

# HUMANIZING HIGH DENSITY

Singapore & Kuala Lumpur • 19–23 Oct.

People, Nature & the Urban Realm



## Q&A

Panel discussion will include live audience questions!

Digital Lead-Up  
Event Series

Adapting Urban Density  
in the Age of Pandemics

**Wednesday, 6 May 2020**

4:00 pm Singapore | 9:00 am London | 8:00 am GMT

As the world contends with the rippling effects of COVID-19, key questions have arisen around the responsiveness of dense cities with respect to the current crisis, and their ability to adapt to similar occurrences in the future. Join CTBUH on Wednesday for the first of a series of digital events leading up to its [October conference](#) on the theme of *Humanizing High Density—People, Nature & the Urban Realm*, for a virtual discussion among top experts to uncover how the city-building industry is addressing this unprecedented challenge. Topics will range from building operations to fresh urban design responses and technological solutions—with a focus on multi-disciplinary collaboration and consensus-building.

**CTBUH is donating the proceeds from this launch event in support of the [World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](#).**

## Featured Speakers:



**Suzanne  
MacCormick**

Global Healthcare  
Business Growth  
Director  
WSP



**Peter Wynne  
Rees**

Professor of Places and  
City Planning  
University College  
London



**Robert  
Rottersman**

Industrial Hygienist  
Ramboll Group



**Mun Summ  
Wong**

Co-Founding Director  
WOHA Architects

## Adapting Urban Density in the Age of Pandemics

### 1. Is Urban Density the Problem?

High Density requires High Amenity – providing more communal spaces, public spaces for social activity.

A bad example is Hong Kong where an increase in density lead to a decrease in public space. A better example is Singapore.

The lack of open urban spaces is what differs bad and good urban schemes.

There're too many bad cities. It is time for three dimensional city planning – integrated multi-zones and ecosystems.

### 2. Opportunity

Due to the global lockdown, air pollution is substantially reduced, clear sky, a healthier environment,

animals try to stretch their habitat returning to urban spaces.

Climate change is a major issue to consider – the current crisis is a wake-up call to humanity: we can't continue to exploit our planet.

Empty roads, empty highways, less deaths on road accidents -

The proof that our lives could be a lot better without vehicles, supports relying on mass transportation.

Mankind is provided with a rare opportunity to repair, regenerate and become more resilient.

### 3. Behavioral Change

People must want change to make it happen, change the triggers.

We live in a society in which people believe they are entitled, they do not follow guidelines so unfortunately the changes we're experiencing now will revert, though we can try to create an environment that supports a change of behavior.

### 4. Is Urban Habitat at risk?

It's not a choice. Most of the world population lives and works in cities.

Cities need to be made safer and healthier.

Cities will change – less travel, more stay put and create a sustainable space; Less mega corporations, more people.

An increase in the value of society, community and helping each other.

Perhaps a shift to renting instead of ownership.

Singapore is at a better place as the government is in control: 80% of housing is public, in which the public spaces are

better than in private developments. The built environment influences the sense of community.

### 5. Workplace

Offices occupancy rates has been dropping over the past few years, as working from home has become more flexible even before the pandemic.

Oil companies, Airlines, "old school" industries, still need to adapt to the changes to come.

Retail spaces can be converted, created into new urban HUBs, inhabiting desired and much needed education and community services.

### 6. The Age of Pandemics

The current pandemic could go on for two to three years, depending on access to health services.

The risk of future pandemics, Covid-20, Covid-21, due to virus mutations should be acknowledged and prepared

for with flexibility. Detecting virus carriers on public realm will evolve, utilizing various methods.