

Cities for All

What Does a High Trust City Look Like?

Cities are hubs for diverse communities to build bonds of trust that bridge ethnic, social and cultural differences. In this photo essay, **Belinda Tan and Zou Jiayun** explore how trust can be forged through safe and inclusive spaces, which strengthen community spirit and build a sense of ownership among a city's people.



Tokyo, Japan

With a little help from my friends

In Japan, it is a common sight for children as young as six years old to take the public transport on their own. This phenomenon is thanks to the concept of group reliance—people trust the community to help in the event of an emergency. Students are taught both in school and at home that members of the community can be trusted. Children are also tasked to do chores, which encourages them to take responsibility for shared spaces and instills pride of ownership.



Pachuca, Mexico

A stroke of camaraderie

Once a dangerous neighbourhood that people shunned after dark due to its dark and shabby surroundings, Pachuca's Las Palmitas is now characterised by swirling rainbow murals spanning hundreds of houses, after the government-funded Pachuca Paints Itself project. The initial plan to cover all buildings with white paint to symbolise equality among residents evolved into a collaboration between local artists and volunteers to liven up the dull buildings with splashes of colour. This physical transformation raised community spirits and promoted greater interaction among residents in a safer and more liveable Las Palmitas.



Tel Aviv, Israel

Don't judge a book by its cover

Tel Aviv's open-concept Garden Library in Levinski Park has evolved from one that caters to migrant communities to a vibrant cultural and community centre for foreigners, refugees, migrants and Israeli residents alike. Apart from carrying 3,500 books in 16 languages to foster cultural exchange, the library also sponsors art and education programmes to equip residents with tools and skills to be more competitive in the job market. The library has become a support centre for underserved communities as it provides a sense of trust and community through a physical space that unites people from all walks of life over their love for books.



Amsterdam, Netherlands

Turning creativity into community

From 2016 to 2017, Lola Lik was a creative cultural hub housed in a former prison complex. Its bustling communal spaces such as cafés and workshops were designed to foster connections between inhabitants of the neighbouring refugee centre Wenckebachweg and Amsterdam's creative professionals. Lola Lik also supported refugees' integration into society by requiring potential incubator lessees to demonstrate their contributions to refugees and the surrounding neighbourhood.

San Francisco, USA

No rain on Castro District's parade

San Francisco's cultural diversity is built into its geography. As the famed epicentre for gay pride and activism in the 1960s and 1970s, and a global hub for LGBT issues, San Francisco's Castro District has 72% of its residents identifying as LGBT and a variety of infrastructure to accentuate its culture. Features include a rainbow crosswalk embedded with 20 bronze plaques to commemorate LGBT advocates. These features reinforce the sense of safety so Castro's residents, LGBT or otherwise, can think of their town as an inclusive safe haven that connects the community.



Singapore

Serving warm plates to unsung heroes

Come Makan With Me is an initiative where volunteers host foreign workers in their homes and share home-cooked meals with them to integrate them into Singapore's society. The initiative, supported by the Migrant Workers' Centre, encourages Singaporeans and their migrant peers to interact as equals and appreciate the companionship. It aims to create a more inclusive society in which migrant workers are recognised for their contributions to Singapore.