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Editorial Note

Advancing Research in Urban Socioeconomic Development and Resilience

We are delighted to present Volume 7, Issue 2 of the *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, aligning with our commitment to addressing the complex challenges of balancing socioeconomic development with resilience in the built environment. This issue brings forth a collection of scholarly articles that delve into critical aspects of urban affairs, contributing to our core areas of interest: Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities, Territorial Dynamics, and Urban Transformations. Each article offers innovative insights and proposes actionable solutions to bridge socio-economic divides, fostering equitable urban development.

Peri-Urban Pressures: The Interplay of Land Strategies and Urbanization in Algeria's Oran Metropolis

Dr. Hayette Nemouchi conducts an in-depth examination of urban sprawl and land utilization in the peri-urban regions of Oran, Algeria. Utilizing social geography methodologies, the study highlights the disconnection between political aspirations and urban realities, emphasizing the need for integrated land and urban planning strategies. By revealing the socio-economic and spatial consequences of land ownership dynamics, the article calls for a harmonious and sustainable approach to urban development in Algeria's rapidly expanding cities.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-1>

Disaster Vulnerability Assessment of Low-Cost Houses in Java Island

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aulina Adamy and colleagues explore the vulnerability of low-cost housing in Java Island to various natural disasters. Through field observations and expert interviews, the study identifies four categories of houses based on construction materials and assesses their susceptibility to hazards like earthquakes, floods, and fires. The authors advocate for design improvements and quality control measures, emphasizing the need to consider multiple disaster risks in housing design to enhance resilience and reduce socio-economic losses.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-2>

Urban Heat Island Impact and Precipitation Patterns in Indian Western Coastal Cities

Ph.D. Rachana Patil and Asst. Prof. Dr. Meenal Surawar investigate the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect and its influence on precipitation patterns in India's western coastal cities. By analyzing data across multiple decades, the study finds a strong positive correlation between surface temperatures and population density, highlighting the exacerbation of climate-related challenges due to urbanization. The authors underscore the necessity for sustainable urban planning practices to mitigate adverse socio-economic impacts associated with climate change.

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Revitalization Approaches to Maximize Heritage Urban DNA Characteristics in Declined Cities: Foah City as a Case Study

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed M. Youssef and Arch Rowida Esaam focus on the revitalization of heritage sites within urban contexts, using Foah City in Egypt as a case study. The article emphasizes

the importance of preserving the 'Urban DNA'—the essential visual, social, economic, and physical characteristics of heritage areas—during the revitalization process. The authors propose strategies to enhance socio-economic and visual impacts without compromising the intrinsic values of heritage sites in declined cities.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-4>

Another Chance: Adaptive Reuse of the Built Heritage Strategies for Circular Creativity

Dr. Francesco Chiacchiera and Prof. Dr. Gianluigi Mondaini delve into adaptive reuse as a sustainable strategy for urban development, particularly focusing on public buildings within the cultural and creative sectors. Through multiple case studies, the authors analyze design strategies that transform neglected or abandoned urban spaces into vibrant public assets. The study underscores adaptive reuse as a practice that not only conserves resources but also revitalizes urban environments, contributing to socio-economic regeneration.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-5>

Mapping Safety, Security, and Walkability of Historical Public Open Spaces in Post-Conflict Libya: Tripoli as North African Case Study

Dr. Khairi Abdulla and Prof. Dr. Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem explore the changing perceptions and use of historical public spaces in Tripoli, Libya, amidst post-conflict recovery. Utilizing investigative mapping and analysis, the study reveals how safety and security concerns shape user engagement with public spaces. The authors highlight the need for inclusive urban planning that addresses socio-economic disparities and fosters communal well-being in historically rich yet vulnerable urban landscapes.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-6>

Adaptive Strategies Used in Urban Houses to Overheating: A Systematic Review

Sakirat Abimbola Afolabi and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Funmilayo Adedire provide a comprehensive review of adaptive strategies to combat overheating in urban houses, with a focus on Nigeria. The study categorizes 52 strategies into urban design, effective building design, insulation, and occupant behavior, further classified by stages in the building process. The authors emphasize the importance of these strategies in enhancing occupant health, reducing energy consumption, and promoting socio-economic benefits through sustainable urban development.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-7>

Place Attachment of Shoppers: A Study of Palms Mall, Ibadan, Nigeria

Ifeoluwa Olla, Prof. Bayo Amole, and Prof. Dolapo Amole investigate the factors influencing shoppers' attachment to Palms Mall in Ibadan, Nigeria. Through quantitative analysis, the study identifies key physical attributes and activities that enhance bonding with the mall, such as access to mechanical conveyors, mall aesthetics, leisure activities, and social interactions. The findings provide insights for designing malls that contribute to the social and economic revitalization of urban areas.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-8>

A Preliminary Study of the Relationship Between Built Environment of Open Space and Cognitive Health of Older People

Ruozhu Yin, Prof. Dr. Mei-yung Leung, and Yueran Li examine how the built environment of open spaces affects the cognitive health of older adults. The study identifies key environmental components, such as greenery, pathways, and signage, that positively influence memory, concentration, and judgment. The authors propose practical recommendations to enhance these spaces, contributing to the well-being and social inclusion of the elderly in urban settings.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-9>

Perceived Urban Design Across Urban Typologies in Hanoi

Dr. Thanh Phuong Ho, Prof. Mark Stevenson, and Assoc. Prof. Jason Thompson explore how perceived urban design varies across different urban typologies in Hanoi, Vietnam. The study reveals that older urban areas score higher in land use mix and access to services, while modern typologies excel in walking facilities and street connectivity. These insights are crucial for policymakers and urban designers aiming for sustainable urban development that respects historical contexts.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-10>

Do Young Professionals in Malaysian Urban Areas Prioritise Sustainability When Making Housing Decisions?

Dr. Nor Suzylah Sohaimi and Assistant Prof. Dr. Syafiee Shuid investigate the housing decision-making processes of young professionals in Malaysia. The study finds that while home affordability is the primary concern, factors like neighborhood safety and sustainability also influence choices. The authors suggest that integrating sustainable features into affordable housing can meet the preferences of this demographic, aiding in the socio-economic resilience of urban communities.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-11>

Integrating Wind Flow Analysis in Early Urban Design: Guidelines for Practitioners

Ph.D. Candidate Mathieu Paris and colleagues provide guidelines for incorporating wind flow analysis into the early stages of urban design, particularly in Mediterranean climates. By validating simulation workflows, the study aids urban planners and architects in creating more comfortable and sustainable environments. This integration is vital for adapting to climate change and enhancing the socio-economic efficiency of urban projects.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-12>

Street Trading and Urban Distortion: Rethinking Impacts and Management Approaches from Urban Planners' Perspective in Enugu City, Nigeria

Ms. Chioma Agatha John-Nsa, Dr. Victor Udemezue Onyebueke, and Ms. Ebube Faith Enemuo assess the impacts of street trading on urban planning in Enugu City. Contrary to common assumptions, urban planners recognize the socio-economic importance of street trading and favor negotiated solutions over forced evictions. The study advocates for inclusive urban management practices that balance economic benefits with spatial order.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-13>

From Urban Vulnerabilities to Resilience: Lessons from Messina's Integrated Risk Approach

Prof. Arch. Anna Terracciano and Ph.D. Candidate Giovanna Ferramosca examine Messina's approach to integrated risk management. By mapping vulnerabilities and proposing an "Integrated Risk Map," the study highlights strategies for urban and social regeneration. This comprehensive tool aids in mitigating risks and fostering resilience, serving as a model for other cities facing similar challenges.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-14>

Revitalizing Urban Governance: Integrating Smart Growth and Decolonial Perspectives for Municipal Empowerment in Shaping Growth Across Egyptian Desert Landscapes

Dr. Anas Alhowaily explores the intersection of Smart Growth principles and decolonization in Egypt's urban governance. The study critiques the New Urban Communities Program (NUCP) and advocates for empowering local municipalities. By proposing an indigenous, participatory planning model, the research aims to rectify inefficiencies and promote socio-economic inclusivity in urban development.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-15>

Liveability Considerations: Towards Designing Sustainable Public Housing in Niger State, Nigeria

Ph.D. Candidate Paul Baba Haruna and colleagues investigate liveability variables in public housing to enhance resident satisfaction in Niger State. Through mixed-method analysis, the study identifies 21 significant variables that, if integrated, could achieve a 92.9% satisfaction rate. The research emphasizes a user-centered approach in housing design, contributing to sustainable development and improved quality of life.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-16>

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

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