



"If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies"

Greetings,

This is a short note to share with you a vision to build a new kind of city. One that is designed to evolve, efficiently, like a natural system, with strong integrated communities. The kind of city I would like my children to grow up in. Born 'abroad', having travelled all my life and having visited and lived in numerous significant cities, on all continents, the many issues facing urban development has been a subject of interest since my teenage years. Over the last ten years I have had the opportunity to focus on this project, discover effective ecological, economical and technological solutions which could be applied to such a city and meet numerous pioneers who have developed such products.

The problem:

The issues with growing urbanization are already apparent within major cities in both developed and developing nations. They are mostly congested, increasingly expensive, not self sufficient, increasing sense of isolation and social dysfunction, a lack of a sense of community, suffering from crime and often have people living in substandard housing with little access to basic human needs. It is said that there will be an additional 3 billion people living on earth by the end of the century and that there will be an increase in the rate of urbanization from the current 50 to 70 or 80%. This would mean we could have 7 to 8 billion people living in urban centers, almost double that of today. Existing cities are not capable to accommodate this growth trend so new cities will be required. The UN predict the number of mega cities with over 10 million inhabitants will increase from 19 to 27 by 2050. Urban centers provide greater efficiencies in use of resources and opportunities for interesting social and cultural interaction, so this growth trend will continue whatever the scenario.

The solution:

The proposed solution relies on ancient knowledge, state of the art technology and know-how combined with extraordinary people, a willingness to change and make a difference. A blue print for this new city is in preparation. The initial blue print will be refined by a group of approximately 100 cutting edge specialists, thinkers and doers. This process will continue with annual brainstorming events ensuring the blue print is always up to date. This will then form the backbone of the city solution that will be presented to potential host nations. These will be nations that recognize and embrace the positive opportunity and want to partake in and benefit from the creation of these new urban centers and different way of living.

Seizing the opportunity:

Community is at the heart of what creates a city. Transportation is at the heart

of what creates an economy. Self-sufficiency is at the heart of sustainability. The know-how is available, it just needs to be brought together and applied in a way that it has not yet been done.

Designing and connecting neighborhoods so as to foster community. Installing infrastructure with sensibility to both 'cradle to cradle' design and minimal visibility. Incorporating sacred geometry in the design and using biomimicry where possible and effective. Nurturing natural systems and ecology. Providing the most effective education available. Developing health and wellbeing centres with a combination of the best western standard medicine and complementary alternative medicine. Having systems in place for; social interaction, conflict resolution, governance and interaction with the environment both internal and external.

The solutions are created to work in a number of climates. Humanity can create truly self sufficient cities, we can create cities that leave no waste, we can combine waste with power transmission and combine this with a number of other sustainable power sources, we can grow our own food locally, we can pool and share resources, building a new economy and ways of transacting. We can really benefit from the efficiencies found in cities. Putting all of this and more together provides an incredible solution. One that combines; new designs, technologies, structures and systems while integrating the best of what we know we can do, into a mold that developed the most durable structures known to man. A city worth living in. A city for the future in the present.

Investing for growth:

There are numerous 'investment' requirements and opportunities for this project. Funds will likely come from a mixture of sources and there will be different types of returns, ensuring a 'pay back'.

Developing such a city will not cost as much and certainly not more than the cost of the current approach. Once it has been developed the cost of maintenance will be marginal compared to existing cities and the overall quality of life far greater than that in current and proposed new cities. The cost of continuing with 'business as usual' is unaffordable and is certainly greater than the cost of this initiative. We have a responsibility to plan for future generations and there is no reason why this cannot happen now so that the present generations can have the benefit of it too.

This is a call to people who would like to participate by providing whatever they feel they can best support this with: specific expertise, knowledge, those with an interest to live in such a city, those with time to volunteer, those who can finance or other.

Does it need courage to go this way? Yes, of course it does. It requires us to think out of the box, move into the unknown and embrace change.

This... is when the human spirit... creates miracles.... and miracles do happen.

Misha Baumann
Founder of BioCityWorld