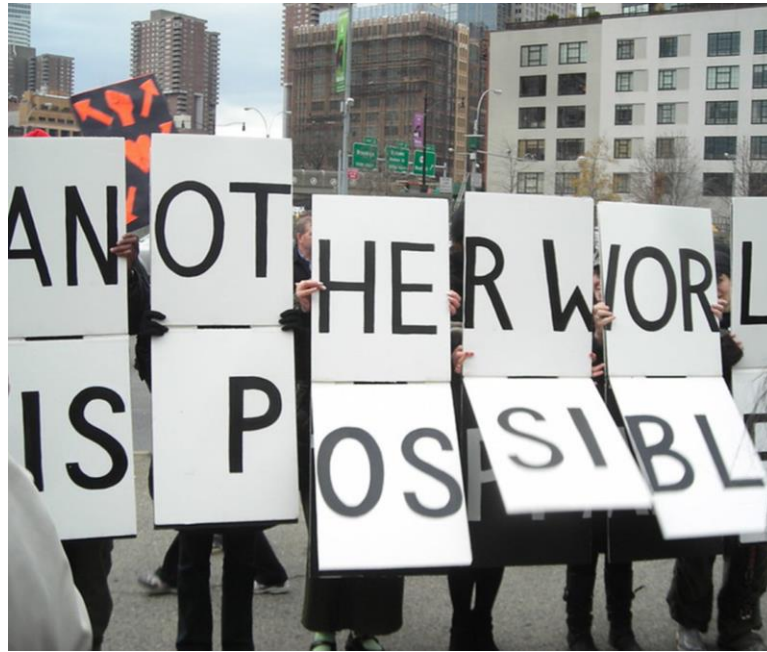


THE PUBLIC SPACE FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

The right to the city takes the form of a **population's access to and enjoyment of** the public space, but the **configuration, localization and uses of the public space** produce hierarchies and inequalities



Public spaces are linked to a few uses considered normative and neutral which usually responds to men's' experiences and needs

Men and women/non-binary use and experience public spaces differently

Women/ non-binary Experiences

Most public spaces are unsafe
Places of violence

Harassment

Assault

Age

Ethnicity

Social Class

Gender Identity
Non-binary

Designing of public space from a gender perspective

Double down on the population's
specific requirements
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
Changing mindsets



Example of Bulwer Park (in Durban) stakeholder consultation process in 2012:-

- Focus groups – school, women, children, sports groups, politicians, general users
- Blank map of park – sketch and design, play design, competitions
- Recording – voice and or video



Project objectives identified through the stakeholder consultation process:-

- Create an identity for the park
- Identified a number of critical and strategic objectives
- Develop an implementation strategy
- Develop a management model for the park

Qualities that should be considered from the perspective of the feminist design

Safety

- Good lighting, elimination of barriers & overgrown bush, signage, site lines (people able to watch and see into public space)

Proximity and accessibility

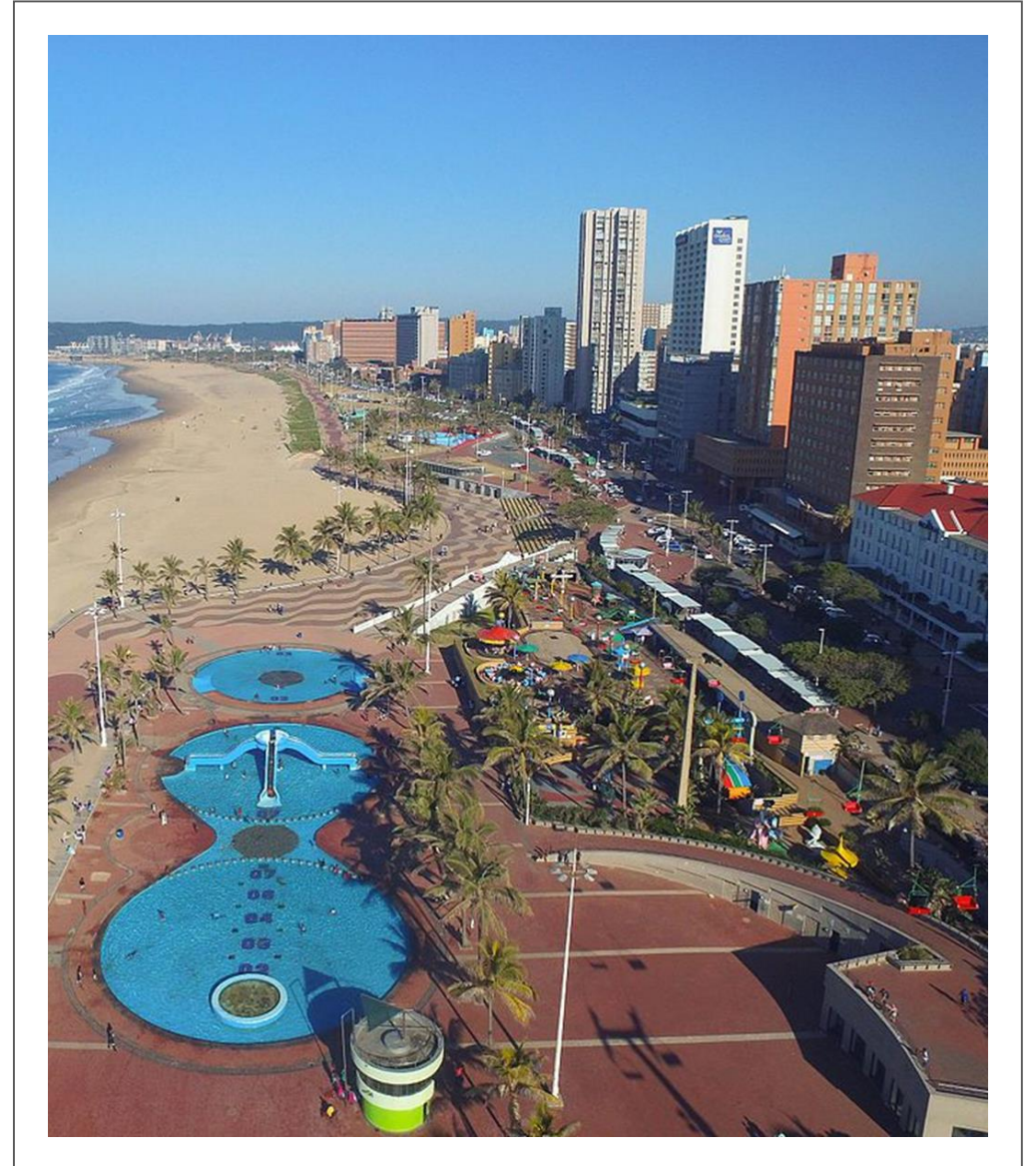
- connections to local stores, public transport, places of worship, pedestrian connections, close to residential areas



Qualities that should be considered from the perspective of the feminist design

Diversity and Autonomy

- Encourages diverse usage - social, physical, uses that respond to people's needs in accordance with their sex, age, disability, social class
- Elements – benches, tables, play areas, different surfaces such as grass and sand, ramps, handicapped-friendly public toilets



Qualities that should be considered from the perspective of the feminist design



Representativeness

Acknowledge the memory of people and groups through the names of public space and urban art





In Summary

Public space becomes the stage where gender and social inequalities are generated and reproduced

- Our voices matter
- We know what best works for us
- Allow us to design and create spaces that become places for us
- “Nothing for us without us”