

Minecraft To Aid UN Regeneration Projects

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Minecraft is being used to model 300 places around the world, so that residents can decide on how they wish to change.

Block by Block is a collaboration between Minecraft-maker Mojang, UN Habitat and the Block by Block program.

Lion's roar

Urban locations can be recreated in computer using Minecraft allowing residents to experience a virtual tour.

They will also be able to alter the model and decide where regeneration cash should go.

The Undugu playground, which is located in the Kibera region on the outskirts Nairobi, was one of the first playgrounds to be recreated in Minecraft for Block by Block's pilot program.

"We'll incorporate it into the game so that players can walk around and feel as if it's as real as is possible," Lydia Winters, Mojang's community liaison manager Mojang told the BBC.

Fyre UK, a Minecraft modeling company has recreated Undugu on a computer. Soon, the people who live around the playground will be able to visit it to view the UN's plans to regenerate the area.

Virtual visits

Minecraft is a world made up of cubes. Each cube is made from a distinct virtual material like dirt, stone, diamond, iron ore and so forth. The game involves stacking the cubes in order to construct structures or breaking them down into their raw materials to create artefacts and objects.

The ease with that the real world could be recreated in Minecraft inspired UN Habitat to approach Mojang to help with its urban regeneration plans said Ms Winters.

By 2016 300 of the areas UN Habitat plans to remodel will be recreated in Minecraft allowing

residents of those places to be involved in the way their area will be transformed.

Ms Winters stated, "It's bringing together decision makers with young people to find a common ground for public spaces across the globe."

At the Minecon conference in Paris which ran from 24-25 November to reveal details about the project

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