



University of Cihan
College of Arts & Letters
Department of Interior Design

Open spaces in the city

Assistant Lecturer: Alhan Faris Ibrahim
B.Sc. in Architectural Engineering
MSc in Architectural Engineering – Urban Design



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Definition:

- **Open space** can be defined as land and water in an urban area that is not covered by buildings, or as any undeveloped land in an urban area. It is also the space and the light above the land.



- Open spaces are wide-open areas that can be fluid to the extent that the city can flow into the park and the park can flow into the city.
- Open space has been described from a user's point of view as being an area that allows for different types of activities encompassing necessary, optional and social activities.



Urban Open Spaces:

- They are vital part of urban landscape with its own specific set of function. They contribute in maintaining ecological health, the quality of life, environmental benefits, and social psychological services. They are places to celebrate cultural diversity.



- In land use planning, urban open space is open space areas for "parks", "green spaces", and other open areas. The landscape of urban open spaces can range from playing fields to highly maintained environments to relatively natural landscapes. They are commonly open to public access.

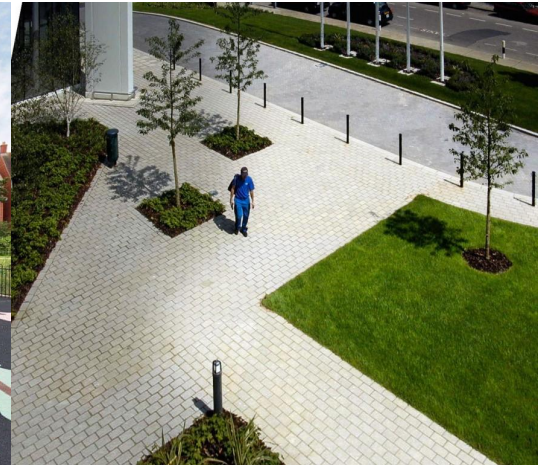


The benefits and opportunities of Open Spaces:

1. Plays an important educational role like “learning through landscape”.
2. It is ecologically significant by the conservation of nature and preservation of environment, also it provides sustainable living in cities with impact on local climate.
3. Aesthetic value or the beauty of the open space.



4. Public health, by physical, social and mental wellbeing.
5. It is important for social interaction representing in Active and Passive recreation (Active such as football and hockey, Passive such as looking at views, resting, reading and meeting friends).
6. Community development.
7. It is supportive of economic objectives and activities.
8. Physical activities such as playing sports, testing skills and exercising.



Open Space Typologies:

- Kevin Lynch developed a typology for open space that identified them by **hard open space** which they are regional parks, squares, plazas, linear parks, adventure playgrounds, wasteland, playgrounds and playing fields. Other typologies focused on **green open spaces**.

Al-Qalaah open space In Erbil



There are many types of open spaces such as:



Water ways



playground



Green areas



Playing field



parks



plaza



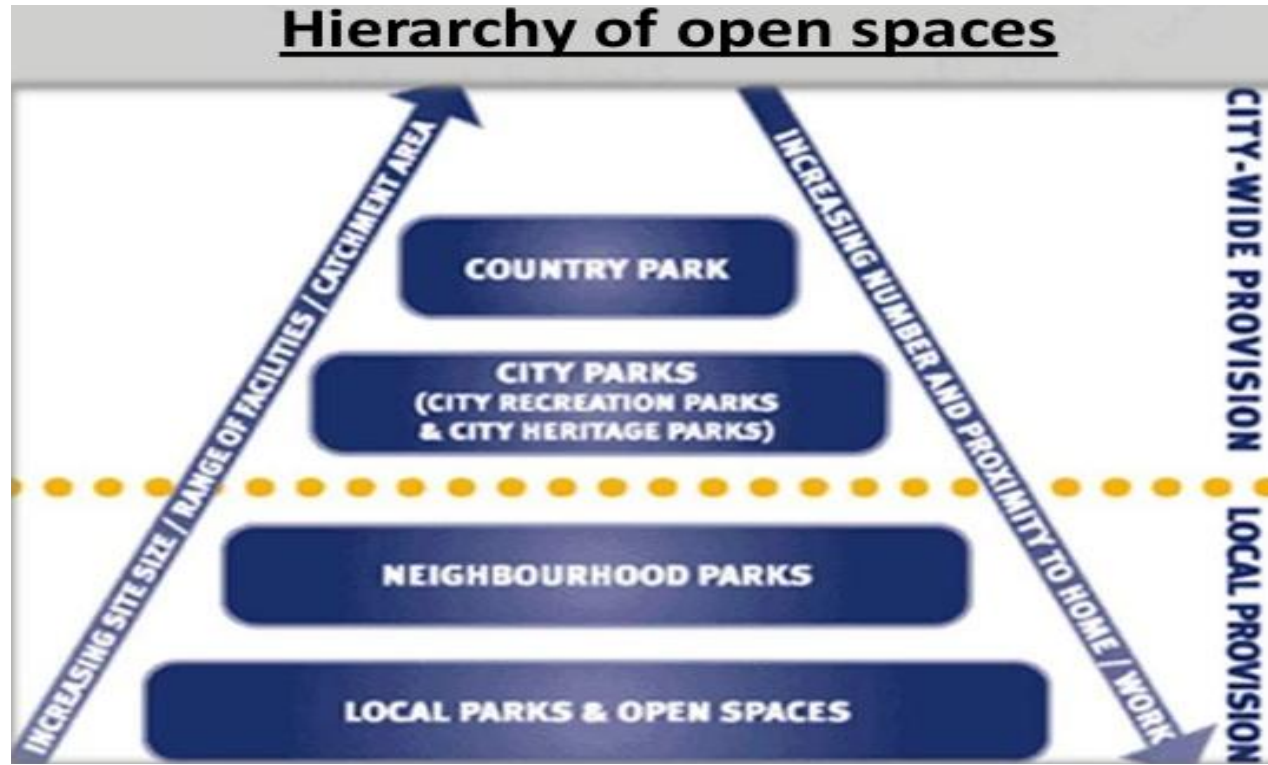
square



Street

Classification of open spaces:

1. Unit level
2. Cluster level
3. Neighborhood level
4. Urban level



Domestic urban open spaces:

- They are those open spaces in the urban context that are physically closest to home. These include spaces that are integral within a housing area, private gardens and community gardens.



Neighborhood urban open spaces:

- They are those open spaces which are part of the neighborhood in two ways. First of all they are physically further from home than domestic urban open spaces, for examples parks, playgrounds, playing fields and sports grounds, school playgrounds, streets, city farms and natural green space.



Civic and Commercial urban open spaces:

- The largest number of urban open spaces Through the city, they are also including squares & plazas, ports & docks.





Manarah Park In Erbil





Shanadar Park In Erbil





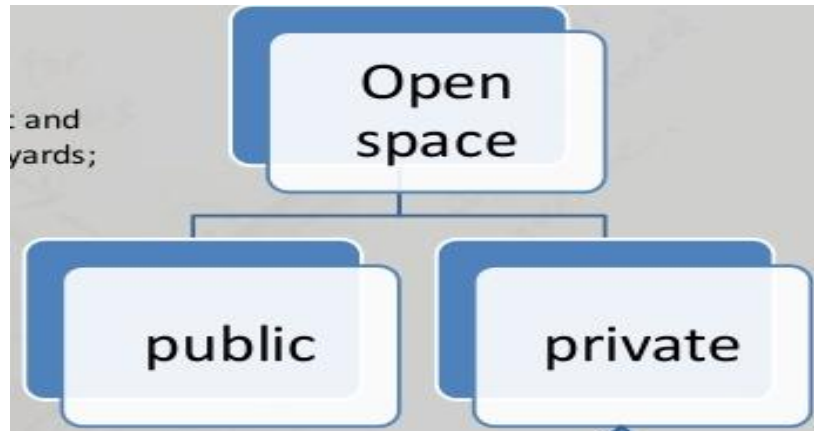
Sami Abdul Rahman Park in Erbil



Sami Abdul Rahman Park in Erbil

Public open spaces:

- They are open spaces which are accessible to the public such as landscaped medians with seating, public gardens and public plazas.
- They are all the parts of the urban fabric to which the public has physical and visual access. They extend from the streets, park, and square of a town or city into the buildings which enclose and line them.



Private open spaces:

- They are open spaces which are not publicly accessible or is available only to limited users.

Active open space:

- Open spaces that is used for sports, exercise or active playing.

Passive open space:

- Open spaces that is used for relaxation, such as sitting or reading, including seating, lawns and gardens.



Roles of Public open space:

1. Ability to support, facilitate and promote public life.
2. Provide opportunities for individuals and communities to develop and enrich their lives.
3. Meeting place for different social groups.
4. A space for the display of symbols and images in society.



5. A part of the communication system between urban activities.
6. Urban public space should provides easy and safe access for all, facilitate a variety of activities, a sense of belonging, a sense of community, increases awareness and interest in the environment and provides enjoyment and social contact.



Recommendations:

1. It must consider providing the open space when designing any domestic or urban community.
2. It is recommended to consider the number of people that they will use the open space to calculate the perfect area for the open land.
3. Open space in the same environment should consists of green areas, squares, plazas, water surfaces, pedestrians pathways, and playing fields.
4. Considering the urban context of the city in designing any open space, such as organic context or grid, historic or modern.
5. Providing all needed facilities in the open space, such as rain sewage, w.c cabins, shops, shades, and trash bins.

Thank you

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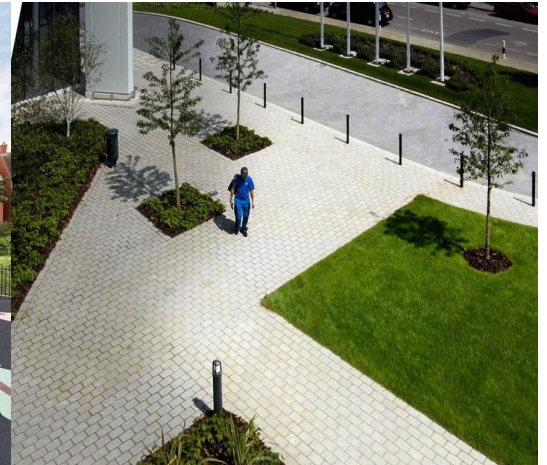


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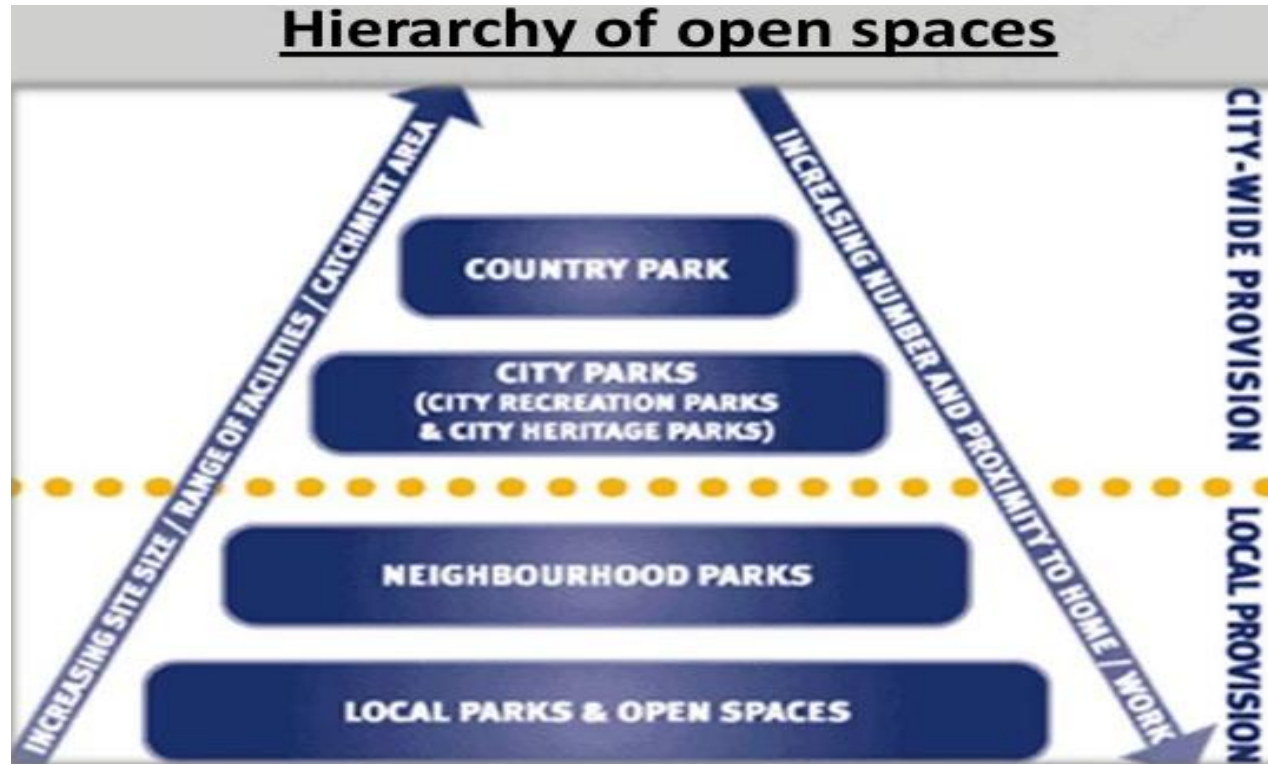
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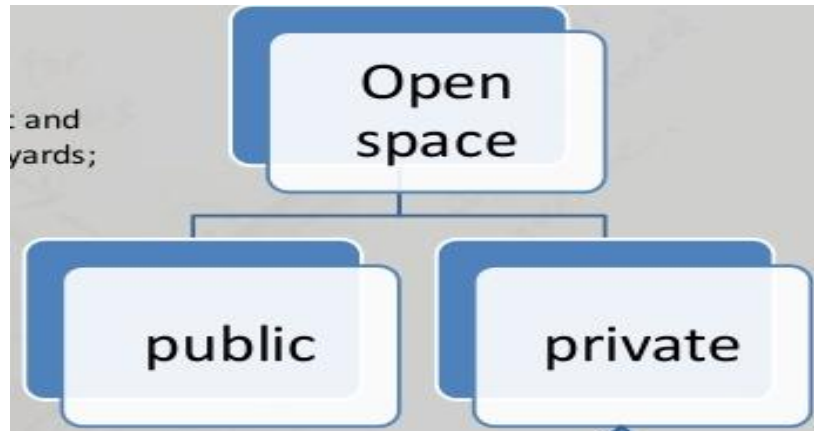
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