



# TRADITIONAL DWELLINGS AND SETTLEMENTS REVIEW

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**IASTE Berkeley**  
Editorial Office  
David Moffat,  
Managing Editor  
2512 Ninth St., #8  
Berkeley, CA, 94710

Tel: 510.816.0195  
Fax: 510.486.0445  
E-mail: [ddmoffat@aol.com](mailto:ddmoffat@aol.com);  
[david@iaste.org](mailto:david@iaste.org)

Web: <http://iaste.org>

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#### IASTE

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E-mail: [coordinator@iaste.org](mailto:coordinator@iaste.org)  
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its own assortment of burial/interment typologies. Our selection of cemeteries in each city exposes various expressions of tradition from well-known and lesser-known Moslem, Jewish, Christian, and Non-Sectarian backgrounds — for both natives and immigrants. Our study has also uncovered surprising burial types within visible burials and mausolea of differing scales, as well as underground crypts, and hidden histories of Potters Fields.

From our index of cemeteries and burial sites, we present a selection to tell multiple narratives, comparing the way the notion of cosmopolitanism is embodied by NYC and Istanbul, based on: the location of cemeteries inside the city; the religious or ethnic needs and practices; the simultaneous protection and/or transformation of specific ritual customs and conventions; and, the state of today's cemetery conditions, all alongside practices of visiting or utilizing these spaces for alternative reasons. Our methodology is based on site visits, observational field notes, informal interviews, photographic documentation, virtual mapping, and a selection of secondary readings to enrich this work.

The outcome of this joint work expresses a layered view of the well-established and well-recognized cosmopolitan nature of NYC and Istanbul, revealed this time through the less observed and silent testimony of urban cemeteries. Relying on the past and contemporary physical topography of the cemetery, we juxtapose layers of affective and physio-spatial experience to bring about a palimpsestic view of how multiculturalism expresses itself inside each city. Thus, we allow our situatedness and entanglements as a New Yorker and an Istanbulite to arrive at a nuanced understanding of how these set and changing traditions contribute to the transforming city,

#### **"HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ARCHITECTURE." EVOLVING BUILT ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH** Ana Neiva

A cosmopolitan community does not inevitably translate into a cosmopolitan built environment, especially in historical cities with deeply rooted cultural and spatial identities. The current influx of migrants and the escalating gentrification of historic European centers present substantial challenges, notably in terms of accessing suitable housing and communal spaces. These challenges impact both long-term residents and newcomers, contributing to heightened cultural tensions within the community.

Achieving a built environment that meets the needs and preserves the cultural heritage of a diverse population necessitates a fundamental shift in design processes. This involves actively engaging community members in the planning and design stages to develop flexible spaces, accommodating diverse needs while safeguarding cultural heritage.

Concurrently, reimagining the built environment, which includes considering the repurposing and revitalization of

existing structures, before resorting to urban expansion, allows cities to maintain their historical character, reduce waste generation, lower the environmental impact of the construction industry, and create more inclusive and cohesive public spaces that cater for the diverse needs of their inhabitants, thereby mitigating community segregation.

On another level, the impact of physical space conditions — from housing quality to the urban environment — on community health and wellbeing must not be underestimated. Policymakers frequently overlook this aspect, maintaining a detached perspective on how architecture influences healthy living spaces. It is crucial to recognize that factors such as sociological, economic, and living and working conditions significantly influence health outcomes.

Addressing these complexities requires bridging the gap between architectural design priorities and daily space usage, emphasizing their profound impact on the inhabitants' quality of life and physical and mental well-being. To address this challenge, an interdisciplinary course titled "Health, Wellbeing and Architecture" has been developed at the University of Porto. This course, primarily tailored for medical and architectural students, but open to the wider academic community, adopted a user-centered approach to explore how housing conditions and neighborhood characteristics impact health, while proposing innovative solutions to enhance existing urban settings and population wellbeing.

The participatory approach, focused on Porto's social neighborhoods, ensured culturally sensitive solutions that improve existing buildings to create accessible, age-friendly living spaces. It also strengthened social capital through interventions in collective spaces, emphasizing the importance of green and blue areas and their integration with city-scale services and infrastructure. The experimental proposals, developed at three distinct scales — the individual space (the apartment), the building, and the collective space — aimed to foster a sense of belonging and collective cohesion. They underscored the significance of community engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration in designing healthier living environments.

This article aims to discuss the pedagogical and scientific outcomes of the "Health, Wellbeing and Architecture" interdisciplinary course, as a manifesto for a human centered design, while advancing strategies to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable urban interventions. We prioritized collaborative knowledge production through challenge-driven and user-centered methods, advocating for the creation of networks over hierarchical structures. This reflects a fundamental commitment to recognizing cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism, which are particularly critical for historical cities facing challenges from migration and gentrification pressures.