

Fair Shared Cities – Vienna's Gender Planning Approach



Eva Kail

If

- the investor's **urban design** was improved twice by planning administration's demand due to park's size and shape, sunlight supply of kindergartens and primary schools open spaces
- in **social housing design** secondary rooms quality is checked: position, size and shape of bike and pram stalls; comfortable washing saloons have visual connections to playgrounds
- **public park and playground design** considers also the play and sport interests of girls
- **streets** offer well lit and shaded spaces for walking, biking , sitting and play on the way
- **the net and time tables of public transport** consider different every day patterns, **stops** are carefully situated and designed
- in **participation processes** the quiet are heard and the vulnerable are addressed

....**than it's gender planning**

Planning- a Complex Field of Action

between market forces and common interests

-> male white middle class bias

-> tendency to see the city only as a technical system

Gender Planning

“to stand in different shoes”

a strategy of quality assurance:

-> systematic assessment of conflicting interests

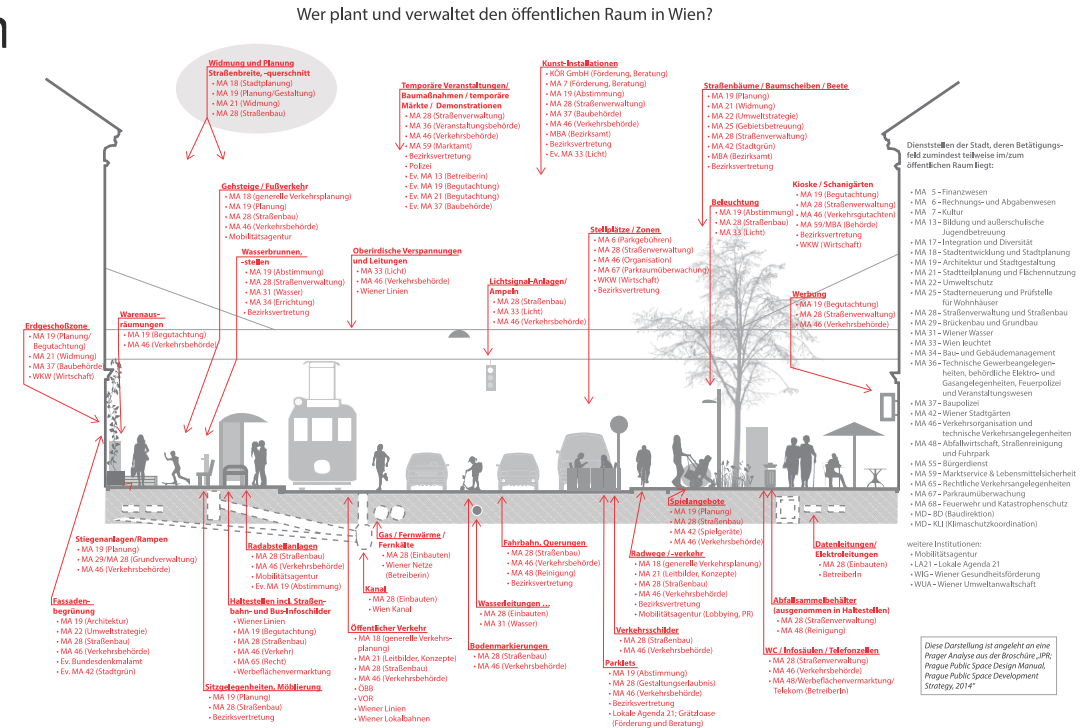
-> higher social intelligence in planning processes

-> specification of common welfare

Why?

Fairness: competing interests of user groups

Efficiency: focus on customer interests



City of Vienna, MA 19

34 Years Gender Planning Tradition in Vienna

Fields of activity



How did it start?

informal cooperation between engaged young women in administration and politics



„Who owns Public Space – Women’s Everyday Life in the City “ 1991

Die Frau im öffentlichen Raum

Frauen sind überall



Unser Hauptinteresse gilt dem öffentlichen Raum:
Wie gehen die Frauen Ihrer unbezahlten, versorgenden Alltagsarbeit nach?
Wie wird allgemein ihre Bewegungsfreiheit behindert oder erleichtert?



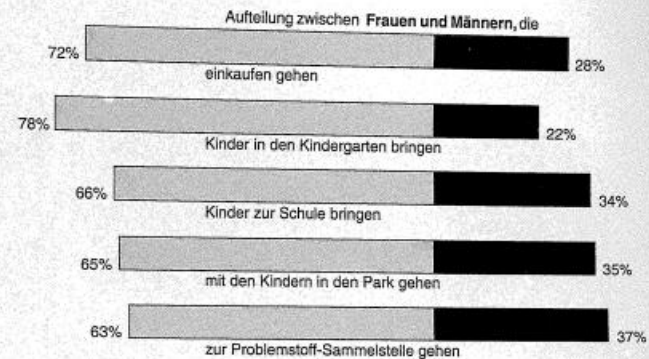
Wir zeigen den Tagesablauf von acht Frauen - stellvertretend für viele.

Arbeitsplatz Straße

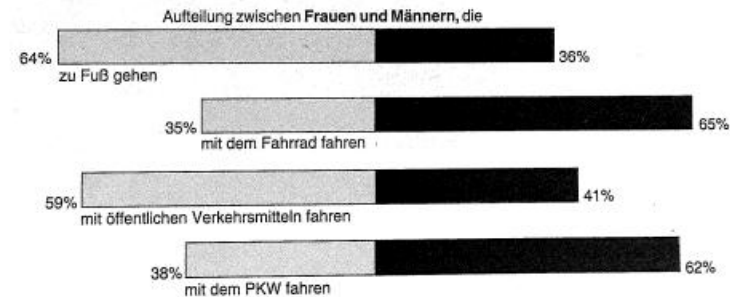
Frauen unterwegs

Welche Wege werden täglich zurückgelegt: zur Arbeit, zum Einkaufen, die Kinder begleiten usw...

Von allen in Wien zur bezahlten Arbeit zurückgelegten Wegen entfallen nur 31% auf Frauen. Bei den Wegen der unbezahlten Arbeit sieht das Verhältnis ganz anders aus.



Die Gewichtung der verschiedenen Wegarten ist im Alltag von Männern und Frauen verschieden, die benutzten Verkehrsmittel sind es auch.



Zwei Drittel aller Personen, die zu Fuß gehen oder öffentliche Verkehrsmittel benutzen, sind Frauen.

Und das, obwohl sie täglich die größeren Lasten transportieren.

Von 100 Frauen haben nur 43 einen Führerschein, bei den Männern sind es 71. 38% der Frauen haben im Alltag ein Auto zur Verfügung gegenüber 64% der Männer.

Zwei Drittel aller Personen, die mit dem Auto fahren, sind Männer.

Derzeit sind die Frauen umweltverträglicher unterwegs: freiwillig oder unfreiwillig, aus tieferer Einsicht oder aus ökonomischer Schwäche?

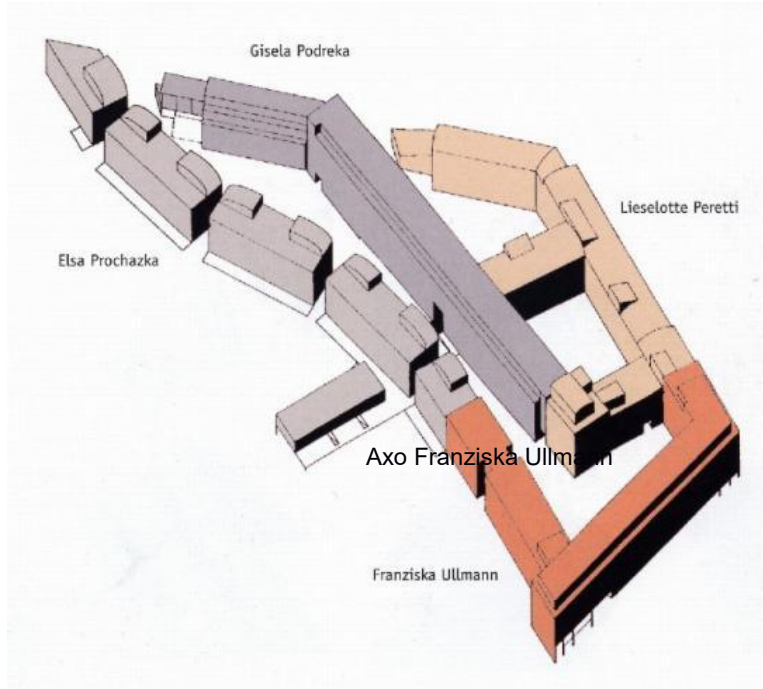




What happened next?

The Women's office 1992

Frauen-Werk-Stadt I - Start of Mainstreaming



Axo: Franziska Ullmann

- **Gender-sensitive housing:** quality assessment for housing projects that have applied for subsidies → considerable improvements for common facilities and green areas
- **Gender sensitive Urban design:** Participation in juries or part of prequalification: competitions or cooperative processes for urban development with integrated gender perspective

The Golden Age: Pilots and Start of Mainstreaming

Executive Group for Construction and Technology - Coordination Office for Construction and Technology geared to the Requirements of Daily Life and the Specific Needs of Women

Competitions for Public Purpose Buildings



Education Center

Martin Kohlbauer



Campus Schools

City of Vienna



City of Vienna



Luzia Puiu, charged by 3420 AG



Luzia Puiu, charged by 3420 AG

Gender-sensitive Park Design

1997: „Foul Play with Opportunities? – Girls into Public Space!“

socio- scientific survey -> specific interests of girls have to be considered

2000: **strategic project** within the City`s Strategy Plan

since 1999: **6 model projects** - 4 with active participation of girls

evaluation: usability analysis of 5 parks, design analysis of 14 parks

2006: evaluation workshop - > **planning recommendations** for gender-sensitive park- and playground design

Mainstreaming: Every new or redesigned park follows the principles





Wolfgang Gerlich/Plansinn



Wolfgang Gerlich



Wolfgang Gerlich/Plansinn



Wolfgang Gerlich/Plansinn

Specified Modal Split

transport means for daily ways in %	in total	men	women
Public transport	38	37	40
Motorized individual traffic	27	31	24
Bikes	7	9	5
Foot	27	24	31

differences between age groups: MIT

highest: men 60Y-74Y 44%

lowest: women 25Y-34Y 16%

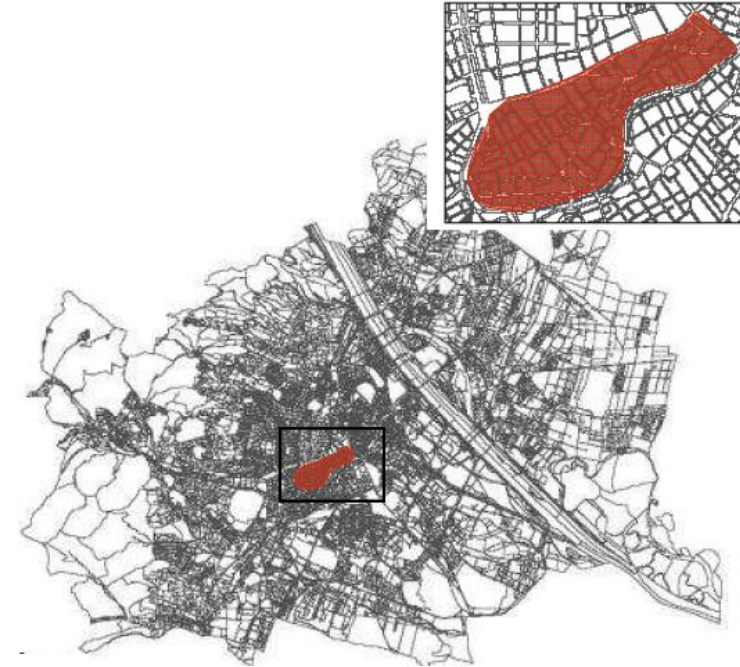
Gender Sensitive Mobility Pilot District Mariahilf

Why Mariahilf ?

4 years pilot process

with 7 departments charged with public space

branded as „Fair Shared City“





Pedestrian Network Quality



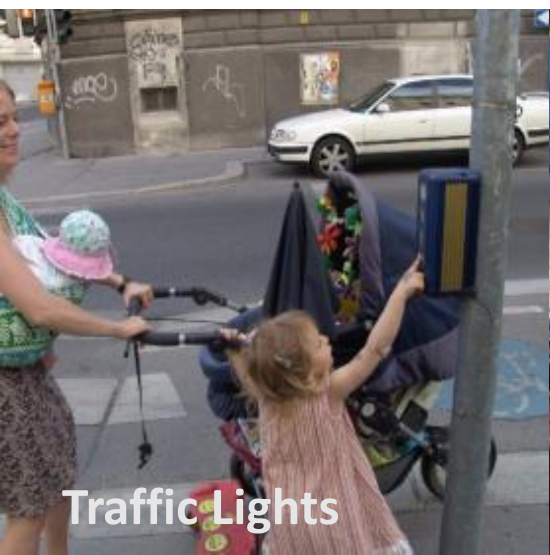
Broader Sidewalks



Barrierfreeness



Safe Crossing



Traffic Lights



Safety



Awareness



Sidewalk Café

Outcomes



Safety



City of Vienna



City of Vienna

List of criteria to identify zones of anxiety for the urban lightning department

General planning recommendations for a safe city -> spaces with “social eyes”

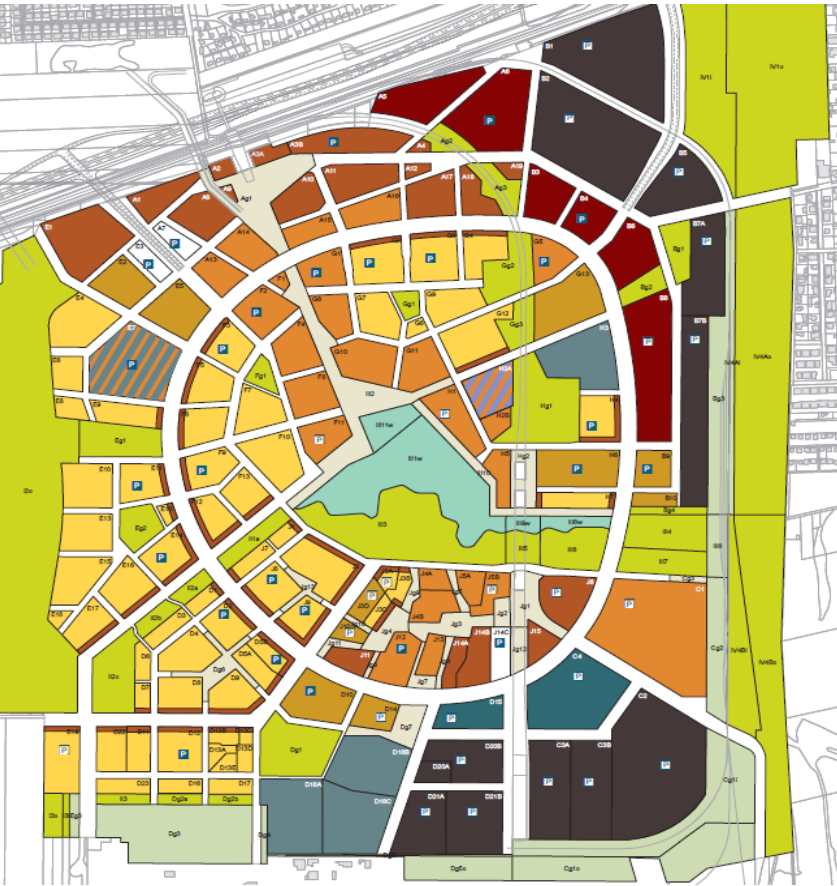
Security walks: 6th district by local politicians, walks before renewal of social housing by police

Institutional Mainstreaming

2010:

Competence Center Overall Urban Planning, Smart City Strategy, Participation, Gender Planning
Department of Architectural Design- units for public space and for public buildings

Lake City Aspern



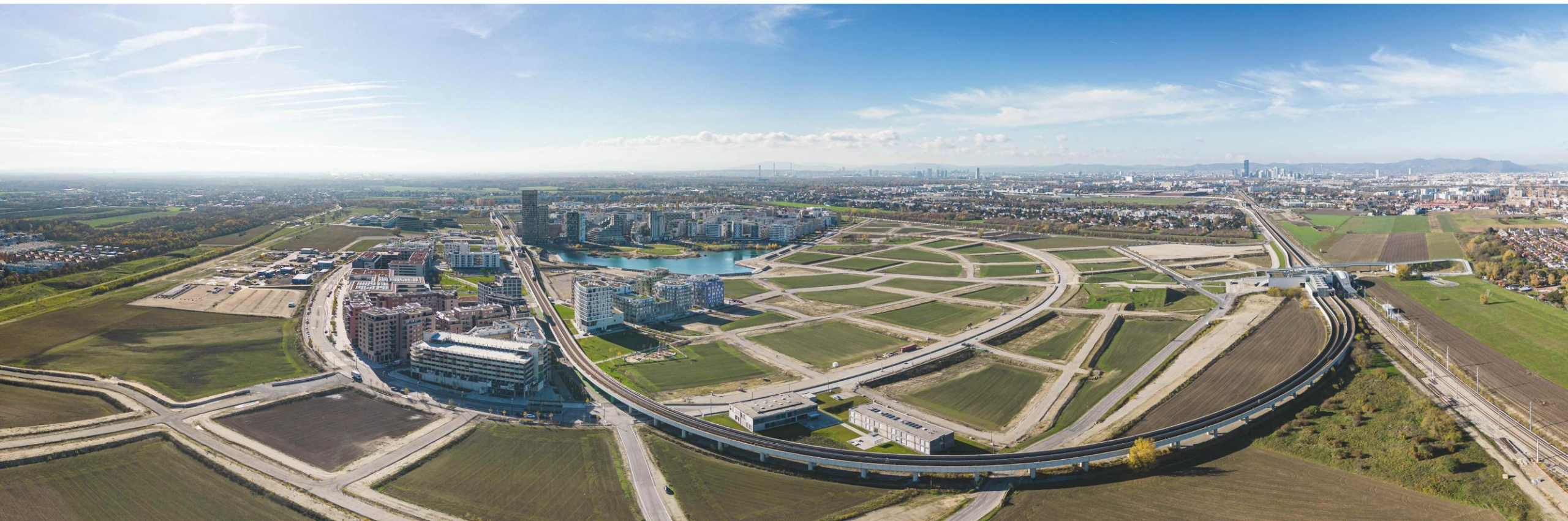
Masterplan Tovatt Architects



Trip Chain Check Wohnbund



Manual Public Space Gehl Architects





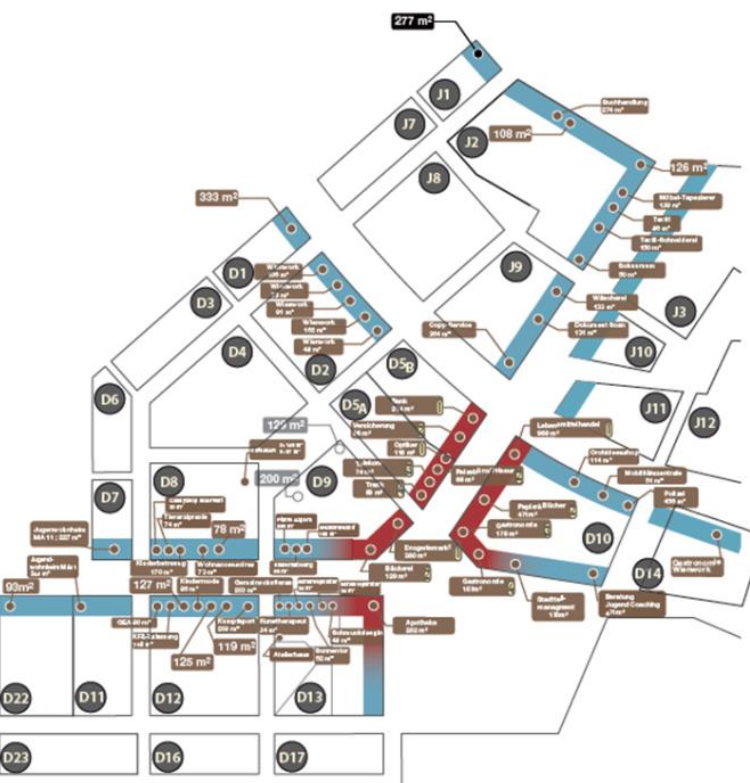




all: Luzia Puiu, charged by 3420 AG



Mixed use



3420 AG



Luiza Puiu supplied by 3420 AG

**22., Janis-Joplin-
Promenade**



Branding and Signs



Wiener Linien



Eva Kail

The Transformative Potential of Urban Contracts



Superwien

Urban development area “Oberes Hausfeld”

3700 housing units, 15 developers

Quality board includes a gender planning expert

**Quality criteria catalogue as basis for
assessment of housing projects -**

“green light” as precondition of building permission

Participation- Beware of Gender Bias!





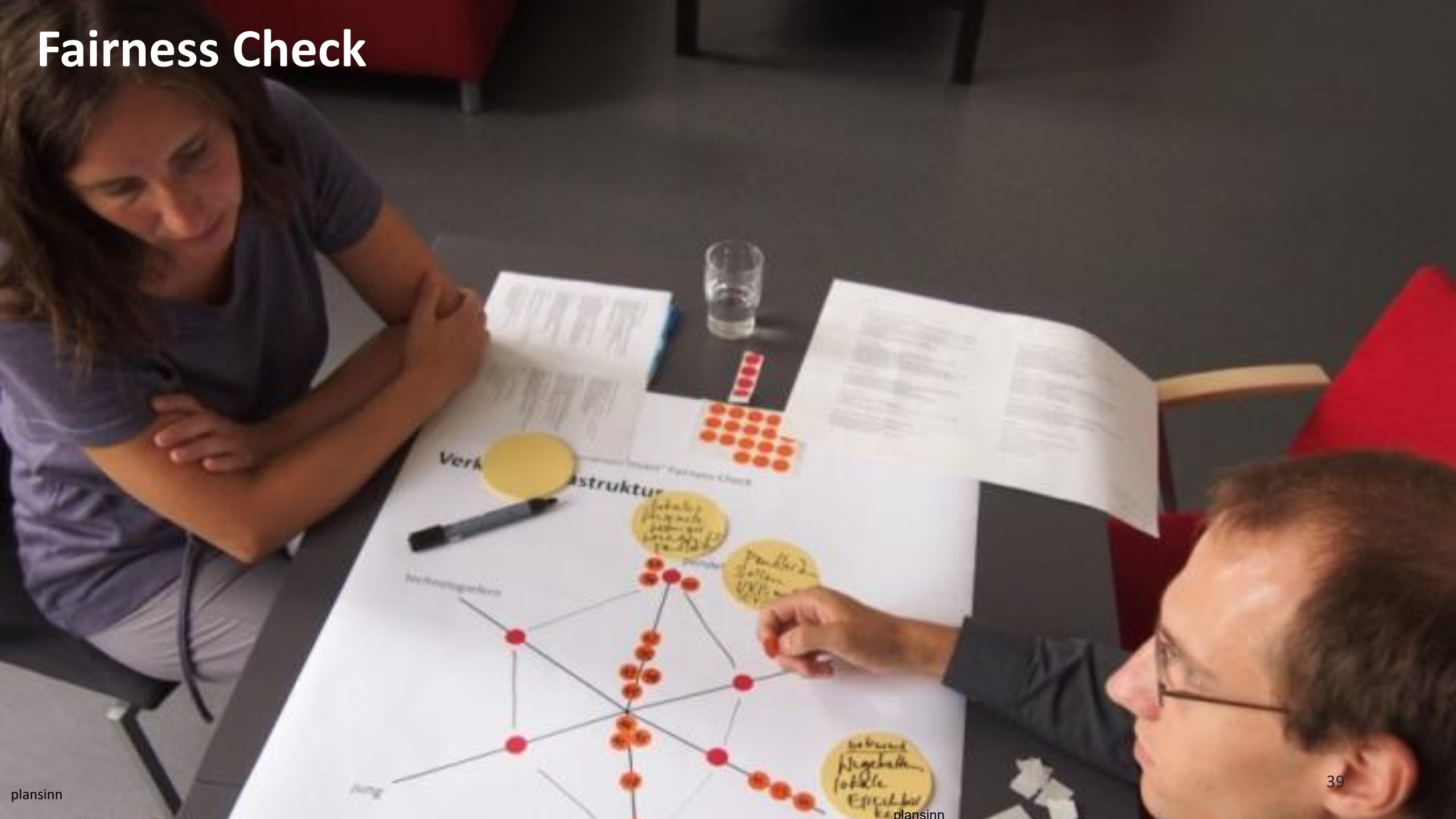
Gender Sensitive Participation Process Reumannplatz



First Girls Stage in Public Space



Fairness Check



Definition of Target Groups

Strategic Concept for Public Space

Children and youngster up to 14 Years

Persons with reduced mobility: permanent or temporary

Persons threatened by poverty, working poor

Car giving persons : to < 15 Years, old persons/people in need of care

Potential victims of violence

Commercial users

Strategy and Learnings

analysis and research -> awareness

pilot projects -> visibility and practical experience

manuals, planning recommendations, lists of criteria -> sharing of knowledge

branding and publicity - > dissemination

lead projects, pilot processes, jury's and urban development quality boards discussions
- > start of mainstreaming

most important of all: ask the right questions!

often the simple, but important ones are not posed in mainstream planning

Impact of Gender Planning in Vienna

Mobility: Pedestrian issues, quality of public spaces, accessibility and safety of public transport stations first articulated from the women's side

Subsidised and social housing: increase of quality for buildings and open spaces

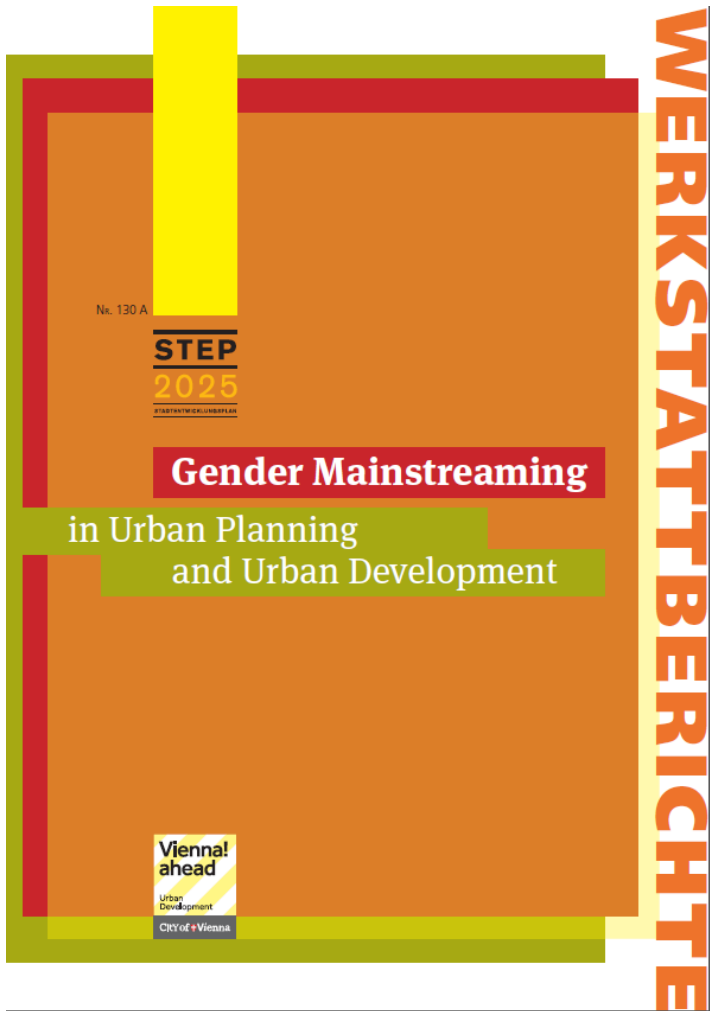
Safety issues: higher subjective feeling of safety

Green Infrastructure: quantity and quality aspects

Gender sensitive park design: better facilities for girls, safety issues

Urban design: most conflictual area- green parameters count, green infrastructure as backbone, improvements of block structures and shape of parks, shading diagrams to improve urban design, localisation of kindergartens, modest reduction or better distribution of gross floor space

Manual Gender Mainstreaming in Urban Planning and Urban Development



different levels of planning process...

...different user groups and their needs

...key criteria of gender sensitive quality

...good methodical practise

...high quality density as the key term

includes guidelines for gender sensitive park/playground design

<https://www.digital.wienbibliothek.at/urn/urn:nbn:at:AT-WBR-707537>

gender aspects in Social Space Analysis and Participation manuals

Guides for Public Spaces



Playing Guide

for playin facilities in public space: different typologies, more than 100 examples, adresses planners and local politicians
4 star system shows space requirements, construction and maintenance costs at a quick glance

Sitting Guide

Cooling Guide

Inclusive Playing Guide

Manual: Women-Friendly City

Components and Practical Tips

addresses mainly local politicians:
communal policy as the policy of every day life

10 thematic „bricks“ as areas of action:
What is bad practice? How to make a
difference? Impact?
Criteria and story telling in every-day language

8 tips for methods and proceedings

40 realised examples from Austrian cities:
hardware and software



Other Manuals

Handbook for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design by the World Bank, 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/publication/handbook-for-gender-inclusive-urban-planning-and-design>

Fair Shared City: Guideline for Socially Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Residential Development by the Asian Development Bank, 2022

<https://www.adb.org/publications/fair-shared-city-guidelines-inclusive-gender-responsive>

Fair Shared Green and Recreational Spaces, by ADB, 2021

<https://www.adb.org/publications/fair-shared-city-guidelines-inclusive-gender-responsive>

What if Women Designed the City? -33 leverage points to make your city work better for women and girls, May East, Triarchy Press, Axminster UK 2024

Common Reservations and Fears

Additional costs

not necessarily, shift of focus - prioritize measurements in a given financial frame to get more out of investments, slightly increased planning costs

Additional workload

in the beginning - higher expenditure of time for pilot projects and new procedures, diminishes with established routines

Negative or sceptical public reactions

only in the professional „bubble“ - positive resonance in the population and media, higher satisfaction of users and neighbours

Obstacles and Challenges

Individual level

problems with female colleagues and women's issues, different forms of degradation and ridiculousness, active or passive resistance

-> gender trainings, top-down support: professional behaviour, acceptance of aims

Professional level

lack of methods, tools and experience

-> pilot projects, evaluations, guidelines, trainings and workshops

Structural level

Conflicting targets, market forces and common interests, lack of personal resources: service orientation for developer leads to time pressure

-> clear planning regulations, standards, urban parameters; quality assessments

Climate Crisis as New Challenge

Urban Heat Island, heavy rains -> necessity to organize a post fossil world much faster

-> high synergetic potential of measurements with gender planning issues

map overlaying Urban Heat Islands/ vulnerable groups (age, economy..)

-> 11 **high risk areas** as **prioritized action areas**

Vienna has a decreasing number of cars/inhabitants, but a challenge with street-parking:

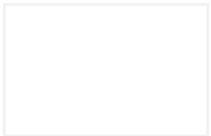
Concept of Garden Streets in new strategic concept Vienna Plan

Transformative Potential of Current Crisis?

- Fair Shared City principles are more important then ever: Gender planning can contribute to fight the climate crisis and accelerate climate change adaptions
- 19th Century: transformed male engineers the structure of our cities,
- 21th Century: a similar urban restructuring is needed, but this time with female politicians, experts and a high involvement of women as citizens to tackle the challenges
- Cities in Europe with female mayors show a considerable transformative energy
- Gender planners have proofed to be many years ahead of the mainstream

Transformation as communication issue

- needs a gender lens for better acceptance
- pragmatic utopias and scenarios and broad dialogues



Social sustainable, gender-sensitive and post-fossil urban development and restructuring is a chance!

Thank you for your attention!



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