

# CONSTRAINED OPEN SPACE IN DENSIFYING CITIES -- CASE STUDY OF THE LANEWAY IN PAINE RESERVE, NEWPORT

## ABPL 90384 - MUP STUDIO - NEWPORT PLACEMAKING STUDIO



Aerial Map of Paine Reserve



The Laneway in Paine Reserve

The more people move into the urban area, the more densified the city; the more densified the city, the less open spaces will be left for them.

With the increasing pressures on public open space, the constrained open space - which had been previously recognised as the “leftovers” of the city - becomes one of the potential and precious space for the community and for planners or government to take into accounts.

However, how to turn the “Space” into a “Place” where the community members and visitors enjoy spending time and appreciating the views of it, becomes one of the most important issues.

In order to find out whether the constrained open space have the potentials to be utilised, what constraints and opportunities it possessed and what are the possible solutions of activating the constrained open space, the example of the laneway in Paine Reserve, Newport had been selected as the case study of the research.

### RESEARCH FOCUS

### MAIN FINDINGS

Based on the events and data collection process on the 19th of January 2018, many different data have been collected. The table below summarise the main data which are related to the laneway and how it connects to the 4 key attributes of a great place :

Main Findings	Community members are willing to spent more than 20 minutes to sit in the pop up park and having conversations.	During 11am.-12pm. of the events, 7 people entered from Market St (east entrance), while 12 people entered from the park (west side of the laneway).	Kids jumping between the dots, while adults walk around the dots.	Before the events, people pass through quickly; while after the laneway has been painted and the seats are provided, people spent longer time on the lane.	People will stop and read the wayfinding signs and see what is happening.	From the feedback, community members said more shaded areas are needed, the safety issues of the laneway should be improved.	From the feedback, community members said more events can be held in the laneway.
Related attributes of a great place (Projects for Public Space, 2016)							
Access and Linkages		✓			✓		
Comfort and Image	✓			✓		✓	✓
Uses and Activities	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Sociability	✓					✓	✓

Projects for Public Space. (2016). Placemaking: What if we built our cities around places? Retrieved from <https://dn60005mpuo2f.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Oct-2016-placemaking-booklet.pdf>



Precedents from the Melbourne laneways, the High Line Park in New York, the Promenade Plantée in Paris and the Goods Line in Sydney were used as examples to inform the constraints and opportunities of constrained open space.

### CASE STUDY TACTICAL URBANISM



### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook pages and Instagram were set up to advertise the events, collect community's voice and keep people updated.



The community engagement activity took place in the 19th of January 2018. The whole laneway was painted with dots, “dot-survey” were set along the laneway, wayfinding signs were set up at both ends of the laneway, and a pop-up park were also established.

### OBSERVATIONS

Tracing & Counting:  
How did people come to the laneway?  
How many people entered the laneway?  
How did people of different ages use the painted laneway?  
How did people react when they see the wayfinding signs?

### RESEARCH METHODS

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

As the result of the research shows, there are great potentials and opportunities to increase the sense of place and activate the laneway of Paine Reserve, as well as all the other constrained open space. General key recommendations are shown in the following tables:

Recommendations	More wayfinding and guiding signs to be set within 400 metre walking distance to the constrained open space and at some important nodes.	A recognisable and symbolic landmark or doorway with a recognisable, memorable and readable name to be built at the entrance of the constrained open space.	Increase the physical and visual connections of the constrained open space (e.g. breaking up the fences, build some doors or windows to increase the “eyes on the street”).	More multifunctional tables and seating areas with different shading conditions to be set in the constrained open space.	More events, festivals or pop up facilities to be introduced into the constrained open space regularly for different seasons and different target groups (e.g. swimming pools, farmer's market, playgrounds, etc.)	Establish volunteer groups (possibly from the retired or unemployed) to manage the constrained open space, guide the tourists or introduce the local history.
Related attributes of a great place (Projects for Public Space, 2016)						
Access and Linkages	✓	✓	✓			
Comfort and Image		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Uses and Activities				✓	✓	✓
Sociability	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

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