

Urban design + housing

DL/October 2012

Relationships and freedom

We think living is about friends, family and neighbourhoods. It is about being able to talk to people close to you. It is about friends growing up together, neighbourliness and being part of a community.

Relationships matter. Living is having a connection with old friends and family and meeting new people. Living places are about happiness, safety, space, legacy, good health, fun, being supported. Living places are loving and comfortable. Mobility, independence and spaces for interaction make living possible. These are important to help grow the commitments and structures for social relationships.

We think freedom is important. It matters to feel free to be yourself, to choose your own food and clothes, to travel around. This is about open-mindedness, adapting and, trying new things. Living places are about making new friends, appreciating what you have, sharing your own culture, exchanging cultures.. We also think it is important sometimes to be alike, and blend with the natives. Learning is part of freedom, and happiness

Settings for living

“a place where people say ‘hi’”

We think safe intimate neighbourhoods with secure outdoor spaces are important. They allow for an extended concept of home, home beyond the walls of the house, where your place is your home. This is about developing familiarity, getting a sense of safety, a place where people say ‘hi’. Safe places help us relax, be more intimate. Safety is about a place that I can see something familiar, so it doesn’t feel so far away from where I come from

Places to live have convenient facilities, like a gym, cinema, supermarket, restaurant, shopping centre. In these places, it is easy to go to the shop, or visit museums, or attend concerts. There is easy access to amenities, proximity of friends and family, with outdoor spaces and activities close by. You might have your own garden, or do your favourite sport. It is about doing things you enjoy, the little things in life

Connected lives

“Creating memories”

Living for young people is about creating memories. It is about travelling, meeting people, having fun, creating fun, hedonism. It is exciting, taking opportunities to explore the world, living life to the limit, being free. Living is about time with colleagues and friends, in good bars and shops in exciting places like cities.

Living is also about creating life, creating structure, establishing yourself, forward planning. Stability is when important relationships are galvanised. It means taking responsibilities, getting a nice house, settling down and at the same time exploring the world. There is structure with commitment.

“being able to spend time alone with your child outdoors”

We think supporting network are important for young families with children. We think young families want a work life balance. This means being able to separate work from family life smoothly everyday, not letting one aspect of life affect the other adversely. This is about inter generational interaction, with easy access to advice, sympathy and empathy, help with sleep. It is about Mom! Public services relationships are also important, for childcare and doctors. Relationships with other moms also matter.

“Doing all the things you wanted”

We think the recently retired share a sense of freedom. They can go anywhere. For them living is doing all the things you wanted when you were working. It is about new experiences, enjoying moments. We think living places for older people are about comfort, seating, sense of safety, close amenities, access, independence, and relationships with family and communities. We think staying connected is particularly important when there is a loss of a partner or illness. Connections are an important part of legacy.