



do this to your city

on numerous trips and psychogeographical walks, in several cities around the world inspiring situations have been observed and recorded as part of the research initiative called urban squares. its main goal is to explore visual and artistic aspects of public space with special attention to the urban square [plaza] as the nucleus and a heart of any neighbourhood. by identifying messages about urban morphology and the fundamental values of social integration and sustainability of urban life we hope to interpret/translate them.

the concept, design and all photos have been created by aleksandar janicijevic, an architect, multimedia designer, and photographer, born and educated in the former yugoslavia. he now lives in toronto, canada and is available for consultations, pre-planning analyses, presentations and design projects. for more about this project and his work you can visit:

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expertly restored, the main city square in **cienfuegos, cuba**, is extremely well used. the local choir practices in the band stand, and groups of youth and seniors exercise here, even in the hot caribbean sun.



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the eccentric personality of the famous spanish surrealist salvator dali inspired someone in beograd, srbija to call this area “the corner of salvator dali” and accordingly place the street sign in a very appropriate manner.



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ericcira, portugal, is a small town on the atlantic coast. on the edge of the town stands an amazing cliff park called “furnas”. very creative seating options offer breathtaking views of breaking waves.



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in the town of **padua, italy**, this secluded square accommodates residential and office buildings, a little park with mature trees and an exhibition of piranesi drawings preserves the precious calm of the city's medieval atmosphere.



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the glass cube entrance to the flag ship apple store on fifth avenue in **new york, usa**, transformed this otherwise boring plaza in front of an unremarkable skyscraper into a futuristic and lively space visited 24 hours a day.



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in the city of **treviso, italy**, old canals are beautifully renovated but officials also, cleverly, incorporated a very contemporary touch. notice the very subtle mural of a man's silhouette among traditional boats.



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this bronze sculpture is built into the pavement of a suburban street in **amsterdam, nederland**. a creative intervention has transformed this ordinary bicycle rack into an extraordinary work of urban art .



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when urban planners in **beograd, srbija** decided to repave downtown streets they introduced special profiled stones into the sidewalk's centre. they serve as markers for blind and partially-sighted people but are also visually pleasing.



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this street in **vlissingen, nederland** was covered with an inexpensive glass roof and converted into a wonderful heritage shopping area. pedestrians are protected from the weather and a connection between new and contemporary architecture is achieved smoothly.



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the real jewels of every city including **havana, cuba**, are its kids. the ultimate thing a city can do is to make them happy. here they play on the plaza vicja in front of their kindergarten building, protected from traffic in a pedestrian-only zone.



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the kromboomslot in **amsterdam, nederland**, is one of the best examples of a contemporary public space that I am aware of. it uses human proportions and extraordinary urban elements to create a unique atmosphere typical of old cities like this one.



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an old fashioned carousel is a great complement to this space near the promenade in **vrnjacka banja, srbija**. the renewed use of otherwise neglected types of entertainment is encouraged in order to bring the spirit of the past to younger generations.



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one of the world's great piers still stands in **den haag, nederland**, it is very popular, new additions are already in progress. every city with a waterfront should have a pier just like this, enhancing existing vistas with lots of open space.



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largo do chiado is a lively square in **lisbon, portugal**. it is dotted with shops, cafés and “casas de fado”. its nice proportions, lots of content and a space for people watching, are perfectly suited for live performances by theater groups, funded by the city.



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the main city square in the little town of **marghera, italy**, had an unattractive wall facing traffic. with this mural, an imaginative artist transformed it into an exciting sight reflecting a nearby venezia lagoon. a perfect example of how small interventions make a remarkable difference.

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during the festival of shape in **sintra, portugal**, the main city street, (a pedestrian zone, as is common, in any european city) is adapting a new temporary role as an exhibition space. the art here belongs to everybody.



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this green wall in **rotterdam, nederland**, separates a bicycle lane and sidewalk from the busy street. visually appealing and functional, it also adds a necessary green touch to the downtown of a city with very interesting examples of contemporary architecture.

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this square is in the world heritage city of **trinidad, cuba**, where pastel coloured houses give the impression that time has not moved since the city was founded in 1514. a long period of isolation, 1850 - 1950, protected this square and it was left unchanged and skillfully restored.



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everything is special in this place, including this square. the famous director, emir kusturica, converted his movie set into his new home and then, with the help of locals and friends, moved around 20 abandoned wooden houses from the area to the hill. the town **drvengrad, srbija**, (wood-city) was born.



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london, england is one of most congested cities in the world. a fee is enforced for entering the downtown core. of course the city pays special attention to public transportation and even newly made busses still do not have doors. apparently the ability to board quickly does not interfere with rider safety.



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the pleasant atmosphere of this plaza in **toronto, canada**, surrounded by mies van der rohe's buildings is further enhanced by the bronze sculpture consisting of a ring and three larger-than-life chairs created by a. mcwilliams.



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space left after railway tracks were abandoned is transformed in the center of this great neighbourhood in **toronto, canada**. three schools, a community center, mixed-income living and a neighbouring market equals a lot of happy people.



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in the abandoned entrance to a building in the so-ho district, **new york, usa**, an urban art piece by a local artist was financed by the area association. passers by enjoy it and add their own content: “poo log hot dog” appears to be the new title for this work.