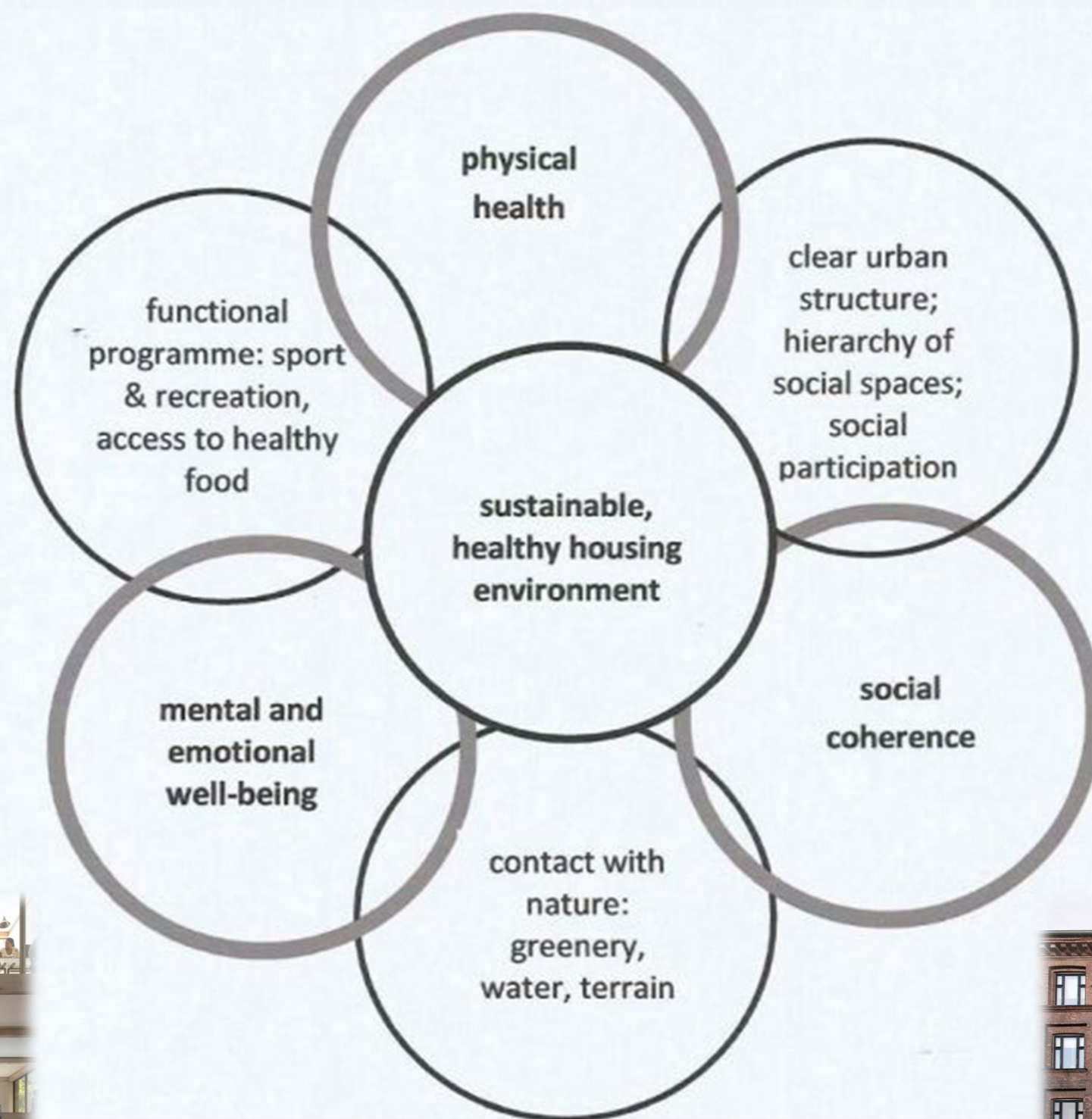




Social sustainability is largely neglected in mainstream sustainability debates. Priority has been given to economic and environmental sustainability in particular in the context of urban planning and housing, where policy and investment has focused on renewable resources, low carbon communities and encouraging pro-environmental household behaviors. As a result, there are few practical resources that directly address the question of how to create places that are socially sustainable, as well as physical infrastructure that is environmentally sustainable. Past experience shows that the long-term social needs of new communities are often overlooked in the drive to deliver housing on a large scale. Without the right social infrastructure new communities can quickly spiral into decline.

**Key Words**

Well-being      physical Health      Mental Health  
 Co-Sharing      Contribute to the quality of life  
 Diversity      Co-living      Healthy living      Social Health



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)

If a new community is to be successful and sustainable, the place – the physical space, the housing stock and amenities, the social infrastructure – needs to be able to adapt over time to new needs and new possibilities. As Saskia Sassen points out, *“in that incompleteness...lies the possibility of making.”*

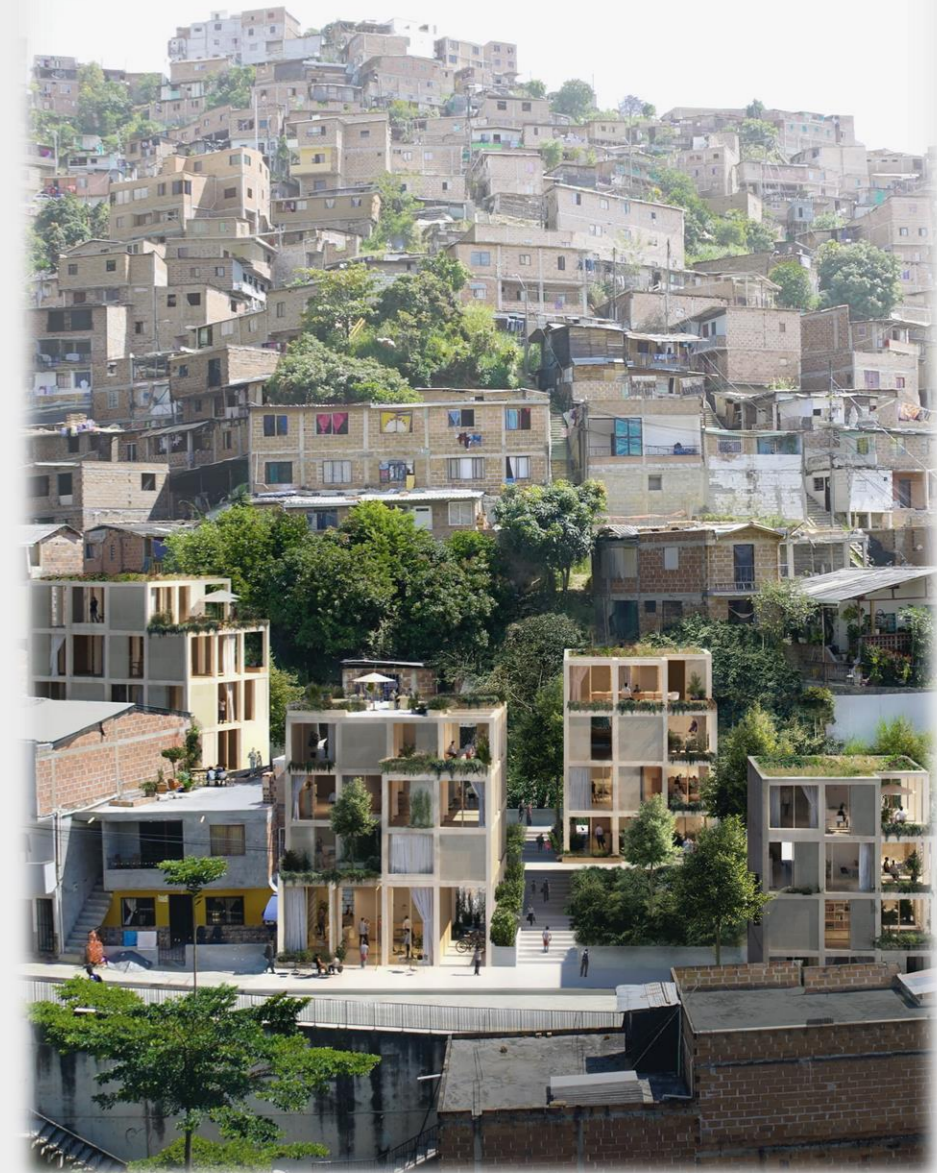
*“If we are to have any chance of creating vibrant new communities that offer residents quality of life and that open up new opportunities – communities that are well balanced, integrated, sustainable and well connected – then we have to think about building for the wider needs of the whole community, not just focus on building homes.”*

A good place for children? Attracting and retaining families in inner urban mixed income communities, Emily Silverman, Ruth Lupton & Alex Fenton, Chartered Institute of Housing/Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2005)

Involving local communities in decisions that affect their lives throughout the stages of new developments is vital if public investment is to be effective. If communities are not involved in designing and planning housing and wider facilities and infrastructure, short-term cost savings may lead to long-term cost burdens if what is provided proves to be inappropriate, and under-used.



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)



("The Urban Village Project", 2022)