

Public space as an effect of cooperation between various actors

Public spaces, constituting the skeleton on which the city is built, are an area of interest of various actors - residents, activists, local entrepreneurs, officials, and numerous organizations. Therefore, it is justified to include all actors interested in each space in the process of its planning and design.

The aim of the work was to analyze participatory processes used to create high-quality urban public spaces. In the chosen cases, the cooperation between various actors and the principles of such cooperation was analyzed. Moreover, the characteristics of models of participatory processes used in the planning and design of contemporary public spaces with the participation of various actors were developed. In addition, the role of various stakeholder groups in shaping contemporary public spaces was defined, considering the roles of process coordinators and mediators. The idea of placemaking as a tool used in participatory design of public spaces was examined.

The conducted literature and empirical research of examples of urban public spaces from Poland, Europe and North America allowed for the compilation of models – action strategies – of participatory processes. In addition, the existing models of conducting the process of public participation in the planning and design of urban public spaces, developed by other researchers and practitioners of participation, were analyzed.

All the models – action strategies - of participatory process, both developed during the research based on the analyzed examples and described in the literature, were illustrated according to the author's method. As a result, they gained a comparable form and made it possible to draw conclusions.

The results of the detailed research showed how diverse the participatory processes are and how many ways one can reach the same goal – a high-quality public space planned or designed thanks to cooperation between various actors.

In addition, the results of the research had an application dimension and allowed to determine the paths of action for individual initiators of changes - officials, residents, activists or non-governmental organizations.

Tags: Public space, participation, models of participation process, planning and design of public spaces, placemaking

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