

An aerial photograph of Singapore, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous high-rise apartment buildings and a large harbor filled with many ships. The city is situated on a peninsula, with the water extending to the right and top of the frame.

# Big Data for Urban Design and Planning

Bige Tunçer

Associate Professor and Associate Head of Pillar  
Architecture and Sustainable Design  
Singapore University of Technology and Design

World Bank Learning Event, 25-6-2018

Image source: <http://mothership.sg/2015/07/photographer-shoots-airborne-aerial-images-of-singapore-from-helicopters/>

The use of 'big data' as an enabler of the smart city vision

Technology itself can't automatically transform and improve cities and the lives of their inhabitants

Some characteristics of big data (Laney, 2001)

Volume (a huge amount of data)

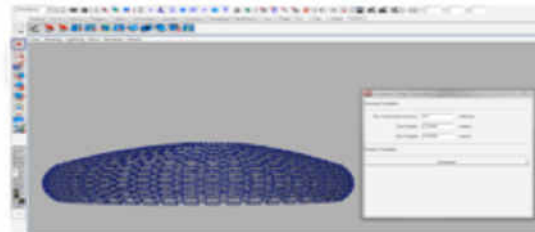
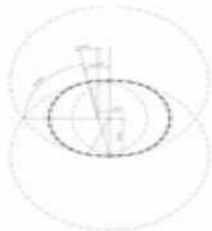
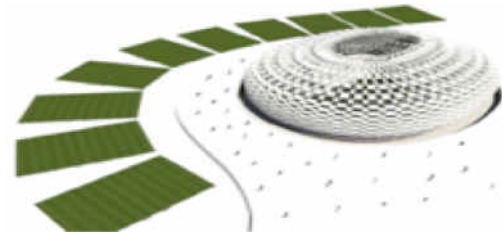
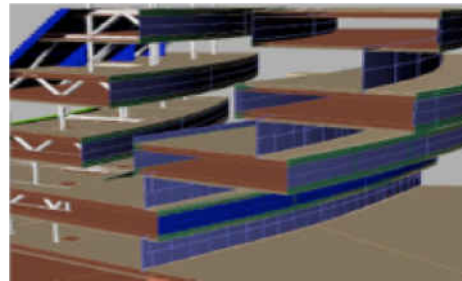
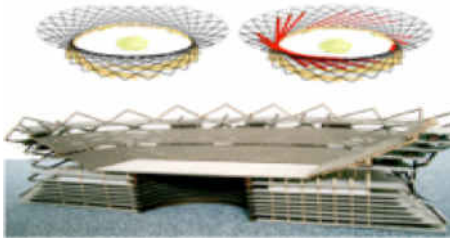
Variability (heterogeneous and often unstructured formats of data)

Velocity (an almost real-time processing of incoming data)

In the context of design support

Variability (heterogeneous and often unstructured formats of data)

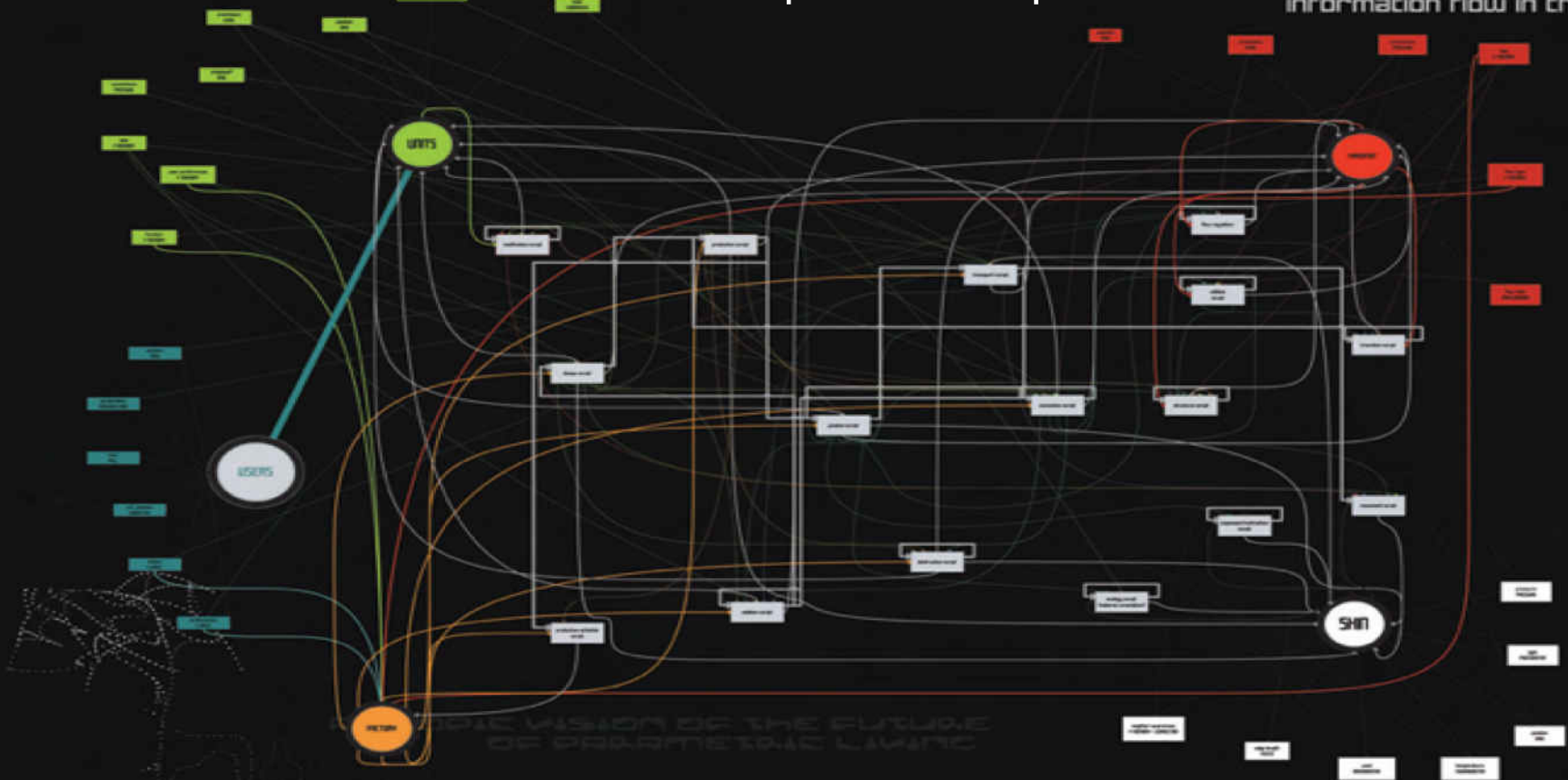
# Design is a data and information intensive process



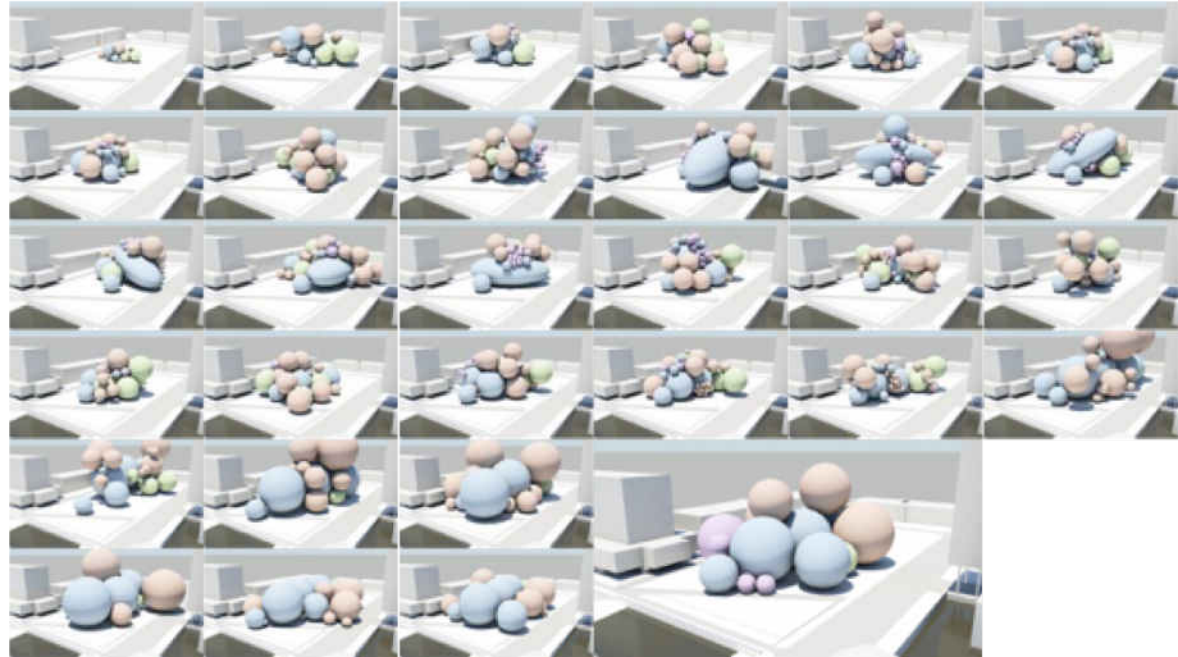
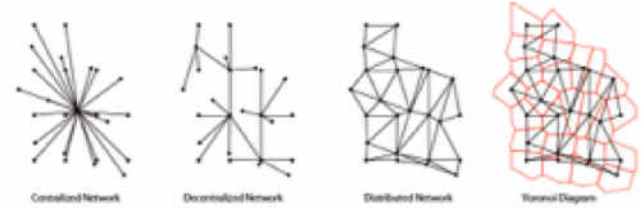
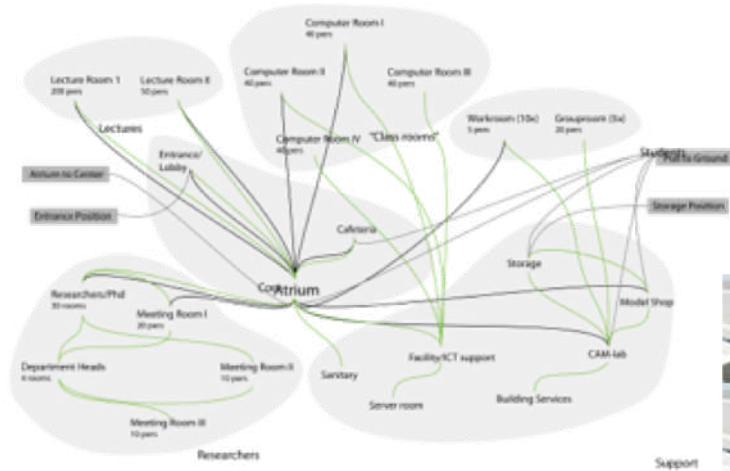


# Design data and information have many interrelationships and dependencies

DATA EXCHANGE  
information flow in the hive



# Data and information support design decision making



Designers switch between various scales

Designers frame and solve various problems consecutively, simultaneously

Providing designers with

multi-source

multi-scale

multi-time

information, or evidence

an important contribution of big data to design support



## EVIDENCE BASED DESIGN SUPPORT

Designers use evidence from existing situations in projects

Gain insights to improve these projects and gain insights for new designs

Evidence does not lead to a linear translation into design solutions

EBDS can replace some of the assumptions made during design by grounded evidence

# EVIDENCE BASED DESIGN SUPPORT

The research challenge:

Which behavioral hypotheses can be drawn from specific urban data sets and their combination?

What is the relationship of these hypotheses with spatial and organizational aspects of urban spaces?

# URBAN BIG DATA

Various sources for data, including:

- sensor data for all types of urban infrastructures
- [real-time] transport tracking data
- social network data [information about events or opinions]
- public app data
- user volunteered data [including geographic data]
- phone data
- open data provided by government [e.g., air pollution data, crime data, meteorological data, land use data]

# INFORMED DESIGN LAB @ SUTD & FCL

Multi-disciplinary group consisting of architects, engineers, data scientists



Bige  
Tunçer



Hexu  
Xin



Pieter  
Herthögs



Garvit  
Bansal



Alexandria  
Chong  
(Zhou Wen)



Ludovica  
Tomarchio



Francisco  
Benita



Ramanathan  
Subramanian



Peijun  
He



Darshan  
Virupaksha



Iting  
Chuang



Stéphanie  
Hasler  
(EPFL)



Francesco  
Scandola



Kajol  
Sethia



Özgün  
Balaban



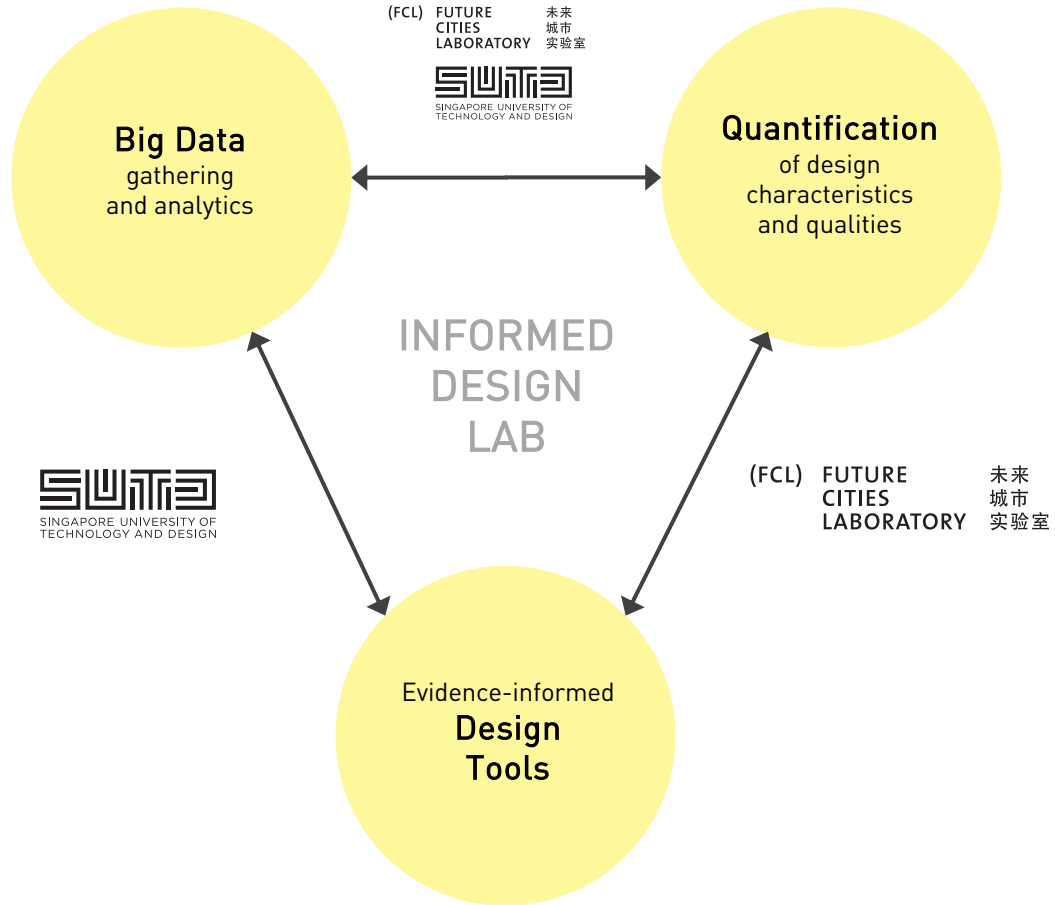
Sarah  
Nadiawandi



Sumbul  
Khan



Iman  
Abu Hashish  
(U. Pavia)





Can we integrate big data, user preferences, and designer knowledge for urban design and planning support?

Multi-source, multi-scale, multi-time data collection

Data analytics and visualization

Deriving insights for designers from evidence

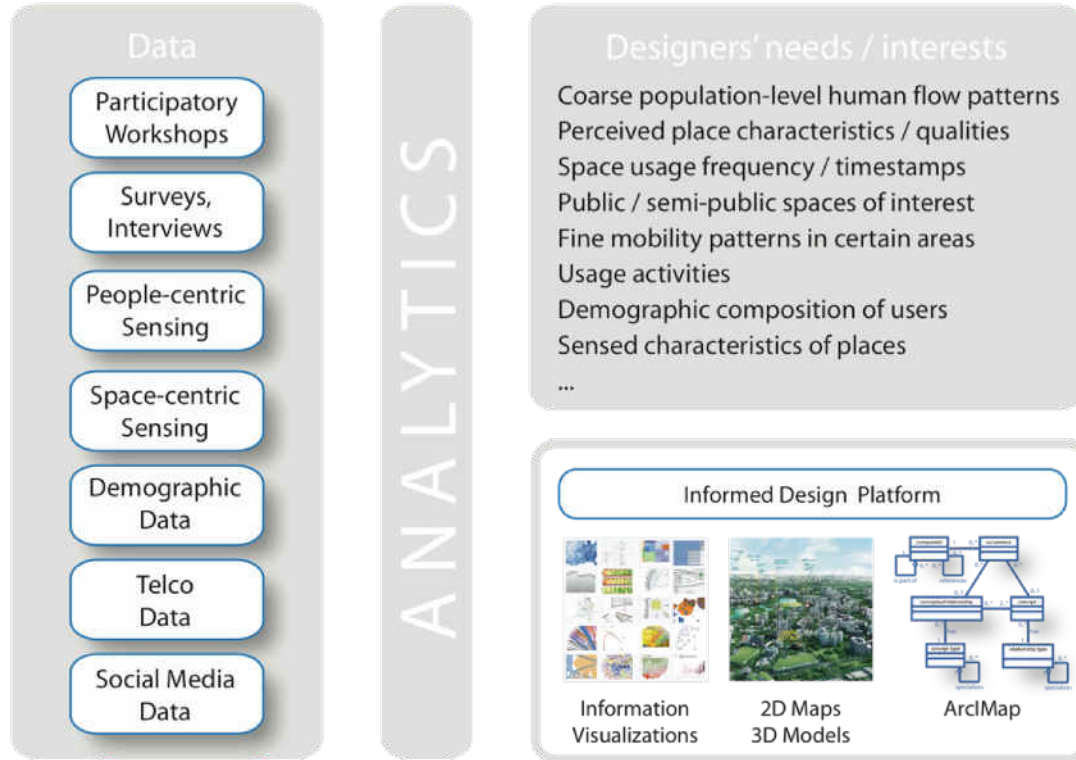
Creating and/or ranking design options building on this evidence



# LIVEABLE PLACES: INFORMED DESIGN FOR ADAPTIVE PUBLIC SPACE

Bige Tunçer, Hexu Xin, Linlin You

# LIVEABLE PLACES: INFORMED DESIGN FOR ADAPTIVE PUBLIC SPACE



## LIVEABLE PLACES: INFORMED DESIGN FOR ADAPTIVE PUBLIC SPACE



Some questions designers may want to answer through use of the Informed Design Platform:

Which spaces are being used, how, and how much?

How do the people who use these spaces perceive them?

Are any spaces over- or under-utilized?

What can be additional/alternative uses for spaces that increase livability?

How could spaces be modified (new- or re-design) to improve them in terms of the issues above?





[https://www.ura.gov.sg/uol/-/media/User%20Defined/URA%20Online/master-plan/master-plan-2014/growth-areas/jld\\_3.jpg?h=226&w=769&la=en](https://www.ura.gov.sg/uol/-/media/User%20Defined/URA%20Online/master-plan/master-plan-2014/growth-areas/jld_3.jpg?h=226&w=769&la=en)

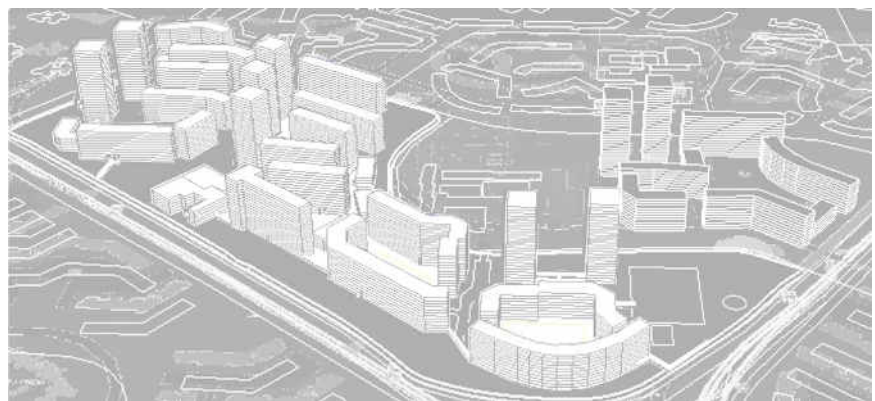
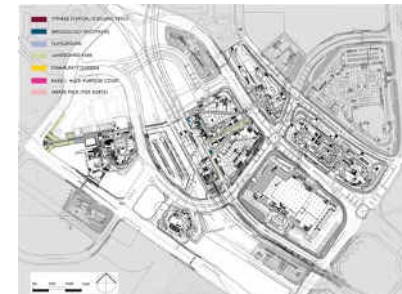
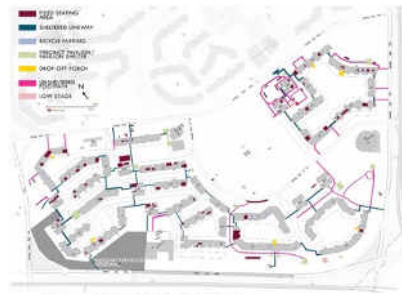


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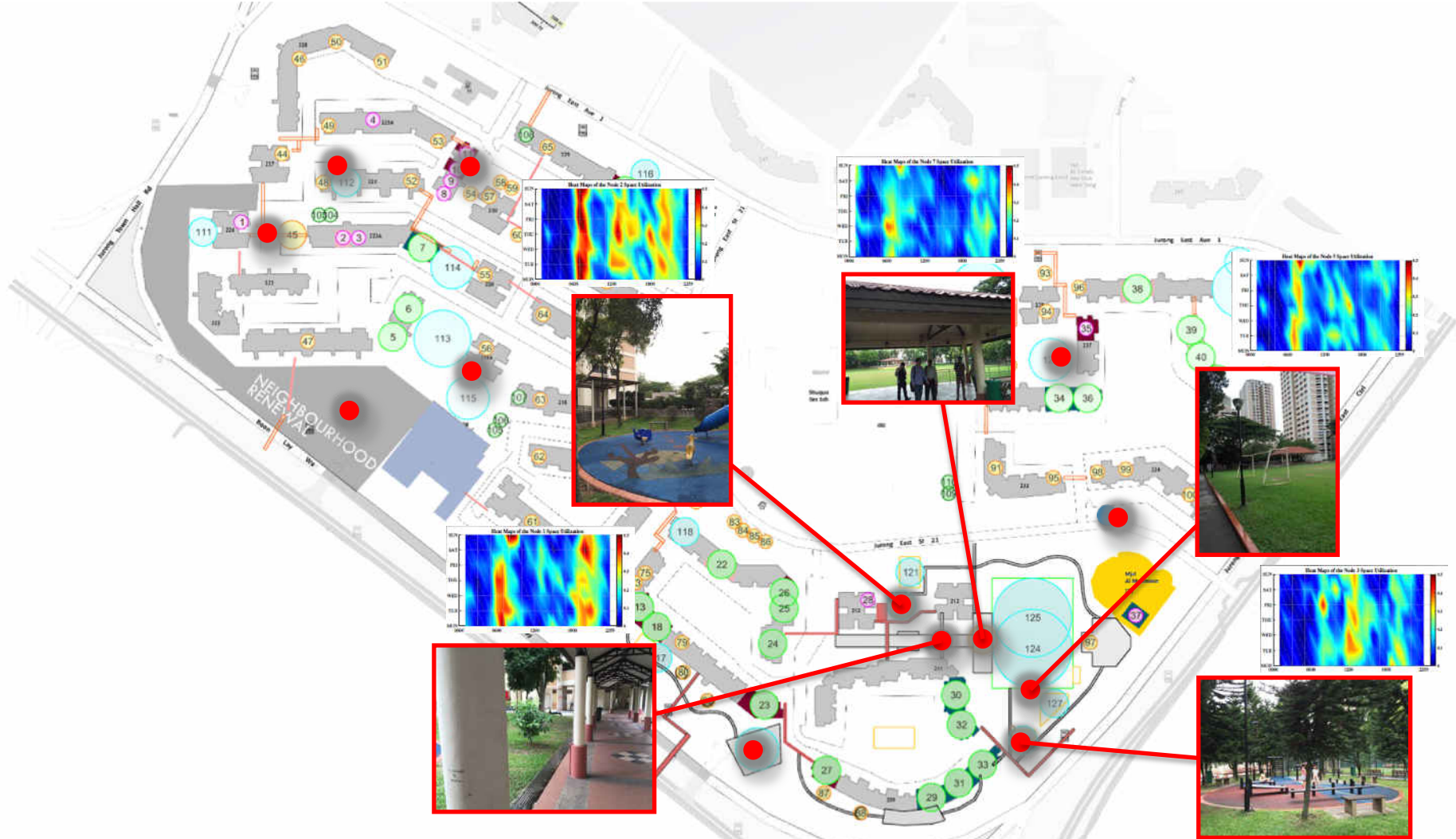


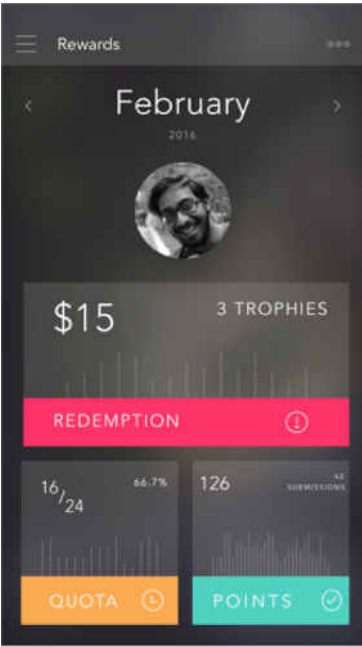
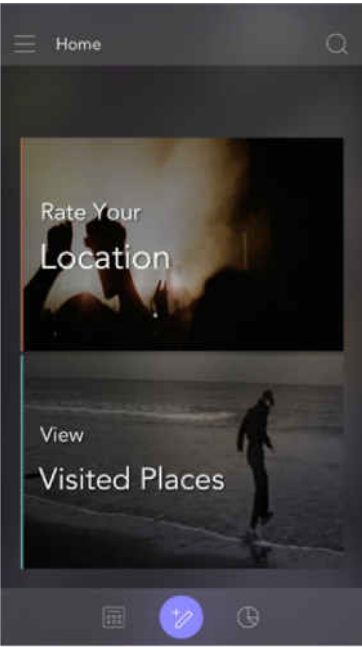
Photograph taken by Kien To





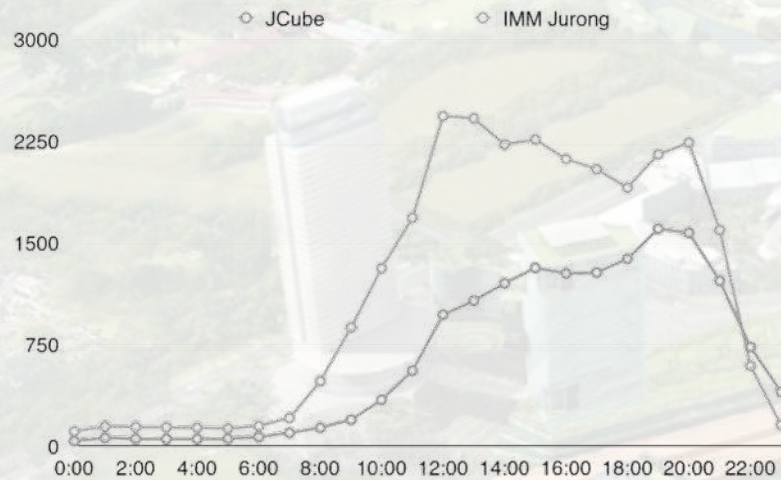
Images by Chong Keng Hua, Andre Chaszar, Bige Tuncer





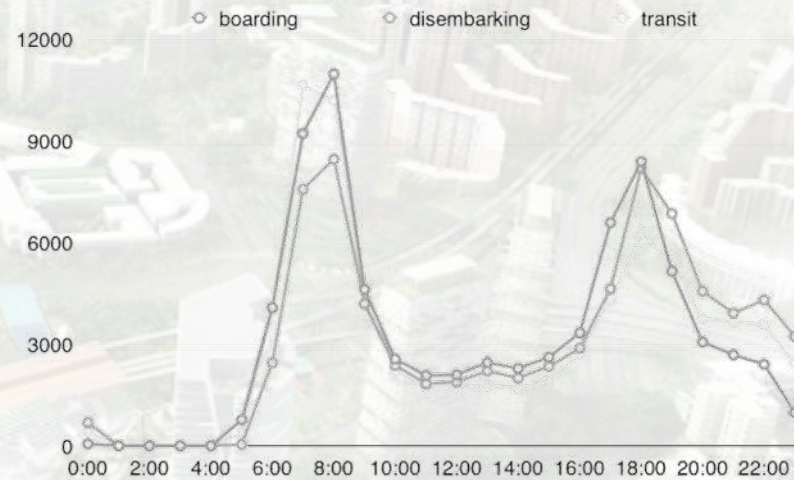


### Buildings Footfall



Fri, May 15, 2015

### MRT Stations Station Crowdedness

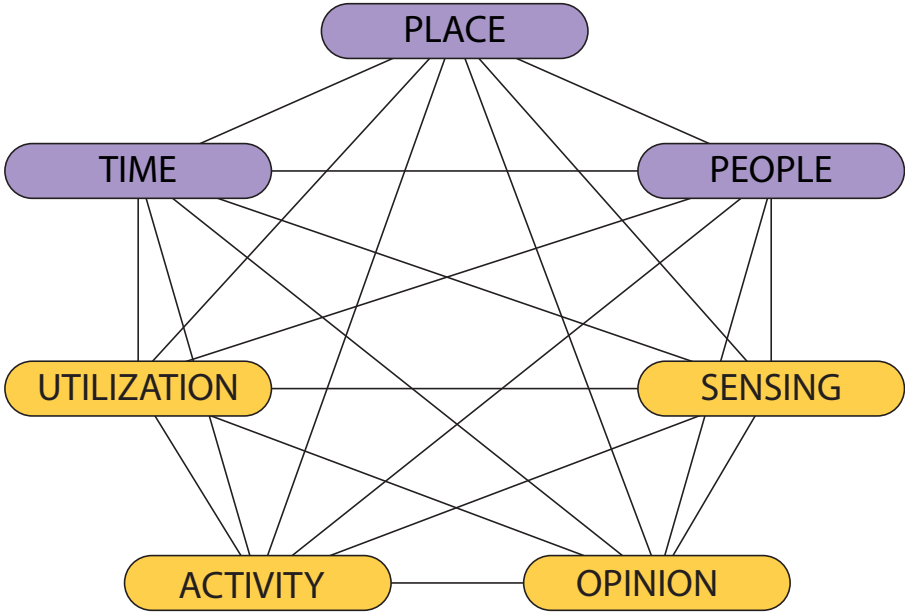
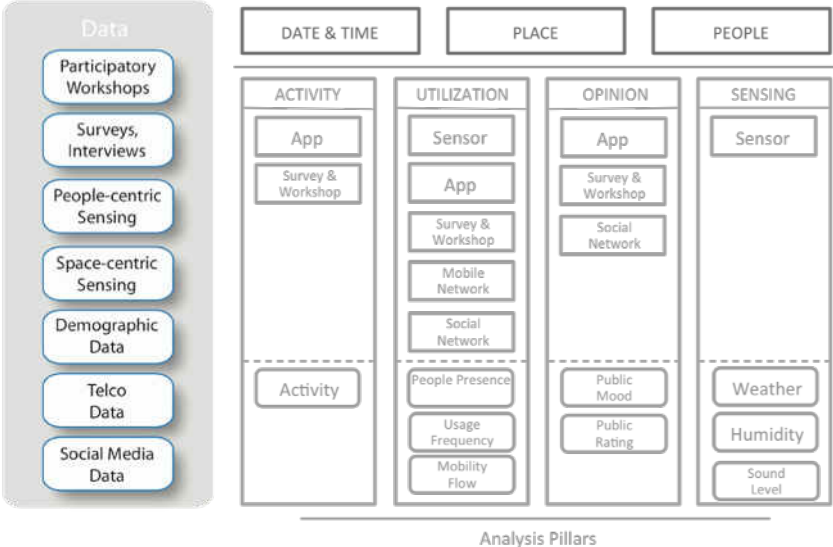


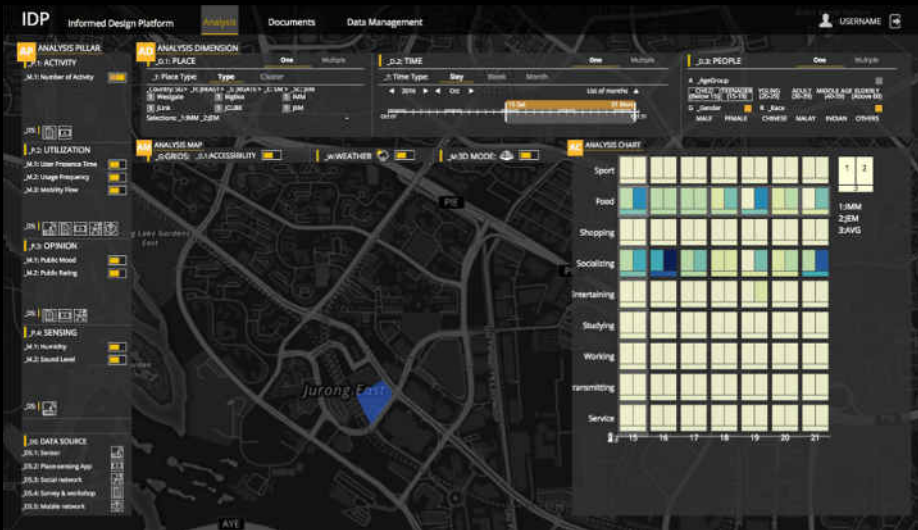
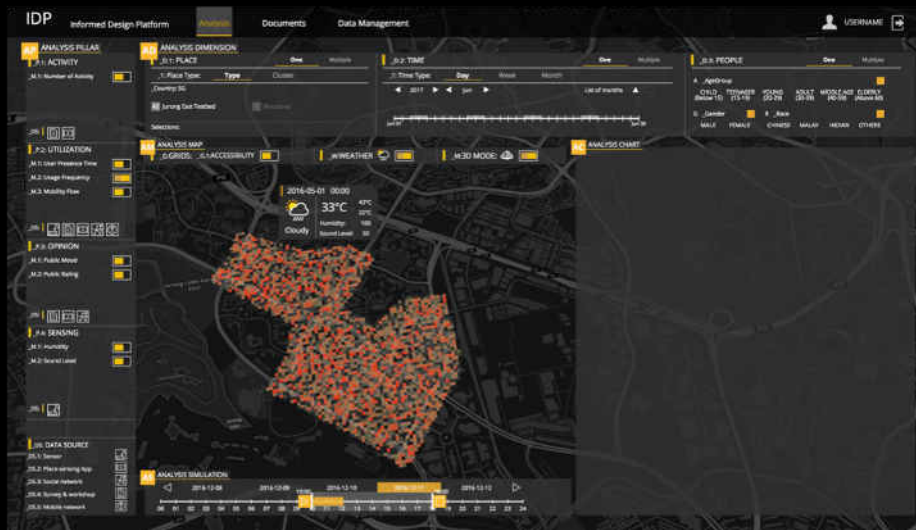
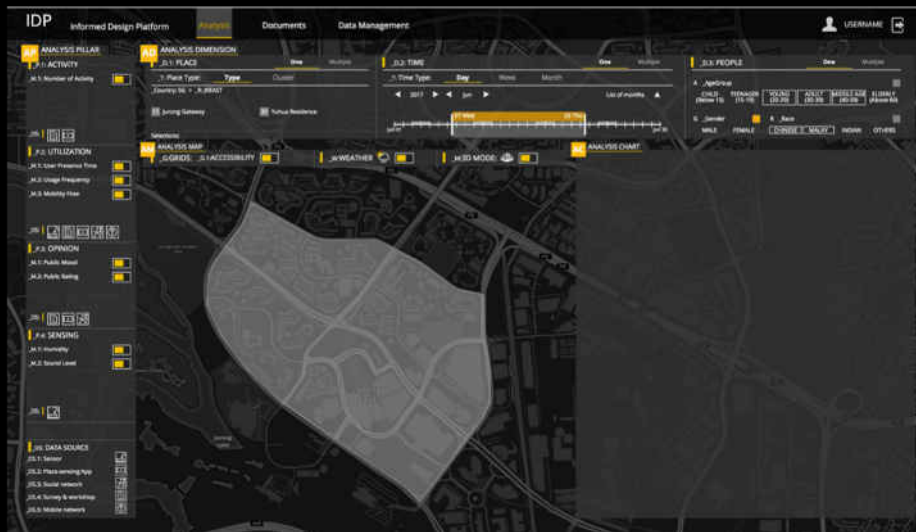
Jurong East MRT Station on Fri, May 15, 2015

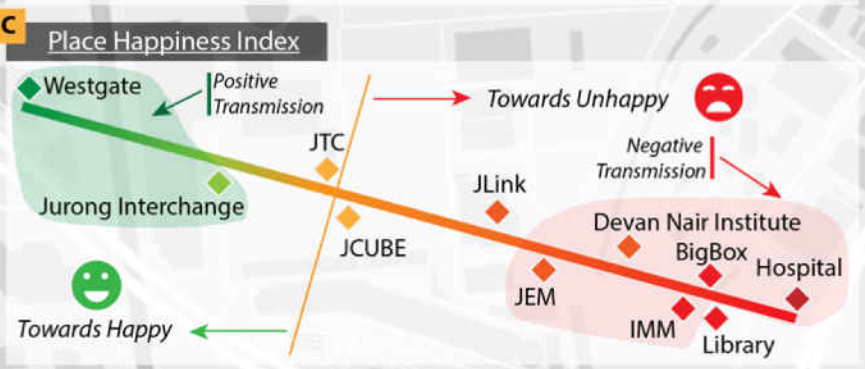
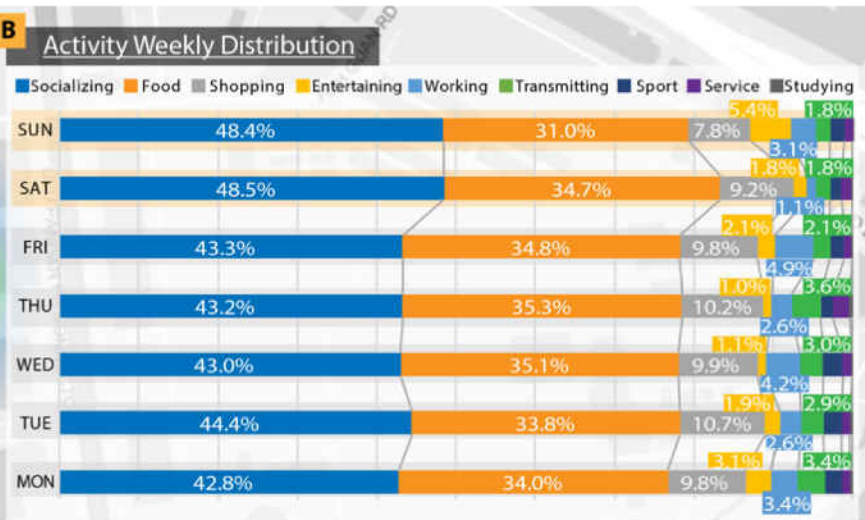
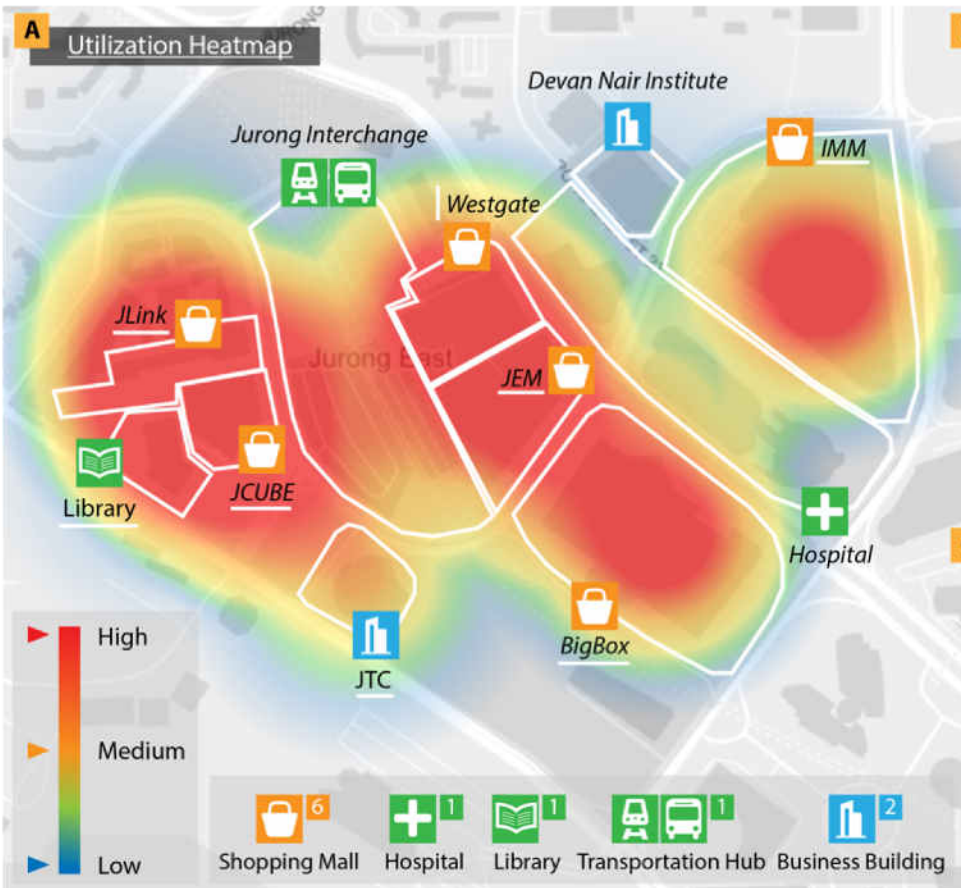




# INTERCONNECTED DATA MODEL

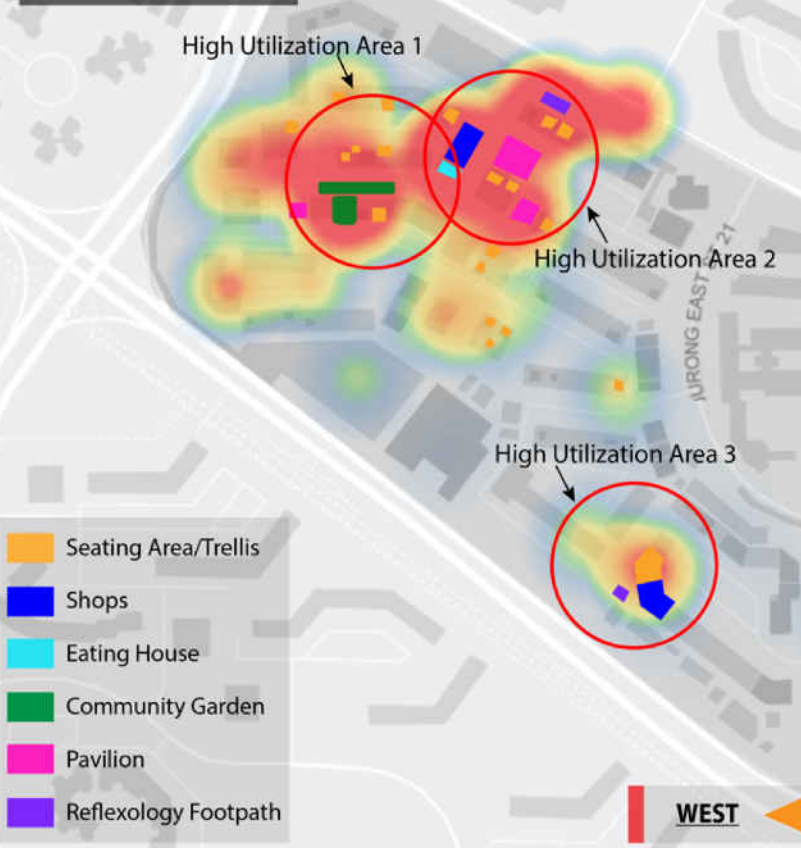








### A Utilization Heatmap

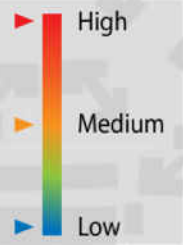


### C Top 5 places of three age groups

G1. Youth	G2. Adult	G3. Elderly
1. Seating Area/Trellis	1. Shops	1. Seating Area/Trellis
2. Shops	2. Community Garden	2. Community Garden
3. Eating House	3. Seating Area/Trellis	3. Pavilion
4. Residents' Committee	4. Residents' Committee	4. Reflexology Footpath
5. Community Garden	5. Eating House	5. Residents' Committee

### B Top 3 Activities

- 1** Socializing  
Online ~ FaceToFace
- 2** Exercising  
Walking > Running > Cycling
- 3** Entertaining  
Sitting > Playing

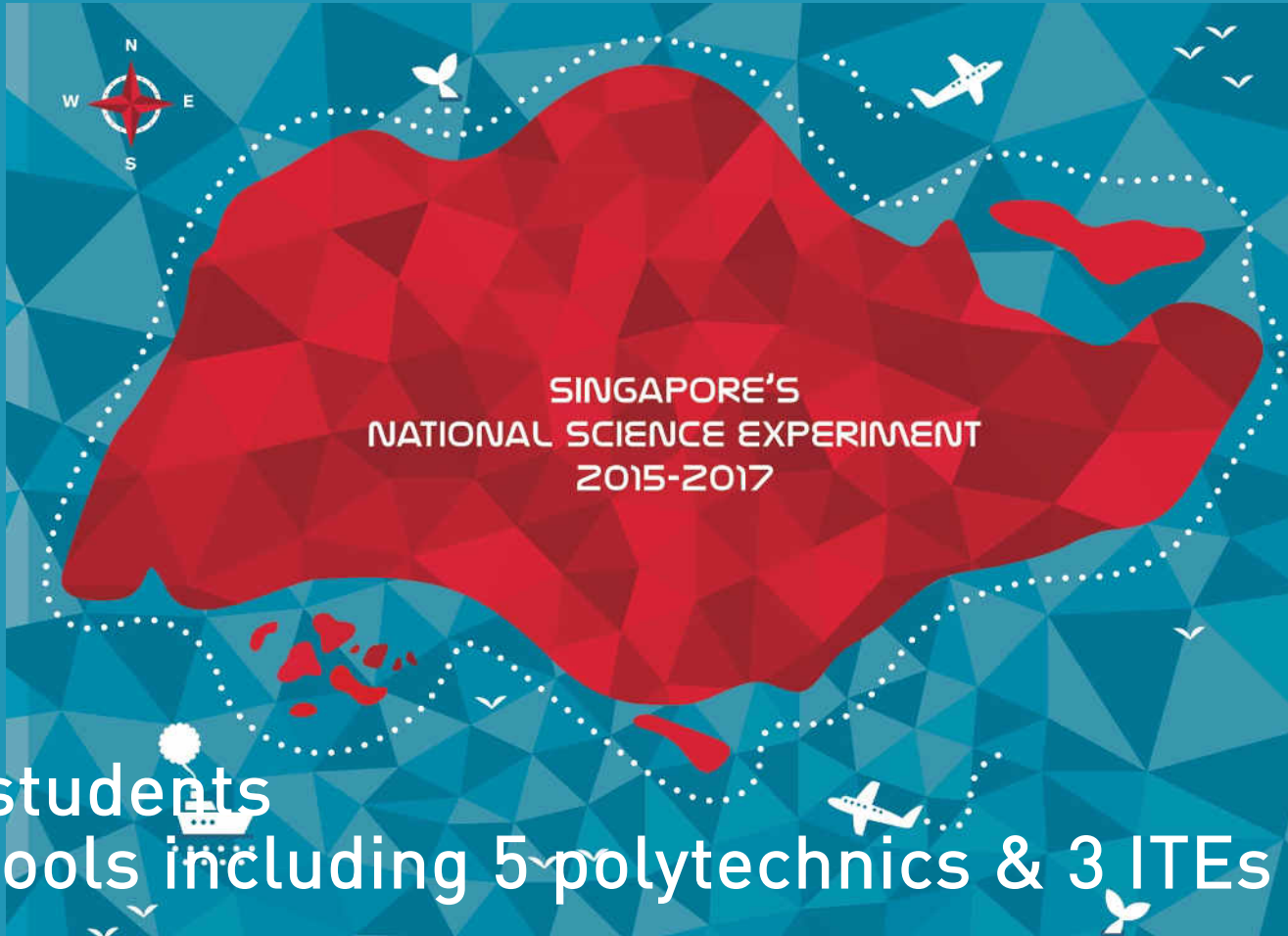


A yellow-tinted photograph of a school courtyard. In the background, a multi-story building with windows and balconies is visible. In the foreground, there is a pond with large rocks and lush green plants. Three students in school uniforms are looking at something together in the middle ground. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and names of the participants.

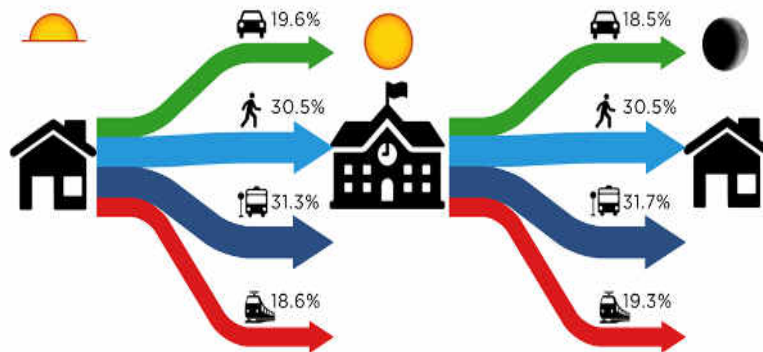
# NATIONAL SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Bige Tunçer, Nils Ole Trappenhauer, Francisco Benita,  
Francisco Scandola, Garvit Bansal, Darshan Virupaksha

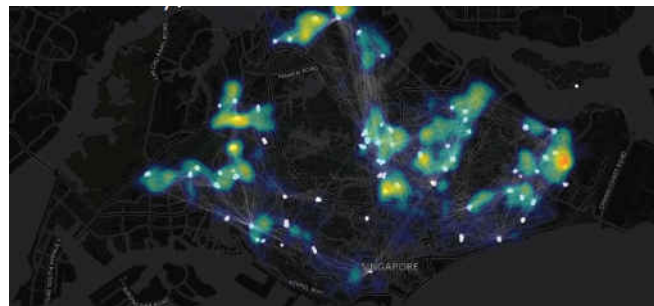




90,629 students  
265 schools including 5 polytechnics & 3 ITEs



"Just having a good day and my teacher told a joke!"  
 (Anecdote from a student when processing the data)



# Singapore Views

National Science Experiment

Projects Layers Presentations

- National Science Experiment
- Central Singapore
- Green and Green Building Typology - Panels
- Residential Clusters



## School Metrics

Type  Primary  Secondary

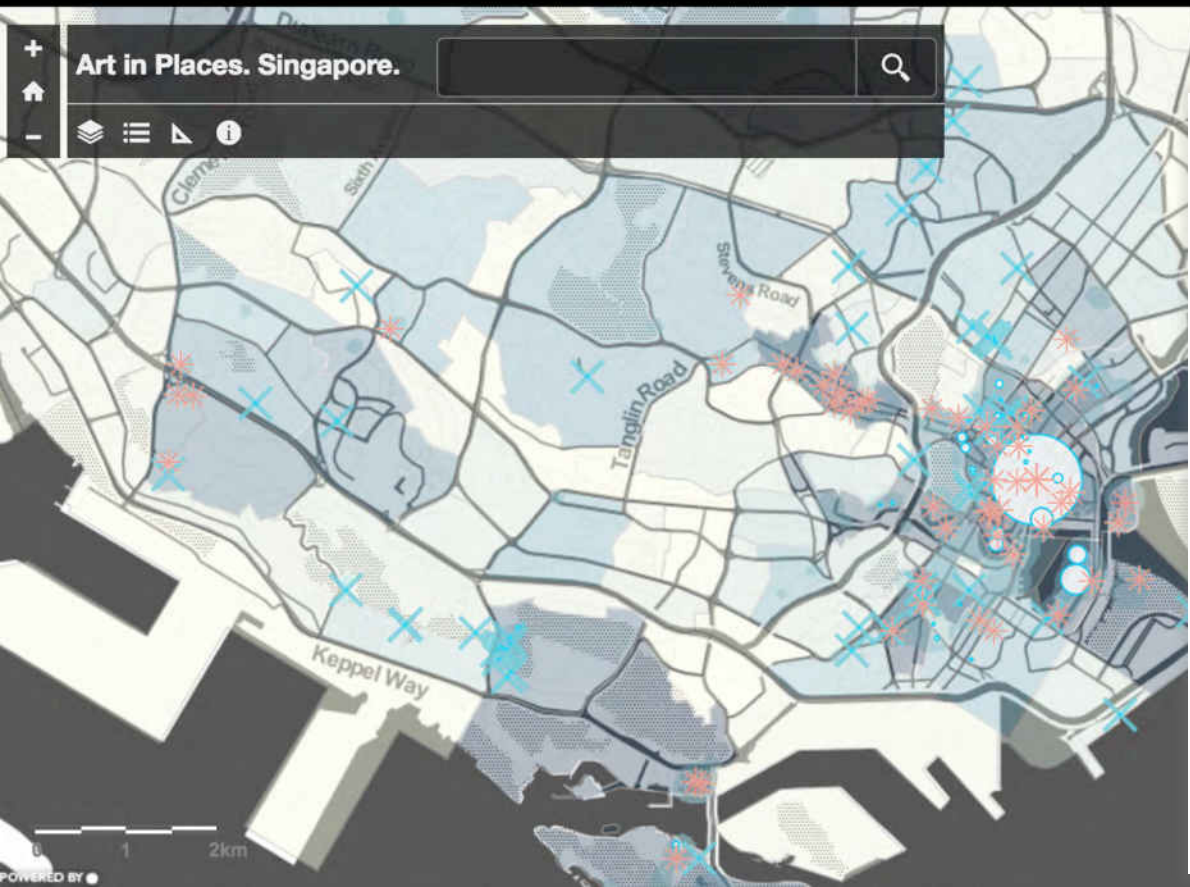
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TravelCO2	78-2014	<input type="range"/>	Tram	0.00-4.00	<input type="range"/>
Steps	69-390	<input type="range"/>	Bus	0-21	<input type="range"/>
Stairs	287-10030	<input type="range"/>	MRT	0-26	<input type="range"/>





**EXPLORING  
ART PRODUCTION  
AND CONSUMPTION  
THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Ludovica Tomarchio



## HOW DO SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECT ART?

Can we develop tools and methodologies for responsive cultural city planning?

### SOCIAL MEDIA DATA

- How can we describe Hybrid Art Venues?
- What kind of aesthetic results from the mix of art and social media?
- How effective are current cultural planning practices?

### MAPPING ART LOCATIONS

- How can we define and map art venues through SM?
- Which types of analyses could be useful?

### RESPONSIVE CULTURAL PLANNING

- What information from social media is useful?
- How can it be implemented in decision making?





# STREET NETWORK RUNABILITY

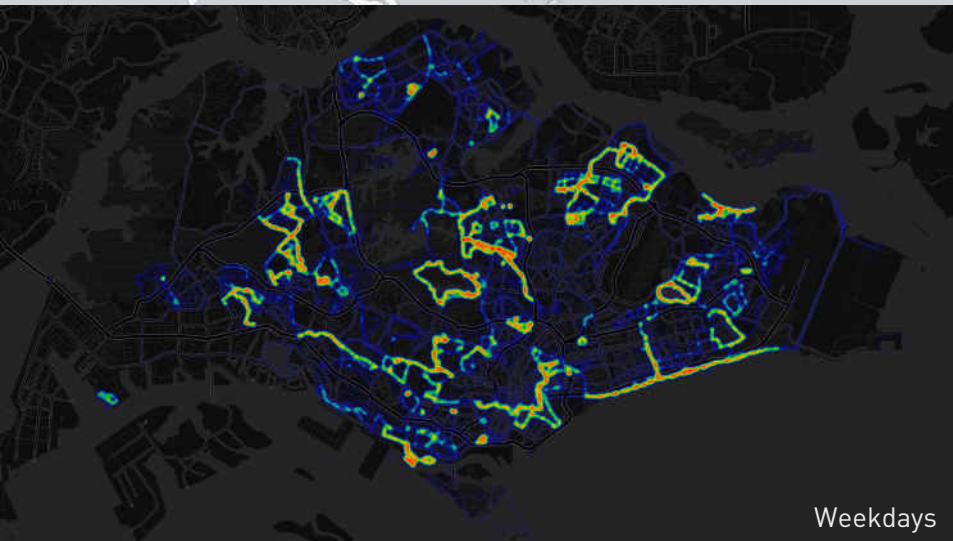
Özgün Balaban



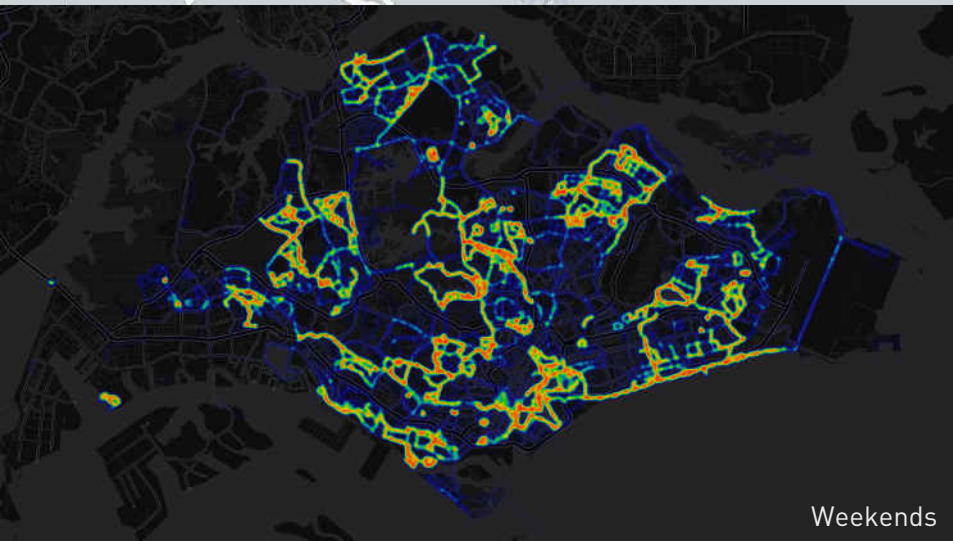
Nights



Days



Weekdays



Weekends





## WHAT DETERMINES WHERE PEOPLE RUN?

Can we define a 'runability' score for streets, networks, and neighbourhoods?

### RUNNING DATA

- Climate comfort
- Time of day
- Experience of the runner
- Gender of the runner

### STREET NETWORK


- Connectivity
- Street types
- Distance to Points of Interest

### ROUTE CHARACTERISTICS (qualities)

- Amount of traffic
- Amount of green space







# VISIT POTENTIAL MODEL (VPM)

Pieter Hertogs, Peijun He, in collaboration with Marcus Schlaepfer

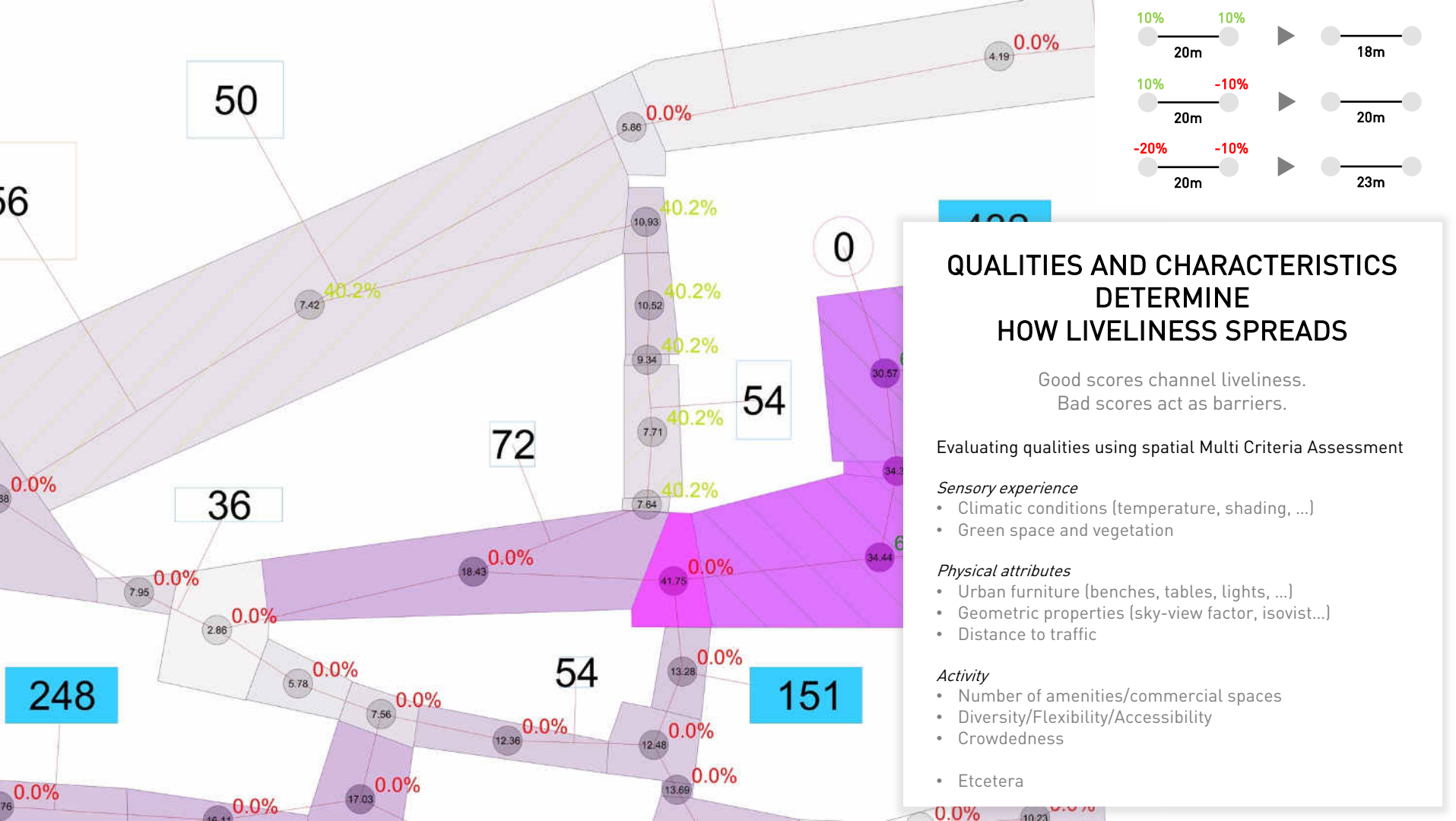
The image is a 3D architectural rendering of a city block. Buildings are shown in white and grey, with some greenery. Purple lines and dots are overlaid on the scene, representing movement paths and potential visitation points. The lines connect various points across the block, including streets and building entrances. The dots are scattered throughout the scene, indicating specific locations of interest or potential visitation. The overall style is clean and modern, with a focus on urban design and movement analysis.

## The Visit Potential Model

estimates the potential presence  
of people in public spaces or in  
buildings,

and the effect of design qualities  
on this potential.





50

56

100

0

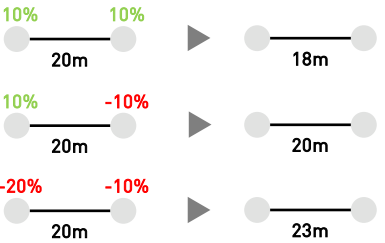
54

72

36

248

151



## QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS DETERMINE HOW LIVELINESS SPREADS

Good scores channel liveliness.  
Bad scores act as barriers.

Evaluating qualities using spatial Multi Criteria Assessment

### Sensory experience

- Climatic conditions (temperature, shading, ...)
- Green space and vegetation


### Physical attributes

- Urban furniture (benches, tables, lights, ...)
- Geometric properties (sky-view factor, isovist...)
- Distance to traffic

### Activity


- Number of amenities/commercial spaces
- Diversity/Flexibility/Accessibility
- Crowdedness
- Etcetera

Leutschenpark




Leutschen Park  
4.1 ★★★★★ · 16 reviews  
Park

Thurgauerstrasse 80, Zürich, Swi




Leutschenbach  
3.4 ★★★★★ · 7 reviews  
Transit Stop

fitnessplus Zürich



fitnessplus Zürich  
4.3 ★★★★★ · 39 reviews  
Gym and Fitness Centre

Aux Carrés



Aux Carrés  
3.8 ★★★★★ · 15 reviews  
Vietnamese Restaurant

SAVE NEARBY SEND TO YOUR PHONE SHARE

SAVE NEARBY SEND TO YOUR PHONE SHARE

SAVE NEARBY SEND TO YOUR PHONE SHARE

SAVE NEARBY SEND TO YOUR PHONE SHARE

Leutschenbachstrasse 71, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland  
Open now: Open 24 hours  
Claim this business  
Suggest an edit  
Add a label

8050 Zürich, Switzerland  
Suggest an edit  
Add a label

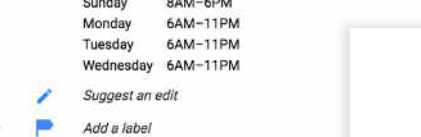
Thurgauerstrasse 40, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland  
fitnessplus.ch  
+41 44 302 40 50  
Thursday 6AM-11PM  
Friday 6AM-11PM  
Saturday 8AM-6PM  
Sunday 8AM-6PM  
Monday 6AM-11PM  
Tuesday 6AM-11PM  
Wednesday 6AM-11PM  
Suggest an edit  
Add a label

Casual · Groups · Beer  
Leutschenbachstrasse 71, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland  
auxcarres.ch  
+41 43 443 94 84  
Closed. Opens at 9:00 AM

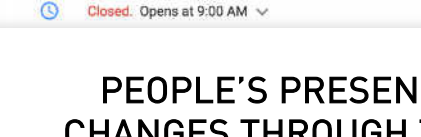
Add missing information  
Add phone number  
Add website



Popular times Tuesdays



Popular times Tuesdays



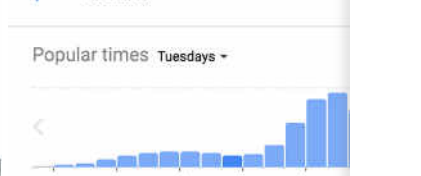

Popular times Tuesdays




55+ Photos

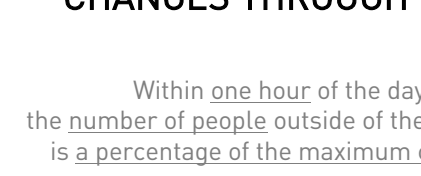
Trams  
10 11 12  
Departure board  
zvw.ch  
Photos  
Add a photo

Popular times Tuesdays

186+ Photos

Popular times Tuesdays



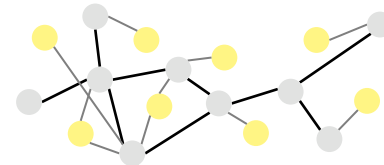
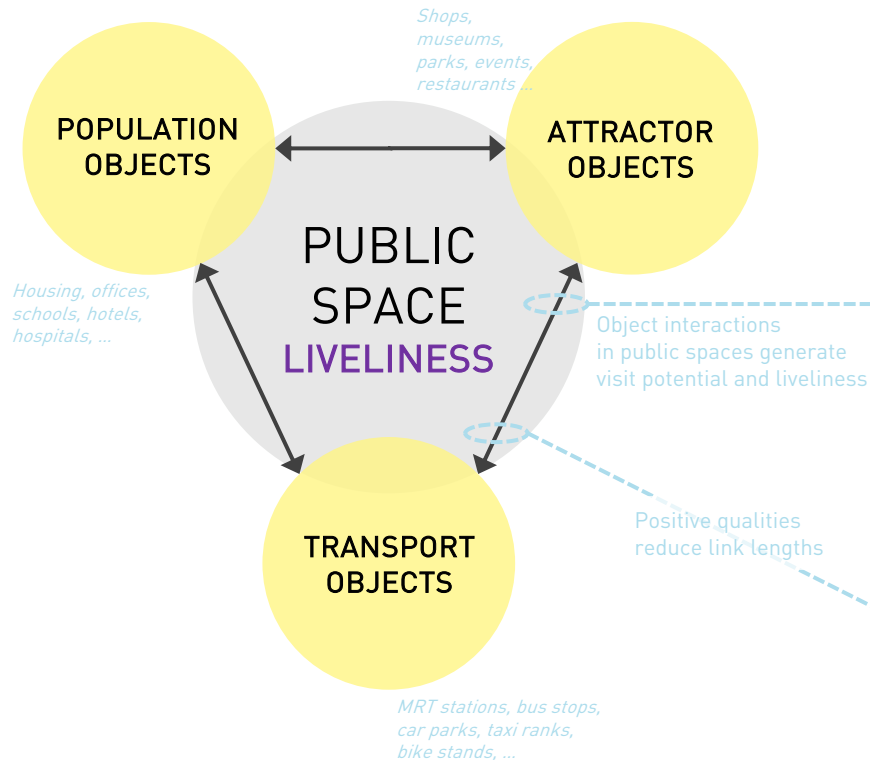
## PEOPLE'S PRESENCE CHANGES THROUGH TIME

Within one hour of the day, the number of people outside of their building is a percentage of the maximum capacity.

This distribution is different for different types of buildings.

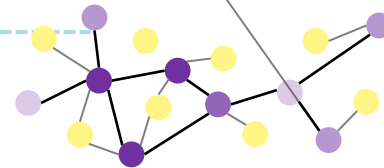


# A weighted graph model calculating interactions, proximities, and accessibilities



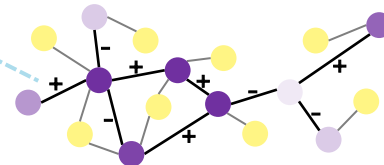
**GRAPH REPRESENTATION**  
OF THE PUBLIC SPACE  
NETWORK

+

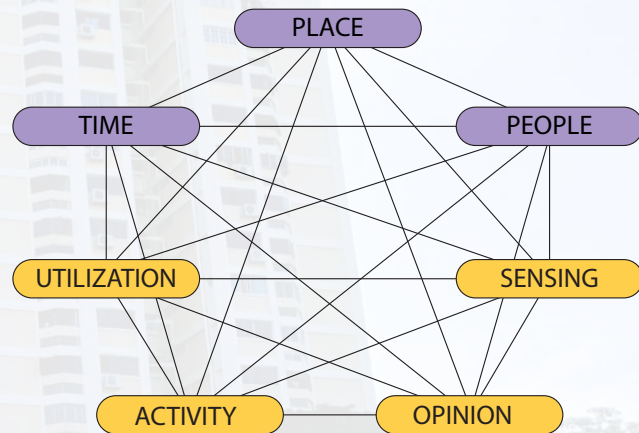
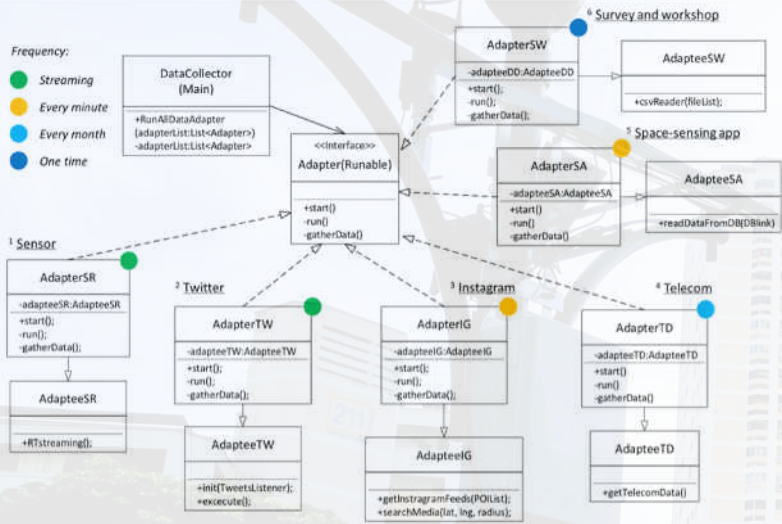


**CALCULATION MODEL**  
FOR VISIT POTENTIAL  
AND LIVELINESS

+



**MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS**  
FRAMEWORK TO RATE SPATIAL  
QUALITIES



An aerial photograph of Singapore, showing a dense urban grid on the left and a large body of water with many ships on the right. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the title and authors' names.

# **SUTD CITIES CLUSTER: DATA DRIVEN DESIGN SOLUTIONS FOR CITIES**

Bige Tunçer, Costas Courcoubetis, Ricky Ang,  
Erwin Viray, Sam Joyce, Micheal Budig



# Cities

integrated complex systems

physical, social, economic, ecological ... subsystems

with countless interdependencies and interactions

complex, adaptive, self-organizing systems that have  
some basic properties and hidden structures that are  
pervasive to all cities depending on some

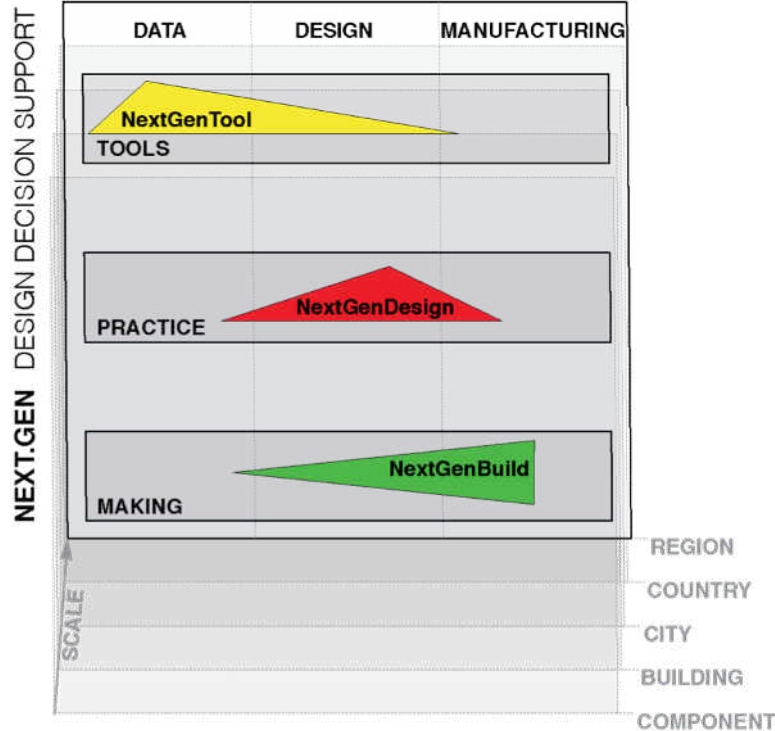
parameters

## New science of cities



# APPROACH

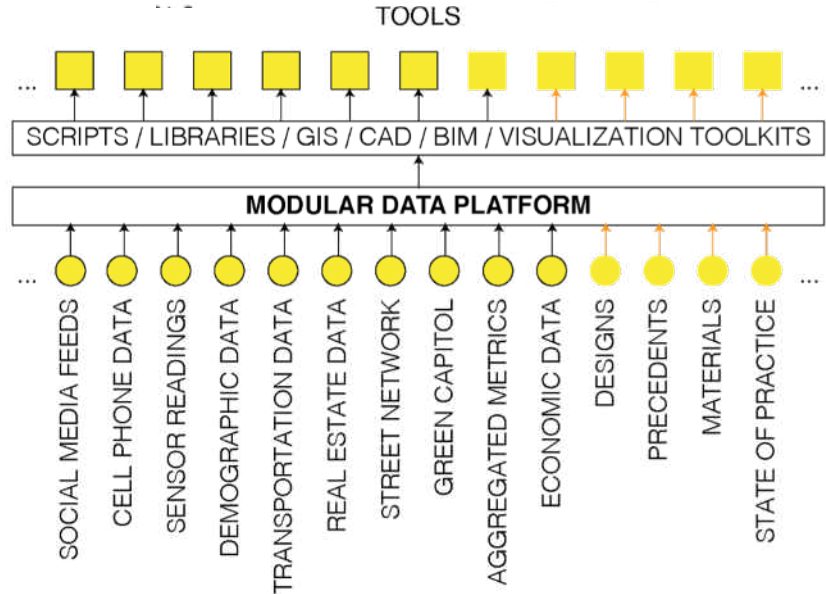
THE FUTURE OF ASIAN CITIES: CHALLENGES / ISSUES



RELATIONSHIP TO PRACTICE / DISCOURSE



ANALYSIS / DESIGN / DECISION SUPPORT /  
MENTAL AND PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION



THE FUTURE OF ASIAN CITIES: CHALLENGES / ISSUES

# RESEARCH

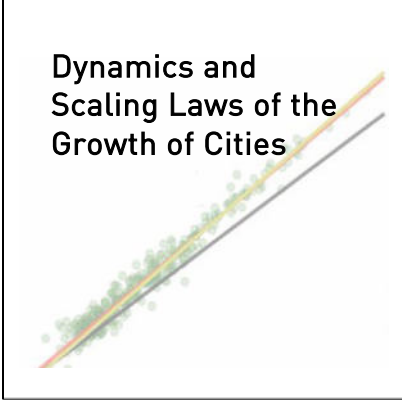
**Livable  
Privately Owned  
Public Spaces in  
Asian Cities**



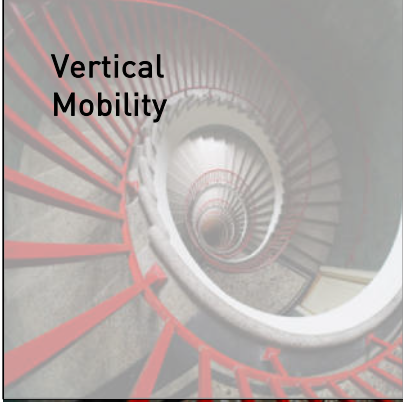
**Predicting the  
Effects of the  
Sharing Economy on  
Mobility in  
Asian Cities**



**Dynamics and  
Scaling Laws of the  
Growth of Cities**



**Vertical  
Mobility**




**Design Practice  
Immersion**



**Integrating  
ML and AI into  
Design Practice**



**Situated  
Building Tools**



Agencies  
Companies

# EDUCATION

SUTD as a regional hub for “CITIES”

A global educational network that generates interaction, exchange, and collaboration

Nurture technically grounded leaders ready to operate in ASEAN+

Changi AeroCity Implementation  
Testbed Site and Competition

Parallel and joint multidisciplinary studios and workshops

Overseas field trips to ASEAN countries for students

Workshop and seminar series to support these educational components

Courses in SUTD Academy

Undergraduate Research program

## SOME LIMITATIONS

Data collected may not represent all users of spaces

Evidence and insights derived shed light on only a subset of design parameters that are important for design

Data privacy concerns



## SOME CONCLUSIONS

Deep understanding of both real and perceived utilization and appreciation of existing public spaces

Starting to relate these to physical attributes of places

Developing the methodology and technical infrastructure for this

Ongoing work

# INFORMED DESIGN LAB



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