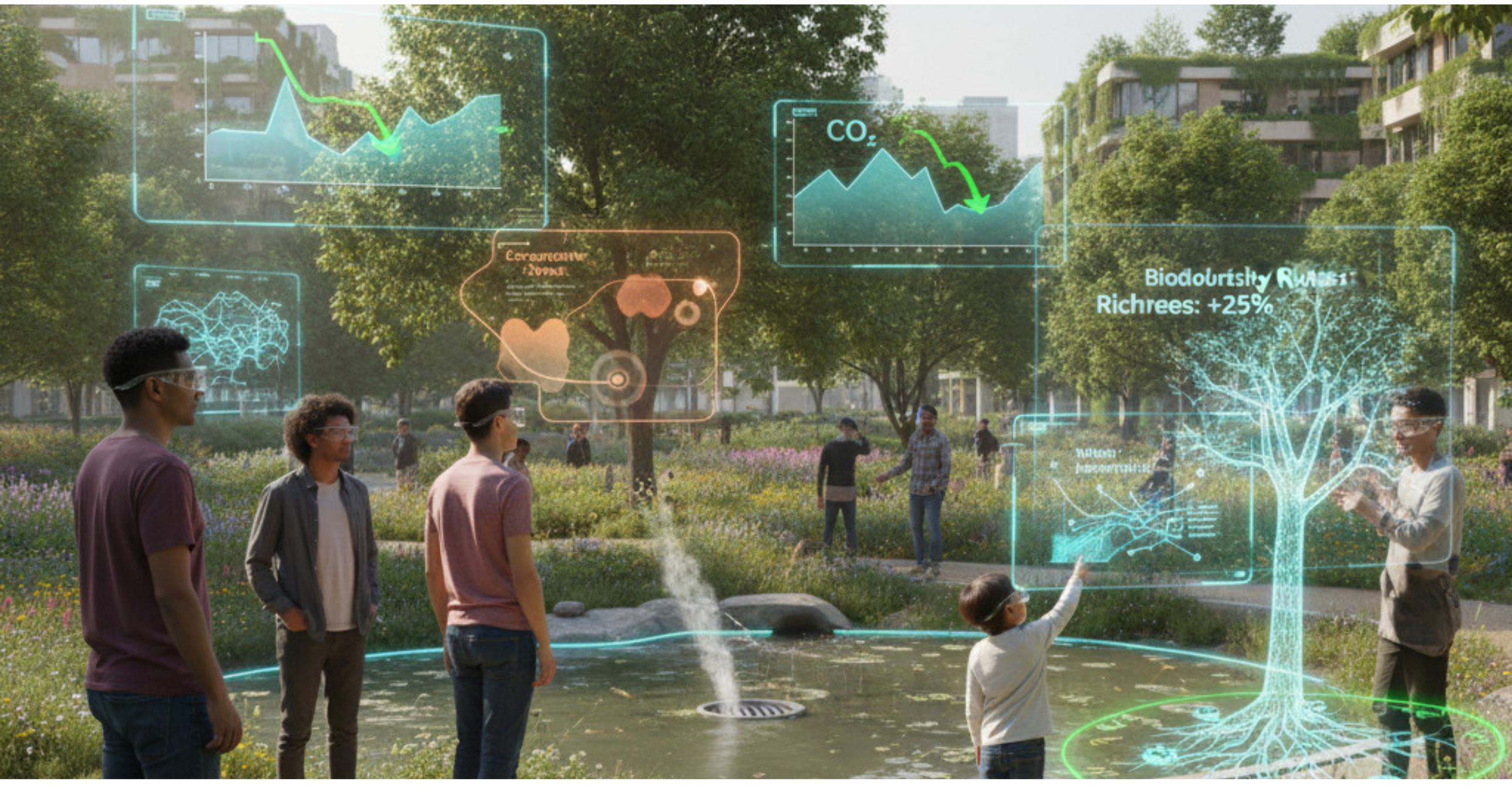
Rebuilding the World We Share:

AR as a Path to Connection, Balance, and Belonging.



Introduction

The world is shaped by three interconnected crises - mass migration, climate collapse, and overconsumption. These pressures displace communities, sever relationships with nature, and entrench people in extractive systems.

Emerging AR glasses offer an alternative path by merging digital and physical worlds. They enable global work, learning, and communication without physical movement; translate language and culture; reveal environmental impact; and replace material goods with shared digital experiences. By reducing waste and lowering social barriers, AR becomes a tool for rebuilding value through connection, care, and collective creativity.

Methodology

We examined key signals - mass displacement, AR dependency, ecological decline, and AI-driven social systems to imagine future trajectories.
From this, we built a three-stage scenario: Dystopian Survival (VR escape), Comforting Illusion (optional pods, low engagement), and Reconnection Era (AR rebuilding community and culture).

The persona Daniel Vox illustrates the lived experience of identity loss and adaptation in this future. Scenario insights informed the Reconnection Framework, an AR ecology that supports community rituals, cultural exchange, ecological awareness, and everyday reciprocity.

Data Analysis

Our analysis focused on five domains that shape migrant-majority cities:

Environment
AR overlays visualize environmental impact, sustainability choices, and shared resource management. Communities gain real-time feedback on restoration efforts and ecological health.

Migration
Immersive tools help migrants navigate new cultural systems through translation layers, orientation cues, and storytelling nodes that preserve memory and identity.

Culture
AR supports cultural revitalization by enabling shared rituals, local arts, and intercultural exchange. It transforms public spaces into evolving cultural commons.

Education
Adaptive AR learning supports multilingual, community-based education. Real-time contextual overlays make knowledge accessible across generations and backgrounds.

Technology
AR evolves from personal convenience tech to a collective infrastructure. It supports emotional connection, shared meaning, and community-driven decision-making.

Conclusion

The Reconnection Framework proposes that AR can become a foundational cultural and ecological layer in migrant-majority cities of 2070. By visualizing needs, revealing opportunities for mutual aid, amplifying shared stories, and strengthening ecological awareness, AR shifts society from isolation toward belonging.
To thrive together in 2070, cities must design technologies that cultivate reciprocity, dignity, and shared meaning—rather than encourage escape into digital isolation.

Reference

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