

Editorial

Abeer Elshater

Professor of Urban Morphology, Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

Since its emergence in the 1950s, urban design has undergone several paradigm shifts, beginning with the visual appearance of cities to multilateral dimensions and approaches (Carmona, 2021; Lang, 2021; Marshall, 2015; Shane, 2011). Urban design and planning perspectives involve miscellaneous topics in the social sciences. However, plans involving cities, towns, and neighbourhoods continue to change and become more complicated, while the planning profession goes back to its roots by including people-centred development in the urban agenda.

Now, do the latest urban paradigms intersect with the diverse miscellaneous themes of social sciences? I say yes, these paradigms stand on the same ground, involving geography, planning, and development. The miscellany of urban design paradigms intersect when scholars and practitioners deal with urban context based on the relationship between people and place.

Urban design and planning scholars promote a holistic outlook for cities and towns, considering the citizens' well-being, smartness, sensory experiences, environment, socio-political conditions, and economy as part of development (Abusaada & Elshater, 2020). The people-centred development approach focuses on local communities' self-reliance, social fairness, and participation in decision-making, as human progress cannot be achieved solely through economic growth. This prospect demands a simultaneous shift in socio-political and environmental norms and values. Similarly, new urban design paradigms focus on local communities and everyday living. Global studies focus on how to build and manage daily living in a manner that humans can appreciate and benefit from (AlWaer & Kirk, 2016; Carmona, 2021).

With the shift towards sustainability, public health has been pinpointed as an element of flourishing communities. Thus, cities have begun to integrate people's well-being into their comprehensive plans, which may require a cogent paradigm shift in urban design applications to fit the emerging challenges of daily living.

As such, articles on *Urban Design and Planning* provide evidence for deep connections between urban design paradigms in terms of environmental, visual, and perceptual

dimensions, which implicitly affect other dimensions such as urban morphology, sociability, and city functionality. Health concerns drove people out of polluted industrial cities and into better places. Evidence suggests that the modern lifestyle causes spatial challenges among locals, and these effects may have global impacts.

We now consider four reflections on three miscellaneous paradigms: the visual, perceptual, and environmental dimensions through local and global perspectives. Our authors present local cases from Bhopal and Bengal in India, Vietnam, and other cities in the Global South.

In the opening article, Thombre and Kapshe (2021) presented a pivotal case regarding public spaces which described visual and perceptual dimensions by conducting a survey based on Gestalt Psychology to examine users' perceptions of the convivial built environment in selected public spaces in Bhopal, India. Their findings strengthened the role of urban designers in creating sociable places based on aesthetics.

Biswas (2021) presented — in the second article — *para* and *adda* as two distinct examples of the cultural heritage of Kolkata in Bengal, India. The term 'para' refers to an informal, organic, and urban residential unit where 'adda', a casual social conversation among peers and families about intellectual or current affairs, is conducted. In this issue, narrative enquiries and storytelling techniques were used to explore these two terms and identified the co-evolution and association of para and adda as tradition in the Bengali community in Kolkata.

Turning to the third article, Thi *et al.*, (2021) discussed five changes related to climate sea level rise affecting the spatial structure of coastal alluvial villages in the northern coastal region of Vietnam and suggested solutions, including providing spaces for spiritual activities, restructuring agricultural production, and enhancing transportation and travel systems.

In line with the challenges of climate change, the fourth article by Presswood *et al.*, (2021) reviews the construction and energy aspects of successful and unsuccessful affordable housing developments for informal settlers in the Global

South, showing that the development of more affluent and long-term housing is critical. They assessed the conditions of informal settlements in various regions in the Global South, identifying various upgrading programs. They discuss the potential to adapt green energy technology in developing affordable houses for informal settlers within the residents', municipalities', and governments' means.

The essential takeaway from this issue is the relationship between 'people' and 'place,' which can be seen as an implicit line connecting miscellaneous dimensions of urban design and planning. People-centred development is becoming increasingly important in addressing urban challenges. The connection between urban design paradigms should move toward transdisciplinary practice which merges academics with practitioners in handling complex challenges. Finally, this issue covers new ground by incorporating the various parties involved in structural and non-structural techniques and research methods essential to attain better urban living.

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