

**“Strengthening social bonds in Bujumbura through public space:  
Redesigning Jardin Public de Bujumbura for the restoration of the  
city’s sense of community.”**

Gwendoline Albright N. Advisor: Andrew Von Maur

Location of project: Rohero I, Bujumbura, Burundi

# Bujumbura, Burundi.

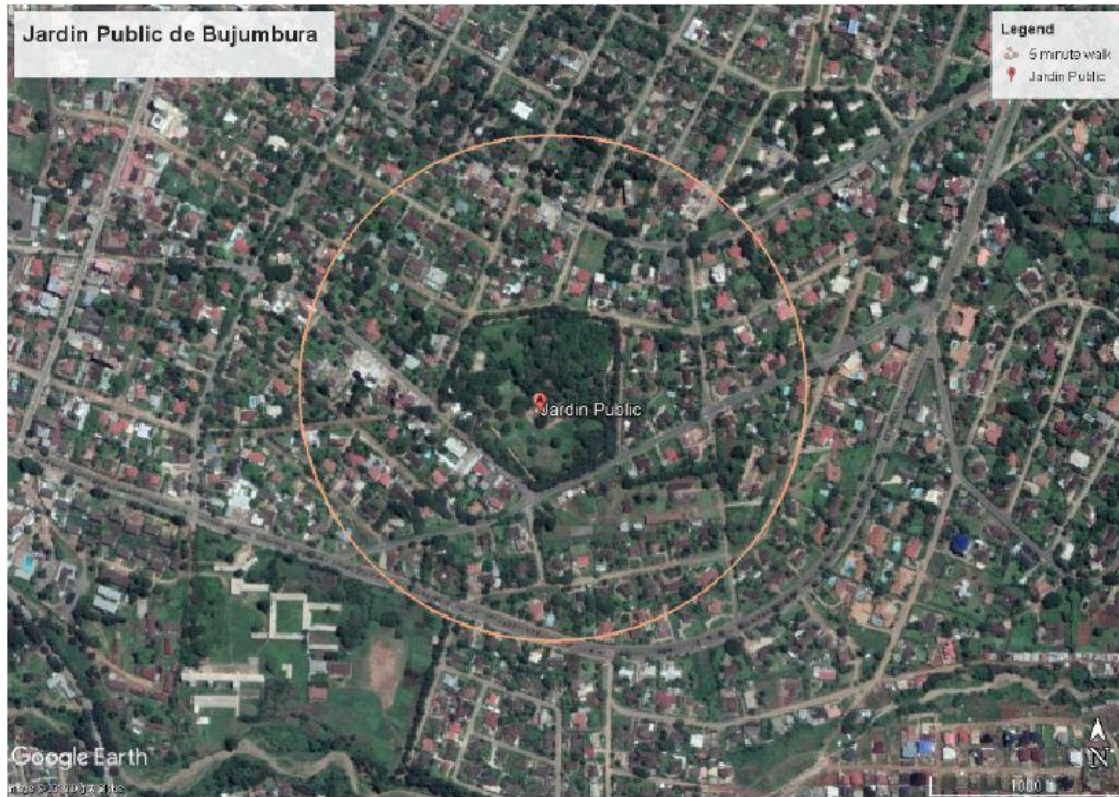
*The history at a country at a crossroad*



- The beautiful country of Burundi is unfortunately among the 10 poorest country in 2018 with (GDP) per capita of 309 US dollars
- Among the unsafe countries in Africa due to the ongoing strife of ethnic-based tensions and civil instability.
- Since its independence in 1962, it has been overwhelmed by the tension between the Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority fights.
- The official civil war that sparked off in 1993 was never resolved and lead to more war outbreaks.
- My home.

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. And in every heart, there is the power to do it.

– Marianne Williamson



Aerial Map & 5-minute Walk circle



Multi-purpose building



Turf area with shade



Walking path



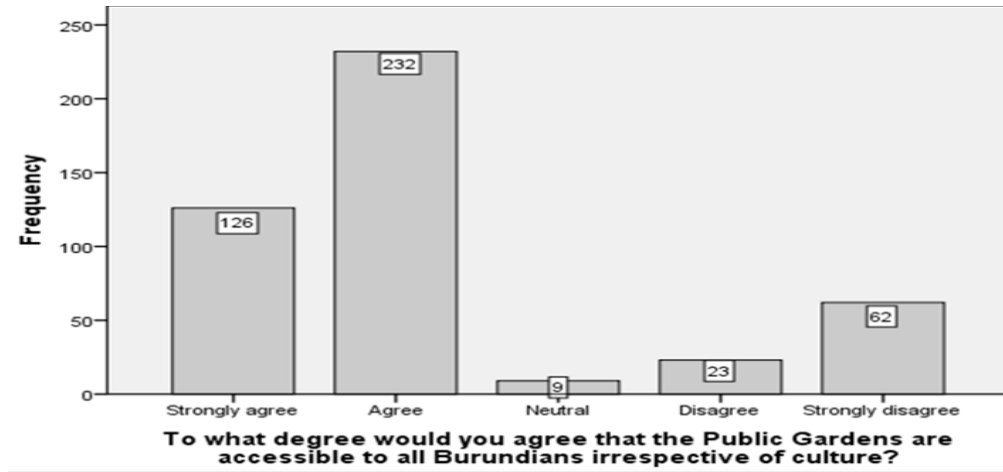
Figure ground



Land use map (Traffic density & Activities around the site)



- The Park's initial purpose was to be a hub for the community
- Park of my childhood
- Liaison to different neighborhoods
- The reservoir of users that it can attract and hold
- It is already under development



## Existing proposal & situation



Parking on the streets near the entrance



Park enclosure



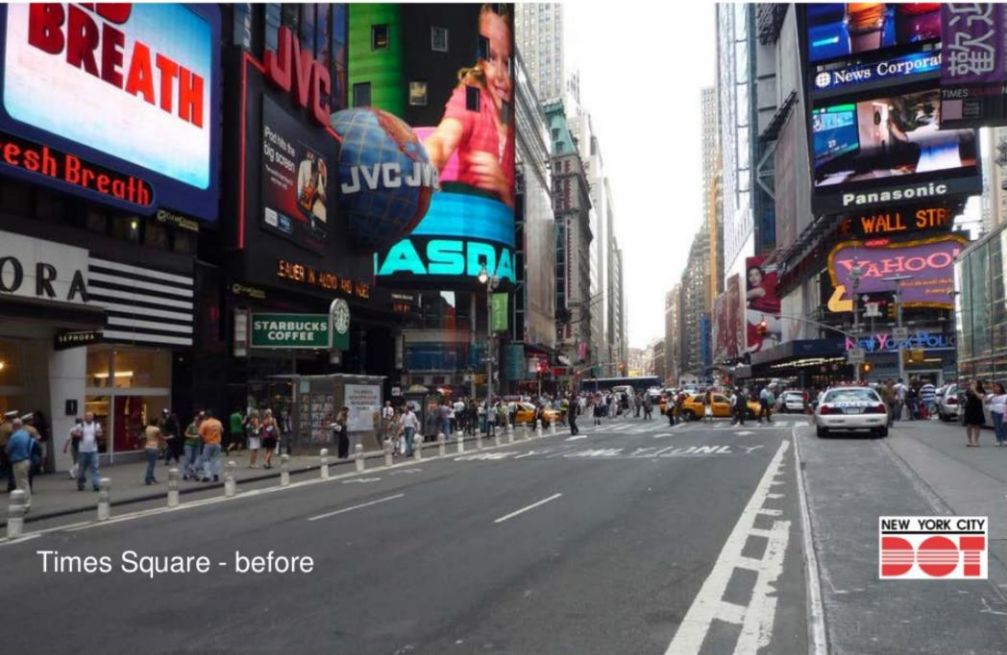
Park main entrance



Market place near the entrance

# Research question

If public space can impact communities as it has been proven by researches and studies about them, can redesigning an existing public space be redesigned to be as impactful?



# Can Jardin Public de Bujumbura help with

## Community Building



## Identity acknowledgements



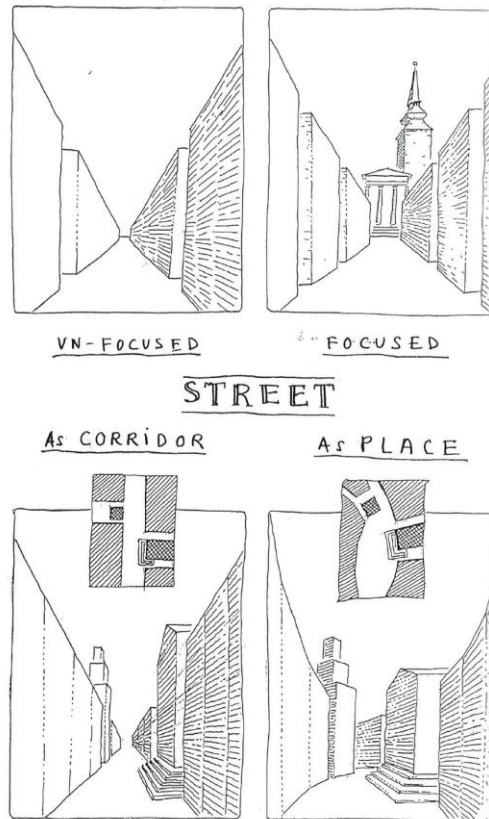
“We are never going to save the rural places, or wild places or scenic places unless we identify the human habitat, and then strive to make it so good that humans will voluntarily inhabit it.”

-James Howard Kunstler



# Creating the Toolbox

Raw Materials elements for the toolbox



Placemaking  
Léon Krier



Urban space as Public yards  
Jane Jacobs

# Case Studies

## From Africa



Berta Nasashada Park  
Mogadishu, Somalia  
(Space use)



Green Market Plaza  
Cape Town, South Africa  
(Shade)

## From Europe



St. Stephens Green  
Duplin, Ireland  
(Diversity)



Park Am Gleisdreieck  
Berlin, Germany  
(interesting run way/  
walkway)

## From The U.S



Rittenhouse Square  
Philadelphia, US.  
(Designing with nature)



Central Park  
New York, NY.  
(Designing elements)

# Essential Principles for the toolbox

## From case studies

- Inviting entrances
- Spaces vs paths
- Transparent edges
- Private vs public
- Pedestrian friendly
- Hierarchy and zoning
- Diversity of activities

## From Literature review

### From Jane Jacobs

- Centering
- Intimacy
- Enclosure
- Reservoir of users
- Choices of places
- Diverse opportunities

### From Jan Gehl

- Senses and Scale
- Eye level and Safe spaces
- lively and sustainable spaces
- Senses and communication
- Healthy Spaces
- Self-expression/identity

## Research recommendation

### From publication

- Accessible parking
- Eye level - scale
- lively and attractive spaces
- Diversity of activities
- Safety
- Self-sustainable (financially)

# Toolbox Main Focus

## I. Public Spaces with limited access but Inviting

Can be fenced at certain hours of the day but should be accessible by anyone. Should be intentionally designed for specific user group. Be able more inviting and engaging for people from the streets and beyond.



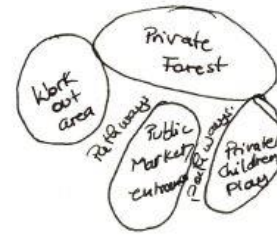
Vs



# Toolbox Concise

## Design Principles and Design Patterns.

- **Design principles** are usually core abstract level of guidelines that one is supposed to follow when designing.
- Design principles give guidelines to a better design.
  
- **Design patterns** are found solutions to be identified and named occurring problems that will specifically be implemented in design to solve that problem
- Design principle suggests specific implementation for specific problems.



**Access limited spaces:** Can be fenced at certain hours of the day but can be accessible by anyone. These places will have specific role to play in the mission of the parc and will be intentionally designed for a specific user group.

**Public spaces:** These places will on the other hand will not be fenced, their main purpose will be to engage people from the streets to use the park, while making the parks entrances more inviting.



# Examples – recommendations



St. Stephens green  
Dublin, Ireland



Green market plaza,  
Cape town, South Africa



Am Gleisdreierk,  
Berlin Germany

# Summary, conclusion & recommendations

## Discussion & Limitations

Even though good design and public spaces has great potential in impacting communities in a positive way,

- Jane Jacobs claims that way too much is expected from city parks.
- Neighborhood parks are the most generalized form of city parks and should be viewed as local public yards not necessarily real estate stabilizers;
- Neighborhood parks themselves will eventually be directly and drastically affected by the way the neighborhood acts upon them.
- Jardin Public de Bujumbura might be one potential channel towards the healing of the Bujumbura community but should not be perceived as the only one or the most important one.
- Design charrette with the local community could help redesign this park with the outcome of this study.
- And although not studied, it may be inferred from this study that the existing architecture and urban design of the city might have a significant impact on the current tensions and civil instability in both the city and the country as a whole.
- Further studies should examine the outcomes that urban development including buildings, neighborhoods and the city's master plan as a whole could have on the healing of Burundian communities.

Thank you for listening!

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