“Strengthening social bonds in Bujumbura through public space: Redesigning Jardin Public de Bujumbura for the restoration of the city’s sense of community.”

Gwendoline Albright N.    Advisor: Andrew Von Maur
Location of project: Rohero I, Bujumbura, Burundi
Bujumbura, Burundi.

The history at a country at a crossroad

- The beautiful country of Burundi is unfortunately among the 10 poorest country in 2018 with (GDP) per capita of 309 US dollars.
- Among the unsafe countries in Africa due to the ongoing strife of ethnic-based tensions and civil instability.
- Since its independence in 1962, it has been overwhelmed by the tension between the Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority fights.
- The official civil war that sparked off in 1993 was never resolved and lead to more war outbreaks.
- My home.
"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. And in every heart, there is the power to do it.

– Marianne Williamson
- The Park's initial purpose was to be a hub for the community
- Park of my childhood
- Liaison to different neighborhoods
- The reservoir of users that it can attract and hold
- It is already under development
Existing proposal & situation

- Parking on the streets near the entrance
- Park enclosure
- Park main entrance
- Market place near the entrance
Research question

If public space can impact communities as it has been proven by researches and studies about them, can redesigning an existing public space be redesigned to be as impactful?
Can Jardin Public de Bujumbura help with

Community Building

Identity acknowledgements
“We are never going to save the rural places, or wild places or scenic places unless we identify the human habitat, and then strive to make it so good that humans will voluntarily inhabit it.”

-James Howard Kunstler
Creating the Toolbox

Raw Materials elements for the toolbox

Urban space as Public yards
Jane Jacobs
Case Studies

**From Africa**
- Berta Nasashada Park
  Mogadishu, Somalia
  (Space use)
- Green Market Plaza
  Cape Town, South Africa
  (Shade)

**From Europe**
- St. Stephens Green
  Dublin, Ireland
  (Diversity)
- Park Am Gleisdreieck
  Berlin, Germany
  (Interesting run way/walkway)

**From the U.S.**
- Rittenhouse Square
  Philadelphia, US.
  (Designing with nature)
- Central Park
  New York, NY.
  (Designing elements)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Principles for the toolbox</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>From case studies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inviting entrances</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Spaces vs paths</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Transparent edges</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Private vs public</td>
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<td>- Pedestrian friendly</td>
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<td>- Hierarchy and zoning</td>
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<td>- Diversity of activities</td>
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Toolbox Main Focus

I. Public Spaces with limited access but Inviting

Can be fenced at certain hours of the day but should be accessible by anyone. Should be intentionally designed for specific user group. Be able more inviting and engaging for people from the streets and beyond.
Design Principles and Design Patterns.

- **Design principles** are usually core abstract level of guidelines that one is supposed to follow when designing.
- Design principles give guidelines to a better design.

- **Design patterns** are found solutions to be identified and named occurring problems that will specifically be implemented in design to solve that problem
- Design principle suggests specific implementation for specific problems.
Examples – recommendations

St. Stephens green, Dublin, Ireland

Green market plaza, Cape town, South Africa

Am Gleisdreierk, Berlin Germany
Summary, conclusion & recomendations

Discussion & Limitations

Even though good design and public spaces has great potential in impacting communities in a positive way,

- Jane Jacobs claims that way too much is expected from city parks.
- Neighborhood parks are the most generalized form of city parks and should be viewed as local public yards not necessarily real estate stabilizers;
- Neighborhood parks themselves will eventually be directly and drastically affected by the way the neighborhood acts upon them.
- Jardin Public de Bujumbura might be one potential channel towards the healing of the Bujumbura community but should not be perceived as the only one or the most important one.
- Design charrette with the local community could help redesign this park with the outcome of this study.
- Although not studied, it may be inferred from this study that the existing architecture and urban design of the city might have a significant impact on the current tensions and civil instability in both the city and the country as a whole.
- Further studies should examine the outcomes that urban development including buildings, neighborhoods and the city’s master plan as a whole could have on the healing of Burundian communities.
Thank you for listening!

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