

Recreating open spaces for Leisure: new opportunities after the Pandemic



We were free, we went to the parks, we filled the squares, we observed the people who passed through the streets when we wanted, however a small and transparent virus came to brake all. Those places to relax and to have a leisure, like gardens, parks and squares have been closed, in more countries that were infected by COVID-19. The cocoon of safety turned our own home.

There has been fear, dispair, deaths in ascent, and has been persisting in many places. The countries whose governings have most responsibility and took more energetic measures, contained the number of cases and could leave the obligatory isolation.

An example that caught the world's attention came from Italy, when the musical communication originated from a balcony or a window was answered by the neighbors through applauses. At that moment appeared a communication that came on inside of every person.

The human being is communicative even he is living or being alone.

The pandemic came to change ourselves to a best stage, in spite of the chaos that we have been living.

As for public spaces, we have an opportunity to transform them. The first reflection that we have in mind is to feel powerless in front of the virus, that can be mortal. Then, we return ourselves to the life's essence.

Will it be that the Nature in the parks and gardens could not be seen on other way? The aesthetic distance among the people can and must be observed, but the space in the open air is a conductor of life to be explored for the well-being of all.

Let's think some suggestions:

- As for the communication of the care against the contagion:
 - . When a person goes into the park or garden an attractive, colored visual communication with images, clear and simple explanations must be seen by all. The communication must be repeated on several points of the park, in the case of a big area.
 - . A specific place can be marked on the ground for little children so that they learn playing the aesthetic distance.

- As for the existing Nature in parks and gardens - looking at it and see it from different ways:
 - . Botany practice classes to the students of all levels of teaching, could be transferred to open air, stimulating them in the sensorial sensations, besides the knowledge of the species and inducing them to the respect and love to Nature.
 - . Focusing in the parks and gardens appropriate places to the social isolation, that search the contemplation, whether it be vegetation or water through streams, lakes or fountains.

- As for the urban furnishings:
 - . We propose a competition of ideas for students of Architecture and Design, bringing new ideas and using sustainable materials.

- As for maintenance of cultural identity of the place
 - . It is important that any open space rescue and maintain their cultural and regional characteristics.

- As for Art:
 - . The artistic expression, whether it be theatrical, musical or others must be incited in specific places in the parks, and must express the local cultural identity being a part of Events Plan of the Park or a free space for any people to act independently of the age.

- As for physical exercises:

- . Walks with aesthetic distance.
 - . Projects of paths and tracks more solitary in order to experience the Nature.
 - . Tracks specifically for dogs, as in Holland (Beatrix Park)
 - . Creation of physical apparatus with sustainable material. Example: bamboo and/or others.
 - . It will be able to be object of Competition of ideas for Architects together Physical Education Teachers
 - . Obligatory guidance of physical exercises for adults and elderly persons according to the age group to avoid health problems.
- As for hygiene to avoid contagion:
 - . Presence of hygiene booth that sprinkles ozone on all access of the parks and gardens.
 - . Systematic presence of faucets with liquid soap all over the park.
 - As for the plays areas in the parks:
 - . The obligatory aesthetic distance must be marked on the ground. If there are tables for plays, it must have a transparent dividing wall.

The streets are not only a place to pass. They have multiuse, as sidewalk for many and informal work for others.

This kind of work that crowds persons to choose products needs to be reorganized. It is necessary an aesthetic distance of 2 meters among these sale stalls.

We have accept these demands as protection measures and not to get annoyed. At every moment of crisis there is a reaction, but it also appears an opportunity of new solutions that are demanded due to the lived moment.



Will not the architect be predisposed and accommodated to doing what he knows?

Many times we have to forget the past, to recreate the present to advance forward the next future. Rethinking, challenging the COVID-19 and creating solutions are some of our missions.

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