



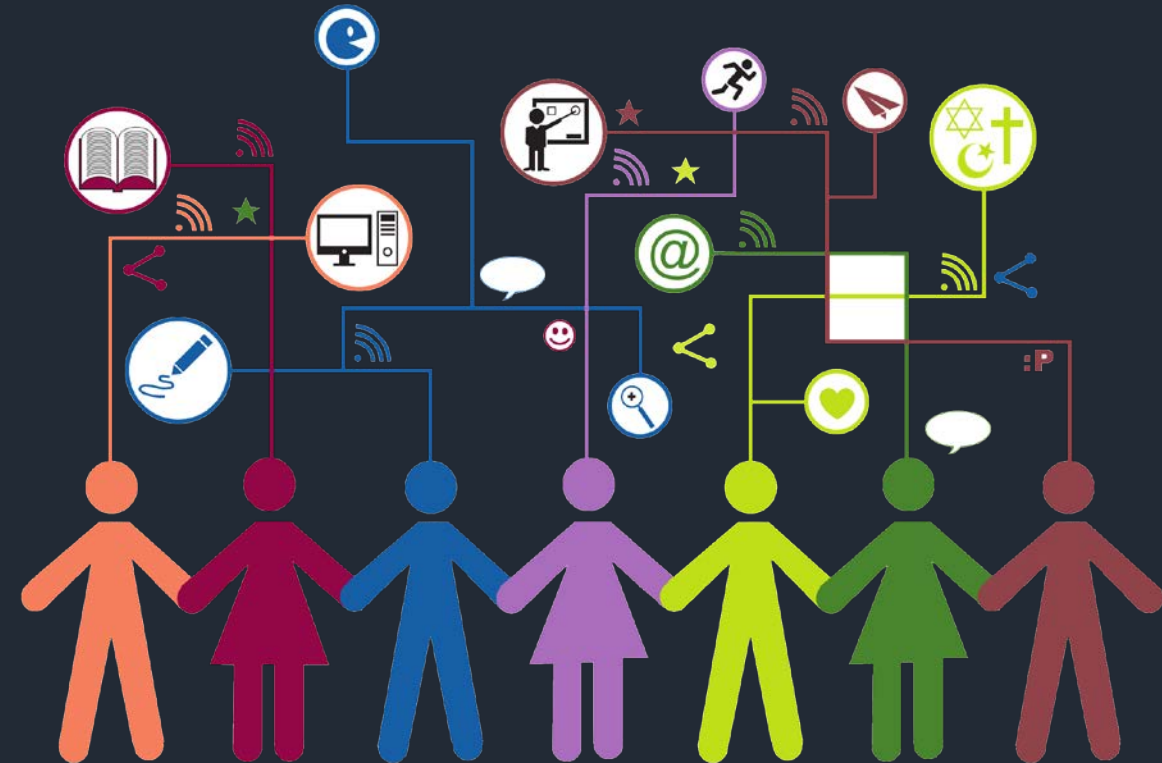
Building cities friendly to children and old-old: The City of Coexistence...and knowledge

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Young/old, wealth/poverty, present/future: connecting what is separated in space and time

How do we think cities should transform to accommodate needs, skills, behaviours aimed at the well-being and coexistence of all individuals?

At the heart of our interest are **public spaces** as resources truly available to all individuals and to favour the **increase of well-being** and the **reduction of inequalities**



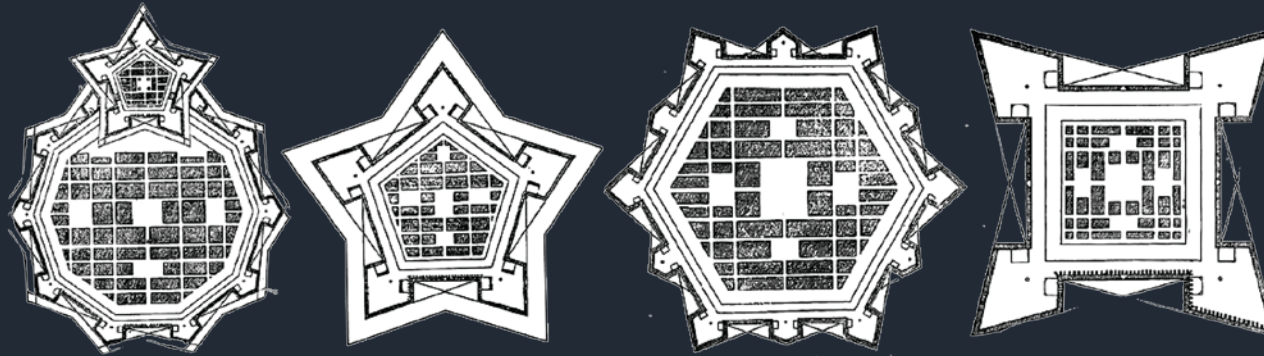
This premise is a reminder that, although our focus on “elderly / young”, inequalities in the use of urban space are a function of a number of other intersected internal factors such as gender, ethnicity, health and ability,... or external factors (*family, cultural, social, institutional conditions*)

CHANGING CITIES

THE CHALLENGE OF THE 'CITY OF COEXISTENCE' is to reposition bodies in space, restoring value and meaning to the fragility of women and men, young and old, differently abled, who in encounter and coexistence find mutual support and recognition

BUT WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE CITY?

CITY IS 'CIVITAS' BEFORE BEING 'URBS'



"City" (from latin *civitas*) is relationships between parts, design of emptiness and coexistence,

"Urban" is the opposite. From latin *urbs* means plow, which traces the furrow and separates: is the principle of functionalistic logic. In other words it expresses physical and social disintegration

Since the second half of the last century, cities have been involved in progressive accelerations and unprecedented upheavals. **These are not only cultural, relational and technological changes**

URBS/ CIVITAS

Globally, the **median age** today is just over 30. However, there are many differences:

in Africa, it's around 20, in Europe 44, in Italy 48, and just **under 49 in Japan**, the oldest country

Thanks to the constant extension of the average life expectancy, **Italy ranks first in the world, slightly behind the absolute record for life expectancy.**

Today, the elderly prevail and births are minimal

Elderly people (over 65) worldwide make up about 10% in Africa, they're less than 4% in Europe they're over 20% in Italy 24,3%

in 2050 people aged 65 and over could represent 34.5% of the total

Young people a quarter of the world's population in Africa, they're almost 1/3 in Europe just over 1/6 in Italy almost 1/8

BIRTH RATE is 6.3 per thousand inhabitants (in 2002 was 9.4)

MUTATION DATA

migration is growing, We need immigrants

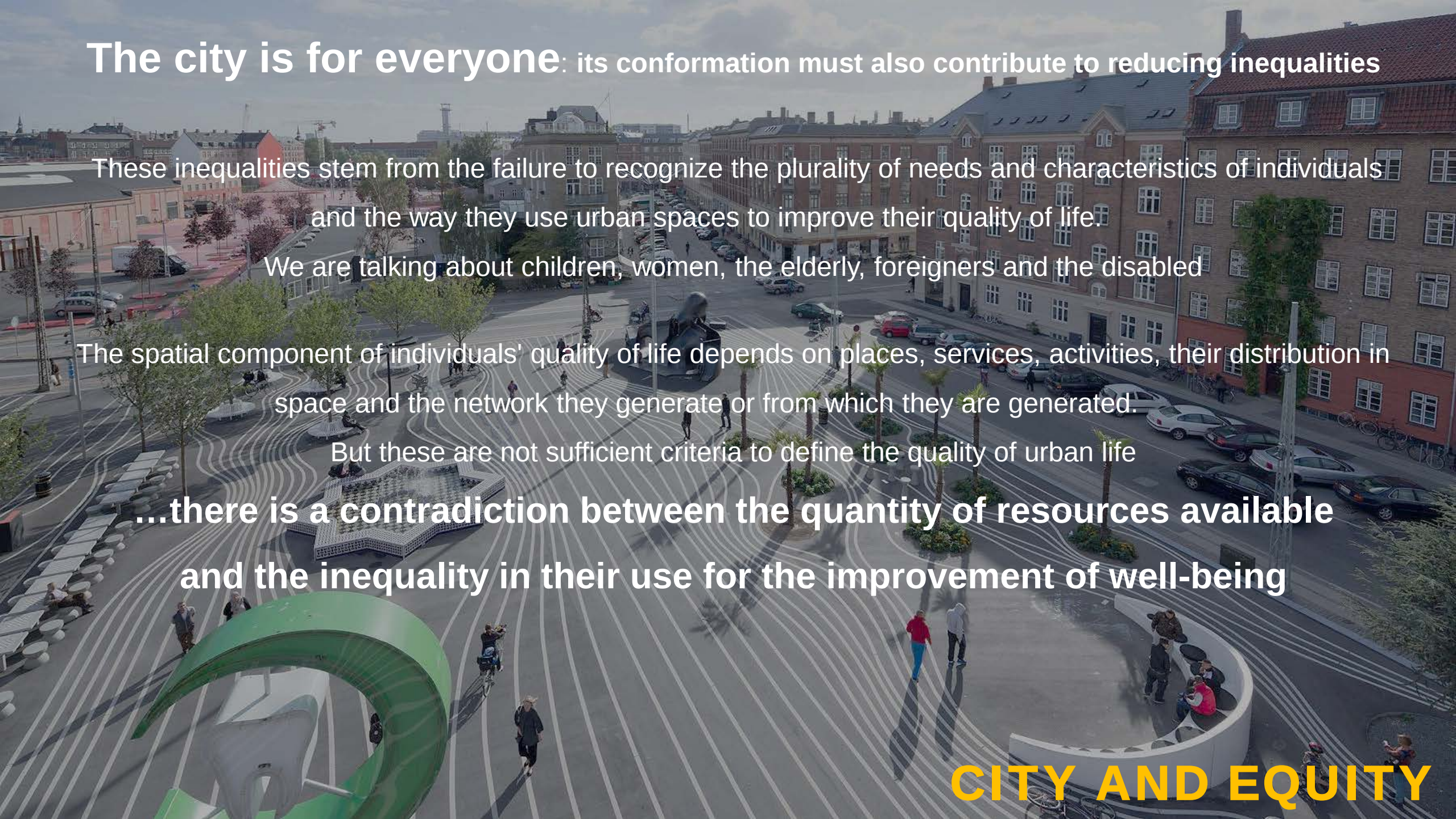
and, above all, it becomes urgent to promote processes of openness and welcome for the many young migrants who, through almost always extremely painful journeys, arrive in our country.



The city resists, but it must transform itself to respond to ever temporary and changing demands.

Cities/ urban spaces are constantly changing and according to many different uses that make them live and livable: the reuse of abandoned areas since to temporary use of urban spaces (tourists, immigrants, ...).

MIGRATION/ CITY OF DIFFERENCE

An aerial photograph of a modern urban plaza. In the foreground, a large, green, curved sculpture resembling a stylized 'C' or a wave is prominent. To its right, a circular area with white, curved seating or steps is visible. The plaza is paved with light-colored, wavy lines that create a sense of movement. Several people are walking or sitting in the plaza. In the background, there are multi-story brick buildings with many windows, typical of a city center. The sky is overcast.

The city is for everyone: its conformation must also contribute to reducing inequalities

These inequalities stem from the failure to recognize the plurality of needs and characteristics of individuals and the way they use urban spaces to improve their quality of life.

We are talking about children, women, the elderly, foreigners and the disabled

The spatial component of individuals' quality of life depends on places, services, activities, their distribution in space and the network they generate or from which they are generated.

But these are not sufficient criteria to define the quality of urban life

...there is a contradiction between the quantity of resources available and the inequality in their use for the improvement of well-being

CITY AND EQUITY

How do we translate this into practice :

- **considering the interaction between the city and individuals** (people-centred approach) means overcoming the traditional quantitative logic of standards in favour of an assessment of the **actual possibilities of individuals** to 'increase their wellbeing'
- **analysing the physical and organisational** conditions of the city that hinder the autonomous and free use by mortifying the right to the city, which still remains to the advantage of dominant groups
- **encourage confrontation between different actors** and involve in particular those with specific needs in a broad interaction between pluralities of individuals
- **remove or reduce obstacles and determine a favourable urban environment** in which the capacities of individuals can be promoted and their choice between valid alternatives can be maximised.

If we are talking about the 'elderly' population...

we can concretely reason about how urban space is used



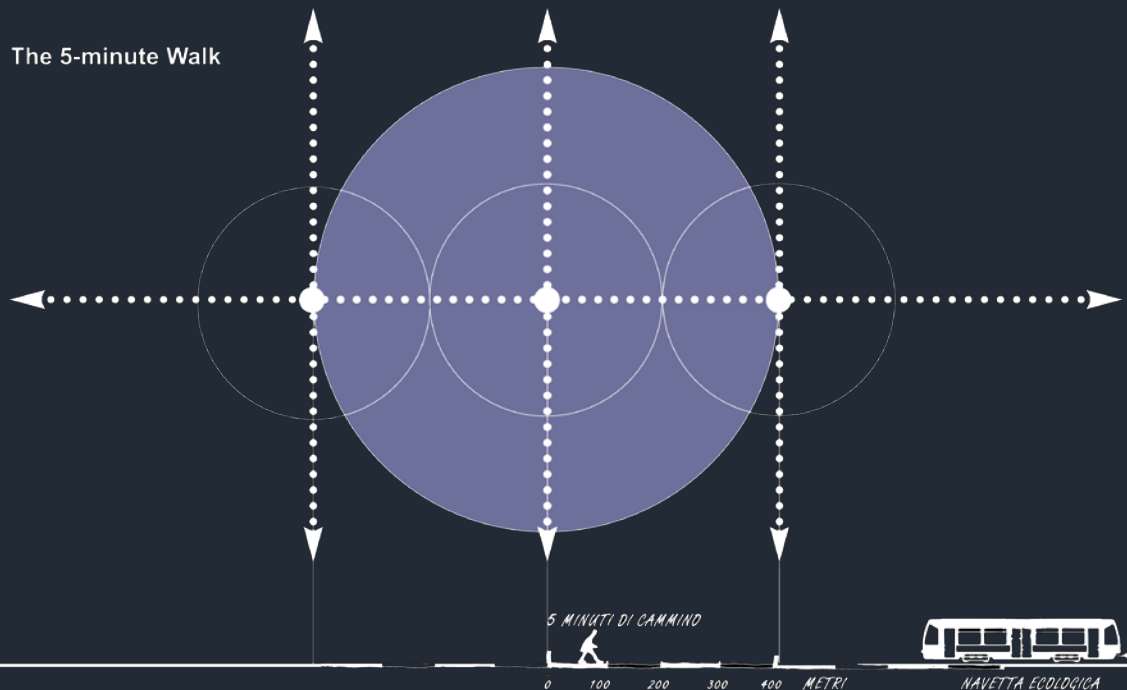
TRANSLATION INTO PRACTICE

It is about the **city of 5 minutes** or...the minutes it takes

In recent years, many cities have publicized this requirement but few actually practice it.

It means reorganizing the existing by aiming to recognise or introduce networks of easily accessible '**social condensation places**', perhaps supported by small-range eco-mobility, in any case linked by large-range collective mobility systems to avoid narrow, self-enclosed clusters.

If we talk about '**young and old people**', we approach the **discourse on proximity**



Among urban mobility policies, those which reverse the traditional car/pedestrian hierarchy in favour of pedestrians and cyclists (woonerf model) and which, working on mobility nodes, favour the creation of protected routes where people can move freely between parking-school-sports nodes, creating **large safe islands open to all**.

CITY OF FIVE MINUTES /A THE DISCOURSE ON PROXIMITY

The removal of architectural barriers ensure safe movement for all

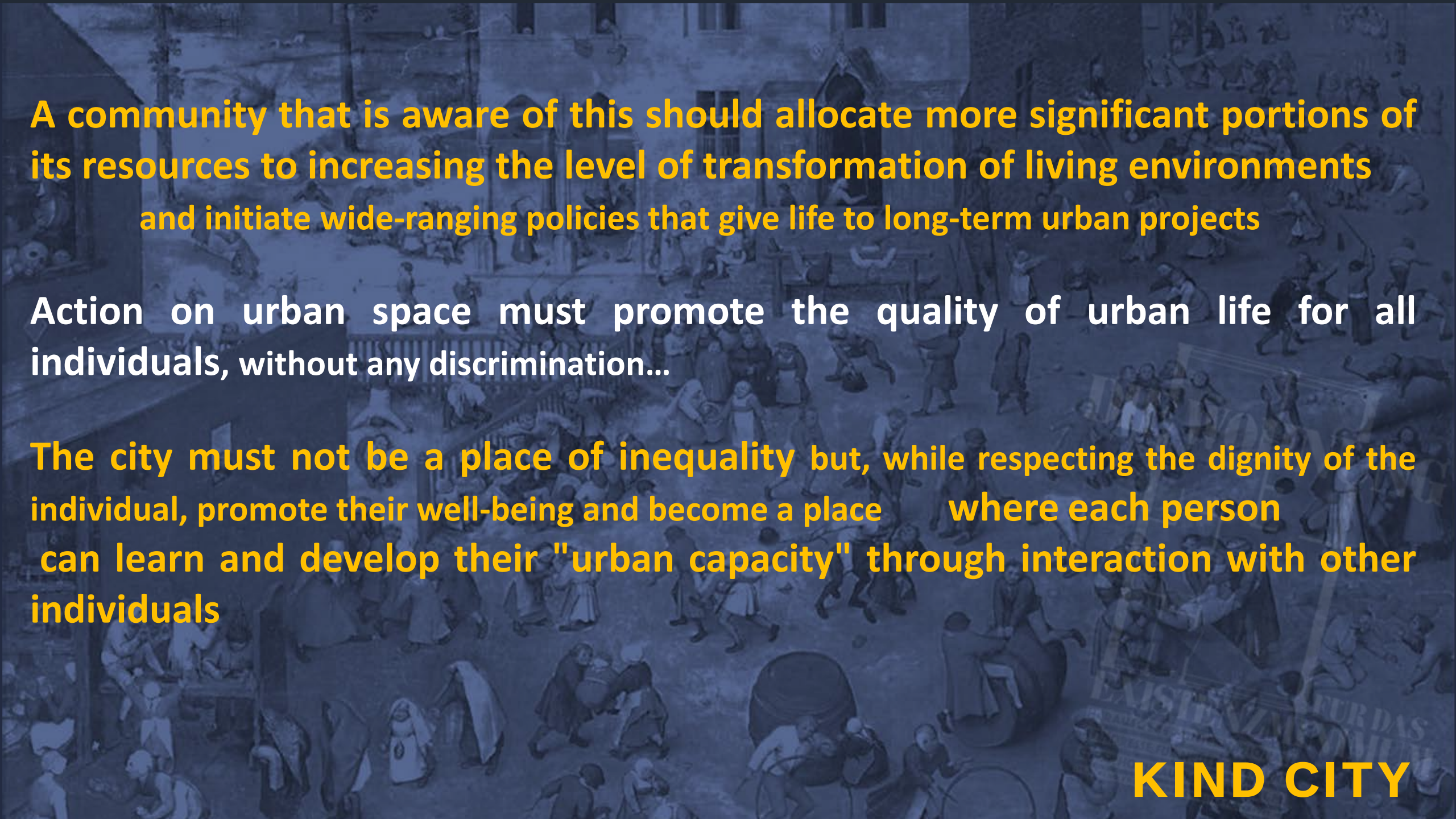
through the use of alternative signposting to recognise the route and obstacles (tactil pats, acoustic signposting, etc.) or the creation along protected routes of rest areas, seating for people to stay, encouraging children to play, especially in spaces close to homes.

Everything should favour exchange and participation at all scales...

- promote virtuous urban actions through the involvement of young and the elderly people in micro-transformations, in the setting up of spaces and in the shared management of neighbourhood services
- allowing easy access to 'urban gardens', perhaps even connected to school buildings
- separate management of individual parts of a school building (library, sports facilities, cafeteria and refreshment areas, auditorium, laboratories, etc.) by opening them to the public at different times

The quality of public space influences the behaviour, sociality, spirituality, safety, economy and well-being of those who use them.

SHARED CITY

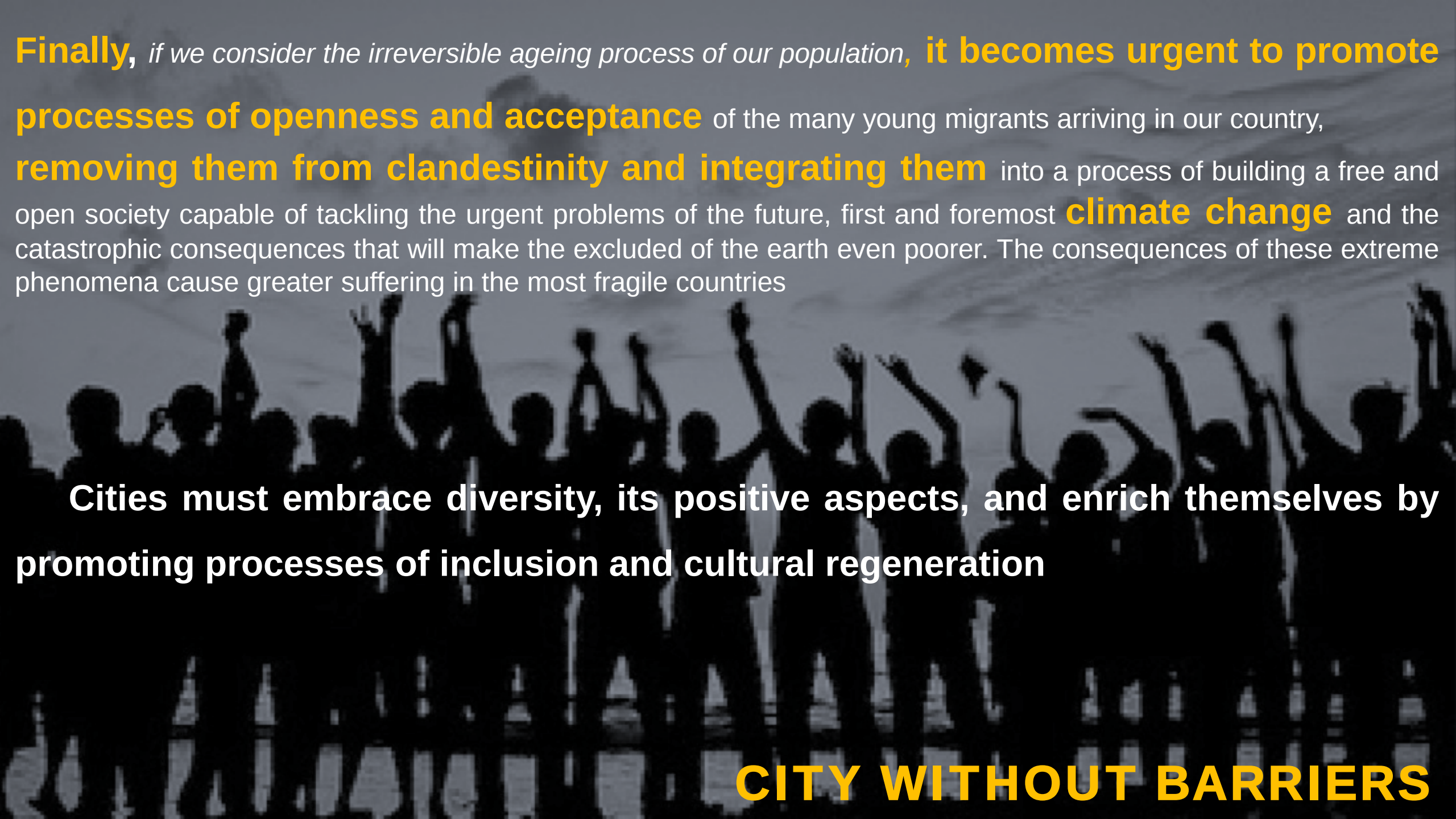


A community that is aware of this should allocate more significant portions of its resources to increasing the level of transformation of living environments and initiate wide-ranging policies that give life to long-term urban projects

Action on urban space must promote the quality of urban life for all individuals, without any discrimination...

The city must not be a place of inequality but, while respecting the dignity of the individual, promote their well-being and become a place where each person can learn and develop their "urban capacity" through interaction with other individuals

KIND CITY



Finally, *if we consider the irreversible ageing process of our population,* **it becomes urgent to promote processes of openness and acceptance** of the many young migrants arriving in our country, **removing them from clandestinity and integrating them** into a process of building a free and open society capable of tackling the urgent problems of the future, first and foremost **climate change** and the catastrophic consequences that will make the excluded of the earth even poorer. The consequences of these extreme phenomena cause greater suffering in the most fragile countries

Cities must embrace diversity, its positive aspects, and enrich themselves by promoting processes of inclusion and cultural regeneration

CITY WITHOUT BARRIERS



THE PROJECT OF CHANGE,
of the physical transformation of living environments, **IS CRUCIAL TODAY**

*and requires **ability to change habits** (in terms of food, consumption, use of time and space), thus requiring an **attitude of listening**, dialogue and **open visions**, capable of opposing any separation - physical or cultural barrier - to create bonds, build relationships, and foster hope for the future.*

CITY OF COEXISTENCE... AND KNOWLEDGE