

THE Restore Sessions

Episode 3

EXTREME CITY

Debrief Summary

Experts



Tim Maughan

Futurist, journalist,
and author of
Infinite Detail (2019)



Maksym Romaniko

Founder, Center for
Spatial Technologies,
and project lead, DOMA
housing platform

0

1

How will downtown keep the action?



68%

of the world's
population is
projected to live in
urban areas by 2050

United Nations, 2020

Urban centres are being designed for exploration, connection and leisure. It's a space where window shopping and socialising can thrive. Retail will focus on brand connection, rather than physical sales, while offices become social hubs for flexible routines.

Expert panel:

What do people want from the city of the future?

The next six months will feel like a 'return to normal,' but that won't last. We have gotten used to the conveniences and advantages of being at home, and not needing to travel for work, shopping, or entertainment. Stores will focus on visual experiences, while businesses will fund 'third spaces' — like the Salesforce Park in San Francisco, which feels like a community space but is very much managed by the corporation.

— Tim Maughan

How do you see urban space changing in relation to post-crisis shifts in work and social behaviours?

In the short term, 'home' as a space will absorb many urban functionalities. But taking a look at longer-term issues, we're looking at a collapse of binaries between public and private, physical and digital, spaces. We'll see a greater privatisation of public space, while shifts in work and family structures will alter the idea of home.

— Maksym Romaniko

0

1

2

How will digital infrastructure change city living?

50%

of global respondents said their habits have gotten "more digital" over the past six months

PwC
March 2021

Mass digitisation is transforming how people move through urban space – in turn, affecting social bonds. Civic participation remains essential for these cities to operate with wellbeing, empathy and democracy in mind.

Expert panel:

Where could lifestyle automation lead us? How will this impact how people interact with organisations and businesses?

The gig economy is incredibly good at hiding labour — the central question is who gets to benefit from this emerging digital-physical infrastructure. Additionally, we have to consider how the act of moving around and interacting with a city is a community experience. By removing these interactions in the name of efficiency, we compromise the health of our cities.

— Tim Maughan

How might projects like DOMA change mass perception of 'smart' or networked cities?

DOMA uses micro-payments and algorithmic management to allow people to slowly purchase shares of the homes they inhabit. Our vision is connected to developing cities that people are invested in — emotionally and quite literally. After ten years of renting, a person isn't left with nothing, but instead with a share of ownership in a cooperative home.

— Maksym Romaniko

0

1

2

3

Are we experiencing a revenge of the suburbs?

30%

of homebuyers in the
US wanted to buy a
home in an outlying
suburb in 2020

NAHB
2020

Connectivity and mobility have shifted the image of the suburb from single-use and private to mixed-use and vibrant. People are moving to the suburbs in hopes of better mental health and greener spaces – all without sacrificing a sense of connection and community.

Expert panel:

What will the suburb of the future look like, and what does this reveal about people's aspirations and desires?

Picture a 'roll-out' of a mega-city into its suburban areas — flattening everything in its path. There will be nothing you need from the city centre that you can't get in outlying neighbourhoods, as they become more densely and intentionally developed. And as cities begin to absorb the vast majority of the world's population, that will change how people aspire to live there — or elsewhere.

— Tim Maughan

Transportation and mobility are crucial to how people manage their lives in the suburbs, and how connected they feel to the city centre, or even other parts of the metropolitan area. The idea of a remote-work, self-sufficient suburb may be emerging, but it will be a shorter-term change. Beyond this moment in history, our relationship to cities, and their social dimensions, are more durable: the need for human interconnection is very hard to change.

— Maksym Romaniko