Summary

Integrated Action Plans in Barcelona
Enric Cremades

When analyzing the problems arising in a specific area of the city involving the degradation of the urban environment and coexistence, we can see that any efforts toward a solution would be more effective if they are made with an integrated, multidiscipled approach. Nonetheless, a traditional perspective would lead us to take action on the specific problem with the idea of achieving immediate results, but without bearing in mind that sometimes we must take a step back in order to gain a more complete picture. Here it should also be mentioned that the structure of the government institutions, due to their form of organization, does not particularly facilitate interdepartmental work.

Hence, Integrated Action Plans emerge as the most adequate mechanism for stopping or reversing this trend and making neighborhoods nicer and more human. They are linked to the involvement of the Agencies that manage and invest in this area.

Some clear examples in this regard would be the effort made by the City of Barcelona in a number of neighborhoods with specific characteristics, with subsidies from both the Generalitat of Catalonia (Neighborhood Plan) and the European Union (ERDF - Urban Initiative, URBAN).

Planning and health: natural partners
Hugh Barton

We know intuitively that the environment affects health and well-being in many ways. But the planning system is not set up to recognise the creation of a healthy environment as a core purpose of planning, and organizational silos get in the way. The result is that we are literally building unhealthy conditions into the very fabric of our towns and cities. Recent research shows how factors such as health equity, levels of physical activity and mental well-being are in part determined by our environment. The World Health Organization's Healthy Cities programme is leading the way, promoting changed attitudes and policies through its «healthy urban planning» initiative. While is appropriate to be cautious about raising exaggerated expectations, it is vital for all agencies that affect the built environment —including economic agencies— to work together to ensure coherent strategies. The politicians' leadership role is central to this. The policies needed are radical. The final part of the article illustrates some of the implications by focussing on

one important vulnerable group, the elderly, and how we might plan for healthy ageing.

Educational urbanism: urban education
Joan Manuel del Pozo

The word urbanism is often limited to technical or political meanings that are void of any ideological or pedagogical components. Meanwhile, education is generally conceived as formal scholastic instruction, however that definition excludes the invaluable experience that people gain from urban life. The educating city attempts to connect educational values with city life, or to uncover the educational potential hidden within the city in its most diverse activities, including urban policy. Within urban heritage lies the road to identification, belonging and, therefore, responsibility—a primary educational factor. The functionality of the city's urban design has a direct impact on issues and solutions regarding the public space and the reasonable use of time, and relevant educational effects. The beauty of the space also allows for the development of an awareness of ethical and social consequences. An educationally oriented urbanism is one of the best ways to promote an urban, civic, comprehensive education.

Housing and social cohesion
Juli Ponce

What role does affordable housing have in the sustainable development of our societies? Specifically, how does it affect the social, economic and territorial cohesion of our cities?

The article attempts to answer these questions in a brief and comprehensible manner. It begins by analyzing the modern concept of affordable housing, which includes, yet goes beyond, the idea of subsidized housing, and enables a change in the paradigms of public and private efforts in the sector, with affordable housing defined as a service of general interest (or public service), whose effectiveness and efficiency will depend, to a certain degree, on the existence of adequate public-private collaboration. From this point of departure, the article addresses various aspects involving the accommodations in our cities, particularly those related to social cohesion.

If we intend to strengthen social cohesion in our cities, then the right to decent and adequate accommodations must be guar-

anteed and fulfilled. Having a set of public policies that are well integrated with the public policies on urbanism, education or safety, for example, would promote equality in the area, which is of the utmost interest for all, since affordable housing could help to reduce inequalities and foster trust among fellow citizens.

Old industrial architecture for the contemporary city
Josep Maria Montaner

Some of the industrial facilities that have survived in Barcelona have been, or are expected to be, repurposed for various social, cultural, educational or economic activities. This reallocation is aided by the industrial architecture itself, which is well located, near the communication channels, forming a system of buildings and open spaces, with the wide-open interior spaces defined by structures with an open floor plan, allowing the maximum freedom of use.

In this regard, there are classic works already completed and consolidated, such as the Batlló textile factory, which is now the Industrial School and headquarters of the Barcelona Provincial Council; the Casarramona cotton mill, converted into CaixaForum; and the publishing house Montaner i Simón, which became the Antoni Tàpies Foundation following two very different phases of intervention. There are also recent projects, such as Ca l'Aranyó, which became the main campus of Pompeu Fabra University; and even projects in the planning and execution phases, such as the «Factories of Creation» from the Barcelona Institute of Culture (ICUB), located in old industrial complexes, such as Fabra i Coats in the Sant Andreu district and the old La Seca mint in Ciutat Vella, as well as the unique project for The House of Languages in Can Ricart.

Barcelona: safe, sustainable and healthy
Katherine Pérez, Elena Santamariña-Rubio, Marta Olabarria, Àngel López and Carme Borrell

This article aims to describe the actions undertaken in Barcelona over the past 20 years to reduce the use of cars in the city, to promote active mobility (walking and biking) and increase road safety. These include such actions as: fully regulating parking throughout the majority of the city (Green Zone), identifying and addressing locations with a high rate of accidents, implementing zones with a speed limit of 30 km/h, creating safe

routes for schoolchildren, implementing the «Bicing» bicycle sharing program, and building separated bike lanes. The article also presents results of the impact on the number of persons injured, from the evaluable road safety measures.

Facilities planning as a mechanism for improving urban quality
Sergi Cuadrado, Maite Espinach and Laia Pellejà

The current urban development proposals affect the quality of urban areas, because having an adequate provision of facilities and services, in accordance with the target population, fosters the building of solid urban communities. In this respect, the article presents an interdisciplinary line of work developed by Actíva Prospect regarding the characterization of the population and the planning of facilities, which comprises around a dozen studies focusing on a variety of territorial environments. Throughout this experience, studies analyzing the facilities needs have proven to be a useful mechanism that provides the support elements necessary for facilities planning in response to an urban transformation, along with an instrument for achieving a proper balance between urbanism and social dynamics.

After contextualizing this line of work, the second part of the article outlines the methodology used to develop these types of analyses.

In the third section, we present a selection of cases from the studies conducted thus far, in each case highlighting aspects considered to be of particular interest. The article concludes with a set of final evaluations regarding the use and results of this methodology of analysis.

Urbanism and gender. Urbanism from women's perspective
Anna Bofill

The gender perspective considers that the physical space in which we live is not neutral, but in fact creates hierarchies, produces inequalities, and is sometimes even sexist and discriminating toward women.

This article gives a broad view of the city, which includes everything from private living spaces to shared and group living arrangements, and household uses to infrastructures and

planning; from the aspects of insecurity and fear to the issues of mobility and accessibility; from urban social movements to urban policies.

It discusses the concept of daily life, gender stereotypes, how the social structure and the urban structure interact, policies for the prevention of violence and crimes, the key issues of daily life as indispensable input for the discipline of urban planning, the mobilization of women and the mechanisms for participation.

Neighborhood association movement and urban planning policies
Anna Alabart

In a democratic system, urban planning policies are theoretically designed to achieve city and regional development while respecting the criteria of ecological sustainability and economic viability, and responding to the needs of the resident population, especially those of the more disadvantaged individuals. There are three dimensions that should be kept in mind in order to judge such policies: what they do (results obtained), who does it (representativeness and responsibility of the actors) and how it is done (procedure for decision making and monitoring implementation). And also the underlying values.

The article seeks to develop this idea by emphasizing both the role of the neighborhood association movement as a creator of social capital and the importance of citizen participation, particularly that arising from collective deliberation, based on precise information. The empirical concretization of local participation in urbanism-related issues is focused on the experience of the city of Barcelona.

Conflict management services in public space
Pau Arbós, Juan Miguel Iglesias and Marina Mañas

This article presents the experience of Barcelona's conflict management services for social issues in the urban setting. In 2006, the City of Barcelona launched this unit to facilitate coexistence, civic-mindedness and tolerance among the population. The professionals of this City service perform a preventive diagnosis of the local areas, measure the levels of conflict, identify and intervene on the root causes of the problem and recommend courses of action.

The article presents the structure of the service, the methodology of intervention and specifies the type of coordination with City agents from other areas (Environment, Urban Guard, steering group for the Special Program for Public Space, etc.).

From April 2006 to June 2010, it has developed 197 intervention programs in a variety of locations throughout the city: an average of 49 programs a year, 4 per month. Of these programs, 55% have been implemented with full development of the planned stages of intervention, whereas in the remaining 45% only the diagnosis stage was completed.

In each intervention, two or more problems were addressed; in 72% of the cases, the problems involved inadequate activities in the public space; problems of coexistence were present in 65% of the interventions, while 57% of the conflicts presented aspects related to the mass or intensive use of the public space. Negative perceptions and social exclusion were also present in a third of the intervention programs.

Citizen participation in urban planning. The case of the lands of the old Trinitat Vella jail
Xavi Moreno and Xavi Patón

The increasing complexity of Western societies poses new challenges for the public management of the demands, needs and preferences of society and for the varied and sometimes opposing policies.

Society is more demanding and has the know-how and capabilities to put forth its points of view. It does not passively accept public policy, but is indeed able to understand the impacts and evaluate them according to its own interests and preferences.

Processes of urban development agreement based on the mechanisms for citizen participation have emerged as the way to capitalize on and overcome conflict, by creating better public policies and facilitating their implementation.

This article discusses the participatory process for transforming the lands of the old Trinitat Vella prison in the Sant Andreu district. The authors start by analyzing the territorial and social context surrounding the urban transformation, then discuss the mechanisms for relations with the local population, information objectives, the debate process and the collection of proposals. The last section presents an evaluation of the process and final reflections.

Open playgrounds: areas of education and social cohesion
Marleny Colmenares and Araceli Vilarrasa

Open Playgrounds is part of a program called Neighborhood Time, Shared Educational Time, co-led by the Municipal Institute of Education, the Uses of Time project, the municipal districts and the Jaume Bofill Foundation. This program, one of the strategic components of the City of Barcelona's Educational Project 2007-2011, works with the education community, neighborhood by neighborhood, to optimize the use of scholastic facilities outside of school hours and offer families, and children and young people in particular, urban spaces where they can enjoy their free time safely and independently. The opening of school playgrounds as public spaces to be used freely by the neighborhood has proven to be one of the most successful initiatives contributed by the program Neighborhood Time, Shared Educational Time. There are currently 37 schools from 9 districts participating in the project. It is a very young project, with a bright future ahead of it.

Public space: between social cohesion and conflict
Eva Fernàndez

When we talk about public space we are perennially oscillating between the intellectual view of the concept as a place of opportunity, an ideal forum, and more often the viewpoint that we get from the media, as a setting for disorder and conflict.

If urbanism aims to resolve or at least intervene on this polarity, a few fundamental aspects will need to be considered. In this article, I will attempt to raise some questions without being overly exhaustive: Could the public space become a rational and neutral setting independent from the various actors and interests operating in it? Do inequalities influence the use of public spaces? If so, is it possible to extrapolate answers of a purely technical nature in dealing with conflicts? And finally, what role could be played by the various actors and social groups in the case of a city like Barcelona? In other words, what are we referring to when we talk about citizen participation?

Cities for living
Zaida Muxí

The way cities are built is not neutral, but indeed affect inhabitants in various ways, for better or for worse. Therefore, to conceive the urban space for everyone is to contemplate differences—but not inequality—a difference between men and women, between classes, between origins, cultures, religions... which should provide equal conditions for all demands, without preconceived notions.

To conceive cities on behalf of and for their inhabitants is an outstanding issue. The real experiences of the different people that inhabit cities have not been present—at least not for the most part—in the priorities of the territorial and urban planning. This absence is especially evident in the uses of public spaces and in the uses of time in the cities. In order to incorporate the various experiences in the urban project it is necessary, first of all, to incorporate hybrid methodologies of analysis and information-gathering in order to set the priorities that will guide it. It is a challenge, one that is already underway in other cities like Vienna, and which may serve as a reminder that we cannot disregard if our goal is to make the human right to the city a reality.