

The Space Pool

The Space Pool study was developed as a mechanism for evaluating and adjusting the quantum and type of public space in developing areas of our cities, where we understand the public realm as part of a 'space pool'. It establishes a framework around space and spatial allocation in the public realm and has been realised from the study of a series of successful precedent cities.

This is a powerful tool and evaluation piece that has application to a broad spectrum of public realm and urban design applications, where the quantification and type of space is critical to the evaluation and success of the public realm.

We have aptly named the study the Space Pool, a term applied to the overall open space quantum of a city sector. This 'pool' comprises a measurable area of the city and is divided into a clear hierarchical order of a variety of open space types:

Space Pool =
Primary Space +
Secondary Space +
Connective open space
(connective tissue)

To define the parameters of the Space Pool, comparative analytical research was undertaken across four precedent cities – **Amsterdam, Barcelona, Damascus and Melbourne**. These cities were selected on the basis of them being:

- / successful cultural precincts;
- / comparative in urban densities to those proposed on Saadiyat Island;
- / expressive of a variety of urban forms; and
- / varied in their climatic setting.

The study began with the selection of a representative site area from each of the four precedent cities. These areas were defined as a grid, or rectangular transect over centrally located urban areas. It was important that each subject site include culturally significant and mixed use precincts. The Space Pool was quantified by calculating the total area and then the specific portions of that area occupied by Primary, Secondary and Connective open space within the identified transect. These areas were converted to percentages and those percentages then between each of the study cities.



The Space Pool document is a set of cue cards that can 'mixed and matched' to compare qualitative and quantitative data from world precedent cities.

Space Pool study

AECOM

precedent study: amsterdam



Regional Open Space



Defining the study area

definition: primary space

- / Primary spaces are urban open spaces that intend to provide a recreational and cultural destination for people within the region.
- / They are composed of a broad mix of attractions and well defined open space programs, both active and passive.
- / They are highly integrated with the surrounding retail and food and beverage facilities.
- / They are of a scale that is comparative to other major pieces of urban infrastructure.
- / They may include several smaller scale spaces that operate as local recreational centres and also provide primary access routes for pedestrians and public transport infrastructure.
- / Primary spaces may incorporate several Secondary, Connective and Tertiary spaces within their boundaries.

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