

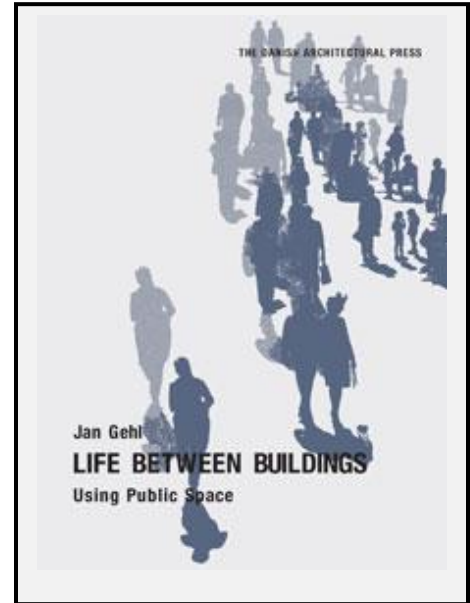
## Book Review

### ***Life Between Buildings, Using Public Space***

Jan Gehl, Island Press a Trademark of the Center for Resource Economics, Washington, D.C., 2011.

#### Summary

Jan Gehl has put together an extended career doing urban work focused on the human scale of cities...designing urban places and spaces for humans that travel at the speed of 5 kilometers an hour. His hometown of Copenhagen serves as a great platform for his discussion of walking and biking as the basis for an urban society. His work has touched cities around the world which further serve his elucidations; and they have inspired others such as Janette Sadik-Khan, Transportation Commissioner of New York under Mayor Bloomberg who along with Seth Solomonow, wrote *Streetfight, Handbook for an Urban Revolution*, 2016, previously reviewed by CharacterTowns.org. This and other works of Mr. Gehl are inspirational; and his take on world issues is refreshing.



**YouTube:** In addition to the reviews cited below, the following link has several presentations from CNU26 – Savannah which contains an extensive discussion by Jan Gehl of his fascinating life and works.  
<https://www.cnu.org/cnu-26savannah-livestreams>

#### Published Reviews



Island Press offers these thoughts:

“. . .thoughtful, beautiful, and enlightening...” —**Jane Jacobs**

“This book will have a lasting influence on the future quality of public open spaces. By helping us better understand the larger public life of cities, Life between Buildings can only move us toward more lively and healthy public places. Buy this book, find a comfortable place to sit in a public park or plaza, begin reading, look around. You will be surprised at how you will start to see (and design) the world differently.” —**Landscape Architecture**

Link: <https://islandpress.org/book/life-between-buildings>



“This book is the best source for understanding how people use public spaces in our cities. Published in many languages since 1971, it continues to be the undisputed basic introduction to the interplay between public space design and social life.” Now available in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition.  
Link: <http://www.planum.net/journals-books/life-between-buildings-using-public-space>