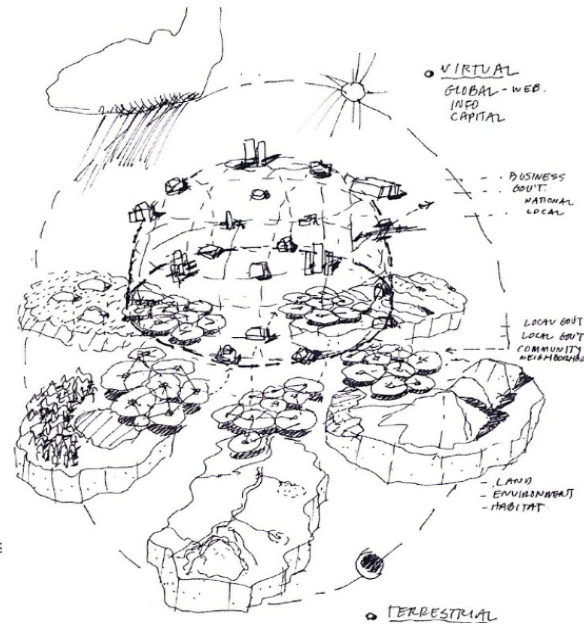
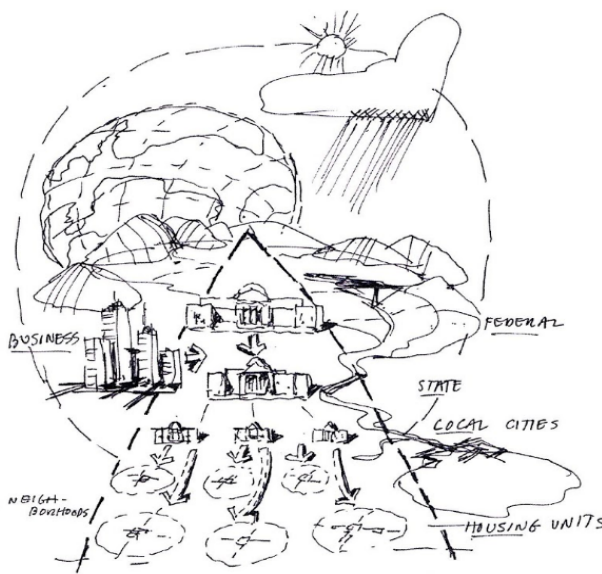


ARE WE DISPLACING → PEOPLE + PLANET 4 CODE?

Habitat III

Quito, Ecuador

October 2016



“Into Sight, Into Mind: Spatializing Urban Knowledge”

Plotting out Global Urban Futures

Our Global Urban Futures (GUF), Reframing Urban policy to Address Global and National Problems-Inequality, Economic, Growth, and Climate change is a multi-disciplinary research project, funded by the FORD Foundation. This project aligns with The New School’s University faculty, graduate students and practitioners from the Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban policy and Parson’s Theories of Urban Practice (TUP) and Design and Urban Ecologies (DUE) Graduate Programs.

For the last two-years, members of this team have engaged diverse work plans, including a series of individual research papers, convened a series of public events, and built a network of allied people, communities and institutions interested in deepening our urban knowledge, in order to develop an interdisciplinary base to address questions of widening inequality, jobless growth and radically changed climate. This process has been fueled by addressing this sequence of questions:

- 1) What urban knowledge do we need to redirect cities from their status as polluting “**point source**” into cities as “**cooperating resources**”?
- 2) Using the history of the UN Habitat evolution as a lens to visualize urban flows and knowledges across time and space, can we begin to see *What we have done? What might be needed? What’s missing?*
- 3) How do we spatialize this history and flow of urban knowledges for other cities to *plot their global urban futures* when they return on Monday and move forward to act on what is a **collective** task?

A major missing topic in today’s UN’s discourse is an expanded view of its own history and evolution that raises both questions about the proposed New Urban Age agenda and the allied 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Having attended past UN Habitat (I,II) and fueled by input from meetings and events in preparation for the upcoming UN Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, a gap was identified, which is that of a visual database tool to see how we can “**think and act**” urban.

This visual piece, a timeline per say, has evolved through many iterations as a historical research tool documenting the evolution of United Nations and its Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat) starting in 1900 to the United Nations 100th anniversary projected for the year 2045.

The timeline serves as a spatial representation to see and foresee how to situate decision-making processes that affect everyday life. For instance, the SDG Agenda for 2030, as it is linked to low and middle-income countries in situations of forced displacement and mass migrations, requires a need to frame SDGs without seeing the goals in siloed, disciplined- oriented lenses, but rather in interconnected web.

It is important to note that this timetable is not a comprehensive historic survey, although it is based on extensive research, field interviews and professional experiences. Rather, this table is more of an **open platform** that illustrates relationships and patterns across time and knowledge that have been active in the making of today’s urban futures. Further, it draws from multiple sources and we thank these many authors for their important work.

Unflattening History: Seeing Threads, Patterns & Disruptions

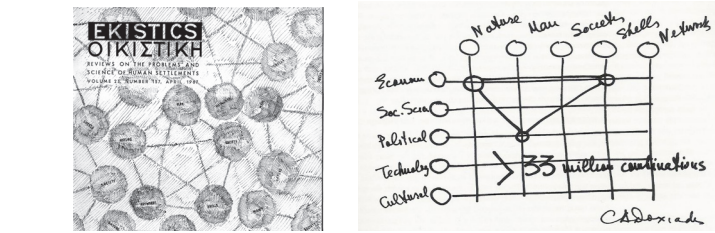
This table is composed of columns and rows. Cells of this table are filled with images of projects, policies, ideas, people and knowledge active during a particular era and those lines of thought and work that have carried across time and evolving concepts.

In addition to charting the flows of ideas and knowledge, the table highlights **radical shifts and disruptions** in thinking and practice. For example, the terms of reference for Habitat I, II, III, started with “**human settlement**” in 1976, towards “**sustainable development**” in 1996 during Habitat II in Istanbul and Habitat III, the organizers propose that cities focus on a “**new urban agenda**”.

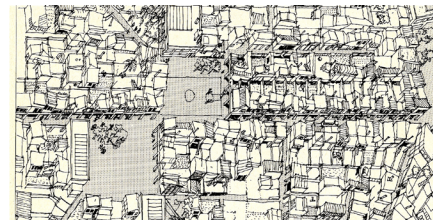
The flow of ideas, projects, agendas, and goals generated by the UN, institutions, city projects, and activist demands have been plotted alongside five currents of urban activity: **urban information, urban habitation, urban development, urban infrastructure and urban form**. These 5 urban categories act as a baseline and a lens to situate how people, ideas, projects, and events play-out on the ground within the city planning, design and development discourse

What matters is how this tool frames a particular way to see the lessons learned from the **struggles in the streets** in order to **build capacities and capabilities** to make better decisions for our global urban futures. As a tool to “**think & act**” urban ; it is one resource to untangle the multiple political, social, economic and environmental layers of an urban setting, uncover their connections across disciplines and themes, and highlight missed opportunities.

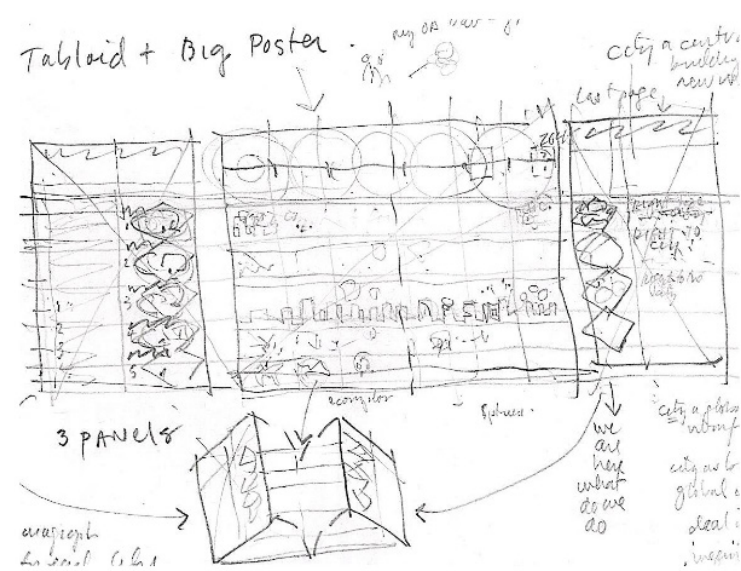
This is our baseline. So how can we work together to address **widening inequality, jobless growth and radically changed climate**?



Journal of Human Settlement, 1955-72 & Habitat Matrix, 1955



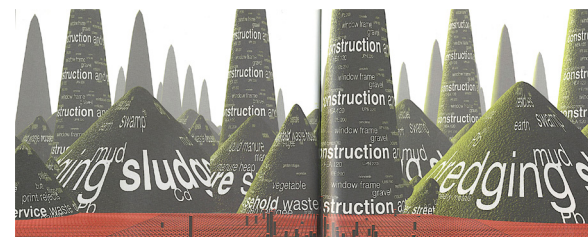
Manila Competition, Architects Holl, Tanner, Cropper, 1976



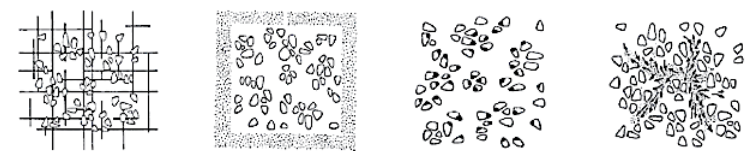
This sketch illustrates that this hand-out is a reduced summary version of the 12-foot-long poster exhibited at the **New School University** urban venue in Quito. You can access a digital version of the poster online at globalurbanfutures.org



Mercado San Roque, Quito, Ecuador, 2016



MVRDV Architecture Firm, Netherlands, Metacity/datatown, 2000



mediate define repeat sequential path
Investigations in Collective Form, Fumihiko Maki, 1964

UN HABITAT

“circle, triangle, openness”

The UN-Habitat logos used to mark the three Habitat forums reveal a changing agenda. The original **Habitat I** graphic was designed to appear as if hand drawn by people, composed of a circle (The Earth), a triangle (Interconnection) and a human body with outreached arms (Openness). **UN-Habitat** adopted this logo as their official logo. **Habitat II** wrapped this logo with the host city's name: Istanbul. **Habitat III** is radically different. The hand drawn circle, triangle and human is displaced by a machine like lines forming a rectangle subdivided into parcels foregrounding a black binary “H” and “III” code like emblem.

Think. Are we displacing people and planet experience for code, algorithms and Big Data?

URBAN INFORMATION

“funds of knowledge”

Our city thrives upon, reach out for and generate from different sources and flows of urban information. The examples to the right represent a fast moving list of new tools for gathering and processing data, mediums of dissemination, numerous entrenched disciplinary/sector turfs and power interests linked by a common interest. Each seeks **control** over the intake sensors, data pools, regulating models and mentorship over the transformation of data into information and information stored and secured as funds of knowledge.

Think. What funds have we acquired, forgotten or it is no longer applicable? Who does it serve and how is it accessed and updated?

URBAN HABITATION

“occupied habitats”

The dominant parts of our city are occupied by people and plant/animal species cohabitating through everyday living and work activities within a turbulent world. UN-Habitat began in the aftermath of the climate turmoil, global war, human migration and national realignment. The world was **unsettled**. What followed is a history of the bifurcated inhabitation---north and south, green and brown, informal and formal, marginal and the gentrified. Habitation has become a **struggle** for the right to occupy the city with **freedom, social justice and bread**.

Think. How might your city define the terms of urban habitation based on valuing all of its occupying inhabitant as critical assets?

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

“manning ideal cities”

A city's new skyscrapers, “highline public parks”, and SMART CITY systems symbolize the 1% regime projecting their “**the ideal city**”. However, individual regime plans are never fully realized, before another is proposed; nor can it operate as a purely functional numeric activity, as enclaves separate of emotion, public inclusion, and the future ideal city of others. **Speculating** on ideal cities displaces many and creates an atmosphere of **slow violence** of futures controlled by the few.

Think. What are the many “ideal city” projections of your city?

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

“second nature”

Our city's everyday existence is dependent upon what the urban historian, William Cronon, describes as its- “**second nature**”- an entangled ecology of natural and economic flows engineered into a set of socio-technological systems. City's that are hit by intensified storm surges and rolling systems failures, disrupt this second nature and reveal that we can no longer use the standard approach to urban infrastructure as utilitarian systems. This approach remains **out of sight** as either benevolent monopolies or autonomous enclaves and, therefore, out of a city's collective public realm. Our city's assembled infrastructure has become a bundle of **inescapable ecologies**.

Think. How is your city's second nature assembled?

URBAN FORM

“messy city”

Mapped by hand or using software, model diagrams populate research paper, books, projects and briefs. All such mediums are seeking to identify the inherent characteristics of “good city form”, as each interest explores how to shape the non-linear realities of a city's living amidst planetary urbanization. There is also the “**the people and planet group**” who are inspired by ecological and human system patterns. Then there are the “**narrators**” who draw from stories and experience. Finally, there are “**the quants**” inspired by spreadsheets, logistics chains, and relational spiders. All contribute facts to the messy collage of a city's lived urban form, but they are rarely combined in practice nor equally valued.

Think. What are the different diagrams of your city's urban form and what do the different interpretations reveal?

1912-1949 Republic of China 1917 Russian Revolution 1929 Market Crash Global Depression 1944 World Bank and IMF Created

WWI Ottoman, Habsburg, Russian, German Empires DISSOLVE

1947-57 Resettlement of refugees in India and Pakistan, 14 MILLION PEOPLE DISPLACED
1947-1992 Cold War, Truman Doctrine 1947 Partition of British Indian Empire

WWII DISPLACES 60 MILLION PEOPLE ATOMIC BOMB
1950-53 Korean War 1-5 Million displaced 1955-76 2nd Indochina War, American Vietnam

1982 People's Republic approves new Constitution: socialism with Chinese Characteristics
1989 Berlin Wall Falls & Tiananmen Square Massacre 1991 First Gulf War 1994 NAFTA & WTO founded

REAGAN ERA THATCHERISM

1997 Transfer of Sovereignty over Hong Kong, United Kingdom to China
2003-2011 Second Gulf War 2004 Indonesia Tsunami 2005 Hurricane Katrina
2006 Sri Lanka drought 2008 Mumbai Attack 2008 Occupa Wall Street "We are 99%"

World Trade Center, Post 9/11 Era
2011 250 Million Chinese Floating Population
2011 Egyptian Revolution, Tahrir Square, Cairo
2013 Takisim Square, Istanbul

2000 50% OF THE WORLD'S POP. LIVE IN CITIES
2008 WORLD FINANCIAL COLLAPSE
1999 PINK TIDE LATIN AMERICAN MOVEMENT, POPULAR LEFTIST IDEOLOGY

POST ARAB SPRING ERA

2014 157.8 Million PEOPLE DISPLACED by climate change since 2008
2016 Turkish Coup

2025, 70% of China's population, 900 million people, live in cities

CLIMATE REFUGEE
New York? Sea level will be 3-5 feet higher

2025 5 billion city dwellers (2/3 in poor countries)

MASS FORCED DISPLACEMENT
2030 -120 MILLION DISPLACED BY SEA RISE (IF THERE WAS NO WAR)

CONFLICT

NATION BUILDING AGENDA

HUMAN SETTLEMENT AGENDA

GLOBALIZATION AGENDA

WORLD URBAN FORUM AGENDA

MDG'S

SDG'S

NEW URBAN AGENDA

WORLD POPULATION → 1.6 BILLION

1900

1920 LEAGUE OF NATIONS FOUNDED

La Société des Nations, an intergovernmental organisation founded as a result of the Paris Peace Conference that ended the WWI



2.5 BILLION

1945

CAPITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONCENTRATION CITIES

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDED

UN Charter signed in San Francisco, CA
1950 UNESCO Race Question in Response to WW II



4.0 BILLION

1976

POPULATION POVERTY PARTICIPATION POLITICS

UN-HABITAT I

1976 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, Canada
The Vancouver Action Plan, Settlement Policies & Strategies, Settlement Planning, Shelter, Infrastructure & Services, Land, Public Participation
1976 Bill of Rights 1978 UN-Habitat Established



6.0 BILLION

1996

DEMOCRACY DECENTRALIZE DISSOLVING DICHOTOMIES

UN-HABITAT II

1996 UN Conference on Environment & Development, "The City Summit", Istanbul Principle founded on Human Settlements
2002 WUF I Nairobi 2004 WUF II Barcelona 2006 WUF III Vancouver 2008 WUF IV Nanjing
2010 WUF V Rio de Janeiro 2012 WUF VI NAPLES 2014 WUF VII Medellin



7.0 BILLION

2016

UN-HABITAT III

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito



2036

UN-HABITAT IV

17 SDG's Fulfilled for the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda



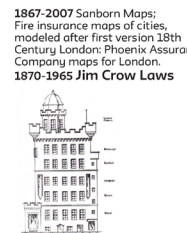
10 BILLION

2045

United Nations @ 100 Years Old



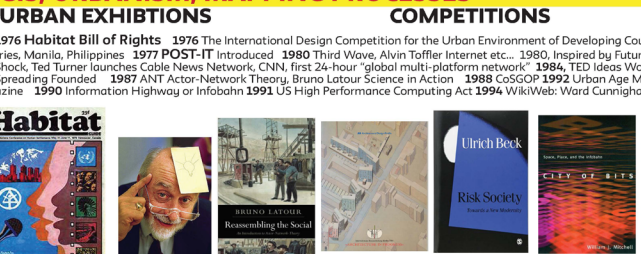
CIVIC SURVEY



EKISTICS, KNOWLEDGE CIRCULATION



GIS, URBANISM, MAPPING PROCESSES



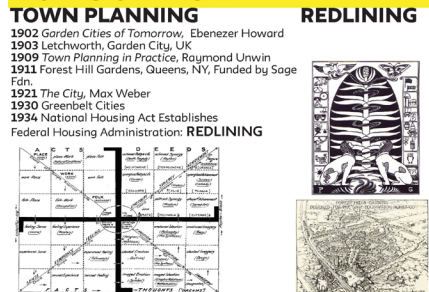
INTERNET, RISK, NO ANALOG CITY



DASHBOARDS, ANALYTICS, SENSORS



BIOREGIONALISM



URBAN RENEWAL, SITES & SYSTEMS



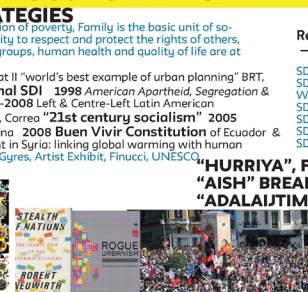
GREEN/BROWN INCLUSION



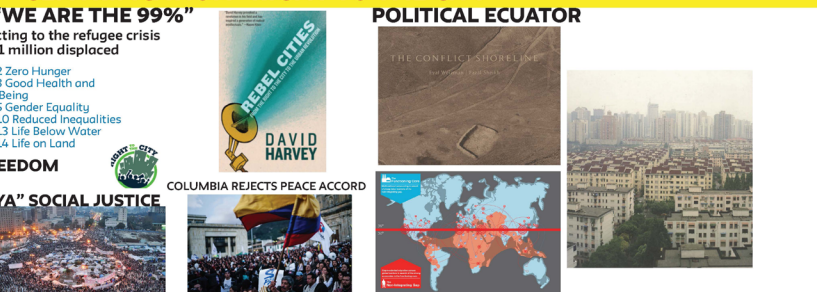
INFORMAL VS ENCLAVE



ROGUE URBANISM



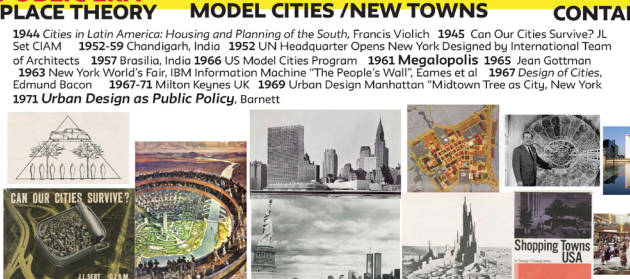
GENTRIFICATION RIGHT TO THE CITY



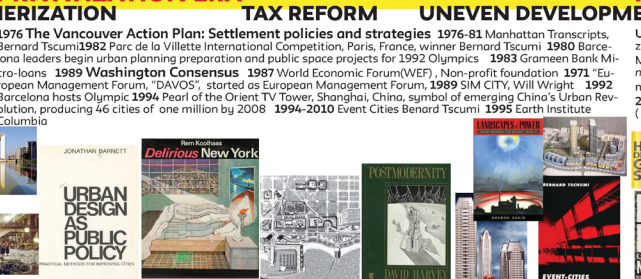
CONURBATION ERA



PUBLIC ERA



PRIVATIZATION ERA



INCENTIVIZED ERA



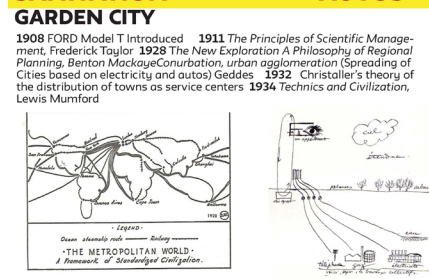
INDEPENDENT ERA



RESILIENCE ERA



SANITATION



AUTOS

PUBLIC WORKS

SPACESHIP EARTH

SILENT SPRING

HIGHWAYS NETWORKS

CONNECTIVITY

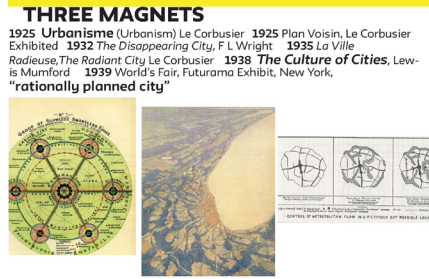
GREEN

SUSTAINING FLOWS, SPLINTERED SYSTEMS

CLOUDS

INESCAPABLE ECOLOGIES

MEGALOPOLIS



CITY BEAUTIFUL

RADIANT CITY

SUBURBINATION

WORLD-CLASS CITY

GLOBAL CITY

N/S MEGA CITIES

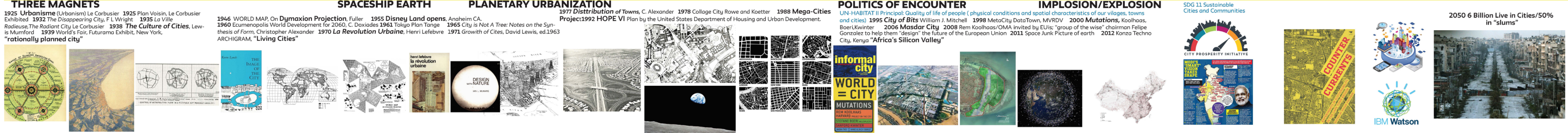
POLITICS OF ENCOUNTER

REBEL CITY

META CITY

SMART CITY

CITY YET TO COME



UN HABITAT

“all hands on deck”

Our cities face a complicated equation of **17 Sustainable Development Goals** and its **170 indicators** to be carried out through through the application of **137 New Urban Agenda items** to become a **SMART CITY** for the few. Given that cities face a turbulent future of climate change, migration, widening inequity and jobless growth, it would seem that the making of an **INCLUSIVE CITY**, which increases the creative potential of the many hands of a city’s population, is a resilience tactic for the future.

Act. How can cities get “all hands on deck” to address an urban future that has no analog and operates in an envelope of regularity outside historic patterns and predictive models?

URBAN INFORMATION

“common bridges”

Our city’s funds of knowledge are quickly becoming separated by private algorithms, costly Big Data servers and logistic experts. As the Belgium urban digital activist, Rob Van Kranenberg, warns, “The way this ‘**internet of things**’ interlinks the real world with the virtual has the potential to transform our cities more dramatically than even the introduction of the railway. But while the railway opened up cities, bringing in new things like soap and foreign goods, the coming ‘ubicomput’ threatens to restrict our cities. To make them more closed, not open.”

Act. How can cities build and maintain common bridges between these funds of knowledge to reveal the full potential of shared urban information for all?

URBAN HABITATION

“connection not guaranteed”

The quality of a city is defined by how it welcomes strangers to become inhabitants. Urban inhabitation starts with building roofs over people’s heads keeping shelter from the storm. Under those roofs, people’s city lives are defined by the precarious nature of sustaining relations and connections to the many critical entities. The word “**connection**” appears many times in the New Urban Agenda list, but sustaining connections are not guaranteed, it requires **constant hands-on** urban habitation **maintenance** and **management**.

Act. How might your city’s urban habitants (both recent and long term) be empowered to be critical assets and actors for sustaining the dominant parts of our city, in an unsettled climate and urbanized planet?

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

“missing middle”

The urbanist and sociologist AbdouMaliou Simone offers an alternative strategy to the “ideal city” center and periphery SMART CITY project. His **city yet to come** exists in the **missing middle of our city**, which are the spaces where **untapped social and ecological capital** intersect to invest in what is possible for people to do with each other. These spaces deepen our capacity to operate together. This ‘between’ can be shaped as active points of reference, connection, and anchorage. Here the project is not a skyline but the bricks and mortar for productive and inclusive societies

Act. How much societal redundancy in the “between” city is required to sustain the capacity to adapt in a flexible way to unpredictable change?

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

“meso infrastructure”

Our cities share a common set of urban infrastructure technological, logistic and operational issues such as access to clean water, safe food, affordable transportation and clean and affordable power. Yet, each city’s existing assembled infrastructure is embedded in its own historic, geographic and cultural context and perceived from **multiple interpersonal perspectives**. Big Data and prosperity indexes are driving innovative algorithm and logistical systems to service demand, while ignoring the invested wealth of a city’s “second nature” to tap into, to enrich and to **diversify local interconnected economies and ecologies**.

Act. How can our city’s “second nature “or assembled infrastructure be adapted and operated as as set intermediary meso-level infrastructure acting as a gateway between global flows and local sheds?

URBAN FORM

“many formalities”

The power of digital computing has opened up unknown urban form territory. These tools push static urban form models into the realm of the active verbs of “**urbaning and forming**”. We have the capacity to engage the three interests into value and action performance, in the “ecotone” or productive space between quantitative and qualitative bundles. Yet, as Adam Greenfield writes, SMART CITY logistics coding and Big Data analytics **flattens** the rich contours and robust ecotone which urban form thrives upon when part of the planetary urban collective network.

Act. How does your city unflatten digital tools to perform with people’s many urban formalities?

GATHER “THINK & ACT” URBAN IDEAS & QUESTIONS

We may have all of these goals proposed by the UN, but their success is determined by how they play out in our cities

The three questions have been crafted to prompt discussion and engerize your civic imagination in order to “**think & act**” urban. The space below is for taking notes, thoughts and ideas that you might gather from exploring this table, discuss with others the issues rasied by this information, and/or while visiting other exhibits and listening to speakers in small and large venues during the next few days. Start by listing your idea for each row and then think about how the they are related vertical and interconnected. Add more pages if you like.

Send us a photo of your notes and ideas to our **twitter feed @GUFPMilano** and we will add them to this project.

URBAN INFORMATION

notes

URBAN HABITATION

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

URBAN FORM

Our City's "Cooperating Resources?"

A Different Lense: DUE & TUP

Many have worked hard and spent several hours attending events, writing position papers and negotiating at meetings to assemble the Sustainable Development Goals, The New Urban Agenda, as well as critical urban counter narratives. The **success** of these important **contested encounters** will be proven **on-the-ground** in our particular city.

We proposed three questions in the opening paragraphs of the pamphlet. Using them as an imaginative prompt, the space below has been set aside for you to start making that transition from gathering urban information at this forum, thinking about the rich legacy of urban knowledge foregrounded by this table and transporting them to your home city. *What is critical to your Global Urban Future?*

We are interested in gathering your thoughts to both add to your baseline and share with others. Send us a picture of your notes to @GUFPMilano on twitter.

What does our city have?

What does our city need?

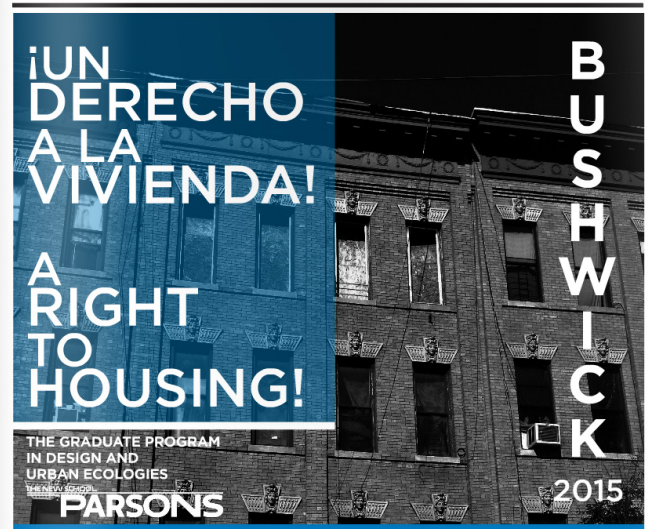
What is our city missing?

By situating this research in the emerging field of urban practice, the **MS Design & Urban Ecologies (DUE) and the MA Theories of Urban Practice (TUP)** Programs at Parsons, The New School for Design, educates a diverse group of students to put themselves in a place where they can understand the perspective of people and space most impacted within **contested urban terrain**. For instance, the programs set them up to investigate and analyze post-conflict and pressures of displacement and turmoil because these are conditions emblematic of many struggles in cities all over the world.

Thus, instead of a fixed problem to solve, students in our programs assist in generating collective knowledge of critical issues; and instead of a predictable outcome such as policy recommendations or design of objects, they can identify key points of strategic intervention to leverage the city as a resource. This positionality can lead to a number of effective contributions, such as the potential to engage with and redesign how decisions are made and how cities are confronting an **unsettling** global urban future.

For further information:
<http://sds.parson.edu/urbanpractice/>

A FREE Gazette Advocating Housing Justice!
Una Gaceta GRATIS que Defiende la Vivienda Justa!



FEATURING:

NEW ALTERNATIVE HOUSING MODELS

<p>Affordable Housing Proliferation Project</p> <p>Rehabilitating vacant buildings and preserving their affordability through the Bushwick Sweet Equity Land Trust. Rehabilitar edificios vacíos y mantener los precios accesibles mediante el Fideicomiso de Suelo con "Derechos por Esfuerzo" de Bushwick.</p> <p>Page 36</p>	<p>ROOT Certification</p> <p>Bridging the gap between developers and the community, by establishing accountability and measurable standards for local involvement and transparency. Cerrar la brecha entre los promotores y la comunidad, estableciendo una política de rendición de cuentas y unos estándares cuantificables de participación local y de transparencia.</p> <p>Page 40</p>	<p>Reintegrating Bushwick</p> <p>Ending subsidies for displacement! This radical approach creates <i>truly</i> affordable housing while supporting low-income businesses. ¡Acabar con los subsidios por desalojo! Este enfoque radical permite crear vivienda <i>verdaderamente</i> asequible a la vez que apoya a los negocios de bajos ingresos.</p> <p>Page 44</p>	<p>PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A History of Bushwick • Bushwick Today • Housing Policy & Politics • Case Study: Rheingold • The Mayor's Plan • Bushwick Vacancy Survey <p>ADemás:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Una Historia de Bushwick • Bushwick Hoy en Día • La Normativa de Vivienda y La Política • Estudio de Caso: Rheingold • El Plan del Alcalde • Estudio de desocupación en Bushwick
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This material was co-constructed by the following team: William R. Morrish, Urbanist and Professor of Urban Ecologies Parsons the New School for Design, New York with Rehanna Azimi, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, Shibani Jadhav M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, Walter Petrichyn, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies, and Alexandra Venner, M.S. Design and Urban Ecologies