

Analyzing the Role of Place Identity in the Formation and Evolution of Urban Elements: A Study of Contemporary Cities

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ABSTRACT

As one of the key concepts in urban studies, place identity plays a significant role in the formation and evolution of urban elements. This concept refers to the specific characteristics, history, culture, and values of a place that not only affect how residents interact with urban spaces, but also affect the design and development of public spaces. In the contemporary world, due to the expansion of urbanization and rapid social changes and Economically, preserving and strengthening the identity of a place has become one of the major challenges for planners, designers, and architects . In this regard, this study analyzes the role of place identity in the formation and evolution of urban elements with a focus on contemporary cities. Place identity as a set of characteristics, history, and culture of a place has a profound impact on social interactions, design of public spaces, and the quality of life of residents. With the rapid growth of urbanization and social and economic changes, the preservation of local identities becomes a fundamental challenge for urban planning and design has become. In this study, by examining successful and unsuccessful samples from different cities, the impact of place identity on urban elements such as public spaces, architecture, and infrastructure is analyzed. The results show that strengthening place identity can lead to the creation of attractive and sustainable spaces that increase the sense of social belonging and enhance citizens' participation. This article also emphasizes the importance of innovative approaches in planning A city refers to the preservation and promotion of local identities in the modern world. Finally, the findings are presented as a guide for urban designers and planners in order to create urban spaces in accordance with the needs and values of society.

Introduction

Place identity is the role of place characteristics in an individual's self-identity [1-4].¹ Self-identity is rooted in many aspects of everyday life: the roles we have (i.e., mother, teacher, child, and boss); the group we belong to (political, social, cultural); the things we wear (trendy clothes, perfumes, hairstyles); the goods we buy (fast, attractive, and expensive cars, beautiful houses in the upper urban areas, books, art, and eye-catching); the places we visit. We go there frequently or remember (the city where we live, the historic church, the business district, the desert area), etc. [5].² The topic of this paper is the role of place in one's own identity. Here it is assumed that this role is partly due to the meanings and values symbolized by the features of the place. Therefore, place-based meanings or icons of place are the focus of our discussion and methodology.

As one of the key concepts in urban studies, place identity plays a significant role in the formation and evolution of urban elements. This concept refers to the specific characteristics, history, culture, and values of a place that not only affect how residents interact with urban spaces, but also affect the design and development of public spaces. In the contemporary world, due to the expansion of urbanization and rapid social changes and Economic, preserving and strengthening place identity has become one of the major challenges for urban planners and designers. Due to their cultural, demographic, and economic diversity, contemporary cities require innovative approaches that can maintain local identities alongside global and modern needs. This paper examines the role of place identity in the formation and evolution of urban elements and tries to show how the unique characteristics of each place can be used to enhance the quality of life, create attractive public spaces, and strengthen social connections He did. In this regard, the analysis of successful and unsuccessful examples in different cities can provide us with deeper insights into how place identity interacts with urban elements. Also, this study will investigate the effects of place identity on the sense of social belonging, citizen participation, and environmental sustainability. Hence, accurate recognition and analysis of place identity not only contributes to the richness of urban spaces, but can also be used as a tool to be used effectively in the process of urban planning and design.

Almost every environmental feature has its own meaning. As Steinitz (1968)³ has stated, "what is going on here" is not an obvious question. In order to operate efficiently in the environment, and to survive consciously in a savannah⁴ or in a shopping mall, we need to assess our potential to avoid or achieve our goals, i.e., we need to understand or "read" the meaning of the environment [6]. He refers ⁵ to place-based meaning as "the immaterial features of the physical environment—the 'sociocultural dwelling' (or meaning of dwelling) that are connected to places as a result of their continuous association with group activities." He also claims that place-based meanings form the familiar "glue" that connects people to place.

According to Stokols, meanings symbolized by the characteristics of a place are much more related than how they function in an environment. Place-based meanings tell us about who we

¹ Proshansky, 1978; Krupat, 1983; Sabine, 1983; Korpela, 1989.

² Belk, 1988

³ Steinitz 1968

⁴ Savannah

⁵ uncan, 1982

are and who we are not, how we have changed, and what we have changed to. Lynch⁶ (1972) argues that one of the important functions of the built environment is periods of stabilization (in brick, mortar, steel, and stone) whereby the accessibility of these periods is comparable to recent times: "... The quality of the personal image of the time is vital to individual well-being, as well as to our success in managing environmental change... The external physical environment plays an important role in constructing and supporting the image of time." Similarly, Twain⁷ (1980) argues that encountering objects and places from the past has "the power to regenerate in us and, in short, to create a lively sense of the primordial self" [7].⁸

Due to their cultural, demographic, and economic diversity, contemporary cities require innovative approaches that can maintain local identities alongside global and modern needs. This paper examines the role of place identity in the formation and evolution of urban elements and tries to show how the unique characteristics of each place can be used to enhance the quality of life, create attractive public spaces, and strengthen social connections He did. In this regard, the analysis of successful and unsuccessful examples in different cities can provide us with deeper insights into how place identity interacts with urban elements. Also, this study will investigate the effects of place identity on the sense of social belonging, citizen participation, and environmental sustainability. Hence, accurate recognition and analysis of place identity not only contributes to the richness of urban spaces, but can also be used as a tool to be used effectively in the process of urban planning and design.

1. Research Methodology

The present article is a fundamental-theoretical research article that analyzes and reviews the existing articles, books, and scientific resources in the field of place identity and urban elements. For this study, various scientific sources including valid research articles, academic theses and dissertations, specialized books, government reports and related organizations will be used, and the data collected from the articles will be analyzed using the content analysis method. This analysis will include identifying common themes and patterns in the field of place identity and its impact on urban elements. This research method allows us to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the role of place identity in the formation and evolution of urban elements and to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities in this field. The results of this study can help urban planners and researchers develop effective strategies to strengthen place identity in contemporary cities.

2. Theoretical Foundations

1.3. Location Identity

Place identity refers to a set of cultural, social, and historical characteristics and characteristics that distinguish a place from other places. This identity can be influenced by various factors



⁶ Lynch




⁷ Tuan

⁸ Lowenthal, 1975.

such as history, geography, architecture, and society[8], as a result, place identity not only influences the residents' sense of belonging, but also plays an important role in the design and organization of urban spaces. Place identity is a multidimensional concept that contributes to a deeper understanding of a person's relationship with their environment. In urban design and planning, attention to place identity can lead to the creation of spaces that not only meet the needs of residents but also foster a sense of belonging and collective identity[9-10], as Table 1 illustrates the general concept. And place identity refers to a set of characteristics, feelings, and meanings associated with a particular place that distinguish it from other places, This concept generally includes several dimensions:

Table 1: Several Dimensions of Place Identity in Contemporary Cities

Pictures	Feature	Concept
 <p>Figure 1: The Azadi Tower is a combination of Achaemenid, Sassanid and Islamic architecture.</p>	<p>The identity of a place depends on the history that a place has and the different cultures that formed there. This history and culture can include local traditions, language, customs, and arts.</p>	<p>History & Culture</p>
 <p>Figure 2: The cultural passages of Semnan are a tourist attraction and a revival of social interactions.</p>	<p>Place identity is related to people's sense of belonging and emotional connection to a place. This feeling can arise from individual or collective experiences and is formed based on social and cultural interactions.</p>	<p>A sense of belonging</p>

 <p>Figure 3: César Baldaccini, famous French sculptor for his artistic activities in the neo-realist style</p>	<p>Each place has specific symbols and meanings that are important to the residents and the local community. These symbols can include historical monuments, memorials, or even special events.</p>	<p>Meaning and its symbols</p>
 <p>Figure 4: Tehran Metro Plaza</p>	<p>It includes natural (e.g., mountains, seas, forests) and artificial elements (e.g., buildings, streets, and public spaces). These features have a great impact on how residents and visitors experience the place.</p>	<p>Physical Characteristics</p>
 <p>Figure 5: The settlement of Partizanske in Slovakia is an example of a planned industrial town in Europe</p>	<p>Place identity can be influenced by social, economic, and political changes. These changes may strengthen or weaken the identity of the place</p>	<p>Change and Transformation</p>

2.3. The German Cities and Their Relationship to the Identity of the Place

Urban elements include various elements such as buildings, streets, parks, and public spaces that contribute to the formation of urban space. These elements are directly influenced by the identity of the place. For example, in cities with strong historical identities, the architecture of buildings usually represents specific styles from the past that reinforce not only aesthetics but also a sense of belonging and collective identity.

Urban elements refer to various components that are used in the design and construction of public and private spaces in cities. These elements play an important role in the formation of the identity of a place and can help to strengthen the sense of belonging, recognition, and

experience of residents and visitors. Some of these elements and their relationship to the identity of the place are:

Figure 2: The Germans and their relationship to the Germans

The design and architectural style of buildings can represent the history, culture, and values of the community. For example, historic or iconic buildings can give a specific identity to an area.	Buildings & Architecture	1
Parks, plazas, and other social spaces serve as gathering points and social interaction. These spaces can foster a sense of belonging and connection between residents.	Public Spaces	2
Installing artwork in public spaces can showcase local symbols and stories and strengthen the cultural identity of the region.	Sculptures & Artworks	3
The design of streets, sidewalks, and public transportation routes can influence how people interact with the place. Walkable and bicycle-accessible streets can enhance a sense of comfort and security.	The role of streets and passageways	4
Using the right lighting and matching colors can add a special atmosphere to the space and influence the sensory experiences of the residents.	Lighting & Color	5
The presence of trees, flower plantations, and fountains can add natural beauty to the city and bring peace of mind.	Natural Elements	6
Signs, local information, and cultural landmarks can help to better understand the place and strengthen local identity.	Signs & Signs	7

Ultimately, all of these elements combine to form the identity of the place. Urban design that pays attention to these elements can lead to the creation of a space that is not only beautiful but also meaningful and relevant to the history and culture of the community.

4. Results

1.4. The Impact of Place Identity on Urban Design

Urban design should be done with the identity of the place in mind in order to meet the needs of the residents and provide a positive experience of the space. In this regard, paying attention to local elements, using local materials, and preserving cultural heritage can help to strengthen the identity of the place. For example, in cities such as Isfahan or Shiraz, designing public spaces according to the local history and culture attracts tourists and creates a sense of Belonging has become in residents, place identity has a profound impact on urban design and can help shape

public and private spaces, how residents interact with the environment, and improve the quality of life in cities. Below are some of these influences:

- **Formation of Public Spaces:** The identity of the place can determine the type of public spaces. The design of parks, squares, and gathering places should be done according to the history, culture, and social needs of the residents.



Figure 4: Bab Homayoun Street

Architecture and design of buildings: The style and design of buildings should be in line with local identity. The use of indigenous materials, local architectural patterns, and appropriate colors can help strengthen the identity of the place.



Figure 5: Building Design with Local Identity

- **Social interaction:** Spaces should be designed in a way that facilitates social interactions. Open and accessible spaces can encourage people to come together and make social connections.



Figure 6: Designing Public Spaces for Social Interactions

Protection of cultural heritage: The identity of a place includes history and cultural heritage. Urban design should pay attention to the preservation and preservation of historical monuments and cultural symbols in order to preserve local identity.

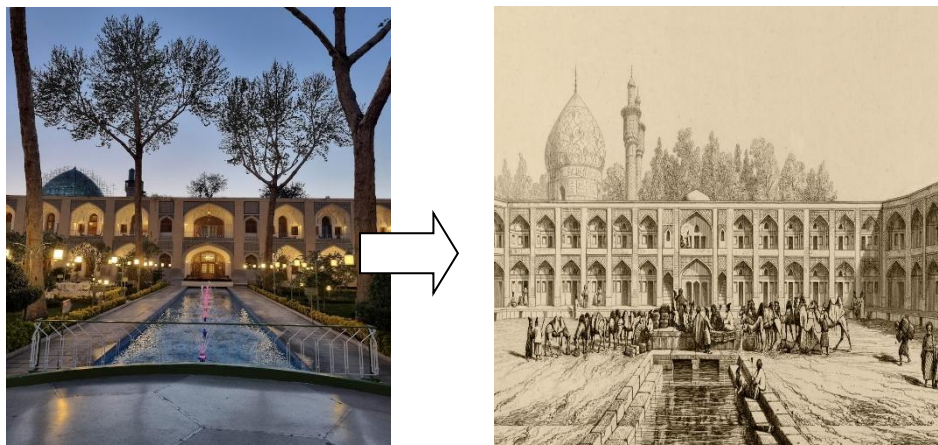


Figure 7: Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Abbas Caravanserai Repurposed to Abbasi Hotel

- **Attracting tourists:** A strong location identity can help attract tourists. Spaces that showcase local history, culture, and art are typically more appealing to visitors.



- Figure 8: Attracting tourists in spaces with historical identity

Sense of belonging: The identity of a place can foster a sense of belonging and pride in residents. This sense can lead to a more cohesive community and greater participation in local activities.

Finally, paying attention to place identity in urban design not only contributes to the aesthetics of the space, but can also enhance the quality of life of residents and create a dynamic and sustainable society.

2.4. The Evolution of Urban Elements and the Existing Challenges

With social, economic, and technological changes, the identity of place also undergoes transformation. These changes can lead to changes in urban elements. For example, the expansion of urbanization and internal migration can lead to the creation of new spaces and the neglect of local identities. This may lead to identity crises and a decreased sense of belonging.

2.4. Person-Environment

One of the important themes in environment-behavior research is the person-environment fit. For example, one of the central pillars of stress theory is that stress can be caused by a poor fit between one's goals and the opportunities facilitated by an environment.[20–19], Similarly, it has been claimed that one of the important factors influencing residential satisfaction is the degree to which residents' needs are comfortably met by the environment. Place was valued because these characteristics evoked desirable emotional states in their recollection or experience. Memories stored in a place icon and stimulated by their recall/exposure may have the power to stimulate previously experienced emotional states related to past events. Mood and emotions are essential components of a person's relationship with place [21–22].

5. Conclusion

In the introduction to this article, it was claimed that the features of the place act as icons for meanings that play a significant role in the identity of the place that is part of the identity of the person's self. The icons of the place act as symbols of the memories and values of the people, thereby making the experience of the place more personal and intimate. When these icons are

encountered They value memories and/or other connections, thereby evoking a sense of place. In support of these claims, we consider only the quality and quantity of Charleston residents' responses to their questions about why the features of the place were special to them. This study showed that place identity, as a key element in the formation and evolution of urban elements, has a profound impact on the quality of life of residents and social interactions in contemporary cities. Due to the rapid social, economic, and cultural changes, the preservation and strengthening of local identities has become a major challenge for urban planning and design. The analysis of various examples showed that public spaces, architecture, and infrastructure should be designed in a way that not only meets the practical needs of residents, but also fosters a sense of belonging and emotional connection with the place. In this regard, innovative and participatory approaches in urban planning can help preserve local identities and prevent the creation of monotonous and lifeless spaces. Finally, this research emphasizes the need to pay attention to place identity in urban design and planning processes and suggests that designers and planners take action to create sustainable and attractive urban spaces by considering the values and needs of the local community. This can lead to improving the quality of life of residents and increasing social participation, which will ultimately contribute to the sustainable development of cities.

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