

**Team C**  
**Participative public spaces**

**What trends can we observe in Irkutsk?**

An imbalance between private and public interests in the current urban development. At the moment, the urban development processes are typically initiated by private investors and developers. There is a perceptible dominance of private sector's profit making over the recogni-

tion of public interests.

A planning practice that keeps focusing on the "material city", in a top-down imposed system, functional zoning.

Shrinking, alteration of public spaces in their common acceptance, as a spatial entity open and accessible to everybody: they have been standardised, privatised, secured or abandoned, become places to be consumed.

There is a sum of undefined, underused or exclusive spaces, that we identified in 4 typical categories (underused courtyards, undefined public spaces, developed public spaces and exceptional opportunities).

**Concept.** We have been asked to work and think about the modernisation of the

city environment and the creation of a network of public spaces.

Modernisation of the city environment means for us above all modernisation of the way we produce public spaces.

We think that a new policy of public spaces in Irkutsk is a fundamental step to be able to develop a network in the future.

We have to look for a more flexible and informal practice that enables a real diversity of uses/users and that reflects people's expectations.

The empowerment/involvement of the people is the starting point of our concept, as it is crucial to achieve a sustainable and balanced spatial development and urban environment.

We would like to create the possibilities for people to build, shape, work on their environment, so they are able to create their own public spaces.

Small projects, developed by and with people from the beginning and at all steps, are more likely to make sense for them, meet their needs and wishes, be implemented quickly, and be cost effective.

Than any project which would only be decided by usual specialists. The underlying idea/principle is that the people, as users, are specialist of public spaces. They know their needs, preferences, wishes,... and also have the best knowledge of the places, its uses, misuses, issues...

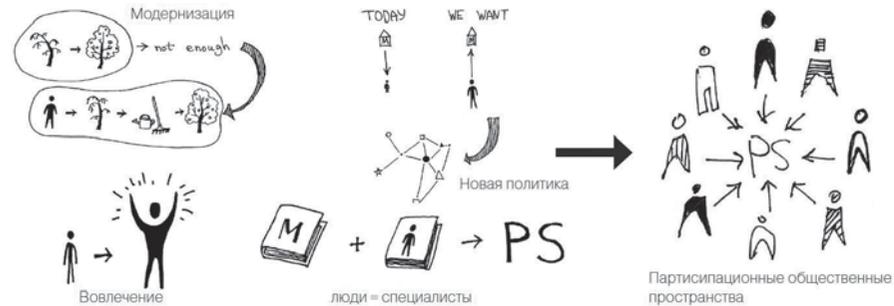


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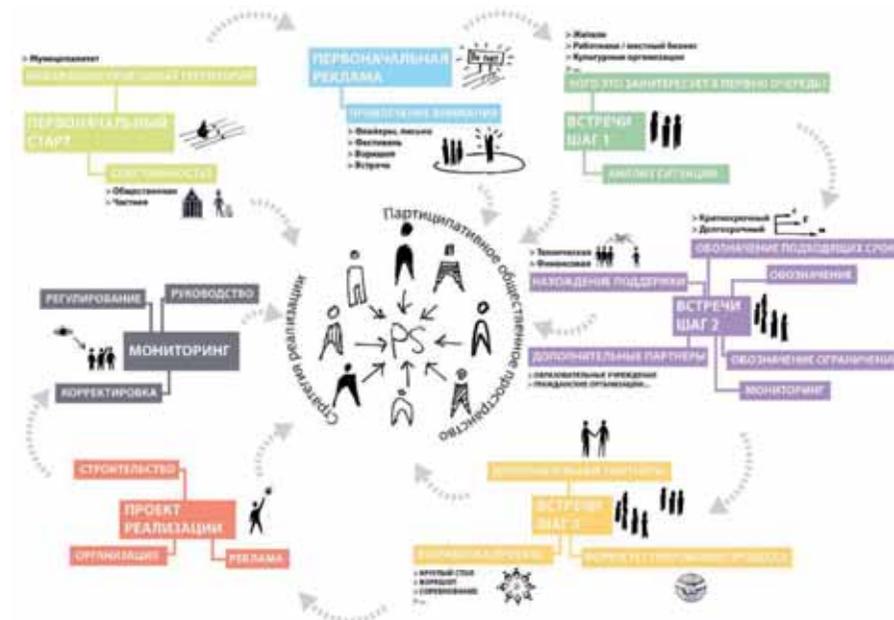


**Команда С (Партисипативные общественные пространства)**

Анализ ситуации в Иркутске позволяет увидеть дисбаланс общественных и коммерческих интересов в развитии города. В его основе лежит повсеместное влияние интересов

частных инвесторов, преобладающих над общественными интересами.

Основная идея проекта заключается в привлечении жителей к процессу формирования городской среды, поскольку только сами горожане знают свои потребности, предпочте-



Our proposition is a Participative public spaces policy, able to develop common initiatives, which could be material (facilities, installations, furniture, exhibitions...), but also immaterial (mobilisation, exchange of know-how...), temporary or long term. It paves the way for a DiverCity of uses/users and spaces.

**Strategy** to develop participative and creative public spaces projects

The participation in spatial planning remains dysfunctional in Irkutsk: the possibilities to influence the masterplan are really passive and narrow, happen too late in the process.

Also, people often don't have the skills to participate. People, residents are not

used to that participation, they will probably not make proposals or show initiative spontaneously. So it's really important that the municipality plays a new role as a project stimulator, moderator and supporter.

Identify territories of opportunity: "spots"

Work with people from the beginning

Find ways to catch people's interest in meetings, workshops and events.

Develop a partnership approach and identify the stakeholders

Partners can provide innovative ideas, technical and financial support, joint advertisement/marketing and fundraising.

Who are they? Municipal agencies (different departments), institutions, cultural and educational organisations (schools, universities, museums...), local businesses and merchants, civic associations, societies, generous neighbours...

Many major projects are cancelled because they are too big, too expensive and take too long to be implemented.

Short-term, temporary actions, cheap improvements can both help in testing ideas, developing creativity and in giving people the confidence that change is happening and that their ideas matter. This sense of ownership is essential because it increases people's support and contributions.

Then, the space can grow by experimenting, evaluating and incorporating the lessons in the next steps.

**Management: take care of the space**

The public spaces have to be well looked after. They are not static, the municipality will have to work with the people, propose new events, notice changes in the use of the space and act on them for example.

ния, пожелания, а также пространство, в котором живут.

По мнению участников, территорию исторического центра города можно условно разделить на четыре категории: развитые и неразвитые общественные пространства, уникальные места и недостаточно используемые двory. Для каждой категории предлагаются различные решения. Для площади перед цирком можно проводить народные гуляния, в неиспользуемом скверике у городской школы искусств создать открытую библиотеку и дискуссионную площадку, территория неработающей ТЭЦ по ул. Сурикова рассматривается как место развития искусства и образования, в малообстроенных дворах исторического центра предполагается разбить небольшие сады.

Воплотить эту идею поможет выделение локальных территорий, обладающих потенциальными возможностями для развития, работа с людьми с первых шагов, поиск путей для привлечения интереса жителей к участию во встречах, воркшопах, праздниках, стимулирование партнерских отношений и заинтересованных сторон.

Команда делает акцент на краткосрочность, временность действий, относительно недорогие проекты, которые могут помочь тестировать и развивать творческие идеи, стимулировать активность жителей. Пространство становится экспериментальным и развивающимся местом, где есть возможность дальнейшего совершенствования.