

New Partners for
Smart Growth Conference
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Building Child- friendly
Neighborhoods:

HOME ZONES

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Session goals:

- Overview of the Home Zones concept and design principles
- Brainstorming Session: How home zones can be used in the United States as a smart growth tool to promote safe, active communities.
- Next Steps



California Center for Physical Activity

- Our resources promote walk- and bike-friendly communities to encourage everyday physical activity
- Home Zones are one component of the Center's efforts to make a child's entire route safe and active. For additional projects addressing safety along the journey from home to school and back, please visit www.caphysicalactivity.com:
- [California Walk to School Headquarters](#)
- [Healthy Transportation Network](#)
- [Safe Routes for Kids](#)
- [Walkable Community Workshops](#)



Child-friendly Communities: International Perspective

- "It is a city, or any local system of governance, committed to fulfilling children's rights. It is a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions."
- "The well-being of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society, and of good governance."



A City Friendly to Children is Friendly to All

Childstreet 2005: Delft, the Netherlands



- A conference on the development, design and evaluation of child-friendly public space, geared for playing, walking and cycling
- 22 Countries Represented, sharing international best practices



Definitions:

- Netherlands = Woonerf
 - Living yard
 - Space shared by pedestrians, playing children, bicyclists and low-speed motor vehicles
- England = Home Zones
 - Residential areas designed to be places for people through design such as: gateway treatments, shared road space, traffic calming, hard and soft landscaping
- Germany = Wohnstrasse and Begegnungszone (meeting zone)
- Israel = Rehov Meshulav (integrated street)
- Japan = Community Doro
- France = Zone 30

Kilometers	Miles
10	6.21
20	12.43
30	18.64
40	24.85
50	31.07
60	37.28
70	43.50
80	49.71
90	55.92
100	62.14







The many faces of the woonerf:



The many faces of the woonerf:



The many faces of the woonerf:



Home Zones:
Safe and Active Residential Areas



What sets a "Home Zone" apart?

- Safety and Security
- Independent Mobility
- Enjoyment



Home Zone Design Features:
Entryways and Exits



Home Zone Design Features:
Signage



Home Zone Design Features:
Context Sensitive Design



Home Zone Design Features:
Places for active play



Structured v. Discovered

Home Zone Design Features: Places for active play



Structured v. Discovered

Home Zone Design Features: Fencing



Home Zone Design Features: Community Involvement



Additional Design Considerations:

- Functional elements: seats, public lighting, fencing in parking spaces, bicycle stands, planters
- Shift parking to low danger locations that don't impede freedom of movement
- Streets at same grade as curbs and sidewalks
- Change driver focus from far sight to wide angle.
 - Car cannot drive in a straight line for significant distances
 - Partition street into rooms with character

Additional Design Considerations:

- Draw special attention to places where people might pop up
- Expose playgrounds
- Use lampposts for visibility and protection, also in daytime
- Mark the points of transition from the street into another type of public space
- Window view of streets

Spectrum of Safe and Active Design:

- Beginning:
 - Education
 - Community Activities: i.e. Traffic free play days
- Intermediate:
 - Minor Physical Changes: i.e. Planter boxes, signage
- Advanced:
 - Retrofit
 - New Development
 - Policy/Legislation: Speed limits, Liability

Next Steps:

- Issue brief: lessons learned and next steps for child-friendly design in the United States
- Home Zone pilot project which aims to create safe areas within neighborhoods for free play
- Community assessment

Resources

- For more information on the home zones concept:
<http://www.homezones.org>
- For more information on the Childstreet2005 conference:
<http://www.urban.nl/childstreet2005/>
- For more information on the California Center for Physical Activity:
www.caphysicalactivity.org



Brainstorming Session: Implementing Home Zones in the U.S.

- Specific design issues, such as street width and speed limits, to be considered for inclusion in both existing and future residential development projects
- Label
- Policy and Legislation
- Barriers
- Next Steps

Filling in the spectrum:

Moving Forward:



Bicycle Parking



Bike perks



Fraternity Parties



Continuous Bicycle Path in Roundabout



Bicycle stoplight button

Bollards in city center where only residents can drop off goods
Downside: too many signs needed to alert the public, yellow brick

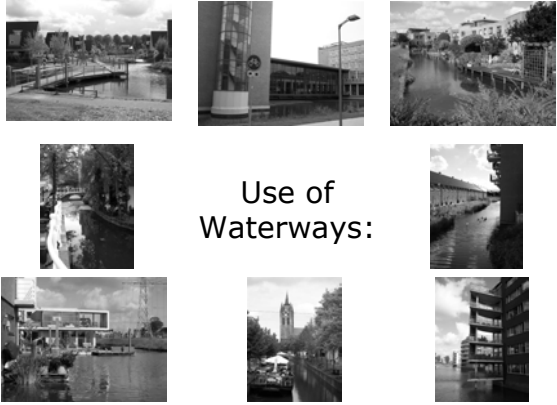


Transportation features:




Most compelling argument to improve city center: cars were disturbing monuments






Use of Waterways:

Converting railway to canal –
Train tunnel and parking garage
underground



Underground parking garage with
garden on top



Australia version:



Sydney additional gardens:
botanical, rooftop







the only obesity you see are obese cats
