How to Build a Liveable Megacity
from Globopolis to Cosmopolis in Asia

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The Idea of Livability

- Human-centered -- The well-being of people
- Holistic -- All dimensions of livability without privileging one over another
- Long-term perspective -- human progress relies on sustaining livable cities
Liveability and the Idea of the City
Late 19th Century to the 1980s – A Cosmopolitan Ideal

“...is a town designed for healthy living and industry; of a size that makes possible a full measure of social life...”

Garden Cities & Town Planning Association, 1919

- Garden cities
- City Beautiful Movement
- The Progressive Era
- League of Nations -> United Nations

- The city is a theater of social action, and an aesthetic symbol of collective unity. Its social facts are primary, and the physical organization of a city, its industries and its markets, its lines of communication and traffic, must be subservient to its social needs. (Mumford 1937)

- The city is a form of the collective life with a common interest. (Friedmann 1962)
“Cities everywhere are makers of wealth, magnets for the industrious, motors of invention. The city is an engine of growth” (World Bank 1996).

For competitiveness, the social and cultural character of a city has been weighted at 5% (EIU 2012).

The competitiveness and attractiveness of each city is measured by the presence of globally renowned institutions (Fortune 500 companies) headquartered in the city, which are indications of diversity and civil society strength.
Making cities livable means basic infrastructure and environmental services to alleviate poverty through inclusive economic growth.

“Three outcomes have been constant in how Singapore envisioned liveability.

- **First**, Singapore needed a competitive economy in order to attract investments and provide jobs.
- **Second**, the city has to survive with limited natural resources in terms of land and water.
- **Thirdly**, it has to maintain an acceptable quality of life, which includes addressing environmental and hygiene problems, as well as providing affordable education, housing and healthcare.”

Centre for Liveable Cities, Government of Singapore (2014)
# Globopolis and Cosmopolis Compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Neo-developmental Globopolis</th>
<th>Convivial Cosmopolis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Global status &amp; economic competition</td>
<td>Local, social cooperation and public life</td>
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<td>Drivers</td>
<td>Profit, material production and consumption</td>
<td>Associational life, identity, place-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>View of the City</td>
<td>Private spheres of production &amp; consumption, economic engine, fixed, functional</td>
<td>Public sphere with an active civil society; heteropolis, flexible, negotiable spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public space</td>
<td>Limited, pseudo-public, controlled, ornamental</td>
<td>Plentiful, inclusive, flexible, site of local place-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>Mega</td>
<td>Human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>Corporate management of privatized spaces with minimal regulation or “public interest”.</td>
<td>Citizen engagement in public policy, planning, implementation, monitoring for the public interest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Different Concepts, Different Cities

**Globopolis**
The Exclusive “Engine of Growth” Corporate City

**Cosmopolis**
The Inclusive “Convivial” Vernacular Public City
13/20 Tallest Buildings in the World are in East & Southeast Asia (to 2020)

Ultima Tower (Tokyo)?

If all were on Manhattan Island

Globopolis

World's tallest buildings
Ubiquitous Mega-Projects

“Future-X” U(biquitous)-Town (Daejeon, South Korea) “where one can live and take care of living needs within one building.” (Director Yu, founder of Ubiquitous City concept).
Privatizing and Fortifying the City

Protesters hosed down by building security guards in Makati 2011.
Private New Towns

“Splendora”, Hanoi

“City of Millions Enchantment”

Kota Legenda

Kampoeung Wisata USA INDIANS / COWBOYS

The 1st Global City in Phnom Penh CAMKO CITY

THE FIRST IN CAMBODIA! WORLD-CLASS RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND BUSINESS COMPLEX CITY - CAMKO CITY
Street Life in Private Cities

Saigon South, Vietnam
The Globopolis Meta-Project –

Remaking the City for Global Accumulation

- Symbolic Towers
- Intentional World City
- World Hubs
- Business Districts
- Franchise/Malls
- Simulations
- New Towns
- Suburban Housing
- Highways
- EPZs
- (Pre)Colonial City

- Loss of public space through privatization and new urban design enclosing urban space
- Commodification of visual as well as physical space
- Scales that Inhibit sociability
- Commercial colonization of symbolic spaces
- Commodification of cultural amenities.
- Architecture for surveillance and control of public space.
- Global simulations replace local production of culture
Economic Flows over Social Encounters

Super highway connecting suburban gated housing and mega-mall (Jakarta)

No place to sit or chat (Petronas Twin Towers)
Corporate Imagery in Every Direction
Nonplaces

- Nonplaces are marked by a lack of attachment, by constant circulation, communication, and consumption that act against developing social bonds and bonds between people and the world.
- Nonplaces are marked by a plethora of texts, screens, and signs which facilitate mediated relationships between people and places rather than direct ones through place-making. ("Place", T. Cresswell)

Manila, Supermarket  Singapore, Orchard Road  Seoul, COEX Mall
The “New” Public Space?

“Public” space at COEX Mall

Petronas Twin Towers

Singapore Ion

More SHOPS Ahead
Disparities in Well-Being

- Impermanent Employment - Precariatization
  - Part-timer and sub-part-time labour = 1/3 Japan's and Korea’s wage workers (2009).
  - Shares are increasing, and average wages are falling.

- 470 million people living in slums in 2010, with numbers increasing

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Asia</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Intra-Asia Foreign Workers and Multi-cultural Societies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Legal foreign Workers</th>
<th>Illegal foreign Workers</th>
<th>Registered Foreigners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>477,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong²</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>374,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>570,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹For Japan legal workers include “trainees”.
²Foreign domestic workers and caregivers only.
Lifeworlds/life-spaces: vibrant city life in neighborhoods, civil society, cultural and associational life -- people meeting people
International NGOs Promoting Livable Cities

LivCom (Livable Communities) – Annual Best Practices Award

A Liveable City

- Generates civic pride
- Facilitates enjoyable recreational experiences
- Heritage management
- Sensitivity to the natural environment
- Community sustainability through community empowerment
- Healthy lifestyles, and ability to plan for the future.
Focus on the public realm to:

✓ Build social capital by cementing social relations through repeated contact in multiple overlapping roles.
✓ Relate and behave with a diversity of others (young and old, poor and well-to-do, healthy or disabled).
✓ Contribute to a more democratic way of life and encourages all to linger, share observations and perspectives, and thereby humanizes all who participate.
✓ Learn how the specific design of streets and squares can encourage a rich public life, and how the form of buildings and their relationship to the street can support this.
Lifeworlds & Conviviality

“In human happiness, creative activity and a sense of community count for at least as much and maybe more than material standard of living.”

– Lisa Peattie

Convivial Spaces
- Open, public spaces
- Human scale
- Mixed use
- Local cultural practices
- Place-making/vernacular
- Inclusive
- Allows for spontaneity
Throughout history, public space has formed the backdrop to public life, for commercial transactions, social exchange, entertainment, protest and contemplation. (Slessor 2001:36).

Public Spaces
Inclusive spaces where people of all walks of life can gather and engage in associational life without overt domination by government, commerce or social groups.
City Life with Living Cultural Heritage
Vernacular Architecture
National Livable Cities Program, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)

...To place people at the centre of the development process and making the central purpose of development as creating an enabling environment in which all people can enjoy a long, healthy, peaceful and creative life. (TEI)
Regional Learning Network

Northern Coordinating Center
Chiang Rai Municipality
- Chiang Mai University
- Naresuan University

Central Coordinating Center
Nakorn Pathom Municipality
- Mahidol University

Thailand Environment Institute
Coordinating Organization & Secretariat

Eastern Coordinating Center
Rayong Municipality

Northeastern Coordinating Center
Khonkaen Municipality
- Khonkaen University
- Ubon Ratchathani University

Southern Coordinating Center
Songkla Municipality
- Prince of Songkla University
- Walailak University

Academic Institution

Capacity Building

Municipalities in each region who are the member of the RLN

5 Regional Coordinating Centers

Academic Institutions in the region

TEI
Klaeng Municipality, Thailand

The municipality tries to make the local people aware and proud of their local culture and traditions as well as to voluntarily participate and cooperate in developing their own city.
Prasae River

Traditional close relationship with the river for livelihoods and recreation

Established Prasae River Conservation Group

Mangrove trees planting

River spy campaign

Revive customs related to river
Outcome –  
A Convivial and Environmentally Sustainable City Produces a Sustainable Economy

- Water quality significantly improved; aquatic life increases
- Scenic value enhanced along the river
- Increased income opportunities from tourism, fishing and small-scale fish farms
- Local pride in river as the symbol of the municipality
- Continuing collaborative engagement of people in new projects
Governance - A Liveable City Is a Public City

A Public City

✓ Participatory form of governance
✓ Active communities and civil society
✓ The idea of the public interest and common good
✓ The right to assembly and peaceful protest
✓ Freedoms of speech and press
✓ Public spaces for public life

UN Habitat – Good Governance

✓ **Effectiveness**: efficiency in delivery of services and response to civil society concerns.
✓ **Equity**: inclusive access to basic necessities (nutrition, education, livelihood, health care, shelter, safe drinking water,), with priorities focusing on pro-poor policies.
✓ **Participation**: strong local representative democracies through inclusive, free and fair municipal elections and participatory decision-making processes.
✓ **Accountability**: rule of law is applied in transparent and predictable manner.
✓ **Security**: adequate mechanisms for citizens’ security, health and environmental safety.
Asia has been declared the ‘world’s largest prison for journalists, cyber dissidents and Internet users’ (Gomez 2004).
Controlling Urban Space

Post-9/11 – “Terrorism”

- Before 9/11
  - less than 100 arrests for terrorism per year globally
- After 9/11 – 2010
  - 35,000 worldwide terrorism convictions.
  - 120,000 people were arrested under terrorism laws in 66 countries.

Surveillance and Civil Rights

Consistently upholds human rights standards
- Significant protections and safeguards
- Adequate safeguards against abuse
- Some safeguards but weakened protection
- Systemic failure to uphold safeguards
- Extensive surveillance societies
- Endemic surveillance societies
Environmental well-being and Justice
Increasing Frequency, Impacts of Environmental Disasters

Most Asian cities are poorly equipped to manage:
- environmental disasters
- climate change
- contaminated or unstable land
- health pandemics

Many will need massive investments in infrastructure, public services, institutional capacity and environmental programmes.

2000 – 2012
- 1.6 billion people in Asia affected by natural disasters
- 40 percent of all natural disasters in the world occur in Asia
- 88 percent of people affected reside in Asia.

Disaster Victims 1974-2004 (millions)

Number of Reported Natural Disasters 1950-2012

[Graph showing trends in disasters by continent, with Asia highlighted.]
Cities Unprepared for Environmental Disasters

Flood Risk and Preparedness, World’s Largest Cities (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Risk of Flooding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Very well prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jakarta</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico City</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>São Paulo</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Very well prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong- Shenzhen</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No high risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karachi</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Critically unprepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Could be better prepared</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Critically Unprepared Cities = 182 million people at risk

Source: GreenAsh (2013), Natural Disaster Risk Levels of the World’s Largest Cities.
Democratic Governance

Quality of Democracy Rankings 2013

Source: http://democracyranking.org/wordpress/?page_id=738
Toward Cosmopolis

- The right to the city for all who come to live and work in it.
  - anti-discrimination laws
  - rights to reside with family
  - right to collective consumption
  - freedoms of assembly and speech
  - right to participate in public discourse
- Resident-driven urban planning
  - open urban planning processes from inception to implementation
  - routine forms of participatory planning
- Orientation to “conviviality”, the enjoyment of the “pure socialability” of city life (Lisa Peattie).
  - unscripted public spaces, place-making,
  - neighborhood life
  - vernacular architecture
  - the “small spaces” of the city.
Cities of the Future are here – which are the most liveable?