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Shu el Akhbaar?

Human connections and the Future of Public Space

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The Lounge,
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Dhahran, KSA

CONVERSATION BRIEF



Shu el Akhbaar?

Human connections and the Future of Public Space



Throughout history, public space has been fundamental to people's lives and the cities we live in – it's where humanity connects, where friends – and strangers – come together, to talk, to interact, to unite.

From the ancient Greek agora (literally "gathering place" or "assembly"), the medieval markets of Europe, and the great libraries of the world, to the Italian piazzas, the Arabic majlis and even, dare we say, Expos themselves, public space is the lifeblood of civilisation; where we come together as a society, to exchange news (Shu el Akhbaar?), partake in rituals, trade, celebrate and simply live life.

Public space reflects the society that creates it.

In today's world – dominated by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and an ever-changing technology that transforms the way we interact, socially – what is the future of public space?

Will public space still play a central role in the identity of cities and communities and their interactions? How is public space evolving to reflect how we learn, work, eat and shop? How can we find places where people can reconnect meaningfully outside of the digital realm? What new artistic, economic, or recreational needs can be met by innovative public space? In our digital future, how can public space evolve to keep us connected?