JUNE 10, 2010

Rejuvenating Cities Together

HAMDAN ABDUL MAJEED

thinkCITY

about us

WE ARE A SOCIAL PURPOSE ORGANISATION DRIVEN BY IMPACT IN MALAYSIA

We want to make cities people-friendly and resilient by being a catalyst for change in the way cities are planned, curated, developed, and celebrated.

what we do

Placemaking

- Area improvement plan / Strategic placemaking
- Public realm improvement
- Space activation
- Place management

Resilience

- Nature-based climate adaptation
- Health & safety solutions
- Housing

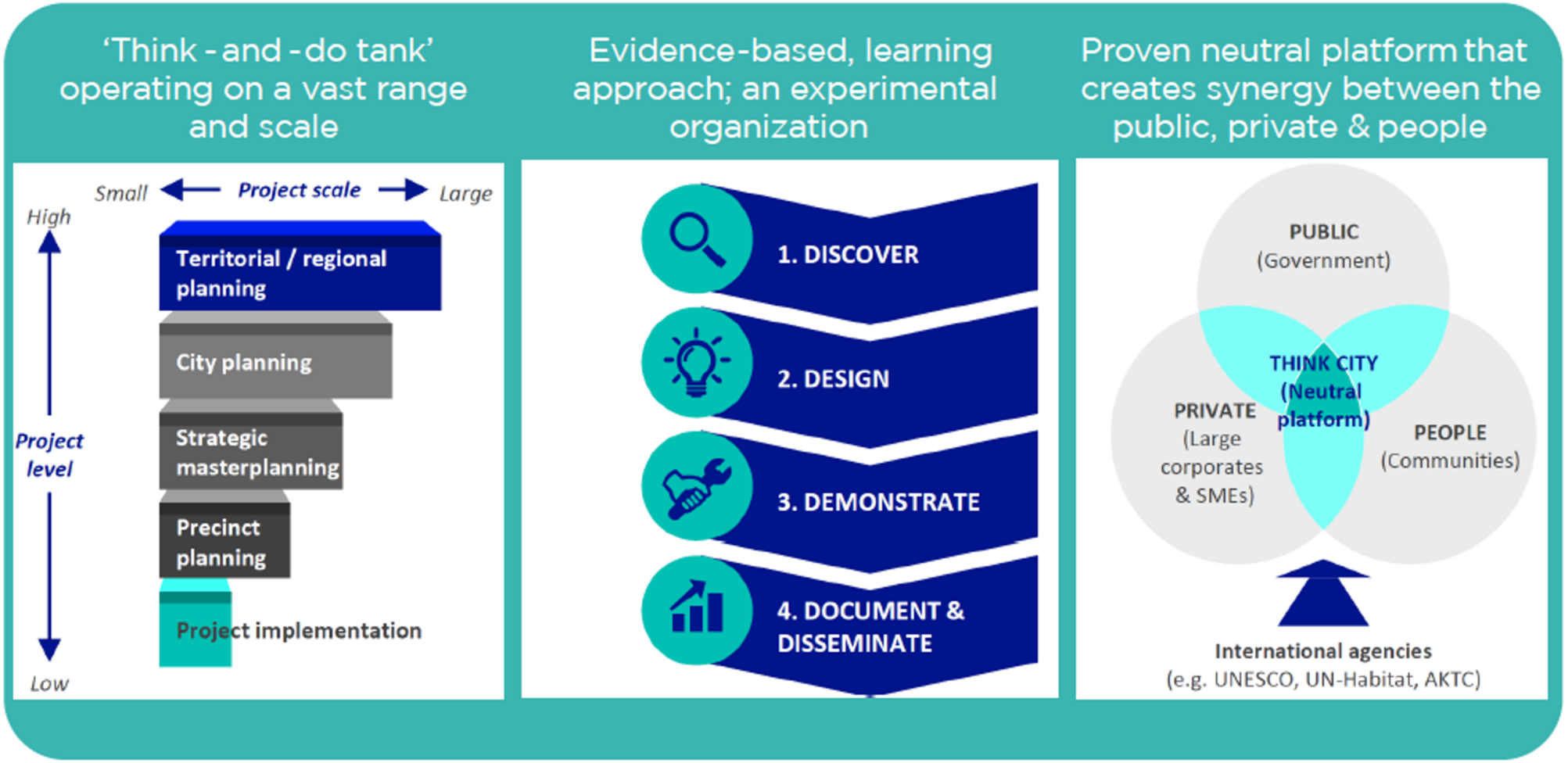
Analytics

- Baseline studies / Territorial analysis
- Strategic plans / documents
- Urban data analytics platform

Conservation

- Area conservation / Conservation management plan
- Conservation programme management & coordination
- Museology / Content curation
- Adaptive reuse strategy & management

how we're different



the city & the pandemic

CURRENT ISSUE
May/June 2020

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Magazine Regions Topics Collections Book Reviews More

The Pandemic Does Not Spell the End for Cities

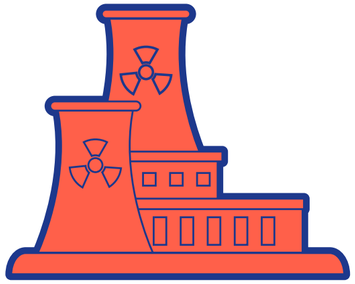
Urban Planners Should Embrace—Not Fear—Density

By Jennifer Keesmaat May 28, 2020

A pedestrian crosses a nearly deserted Times Square in New York City, May 2020
Stefan Falke / laif / Redux

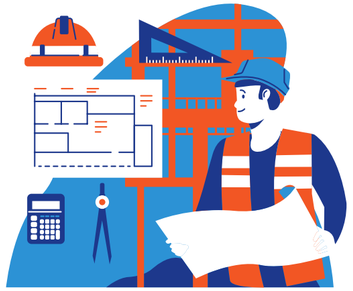
Cities are engines of innovation, growth and prosperity and will continue to be, post-COVID

55%
of the world's population and 76% of Malaysians live in urban areas today. 68% of the world will live in urban areas by 2050.



No country has grown to middle-income status without industrialisation and urbanisation

70-80%
of
the world's GDP is generated in cities



95%
of
urban expansion in the coming decades will take place in the developing world

- Cities benefit from agglomeration economies due to the density and clustering of firms and people
- The scale and network effects of agglomeration economies lead to greater innovation, growth, and prosperity
- Post-COVID, cities will continue to be engines of prosperity

Sources: World Bank; UN-Habitat; Department of Statistics, Malaysia; United Nations.

the city & the pandemic

Cities must be understood as complex systems with people at the heart of cities

Illustrative City Ecosystem

People

Businesses
Public and private investors, corporates, SMEs and startups

Community Groups
Community based organisations, NGOs and international organisations

Research Groups
Universities and research organisations

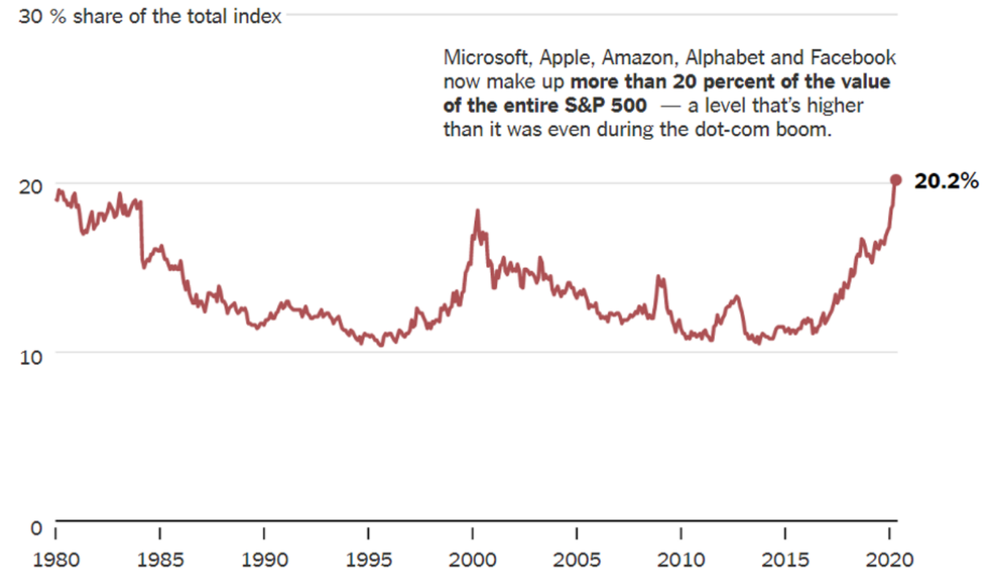
Government
National, state, and local governments, agencies and regulators

Urban Planners & Developers
Public and private property developers, planners and construction players

Infrastructure Providers
Utilities, technology, communications and transportation

COVID has accelerated tech trends that were already in place

Market capitalization of five largest S&P 500 companies



By The New York Times | Source: Goldman Sachs

diginomica

Microsoft's having 'a good war' so far as COVID-19 fuels "2 years worth of digital transformation in 2 months"

By Stuart Lauchlan April 30, 2020

Sources:
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/business/coronavirus-stocks.html;
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/apr/15/amazon-jeff-bezos-gains-24bn-coronavirus-pandemic;
https://diginomica.com/microsofts-having-good-war-so-far-covid-19-fuels-2-years-worth-digital-transformation-2-months

Technology has the potential to widen the digital divide, but it can also narrow the gap

Highlight

Economic inequality hinders Malaysia's high-income aspirations

Chester Tay & Amir Ridzwan Ismail / The Edge
October 22, 2018 09:16 am +08

Malaysia's widening income gap between rich and poor

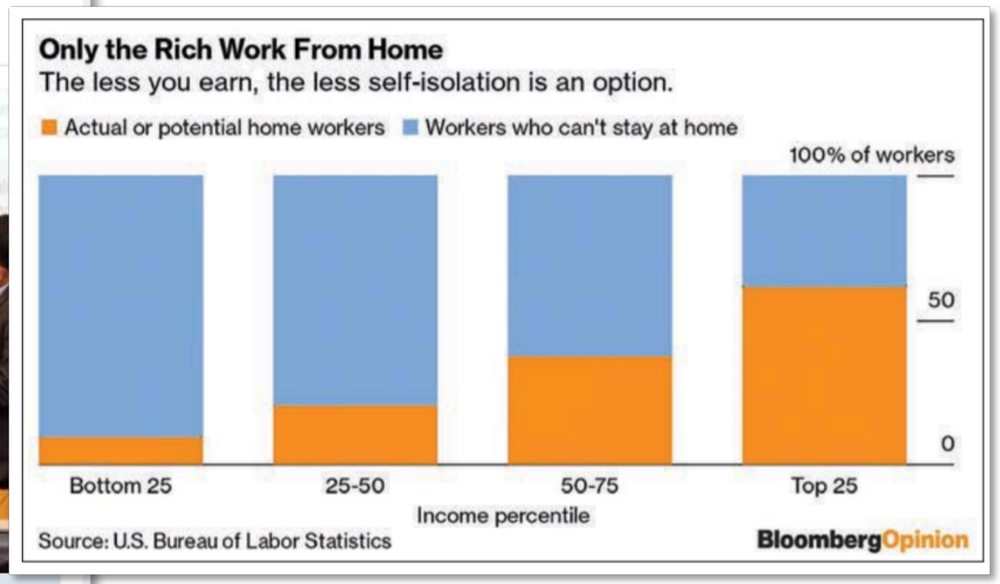
CORPORATE NEWS

Tuesday, 16 Oct 2018

Launch of State of Households 2018: Different Realities. From left to right: Datuk Hisham Hamdan, Dr Nungsari Ahmad Radhi, Allen Ng, Dr Suraya Ismail, Junaidi Mansor.

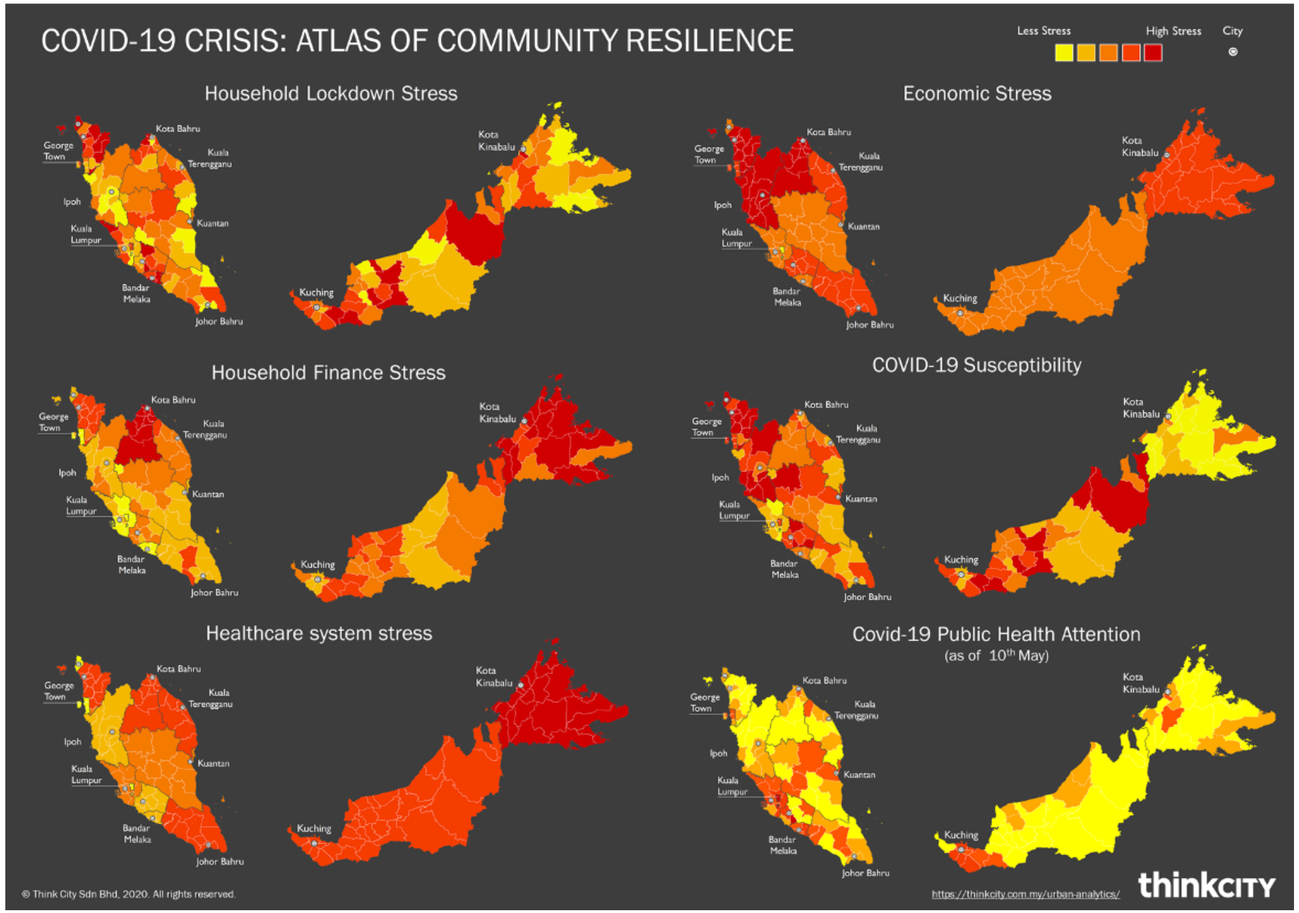
Location Data Says It All: Staying at Home During Coronavirus Is a Luxury

By Jennifer Valentino-DeVries, Denise Lu and Gabriel J.X. Dance April 3, 2020



Sources:
The Edge Financial Daily, The Star, Bloomberg;, NY Times

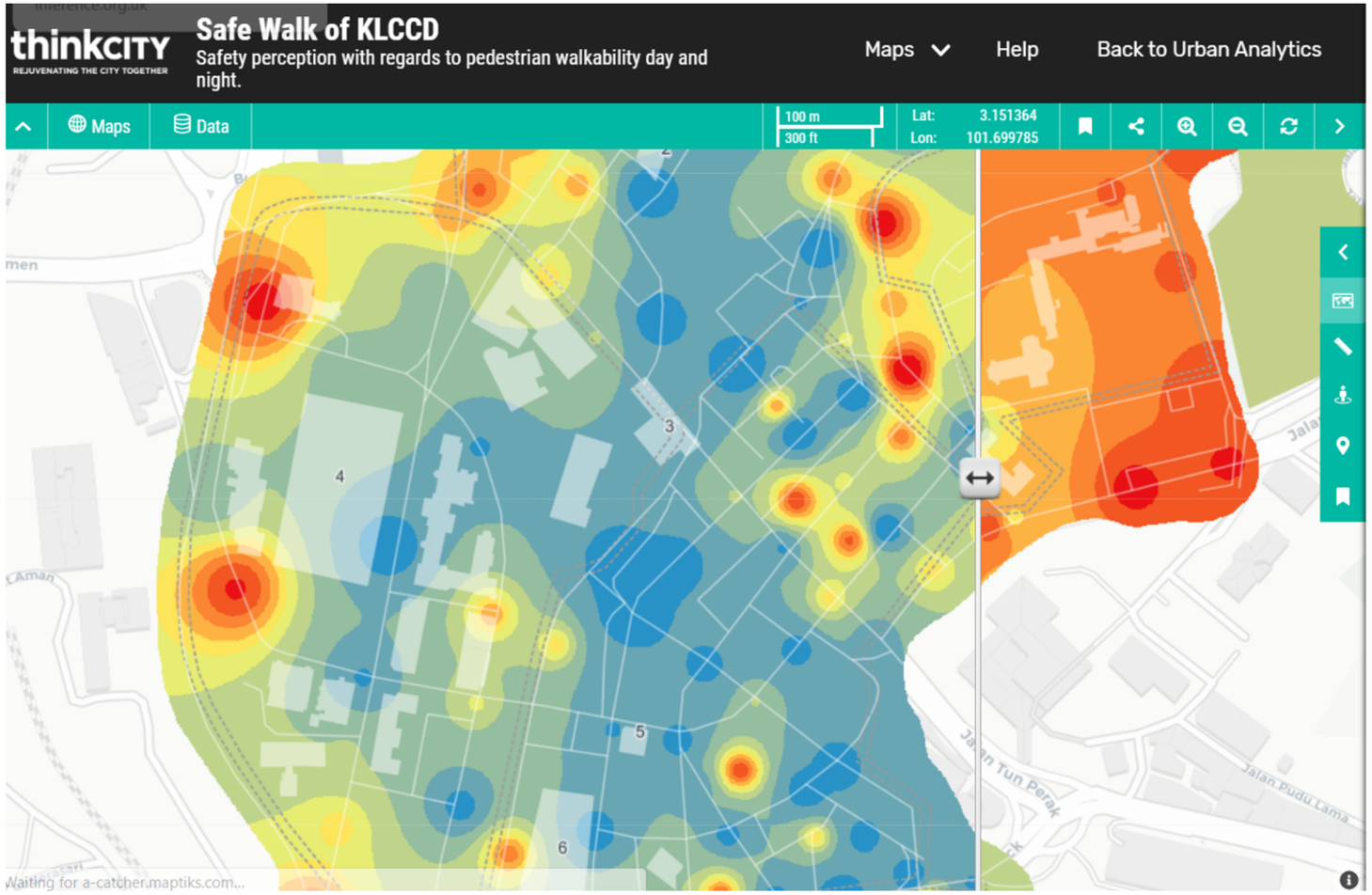
Better data can improve the understanding of our cities and communities



thinkCITY

Source:
Think City: Urban Analytics Portal

Think City uses a data-driven approach to understand cities and communities: Safe walk of the inner KL Creative & Cutural District



Safe Walk of KLCCD

Slide right for daytime analysis and left for night-time analysis.

A study by Think City shows that **15%** of public respondents didn't feel safe during the day, this number rose to **63%** in the evening.

In 2018, Think City assessed the 1-km radius around Masjid Jamek in terms of **walkability and overall comfort** throughout the day. The results paint an interesting picture, as shown in these two maps, **with blue indicating good scores** and **red indicating bad scores.**

Methodology

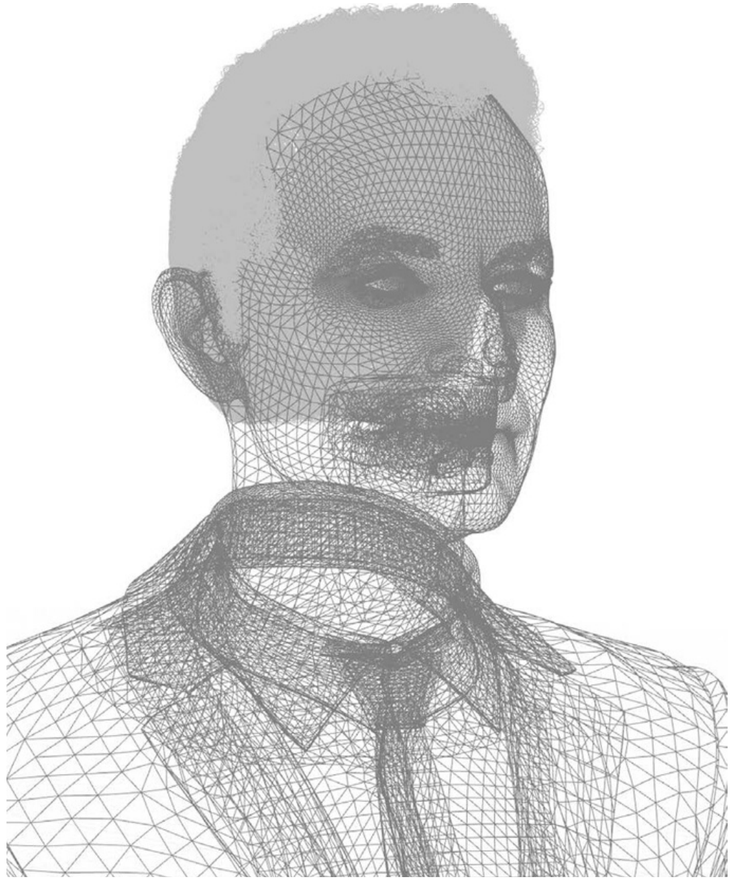
The assessment tool was adapted from the West Perth SAFE Assessment. 32 aspects within the categories of **Safety, Accessibility, Friendliness, Efficiency, and Inclusivity** were assessed for over 200 points in Downtown KL. Each point was audited 4 times on a weekday and 2 times over the weekend. Period of audit: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in October 2018.

Significant Trends and Key Insights

► Through a day and night comparison of the same area, we can see a central node of blue emerging. This path links the two major transit stations in Downtown KL– LRT Masjid Jamek in the north and LRT Pasar Seni in the south. This vibrant stretch is constantly used by pedestrians, relatively well-maintained, and is busy with commercial activity, even at night thanks to an active night-time economy. Notable

Source:
Think City: Urban Analytics Portal

Technology also equips cities for the new normal in the post-Covid world



Facial recognition for tracing & security measures

Internet of Things

Protective Tech in Public Spaces

Sources:
Digital avatar of Daniel Kalt, chief economist at UBS, created by FaceMe. Image: WundermanThompson
Internet of Things. Image: stock photo
Gunrid Air-Purifying curtain by IKEA. Image: IKEA via WundermanThompson

While concerns over the far-reaching capabilities of technology are increasing, there is hope

> "This idea that we can control our own data and our digital identity is not a figment of our imagination or a wild hope for the future, it's actually possible."
>
> - Brittany Kaiser, Data Transparency Advocate

Anti-Bullying Online Gaming Communities

Data Privacy

Sources:
Concrete Genie by Pixelopus. Image: SONY via WundermanThompson
Apple's "Private Side" advertisement. Image: Apple

cities post-covid

A smart city is not just about investing in technology, it is also about investing in people and communities

WIRED

AARIAN MARSHALL TRANSPORTATION 05.07.2020 06:38 PM

Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs Scraps Its Ambitious Toronto Project

The Google sibling envisioned a tech-enabled and eco-friendly neighborhood. But residents rebelled over plans to collect and use their data, among other things.

Sidewalk Labs proposed to redevelop a 12-acre parcel of Toronto's waterfront, along Lake Ontario. COURTESY OF SIDEWALK LABS

> **"...as unprecedented economic uncertainty has set in around the world and in the Toronto real estate market, it has become too difficult to make the 12-acre project financially viable without sacrificing core parts of the plan we had developed together with Waterfront Toronto to build a truly inclusive, sustainable community."**
>
> **Dan Doctoroff, Sidewalk Labs CEO**

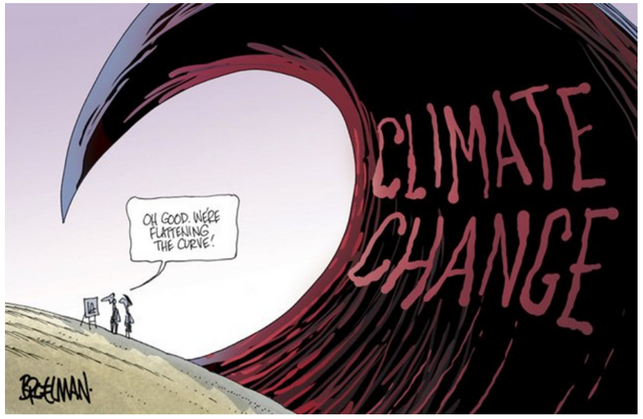
Source: Wired

Urban development must continue to consider all threats to human wellbeing

Dwindling Resources

Income Inequality & Economic Recovery

Pollution



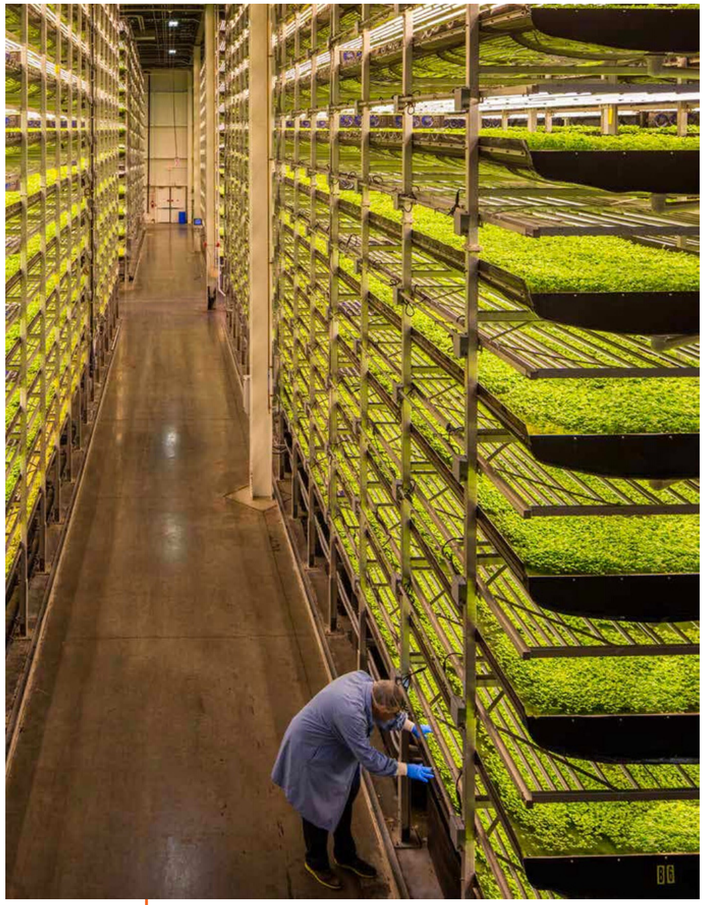
Climate Change

Disease

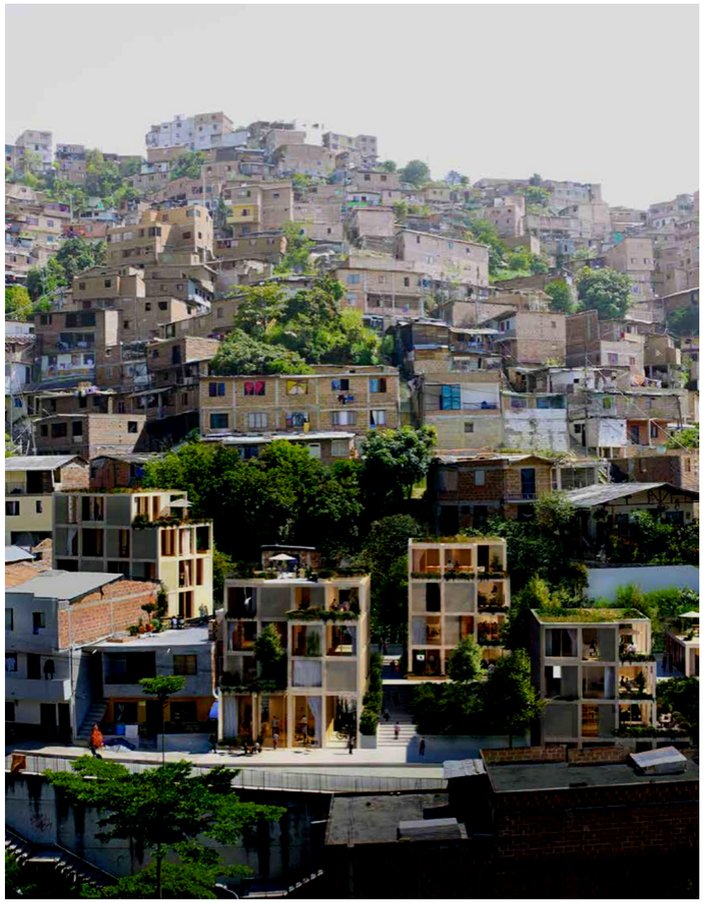
War / Terrorism

Image sources:
Unsplash, Beckhead Comics

A smart city must be a resilient, liveable and people-friendly city



Urban Farming Facilities



Affordable Co-Living in Self-Sufficient Buildings

Disaster-Proof Architecture

Sources:
Farm-to-Plane Dining Programme facility by Singapore Airlines. Image: AeroFarms via WundermanThompson
Urban Village Project by IKEA's Space 10. Image: Space 10 via WundermanThompson
Disaster-Proof Isolation House by Specht Architects. Image: Specht Architects via WundermanThompson

A smart city must be a resilient, liveable and people-friendly city

Wellness Architecture

Community Neighbourhoods

Healing Public Spaces

Sources:
Inn at Moonlight Beach, California. Image: WundermanThompson
Armenian Park, Penang. Image: Think City
Fast Healing Den (3Den) at Hudson Yards, NYC. Image: Wunderman Thompson

Thank You

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REJUVENATING CITIES TOGETHER