

Cities Alive

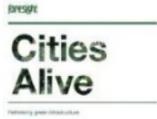
Designing for urban childhoods

Felicitas zu Dohna, Arup Foresight

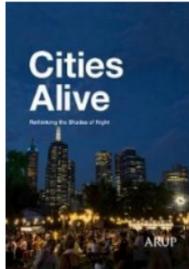
Better Air Quality Conference

Kuching 2018

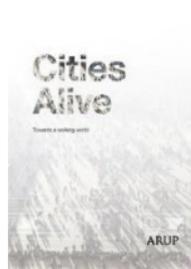
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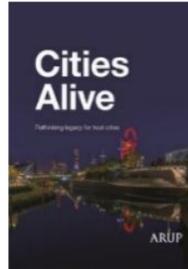
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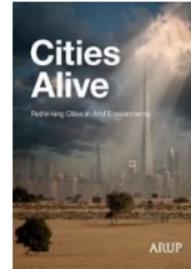
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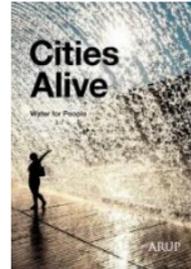
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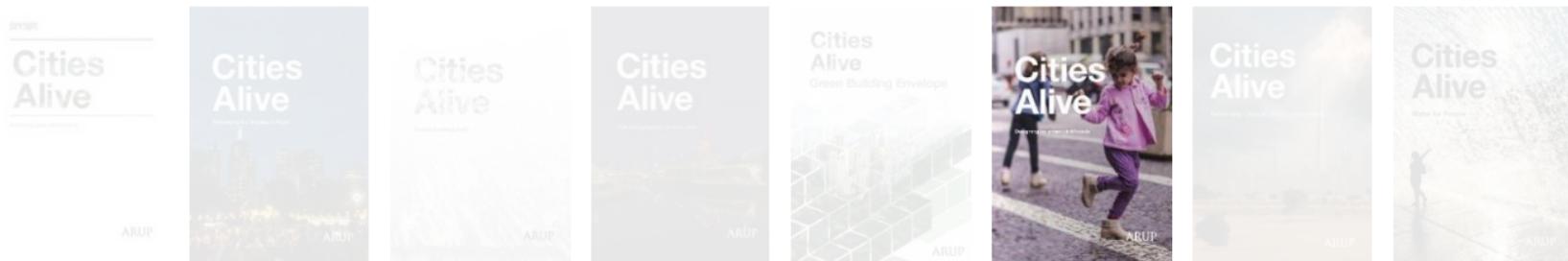
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Cities Alive: Designing for urban childhoods





Four key insights



1. A catalyst for improving cities

Focusing on the needs of children has the potential to act as a **unifying theme to navigate complex challenges** and **gain support for progressive ideas.**



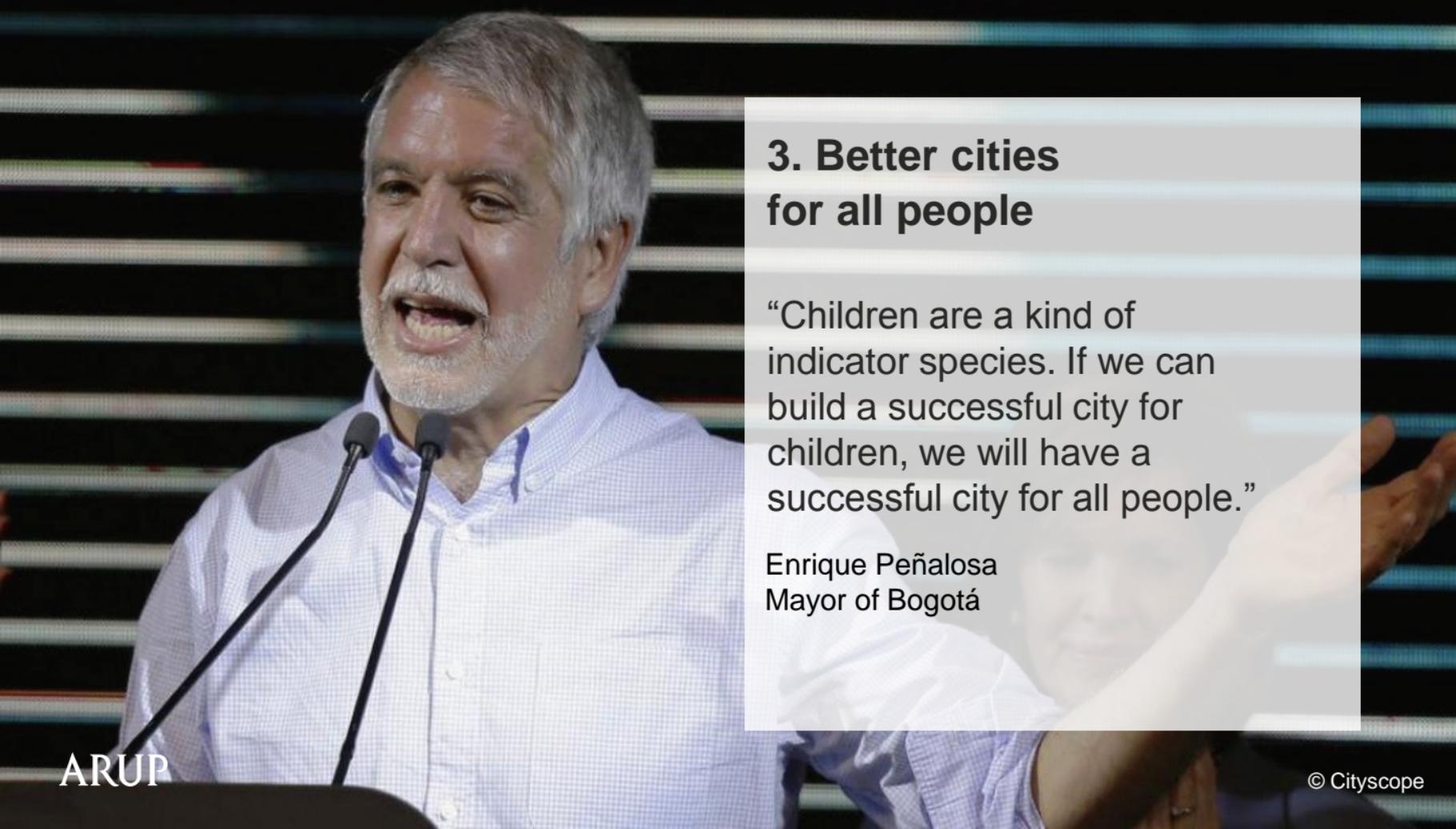
2. Ensuring our global future

The effects of air pollution are **more damaging to babies and young children than adults.**³

Children are **37%** more exposed to air pollution than adults.⁴

³ Royal College of Physicians, 2016

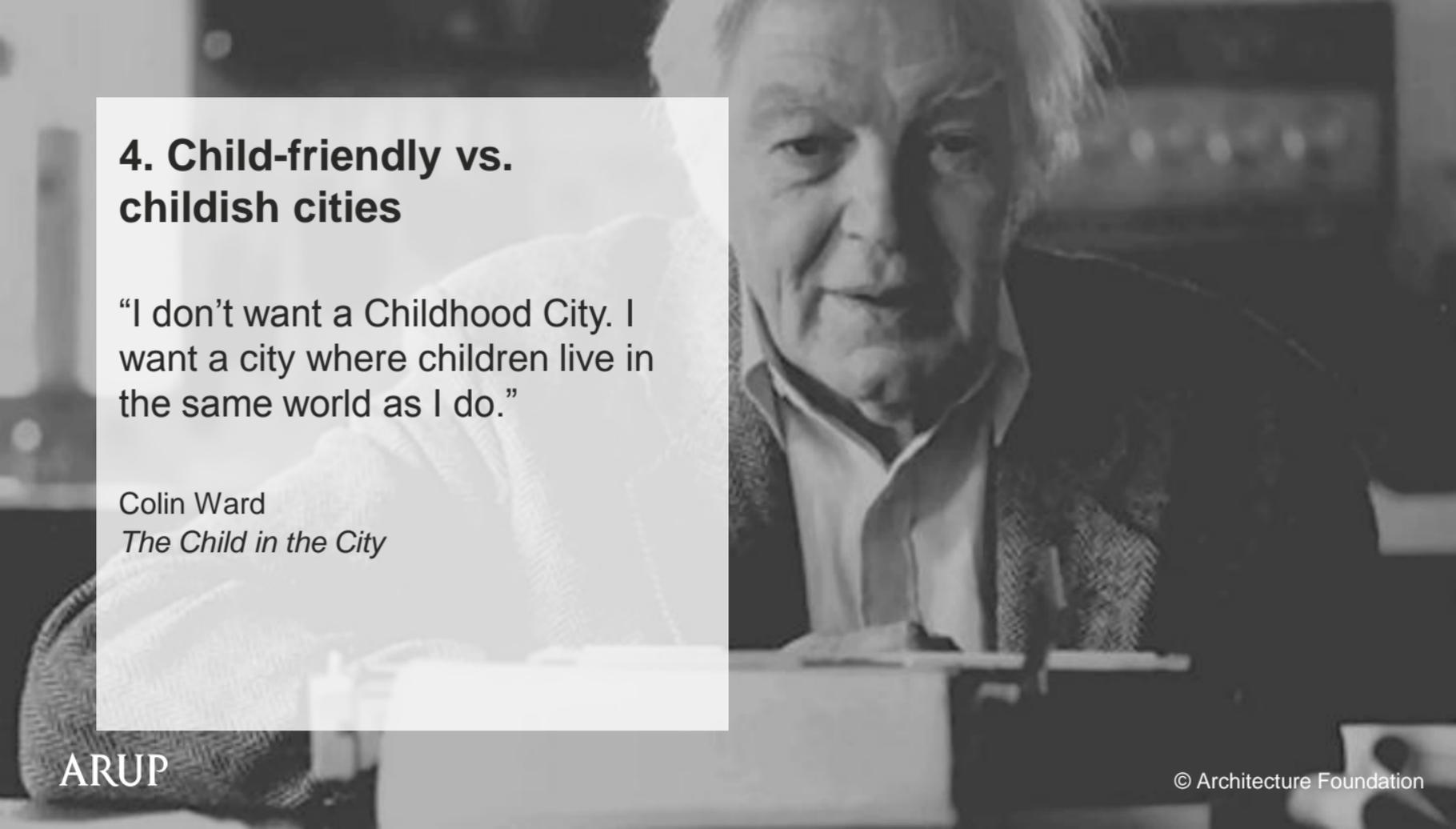
⁴ Deutsche Umwelthilfe, 2018

A photograph of Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogotá, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and has a grey beard. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is a blurred cityscape at night.

3. Better cities for all people

“Children are a kind of indicator species. If we can build a successful city for children, we will have a successful city for all people.”

Enrique Peñalosa
Mayor of Bogotá

A black and white photograph of Colin Ward, an elderly man with white hair, sitting at a desk. He is wearing a light-colored sweater over a collared shirt. In front of him is a typewriter. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window or a wall with some objects.

4. Child-friendly vs. childish cities

“I don’t want a Childhood City. I want a city where children live in the same world as I do.”

Colin Ward
The Child in the City



**Recommendations
for more child-friendly cities**

A photograph of three children playing in a lush garden. The garden is filled with tall green grasses and various plants. In the background, there are trees and a brick building. The children are engaged in play, with one holding a small object. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant outdoor environment.

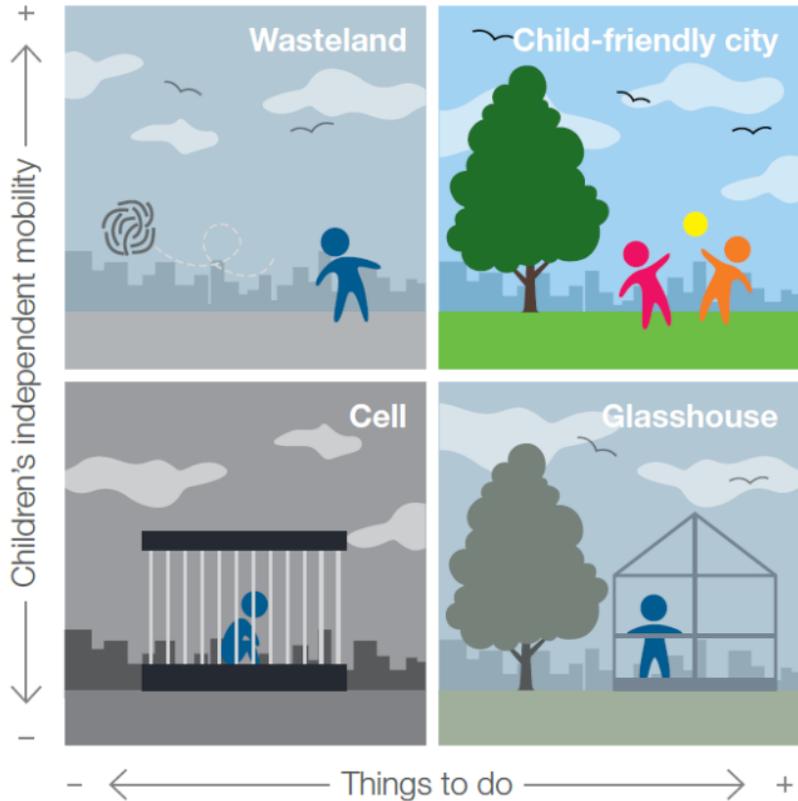
Enhancing **Children's infrastructure**

The **network of spaces, streets, nature and interventions** which make up the key features of a child-friendly city.



Allowing for **Everyday freedoms**

Playful behaviours and freedom to explore should be **part of everyday life**, throughout the city.



Providing Places to go, things to do

Child-friendliness as a relationship between **the availability of things to do** in an environment and the **levels of freedom or independent mobility** a child has to explore and enjoy them.

Illustration © Arup, based on the work of Marketta Kyttä

A photograph of two young children, likely twins, wearing grey hooded sweatshirts. They are leaning forward, looking out of a window. The background outside the window is a blurred city street with buildings and a car. The image is used as a background for the text overlay.

Designing from a **Child's perspective**

Opportunity areas for interventions and **insight** into children's unique requirements in regards to **scales** and **ranges**.

A young girl with long brown hair is sitting on a large tree root by a stream. She is wearing a bright pink and black jacket, blue jeans, and colorful sneakers. She has a backpack on her back with a white patterned bag and a red water bottle. She is holding a pencil and writing in a notebook. The background shows a stream with white water and a forest.

Recognising the Role of co-creation

Engagement across all project phases and innovative ways of **understanding children's needs.**

Building on **Temporary interventions**

Experiments and **bottom-up action** can turn temporary interventions into **permanent solutions**.



A low-angle shot of a child swinging on a swing set. The child is wearing a yellow shirt and shorts, and is captured mid-swing, with their arms and legs extended. The background shows a multi-story brick building under a clear blue sky. The image has a warm, golden glow, particularly on the right side.

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