

# Techniques for Evaluating Public Space

CSL In Session – The Library As Public Place with Christine Kreger  
November 7, 2012

## What Makes a Great Public Space Chart



## Questions to ask

### Sociability

- What opportunities are there for social interaction
- What would compel you to bring others here—would this be a place that you would gather

### Uses and Activities

- Are people using the space or is it empty?
- How interactive is the space? Is there a choice of things to do?
- What would you like to be able to do here

## Comfort and Image

- What is the character of the place—how would you describe it—adjectives
- What additional amenities would make the place more comforting and welcoming

## Access and Linkages

- Does the space function for people with special needs?
- How do you get here—convenient?
- What places are nearby that interest you

## The Power of 10

- Each building should have 10 places
- Each place should have 10 things to do

### How to get to 10

- Observe
- Ask your users
- Brainstorm
  - Set a timer and come up with as many possibilities as you can
  - Don't focus on money, feasibility, or even reasonability—let your imagination run free!

## Resources

Project for Public Places—<http://www.pps.org>

- Power of 10- <http://www.pps.org/reference/the-power-of-10/>
- What is Placemaking- [http://www.pps.org/reference/what\\_is\\_placemaking/](http://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/)
- What Makes a Successful Place- <http://www.pps.org/reference/grplacefeat/>
- Eleven Principles for Creating Great Community Places- <http://www.pps.org/reference/11steps/>

### R2 Blog

<http://rsquaredconference.org/blog>

The Space is the Service: Assessing the Physical Library in 2.012 (Part of Library 2.012 Online Conference)

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/recording/playback/link/table/dropin?sid=2008350&suid=D.49D4449E9205F1BECDF69475856E24>

Reinventing Spaces and Places—Internet Librarian 2012

<http://www.slideshare.net/jeffwisniewski/reinventing-spaces-and-places>

Josh Linkner-- <http://joshlinkner.com/blog/>

Book: *Disciplined Dreaming*