

Annotated Bibliography for Assignment 1 Question: “How has greenery been used in modern urban environments to improve the quality of life of residents?”

ArchDaily: The City as an Organism.

Gattupalli, A. (2022). *The City as an Organism*. [online] ArchDaily. Available at:

https://www.archdaily.com/984738/the-city-as-an-organism?ad_campaign=normal-tag

[Accessed 11 Mar. 2024].

This article comes from the architectural publication “ArchDaily”, and covers how greenery and plant life in cities can be both a blessing and a curse for architects. On the one hand, it talks about how some cities are “Anthropocentric jungles devoid of life”, how sprawling concrete towers and lanes of traffic undermine the connection that we have with nature, and reduce the quality of life in the city for the residents. On the other hand, it discusses how the process employed by some architects to “be more than a cosmetic” greening of cities can affect the sustainability and ecologically friendly nature of some otherwise eco-buildings.

Instead of advocating for more greening of cities, this article takes the architectural route of advocating for a change in the mindset of those involved with planning the construction of buildings in cities. It talks about creating a symbiotic relationship between architecture and plant life, and finding ways of incorporating greenery into the fabric of buildings, which while great for constructing new areas of cities, fails to cover in depth how areas already affected by the urban sprawl can be dealt with.

ScienceDirect: Greening Cities - to be Socially Inclusive?

Haase, D; Et Al. (2017). *Greening Cities - To be Socially Inclusive?* [online] Uwtsd.ac.uk.

Available at:

<https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/science/article/pii/S0197397516309390>

[Accessed 11 Mar. 2024].

This article, from the site “ScienceDirect”, a publishing agent for scientific research, is a piece detailing the scientific research into the benefits that people living in urban environments can feel from a much greater presence of greenery and plant life. For example, the article’s abstract refers to the “[undoubted contribution] to an increase in wellbeing” for residents in areas which have seen a greening of their environment. It also mentions the “current debate of the social effects of greening”, and provides a good scientific response to the otherwise architectural and social views on the greening of cities and urban areas.

A large focus has also been placed onto making the cities more livable for residents, and by providing greener spaces on buildings, or by constructing new areas, how this could be achieved. As this article adopts a more scientific approach, it provides a good companion piece to the previously discussed entry.

Greening Cities. Shaping Cities.

Mahmoud, I.H., Morello, E., Salvia, G. and Puerari, E. eds., (2022). *Greening Cities Shaping Cities : Pinpointing Nature-Based Solutions in Cities between Shared Governance and Citizen Participation*. [online] *directory.doabooks.org*. MDPI Books. Available at: <https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/92100>

This book, composed with examples from fourteen different nations, which range across continents, styles of government, climates and development levels. For example, the USA, Brazil, Turkey and Sweden are all provided as examples of how NBS (Nature-Based Solutions) can be used to increase the quality of life for residents of urban areas. It also details how “the importance of citizen participation” is in dealing with matters such as “shared governance and policy making”.

Reimagining Sustainable Cities:

Wheeler, S.M. (2021). *Reimagining Sustainable Cities*. Univ of California Press.

The book *Reimagining Sustainable Cities* deals with a wide variety of subjects, all of which surround the topic of sustainable cities in a world gripped by a climate crisis. As the name of the book suggests, it deals with finding ways of developing and creating new ways of looking at “sustainable cities”, and how sustainable they may or may not be. The book benefits from its wide scope, and variety of subjects covered, but also with its focus being securely placed on critiquing the pre-existing concept of the sustainable city.

The work deals with sustainable land management for example, an issue which can be attributed to the mental health of residents due to the ugliness of unresolved urban sprawl, and the lack of green spaces that bad management and distribution would entail. It also covers reduction of carbon footprint, and how creating a more fundamental democracy is tied to more sustainable living.

Urban Green Spaces:

Alexandre Castanho R and Cabezas Fernández J (eds) (2022) *Urban Green Spaces*. IntechOpen. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.97910>.

The book *Urban Green Spaces* discusses the ways in which green spaces provide cities that are congested with concrete towers and other hallmarks of urban life with benefits. Dealing explicitly with the benefits that such spaces provide to the quality of life for residents of cities. Having green spaces is, in part, to “correct the urban chaos and prevent it from happening again”, as well as understanding the benefits of having vegetation and plant life surrounding an urban environment, for the benefit of urban planning and for the increase to the quality of life that it provides.

Green-space Preservation and Allocation for Sustainable Greening of Compact Cities:

Jim, C.Y. (2024). *Green-space preservation and allocation for sustainable greening of compact cities*. [online] Uwtssd.ac.uk. Available at:

<https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.uwtssd.ac.uk/science/article/pii/S026427510400054X?via%3Dihub>

[Accessed 11 Mar. 2024].

Another article from the ScienceDirect site, this piece deals with the history, current situation and effects of the green city, and deals with the sustainability and efficacy of such innovations. It also details the efforts being undertaken to deal with the issues facing the sustainable city, and provides a better way of dealing with the problems that greening a city provides. As the author, C.Y. Jim, is a member of the department of geography at the University of Hong Kong, his insight into how green space preservation in a compact area is valuable and provides avenues for approaching land conservation in other areas of the world.