



## Introduction to Place Design

20/04/2022

- **Base the place design on a sound understanding of the features of the site and the surrounding context.** Context is physical, environmental, social, and economic. Therefore, key elements to consider are the built form, the natural environment, the culture and heritage of the area, the viability of the scheme, and the housing market where the scheme is residential.
- **It is also important to consider the components of structure, form and scale, outdoor spaces, uses and activities, and visual appearance.** Think about how the buildings relate to each other, how efficient and accessible movement through the open spaces is, whether the intended typology is right for that context, and if the architecture, materials, and details are: functional, durable, and appealing.
- **Provide good quality internal and external environments.** To achieve good quality internally, incorporate dual aspect homes with lots of light and good ventilation. Provide more intricate detailing to the ground floor; this is where people interact most.
- **Create a sense of safety, comfort, and convenience within the public realm.** Design a movement network with a legible network of streets and public spaces that feel secure. The buildings should enclose and overlook streets and spaces with active accessible frontages. Consider the microclimate and how development impacts on noise, wind, and sunlight. Also consider practical needs like bike storage and siting and access to waste bins.
- **Integrate existing and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network of green infrastructure.** Use nature to manage local issues like water, microclimate, noise, or visual intrusion. Ensure development addresses climate emergency in terms of energy use and biodiversity net gain.

### Speakers:

Esther Kurland, Director, Urban Design London

Paul Dodd, Head of Design Advice, Urban Design London