



Case 62 Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom: Brighton New Road

Problem to resolve

The presence of the homeless, recently arrived migrants, drug dealers etc. in the public open space induces the locally rooted parts of the population to avoid these zones, and to settle in different parts of the city in the long run.

APPROACH: Shared space streets

Lonely places are often perceived as unsafe, even if there is no statistical evidence to support it. The same applies to streets in which delinquents with cars and motos can escape quickly and easily. On the other hand, a reasonably frequented urban pedestrian area is believed to be relatively safe because there are many potential helpers around who can intervene in case of an attack. Therefore pedestrian areas and traffic speed reduction can reduce the fear of violence and crime. →Tool URR 3



Brighton New Road in its original shape¹



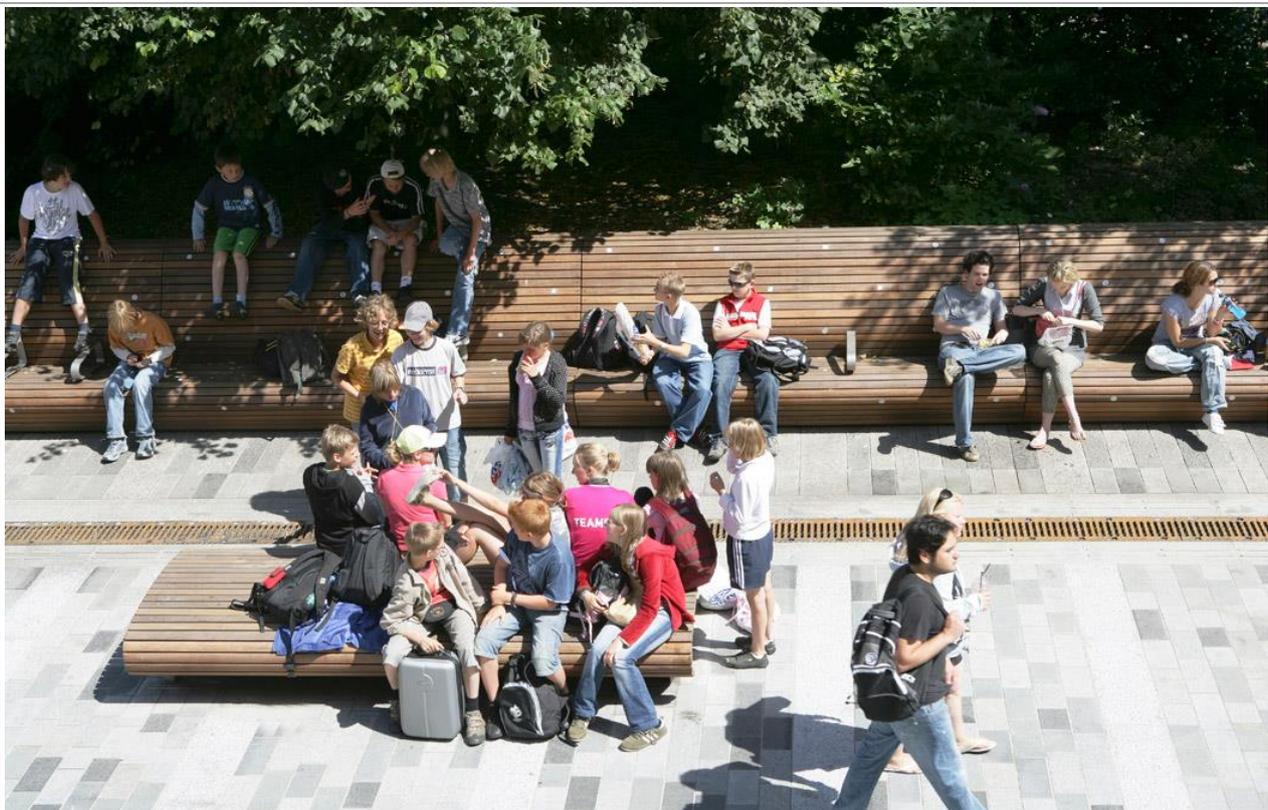
Neglected Brighton New Road before Upgrading²



The Case Study: Brighton & Hove, United Kingdom: Brighton New Road 2007^{3 4}

The seaside city of Brighton & Hove on the South coast of England attracts millions of visitors every year. However, over time the historical high street leading from the harbour into the city centre was run down and neglected – most people try get away from it as quick as possible. The Danish landscape planner Jan Gehl was commissioned to redesign the street but did not come up with a standard pedestrian road but proposed a new street typology instead: a shared space between cars (faced with a number of obstacles to reduce their velocity to walking speed) and pedestrians.

The implemented physical improvements – including high quality urban landscaping - significantly increase the frequency of pedestrians and contribute to social control over potential criminal vagrants previously concentrating in this space. Traffic levels have dropped by 93%, the number of pedestrians has increased by 62%, and there has been a 600% increase in ‘good’ lingering activities. People apparently enjoy being here. Today 86% would like to see more areas like New Road in their city. →Tool URR 3



Brighton New Road transformed into shared space by the Danish architect Jan Gehl⁵

Credentials

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References

¹ <http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Brighton/EmpireBrighton1.jpg>

² <https://www.transportxtra.com/files/2619-l.jpg>

³ <http://gehlarchitects.com/cases/new-road-brighton-uk/> visited 17/05/2015

⁴ <http://www.landezine.com/index.php/2011/04/new-road-by-landscape-projects-and-gehl-architects/> visited 30/05/2015

⁵ Source: <http://www.landezine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/02-NewRoad-Landscape-project-gehl-architects.jpg>