

# 2023 IGU Thematic Conference

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## Urban transformations: Towards resilient cities

**AUTHORS:** Cantarero Prados, F.J., Castro Noblejas, H., de la Fuente Roselló, A.L.

**Paper Title:** The landscape as a palliative resource for the conditions derived from home confinement by COVID-19

### Session number:

- 1. Cities as a resilient system: between processes and actions
- 2. Local and Urban Governance: lessons from the past and prospects for resilient and sustainable development in a time of global emergencies and transitions
- 3. Tourism as a driver of urban change in post-pandemic cities
- 4. From urban geo-diversity to Geo-tourism: Themes, links and interactions
- 5. Migration and the Resilience of Cities
- 6. Public policies "up to down" and "bottom up" in the face of climate change

### EXTENDED ABSTRACT:

#### a) 1-2 pages in general

During the weeks of confinement in Spain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the population that was locked up stopped feeling, living and shaping their daily landscape. This abnormal situation generated lack of well-being and discomfort in frequent cases and even states of stress, mental fatigue, etc. The hypothesis put forward is that the two-level connection with the landscape that was left outside the walls of the houses helped to alleviate the deficits in physical and mental well-being; either through contact with the basic biophysical elements: direct light, air, vegetation, etc., (through different kinds of openings and windows on the façade), or through the observation of the extrinsic landscape through those same openings. This work takes the opportunity to analyse the value that the visual landscape has for the population and if there was a change in valuation or perception towards it derived from the confinement situation. In addition, it compares the levels of subjective assessment of the landscape observable from the houses with others generated in light of the general theory of the perception of environmental restoration. The latter in order to analyze whether there are resignation or conformity behaviors in the face of theoretically degraded landscapes. It applies to both urban and rural areas, throughout 208 postal codes spread throughout Spain, mainly in Andalusia and more specifically in the province of Malaga. This is because the main source has been an online survey made up of 55 questions, which includes the sending by the respondents of a photograph of the landscape observable from their home. With the data obtained, a set of indicators has been elaborated to characterize the previous research questions. In addition, these indicators are fed by geographic data obtained thanks to the photographs have been georeferenced. This brings a wealth of resources to the analysis and allows spatial representation of the results. The objective is to derive conclusions aimed at formulating recommendations, both to implement

generic environmental management measures and for the management of hypothetical scenarios of new confinements. The results confirm the starting hypotheses. In general, the landscape has served to alleviate the effects of confinement in a majority of the population, although there are notable differences in the objective quality of the views observed (in light of the theory of psychological restoration or the postulates of the quality of the visual landscape). The spatial analysis of the results reveals a bias towards overestimating the score of the views in highly densified urban areas, where the photographs provided show views with landscape qualities that could be classified as degraded. The results obtained can be used both in the field of private (housing valuation) and public management, prioritizing the opening of specific spaces that serve as partial relief from confinement conditions, as well as to know what types of housing and what some areas would need some kind of measure to mitigate possible deficits in physical and mental well-being if situations of total closure were to repeat themselves.