

Urban Design Characteristics that Influence

Human Activities in Swahili Streets:

The Case of Old Town Mombasa

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ABSTRACT

The study aims at establishing the urban design problems along Ndia Kuu, a historic street located within the conservation area of the Old Town of Mombasa.

A case study approach is used to identify the urban design elements that have been incorporated within the historic Stone Town of Zanzibar and the historic City of Chandigarh. The elements studied include the historical background and urban design characteristics such as building functions, building height, vegetation, material use, the nodes, the paths, the edges and the landmarks. An urban design proposal is formulated in form of design recommendations and conclusions based on the established urban design problems along Ndia Kuu and in view of incorporating the conclusions arrived at in Part I of this thesis.

The study therefore proposes the re-organisation of circulation patterns, the re-organisation of nodes and the emphasis of existing landmarks in order to solve the problems established. Specific urban elements established in Part I of this thesis, such as the width of the Street, the average building height, number of columns per meter and height of windows from the floor have been incorporated in the design proposal to enhance the characteristics of the spaces. The urban design proposal recognizes the existing attributes such as the historical context, the landmarks and the Swahili culture as a way of creating a more sustainable urban **environment.**