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Editorial Note

Advancing Research in Urban Socioeconomic Development and Resilience

We are pleased to present Volume 7, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, which continues our dedication to addressing the multifaceted challenges of urban development, particularly in balancing socioeconomic growth with resilience in the built environment. This issue encompasses a diverse collection of scholarly articles that contribute to our core areas: Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities, Territorial Dynamics, and Urban Transformations. Each article offers innovative perspectives and proposes actionable solutions to bridge socio-economic divides, fostering equitable and sustainable urban development.

Psychological Effects of Walking and Relaxed Sitting in Urban Greenspaces During Post-pandemic: A Case Study in Bogor City, Indonesia

Mona Sari, Dr. Indung Sitti Fatimah, Dr. Prita Indah Pratiwi, and Dr. Bambang Sulistyantara

Investigating the psychological impacts of physical activity in urban green spaces, this study focuses on IPB University students in Bogor City, Indonesia. Through experiments involving walking and relaxed sitting in parks, the authors assess psychological well-being using standardized scales. The results demonstrate significant improvements in psychological health, providing evidence for the development of therapeutic urban green spaces to enhance mental well-being, especially in the post-pandemic context.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n1-1>

Fear and Architecture: Learning from Mega-Projects and Canal Istanbul as a Case

Prof. Dr. Ece Ceylan Baba, MSc. Cansu Aktaş, MSc. Ceren Balioğlu, and MSc. Taylan Kaba

This article explores the relationship between fear and architecture within the context of mega-projects, focusing on the Canal Istanbul project. The authors analyze how environmental, socio-economic, and technological fears emerge from such large-scale developments, creating uncertainty in urban life. By examining the case of Canal Istanbul, the study emphasizes the need for transparency and public participation to mitigate fear and suggests that mega-projects significantly influence urban dynamics and societal perceptions.

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The Impact of Urban Home Gardens on The Mental Well-Being of Women in The Greater Jakarta Area

R. Anantama Benanda Yasminigrat, Dr. Bambang Sulistyantara, and Dr. Nizar Nasrullah

Addressing the scarcity of green spaces in urban environments, this study assesses the impact of urban home gardens on the mental well-being of women in the Greater Jakarta Area. Utilizing online surveys and the WEMWBS scale, the research finds that frequent interaction with home gardens significantly enhances mental health. The findings highlight the unique role of home gardens as accessible green spaces, offering potential solutions to improve mental well-being in urban settings.

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Exploring Identity Issues in Development Areas of Vernacular Rural Settlements: A Case Study of Behramkale, Türkiye

Assist. Prof. Dr. Didem Boyacıoğlu, Dr. Özgür Göçer, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ebru Ergöz Karahan

This study examines the continuity of architectural and urban identity in the development areas of the vernacular rural settlement of Behramkale, located in the Northern Aegean region of Türkiye. Through qualitative assessments and primary data analysis, the authors reveal that existing top-down planning approaches fail to preserve local identity, leading to a lack of community attachment. They advocate for a participatory, identity-based approach to sustainable rural development that integrates static, dynamic, and perceptual features of place identity.

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Territoriality in Post-conflict Neighbourhoods: Unravelling the Dynamics of Territorial Marks in Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Oluwasegun Odunlade and Prof. Albert A. Abegunde

Exploring the pervasive use of territorial marks in post-conflict neighborhoods, this study focuses on Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Based on residents' perceptions and systematic sampling of 206 residents, the authors find that indigenous territorial marks are widely used across all socioeconomic classes to communicate land ownership and demarcate boundaries. The study concludes that territoriality serves as a land boundary regulation mechanism, emphasizing the need for clear land policies and recognition of indigenous territorial marks in Afro-centric literature.

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Dynamics of Informal Settlement Expansion on the Urban Fringe: The Case of Birbir Town, Southern Ethiopia

Mr. Arba Haniche Hantalo and Dr. Engida Esayas Dube

This research investigates the expansion of informal settlements on the urban fringe of Birbir Town in southern Ethiopia. Employing a descriptive survey design and gathering data from 156 household heads, the study identifies key factors driving informal settlement growth, including population increase, urban sprawl, and poor land administration. The authors highlight the socio-economic and environmental impacts, such as deforestation and unstructured urban expansion, contributing to the understanding of informality in small towns of developing countries.

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The Nexus between Residential Density, Travel Behavior and Traffic Congestion in Developing Metropolitans: A Case Study of Harare, Zimbabwe

Dr. James Kanyepe

This study examines the relationship between residential density, travel behavior, and traffic congestion in Harare, Zimbabwe. Using structural equation modeling on data collected from 384 households, the research finds that higher residential density and certain travel behaviors positively influence traffic congestion. The results underscore the importance of integrating land-use and transportation planning, providing valuable insights for policymakers to alleviate congestion in developing metropolitan areas.

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A Review of the Meaning of Home in Multi-Ethnic Settings

Ph.D. Candidate Erna Nuralia Zharani and Prof. Gehan Selim

This paper explores the meaning of home across different ethnicities by conducting a systematic literature review of studies from 2000 to 2023. The authors identify key variables influencing the definition of home, including ethnicity, home practices, and physical spaces. They propose a new conceptual framework that integrates social, physical, and psychological aspects, offering a comprehensive understanding of the meaning of home in multi-ethnic settings and contributing to contemporary housing design and policy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n1-8>

Parametric Architectural Design for a New City Identity: Materials, Environments and New Applications

Dr. Ines Sahtout Gaha

Investigating the role of parametric modeling in architectural design, this study explores how digital environments and algorithms can create innovative and sustainable urban spaces. The research examines both conceptual and constructive aspects of parametric design, highlighting its potential to generate complex forms and optimize material usage. The author emphasizes the importance of participatory design processes to foster inclusive and sustainable urban development, contributing to the creation of new city identities.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n1-9>

Influence of Urban Street Vending on Pedestrian Experience and Behaviour: A Systematic Quantitative Review

Assist. Prof. Amala Anna Jacob

This systematic quantitative review assesses the breadth and depth of academic literature on the influence of urban street vending on pedestrian experience and behavior. Analyzing 25 peer-reviewed articles, the study finds that research in this area is emerging and cross-disciplinary but lacks theoretical applications specific to pedestrian-vendor relationships. The author identifies gaps in the literature and suggests potential areas for future research, emphasizing the need for multi-contextual perspectives and robust methodologies.

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Can Urbanization Influence Carbon Dioxide Emissions? Evidence from BRICS–T Countries

Assist. Prof. Dr. Oluwatoyin Abidemi Somoye and Toluwalope Seyi Akinwande

Exploring the impact of urbanization on carbon dioxide emissions in BRICS–T countries from 1990 to 2021, this study employs Pooled OLS and Fixed Effects models. The findings reveal that urban population growth reduces CO₂ emissions, while increases in energy intensity and GDP spur emissions. The authors recommend policies such as continuous urban planning, rural development, renewable energy integration, and the use of energy-efficient buildings to promote sustainable urbanization.

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Exploring the Contemporary Challenges of Urbanization and the Role of Sustainable Urban Development: A Study of Lagos City, Nigeria

Dr. Auwalu Faisal Koko and MSc. Muhammed Bello

Addressing the multifaceted challenges of rapid urbanization in Lagos City, Nigeria, this study employs a mixed-methods approach to assess issues such as housing shortages, infrastructure strain, and socio-economic disparities. The authors evaluate sustainable urban development initiatives and emphasize the need for integrated urban planning, inclusivity in policy-making, and technological advances to build a prosperous, equitable, and environmentally friendly city.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n1-12>

Beneath the City: Unearthing Naples' Archaeological Underground for New Urban Continuity

PhD Candidate Chiara Barone

This research explores the potential of connecting Naples' visible cityscape with its concealed archaeological underground to reshape urban continuity. Focusing on three locations in Naples, the study presents design solutions that enhance the use of subterranean spaces, fostering accessibility, community engagement, and cultural preservation. The author advocates for integrating the archaeological underground into contemporary urban dynamics, offering strategies to redefine the relationship between city dwellers and their environment.

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Technical Land-Sea Spaces: Impacts of the Port Clusterization Phenomenon on Coasts, Cities and Architectures

Assist. Prof. Dr. Beatrice Moretti

Examining the phenomenon of Port Clusterization and its spatial impacts, this article highlights how the administrative aggregation of ports affects land-sea interactions, urban planning, and architectural heritage. The study underscores the lack of spatial consideration in current port cluster management and emphasizes the need for spatial and design approaches to address challenges such as coastal utilization, resilient infrastructures, and regeneration of port-city heritage.

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Urban Form and Real Estate Value in Msheireb Downtown Doha, Qatar

Adheena Kottappurath Aliyar, B.A., Mark David Major, Ph.D., Heba O. Tannous, M.Sc., and Fatima R.A. Al-Esmail, B.A.

Investigating the relationship between urban form and real estate rental values, this study focuses on Msheireb Downtown Doha. Through field surveys and analysis of real estate data, the authors find that the morphological characteristics of residential units and adjacent streets influence rental prices and target specific user groups. The research highlights how urban design can affect socio-economic dynamics and reiterates the success of compact living in improving urban environments.

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Urban Design Evolved: The Impact of Computational Tools and Data-Driven Approaches on Urban Design Practices and Civic Participation

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Gün

This article explores how computational tools and data-driven approaches are transforming urban design practices and civic participation. Based on a literature review and semi-structured interviews with computational design experts, the study concludes that technology-driven solutions are changing designers' relationships with data, enabling objective, data-informed decision-making. The author notes that while these tools offer new opportunities, they are still in the early stages of adoption and emphasizes the potential for more inclusive and sustainable urban spaces.

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We believe that the insights and findings presented in this issue significantly contribute to the discourse on equitable and sustainable urban development. We encourage scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage with these works to foster inclusive, resilient, and vibrant cities.

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