

# **Lovable City: Maintaining Our Beliefs While Living in a Changing World and Building Towards a Better Society**

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# Introduction

**How to hold onto our beliefs in a changing world and toward a better society is a challenge faced by both China and the Western World.**

**Confucius (551 BC – 479 BC) said, Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles.**





**People Holding Their Beliefs  
Around The World**





**A Better Society works like a net, people inside interact with each other.**



**A Better Society With Love**

**“Lovable City” concentrates on analysis of the socio-psychological role of love in a city and the way to enhance it.**

# Backgrounds

■ Motivation

■ Related Work

**Why do we do this research?**

# Motivation

- **People's feelings and emotions for a city always change with time.**
  
- **The change in the social relations**  
**From communities to societies, where the modern relation of people is more complex, and where the aim is more individuals.**
  
- **The change in the economy**  
**With a new economy which develop capitalist behavior, people concentrate too much on gaining wealth.**
  
- **The changes in the population**  
**With the immigration from small cities to large cities, the competition become more fierce.**

- **China is still in the process of physical planning, the planning practices focus more on aesthetic values and the need to meet the government officials' tastes and demand of cities, which lead to a major problem:**

**Lack of consideration for the public's needs and continuance of urban planning!**



**Government Building in Dantu, China**

**The main purpose of this research is to find a way to minimize the negative change of our cities, maintain our beliefs and build towards a better society.**

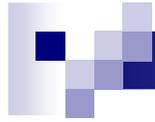
## Related Work

- **Jane Jacobs, whose book “The Death and Life of Great American Cities” (1961) became a rallying point for those who wished for the enhancement of their cities in addition to holding onto their beliefs by protecting their neighborhoods and lifestyles.**
- **John Friedmann, believes the good society is that ordering of human relations that allows us to live more fully in the life of dialogue. The Good Society continuously creates and recreates itself within the world. The chain of people’s dialogue remains unbroken.**
- **Jan Gehl, whose thoughtful work “Life Between Buildings” (1980), gives a foresight into the image of “Lovable City” and a useful theoretical tool for planning it such as the character of space – to invite or repel.**



# Conception of “Lovable City”

- **The spirit and nature of Lovable City is love. It is the city strongly loved by both residents and visitors, both livable and enjoyable, and is the essence of both the good city and good society.**
- **More than just a city, Lovable City serves as the embodiment of intimacy, a richness of passion and an eternity of commitment. Almost universally evocative, it serves for those wanting to have a homey and friendly experience.**

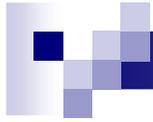


# **Significance of “Lovable City”**

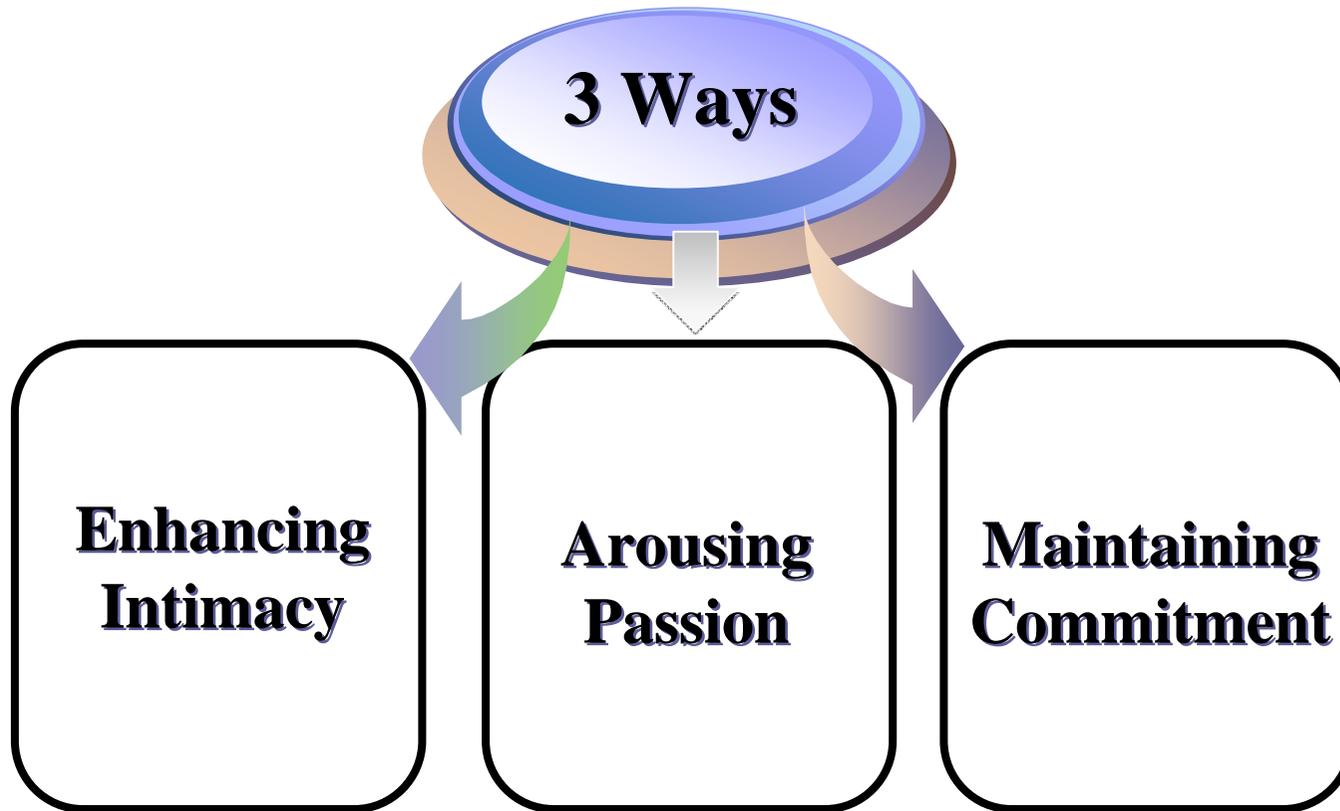
**Why do we need “Lovable City”?**

- **Lovable City comprises the entire spectrum of activities, which combine to make communal spaces in cities meaningful and attractive. How a city looks and feels and the attractions it offers mark it as being different from all others. (Urban Personality----The Unique Characteristic of A City).**
- **Lovable City creates positive social relationships in cities, contributes to the richness of its residents' social life, makes people become real urban life participants.**
- **Lovable City could meet different needs for contact.**

**Lovable City offers an opportunity to be with others in a relaxed and undemanding way. There would be a plenty of options at people's disposal.**



# **How do we plan a Lovable City?**



-----For Lovable City

## **Enhancing Intimacy**

**Intimacy is the feeling of closeness. It refers to the close feeling of users to an urban environment, both physical and mental.**

**The relationship between distance and closeness has an important parallel in the prevalent perception of urban dimensions. Intimate distance (0 to 45 centimeters) is the distance at which intense feelings are expressed: tenderness, comfort, love.**

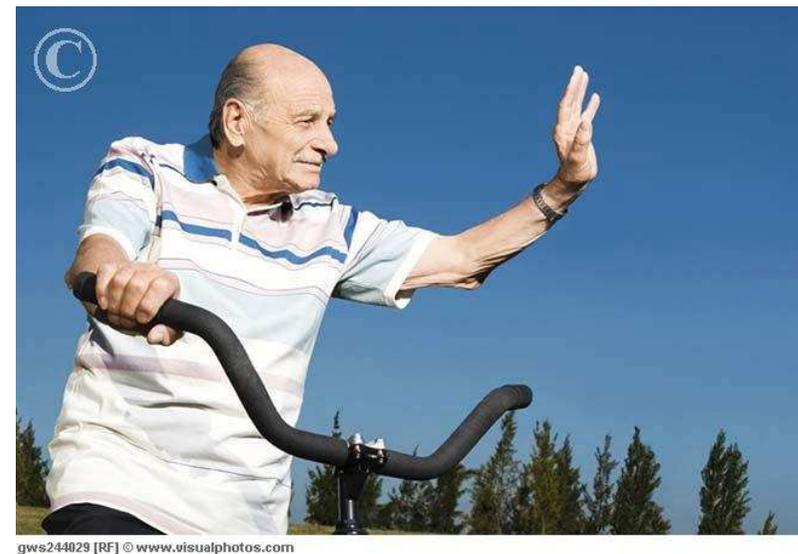
**Intimacy also provides a reasonable amount of time in which to see and process visual impressions. In a city, if the speed of movement is increased, the possibility of discerning details and processing meaningful social information drops sharply.**

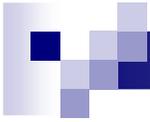
**Enhancing intimacy includes both creation of love and making the lost love return.**

**The creation of love comprises stressing on humanistic urban planning and design to make people experience social love and increasing soft space.**

**Making the lost love return refers to the protection of old buildings, especially some unremarkable or even valueless broken ones.**

**Intimate spaces need small and simple, not large and complicated dimensions.**





**Roof Greening, Wuhan, China**

# Thinking on Scale

- Impersonal large spaces or tall government building never make people feel intimacy or modesty

**Not all small cities are lovable cities!**



- **Big cities can also make people feel “intimacy” because they give freedom to personal life and give people their own private time. Everyone is allowed to be themselves.**

# Arousing Passion

## Why is passion important for Lovable City?

**Passion is a uniquely stimulating and inspiring experience of the citizens. Today's trend of living in loveless cities that has welcomed industrialization, segregation of various city functions, and reliance on the automobile has caused cities to become duller and more monotonous. This highlights an important need, namely the need for passion.**

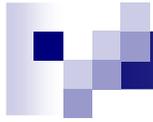


**Arousing passion includes both public experience and public participation.**

**Public experience refers to the public cognition and evaluation for a city with a need to create ideal conditions for people's experience in cities in a practical way.**

**Public participation stresses on free and flexible urban design. Lovable City should provide the possibility of free and flexible choice that make users get involved and arouse their passion for planning their own cities.  
(DIY Project!!)**

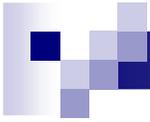
**Experiencing other people represents a particularly colorful and attractive opportunity for stimulation.**



**In modern societies and large cities, participation is a democracy form and a way to put anybody in situation to be respectable.**



**interaction**



**Monotonous Landscape in New-Built Cities, Dantu, China**

# Maintaining Commitment

Commitment is the continuity of people's love for a city. The eternity of love mainly depends on the degree of satisfaction and loyalty.

People's commitment refers to the strong feeling and desire to stay for a lifetime.

The city's commitment refers to providing resources, places, and opportunities in order to help people make their dreams come true.

City is like family: If husband and wife have a strong commitment to both each other and to their children, all the members of the family will have a strong feeling of belonging.



**One of the biggest keys to obtaining the love and maintenance of commitment is to balance both the need to enhance the city economically and enhance the quality of life for the citizens.**

**To combat this resistance of change, city leaders and officials and urban planners must be personable and address the city and acknowledge the concerns that certain changes will bring.**

**Enhancing a city is never a temporary fix!**

**Furthermore, once the benefits of beneficial city planning are realized by the residents, then they will be more apt to continue to love and appreciate their city and maintain the commitment to keeping it beautiful and appealing.**

# Diversity With Equality

Diversity with equality means ensuring that people with different needs have equality of opportunity and outcome.

## 1. Multifunction of “Lovable City”

The nature of lovable city makes it a city of different cultures and backgrounds and will definitely maintain an international reputation for acceptance and/or tolerance of different lifestyles, especially protection of vulnerable groups.

**The goal of feeling love for one should not be achieved at the expense of another!!**

## 2. Concern for “Vulnerable” Groups

Attention should be paid to urban minorities or vulnerable groups. Of all the possible Pareto Optimality scenarios, the just choice would be that whose lowest class is the most advantaged.

## 3. China’s Current Situation on Diversity

Gender, income levels, and disability are key issues at the root of much discrimination in Chinese society and the interest of government and the public usually is blurred.

**Is ‘Harmonious Society’ really harmonious?**



**Cleveland Pride**

# **The failure of mixed-income communities**

- **In France, urban planners do experiments to make people live in mixed-income communities to pursue for a harmonious social result. However, the fact is, either the rich or the poor move out from the community.**
- **The rich seek for high quality of life.**
- **The poor seek for low living cost.**
- **With different concentration, it's hard to make them live together.**

# A Loveless City = A Ghost City

We take examples from the opposite perspective to show what a city could become without love, a ghost city. In ghost cities, where social experiences are framed by calculability, detachment, and reserve, there are the ever-present conditions for loneliness and isolation.



Cause of Ghost City	Dantu	Yebe
Similarity	Fast rates of expansion in construction; Outdoor space with poor quality	
Difference	Lack of infrastructure, especially for Vulnerable Groups; Lack of „Urban Personality“	Financial Crisis; Supply more than Demand; Poor Public Security

**Does A “Lovable City” = A Perfect City?**

## **Should we wish for the perfect lovable city?**

**What urban planners and designers can do is only to maximize the love for as many different groups as possible.**

**Because of imperfection, the planning of lovable city should not be an ideal end but a dynamic process.**

# Conclusion

**A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.**

**Lovable city is a city of foresight, not a short-term investment.**

**Our goal is to set you off on journeys of searching for your own lovable city because your lovable city may not be mine.**

**Only with love can a city be sustained and developed; and the life of city could last forever.**

# Outlook to the future

- **Lovable City**  **Lovable Region**
- **Principle: All for one; One for all!**
- **Planning for each city in a region should not be divided, but plan as a whole**
- **Cooperation not Competition!**

- **I am in the city with you.**
- **We walk in the city.**
- **We live in the city.**
- **I imagine the city in the embodiment of intimacy, richness of passion, and eternity of commitment.**
- **Its name is lovable city.**
- **Music played in it.**
- **The birds sing in it.**
- **We talk on the phone in it,**
- **Watch people in it,**
- **And shop together.**
- **With your head on my shoulder.**
- **My heart is as light as a feather.**
- **And our love for the city will never end...**





Thank you !