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A review of the feasibility of redesigning a livable street aims to improve vitality (Shariati St., between the Qolhak junction to the intersection of Kolahdooz St.)

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Introduction

The streets of a city are one of the most significant spaces to create social interactions, increase attendance, and consequently, promote liveliness and vitality; unfortunately, today, due to the ignorance of the qualitative desirability increase of the streets for people presence and more attention to automobiles crossing, the share of this urban space is pollution increase, safety reduction, unsociability and the loss of vitality and viability.

Vitality, from long ago, has been lost in most cities. The lively presence of citizens in an urban environment, including on the streets of a city, and people's constructive interactions with each other in a safe and appropriate environment, are the indicators of city life. Designing spaces, increasing vitality in an urban environment, can be viewed as one of the most significant approaches to urban planning and designing.

Shariati Street, one of Tehran's significant northern-southern streets, has lost its spirit of vitality, sense of belonging, and memorability for a long time. Constant traffic, disproportionate and gray buildings, walls, filled with extensions, ugly, and discolored billboards, compact density, and ocassionally, urban decay alongside the street, all have intervened to make the vitality and viability of this street be disappeared. Consequently, it is necessary to think about this issue and propose a solution for it.

The main purpose of this research is to study Shariati Street, based on vitality standards, and to attempt to create a viable and sustainable street. Subjects such as traffic, transportation, public spaces, and sustainability have been considered.

The research questions are as follows: How can Shariati Street be designed to be turned into a viable street, based on vitality approaches? What are vitality standards, that can be implemented in this street, today?

Redesigning Shariati Street, based on viability and vitality standards, is a way to partially resolve social, cultural, and environmental issues in this area. Considering and designing such variables as legibility, sense of place, quality of lighting, friendliness, and safety of an urban environment are effective to achieve urban vitality.

Methodology

The research is based on documentary and descriptive-analytical method. Most data, including ideas and information, required for the research process, was collected by the library method. The studied area was identified via studying available references, including articles, theses, codes, plans, books, and websites. Another part of the research data was obtained through field observations, including presence in the studied area,



taking photographs, providing schemes and sketches, and dialogue with the residents. The studied area was analyzed through the table of strategic planning (SWOT), IEF-EFE table, and QSPM matrix. In the next stages, some strategies and policies were set, based on the project goals. GIS, AutoCAD, and Photoshop software were used to prepare the maps for this project.

Results and Discussion

Based on the field observations and analyses, carried out in the research location, the qualitative environmental components were carefully explored. In public areas, improper furniture selection, and wrong settings have prevented people from gathering and communication. High population density has led to a decrease in residents' mental comfort.

In some parts of the street, construction debris, abandoned waste, and unplanned development have led to an increase in diseases, and a decrease in environmental attractions.

In the next stages, the characteristics of this street were analyzed, and its strategic locations were scored; then, in the IFE and EFE tables, 5 strategies were developed for this project, as follows:

Strategy 1- Improving the qualitative level of the urban landscape for a vital and memorable street;

Strategy 2- Improving social relationships, and providing a platform for the attendance of all social strata;

Strategy 3- Promoting and improving pathways for easy accessibility, and increasing the citizens' relative prosperity;

Strategy 4- The optimal and sustainable organization and utilization of regional ecological conditions;

Strategy 5- Promoting transportation to increase people's accessibility and attendance;

Since Shariati Street is one of the most major and significant streets of Tehran, due to heavy traffic, overcrowding, and issues such as the ignorance of its infrastructures, the probability of losing life quality, and reducing the attendance of all social strata will be increased. To prevent the mentioned threats, this project was developed to explore and analyze Shariati Street to create a vital and viable atmosphere.

Conclusion

In this paper, data were collected, and the studied area was identified; then, the qualitative components of the street were explored by the authors. In the SWOT table, the strengths and weaknesses were mentioned, and stages were scored and prioritized; then, 5 strategies, mentioned in the previous section, were developed, based on the project goals and obtained analyzes. Then, the strategies were finally prioritized in the QSPM table, and some policies were presented for each strategy, as follows:

Adjusting pathways for the attendance of all social strata, including the disabled and elderly, and promoting the citizens' sense of belonging and vitality;

Taking essential measures to alleviate traffic and increase the citizens' safety;

A review of the feasibility of redesigning a livable street aims to improve vitality Name. Haji Abadi, Mohtasham Amiri



Cultural and artistic plans for attendance in pathways, and increasing social interactions;

Creating attractive travel and all-day-long applications to increase dynamics and interactions;

Applying suitable and safe urban furniture and art, consistent with social culture and identity, to make citizens vital and lively;

Utilizing plants, natural elements, and urban furniture in pathways to create a lively and verdured neighborhood;

Increasing a sense of safety in citizens, using appropriate lighting in pathways and efficient urban furniture for people's attendance in the urban atmosphere of the neighborhood;

Constructing a special minibus crossing to reduce the traffic load, and increase the citizens' accessibility;

Establishing a special bicycle crossing to reduce the traffic load, increase the neighborhood permeability and the residents' accessibility, and promote the identity of the neighborhood;

Designing furniture, consistent with the climate of the area, to increase climatic comfort;

Waste recycling and building environmental conservation culture, through proper designing and environmental enlightenment;

Maintaining and caring for trees and plants, and planning to grow more plants;

Dredging, cleaning water drains, and optimally utilizing water pathways.

Due to the high density and attendance of people, the desirable width of this street, and its various applications, the appropriate location characteristic of Shariati Street, and the high potential of the selected area allow this street to be turned into one of the most lively, memorable and rich atmospheres of Tehran, through proper planning and designing.

Keyword: Street, Redesign, livability, Vitality.

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