

A Conceptual Model for Sustainable Urban Development of Inner City Areas

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Abstract

Urban design has become essential to the process of solving cities' problems and urban redevelopment. The challenge of urban development project is to devise programmes based on clear understanding of local conditions and the affected people. With good management, incorporating community participation into the planning and design process can be useful as a way of opening up the discussion of the issues that may not otherwise be considered. This would increase the chances of creating successful sustainable urban design. Urban Design being an integral part of urban development has often advocated participatory approaches responsible for creating an environment that satisfies, informs and inspires its users.

The central objective to which this paper addresses itself is to recognise successful urban development in a sustainable way. The paper postulates a view that the involvement of users in a project process and identifying project's objectives would be a key to make an urban design project successful. Accordingly this paper considers the urban design practices that might serve as models for sustainable urban development. More specifically, the paper intends to propose a model, from an urban planning and design perspective, the main factors that make an improvement of urban environment successful. The model is designed so as to promote that the improvement of urban environment in a way that respects the needs of the people in the context of its implementation. It further gives directions to the involvement of an affected community in identifying the development goals and objectives as a key to successfully transform the urban space.

Introduction

As urban competitiveness is increasing by leaps and bounds, urban planning and design has become an essential tool in achieving the desired level. Urban design is now seen as one of the significant factors in urban development especially in urban revitalisation and regeneration. As discussed by the Urban Design Alliance (2001): *'Many benefits can flow from urban design. Good design can help promote sustainable development; improve the quality of the existing environment; attract business and investment; reinforce civic pride and a sense of place; underpin the role of towns and cities as centres of culture and social activity...'*. The more economically depressed an area is, the more it needs a quality intervention approach to regeneration (Colquhoun, 1995).

Accordingly this paper considers the urban design

practices which might integrate as models for sustainable urban development. More specifically, the paper intends to propose, from an urban planning and design perspective, a framework involving the stakeholders that will make an improvement of urban environment successful. It has been conceived to respond to people's need and defines path for improvement of urban environment should be practiced in order to respect the needs of the people in the context of its implementation. Therefore, the involvement of an affected community (residents) in identifying the development goals and objectives should be considered as a key to successfully transform the urban space.

Approaches To Urban Development

Urban design being an integral part of urban development has today become an inevitable part of