

# Community Spaces Designed or Self-Created: Shaping Spaces for Connection and Belonging



**Community spaces: Designed or Self-created** by Kruti Joshi

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Community spaces are vital to the fabric of our neighborhoods and cities. They provide opportunities for people to connect, build relationships, and feel a sense of belonging. These spaces can be both designed and self-created, and each type has its own unique benefits and challenges.

In this article, we will explore the concept of community spaces, both designed and self-created, and their impact on fostering connection and belonging. We will also highlight the importance of creating inclusive and welcoming spaces that cater to the diverse needs of a community.

## Designed Community Spaces

Designed community spaces are those that have been intentionally created by architects, urban planners, or other professionals. These spaces can

include parks, plazas, community centers, and libraries. They are typically designed to be accessible, inclusive, and welcoming.

One of the benefits of designed community spaces is that they can be tailored to the specific needs of a community. For example, a park can be designed to include features such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and walking trails. A community center can be designed to offer a variety of programs and activities, such as after-school programs, senior citizen programs, and arts and crafts classes.

However, designed community spaces can also be expensive to create and maintain. They may also be perceived as being too formal or institutional. As a result, some people may feel more comfortable in self-created community spaces.

## **Self-Created Community Spaces**

Self-created community spaces are those that have been created by the community itself, often without the involvement of professionals. These spaces can include community gardens, street murals, and pop-up parks. They are typically more organic and informal than designed community spaces.

One of the benefits of self-created community spaces is that they are often more inclusive and welcoming than designed community spaces. They are also more likely to reflect the unique culture and identity of a community.

However, self-created community spaces can also be more difficult to maintain and can be more vulnerable to closure. They may also be

perceived as being less safe or welcoming than designed community spaces.

## **The Importance of Inclusive and Welcoming Community Spaces**

Regardless of whether a community space is designed or self-created, it is important that it is inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community. This means that the space should be accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. It should also be free of discrimination and harassment.

Creating inclusive and welcoming community spaces is essential for fostering connection and belonging. When people feel welcome and respected in a space, they are more likely to participate in activities and build relationships. This can lead to a stronger and more cohesive community.

Community spaces are vital to the fabric of our neighborhoods and cities. They provide opportunities for people to connect, build relationships, and feel a sense of belonging. These spaces can be both designed and self-created, and each type has its own unique benefits and challenges.

When creating community spaces, it is important to consider the needs of the community and to create spaces that are inclusive and welcoming to all. By doing so, we can create spaces that foster connection and belonging and make our communities stronger.

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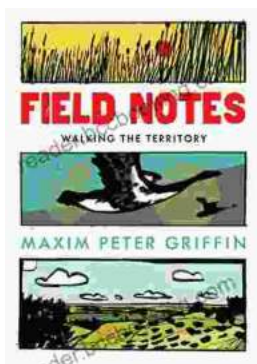


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