

Resumen de Tesis Doctoral



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Título de la tesis	THE IMPACT OF OPEN SPACES IN THE SOCIAL LIFE; THE CASE OF JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA				
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(Mínimo 1 y máximo 4, podéis verlos en <http://doctorat.upc.edu/gestion-academica/carpeta-impresos/tesis-matricula-y-deposito/codigos-unesco>)

Resumen de la tesis de 4000 caracteres máximo (si se superan los 4000 se cortará automáticamente)

This study discusses social life in public open spaces within an urban context of Jeddah city, by examining the quality and design of these spaces.

Jeddah is a multicultural city, with a high proportion of immigrant people, so also provides a research context for critiquing transnational practices and social interaction. The study strategy was developed from two key methodological principles.

The first develops investigation of open space as an integration of form, fabric and cultural practice, allowing the study to link social patterns with the physical design of the public realm. The second foregrounds storytelling methods to elicit complexity of social interaction, enabling investigation of intangible influences, such as social norms, gender norms, religion and ethnicity. A qualitative case study approach was used to investigate users' cultural practices and experiences of public spaces. The methods used in this study were a review of documents and maps, car surveys, observations and on-site interviews. It was fundamental to develop an open space typology to meet the diversity of use in a case study selection specific to a Gulf region context.

The present study has the potential to make an important contribution to academic research on the value and roles of open space in social life and interaction. The focus on Saudi Arabian open spaces is rare, and contributes to address the Western and North European bias in academic literature. The practical implications of the study are also important, as it highlights the necessity to develop open spaces design, planning, and management in order to better meet residents' social needs. However, despite the numerous weaknesses of the open space provision in Jeddah, the study confirms the potential of creation of strong social relations between the residents of Jeddah when they are provided public spaces that attract them and meet their needs and expectations.

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