Thriving life
The time is now.

The global urban population will grow from 3 to 7 billion.

We need to make better use of resources, taking an approach that achieves much more with much less.

We need to prioritise the creation of thriving life over the satisfaction of materialism.
Our vision

A built environment in which human society thrives. This requires the right balance of connectivity, movement, awareness, encounter and exchange at every scale of placemaking.

Our mission

To enhance the social, economic and environmental performance of buildings and urban places by applying, developing, and disseminating a science-based, human-focused approach to their planning, design and operation.
Our approach

Space Syntax provides creative expertise in architecture and urban planning. Operating worldwide, we combine global design experience with advanced digital technology.

Our science-based and human-focused approach forecasts the social, economic and environmental impacts of development proposals on the lives of people.

“I know these techniques work from the tough environment of practice. I love the world of analysis, observation, research but also of passion, imprecision, the hunch. Space Syntax is the testing of the interaction of these opposing worlds.”

Norman Foster
Foster + Partners
Adding value

Revealing

This is the key strength of the Space Syntax approach. Our reputation is based on a highly creative use of technology to identify the essential design features of urban and building design projects.

We provide valuable insights regarding the location, linkage, layout, land use and landscaping of projects that influence human activity and, in doing so, drive the human and environmental performance of places.

Measuring and improving

The Space Syntax approach is built on a set of evidence-based methods that forecast whether proposed policies, strategies, plans and designs will work to create the social, economic and environmental benefits that they are expected to.

We give stakeholders and decision-makers reassurance when a design is developing in a favourable way, or we alert them when it is in danger of going off track and they need to act.

Facilitating

Our methods allow us to speak a common, ‘spatial’ language that bridges across disciplinary boundaries and translates the objectives of planners, designers, transport engineers, economists, developers, investors and members of the public in such a way that they can be understood by all and organised into meaningful, practical frameworks for action.

Why space matters

- Walkability
- Car dependency
- Air quality
- Public health
- Access to jobs
- Access to services
- Access to education
- Land value
- Safety and security
- Economic vitality
- Community cohesion
Supporting our clients

Cities & regions

We help public and private organisations forecast the performance of large urban areas, from individual towns to entire national networks. Our modelling platforms assemble data on spatial layout, land use and transport connectivity.

Addressing issues of mobility, land use vitality, access to employment, wealth distribution, car dependency, community cohesion and health inequality, Space Syntax analysis helps to put people at the heart of policies and action plans.

Property developments

We work with the developers of complex real estate projects to shape patterns of effective footfall and space use and, in doing so, to enhance property values.

From initial concept sketching and design testing, to planning negotiations and technical analyses, we provide a creative and evidence-rich approach to urban planning, design and impact forecasting.

Buildings & estates

Acting across a wide range of sectors, from retail environments to research departments, parliamentary offices to passenger terminals, we study existing space-use patterns and advise building owners on redevelopment options.

By putting the movement and interaction of people at the heart of the design process, we help organisations create places that work for their occupants.
Milton Keynes Spatial Growth Plan 2050
Milton Keynes Council, UK
Spatial development and transport mode shift potential modelling
Modelling of land use, population density, street network and public transport scenarios to forecast future transport mode shift potentials.

City of London
City of London Corporation, UK
Pedestrian movement modelling
Creation of a Pedestrian Movement Model to demonstrate the impact of committed development proposals as well as Crossrail and Thameslink. The model helps to deliver environments that enhance walkability, economic activity and social conviviality.

Astana Masterplan 2030
City of Astana, Kazakhstan
Generative masterplanning and urban design proposals
Development of generative design tools, based on analysis of characteristics found in successful cities. Creation of an international competition-winning design concept.

Jilin Lightrail Corridor and Stations
Jilin Municipality, Jilin Province, China
Transport masterplanning and urban development strategy
Creation of a comprehensive, integrated approach to public transport and urban space design. Scenario testing and impact modelling.

Cranbrook Healthy New Town
East Devon District Council, UK
Healthy cities design advice
Modelling of links between health, wellbeing and urban form to inform the spatial development of Cranbrook Healthy New Town.

Thamesmead
Peabody, UK
Healthy urban places strategy
Development of an urban morphology and mobility evidence base and planning assessment framework to support the ongoing regeneration of the public realm in Thamesmead.

Jeddah Strategic and Structure Plan
City of Jeddah, KSA
Planning and strategic development advice
Creation of integrated urban modelling and planning approach to accommodate 20 years of forecast population and employment growth in a way that improves the performance of the city.

Darwin City Centre
City of Darwin, Northern Territory Government, Australia
Urban masterplanning and land value impact modelling
Urban analysis and strategic design, impact modelling of pedestrian movement and land value to quantitatively evaluate the proposed designs.

“Your work is an invaluable aid to considering design approaches. You should know that it is now baked into design briefs and much of what we consider.”
Phil Askew, Director Landscape & Placemaking, Peabody

Space Syntax’s masterplan for the future of Astana, Kazakhstan has been created through a place-based and data-driven design process.
1. Thamesmead spatial accessibility model, used to develop and test regeneration proposals in terms of their walkability.

2. Darwin CBD masterplan, showing the proposed urban extension in the context of the existing city centre.

3. Astana masterplan, generated using a place-based and data-driven design process.

4. Jilin Metro design strategy, from line alignment and station location to public space masterplan and station concept designs.

5. Integrated Urban Model of Milton Keynes, combining data on spatial layout, land use and public transport accessibility to address car-dependence and social isolation.

6. Pedestrian Movement Model of the City of London, used to test the individual and cumulative impacts of development proposals on walkability and pedestrian density.

7. Vacant land analysis in Jeddah, supporting the creation of a city-wide planning strategy.

8. Cranbrook Healthy New Town spatial accessibility modelling, used to develop a walkable street network that supports a healthy lifestyle.
Property developments

**Bloomberg London**
*Bloomberg*

Urban design, building circulation and workplace design advice

Urban design advice and pedestrian movement forecasting. Entrances and lobby design advice. Internal circulation and workspace design advice.

**Elizabeth House**
*HB Reavis*

Planning support related to urban and landscape design

Urban design advice and pedestrian movement forecasting. Entrances and lobby design advice. Future scenario modelling including station development proposals.

**One New Change**
*Land Securities*

Spatial layout design advice

Urban design advice and pedestrian movement forecasting, informing retail strategy and planning negotiations.

**Earl’s Court**
*Capco*

Evidence-based masterplan design advice

Urban analysis and strategic design. Modelling of pedestrian movement impact to quantitatively evaluate and optimise emerging residential neighbourhood designs and development of design briefs.

**22 Bishopsgate**
*Lipton Rogers Developments*

Planning support related to urban and landscape design

Urban analysis and pedestrian and cycling movement forecasting, informing design development, stakeholder engagement and planning negotiations.

**Rathbone Square**
*Great Portland Estates*

Planning support related to urban and landscape design

Urban analysis and pedestrian movement forecasting, informing discussions with future tenants and supporting planning negotiations.

**The Post Building**
*Brockton Capital*

Urban baseline studies and design development advice

Mapping and analysis of cultural and open space amenity, pedestrian movement forecasting and public realm design advice, supporting planning negotiations.

**Television Centre**
*Stanhope*

Evidence-based masterplan design advice

Urban analysis and modelling of pedestrian movement impact to quantitatively evaluate and optimise emerging residential layouts and character areas.

“Space Syntax’s analysis and design contribution helped unlock the scheme. The evidence they presented proved critical in promoting our design and convincing people that it would work.”

Neil Porter
*Gustafson Porter + Bowman*
1. Redevelopment of Television Centre London with new public realm and pedestrian access.

2. & 3. Pedestrian movement models showing the effect of the new pedestrian link through the Bloomberg Headquarters in the City of London along the historic alignment of Watling Street.

4. & 5. Public realm concept designs for the area surrounding the Post Building, London.

6. The new route and public space at Rathbone Square, London.

7. Pedestrian movement analysis for the Earl’s Court development in West London.

8. View of the first floor retail of One New Change in the City of London.

9. Visualisation of the entrance to 22 Bishopsgate from St. Helen’s Square in the City of London.
Buildings & estates

Stratford International Quarter
Lendlease
Masterplan and public realm design advice
User experience modelling, advice on optimisation of public realm infrastructure and landscape design proposals.

UCL East Masterplan
UCL Estates
Masterplan and public realm design advice
Urban analysis and design impact modelling, to evaluate and optimise emerging masterplans for a new campus in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Manchester Institute of Biotechnology
University of Manchester
Design advice focusing on interaction and communication
Creation of design principles and spatial models to develop and test emerging proposals that encourage interaction and innovation.

Natural History Museum
Natural History Museum
Visitor circulation strategy
Design and testing of strategic circulation interventions to optimise visitor flow, engagement and experience.

Southbank Centre
Estate-wide development advice
Evidence based advice on estate development including masterplanning, public realm and visitor experience, and workplace design.

Hillingdon Hospital Pilot
Department of Health and National Patients’ Safety Agency
Ward layout study
Evaluation of ward layout for the delivery of care, focusing on the impact of 100% single room accommodation in hospital wards.

Museum of 20th Century Berlin
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Visitor circulation and design impact study
Development of visitor circulation models to test and optimise the design for a major new art museum in Berlin’s Kultur Forum.

The V&A Exhibition Road Quarter
Victoria & Albert Museum
Visitor circulation and design impact study
Analysis of existing visitor flows and development of future visitor flow scenarios to test the impact of design proposals on wayfinding and capacity.

“Atrium of the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, John Garside Building, an interdisciplinary research institute bringing together approximately 600 researchers working in physics, chemistry, mathematics, computation, engineering and biology.”

“The perspective you brought to our campus masterplanning exercise was invaluable. Space Syntax is the best thing we’ve come upon in a long time.”
Dean Wolf
Executive Vice President of Auraria Higher Education Center in Denver
1. Visualisation of the public realm at the heart of the International Quarter of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.

2. Spatial accessibility analysis of pedestrian connections in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.


4. Spatial layout analysis of the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology, used to develop a layout that creates opportunities for chance meetings between researchers.

5. Visual field analysis of patient beds and nurse station at the Hillingdon Hospital, London.

6. Spatial layout analysis of a ward at the Hillingdon Hospital, London.

Service offer

Architecture & urban planning
We design places that work for people and enhance the environments around them, from individual buildings to entirely new cities. Our use of data and predictive computing sets us apart in a field that too often relies on guesswork.

Consulting
We deliver expert planning and design advice at all stages of development, from investment appraisal to operational performance. Our focus on people and place helps inform design strategies. The evidence we produce supports planning processes and influences decision-makers.

Training
We train individuals and organisations in the use of our science-based and human-focused approach through face-to-face classroom teaching as well as the Space Syntax Online Training Platform, an open access learning environment.

Research
We investigate the questions raised by practice as part of a process of continuous service improvement. We undertake extensive in-house research, we partner with likeminded organisations and we act as industrial sponsors of independent, academic activities.

Digital development
We write algorithms and create software-based tools to analyse the performance of buildings and urban places. We connect Big Datasets and train Artificial Intelligence (AI) to understand and simulate effective new environments. Using three decades of international project-based experience, we shape the planning and design tools of the future.

Key outputs

Baseline studies
We help our clients understand why buildings and urban places perform the way they do. We build Integrated Performance Models that connect data on issues including movement, land use, land value, productivity and demographics. Our work generates insights about existing places and highlights the opportunities and constraints that can guide their future development.

Design briefs
Building on the findings of our baseline studies, we create design briefs that furnish project teams with evidence, insights and realistic performance expectations.

Workshop facilitation
We design and run project workshops, seminars and exhibitions to explore issues and showcase ideas.

Strategic designs
We provide a creative input to the planning and design of new places. Working closely with project teams, we use predictive modelling to demonstrate how design proposals are going to work and how they can be optimised in terms of their social, economic and environmental performance. We produce urban planning strategies, public space designs and building layouts that prioritise effective human behaviour.

Planning documents
We deliver technical input to design and access statements, transport assessments, environmental impact assessments and other documents to support planning applications.

Movement models
We construct detailed pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movement models, forecasting mobility patterns in buildings and urban areas.
Accelerating innovation

Working with public, private and community organisations, we apply a range of digital modelling tools using a principled, outcome-focused approach. From strategic spatial models that provide a rapid, robust picture of mobility and location hierarchy, to micro-simulations and Integrated Urban Models that use AI techniques to explore multiple datasets, our focus is always on the creation of thriving life in buildings and urban places. In doing so, we help people see, in clear and straightforward terms, how space can be designed to optimise its human performance.

Through a historic programme of internal research and an international network of university collaborations, we continuously develop our digital technologies and design methods. This process of incremental improvement is peer reviewed, published and presented at significant academic events. We have found that the live-testing of new ideas is an accelerator of innovation.

We disseminate the Space Syntax approach through multiple free and paid-for channels. We provide training that is tailored to client needs, ranging from short CPD sessions to multi-year programmes. These courses are supported by the Online Training Platform, a free-to-use resource that acts as the instruction manual for the Space Syntax Toolkit, our open source software suite. We also make spatial modelling datasets available, on a fee-based and open basis, the latter including the OpenMapping model of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Our goal is to embed the Space Syntax approach in everyday urban planning and design practice.
Look before you leap

The spatial layout of buildings and urban places exerts a powerful influence on human behaviour. The way that places connect is directly related to the way that people move, interact and transact.

Space connects or segregates; brings people into social and economic relationships or keeps them apart; helps people save time or consigns them to carbon-intensive lifestyles; enhances real estate value or damages investments; increases safety or encourages criminal behaviour.

Well designed spatial layouts produce safe and vibrant places and, in doing so, create enormous levels of social, economic and environmental capital. Poor layouts risk functional failure, loss of investment and social harm. The urban landscape is littered with failed development, much of it caused by misunderstanding how spatial layout affects human performance.

Space Syntax provides a trusted, evidence-based approach to the analysis and design of spatial layouts. We help people to see, in clear and straightforward terms, how buildings and urban places can be designed to optimise their human and environmental performance.

Land use diversity analysis of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The degree of access to different amenities and their mix defines the character of an area by creating a more walkable and vibrant urban context.
An evidence-based approach.

A progressive paradigm for human-centred design.
Space Syntax