If we look closer at one of the world’s best functioning city space, we can see that all essential quality criteria are convincingly respected (Piazza del Campo, Siena, Italy).

The city at eye level: 12 quality criteria

The city at eye level is the theme of chapter four in which a systematic overview of the most important quality criteria is presented.

Before any other deliberations are made, it is crucial to ensure reasonable protection against risk, physical injury, insecurity and unpleasant sensory influences, the negative aspects of climate in particular. If only one of these major problems concerning protection is unmet, safeguarding the other qualities can prove meaningless.

The next step is to ensure that the spaces offer good comfort and invite people to the most important activities underlying their use of public space — walking, standing, sitting, seeing, talking, hearing and self-expression. Considerations about the situation during the day and at night as well as in the four seasons of the year are naturally part of the work to optimize city space.

Celebrating local amenities primarily involves ensuring a good human scale, opportunities to enjoy the positive aspects of the climate in the region, as well as providing aesthetic experiences and pleasant sensory impressions. Good architecture and design are part of the twelfth and last criterion. This criterion should be seen as an umbrella concept that should include all of the other areas. It is important to emphasize that architecture and design cannot be dealt with in isolation from the other criteria.

It is interesting and thought-provoking that the finest and most functioning city spaces throughout the world demonstrates careful overall treatment of all of the quality factors mentioned. Nothing must be left out.
keyword list: 12 quality criteria concerning the pedestrian landscape

**Protection**

**Protection Against Traffic and Accidents**
- Protection for pedestrians
- Eliminating fear of traffic

**Protection Against Crime and Violence**
- Lively public realm
- Eyes on the street
- Overlapping functions day and night
- Good lighting

**Protection Against Unpleasant Sensory Experiences**
- Wind
- Rain/snow
- Cold/heat
- Pollution
- Dust, noise, glare

**Comfort**

**Opportunities to Walk**
- Room for walking
- No obstacles
- Good surfaces
- Accessibility for everyone
- Interesting façades

**Opportunities to See**
- Reasonable viewing distances
- Unhindered sightlines
- Interesting views
- Lighting (when dark)

**Opportunities to Sit**
- Zones for sitting
- Utilizing advantages: view, sun, people
- Good places to sit
- Benches for resting

**Opportunities to Talk and Listen**
- Low noise levels
- Street furniture that provides "talkscapes"

**Opportunities for Play and Exercise**
- Invitations for creativity, physical activity, exercise and play
- By day and night
- In summer and winter

**Delight**

**Scale**
- Buildings and spaces designed to human scale

**Opportunities to Enjoy the Positive Aspects of Climate**
- Sun/shade
- Heat/coolness
- Breeze

**Positive Sensory Experiences**
- Good design and detailing
- Good materials
- Fine views
- Trees, plants, water