PROGRAMA DE DOCTORADO EN GESTIÓN Y VALORACIÓN URBANA Y ARQUITECTÓNICA
UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE CATALUÑA
Academic year 2014/2015

THE IMPACT OF OPEN SPACES IN THE SOCIAL LIFE;
THE CASE OF JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

Student: Maher Summan, Landscape Architect
Degree: Landscape Architecture
Master: Master of Urban Design, Universitat De Barcelona
Contact: m_summan@hotmail.com
Thesis director: Dr. PILAR GARCIA ALMIRALL
Contacto: pilar.garcia-almirall@upc.edu
Scholarship from King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
As suggested in the literature (e.g. UN-Habitat 2010), multicultural cities such as Jeddah must address the negative aspects of the complex dynamic of social relationships between migrants and indigenous societies by engendering visionary governance policies. Failure to do so may result in economic disintegration, urban inequalities, social and political unrest and a reduction in the quality of life for both residents and immigrants.
Contents:

Introduction
Public Spaces And Neighbourhoods As Sites For Social Interaction
Saudi Arabia
Open spaces and social life in Saudi Arabia
The Case Study Jeddah City
Open spaces and social life in Jeddah
Hypothesis and Objective
The structure of the thesis
The state of art
Working Plan
Feasibility
Bibliographies
Healthy public spaces are the springboard for revitalizing communities, and a vital ingredient of successful cities. They help build a sense of community, civic identity and culture. The best public spaces bring together people from all walks of life and all income groups. The presence of multiple types of people ensures that no one group dominates, and that the space is safe and welcoming for all.

- Lack of public space or poorly designed
- Non-use of public space
- Crime and misuse of public space
- Social mobility and economic opportunity are stifled
Contemporary spatial planning policy and practice for regulating urban growth and urban space have led to fragmentation in the layout of modern residential areas in many countries. This fragmentation, together with the structural change that societies around the world have experienced in the last three to four decades, has created transitory and impersonal public spaces that deprive inhabitants of the socialisation associated with traditional communities.

In Jeddah as well as other Saudi cities, recent interest in upgrading the quality of residential areas in general and public spaces in particular is rooted in spatial and structural changes that the city experienced in the past five decades.
It is generally accepted in the literature that public space is a suitable location for social interaction, chance encounters, free assembly, cultural displays and celebrations (Mitchell 1995). Lefebvre (1991) argues that every society throughout history has shaped a distinctive social space that meets the requirements of economic production and social functioning (Arefi and Meyers 2003). Walzed (1986: 470) maintains that public space is the 'space for politics, religion, commerce, sport, for peaceful coexistence and impersonal encounter'. Research studies have also emphasized that there are many factors that may influence social interaction in urban space. These include physical (planning and design) and non-physical factors. Examples of non-physical factors are the personal (personality, individual traits, interpersonal dynamics and attitudes), formal social factors (police, rules and regulations), and informal social factors (financial resources, time, health, activities, etc.) (Williams 2005).

It should be noted that, in today's cities, although there is growing interest in a more inclusive public realm, the social segregation of urban space and the damaging effects of exclusion became a trend when public fear regarding social difference became increasingly heightened.
Recently, and because of oil revenues, Gulf countries achieved great developments and made huge steps to be an advanced countries. These revenues encouraged Gulf countries to develop their economy, infrastructures and policies.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made a noticeable progress in recent decades in enhancing and developing the economy and urban form.

The proportion of the population living in urban areas increased rapidly from 1970s.

Saudi Arabia has a population of 30 million people. Group aged below 25 years old represents more than 50% of the total population.
Urban Governance In Saudi Arabia:

Since the 1940s wider changes in the organizational structure of both the central and local authorities in the Kingdom have impacted on the way cities being administered. Responsibility for the delivery of public amenities and spatial planning has devolved to regional and local authorities as well as to civil society actors from the private sector and local communities. Indeed, it is the resolution of 2004 which reiterated the configuration of the Municipal Council alongside the administrative reforms within Jeddah municipality in 2006 may be identified as the leading voices in discussions about contemporary urban governance in Jeddah, with responsibility promote public space management.

In Saudi Arabia as is the case in the developed countries there has been a shift in the regime of public space governance and an increasing erosion of municipal control. This can be attributed to growing interest in the intractable problems of environmental quality and health risks caused by under-management of the considerable range of areas reserved for public spaces alongside dissatisfaction with the perceived quality of public life. All these factors were manifested in a succession of national and local reform initiatives which encouraged the involvement of the private sector in urban management, and which necessitated the development of social movements such as the traditional forms of control exerted over local communities.
Recreation And public spaces Problems And Issues In Saudi Arabia:

The size and location of existing facilities effect the number of user and their preferences. An analysis of approved subdivisions of the open space in Jeddah in 1979 - 1989 reveals the deficient in open space provision.

The present situation of insufficiency of outdoor recreational provision resulted from poor standards.

As a result of the insufficiency of open public spaces provision, people use other spaces such as housing, schools, shopping, transportation and pedestrian pavements, for celebrations and events.

The designers of a neighbourhood park has to understand the neighbourhood's social and political complexities. This is because they are providing for a wide range of ages and habits of the people who use the park at different times of day or night. Variants in patterns of use at different times are particularly important in Saudi Arabia.

According to the guide for the Built Environment in Saudi Arabia (Issued by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in 1990), the design should included all or most of the following:

- Planting or trees
- A place for adults to sit
- A place for children to play (a minimum size of 3 acres for a playground is recommended)
- Identifying logos: a mural, a name, a colour scheme or other suitable landscape elements
- A basketball net
- Sometimes areas large enough to play group games.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan space</td>
<td>1120000 m2</td>
<td>4800000 m2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothills-desert reserve areas</td>
<td>200000 m2</td>
<td>800000 m2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District open space</td>
<td>130000 m2</td>
<td>2400000 m2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total areas</td>
<td>1450000 m2</td>
<td>8000000 m2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recreation and open space size by type in Jeddah (1979 - 1989)
Open spaces and social life in Saudi Arabia:

The recreation resources was marked on the master plan:
1- the local recreational spaces within the communities, and the other, is the major recreational spaces on the city level.
2- The local recreational resources or open spaces within walking distance of all houses. It has been proposed the provision of one hectare per one thousand residents for local recreation space, about 10m2 for a person.

The existing situation of overall provisions inadequately met the people's demands.
But actually is the lack of sufficient open spaces in already densely built-up areas.
Open spaces and social life in Saudi Arabia:

Despite the great demand for recreation, municipalities have made inadequate provision, which is not based on social or behavioural studies. That is without considering people’s desires and needs.

As previous studies conducted by Saudi scholars indicate:

The fragmented urban fabric with the heterogeneity of its inhabitants has:
1- Separated people and established a feeling of being unable to move freely and safely within its borders.
2- Violated traditional requirements for privacy, social interaction, children’s and women’s activities, social status and community wellbeing.

Factors such as culture and climate influence the users' behaviour and their use of recreational opportunities which were disregarded in the planning and design process. Plans and concepts from foreign cultures were blindly used to shape outdoor recreational areas, which created spaces without users.
Jeddah the case study:

Some Information of Jeddah city:
- Located on the coast of the Red Sea and is the major urban center of western Saudi Arabia.
- Jeddah city is the largest city in Makkah Province, the largest sea port on the Red Sea, and the second largest city in Saudi Arabia after the capital city, Riyadh.
- Jeddah city is an important commercial hub in Saudi Arabia.
- Jeddah city is divided to 13 Sub Municipalities.
- The built up area of Jeddah in (1951) was 3.15sq.km and 1,350 sq.km in (2005).
- Population in Jeddah (3,430,697 million) 50% out of Makkah Region and 13% of Saudi Arabia.
- 41.7% increase of population from 2000-2010.
- 3.55% annual increase from 2000-2010.
- Third of the population lives slums.
Jeddah the case study:

The Evolution Of Jeddah:
1. Urbanisation In Jeddah Before The Removal Of The City Wall In 1947.
5. The Stage Of Structure Planning Approach (1990-Date).
Open spaces and social life in Jeddah:

Family And Social Transition:
1- it is important to note that, although the social change has taken place rapidly in Saudi society, family and kinship remain essentially strong, where socialization and social interaction are highly valued and encouraged, especially as a supporting network which allows individuals to withstand the economic hardships of immigration and unemployment.
2- In a metropolitan city such as Jeddah, although there is a wide range of recreational facilities, sport clubs and religious communities that can be considered loci where people can socialise, the bonds of solidarity between family members have not yet been dissolved (Adas 2001).
The gardens and landscaping department in Jeddah Municipality works to implement 75 public parks, through 5 projects to create parks (during 2014, 2015, 2016), are being implemented in various neighborhoods of Jeddah. Create 4 Municipality plazas in 2015, and other 4 Municipality plazas in 2016. In addition to select sites for big parks, have size between 7,000 m² to 10,000 m², will be distributed in the city.

The total number of completed public parks is 521 parks, on a total area of 2,420,351 m². In addition to the 75

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan space</td>
<td>1120000 m²</td>
<td>4800000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothills-desert reserve areas</td>
<td>200000 m²</td>
<td>800000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District open space</td>
<td>130000 m²</td>
<td>2400000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total areas</td>
<td>1450000 m²</td>
<td>8000000 m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recreation and open space size by type in Jeddah (1979 - 1989)

The growth of uncivil behaviour and the fear of crime + The undefined territories within the modern urban environment. + People's sense of not belonging to the area, to them it's an unknown area.

Engender a sense of a lack of security and safety.

Withdraw from public life. + Retreat inside the private realm of the household. + The fright of engagement with others.

Public spaces have lost their significance, and their role as a place for coexistence and social life.

The gardens and landscaping department is seeking through a long-term plan for the next 10 years to create 150 public parks (15 parks per year).
Evolution Of Public Space Management In Jeddah:
- Since the establishment of the Municipality of Jeddah in 1937, public space management has been dealt with as an implicit part of the environmental care responsibility of the municipality.
- Growing interest in the intractable problems of environmental quality was apparent in the fifth National Development Plan (1990-1995).
- This plan concerned itself with the environmental and health risks caused by irresponsible waste disposal in environmentally sensitive urban areas coupled with rising concerns over demographic pressure and the perceived quality of public life.

Reshaping Public Space Management In Jeddah Municipality:
- In response to the recent emphasis on public space quality and its long-term management, in 2006 an administrative reform took place in Jeddah Municipality, which aimed to reorganise the different departments under its management.
- According to this reform process, a new directorate called Planning and Design for Open Space Areas has been established and is in charge of the design of the public space.
- The aim of this directorate is to establish a comprehensive public space programme. At the same time, its duty is to support the existing department in charge of public space management and maintenance – the General Directorate of Parks and Plantations. The most important mission for this directorate is to make arrangements to collaborate and form partnerships with other stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as well as local community organizations.
Open spaces and social life in Jeddah:

The Involvement Of The Private Sector In Urban:

- Public dissatisfaction with the quality of public amenities (such as the low-level maintenance of public spaces within residential areas).
- In 2003, the Council of Ministers (CM) issued a resolution that approved the privatization of certain utilities and services including some municipal services, such as the development of public parks.
- Private investors were brought in to improve public spaces within residential areas rather than restricting their activities at the central city level.

The contribution of the private sector took three forms:
1- Through representation on the boards of not-for-profit companies with other stakeholders, including local community members and local authorities such as the Friends of Jeddah Park (FJP).
2- Through direct donations submitted to the municipality from wealthy families for funding public amenities such as the improvement of public parks.
3- Through municipality privatization and outsourcing. The Municipal Investment Development General Directorate is in charge of the bidding process.

The Participation Of Local Communities In Urban Governance:
- Recently, with the demographic changes and the growing interest in public space quality, new initiatives around community participation have been started by a charitable organisation called Friends of Jeddah Park.
- These initiatives have sprung from the desire of some individuals from local communities and the private sector to improve the quality of life in marginalized areas, through cooperation with their residents.
- This organization is made up of members from the private sector working under the umbrella of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The organization began in 2003 when three mothers who worked together as a team set out to acquire some undeveloped land for the construction of playgrounds and parks in Jeddah.
- Although progress in motivating the participation of local communities is being made in Jeddah with the help of the local authorities and the private sector, it appears to be taking place slowly.
The Revitalization Of The Historic Town And Its Public Spaces:

- The historic area of Jeddah is an outstanding example of architecture and urban fabric on the Red Sea. The region includes the traditional homes and markets that still retain their urban heritage, an organic urban fabric (an Arab-Islamic city). The historical town of Jeddah covers an area of 1.5 square km.

- Public spaces in the form of alleyways and commercial streets within the market area provided residents with gathering places used during social occasions, religious holidays, and evening celebrations.

- The way these buildings are arranged has strengthened the social links and ties among neighbours. They also encourage social contact and daily gatherings which in turn help create strong feelings of safety and security, while providing protection from strangers.

- In the mid-70s Jeddah Municipality contracted the British architectural firm Robert Matthew, Johnson Marshall to prepare a conservation plan for the historic area. One of the conservation programme objectives is to upgrade the traditional urban fabric by improving its public spaces, and putting some traditional coffee shops and restaurants.
Open spaces and social life in Jeddah:

Public Space Provision Within Modern Residential Areas:

- In Jeddah city, within modern residential areas the multiple intersections of the grid usually result in automobile accidents, noise, making strolling in the neighbourhoods difficult.
- From a socio-cultural point of view, while the geographical separation of people into different types of residential environment has magnified the segregation of people by class, disturbing the social order at city level. Similarly, the fragmentation of residential blocks alongside detached buildings not only caused the erosion of the urban and social fabric but also led the way to the creation of monotonous and standardized images for physical structures. In consequence, the role of the streets in the traditional urban life of Jeddah as facilitators of social interaction has been diminished.
- As was the case in modern residential areas in western cities – in Jeddah the land-use ordinances and building regulations were not only intended to separate different uses into zones (which made it difficult to integrate a variety of activities within a single area), but also contributed to the segregation of social order and created lifeless residential environments that discourage social interaction.
- Although the municipality of Jeddah tried hard to enhance the appearance of residential areas, most of the neighbourhoods that were constructed lack attractive spatial characteristics, and most of the technically generated public spaces within them have not been adequately distributed to satisfy users or respond to the local environment and overall context.
- These spaces not only tend to be isolated from their surroundings by asphalt streets with narrow footpaths, but they are also seldom used because they are positioned in residual areas where the residents need them least.
General objective and hypothesis:

The hypothesis:
The problem is that public spaces within modern residential areas in Jeddah have changed from being embedded in the social fabric of the city to being part of fragmented urban settings. These spaces have not only reduced socialisation for inhabitants, but have also become a public burden and a continuous drain on urban life.

General Objective:
The aim objective of this study is to review and analyse the current status of public spaces in the northern part of Jeddah city, and its impact on the deterioration of social life. Accordingly, evaluate those public spaces, attempt to find design solutions for some of them, and propose some recommendations that may contribute to bring back the social life to them.

Specific objectives:
1- Study the open space system in old Jeddah (historic center).
2- Review traditional activities that were happening in open spaces in the old city.
3- Study the open space system in the north of Jeddah (the modern residential areas in Jeddah).
4- Review current activities that happening in open spaces in the north of Jeddah.
5- Identify constraints that prevent the use of current open spaces more effectively socially.
6- Attempt to find design solutions that help to use the open spaces in social activities.
7- Propose general recommendations that contribute to the improvement of the current open space system in the north of Jeddah, and help to design the open space system of new residential areas.
Outlines the objectives and research methods.

Review of literature related to the social life in public spaces topic in general

Background information about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The case study Jeddah City

Overview of the open spaces system in Jeddah city

Describes data collection

Conclusions and Recommendations
The state of art:

General:

Space plays a mediating role between the social totality and the representations of our relationship to that totality "ideology" (Ardena, 2004).

The erosion of public life, creating emptiness in the expression of the public domain, deforming intimate social interactions while causing a high degree of social polarization and segregation in the process of transforming the socio-spatial fabric in general (Sennett, 1977).

Public life as a stage in which political participation is enacted through the medium of communication or as a realm of social life in which public opinion can be engendered through discussion which in turn influences political action and assists in forming a more consistent preference for long-term social interests (Habermas, 1962).

Specific:

In summary, our problem is that the practice of public space provision within modern residential areas in Jeddah does not correspond well to its users and context. The considerable range of areas reserved for public spaces and streets within modern residential areas in Jeddah poses a complex challenge for creating and managing these spaces within the constraints of a limited budget. These spaces have not only reduced socialisation for inhabitants, but have also become a public burden and a continuous drain on urban life (Mandeli, 2011).
The state of art:

Generally speaking, as previous studies conducted by Saudi scholars indicate, the fragmented urban fabric together with the heterogeneity of its inhabitants has not only separated people and established a feeling of being unable to move freely and safely within its borders, but has also violated traditional requirements for privacy, social interaction, children’s and women’s activities, social status and community wellbeing. These have all acted as major obstacles that discourage people from exploring their urban environment and decrease opportunities for people to enjoy physical activities and social experiences in outdoor areas. (Hammadi, 1993).

In 1992, in order to tackle the issues of modern residential areas, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs hired two local consultants to prepare models of new neighbourhoods. Planners and urban designers assigned by MOMRA began to analyse both traditional and contemporary design for several existing housing schemes before proposing a prototype design for new residential communities (Mandeli, 2011).

- The gardens and landscaping department in Jeddah Municipality works to implement 75 public parks, through 5 projects to create parks (during 2014, 2015, 2016), are being implemented in various neighborhoods of Jeddah. Create 4 Municipality plazas in 2015, and other 4 Municipality plazas in 2016. In addition to select sites for big parks, have size between 7,000 m2 to 10,000 m2, will be distributed in the city.

- The total number of completed public parks is 521 parks, on a total area of 2,420,351 m2. In addition to the 75 parks (what we have mentioned previously) on a total area 40.500 m2.

- The gardens and landscaping department is seeking through a long-term plan for the next 10 years to create 150 public parks (15 parks per year). (Al-riyadh newspaper, 31 October 2013).
The state of art:

Main sources of information in the case study will be from:

- Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs
- Jeddah Municipality
- Jeddah Development & Urban Regeneration
- Previous studies
- Interviews
- Questionnaire
Working Plan:

Phase 1
- The Literature Review
  - Review of Discussions
  - Study of Examples
  - Review of Study in Saudi Arabia

Phase 2
- The case study Background
  - Previous study of Jeddah
  - Current situation
  - The future expectations
  - publish a scientific paper

Phase 3
- Observations and analyzing
  - Questionnaire
  - Interviews
  - Final visions and evaluations
  - Publish a scientific paper

Phase 4
- Review and conclusions
  - Conclusions
  - Correction of text and structure
  - The final presentation
## Working Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1: The Literature Review</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Review of Discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Study of Examples</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Review of Study in Saudi Arabia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2: The case study Background</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Previous study of Jeddah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Current situation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) The future expectations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) publish a scientific paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3: Observations and analyzing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Questionnaire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) interviews</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) final visions and evaluations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) publish a scientific paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 4: Review and conclusions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Conclusions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Correction of text and structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) The final presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Presentation**
Feasibility:

This study will focuses on the major problems of public spaces system and deterioration of social relations in the northern part of Jeddah city. It will be good practice for me to be updating in this field and assistance in solving this problem.

On the other hand, the government of Saudi Arabia recently has motivated all researchers and professionals to participate in development projects over the country, and special attention for social life of people and their needs. This research would be presented to Ministry of Planning and Housing and other local administration to see about the possibility of applying the research recommendations, although, by sharing this research with researchers from outside could help to make them understand one important issue.

I expect to have recommendation for using to solving some social integration problems in public spaces.

Finally, by investigating about open spaces and social life issues helping me to create sufficient acknowledgement about it and that helps me to develop my carrier to work with Ministry of Planning and Housing and with my University as Professor in this field after having my Doctoral Degree.

In order to, This research would be presented to The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Jeddah Municipality to see about the possibility of applying the research recommendations.
Amin. 2006. Collective culture and urban public space.
Beunderman, Hannon, and Bradwell. 2007. Seen and Heard, Reclaiming the public realm with children and young people.
Godbey.2009. Understanding and Enhancing the Relationship.
Hammadi. 1993. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEISURE PATTERNS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THEIR ROLES IN DETERMINING OPEN SPACE PLANNING AND DESIGN: THE CASE OF JEDDAH'S CORNICHE.
Bibliography:

JOYCHELOVITCH. 1995. SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC LIFE: A STUDY ON THE SYMBOLIC CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACES IN BRAZIL.
M. Ijla. 2012. Does public space create social capital?
Nasution, and Zahrah. 2012. Public Open Space’s Contribution to Quality of Life: Does privatisation matters?
Bibliography:

Sauter, Hüttenmoser. 2006. The contribution of good public spaces to social integration in urban neighbourhoods.
Tonnelat. 2010. The sociology of urban public spaces.
Woodcraft, Bacon, Caistor-Arendar, Hackett.2011. design for social sustainability.
Thank you for your attention

Gracias por su atención

Student: Maher Summan, Landscape Architect
Degree: Landscape Architecture
Master: Master of Urban Design, Universitat De Barcelona
Contact: m_summan@hotmail.com
Scholarship from King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia