

URBAN PLANNING 2
UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE. COURSE 2014 - 2015

**Informal notes from the course's
practical content**

CREDITS

URBAN PLANNING 2

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practical content

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PREFACE

The Urban Planning 2 subject belongs to the Urban Planning and Land Management Area within the Construction and Urbanism Department of the University of Alicante.

The course focuses on the study of **the urban public space** considering different perspectives. The course programme 2014-2015 introduces a combination of traditional and current methods in order to provide an approach to the study of the city's public open space.

This document compiles, in an informal manner, the briefs of some of the practical exercises developed during the course. The purpose of this compilation is to serve as reference and basis for future courses.

Alicante, April 2015

UP2 EXERCISE BRIEFS

E 1:

Lynch's methodology: studying the image of the city

Objective >

Study and analyse the city, based on the image interpretation methodology proposed in Kevin Lynch's book "The Image of the City". For these purposes, five elements will be distinguished and identified: path, border, node, district and landmark.

Materials >

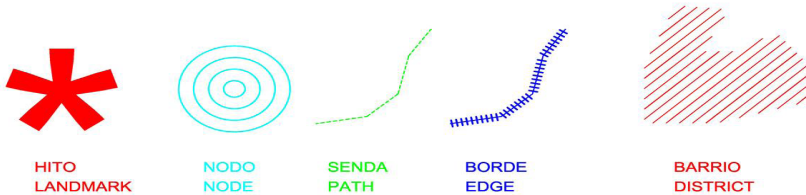
The cartography of the corresponding city was provided to every team through GOOGLE DRIVE.

What to do? >

Part 1. Study the assigned city by applying Lynch's methodology. Use the printed copy of the cartography to distinguish the elements of the city. You may use recognisable icons of your preference.

Identify PATHS, BORDERS, NODES, LANDMARKS and DISTRICTS of the city.

An example of the graphic representation you could use is:



Just as in Lynch's studies, the **SCALE OF THIS STUDY** is that of the **CITY**.

To hand-in >

1. Take a good picture or scan of the resulting image. Both files must be uploaded to the collaborative **GOOGLE DRIVE PARTICIPATION** folder, named after the group number.
2. Create a blank document in **GOOGLE DOCS** and provide the following information:
 - Write down the **conclusions** you got from the analysis. Make sure they are concise, precise and well written.
 - From Lynch's analysis decide which linear public space is the most significant of the city? Explain your answer.

E 2:

Foursquare methodology to identify successful public spaces in a city.

Objective >

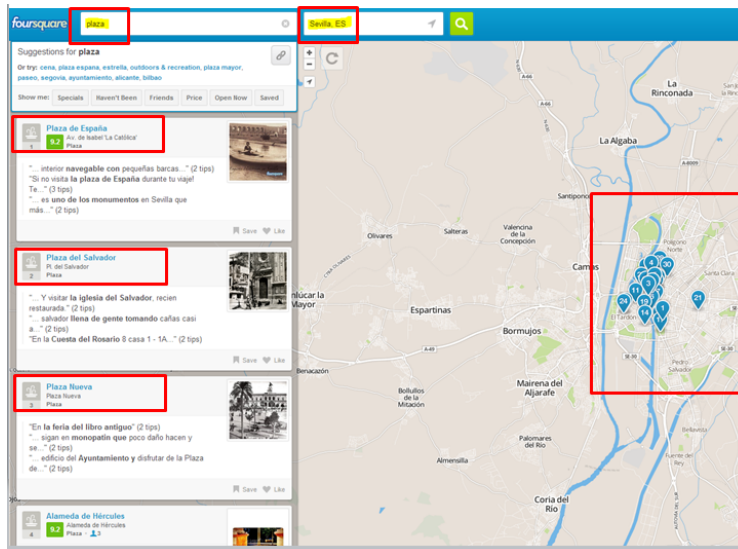
Identify and locate the **most successful LINEAR public space** (*street, avenue, boulevard, paseo...*) of the assigned city.

Materials >

1. Web information : <http://www.foursquare.com>
2. WORD and EXCEL and templates available in the “DOWNLOAD ONLY” GOOGLE DRIVE folder.
3. Cartography developed for exercise 1.

What to do? >

Part 1. Introduce the two words: *street (or avenue, or boulevard...)* and *city name* correspondingly, on the *Foursquare* webpage (www.foursquare.com)



Part 2. Identify the *linear public spaces* included on the Foursquare website. Fill in the WORD, and EXCEL templates accordingly with the required information.

a. EXCEL template (GOOGLE SHEETS):

All *paseos, streets, avenues* (however many you find)... must be listed and hierarchically ordered by the number of visitors.

Provide detailed information on the 5 *paseos, streets, avenues*... with the most number of visitors, as shown on the following printed screen.

G1.00_SEVILLA ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Help All changes saved in Drive

100% Arial 10

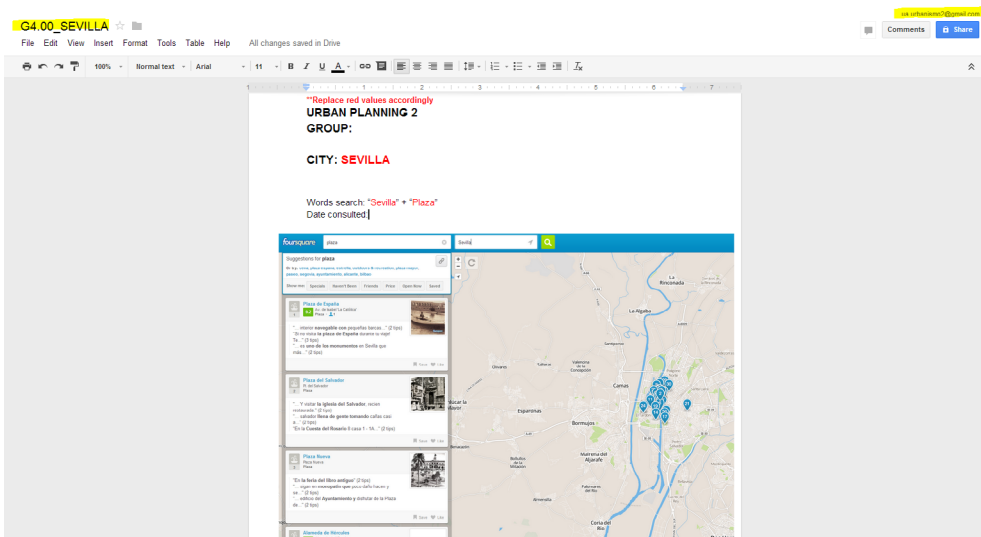
| URBAN PLANNING 2 | "Replace red values accordingly" | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|--|-----------|--|--|
| GROUP: | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| TEAM: | 1.01 | | | | | | | | |
| CITY: | SEVILLA | | | | | | | | |
| Search words | "PASEO" | "SEVILLA" | | | | | | | |
| Full name + area of ALL foursquare results | DETAILED INFORMATION OF THE 5 "PASEOS" WITH MORE NUMBER OF VISITORS (HIERARCHICALLY ARRANGED) | | | | | | | | |
| "Paseo" full name | "Paseo" area (m2) | Date consulted | # of visitors | Check-ins | # of pictures | Common themes of pics. (Min. 20) | # of Tips | Copy/paste tips (Min. 20) | |
| 1 Plaza de España | | 15/09/2013 | 4072 | 4878 | 1349 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _Edificio principal (118) _Personas (245) _Multitudes (1539) _Festividades (500) _Objetos (18) etc... | 64 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ..Many movies have been filmed here, including "Laurence of Arabia," "Star Wars: Attack of the Clones" "Naboo Palace, and the palace from Cohen's "The Dictator." ..Bloody romantic! Bring a chessboard and a picnic rug. Loved it ..For tourists: Be careful with las gitanas del romero and postcards. Take care of your belongings here etc... | |
| 2 Plaza del Salvador | | 15/09/2013 | 2033 | 4595 | 335 | | | | |
| | | 15/09/2013 | 1084 | 5420 | 294 | | | | |
| <p>> List ALL linear public spaces found.</p> <p>Detailed information of the 5 linear public spaces with the most number of visitors.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 Puerta de Jerez | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 La Campana | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Plaza San Lorenzo | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Plaza San Francisco | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 Plaza del Duque | | | | | | | | | |

b. WORD template (GOOGLE DOCS):

The word document must include print-screens of the obtained Foursquare results. The date of consultation, search words, and full name of the 5 *paseos, streets...* with the most visitors (hierarchically ordered) will accompany the print screens.

ex. Search words: *street* and *Sevilla*. Date consulted: September 20th, 2013.

#1 Plaza de España.



The image shows a Google Docs document and a Foursquare search results page. The Google Docs document contains the following text:

"Replace red values accordingly"
URBAN PLANNING 2
GROUP:

CITY: SEVILLA

Words search: "Sevilla" + "Plaza"
Date consulted: []

The Foursquare search results page shows the search for "plaza" in Sevilla. The results are listed in a table:

| Plaza de España | Plaza de España | Plaza de España | Plaza de España |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Plaza de España | 1. Plaza de España | 1. Plaza de España | 1. Plaza de España |
| 2. Plaza de España | 2. Plaza de España | 2. Plaza de España | 2. Plaza de España |
| 3. Plaza de España | 3. Plaza de España | 3. Plaza de España | 3. Plaza de España |
| 4. Plaza de España | 4. Plaza de España | 4. Plaza de España | 4. Plaza de España |
| 5. Plaza de España | 5. Plaza de España | 5. Plaza de España | 5. Plaza de España |

The Foursquare search results page also includes a map of Sevilla with blue location pins and a list of suggestions for plazas.

To hand in>

1. All teams must upload the set of completed WORD (GOOGLE DOCS) and EXCEL (GOOGLE SHEETS) to the collaborative GOOGLE DRIVE folder.
2. Create a blank document in GOOGLE DOCS and provide the following information:
 - Write down the conclusions you reached from applying the *Foursquare* method. Make sure they are concise, precise and well written.
 - Were you able to determine which is the MOST significant linear public space of the city? If so, name it and explain your answer. If not, propose a new method using data from social networks and explain how it helped you achieve the objective.

E 3:

The elements of the public space – A PHYSICAL ANALYSIS.

Objective >

To identify and graphically represent the physical elements that configure the studied relevant public space.

Materials >

Cartography of the corresponding city used for exercise 1.

What to do? >

Tasks described in this document for the relevant linear public space you selected will be carried out while working on exercises 1 and 2. Two methodologies will be used to collect data:

1. Onsite information: observation, measurements, interviews...
2. Online information: using Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing, Google Street View, Panoramio,..or any other source you may find available.

Task 1.

Draw the whole linear public space —the entire length of the street/ *paseo*/ avenue— studied basing it on the provided CAD cartography. Make sure you redraw part of the cartography if necessary and/ or complete accordingly in order to fit the drawing in a horizontal A4 format.

Task 2.

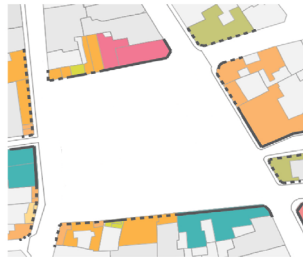
Elaborate a figure-ground plan. Use the hatching technique **IN BLACK** for the built mass portion of the selected area (task 1), leaving the **THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACE** empty (white).

Task 3.

Draw the following elements on the public space floor plan.:

NOTE: this element-drawing task will be done for, at least, a 400m portion of the length of the street.. This portion must be the one with most activity of the street.

1. Only draw plot lines.
2. Use the hatching technique according to building uses.

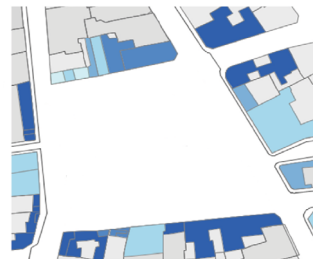


Building uses

3. Draw the enclosure line of the public space—its limits— (the façade elements which are at eye height).

Building accesses and façade openings must be drawn while pointing out the kind of building floors they give access to.

4. Colour and distinguish all building heights correspondingly.



Building heights

5. Identify and indicate pedestrian priority roads —if any—.



6. Identify and indicate all car traffic related elements such as horizontal/vertical signs, road dividers...

7. Identify and indicate the main floor public space zones such as: restaurant terraces, kids' playground areas, non-walkable / non-accessible areas, etc... Add the corresponding text to describe each of these areas.

8. Draw all the details / objects associated to the horizontal plane: curbs, stairs, ramps/slopes, differentiate floor levels, etc...

9. Draw all urban furniture/ elements that contribute to the lighting of public spaces at night..

10. Draw all elements that are used for the collection of waste: waste bins, waste containers, etc...

11. Draw all landscape / vegetation elements such as: gardens, planters, flower beds, tree trunks...

12. Draw and use the hatch technique in the approximate tree shade projection. A Google earth .JPG (x-ref into CAD) image can be useful to define the treetop diameter, and thus, the approximate shade it projects over the public space.

13. Draw all urban furniture / seating elements that have been placed for that purpose.

14. Draw all other elements of the space, for example: fountains, sculptures, kiosks, etc.

To hand in >

Upload to the shared PARTICIPATION GOOGLE DRIVE folder the set of drawings in .PDF format that include the drawings with the full physical study.

E 4:

The elements of public space – AN ANALYSIS OF HOW CITY SPACES ARE PERCEIVED.

Objective >

To identify the general and particular physical features of the studied linear public space through observation, measurement and collection of data during a field trip.

Recognise how the selected linear public space is perceived by interviewing users during the field visit and by observing how people interact with and within the space of study.

Materials >

Recommended material for the field visit:

- **Camera**
- **A few printed copies of the street/ avenue/ paseo.. to write down element dimensions and location of objects.**
- **Measuring tape**
- **15 printed copies of the interview**

- **Notebook**
- **Chronometer**

What to do? >

Through observation, data collection, drawings and photographs, information on the following concepts must be obtained:

1. **Regarding USER PROFILES** – Who visits the street / paseo / avenue?

- Identify and list all user profiles. Take **photographs** of all listed user profiles.

2. **Regarding ACTIVITIES** – How do people interact with and within the public space?

- Identify and list all activities happening in the street/ avenue/ paseo the day of the field visit –Stationary and non-stationary activities–. For example: playing with sculptures, playing on stairs, playing in the fountain (or near the fountain)... looking at... (people, commercial storefronts, etc.), sitting on...., walking by....

All activities listed must be documented with **photographs** taken on-site.

- Duration of activities. How long do people stay at a street / paseo / avenue?
- Routine or regular activities: through observation, you may be able to discover if

there are certain activities that could possibly be part of a routine: for example, young people gathering at 6:00 p.m. on a Saturday, old people walking by after 11:00 a.m.... etc.

- What is the favourite sitting spot from where people watch other people?



- Which is the most attractive commercial storefront? And which one is the most visited?... Are they the same?

- Are there any small commercial establishments? Any food / refreshments or information kiosks?



3. Regarding OPPORTUNITIES – What opportunities does the street/ avenue/ paseo offer?

Through **OBSERVATION**, **PHOTOGRAPHS** and on-site **MEASUREMENTS** identify and locate architectural / natural elements of the space.

- **SITTING SPACE:** seating configuration, size and location

How and where do people sit? Are seating areas flexible enough to allow different configurations and social interaction?

- Which is the most significant restaurant or bar / coffee place for social life of the street?

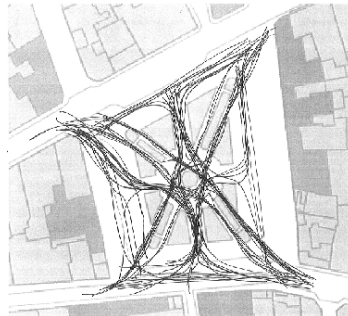
- Greenery and trees: type, size, shading diameter, etc.
- Other architectural elements such as: stairs, fountains, sculptures, difference in floor levels, materials...
- Weather protection elements.

4. Regarding the MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE inside the space –

- Sketch over the floor planning of the street, people's movement: from where do they enter the street, which way do they take to go from one corner to the other, is there a preferred route?

Where do people stand, what do they look at while waiting....

Register people's movement during a time-lapse. For example:



One line represents one person (or a group walking together) walking through the space. Saturday, 20th June, 2013. From 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Make sure you are precise with your annotations. Users (female, male, children, elderly, people in groups, individuals...) could be distinguished in colours.

Write down if there is any obstacle that interferes with people's movement through the space. In the picture below, an obstacle (tree) can be seen, but it does not seem to interfere with people's natural circulation.

Remember that obstacles are ONLY those elements that interfere with natural circulation. Not all elements in public spaces (bins, containers, kiosks, trees, lighting poles, street light posts...) are obstacles- it depends on whether they are adequately located or not.

5. Regarding other possible ELEMENTS worth considering.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Temperature | Bicycle facilities (storage, paths) |
| Door Façades | Quantity of cars |
| Building heights | Parking |
| Balconies | Pavements |
| User profiles (diversity, ages, etc.) | Benches |
| Quantity of people | Traffic lights |
| Quality of street materials (floors, furniture, etc.) | Night lighting |
| Wind | Traffic signals |
| Sun | Posts, fences |
| Topography | Garbage containers |
| Views | Building shapes |
| Trees | Building façade materials |
| Flowers | Building colours |
| Shrubs | Iconic buildings |
| Crosswalks | Storefront sizes |

Restaurants, bars
Commercial / residential uses
Roof shapes
Façade openings
Ramps
Graffiti
Undesirable people (William Whyte's video)
Etc...

6. Regarding people's PERCEPTION of the street/ avenue/ paseo. Interviews.

- On-site interview to, at least, 15 people, using the form template called: "EN_Exercise 4_INTERVIEW template"
- Interviews must be individual or, if made to a group of people, ages and sex of each person should be registered.
- Interview results are to be compiled in the Excel template file called: "EN_Exercise 4_INTERVIEW templates_Results".
- Write down and register any additional comments from the interviewed people.

7. All photographic material must be referenced to a map indicating where and when the picture was taken. Use the graphical technique of your preference.

