

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE SITE PLANNING AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES IN URBAN DESIGN

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1 ABSTRACT

In my article, I have explored a concern for the relationship between the implementation of sustainable site planning and design principles and the integration of building location, in the context of achieving a state of coexistence between the two: first, the encouragement of new developments and renovation of existing ones and second, the limitation of the environmental impact of buildings on regional ecosystems. This concern originated from the trend of modern society's constant separation from the natural environment and the resulting negative impacts on human health and well-being. As inhabitants, we are constantly *influenced by* as well as continuously *influencing* the prevailing urban conditions. Reduction of open space areas and landscape site conditions, increasing impervious surfaces and the resulting runoff water volume, heat absorbed from paved surfaces, unnecessary light pollution to the night sky, distances from public transportation, automobile fuel consumption and emission contributing to pollution, are among several pressing environmental conditions that require our attention.

In response, the importance of a study of inclusion of environmentally sensitive elements into the project is evident. The outcomes of the study are to include the sustainable principles with the education process and to inform the practice of urban design with the knowledge of viewing sustainability as a different approach that purifies the urban design process further. A detailed analysis of the benefits of sustainable design will make the design potential of these concepts understandable. Implementations of sustainable site planning and design principles allow buildings to take advantage of natural systems such as climate, topography, sun, wind, rain, and groundwater. In addition, they contribute to the design of naturally enriched spaces where the buildings and designed interstitial spaces serve as the link between the person and natural environment. A link that is crucial in the future of our cities and of our well-being.