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URBAN CODE

100 Lessons for Understanding the City

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Preface

- 01 People walk in the sunshine.
- 02 Street vendors are positioned according to the path of the sun.
- 03 Street vendors facilitate pedestrian movement.
- 04 Safe surroundings increase profits.
- 05 High turnover makes up for high rent.
- 06 Rents rise with increasing pedestrian density.
- 07 Global shops sell their wares on popular streets.
- 08 Salespeople possess analytical knowledge of the district,
- 09 Passersby have an intuitive knowledge of the district.
- 10 Familiar chain stores are landmarks.
- 11 Brand names attract people. People attract brand names.
- 12 Shops attract other shops,
- 13 Tourists carry bags.
- 14 Shops give away bags.
- 15 Street vendors complement the surrounding selection of shops.
- 16 Human traffic complies with shop opening times.
- 17 Street vendors reinforce fluctuations.
- 18 People attract people.
- 19 Places of concentration depend on places of emptiness,
- 20 Cars can park in niches.
- 21 Cars park on top of one another.
- 22 Street vendors follow wrecking balls,
- 23 Constant grids afford manifold patterns of movement,
- 24 Equal grids provoke unequal blocks.
- 25 Buildings outlive uses.
- 26 A block consists of many buildings.
- 27 Each building has at least one entrance.
- 28 No entrance is the same as any other entrance.
- 29 Entrances are meeting points,
- 30 Entrances are hurdles.
- 31 Shops attract pedestrians into the depths of the block,
- 32 Each building houses a business.
- 33 Small, specialized shops are essential to maintaining a district's vitality.
- 34 Display windows are mirrors.
- 35 Pedestrians are potential buyers,
- 36 Pedestrians walk on sidewalks.
- 37 The sidewalk is a cellar entrance.
- 38 Wares are stored in the cellar,
- 39 Deliveries are limited to the early hours of the morning.
- 40 Delivery vans block the streets,
- 41 Locals and tourists use the streets at different times.

- 42 People walk more slowly in the afternoon.
- 43 Rituals result from parallel working hours.
- 44 The day to day happens on the street.
- 45 Workers wear work clothes.
- 46 Taxi drivers live on the street,
- 47 Locals have dogs.
- 48 Every thirtieth pedestrian has gray hair.
- 49 Old people sit on benches.
- 50 Benches are found on public squares.
- 51 Playgrounds draw children in.
- 52 Not every playground is a playground.
- 53 Fathers meet fathers on playgrounds.
- 54 Small public squares are busier than large public squares.
- 55 Crossroads are public squares.
- 56 People wait at crossroads.
- 57 Hot dog stands are at crossroads.
- 58 Snack stands smell of food.
- 59 Shops lead people.
- 60 Shops are new, houses are old.
- 61 Shop owners put their trash bags out on the street.
- 62 A city is made up of characteristic parts.
- 63 Streets were once communal spaces.
- 64 Public squares and niches create positive outside spaces.
- 65 People sit with their back protected.
- 66 Sitting people observe their environment.
- 67 Pedestrians lost in thought are not lost.
- 68 Tourists stand still. Residents pass.
- 69 When people stand still, groups develop.
- 70 Groups attract people,
- 71 Street performers animate public spaces,
- 72 Groups walk more slowly than individuals.
- 73 Nightlife hotspots increase pedestrian traffic.
- 74 People are afraid of the dark.
- 75 Many lights illuminate the night,
- 76 Street cafes lie at the center of events.
- 77 Subway stations thicken pedestrian traffic,
- 78 Narrow streets carry many pedestrians,
- 79 Narrow streets carry little traffic,
- 80 Cobblestones tell stories.
- 81 Local streets are one-way streets.
- 82 Cars drive down main roads faster than down side streets.
- 83 Pedestrians walk on a red signal, if traffic is slow,
- 84 Traffic jams tend to bring out aggression.
- 85 Weeds reduce aggression,

- 86 The counterpart to the urban everyday is the urban park.
- 87 People who walk have a destination in mind.
- 88 Good walkways have a good range of destinations along them.
- 89 Destinations are more attractive when they invite a stay,
- 90 Grocery stores are important local destinations.
- 91 Grocery stores on street corners have an advantage.
- 92 The livelihood of a street begins at crossroads.
- 93 SoHo life begins with traffic lights.
- 94 Traffic lights create traffic noise.
- 95 People wait for taxis, Taxis wait for people.
- 96 Taxis compensate for public transportation.
- 97 Subway stations are at borders,
- 98 A neighborhood has borders.
- 99 Through streets are borders.
- 100 Fractures create friction.

Epilogue