Right to the City
an exploration in pictures
Gregor H. Mews
acknowledgements
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Written and Illustrated by Gregor H. Mews
Printed by Urban Synergies Group

ethical commitment
Thank you for your kind donation. All profits raised from this booklet will go towards collaborative projects across the Asia-Pacific region creating healthier environments for those that need it most. Learn more about each project on www.urbansynergies.org.
We at Urban Synergies Group (USG) stand for a paradigm shift towards human rights and an evidence based approach in urban design. The city building process is an integral part of sustainable development. When thinking of ‘Right to the City’ the first idea that comes to mind is housing as a basic human need. But housing needs to be more than just affordable. It needs to be adequate and include more than just a roof over one’s head. The ‘Right to the City’ concept was originally developed by Henri Lefebvre in 1967. He saw the city as a work of art constantly being remade as a space of encounter, generating possibilities, opportunities for collective action and requiring collective participation. Most importantly a healthy city needs people as active citizens. Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we can create true ownership of the city and acknowledge the dependency on the ecological healthy regions around them.

Our wish at USG is that this booklet will help to raise funds for actions that deliver better health and well-being outcomes where it matters most. The booklet can raise awareness and function as a reminder that this shared urban environment needs to empower people. Meaningful engagement, outside of institutional dogma, through creative processes, playful activities and artistic endeavour can be a powerful instrument in achieving positive change that benefits all. A collective realisation is needed, if we want to overcome the challenges cities face in the 21st century and create resilience in a world where the climate is changing rapidly. Playful activity and artistic expression can help to see the world around us in a different light. Both alter the perceived state of reality. This new reality opens up new possibilities for which we are desperately in need if we want to sustain civilisations in cities around the world.

Gregor H. Mews
Founder of Urban Synergies Group
right to the city
The city can be a work of art.
Places to meet people, where people can connect socially.
Spaces where we can all play together and everyone can choose their social interaction.
Cultural diversity brings the world closer together.

We can learn from each other and create colourful inclusive places for all.
Everybody is a leader in making our cities better places.

As human beings we must have respect for each other and everything around us.
right to public spaces and places
The city should contain spaces that have a sense of mystery and discovery.

Places where all people of all ages and abilities can be creators.
right to playful quality experiences
No matter how old you are, playful activities and having fun is good for everyone.
right to diversity and trust
Places where people can express themselves, accept and help other members of the community.
right to time
A place where you can be caught up in a moment and forget the rest of the world.
right of movement
Everyone, including children and vulnerable people, should have the opportunity to access environmentally friendly forms of mobility that offer comfort and convenience.
right to a healthy safe environment
Environments where all life forms enjoy the chance to flourish without compromising opportunities of others.
about Urban Synergies Group

Urban Synergies Group is an international ‘think and do’ tank based in Canberra, Australia, that provides services, training and raises awareness.

Our mission is to find the best ways to improve urban systems without borders by creating effective synergies in a complex global environment that enable better health and well-being outcomes for all people. We are creating bridges between cutting edge academic research, non-government organisations, governments and practices, enriching community spirit by sharing our success.

Urban Synergies Group is funded by donations from companions such as trusts, individuals and commissioned services. We operate internationally and offer independent advice in support of the overall health and well-being of urban systems.
our devotees
Rachel Davey
Philip Hutchinson
Andrew MacKenzie
Daniella L. Mews
Gregor H. Mews
Beth Mitchell
Milica Muminović
Paul J. Tranter
Peter Strang
“Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Let me do and I understand.”
Confucious

For urban health and well-being information:
www.urbansynergies.org

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