

Sam Sturgis ~ Kids In India Are Sparking Urban Planning Changes By Mapping Slums



Hand-drawn maps such as this are winding up on the desks of urban planners across India. (Courtesy of Humara Bachpan)

Every kid likes to draw. But in India, young people living in slums are using their sketching skills to spur urban change.

As part of a broader civic campaign centered on “child clubs,” groups of children are creating detailed “social maps” of their marginalized neighborhoods to voice their concerns about public space, as first reported in Citiscope, a CityLab partner site.

Since 2011, UNICEF has been encouraging kids to use mobile technology and open data to map environmental and health issues near their homes. But that technology isn’t available to everyone. Instead, much of the child-led mapping campaign sweeping India today relies on old-school topography materials—paper and a rainbow-spectrum of markers.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/kids-are-sparking>

Brent Toderian ~The 100 “Best” Books On City-Making Ever Written?



February 2015. I usually don't associate happiness with things, "stuff," material goods, but I have to admit that there are few things that make me happier than my books. Ever since I was a kid, I've loved libraries and book stores, and when I saw that a childhood friend's home had a room full of floor-to-ceiling book shelves, I knew that one day I would have to have a room like that. It's unlikely that I'll ever embrace the growing trend of downloading books on tablets - for me, there's simply nothing quite like sitting in my "library" (the enclosed balcony in our downtown apartment), surrounded by my favourite books on city-making.

I like to claim that I have the most extensive library of books on urbanism of any city-making practitioner - at least for any non-professor! If anyone would care to challenge my possible self-delusion, bring it on!

Read more: <http://www.planetizen.com/>

The African ~ Why Is Nairobi

Africa's Smartest City?



Ghetto Mirror - Photo by Jason Patinkin.

February 2015. For a second year in a row, Nairobi has been named the most intelligent city in Africa, though it failed to make it to the world's top seven finalists.

According to Intelligent Community Forum's latest rankings, "intelligent communities" are those that create an economy that can prosper in the "broadband economy."

Nairobi was the only African city to appear on their shortlist of 21 hubs throughout the world for 2015.

There were many cynical responses on social media, with many pooh-pooing crime-plagued Nairobi again as "Nairobbery" and not imagining how, given how dangerous its streets are, and the maddening traffic, it can be a "smart" city.

However, that same danger is the source of Nairobi's creativity. Nairobi has certainly fallen behind Lagos and Johannesburg, when it comes to making money from tech innovations, but it is ahead in conjuring up the smart ideas.

It has been widely documented in recent times that Nigerian tech entrepreneurs troop to Nairobi to hatch a clever idea, then take it back home to make cash from it.

You could say Nairobi writes great recipe books, but has no chefs to cook.

Read more: <http://africanmag.com/Nairobi>

South African Planning Institute



The purpose and aim of the South African Planning Institute (SAPI) is to enhance the art and science of sustainable local, regional and national human and physical

development planning, and the theory and practise relating thereto.

The objectives of SAPI are as follows:

to promote the profession of planning in South Africa;

- to promote a high level of professionalism and ethical conduct in the broad interests of society at large;
- to promote and protect the interests of its members;
- to promote the standard of education and training of persons in the planning profession;
- to ensure that planning within South Africa promotes sustainable use of natural resources, social and economic upliftment of all population segments;
- to initiate and promote reforms in the laws, policies and programmes relating to planning in South Africa; and
- = to promote inter-disciplinary discussion and collaboration, and also national and international contact and exchange

Read more: <http://www.sapi.org.za/>

Liz Agbor-Tabi & Lauren Sorkin ~ Blue Is The New Black: Improving

Water Management Yields Multiple Resilience Benefits



Febr. 2015. The 2015 World Economic Forum in Davos identified water crises - flood, drought, and pollution - as the risk with the largest expected impact over the next 10 years in its [2015 Global Risks](#) report. The report posits that over 50 percent of the planet's water is already diverted for human use, and that number is rising. Competition for scarce, clean water creates conflicts across the world, in cities from Durban to Los Angeles to Mexico City. Effective water management to confront clean water scarcity is a major concern for most cities.

Read more: <http://www.100resilientcities.org/blue-is-the-new-black>

**Mercy Brown-Luthango (ACC) ~
Enhancing Safety Through
Upgrading - Experiences From
Cape Town**



Violence and crime are spatially distributed with violent crime often concentrated in poorer, underdeveloped urban areas - such as this informal settlements in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

Improving safety is a key outcome of the South African policy on upgrading informal settlements. Yet little is known about the impact urban upgrading has on improving safety and reducing violence in these settlements.

In this article, Mercy Brown-Luthango from the [African Centre for Cities](#) at the University of Cape Town shares preliminary findings from a research project that looks at the effectiveness of different urban upgrading approaches with regards to safety.

Safety is an issue which occupies the minds of most South Africans on a daily basis. South Africa is one of the most violent countries in the world with a death rate of 157.8 per 100 000 population which is considerably higher than the average rate of 139.5 per 100 000 population for the African continent and nearly double the global average of 86.9 per 100 000 population

Violence and crime are spatially distributed with violent crime often concentrated in poorer, underdeveloped parts of the city. The relationship between violence and the nature and quality of the physical environment is well acknowledged.

Read more: <http://www.saferspaces.org.za/experiences-from-cape-town>