Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody only because and only when they are created by everybody (Jacobs, 1961).

**Methodology**

Two public space case studies; Superkilen in Copenhagen and Peckham Square in London were chosen and studied. The two case studies were chosen because one was designed using the public participation design approach and one without.

1. The case studies were observed and analysed using Carmona and Wunderlich’s universal positive qualities for public space.
2. People were surveyed in Peckham square to gather their thoughts and opinions on the space.
3. Comparisons on the primary observations of Peckham square and secondary observations of Superkilen in Copenhagen were analysed.
4. The conventional architectural process and the public participatory process was compared and studied and then applied to both case studies.
5. Further researching the design process of both case studies through literature, illustrated the complex process of the participatory design approach.

**Research Findings**

The research findings from the people surveyed in Peckham showed without prompting and people didn’t know what to expect of a positive public space.

Even though most people perceived the space as a ‘okay’ space, most users simply pass through the square. This is because nothing is in the space to engage and hold people’s attention for people to linger and stay. Pecham square has been through a number of redevelopments and a much limited participatory design process, which reflects in the responses from users.

The Superkilen project illustrates how the public and user have more of a say in decision making and consultation at all stages of the architectural process. Therefore creating an enjoyable space for all.

**Conclusion**

People do not know what they truly want - without direction. Observations showed even if a single public space where to possess all the ‘universal qualities’ to create a desirable public space and if it further used a user participatory design approach, people would still find fault with it. Cities are growing multi-culturally causing the public to consist of many social groups. Designers and planners simply cannot cater to everyone’s needs and desires. With a limited study of this process it is too much of a big claim to say that the user participatory design process leads to better designs, however according to Forsyth (2010) the process can result in quality buildings satisfying clients and users.

References:

