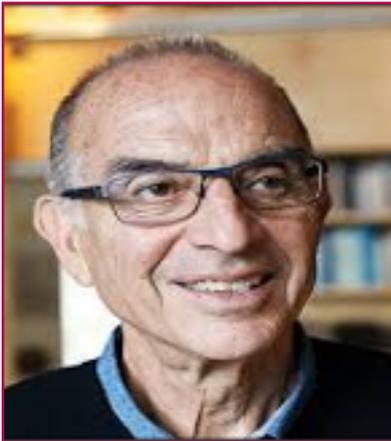


II. Cities for humanity and development



Ken Greenberg
Urban Designer
Greenberg Consultants

In the second webinar of the series, PIDE invited Toronto-based Urban Designer, Ken Greenberg, who has over four decades of experience in urban design across cities in North America and Europe. The webinar was moderated by Vice Chancellor PIDE, Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque.

Dr. Haque started the webinar by listing the issues that affect Pakistani cities. He mentioned that how Pakistan has over the years followed the much-critiqued model of North American urban planning that leads to congestion, sprawl, and car-based mobility.

Furthermore, he pointed out that the country has strict zoning laws that inhibit mix-use of land and has led to a shortage of urban space, exclusion of the poor, and diminished growth of commercial business activities.

Ken Greenberg mentioned that the relationship with “automobiles” and how it affects urban spaces is not only peculiar to Pakistan but is rather a part of a much larger debate in the urban planning and design literature. This dependence on cars/automobiles not only leads to congestion and sprawl but also carries health concerns for populations that do not walk as often as they should.

He further stated that the 20th century North American model of urban growth that Pakistan seems to be following has largely been abandoned by recent urban designers in North America. According to him, North America is “working through a major paradigm shift from a mid-20th century land-use segregated, auto-oriented configuration to a more sustainable, compact, mixed urban future.” More and more young people in North American cities now prefer to live in walkable urban spaces.

The Toronto-based urban designer also mentioned that from his own experience, mix-use of urban space i.e. simultaneous use for commercial, residential, and other purposes is a viable solution for curbing urban sprawl and creating less congested cities.