



Introduction

In this chapter, or Cluster 4, we are discussing the integration of the refugee into a new urban environment as well as the existing community's receptiveness of the refugees and their degree of welcome after the journey to the Arrival Country. Refugees are still in a state of uncertainty as they enter the Welcome City and try to find a grounding in their new, or temporary, home. Patterns of services and attitudes toward the refugees, as well as city characteristics, can help establish a sense of welcome and comfort and ensure a successful integration for both the new arrivals and the local community of the Welcome City.

Cluster 4: Welcome City - Urban Life and Infrastructure

- 4.1 A City and A Place to Start Anew
- 4.2 Places of Urban Arrival Support
- 4.3 A City of Education
- 4.4 Practicing Hospitality
- 4.5 A City of Opportunity
- 4.6 A City of Refugee-Friendly Neighborhoods
- 4.7 A City of Social Equity Networks
- 4.8 Mosaic of Subcultures
- 4.9 A City of Affordability and Accessibility
- 4.10 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

4.1 A City and a Place to Start Anew



Problem:

Every refugee, every forced migrant (and immigrant), needs a safe place in a city to stay after escape, flight, and forced migration.

Solution:

Refugees and forced migrants should look for and be helped to find places in a country, city, or neighborhood by organizations or individual citizens that have positive characteristics of arrival and accommodation for starting a new life. The Welcome City is mostly a place to settle and live, not just arrive.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 14: Identifiable Neighborhood

RPL: 3.0 Welcome Country

RPL: 4.2 Place of Urban Arrival Support

RPL: 4.4 Practicing Hospitality

RPL: 4.5 A City of Opportunity

RPL: 4.11 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

RPL: 5.0 Neighborhoods

4.2 Places of Urban Arrival Support



Problem:

A Welcome City needs places of arrival, but it also needs places of hospitality and resources as a means of urban support for the life of refugees.

Solution:

Each city, town and village needs to make sure they have enough arrival urban support spaces and resources available that can be evenly distributed. These spaces need to be able to be quickly prepared when larger number of refugees are expected to arrive.

Connections to Other Patterns:

RPL: 3.0 Welcome Country

RPL: 4.1 A City and a Place to Start Anew

RPL: 4.10 City of Affordability and Accessibility

RPL: 4.11 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

4.3 A City of Education



Problem:

Refugees need to acquaint themselves with the customs and languages of their host country in order to establish a strong basis for integration. Just as older generations need educational facilities for integration, connections, and opportunities, the youth need these resources for connecting with their new peers as well as for learning the language and customs of the host city in a safe space. Regardless of the many benefits, access to education for refugees is not always easily possible within the Welcome City.

Solution:

When faced with funding limitations for expanding educational systems in the Welcome City, more overlaps among various agencies should be formed in order to ensure that access to education, especially language services, for refugees will be feasible and accessible. When these overlaps are unable to be implemented, new educational systems should be reworked and decentralized in order to meet the needs of the influx of students and make the process of learning congruent with the functions of the city.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 18: Network of Learning

APL 43: University as a Marketplace

APL 83: Master and Apprentices

APL 84: Shopfront Schools

RPL: 4.2 Places of Urban Support

RPL: 4.5 A City of Opportunity

RPL: 4.7 Social Equity Networks

RPL: 4.10 City of Affordability and Accessibility

RPL: 4.11 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

4.4 Practicing Hospitality



Problem:

Refugees are initially not an apparent part of a host society or community once they arrive. As individuals, communities, and nation states accept refugees, local citizens must choose the ways in which they will respond to the people of the world who are facing displacement and seeking asylum. This choice is ongoing, not a one-time event, and the degree of hospitality varies, dependent on the culture and customs of the area.

Solution:

Practicing hospitality at the individual, organizational, and community levels means adopting an attitude that recognizes newcomers as part of the community. Refugees should be welcomed with a sense of inclusion with the ability to be woven into the fabric of the Welcome City and enhance the identity and characteristics. Acceptance and hospitality should be a two-way street; refugees should respect their new city and the associated customs while also being able to feel free and comfortable practicing their own customs and traditions. Practicing hospitality should be a balancing act of mutual respect for well-being and individual expression.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 91: Traveler's Inn

RPL: 3.0 Welcome Country

RPL: 4.1 A Place to Start Anew

RPL: 4.2 Places of Urban Arrival Support

RPL: 4.6 A City of Refugee-Friendly Neighborhoods

RPL: 5.0 Neighborhoods

4.5 A City of Opportunity



Problem:

Most areas in a new city are hardly available for refugees to work and support themselves. Other than financial stability, the lack of work can cause negative emotional and psychological effects. When refugees do not have a job or task to accomplish, they can lose the sense of purpose in their life, and they can feel like they do not belong.

Solution:

Offering opportunities for business and entrepreneurship advising which then leads into new business development can help refugees cement their place in their new city, as well as provide diverse businesses for the local community. Naturally, we as humans have the drive to obtain, retain, and protect resources. The situations that refugees are in tend to create a massive loss of resources. Giving refugees opportunities to be in a work environment restores their sense of obtaining and retaining resources, positively addressing any underlying mental health problem.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 41: The Work Community

APL 45: A Necklace of Community Projects

RPL: 4.1 A Place to Start Anew

RPL: 4.3 A City of Education

RPL: 4.7 A City of Social Equity

RPL: 4.10 A City of Affordability

4.6 A City of Refugee Friendly Neighborhoods



Problem:

Because of land availability and institutional racism, refugees are often placed in communities on the fringes of cities with little support from the local population. With many immigration policies determined by a cost-benefit analysis and communities unwilling to fully embrace the task of welcoming refugees into their existing neighborhoods, settlements are pushed away from the established structure of the city. The location of the new settlement for refugees are often further away from support services and have more outward racist tendencies.

Solution:

The design of neighborhoods that aid refugees in feeling welcome and close to support services while integrating them into an existing supportive community enables refugee families to thrive. In order to categorize a neighborhood as being ideal for refugee settlement, there must be a variety of existing elements that can be molded by the new residents. These elements include adaptable infrastructure that allows different cultures to maintain customs from their home countries, open communal spaces, integrated social and health services, and is in close proximity to the city center. The refugee friendly neighborhood must act as a catalyst for connections to occur between residents and empower refugees to feel like they have a stake in their new home and the future of their new neighborhood.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL: 14 Identifiable Neighborhood

RPL: 4.7 A City of Social Equity Networks

RPL: 4.8 Mosaic of Subcultures

RPL: 4.9 City of Affordability and Accessibility

RPL: 4.10 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

4.7 A City of Social Equity Networks



Problem:

Refugees arrive with little context or connection to their new city and have trouble finding access to services and people with whom to forge relationships. Many refugees are only addressed upon arrival and in initial placement by government organizations without addressing the struggle they will face in finding jobs, educational opportunities, or social capital. This leaves them in the position of having to go directly into low-paying jobs that perpetuate poverty and does not lead to full assimilation into their new society.

Solution:

To address the need for refugees to succeed in their new home, community organizations must be in place that allow refugee families to build social connections and integrate them into the larger community. Community organizations that bring together multiple refugee ethnic groups while still offering individual support for various ethnicities and partner with existing fraternal organizations like churches and NGOs create a stronger network for refugees to grow and result in a higher long-term success for refugee families to succeed and put down roots.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL: 18 Network of Learning
 APL: 28 Eccentric Nucleus
 APL: 40 Old People Everywhere
 APL: 44 Local Town Hall
 APL: 45 Necklace of Community Projects
 APL: 47 Health Center

RPL: 4.2 City of Places of Urban Support
 RPL: 4.4 City of Radical Hospitality
 RPL: 4.6 A City of Refugee Friendly Neighborhoods
 RPL: 4.10 A Place to Enjoy Daily Life

4.8 Mosaic of Subcultures



Problem:

Often, refugees are placed in camps at the periphery of a city. The lack of connection between the refugees and their new city dampens the level of opportunity there is for refugees and locals to be exposed and get acclimated to each others' lifestyles and cultures. By not allowing for this exposure, the cities and the people within them are missing the opportunity to grow.

Solution:

To create a rich culture within the city, the city should be organized as a mosaic of subcultures. To accomplish this, each subculture should have its own residential area, allowing it to thrive on its own individual character. Then, each should be small enough, and situated close enough, where individuals have access to other lifestyles of nearby subcultures. Sharing non-residential land use areas allows for each subculture and lifestyle to be exposed to the others while still being able to maintain a cultural identity.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 8: Mosaic of Subcultures

RPL: 4.1 A City and Place to Start Anew

RPL: 4.2 Places of Urban Arrival and Support

RPL: 4.9 The Intuitive City

RPL: 4.10 A Place to Enjoy Daily Life

4.9 A City of Affordability and Accessibility



Problem:

Most housing options in a host city are hardly affordable and limit the accessibility to other resources for migrants and refugees, reducing the affordability of these amenities as well.

Solution:

The host city should utilize innovative opportunities for affordable housing strategies that are integrated into the city rather than on the periphery. If local policies are unable to be adjusted to meet the demands of affordable housing, initiating independent frameworks may be the key to affordable housing and community interactions. The housing options should be within walkable proximity to resources and public transportation and have the ability to transform into other uses for future residents; the city of affordability and accessibility should be applicable for locals as well as refugees.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 11: Local Transport Areas

APL 79: Your Own Home

RPL: 4.2 A City with Places of Urban Support

RPL: 4.5 City of Opportunity

RPL: 4.6 City of Refugee Friendly Neighborhoods

RPL: 4.7 Social Equity Networks

RPL: 4.9 The Intuitive City

RPL: 4.10 Places to Enjoy Daily Life

4.10 Places to Enjoy Daily Life



Problem:

Like any human, refugees need places to enjoy life. Many settlements focus on the necessities of housing, food, and work, while neglecting the universal need of places to gather, converse, and observe. To foster a holistic experience of the Welcome City, the provision of necessities must be meshed with sparks of enjoyment. There is a difference between solely existing and living. The Welcome City must foster a full life for both refugees and the local community, not just existence.

Solution:

To feel like a true home and community, there needs to be a place for life to occur outside of home and work. Every community should have architecture and open space that encourages green interaction, moments of pause, moments of excitement, places to watch the day occur, and places to revel in the energy of daily life. These spaces should address refugees of all age groups and genders. Life not only occurs where we live and work, but all of the places in-between.

Connections to Other Patterns:

APL 33: Night Life

APL 47: Communal Bathing

APL 51: Green Streets

APL 61: Small Public Squares

APL 63: Dancing in the Streets

APL 72: Local Sports

APL 88: Street Cafe

APL 89: Corner Grocery

APL 147: Communal Eating

RPL: 4.2 A City of Places of Urban Support

RPL: 4.4 A City of Hospitality

RPL: 4.7 A City of Social Equity Networks

RPL: 4.8 Mosaic of Subcultures

RPL: 4.9 City of Affordability and Accessibility