

The value of investing in child-friendly approaches





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About this presentation

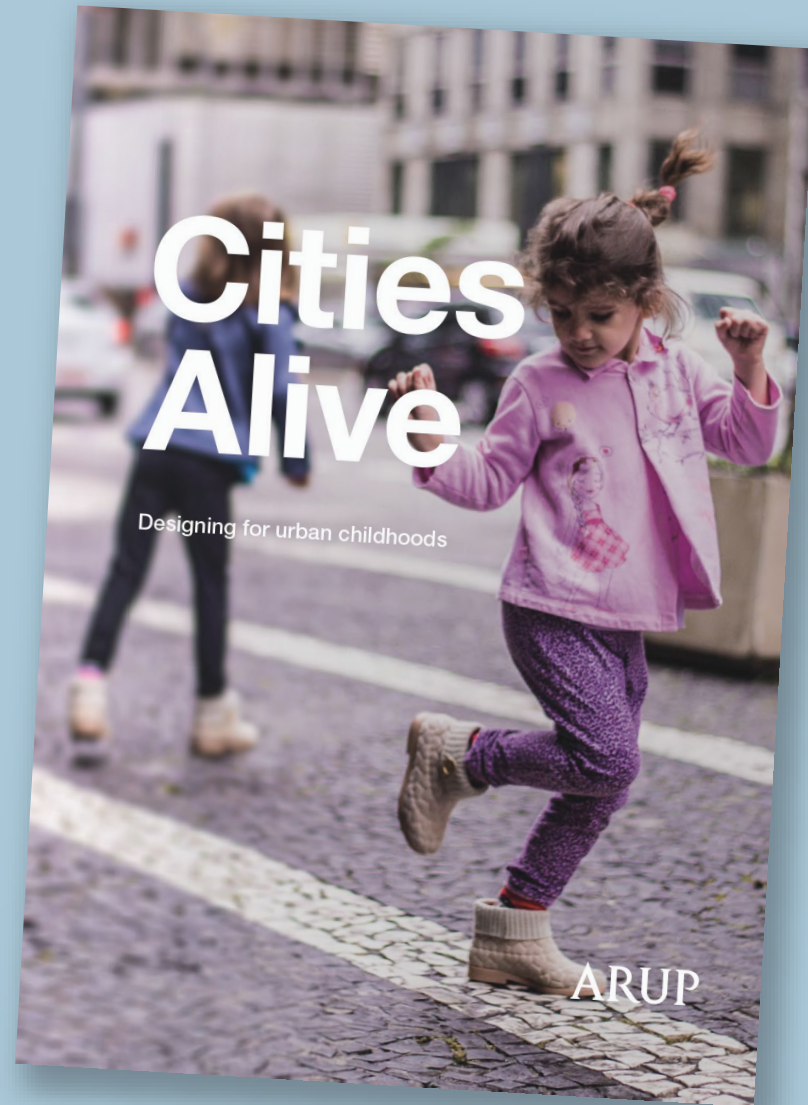
This presentation contains a visual walk through the main sets of benefits that child and family-focused projects can bring for the whole city and for all. You can use it to familiarise yourself, or people you work with, with the great impact that the focus on babies, toddlers and their caregivers might bring.

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Arup's publication [Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods](#) highlights the many benefits that cities around the world have achieved where steps have been taken to enhance children's experience of the city.



Designing for multiple benefits

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a unifying theme to navigate complex challenges and gain support for child-friendly design and planning that benefits the whole community.



Health and wellbeing

- Physical activity
- Mental wellbeing
- Accessible activities
- Intergenerational activities



Local economy

- Retention of families
- Vibrant destinations
- Attractive developments
- Space saving



Safety

- Road safety
- Safe and active streets
- Perceived safety
- Reduced social fears



Stronger communities

- Generating community
- Time spent together
- Social interaction
- Inclusivity and accessibility



Nature and sustainability

- Connection to nature
- Wilder natural spaces
- Risk and adventure
- Wellbeing and sanctuary



Climate resilience

- Resilient citizens
- Climate resilience
- Response to threats
- Multifunctionality

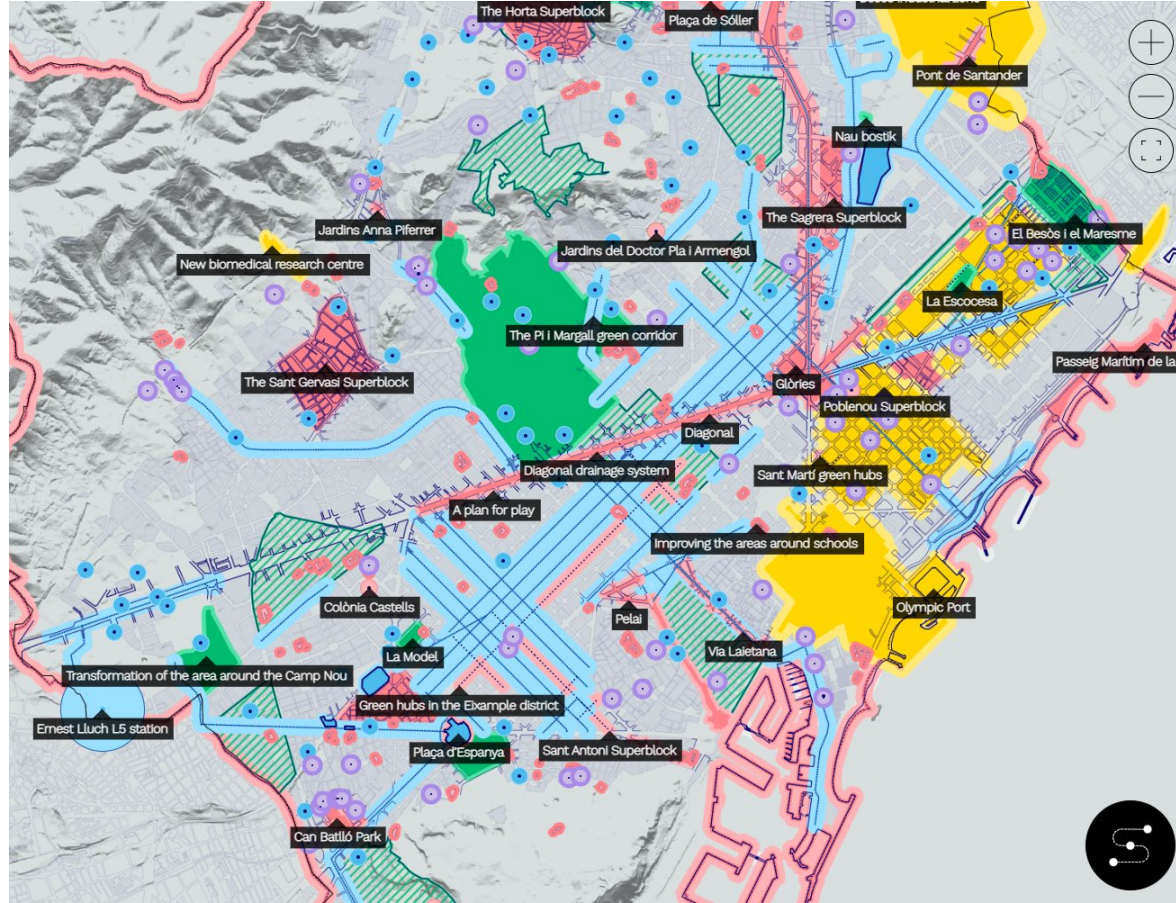
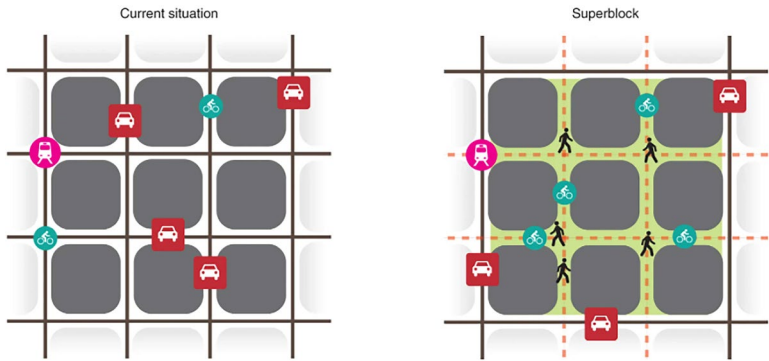


A catalyst for improving cities

- Unifying theme
- Citizenship
- Overcoming resistance
- Resourcefulness

Health and wellbeing

Moving from linear and single-purpose spaces to dynamic spaces with diverse uses



[Link to the interactive project map](#)

Barcelona superblocks create citizen spaces without compromising the mobility network.

Local economy



Child-friendly interventions have the power to make cities more attractive and economically competitive



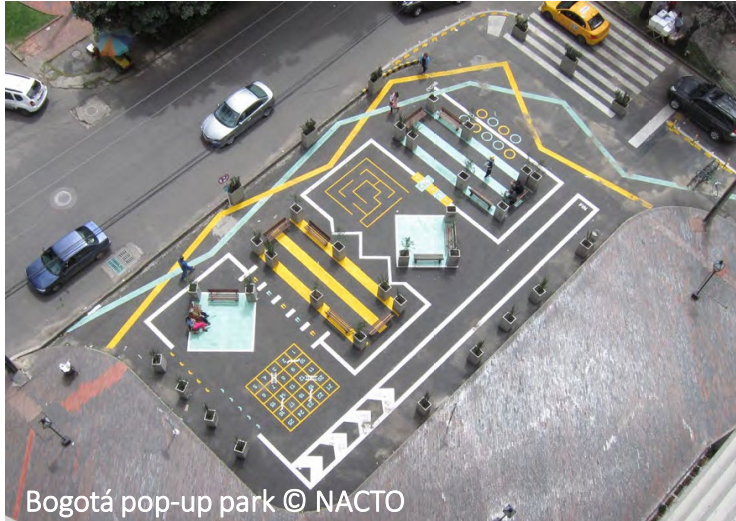
©London Communications

King's Cross Central supported diverse commercial activities for more cohesive communities.

Safety



Focus on removing danger from the road environment, not the removal of children from danger (Policy Studies Institute)



Suggested solutions:

- Infrastructure-based solutions
- App-based solutions
- C-ITS solutions
- Universal design approach
- Policy implementation

Stronger communities

Social interaction is essential to generate community life



The Bicentennial Children’s Park provides a continuous accessible walkway that brings communities together across Santiago, Chile © Elemental.

Nature and sustainability

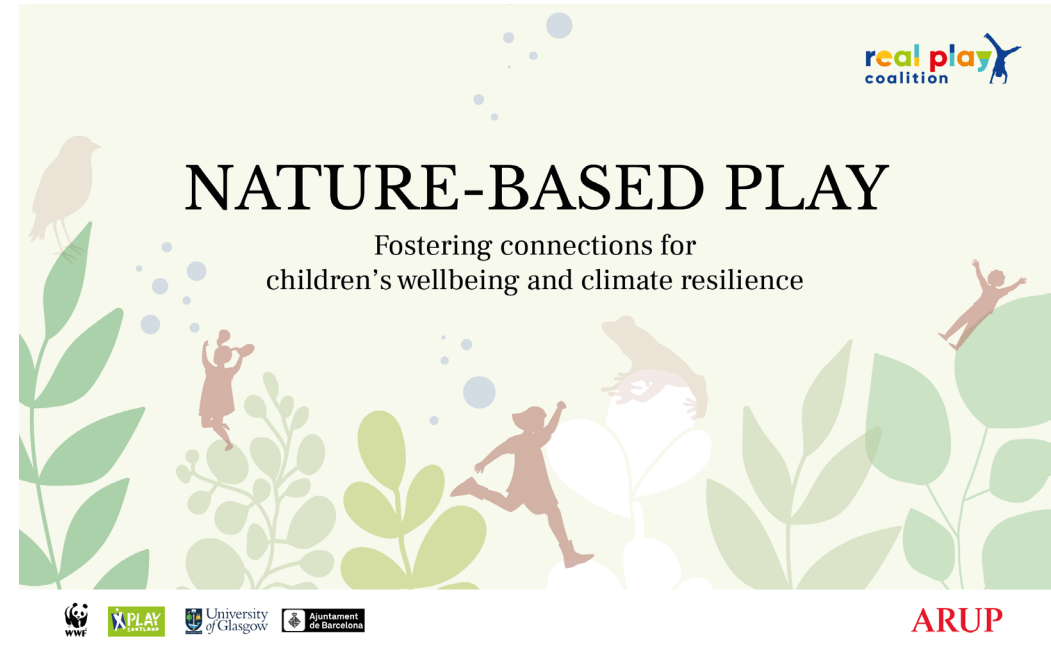


“No one will protect what they don’t care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced”

— Sir David Attenborough, broadcaster and naturalist



The Sanlihe River Ecological Corridor in Qian’an City is now a popular gathering place for children.



[Link to download Nature-based Play.](#)

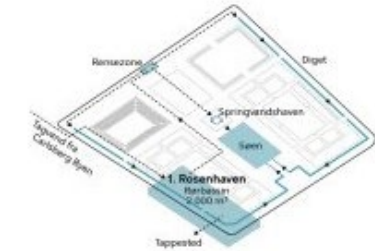
Climate resilience



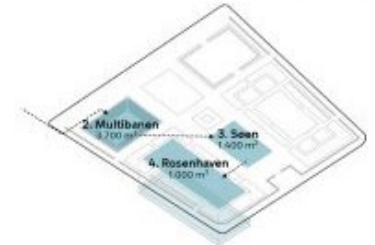
Measures that improve urban resilience can also create opportunities to expand children's everyday freedoms



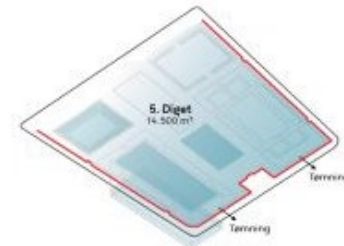
Public play space that floods to mitigate heavy rainfall in Enghavepark, Copenhagen © Tredje Natur



EVERYDAY RAIN



10-YEAR RAIN EVENT



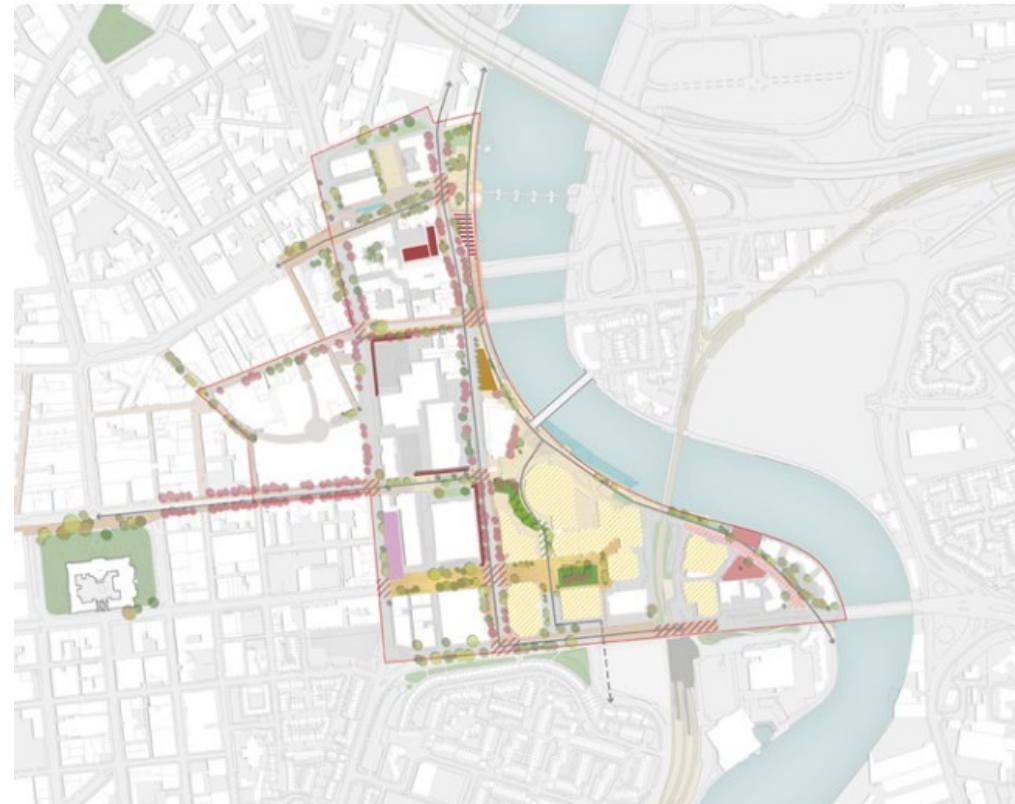
100-YEAR RAIN EVENT

A catalyst for improving cities

Child-friendly urban planning has been an effective catalyst in helping achieve different city priorities



Children in Tirana, Albania help to shape the city and progress ambitious sustainability goals.



Urban Childhoods Master Plan - Belfast



CATALYSING NEW USES



STITCHING THE URBAN FABRIC



ACTIVATING OPEN SPACES



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