

How Co-design Processes Improve Public Space Resilience: Lessons From Two Urban Parks in the Atacama Desert

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Reimagining Public Spaces and Built Environments in the Post-pandemic World

December 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 2021

Symposium

Book of Abstracts



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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

December 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 2021

Reimagining Public Spaces and Built Environments in the Post-pandemic World

CONVENORS:

Paul Messinger; University of Alberta
Kishwar Habib; Reimagine Architects and University of Alberta
Vivian Manasc, Reimagine Architects
Eleni Stroulia; AI4Society-University of Alberta

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Macarena Gaete Cruz, Aksel Ersoy, Darinka Czischke, Ellen Van Bueren

With the social, ecological and sanitary pressures on urban settlements and the public sector being unable to successfully provide such answers alone, co-design can play a crucial role towards urban transformations and resilient public spaces. We understand co-design as a process in which institutional networks of public, private, citizens, non-public organizations and partnerships collaborate in different levels within design steps. We understand public spaces as socio-ecological systems that unfold spatially and functionally. This study posits that co-design can improve the evolutionary resilience of the public space projects when the involved institutional networks bring socio-ecological knowledge and values to such processes of design. The question remains how does co-design actually influence the socio-ecological resilience of public spaces? And how can we analyze such co-designed outcomes? This article proposes a framework to analyze the resilience of co-designed public spaces, and studies two urban parks in the Atacama Desert. Findings suggest that a socio-ecological resilience approach to such co-design processes improves the local context-specificity and suitability of the designs emphasizing the transformative capacity of such collective urban spaces. And while doing so, it may improve their legitimacy and set the basis for the co-operation of such projects. The framework may be useful for future conceptualizations of urban co-design, as well as to plan such collaborative urban processes in practice. Although the cases are framed in Latin America; the findings may be useful elsewhere.

