



Rediscovery of our own space - community building in Teleki Square

The rehabilitation of the public park in Teleki square became a pressing issue as the park turned into a centre of social conflict, with squatters and drug dealers. It was not only local residents' wish to rehabilitate the park for the public, public health reasons also prompted the municipality to act as used needles lied around, faeces covered every corner of it.



- i.) Residents see flyers, hear news of first meetings from neighbours
- ii.) Residents “go by to see what is this about” – scepticism
- iii.) “It really counts what we say and we want”: realizing own potentials in planning as urban architects treat them as equal partners. Positive reinforcement of the significance of their ideas and wishes.
- iv.) Deepened insights about “how to cooperate”: finding common solutions together to conflicting issues, begin to use participatory tools of democratic decision-making:
- v.) Through involvement residents gather social capital (improved relationships, extended contacts), human capital (architectural knowledge, budget planning and how to match goals with resources
- vi.) A sense of ownership emerges along with the community of participating residents
- vii.) Residents establish the Association for maintaining cooperation and the sustenance of “their” park.
- viii.) The Association deliberately takes an active role in maintaining the park and organizing programs.

