

Abstract

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IMPROVING THE STREET ENVIRONMENT FOR AN ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

The sustainability of a place depends on a series of factors which contribute to the quality of life. An activity like walking, which is obviously "sustainable", can become non sustainable if the context in which it is carried out does not meet the conditions for an adequate quality of life. This paper aims to understand what are the factors contributing to an appropriate pedestrian experience in streets of various scales in downtown areas. When the car was first introduced, the automobile's ugly face surfaced and drove people off the cities' streets. Private-owned vehicles has led to congestion and longer hours held up in traffic. In addition to that, cars are aggravating global warming and are responsible for CO2 production. Cars are also using up limited fossil fuel resources, dominating the streets, increasing car related deaths, negatively impacting drivers' psyches these are just a few of the disadvantages of the automobile that need to be resolved immediately. The objective of this paper is to highlight the benefits of walkability and presenting various methods that have been employed to prioritize the pedestrian on the city streets. An in-depth study into the diverse factors that make a street more walkable is conducted, followed by the analysis of 3 examples with 3 different street scales the monumental, urban and intimate. The final goal is to find out which factors are of the most urgency in street design while taking into account the scale of the street. The final result of this paper is a checklist that should guide the development of walkable streets of different scales in downtown commercial areas. Keywords: Pedestrian walkability streets scale environment