Resolving the Crisis of Urban Spaces in Northern Cyprus: Lessons from the Global Approaches to Urban Design in Developed Countries

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Abstract

In Northern Cyprus, there are several pressing challenges. These include inadequate amenities, poor maintenance, limited green spaces, and insufficient community engagement, all of which contribute to a crisis situation in urban space.

In this context, this paper examines the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus. Employing a mixed-methods research approach involving case studies, and surveys, the investigation uncovers potential solutions. Further, by drawing insights from global urban design practices, it identifies lessons to be learnt from them. These include expanding green spaces to enrich the environment, implementing rigorous maintenance programs, enhancing safety and security measures, and actively involving the community in the design and upkeep of public spaces. These principles and practices are tailored to address the specific issues faced in Northern Cyprus, with the ultimate goal of creating vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable public spaces that can contribute to an improved quality of life in the region. Thus, it proposes developing urban space policies, regulations, and guidelines, establishing public-private partnerships, integrating public art and cultural programming, and adopting sustainable and resilient design principles

In conclusion, the study demonstrates that immediate action is required to address the public space crisis in Northern Cyprus. It concludes that it is possible to create public spaces that are functional, visually appealing, that foster social and cultural interactions by adopting sustainable and resilient design principles, encouraging private investment, incorporating public art and cultural programming, and promoting public-private partnerships. This research paves the way towards revitalized and improved public spaces, ultimately enhancing the quality of life in Northern Cyprus.

Keywords: Urban design, Public spaces, Developed countries, Public space crisis, Sustainable design, Northern Cyprus.

Introduction

In the evolving landscape of urban planning and design, the significance of public spaces cannot be overstated. They are the heart of any city or community, serving as vital hubs for social interaction, recreation, and cultural expression. However, in Northern Cyprus, a pressing concern looms over the state of its public spaces, one that necessitates immediate attention. For the elderly people, public spaces hold particular importance as they offer opportunities for socializing and engaging in physical pursuits. Research conducted in Beijing has demonstrated that public spaces can have a positive impact on the psychological well-being and social involvement of elderly women (Zhang et al., 2022).

In this context, this paper examines the current state of urban public spaces in Northern Cyprus and the associated challenges that have led to a public space crisis, with a keen focus on the condition of public spaces. By adopting a robust mixed-methods research approach, we unveil an array of challenges that have collectively precipitated a public space crisis. These issues range from the scarcity of green areas and the absence of essential amenities to subpar maintenance, insufficient lighting, and an underutilized community engagement framework.

Drawing upon international experiences and solutions in urban design, we proffer a series of targeted recommendations explicitly tailored to ameliorate the existing public space crisis in Northern Cyprus. Our study underscores the urgency of these recommendations to foster the creation of vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable public spaces, enhancing the quality of life and well-being for all residents of the region. Its aim is to shed light on the issues affecting public spaces, identify the root causes of the crisis, and propose effective solutions to revitalize and improve these essential community areas.

Its objectives are: To analyze the key problems and deficiencies in the design, accessibility, and maintenance of public spaces in Northern Cyprus. To explore successful urban design strategies and public space management models from developed countries and evaluate their adaptability to the Northern Cyprus context.

The research comprises of numerous segments, starting with the introduction, followed by the second section, which involves the theoretical framework by pinpointing the basic concepts and implications related to the topic of urban spaces. The third section allocated for a review of former studies that investigated and assessed the statues of the urban public space crisis in north Cyprus. The fourth section dealt with the evaluation of the public spaces in north Cyprus, a theoretical evaluation and another practical evaluation by specialized experts, while the final section included the conclusions and recommendations of the research paper.

Theoretical Framework
Urban Spaces

Public spaces, such as parks, plazas, streets, and sidewalks, are open and accessible areas where people can gather, interact, and participate in various activities. They hold significance for social, cultural, and economic reasons, as they facilitate social connections, community building, and a sense of belonging. Public spaces also contribute to a city's cultural life by hosting events, performances, and festivals. Furthermore, they can have economic benefits by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and enhancing property values.

The ownership and management of public spaces can vary, involving government entities, private organizations, or a combination of both. This aspect influences the accessibility, use, and quality of these spaces. The privatization of public spaces has generated debates due to concerns about exclusion and limited public access. However, partnerships between public and private interests have the potential to create high-quality public spaces that meet contemporary urban needs (Devereux & Littlefield, 2017).

Creating inclusive and accessible public spaces for all age groups is an evolving area of research and practice. Designing intergenerational public spaces that cater to the needs of both young and older individuals can foster cross-generational interaction and community development (Nelischer & Loukaitou-Sideris, 2022).

Importance of the Urban Spaces

Public spaces play a vital role in shaping the social, economic, and cultural fabric of communities. They serve as platforms for social interaction, leisure activities, and community bonding, which contribute to overall human well-being (Agustí & Lladós, 2021). Furthermore, public spaces act as meeting points between people and the city, and their appeal and attractiveness can significantly enhance the social life of urban dwellers (Kargina et al., 2022).

Moreover, public spaces are essential for fostering social integration, providing opportunities for individuals to connect with one another and engage with the local community (Huong, 2019). Additionally, investing in the development and enhancement of public spaces can have positive economic implications by attracting businesses and tourism, thus contributing to the growth of the local economy (Kaw, 2020). In summary, public spaces form an integral part of urban environments, exerting a profound influence on the overall quality of life experienced by citizens.

Benefits of the Urban Spaces

Public spaces provide a multitude of advantages to individuals and communities. Access to green public spaces, for instance, can enhance well-being, alleviate stress, and uplift mood (Cinderby, 2019). Moreover, these spaces foster social connections by enabling people to meet, observe, and interact with others, contributing to community cohesion. Privatizing public spaces, however, poses a risk of eroding community bonds and diminishing social support for vulnerable individuals (Morató, 2022). Additionally, public spaces play a pivotal role in promoting community relations and creating a sense of place, which are integral aspects of sustainable community development (Passanan, 2019).

The planning and design of public spaces can yield multiple co-benefits for human health while addressing social disparities. By prioritizing healthy and inclusive public spaces, communities can simultaneously mitigate and adapt to climate change, foster social cohesion, and stimulate economic development (Morató, 2022). Improving access to green spaces and encouraging outdoor activities and social interactions are key strategies for addressing contemporary urban health challenges (Cinderby, 2019).

Nevertheless, public spaces also entail certain risks. The COVID-19 pandemic, for example, highlighted concerns regarding the use of disinfectants in public spaces, as their improper application can contaminate food sources, water, and animal habitats. Mixing disinfectants incorrectly or applying them to food or the body can pose significant risks (Pramono & Indasah, 2022). Therefore, it is crucial to carefully consider the risks and benefits associated with public spaces and implement appropriate measures to mitigate risks while maximizing their advantages.

In conclusion, public spaces offer a wide range of benefits to individuals and communities, including enhancing health and well-being, fostering social connections, and promoting a sense of community and place. The planning and design of public spaces have the potential to generate multiple co-benefits for human health while addressing social inequalities. However, it is essential to be mindful of the risks involved and take necessary precautions to minimize them while maximizing the benefits of public spaces.

Review of Literature

Some of the research that have dealt with the crisis of urban spaces in Cyprus are the following:

- **"Urban space and its information field"** (Salingaros, 1999): The paper proposes a new theory of urban space based on information theory and optics, emphasizing the importance of the information field generated by surrounding surfaces and its reception by pedestrians. Successful urban spaces provide an emotionally nourishing environment by optimizing visual and acoustical signals, offering tactile information, and determining the optimal positioning of pedestrian paths and nodes.

- **"Urban Open Spaces"** (Woolley, 2003): In the 21st century, urban policy worldwide shifted focus to public spaces, driven by urban flight and safety concerns. In the UK, Helen Woolley's work emphasized the importance of parks and green areas, promoting healthier and more sociable communities. According to Woolley's (2003) book, she highlights the revival of place-making in urban planning, as seen in Birmingham's Victoria Square. Woolley also emphasizes the mental and physical well-being benefits of urban design and the growing importance of ecological considerations in city development.

- **"Advances in Environment, Behavior, and Design"** (Zube & Moore, 2013): The third volume in the "Advances in Environment, Behavior, and Design" series follows the framework established in previous volumes. It is divided into five sections: advances in theory, advances in place, user group, and sociobehavioral research, and advances in research utilization. The authors come from diverse disciplines, including architecture, environmental psychology, sociology, and urban design, representing international perspectives from North America, Europe, and New Zealand. Unlike previous volumes, this one feature contributions from both academia and professional practice. It continues the series' format but explores new directions at the forefront of the field, with a focus on design and professional practice to complement the earlier emphasis on theory, research, and methods.

- **"Urban Open Spaces in Historical Perspective: A Transdisciplinary Typology and Analysis"** (Stanley et al., 2012): The paper proposes seven categories to analyze urban open spaces historically, including food production areas, parks and gardens, recreational space, plazas, streets, transport facilities, and incidental space. As Stanley (2012) says this study highlights the interplay between top-down and bottom-up actions in the establishment and use of urban open spaces, and emphasizes their importance in serving the general population**.**

- **"Sustainable Urban Design of Urban Spaces in Residential Areas and Their Impact on Human Behavior"** (Gaber et al., 2022): The paper emphasizes the importance of considering human aspects and social sustainability in the design of open spaces in residential areas, aiming to improve human behavior and quality of life. It proposes a comprehensive approach that includes geographical, physical, psychological, and managerial concerns to achieve successful design and human welfare in residential open areas.

- **A Safe Pedestrian Walkway; Creation a Safe Public Space Based on Pedestrian Safety** (Movahed et al., 2012): The paper aims to develop a well-organized pedestrian movement and design a people-friendly urban public space based on pedestrian safety. As Movahed et al., (2012) conducted library-based research to identify safety factors and create a model for a safe pedestrian walkway.

- **"Comparative Analysis of the Quality Perception in Public Spaces of Duzce City"** (Karacor et al., 2016): The study aims to evaluate the quality of different types of public spaces in Duzce City and determine the reasons for these differences. It focuses on four key attributes of successful places: accessibility, comfort, socialization, and activity. As Karacor et al., (2016) suggest that ownership of spaces is not a significant factor in

perceiving the quality of spaces, and publicly owned urban spaces are not always preferable. The ownership of public spaces does not serve as a basis for quality perception.

- **"Public Squares and Their Potential for Social Interactions: A Case Study of Historical Public Squares in Tehran"** (Mehan, 2016): The paper examines the decline of historical public squares in Tehran as social nodes and proposes strategies to enhance social interactions in these spaces. As Mehan (2016) concludes that the Iranian historical public squares in Tehran have lost their significance as social nodes due to technological changes, population growth, and vehicular traffic.

- **"Urban Public Spaces and Vitality: A Socio-Spatial Analysis in the Streets of Cypriot Towns", 2012** (Jalaladdini & Oktay, 2012): The paper discusses the importance of vitality in urban public spaces, specifically streets, and its impact on the quality of urban life.
  As Jalaladdini & Oktay (2012) investigates the determinants of vitality in two major streets in Famagusta and Kyrenia, North Cyprus, highlighting the significance of proper connections, proximity to important magnets, and physical and social attributes in the street area.

- **"Assessment of Quality of Life in the Urban Environment: Case Study: Famagusta, N. Cyprus"** (Nikoofam & Mobaraki, 2020): The paper discusses the controversial issue of quality of life in urban environments and its impact on human health and satisfaction, with a focus on the city of Famagusta in North Cyprus. The study aims to assess the quality of life in urban environments using subjective and objective indicators, in order to improve health communication and urban vitality.

- **"User Perception of Neighbourhood Parks and Open Spaces: A Case of Karakol, North Cyprus"** (Ezennia et al., 2017): The study examines the spatial organization and planning of park facilities in Karakol, North Cyprus, and how it affects user experiences and social interactions in the neighborhood. As Ezennia (2017) says that well-maintained greenery, accessible facilities for all age groups, opportunities for relaxation, sports, and social gatherings are factors that contribute to a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction among park users. The paper emphasizes the importance of adopting universal design principles in park designs to optimize their functions and enhance residents' interactions and opportunities for contact.

- **"A Square or a Bridge: The Eleftheria Square Case"** (Charalambous & Hadjicristos, 2009): The paper explores the urban square's significance, using Eleftheria Square in Nicosia as an example. It addresses the challenge of reconciling the square's spatial requirements with its symbolic importance and suggests a methodology that combines spatial analysis with people's perceptions. This approach aims to bridge the gap between the physical and experiential aspects of urban design, fostering collaboration between academia and the design profession and improving community acceptance of proposed developments.

- **"Neoliberal urbanism, public space, and the greening of the growth machine: New York City's High Line Park"** (Lang & Rothenberg, 2017):
  High Line Park in New York City has also attracted significant research interest. Lang and Rothenberg (2017) analyze its economic, ecological, and social equity dimensions, highlighting both its potential for economic growth and its neglect of social equity components. The park's design as a sustainable and aesthetically pleasing public space has been explored in research on landscape urbanism and sustainable park design (Lang & Rothenberg, 2017). The park's impact on tourism and its unique transformation of an abandoned industrial space have also been subjects of study.

There are numerous studies on urban spaces. One of the primary factors contributing to this crisis is the rapid urbanization and expansion of construction activities, resulting in the loss of vegetation areas, grasslands, and forests (Atak et al., 2019). Another contributing factor to the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus is the lack of a comprehensive study on the quantity and adequacy of urban green spaces (Eyileten et al., 2022). Thus, efforts should be made to conduct comprehensive studies on the quantity and adequacy of urban green spaces, which can inform future planning and policy decisions. Additionally, the development of a systematic framework for evaluating and incorporating green spaces within the urban structure can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient built environment. This article closes this knowledge gap by examining it from an authentic perspective.

Research Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods research design to investigate the public space crisis in Northern Cyprus. The use of a mixed-methods approach enables us to collect both quantitative and qualitative data, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.

The design of an online questionnaire that is distributed to a sample of residents and visitors of Northern Cyprus. The questionnaire is designed to capture participants' perceptions of public spaces in Northern Cyprus, including their use, design, and quality. The questionnaire includes both closed-ended and open-ended questions and it is administered using an online survey platform such as Google Forms.

For the online questionnaire, is used a convenience sampling approach, whereby participants are recruited through social media platforms and local organizations. The main aim to collect a sample of at least 75 participants who are residents or visitors of Northern Cyprus.

The analysis of case studies of public space design and management in developed countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Europe. The study examined the strategies, interventions, and policies that have been implemented in these countries to address similar public space challenges. The case studies were selected based on their relevance to the public space crisis in Northern Cyprus and their potential applicability in the local context.

The data collected from the questionnaire is analyzed using descriptive statistics, such as mean, standard deviation, and frequency distributions and conduct inferential statistics, such as correlation and regression analysis, to examine the relationship between different variables. Besides, the data collected from the research studies and case studies are analyzed thematically to identify relevant theories, concepts, and best practices in public space design and management.

Findings

Case Area, Northern Cyprus

The selected areas in North Cyprus, specifically Ataturk Square, Kumsal Park, Kuğulu Park, and Bedrettin Demirel Caddesi Lefkoşa empty lot, are significant focal points within the city center of Nicosia. These locations play crucial roles in shaping the urban fabric and have been identified as areas in need of transformation to enhance their livability and vibrancy.

Through careful analysis and research, it has been determined that each of these areas presents unique challenges that require innovative solutions. By studying successful case studies and drawing inspiration from best practices, our aim is to apply suitable strategies and techniques to address the specific needs of each location.

- Ataturk Square, as a central public space, requires revitalization to transform it into a dynamic and inviting gathering area that fosters social interaction and community engagement. By incorporating elements such as seating, greenery, and cultural amenities, the square can be transformed into a vibrant urban hub.

- Kumsal Park, being a park area, calls for careful attention to its ecological aspects and recreational potential. By implementing sustainable landscape design, improving accessibility, and creating a diverse range of activities, Kumsal Park can become an attractive green space that caters to the needs of both residents and visitors.
- Kuğulu Park, known for its scenic beauty and existing water features, can be enhanced to provide a serene and tranquil environment. By preserving its natural elements, introducing additional seating areas, and integrating artistic elements, Kuğulu Park can become a cherished urban oasis that promotes relaxation and connection with nature.
- Bedrettin Demirel Caddesi Lefkoşa empty lot presents an opportunity for innovative urban development. With careful planning and design, this vacant space can be transformed into a vibrant mixed-use area that incorporates residential, commercial, and recreational elements. By creating a pedestrian-friendly environment and incorporating sustainable design principles, the empty lot can contribute to the overall urban fabric and provide diverse amenities for the community.

Findings from Participant Responses

The survey respondents were distributed across different age groups as follows: 32 respondents were between 18 and 29 years old, 11 respondents were between 30 and 39 years old, and 1 respondent was between 40 and 49 years old. This indicates that the majority of participants were in the younger age range, suggesting a higher level of engagement and interest from the younger population in evaluating the urban spaces in Northern Cyprus.

Regarding gender representation, 14 respondents identified as male, while 28 respondents identified as female. This indicates a slightly higher participation rate from female respondents, highlighting the importance of considering diverse perspectives and experiences in addressing the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus.

In terms of residency, 46 respondents indicated that they are residents of Northern Cyprus, while 6 respondents stated that they are not residents of Northern Cyprus. The majority of respondents being residents of Northern Cyprus suggests a significant level of engagement from individuals who directly experience and interact with the urban spaces in question. The participation of non-residents also brings valuable insights from different perspectives, potentially contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand.

According to the survey, the following findings were obtained.
- Out of the 50 respondents surveyed, 36 respondents (73.5%) believed that there is an urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus, highlighting the existence of significant challenges in the urban environment.

When asked about the biggest problems facing urban spaces, the respondents identified the following issues:
- Safety concerns: 34% of respondents expressed concerns about safety in urban spaces,
- Emphasizing the need for improved security measures.
- Poor design: 38% of respondents cited poor design as a major problem, indicating the
- Importance of thoughtful and functional urban planning.
- Lack of maintenance: 48% of respondents highlighted the lack of maintenance as a key issue, underscoring the need for regular upkeep and care.

- Lack of accessibility: 32% of respondents pointed out the lack of accessibility as a
- Significant problem, emphasizing the importance of inclusive design.
- Lack of amenities: 16% of respondents mentioned the absence of amenities such as seating
- And restrooms as a notable issue, indicating the need for improved infrastructure.

In terms of changes in the state of urban spaces in recent years:
- 18 respondents (36%) believed that urban spaces have gotten worse, indicating a decline in their condition.
- 21 respondents (42%) stated that the state of urban spaces has remained the same, suggesting a lack of significant improvement.
- 11 respondents (22%) were unsure about any changes, highlighting the need for better monitoring and assessment of urban space conditions.

- When asked if they have ever avoided using an urban space due to safety concerns:
  - 20 respondents (40%) stated that they have avoided using urban spaces due to safety concerns, revealing the impact of safety issues on public usage.
  - 30 respondents (60%) stated that they have not avoided using urban spaces due to safety concerns, suggesting that safety concerns have not deterred everyone from using them.

Regarding the main cause of the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus:
- 38 respondents (76%) identified the lack of planning and design as the main cause, emphasizing the need for improved urban planning processes.
- 2 respondents (4%) mentioned the lack of community involvement as a contributing factor, highlighting the importance of engaging the community in decision-making.
- 10 respondents (20%) believed that a combination of factors, including lack of planning and design, lack of community involvement, and lack of funding, were responsible for the urban space crisis.

In terms of important features for urban spaces in Northern Cyprus:
- 13 respondents (26%) considered public restrooms as important amenities, highlighting the need for accessible sanitation facilities.
- 14 respondents (28%) identified benches or seating areas as crucial, emphasizing the importance of comfortable seating options.
- 8 respondents (16%) valued public art, indicating the desire for artistic and cultural elements in urban environments.
- 7 respondents (14%) emphasized the importance of public Wi-Fi, reflecting the growing need for connectivity in urban spaces.
- 5 respondents (10%) recognized the significance of recycling bins and drinking fountains, indicating the importance of sustainability and hydration facilities.

This survey findings provide valuable insights into the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus and can serve as a basis for implementing effective strategies to improve the quality and functionality of urban spaces.

Presence of public art

Based on the survey findings, 33 respondents indicated that the presence of public art in urban spaces is very important. This suggests a strong desire for art to be incorporated into the public realm, enhancing the cultural and aesthetic appeal of the surroundings. Additionally, 13 respondents considered public art to be somewhat important, further highlighting the overall positive sentiment towards art in public spaces. Only 2 respondents expressed that public art is not very important, indicating a minority opinion.

Availability of public Wi-Fi

The survey results indicate that 44 respondents consider the availability of public Wi-Fi to be very important. This reflects the growing importance of connectivity in modern society and the desire for convenient access to the internet in public spaces. Additionally, 6 respondents stated that public Wi-Fi is somewhat important, indicating a broader recognition of its value. However, it is worth noting that 2 respondents expressed that public Wi-Fi is not very important, suggesting a differing perspective. Furthermore, 1 respondent indicated that it is not at all important, representing an outlier opinion.

Availability of public restrooms

The survey findings demonstrate a significant emphasis on the availability of public restrooms in urban spaces. Out of the respondents, 47 considered the presence of public restrooms to be very important. This underscores the fundamental need for accessible and convenient restroom facilities in public areas. Additionally, 7 respondents stated that public restrooms are somewhat important, indicating a general consensus on the importance of this amenity. However, 3 respondents expressed that public restrooms are not very important, suggesting a minor divergence in opinion.

Evaluating of the Findings of Urban Space Crisis in Northern Cyprus

The findings of the survey conducted on the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus reveal significant challenges and areas of concern that need to be addressed. The results highlight the need for immediate attention and action to improve the state of urban spaces in the region.

One of the key findings is that a majority of the respondents (73.5%) believe that there is an urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus. This indicates a widespread recognition of the existing issues and the urgent need for intervention. The identified problems include safety concerns, poor design, lack of maintenance, lack of accessibility, and absence of amenities. These findings emphasize the multifaceted nature of the crisis, necessitating a comprehensive approach for resolution.

The survey also sheds light on the changes in the state of urban spaces over the years. While a significant portion of the respondents (36%) feel that urban spaces have deteriorated, a considerable number (42%) perceive no significant improvement. This suggests that efforts to address the urban space crisis have been insufficient or ineffective. It underscores the importance of reevaluating existing strategies and implementing more impactful measures.

The impact of safety concerns on public usage of urban spaces is another significant finding. Forty percent of the respondents reported avoiding the use of urban spaces due to safety concerns. This indicates that the perceived lack of safety has negatively affected the utilization and enjoyment of these spaces. It underscores the urgent need for enhancing security measures and creating a safe environment for all residents and visitors.

The lack of planning and design emerges as the main cause of the urban space crisis, according to the majority of respondents (76%). This finding highlights the need for improved urban planning processes that prioritize functionality, aesthetics, and the needs of the community.

Additionally, the lack of community involvement and funding are identified as contributing factors, emphasizing the importance of inclusive decision-making processes and adequate financial resources for sustainable urban development.

To address the urban space crisis, the survey respondents proposed several key steps. The involvement of the community in planning and design processes was emphasized by over half of the respondents (52%). This underscores the significance of engaging residents and stakeholders in shaping the urban spaces they inhabit. Increased funding for maintenance and improvement was also highlighted by a majority of respondents (60%), indicating the need for financial investments to revitalize and maintain urban areas. Other suggested measures included enhancing accessibility, hiring more staff for maintenance, and implementing safety measures, all of which contribute to creating vibrant, functional, and secure urban spaces.

Finally, the survey identified important features that urban spaces in Northern Cyprus should possess. These include public restrooms, benches or seating areas, public art, public Wi-Fi, and recycling bins and drinking fountains. These findings highlight the desire for well-equipped, comfortable, and sustainable urban environments that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of the community.

The survey findings underscore the urgency of addressing the urban space crisis in Northern Cyprus. The identified challenges, causes, and proposed solutions provide valuable insights for policymakers, urban planners, and community leaders to develop and implement effective strategies that enhance the quality, safety, and functionality of urban spaces. By prioritizing community involvement, adequate funding, and thoughtful planning, Northern Cyprus can create vibrant and inclusive urban areas that improve the quality of life for its residents and visitors.

Case Studies
Global Approaches to Urban Design in Developed Countries

Developed countries are influenced by multiple factors such as globalization, sustainability, safety, and resource scarcity when it comes to urban design. As the majority of the population is projected to reside in cities in the future, there is a growing emphasis on urban development that positively impacts socio-economic factors and reduces crime rates within local communities (Jankura & Soltes, 2021).

To achieve these goals, an interdisciplinary approach drawing from urban studies, architecture, town planning, criminology, and sociology is being utilized. This approach aims to create visually appealing and environmentally friendly urban environments that actively engage people in the urban infrastructure and enhance safety measures (Polyantseva, 2020). However, there is a need to address the key issues faced by local authorities and residents more effectively. This includes considering the specific needs of target population groups and prioritizing infrastructures and services accordingly.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the field, a typology for urban design theories has been proposed. This typology distinguishes between subjects, objects, and knowledge within urban design, offering a comprehensive framework to comprehend the development of urban design theory and provide a holistic perspective (Araabi, 2016).

The methodology of Global case studies are observation and investigation of general characteristic of urban spaces. Accordingly, the research on Eleftheria Square, Promenade du Paillon, and High Line Park provides valuable insights into their design, impact on the urban environment, and challenges faced during their development. These global studies contribute to a broader understanding of urban design, sustainability, and the social and cultural significance of public spaces. By evaluating related research, it gains a deeper appreciation for the complexities and multifaceted nature of these urban environments. In summary, urban design in developed

countries is shaped by various factors, and interdisciplinary approaches are being employed to create visually appealing, environmentally friendly, and safe urban environments that actively involve the community.

Related Researches of Global Approaches to Urban Design in Developed Countries
High Line Park - New York City, USA

High Line Park, situated in New York City, USA, stands out as an extraordinary urban park. It occupies an elevated section of a former freight rail line on Manhattan's West Side. The park, designed by James Corner Field Operations and Diller Scofidio-Renfro, opened in 2009. It exemplifies how abandoned industrial areas can be transformed into ecologically inspired and visually appealing spaces for leisure, consumption, and tourism, aligning with the principles of Landscape Urbanism and sustainable park design (Lang & Rothenberg, 2017).

Renowned as a popular destination for both tourists and locals, High Line Park offers a distinct vantage point to observe the city while providing a tranquil retreat from the busy streets below. It boasts a diverse array of plants, trees, and flowers, complemented by art installations and public performances. The park's elevated position offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River and the surrounding cityscape.

Numerous studies have examined the park, delving into its economic, ecological, and equity benefits associated with sustainability's three pillars: environment, economy, and equity. Research indicates that while the High Line contributes to economic growth, its ecological impact remains uncertain. Critically, the park has been criticized for neglecting the social equity aspect of sustainability (Lang & Rothenberg, 2017).

Furthermore, investigations exploring the role of public art within urban parks, including the High Line, have highlighted the potential of public art to offer diverse opportunities for visitors. However, coordination between park design and the intentions behind the artwork is crucial to ensure that visitors' experiences align with the expected benefits of public art (Cushing & Pennings, 2017).

In summary, High Line Park stands as a unique and innovative model of urban design, successfully rejuvenating a derelict industrial site into an environmentally sustainable and visually captivating public space. While the park has received significant attention and praise, it also serves as a reminder of the ongoing need to address the ecological and social equity dimensions of sustainability in urban design.
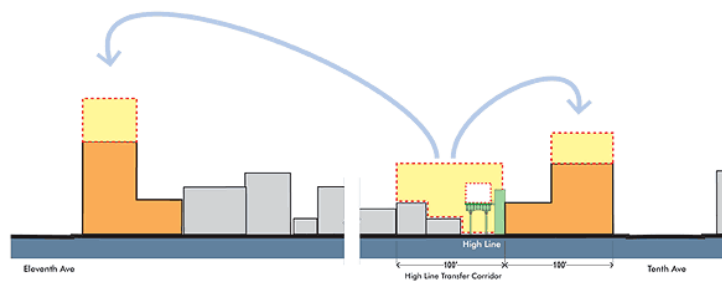

Fig. 1: Aerial view of the high line.
Fig. 2: Transfer of air rights.
Source : Millington, 2015

Promenade Du Paillon - Nice, France

Promenade du Paillon, an exquisite park situated in the heart of Nice, France, is a captivating destination. Spanning 12 hectares, it gracefully extends between the city's old town and modern center, bearing the name of the Paillon River that gracefully meanders through it. The river, once a vital water source for Nice, played a significant role in the city's development.

Designed by the esteemed French architect Michel Pena, the park opened its doors to the public in 2013. It boasts a diverse array of attractions, including enchanting fountains, cascading waterfalls, and striking sculptures. Within its grounds, visitors can also discover a well-designed children's playground, a skate park, and a spacious amphitheater, hosting an array of concerts and events (Histoire de Nice, 2011).

The Paillon River, coursing through the park, serves as a crucial water source for the city. Nourished by an aquifer located beneath the park, the river is part of an extensive network of karstic aquifers within the Alpes-Maritimes region of France. Due to tectonic compartmentalization, the aquifer is subdivided into distinct zones, with its drainage influenced by Mesozoic pre-structuring and Alpine phase deformations. The karstic waters flow toward the Paillon valley depression and are channeled through plurikilometric faults, ultimately emerging at apparent sources such as Sainte-Thecle and Pissarelles, as well as hidden outlets in the Paillon valley alluvium and Upper Cretaceous limestones (Emily, 2000).

Fig. 3: The Promenade du Paillon is a veritable lung of greenery of 12 hectares in the heart of downtown nice.
Source: The Paillon Promenade. Landezine, Recovered from:https://landezine.com/the-paillon-promenade-by-pena-paysages/. Date of access: 20.09.2023

Promenade du Paillon attracts tourists and locals alike, providing a tranquil escape from the city's vibrancy and offering a picturesque environment for leisurely strolls or enjoyable picnics. Moreover, the park serves as a remarkable venue for delving into the history of Nice. Prehistoric human presence is evidenced by notable sites like the Terra Amata camp, occupied approximately 400,000 years ago, and the Lazaret cave. Additional sites reveal Bronze Age occupation near the Paillon, particularly beneath the former cathedral situated atop Castle Hill (Histoire de Nice, 2011).

In conclusion, Promenade du Paillon is an absolute must-visit destination for travelers exploring Nice, France. Its captivating ambiance, rich historical significance, and diverse attractions cater to visitors of all ages, promising an unforgettable experience.

Fig. 4: Aerial view of Promenade Du Paillon, showcasing its vibrant
green spaces and winding pathways.
Source: The Paillon Promenade. Landezine, Recovered from:https://landezine.com/the-paillon-promenade-by-pena-paysages/. Date of access: 20.09.2023

Eleftheria Square, Nicosia, South Cyprus

Eleftheria Square holds great significance in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, serving as the city's center and hosting numerous public events, political rallies, and celebrations throughout the years. Despite its name, it is more accurately described as a bridge connecting the old city with the modern city, exhibiting spatial characteristics that align with a bridge rather than a traditional square. Nonetheless, symbolically, it remains the focal point of the southern section of the city (Charalambous & Hadjichristos, 2009).

The redesign of Eleftheria Square has sparked controversy in recent times. After an international competition, Zaha Hadid's office won the first prize and was entrusted with the renovation project. However, when the proposed design was presented to the public, strong protests emerged, as some argued that the concept imposed square-like spatial requirements on what essentially serves as a bridge (Koch & Charalambous, 2009).

The redesign project of Eleftheria Square involved the utilization of non-destructive geophysical investigation techniques in Nicosia's urban environment. The primary objective was to gather subsurface information to minimize the impact of hazards on both existing historical buildings and newly constructed infrastructure. Methods such as electrical resistivity tomography (ERT), ground-penetrating radar (GPR), and induced electromagnetic (EMI) surveys were employed during different project phases to comprehend geological stratigraphy, detect buried objects (including archaeological structures and underground utilities), and address unexpected occurrences like water infiltration during construction (Cozzolino, Gentile, Mauriello & Peditrou, 2020).

Fig. 5: Eleftheria Square Cyprus, Nicosia.
Source: Ghinitoiu, 2021

The urban square embodies a socioeconomic and spatial phenomenon, with its most crucial characteristic being the sense of "place" it provides. In the case of Nicosia's walled city, three gates connect it to the city outside the walls, while Eleftheria Square serves as the primary connection point between the old and new sections that have evolved over time. This paper explores the potential for fostering an integrated research culture between academia and the architectural profession, utilizing Nicosia, Cyprus, as a case study. By delving into the nature of the urban square, the study aims to expand the knowledge base surrounding architectural projects undertaken by professionals and academic research, addressing the challenges of designing an urban square while responding to local culture and community aspirations (Charalambous & Hadjichristos, 2009).

In conclusion, Eleftheria Square holds immense importance in Nicosia, Cyprus, hosting significant public events throughout its history. The square's redesign project has generated controversy, and non-destructive geophysical investigation techniques were employed to understand geological properties, detect buried objects, and tackle unexpected situations. As a socioeconomic and spatial phenomenon, the urban square's most essential attribute is the sense of "place" it instills.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the challenges facing urban public spaces in Northern Cyprus are significant, encompassing issues such as poor design, insufficient amenities, maintenance shortcomings, inadequate lighting, and a lack of community engagement. The comparative analysis of global approaches to urban design in developed countries has been instrumental in identifying key lessons that can be applied to ameliorate these issues. These lessons include strategies and principles drawn from international case studies.

A noteworthy component of this research was the inclusion of a comprehensive survey that were mainly residents of Northern Cyprus. This survey provided valuable insights into the perceptions of the community regarding urban spaces. It revealed that an overwhelming majority of respondents deemed features such as public art, public Wi-Fi, and public restrooms as very important, underlining the significance of these elements in shaping public spaces.

From the case studies and the survey findings, it's evident that sustainable and resilient design principles have proven instrumental in creating vibrant and functional public spaces. Private

investments in public spaces, facilitated by public-private partnerships, have yielded enhanced environments. Additionally, the incorporation of public art and cultural programming has added significant social and cultural value to these spaces.

While the issues plaguing public spaces in Northern Cyprus are substantial, the lessons learnt from the global case studies and the insights garnered through the survey have provided a blueprint for improvement. Addressing these concerns requires immediate action and the implementation of a multifaceted approach that includes the development of robust policies, fostering partnerships, embracing art and culture, and implementing sustainable design. By doing so, Northern Cyprus can foster a brighter and more communal future, enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study makes a series of recommendations to effectively address the public space crisis in Northern Cyprus.

First, it recommends the development of comprehensive public space policies and guidelines that promote sustainable and resilient design principles. This ensure that future development and renovation projects adhere to established standards, contributing to the creation of functional and visually appealing public spaces.

Secondly, it suggests establishing public-private partnerships as a means of encouraging private investment in public spaces. By engaging private entities, resources can be leveraged to enhance the quality and variety of public spaces, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

Thirdly, it proposes the incorporation of public art and cultural programming in public spaces. This addition not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of these areas but also contributes to their cultural and social value, fostering a sense of community identity and promoting social interaction.

Finally, it is imperative to prioritize sustainable and resilient design principles in the development of new public spaces and the renovation of existing ones. This includes considerations such as incorporating renewable energy sources, implementing water conservation measures, and utilizing climate-responsive design elements. By integrating sustainability into the planning and design process, it can create public spaces that are not only visually appealing but also contribute to the long-term environmental well-being of the region.

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the urgent need for action to address the public space crisis in Northern Cyprus. The recommendations put forth can serve as a starting point for policymakers, urban planners, and designers to collaboratively develop public spaces that are not only functional and visually appealing but also sustainable, resilient, and conducive to social and cultural interactions. Through concerted efforts, Northern Cyprus can transform its urban landscape and create public spaces that enrich the quality of life for its residents and visitors alike.

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