

Appendix 2: Street furniture

- the goal is to create **convenient, easily maintained and publicly accessible amenities that do not hinder pedestrians or traffic**
- The items of furniture should **not give the appearance of being cluttered**, so that, for example, signs are attached to a single post or column rather than being distributed in several places
- the furniture should not be hazardous for pedestrians; if it is used along a walking area it should be aligned **to make passage easier**, rather than staggered like an obstacle course
- The furnishings of urban outdoor spaces should be designed with the needs of the **disabled, children, and the elderly in mind**, and also to enable triangulation – i.e. they should be linked together to **stimulate social encounters** and encourage people to talk to strangers.
- Furniture items designed for outdoor spaces must be constructed of **safe** materials and designed to prevent injury, without sharp edges or exposed fasteners. They are usually either **attached to the ground** with anchor bolts (for example, using surface mounting, i.e. attaching a bench to a concrete slab), or embedded in the ground.
- The type of furniture and its arrangement should also take into account visibility and sightlines, lighting, and **accessibility** issues that may be faced by women, children, the elderly and the disabled.
- Furniture selection and design should take into account weather effects such as sunlight, expansion and contraction, wind stress, moisture, and in some cases, salt spray, frost, or ice. The best designs usually incorporate strong, simple shapes, native materials, and natural finishes, generally in black, grays, and earth tones, accented with bright colors
- The most **popular materials** used are steel and wood; other possibilities are stone, concrete, recycled plastic and various other materials.
- **Materials**: steel, wood, concrete, stone, plastic... each is described in the document
- Items of street furniture should contrast significantly in **color** with the background where they are situated, and have a luminance contrast of at least 0.3 (30%) to increase their visibility to pedestrians. This can be supplemented by colored borders in the pavement, which mark the edges of the street furniture and guide pedestrians around it to clear and unobstructed walking areas.
- Using **recycled materials** → Paint or other finishing materials of furniture should be non-toxic and non-staining. The use of recycled materials in street furniture enables manufacturers to conserve natural resources and reduce their carbon footprints; it also educates the users of the furniture, the public, on the importance and mental and physical benefits of recycling. In addition, such furniture items can be recycled again when they need to be replaced, further reducing damage to the environment.
- **Seating** facilities, such as benches, should be integrated within the outdoor spaces of the city wherever people wait, meet, or socialize; in public squares, for instance, they should be coherent with other elements, so that when seats are not in use they do not create a sense of isolation or emptiness. Being able to sit within a city landscape

provides an opportunity to pause, and also a tactile and more intimate contact with a place than one has when standing or walking.

- The most common error in placing **waste receptacles** is putting them wherever there is an empty space, instead of in places where people will use them. If they are not placed appropriately they will remain empty while the surrounding space becomes dirtied: people will not change their habitual walking path to find a trash can, so the proper placement of these items of furniture is crucial.
- Aesthetically speaking, site **lighting** can add colour and vibrance to an area at night; however, its primary purpose is to provide safety and security after dark.
- If the types of street furniture and manufacturers involved at a site are consistent, **maintaining** or replacing worn or damaged furnishings will be less costly; proper installation of items will ensure their durability, and damaged materials should be replaced with more sustainable products wherever possible. The furniture should be easy to repair, and one way to facilitate this is to **design it as replaceable modular parts**, so that it does not remain unusable for long periods pending repairs
- Street furniture is often **vandalized** by burning, slashing, carving, and spray painting, (stickers)

Reference:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304142307_Street_Furniture_and_Amenities_Designing_the_User-Oriented_Urban_Landscape