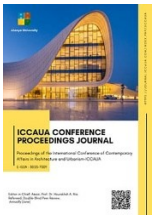


ICCAUA Proceedings Journal
Proceedings of the international conference of contemporary affairs in architecture and urbanism-ICCAUA

Volume 8 (December 2025), Pages 1463–1474
Journal homepage: https://journal.iccaua.com/

DOI: https://doi.org/10.38027/ICCAUA2025EN0295

A Global Perspective on Quality of Urban Life: A Comparative Analysis of Spatial Quality Criteria

* [1] Assist. Prof. Dr. **Pelin Keçecioğlu Dağlı** , [2] **Denanti Nur Iwani**
[1] Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Design, Bartın University, Bartın, Türkiye
[2] Department of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School, Bartın University, Bartın, Türkiye
[1] E-mail: pkececioglu@bartin.edu.tr , [2] E-mail: denanti.nuriwani@gmail.com

Received: 18 January 2025
Revised: 6 June 2025
Accepted: 18 June 2025
Available online: 5 July 2025

This article has been selected and peer-reviewed for publication in this journal as part of the 8th International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism, held on 8–9 May 2025 in Alanya, Türkiye.

A b s t r a c t

The concept of urban design is a set of planning and design principles that shape the aesthetic quality and physical order of urban spaces. It also ensures that cities are sustainable, effective and livable. The key to creating livable and healthy cities is to determine the principles aimed at increasing the quality of urban space and to make these principles measurable. This study aims to identify the criteria used to evaluate urban spatial quality, examine how these criteria are applied in cities from different countries, and assess the overall quality of urban life. Within the scope of the research, the concept of "Quality of Urban Life" (QoUL) was addressed and QoUL was evaluated in the selected cities. The urban spatial quality criteria were determined based on a literature review and integrated into the evaluation form. At the conclusion of the study, a comparative analysis was conducted between cities in terms of QoUL criteria and a general framework was presented regarding the spatial quality of cities. Ultimately, this research contributes to the development of objective measurement methods for urban quality assessment and offers a guiding framework to enhance the livability of cities.

K e y w o r d s : Quality of Urban Life; Spatial Quality; Urban Design; Livable Cities; Sustainable Urbanization.

1. Introduction

In recent decades, the growing impact of urban living on both physical and mental health has drawn increasing attention from global institutions. Urban environments today face numerous challenges, ranging from traffic congestion and environmental degradation to social and economic inequalities, that collectively undermine the Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) (Psatha et al., 2011).

QoUL is a multidimensional concept that reflects not only the physical structure of a city but also its social, economic, environmental, political, and psychological dimensions (Javanbakht et al., 2020). It is an approach that emerges from evaluating social values and life standards to measure the urban life standards (Bahadır & Kart Aktaş, 2023). Although various disciplines, including urban planning, social sciences, and public health, have contributed to the literature on QoUL, there is still no universally accepted set of evaluation criteria. One of the main reasons for this is the inherent subjectivity of QoUL assessments, which are shaped by local cultural norms, traditions, and individual perceptions (Psatha et al., 2011).

The concept of "Quality of Life" (QoL) is commonly used to refer to the overall well-being of people and societies. However, due of issues like social inequality, environmental degradation, crime, etc., which serve as a constant part of urban life, cities struggle in some areas, such as environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the high standard of the urban environment and overall QoUL appear to be able to contribute to the growth of businesses and laborers, making cities more competitive in the broader modern economic picture (Gospodini, 2002).

Although several comparative studies have been conducted on the quality of life in different cities, the lack of consistent and universally applicable evaluation standards remains a major limitation. This occurs because determining the 'quality of urban life' depends on subjective criteria, which include background and context. Up until now, researchers have used two basic approaches to examine the quality of urban life; the objective approach—which usually analyses secondary data from official government data collections like censuses, and the subjective approach—which uses social survey methods to collect primary data and focuses on people's behaviours and assessments or their qualitative evaluations of urban life definition (Bahadır & Kart Aktaş, 2023).

Despite the growing body of literature on urban quality of life, there is still a pressing need for comprehensive, spatially grounded frameworks that can evaluate and compare cities across different cultural and geographical

contexts. Most existing studies either rely heavily on economic indicators or focus narrowly on individual dimensions of urban life, often neglecting the spatial qualities that directly affect daily experiences. This gap underscores the importance of developing a more holistic and measurable approach to urban spatial quality.

The primary aim of this study is to identify and analyze the spatial quality criteria that influence the Quality of Urban Life (QoUL), and to explore how these criteria are reflected in urban environments across different global contexts. By conducting a comparative analysis of selected cities, this research seeks to bridge the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical urban evaluation methods. To guide this investigation, the study addresses the following research questions:

- What are the key spatial quality criteria that contribute to the Quality of Urban Life?
- How are these criteria interpreted and implemented in different urban contexts across the world?
- In what ways do variations in spatial quality impact the overall perception and experience of urban life?
- Can a comparative framework be developed to evaluate QoUL consistently across cities with different socio-cultural and environmental characteristics?

By answering these questions, this study aims to contribute to the development of objective, yet context-sensitive, assessment tools that can support urban planners, policymakers, and designers in creating more livable, sustainable, and inclusive urban environments.

2. Material and Methods

This study adopts a mixed-method approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research techniques to assess the Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) in selected cities. The methodological framework is grounded in an extensive literature review, structured data collection, and a comparative analysis of spatial quality criteria across different urban contexts.

Data Collection and Indicator Development: To assess the quality of urban spaces, this study draws on insights from academic research, planning reports, and policy documents. It identifies key indicators—such as accessibility, environmental sustainability, public space quality, transportation systems, culture, and visual quality—as essential factors shaping Quality of Urban Life (QoUL).

Case Study Selection: Jakarta (Indonesia), Istanbul (Turkey), and Kyoto (Japan) were chosen as case studies due to their parallel characteristics as rapidly urbanizing metropolises facing shared urban challenges. Despite their geographical and cultural differences, those cities are regional hubs grappling with issues such as population density, environmental degradation, and limited access to quality public space. These shared challenges, combined with distinct urban morphologies and planning histories, provide a rich ground for comparative analysis—particularly from the perspective of landscape architecture and spatial planning.

Evaluation Framework: To assess QoUL in each city, eight spatial quality indicators were evaluated using a standardized scoring system based on a five-point Likert scale (1 = very poor, 5 = excellent). This scale was chosen for its simplicity, interpretability, and widespread use in urban studies. It allows for a consistent and comparable assessment of each criterion, while also minimizing response bias. The evaluation was conducted by fifteen experts from the field of landscape architecture. Each expert independently assessed all eight criteria, and the final scores were determined by calculating the average of their evaluations.

Data Analysis: Qualitative assessments were used to interpret and contextualize the quantitative findings. A final comparative analysis was conducted to determine the relative performance of the case cities based on cumulative indicator scores. This analysis highlights spatial dimensions that most significantly impact urban livability and sustainability. By integrating multiple methods and a cross-cultural perspective, the methodological approach presented here can serve as a reference model for future research in urban design, planning, and quality of life assessment.

3. Quality of Urban Life

Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) is a multidimensional concept shaped by both objective conditions and subjective perceptions. As Marans and Stimson (2011) argue, QoL assessments are context-dependent, influenced by social and cultural backgrounds, as well as factors such as poverty, crime, and pollution. Bahadır and Kart Aktaş (2023) categorize QoL indicators into objective data—like census figures and infrastructure—and subjective aspects, including individual satisfaction, expectations, and emotional well-being.

Improving the general quality of life is the primary goal for improving the quality of urban life (Marans & Stimson, 2011). High-quality public spaces and landscapes not only improve resident satisfaction but also attract businesses and tourists, enhancing economic growth and urban reputation (Gospodini, 2002).

Accessibility and circulation play a key role in shaping daily life, influencing housing, employment, and leisure opportunities. Constraints in these areas can significantly affect citizens' routines and overall well-being (Cramer et al., 2004). Similarly, Psatha et al. (2011) emphasize the importance of inclusive public spaces, disability-friendly infrastructure, and support for disadvantaged groups as key components of urban life quality.

This framework emphasizes core dimensions such as safety, employment, health, social inclusion, and recreational amenities as foundational for understanding and evaluating the quality of urban life. In addition to these, factors like urban green spaces, public infrastructure, and aesthetic qualities of the built environment play a critical role in shaping how residents experience and evaluate their urban surroundings (Psatha et al., 2011).

4. Principles of Urban Design

Urban design principles form the foundation for creating well-planned, functional, and visually appealing cities. They guide the organization of spaces, buildings, and infrastructure to enhance quality of life for both residents and visitors. Effective urban design balances accessibility, sustainability, safety, and community interaction while respecting a city's cultural, historical, and environmental context. By shaping urban form and social dynamics, these principles foster vibrant, livable cities that promote well-being, economic vitality, and environmental responsibility (Smith, 2023).

Because urban design directly shapes the physical environment in which people live, work, and interact, it has a close connection to the quality of urban life (QoUL) (Gehl, 2010). Principles such as livability, sustainability, inclusivity, and connectivity influence the built and social environments of cities, thereby impacting urban residents' quality of life (UN-Habitat, 2015). Thoughtful and well-implemented design can significantly improve people's experiences of their surroundings, promoting healthier, more equitable urban areas.

The term "urban spaces" refers to public and semi-public areas in cities used for a variety of activities like socializing, working, relaxing, and commuting. Examples include parks, plazas, streets, sidewalks, courtyards, and waterfronts—any place where people gather or move through. These spaces are vital to a city's social and cultural life, hosting neighborhood interactions, public events, and daily encounters between locals and visitors (Project for Public Spaces, 2000; Lynch, 1960; Gehl, 2010).

Based on the literature, the principle of urban design has been concluded in 8 variables of landscape design criteria:

1. Human scale and accessibility (U.S. Department of Justice, 2010; Gehl, 2010; ABA Standarts, 2015; ASLA, 2022)
2. Mixed-use development (Gehl, 2010; Speck, 2012; Mandelker, 2023; Sareen & Haque, 2024)
3. Public spaces and green areas (Whyte, 1980; Gehl, 2010; Psatha, et al., 2011; Garau & Pavan, 2018; Projects for Public Spaces, 2020; Javanbakht, et al., 2020)
4. Sustainability and environmental consideration (Calthorpe, 2010; Garau & Pavan, 2018; Meng, et al., 2023; Yoffe, et al., 2024)
5. Density and building design (Gehl, 2010; Ahmadian, 2021; Cui, et al., 2024)
6. Cultural and historical context (Rossi, 1966; Gehl, 2010; UNESCO, n.d.; Zhao, 2021; Dai, 2022)
7. Infrastructure and technology (Gehl, 2010; Garau & Parvan, 2018; Van der Wal, et al., 2021)
8. Aesthetic and visual quality (Lynch, 1960; Kang & Liu, 2022; Zhu, et al., 2022)

5. Quality of Urban Life Assessment

To systematically evaluate the Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) across diverse urban contexts, a structured assessment form was developed based on based on the identified QoUL criteria. This form enables a consistent and replicable approach to measuring urban spatial quality by translating qualitative indicators into quantifiable evaluation metrics (Table 1).

Table 1. Evaluation form of QoUL.

Criteria	Evaluation Metric	Scoring Scale (1-5)
Human Scale & Accessibility	• availability of public transport, • walkability, • pedestrian-friendly spaces, • cycling infrastructure, • disability-friendly elements • universal design and in spatial proportions	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Mixed-Use Development	• diverse land uses (mix of residential, commercial, recreational, and institutional uses in close proximity), • the use of zoning in urban planning	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Public Spaces & Green Areas	• parks and open spaces, • landscaping with plants, trees, flowers, water features, pathways, and other natural and artificial elements, • public art	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Sustainability & Environmental Considerations	• energy efficiency and renewable energy use, • pollution control measures, • water management & conservations, • biodiversity, • waste management & circular economy, • climate-resilient urban planning	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Density and Building Design	• appropriate density reduces urban sprawl, • traffic management, • height & massing in building design, • architectural quality	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Cultural and Historical Context	• heritage preservation • cultural diversity	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Infrastructure and Technology	• use of digital infrastructure for urban efficiency, • smart city technology, • efficient & smart infrastructure	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)
Aesthetic & Visual Quality	• cohesive streetscapes (visually appealing & consistent), • sense of place (distinctive & memorable places that can foster community identity), • city identity	1 (very poor) – 5 (excellent)

QoUL assessments are instrumental in shaping evidence-based policies. Whether aiming to meet UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improve climate resilience, or foster more inclusive communities, QoUL evaluations provide the data and insight necessary for measurable impact (Kochskämper, 2024).

6. Site Selection and Urban Context

Jakarta, Istanbul, and Kyoto are analyzed for how landscape design strategies shape daily life and well-being within their unique urban contexts.

In Jakarta, rapid urbanization has reduced green space availability. Setiowati and Koestoer (2024) show that access to green areas directly affects life satisfaction, highlighting the importance of environmental and housing conditions. In contrast, Istanbul has integrated green infrastructure into its urban planning efforts, particularly within the framework of smart city development. Addas (2023) underlines the positive effects of landscape design on public health and urban resilience, highlighting its potential to enhance quality of life. Kyoto integrates green spaces with public health strategies, aligning with Healthy Cities programs. These policies support both environmental sustainability and urban well-being (Miyagawa et al., 2023).

In developing countries like Indonesia, QoUL assessments reveal inequalities in access to green spaces, sanitation, housing, and transport. Understanding residents' perceptions helps prioritize targeted, equitable urban improvements. For instance, in cities like Jakarta, such assessments can guide the allocation of limited resources toward the most impactful improvements—such as community parks, drainage systems, or pedestrian infrastructure—rooted in local needs and lived experience. Setiowati & Koestoer (2024) affirm that context-based QoUL evaluations lead to more inclusive designs reflecting material and emotional well-being.

In Türkiye, Istanbul—spanning Europe and Asia—faces challenges from rapid growth, including traffic, pollution, and shrinking green spaces. These impact QoUL, making it a valuable case to explore the role of landscape architecture in improving livability. Therefore, Istanbul's complex interplay of rapid urbanization, cultural heritage, and environmental challenges presents a compelling context for assessing QoUL through landscape architecture.

Kyoto, Japan, exemplifies how historical preservation and modern urban demands can harmonize. Its planning merges tradition with livability, proving the relevance of long-standing design practices. Kyoto's gardens, such as those in Higashiyama, provide beauty and function—cooling the city in summer and offering year-round spaces for rest and recreation (Cui et al., 2021). Kyoto's green space strategy prioritizes health and sustainability, guided by Healthy Cities policies that promote parks as key to urban well-being (Miyagawa et al., 2023). The city offers a strong model for understanding how landscape architecture enhances QoUL, providing lessons for cities balancing tradition and sustainability. Overall, Kyoto shows how landscape design can improve urban life, connecting heritage with future needs for people and the planet.

In developed countries, where basic urban infrastructure is often more advanced, QoUL assessments play a key role in fine-tuning urban liveability and responding to evolve social, environmental, and technological expectations. They support goals like mental health promotion, carbon-neutral cities, and smart urbanism (Setiowati & Koestoer, 2024).

7. Findings

The assessment of Quality of Urban Life (QoUL) in Jakarta, Istanbul, and Kyoto highlights distinct challenges and potentials influenced by the unique socio-economic, environmental, and infrastructural conditions of each city. A comparative analysis was conducted using eight key QoUL criteria, providing a structured basis for evaluating urban livability in both contexts (Table 2).

Table 2. Given score from 15 experts to all criterion on each city.

Criterion	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Human Scale & Accessibility	2	3	4
Mixed-Use Development	4	4	4
Public Spaces & Green Areas	4	5	5
Sustainability & Environmental Considerations	4	4	5
Density & Building Design	3	3	4
Cultural & Historical Context	3	5	5
Infrastructure & Technology	3	4	5
Aesthetic & Visual Quality	3	4	5

7.1. Human Scale & Accessibility

This criterion evaluates how effectively cities have embedded these principles into their urban texture, shaping environments that support daily life, reduce mobility barriers, and enhance overall quality of urban experience. Through the comparative lens of Jakarta, Istanbul, and Kyoto, this section explores the extent to which human-centred planning is realized in practice (Table 3).

Jakarta's urban form predominantly prioritizes vehicular traffic, resulting in limited walkability and a lack of human-scale environments. This car-oriented development model often leads to spatial fragmentation and reduced pedestrian engagement. Moreover, accessibility challenges are compounded for vulnerable populations. For instance, a study by Mahathir et al. (2021) found that individuals living with HIV in Jakarta face significant difficulties in accessing healthcare due to long travel distances and inadequate public transportation infrastructure—issues indicative of broader systemic shortcomings in urban accessibility.

In contrast, Istanbul demonstrates a growing institutional commitment to improve accessibility through strategic planning. Istanbul's Vision 2050 Strategy Document outlines the city's commitment to improving accessibility across various urban domains. The plan emphasizes the development of inclusive public spaces, efficient transportation networks, and equitable access to services. By prioritizing accessibility, Istanbul aims to ensure that all residents, regardless of age or ability, can fully participate in urban life (İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality & İstanbul Planning Agency, 2022). For example, the redevelopment of Şişhane Park focused on creating aesthetically pleasing and functional public areas that promote pedestrian engagement and community interaction (Hamameh & Yücel Caymaz, 2020).

A 2023 study by Yuan et al. titled "A Comprehensive Evaluation of Walkability in Historical Cities: The Case of Xi'an and Kyoto" provides an in-depth analysis of Kyoto's urban design. The research highlights Kyoto's grid-based street network, which facilitates pedestrian movement and maintains the city's historical character. The study emphasizes the importance of micro-scale elements—such as street furniture, pavement quality, and greenery—in promoting walkability and enhancing the pedestrian experience. These features contribute to a more inviting and comfortable environment for residents and visitors alike (Yuan et al., 2023).

Table 3. Comparative analysis of human scale & accessibility assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Human Scale & Accessibility	 (Maulana, 2022)	 (URL-1, 2018)	 (URL-2, 2019)
Score	2	3	4

7.2. Mixed-Use Development

This criterion studies about land use diversity which evaluates how different functions (residential, commercial, institutional, recreational) are integrated spatially. It also measures balance and proximity of essential services to houses (e.g., shops, schools, offices, and parks) (Table 4).

Jakarta has actively pursued mixed-use developments such as Thamrin Nine complex (office, retail, residential, hotels, and entertainment facilities) and Sudirman Central Business District/SCBD (condominiums, office, hotels, and shopping centres). Meanwhile, Istanbul has similarly embraced mixed-use developments to revitalize urban areas and enhance livability. Key projects include Galataport (ship terminal, retail spaces, restaurants, cultural venues, and hotel) and Büyükyalı (residential dynamic neighbourhood with sea views, public spaces, cultural venues, and new marina) (Chapman Taylor, 2021).

Kyoto's urban planning emphasizes the harmonious coexistence of diverse land uses. One example of the development is the Kyoto Station which concludes a major transportation hub (rail, bus, taxi), shopping centres, hotels, cultural facilities (Kyoto Theater, Sky Garden), and rooftop green spaces and public plazas (World Construction Network, 2007).

Table 4. Comparative analysis of mixed-use development assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Mixed-Use Development	 (Vikry, 2019)	 (Akgul, 2022)	 (Pavone, 2011)
Score	4	4	4

7.3. Public Spaces & Green Areas

This criterion examines the quality of each cities' public spaces and green areas. It measures the quantity and distribution of green/open spaces across the cities, whether parks and plazas are easily accessible to all residents and how well it connected to the urban fabric, including pedestrian and cycling routes. This criterion also assesses the variety of activities supported (e.g., recreation, relaxation, exercise, events, and gathering) and review the spatial design, landscape elements, seating, lighting, signage, and overall visual appeal (Table 5).

Jakarta's developments focus on creating multifunctional spaces that serve as cultural and recreational hubs, integrating public art to enrich the urban experience. The projects such as Merdeka Square (national monument

surrounded with park, musical water fountain, and deer enclosure) and Taman Suropati (historic urban park with collection of sculptures form ASEAN countries) (Mulyani & Dwiharti, 2011).
In contrast, Istanbul emphasizes preserving historical sites and integrating innovative designs to provide residents with accessible green spaces that honour the city's rich heritage. The public spaces and green areas such as Gülhane Park, Gezi Park (urban green space), and Parkorman project (Mafi, 2017).
Meanwhile, Kyoto's parks and green spaces are designed with a focus on user satisfaction. A study evaluating Japanese Kyoto Park highlighted the importance of accessibility, aesthetic appeal, and functional diversity in enhancing user experience. The research emphasized that well-maintained green spaces contribute to higher levels of user satisfaction and overall QoUL (Gemici, 2019).

Table 5. Comparative analysis of public spaces and green areas assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Public Space & Green Area	 (Fajarmon, 2016)	 (Zbe, 2015)	 (Juliette, 2018)
Score	4	5	5

7.4. Sustainability & Environmental Consideration

In landscape architecture, this criterion looks beyond aesthetics or function to evaluate how urban environments support ecological health, climate resilience, and long-term sustainability. It emphasizes in the energy efficiency and renewable energy, pollution control, sustainable water management, biodiversity and habitat conservation, waste management, and climate-resilient urban planning in each city.
Jakarta has implemented programs such as the development of public electric bus facilities and the expansion of bike lanes to encourage low-emission transportation and has also established Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and vehicle emissions testing. The city is constructing the Giant Sea Wall Jakarta, a massive coastal defence project aimed at preventing flooding and managing seawater intrusion, including facilities to convert waste into alternative fuels, aiming to reduce landfill dependency and generate energy. As for climate-resilient urban planning, Jakarta participated in international summits like the Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) and integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning. However, rapid urbanization and environmental degradation pose ongoing challenges (Putri, 2021).
Istanbul has initiated projects to promote sustainable energy practices, although challenges remain due to its high electricity consumption (Edelman, 2021). Air Quality Index (AQI) of Istanbul is 90, indicating moderate pollution levels. Efforts are underway including initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and promote cleaner transportation options (Wastevantage, 2024). Istanbul relies heavily on surface water sources, with nearly all of its drinking water coming from reservoirs. The city has developed systems like the Melen System for long-term water demand (Altinbilek, 2006). Istanbul has invested in waste-to-energy facilities, such as the Istanbul Waste Power Plant (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality – Waste Management Department, 2021). The proposed Istanbul Canal project aims to create a new shipping route to alleviate congestion in the Bosphorus Strait. However, the project underscores the tension between development and environmental sustainability in urban planning since it might threat the ecosystems and water resources (Kersley, 2021).
The Kyoto International Conference Centre has installed solar panels to power digital signage, reflecting the city's commitment to sustainable energy solution. Since 2023, Kyoto has been recycling food waste generated in the conference centre and repurposing it into new resources. In January 2021, all plastic bottles in vending machines in the facility were switched to cans or glass bottles, and as of April 2022 no longer provide plastic drink bottles in any catering. In 2023 Kyoto introduced a BEMS (Building Energy Management System) in order to use energy more efficiently (ICC Kyoto, 2024).
Kyoto's waterways are integral to its urban ecosystem. Efforts to preserve and improve these natural assets include the implementation of porous pavements to enhance water quality and drainage, as well as the expansion of green spaces to support biodiversity and ecosystem services (Ozawa-Meida et al., 2021). The city has adopted innovative waste-to-energy solutions. At the Kyoto South Clean Centre Plant No. 2, organic waste undergoes bio-gasification, producing methane that generates electricity sufficient to power approximately 2,000 households annually. Additionally, the 'Do you Kyoto?' campaign promotes environmentally friendly lifestyles, encouraging waste segregation and reduction at the household level (Edita, 2023).

7.5. Density & Building Design

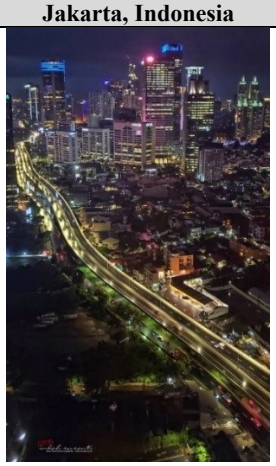
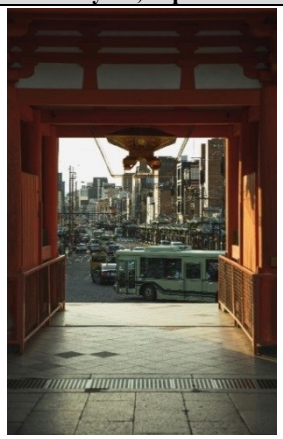
This criterion evaluates how the built environment affects comfort, accessibility, aesthetics, and the overall functioning of cities. The variables such as population and built density, building height and massing, street-to-building proportion and architectural quality (Table 6).

Jakarta's urban landscape is characterized by a mix of high-density commercial zoned and sprawling residential areas. The city boasts several skyscrapers that define its skyline such as Gama Tower and Thamrin Nine Complex. Jakarta's high-rise buildings exhibit a blend of modern architectural styles, emphasizing functionality and sustainability, for example the Sequis Tower which incorporates environmentally friendly design elements such as shading fins to reduce solar heat gain, aligning with green building principles (Puspitasari & Kwon, 2017).

Istanbul's urban texture is a tapestry of historical districts interwoven with modern developments. Istanbul's skyline features prominent skyscrapers, including Istanbul Sapphire and Metropol Istanbul. Istanbul's high-rise architecture often seeks to harmonize modern design with cultural context. Projects like MetroCity, incorporate mixed-use functionalities while contributing to the city's evolving skyline (Ölgen & Özker, 2020).

Kyoto maintains a relatively moderate urban density, especially in its central districts. This is achieved through strict zoning regulations that limit building heights and encourage the preservation of traditional Machiya townhouses (Ellisa, 2012). Kyoto enforces building height restrictions to preserve sightlines to its surrounding mountains and historical landmarks. For instance, the city has designated specific zones where building heights are capped, ensuring new developments do not overshadow traditional structures (Garg, 2022).

Table 6. Comparative analysis of density and building design assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Density & Building Design	 (Susanti, 2020)	 (Sarıgül, 2019)	 (Tsukata, 2020)
Score	3	3	4

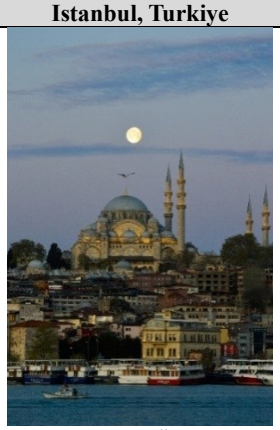
7.6. Cultural & Historical Context

This criterion evaluates how the built environment affects comfort, accessibility, aesthetics, and the overall functioning of cities. The variables such as population and built density, building height and massing, street-to-building proportion and architectural quality (Table 6).

Jakarta's urban landscape is characterized by a mix of high-density commercial zoned and sprawling residential areas. The city boasts several skyscrapers that define its skyline such as Gama Tower and Thamrin Nine Complex. Jakarta's high-rise buildings exhibit a blend of modern architectural styles, emphasizing functionality and sustainability, for example the Sequis Tower which incorporates environmentally friendly design elements such as shading fins to reduce solar heat gain, aligning with green building principles (Puspitasari & Kwon, 2017).

Istanbul's urban texture is a tapestry of historical districts interwoven with modern developments. Istanbul's skyline features prominent skyscrapers, including Istanbul Sapphire and Metropol Istanbul. Istanbul's high-rise architecture often seeks to harmonize modern design with cultural context. Projects like MetroCity, incorporate mixed-use functionalities while contributing to the city's evolving skyline (Ölgen & Özker, 2020).

Table 7. Comparative analysis of cultural and historical context assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Cultural & Historical Context	 (Fisk, 2019)	 (Özer, 2025)	 (de Vasconcellos, 2022)
Score	3	5	5

7.7. Infrastructure &Technology

The infrastructure and technology criterion in the Quality of Urban Life assessment focuses on how well a city supports daily life, efficiency, connectivity, and innovation through both physical infrastructure and smart urban systems. The variables of the assessments include digital infrastructure and smart city technology, public transportation and mobility systems, and green infrastructure.

Jakarta Smart City (JSC) program which focuses on integrating data-driven solutions across various sectors (e.g. the JAKI super-app serves as a digital hub for citizens, such as bill payments to community engagement platforms, and streamlining interactions between residents and city services). Jakarta also has implemented smart mobility such as MRT, LRT, and TransJakarta Bus Rapid Transit systems through smart ticketing and real-time monitoring (Muthiyan, 2024).

Istanbul is focusing on the integration of various infrastructure components, such as water, energy, telecommunication, and waste management systems, through smart technologies. Additionally, Istanbul is exploring the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems to address energy insecurity and adapt to climate change impacts.

Kyoto has installed solar panels on the slope of the North parking lot to power the digital signage in the subway passageway (ICC Kyoto, 2024). Kyoto's urban planning integrates nature-based solutions to combat climate change effects. The city emphasizes the use of green infrastructure, such as expanding green spaces and utilizing biomass for heating. These measures not only mitigate urban heat islands but also enhance the city's resilience to climate-related challenges (Ozawa-Meida et al., 2021).

7.8. Aesthetic & Visual Quality

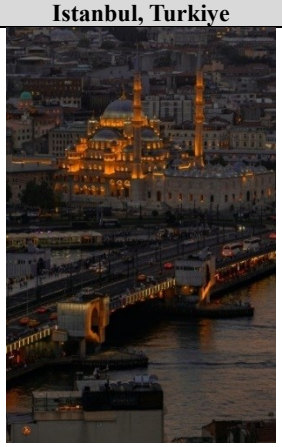
This criteria assessment refers to how visual coherence, character, and beauty of spaces shape perceptions of comfort, pride, and identity. The evaluation includes visual appeal and coherence of the city, landscape design quality, sense of place, integration of public art, and maintenance and cleanliness (Table 8).

Jakarta presents a diverse architectural landscape, blending colonial-era structures with modern developments. A study employing the Townscape Theory Approach analysed the architectural photography of Jakarta's Old Town, highlighting the area's unique aesthetic values and the challenges in maintaining visual consistency amidst urban growth (Tahalea et al., 2022).

In contrast to Istanbul, Istanbul's rich historical tapestry is evident in its architectural heritage, where Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern influences converge. An analysis of the Celiktepe neighbourhood revealed that rapid urban changes have impacted the area's physical and social identity, leading to a re-evaluation of aesthetic and design principles to preserve the city's visual consistency (Gür & Heidari, 2019).

Meanwhile, Kyoto has implemented stringent regulations to maintain its historical ambiance. The 1972 Visual Townscape Preservation Ordinance was a pioneering effort in Japan, designating specific areas as Aesthetic Districts (Nitschke, 2011). This ordinance restricts building heights and mandates architectural harmony with traditional designs, particularly in neighbourhoods like Gion and Sanneizaka. Kyoto's urban design seamlessly blends built environments with natural elements. The city's grid layout aligns with the surrounding mountains, creating a cohesive visual experience that reinforces the city's identity as a "garden city" (Ronnen et al., 2006).

Table 8. Comparative analysis of aesthetic and visual quality assessment.

Criteria	Jakarta, Indonesia	Istanbul, Turkiye	Kyoto, Japan
Aesthetic & Visual Quality	 (Fisk, 2021)	 (Izmapics, 2024)	 (Simon, 2023)
Score	3	4	5

8. Discussion

Urban planning strategies range from universal design principles to locally tailored approaches. Universal urban planning establishes broad frameworks for inclusivity, sustainability, and accessibility. Duman and Asilsoy (2022) emphasized the importance of creating environments accessible to all individuals in Northern Nicosia through an evidence-based sustainable planning framework. However, this study highlights that adapting the universal principles to local socio-economic, cultural, and environmental contexts is critical, especially in developing or rapidly urbanizing countries. Verdini et al. (2025) stress that strategies must be localized, as success in one context may not guarantee success elsewhere.

For example, Jakarta's urban development reflects challenges typical of fast-growing cities in developing countries. As highlighted in the QoUL assessment (Table 2), Jakarta scores relatively low in categories such as green space accessibility and environmental quality. While universal design standards advocate for equitable green space per capita, Jakarta's current provision falls significantly short, with only 7.1 m² of green space per capita—well below WHO (2010) recommendations. Moreover, the proximity of cemeteries and the underperformance of urban parks in enhancing life satisfaction (Setiowati & Koestoer, 2024) illustrate the importance of understanding cultural perceptions and local land-use dynamics when planning public open spaces.

In contrast, Istanbul, although situated in an emerging economy, displays a more layered urban landscape shaped by both historical heritage and modern planning conflicts. The QoUL analysis reveals relatively better performance in cultural and recreational accessibility, but also highlights tensions caused by mega-projects encroaching on ecological assets like the Northern Forests (Sert, 2024). The study by Bahadır & Kart Aktaş (2023) shows that satisfaction levels are higher in mass housing developments with well-planned green and social areas, reflecting the positive role of landscape architecture in improving urban liveability even within dense environments.

Kyoto, meanwhile, offers an example of how long-term, holistic planning can sustain high QoUL in a dense and highly urbanized context. The city consistently performs well across indicators such as public transport efficiency, human-scale design, safety, and accessibility. Kyoto's success lies in its ability to adapt universal planning principles—such as walkability, mixed-use zoning, and smart city integration—to local needs. For instance, the city's extensive public transit system not only reduces reliance on private vehicles but also supports a culture of punctuality and environmental responsibility. Furthermore, Kyoto's meticulous approach to integrating disaster resilience and aging population needs into urban form demonstrates how technological innovation and demographic awareness can enhance spatial quality without compromising inclusivity.

These case studies emphasize that while universal design offers a valuable baseline, meaningful improvements in QoUL require sensitivity to local conditions. The relationship between universal design and context-specific strategies is further elucidated by Prestamburgo et al. (2021), who advocate for universal design as a resilient urban planning strategy. They propose that while universal design provides a foundational framework, its implementation must be flexible to accommodate local environmental resources and cultural practices. Therefore, while universal urban planning offers overarching guidelines aimed at creating equitable and sustainable urban environments, the effectiveness of these principles in developing countries hinges on their adaptation to local contexts. Integrating universal design with context-specific strategies ensures that urban planning is both globally informed and locally responsive, leading to more resilient and inclusive urban development.

Jakarta's rapid growth outpaces infrastructure, causing congestion, informal settlements, and deficient public spaces. Proactive planning and investment in green infrastructure are urgently needed. Conversely, Kyoto shows how foresight, consistent policies, and human-centered design preserve high QoUL amid urban pressures.

Finally, the role of technology in enhancing QoUL cannot be overlooked. In both developed and developing contexts, smart city applications such as real-time traffic management, digital wayfinding, and urban monitoring systems are beginning to shape more efficient and accessible cities. However, the implementation of these technologies must also align with human-centered design to ensure they support equity rather than widen existing disparities.

In sum, bridging universal and local approaches is essential to developing resilient, inclusive, and livable urban environments. QoUL assessments, as applied in this study, offer a valuable framework for aligning global urban planning ideals with the everyday experiences of urban residents.

9. Conclusion

The quality of urban life (QoUL) is shaped by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors influencing urban liveability. Rapid urbanization in cities like Jakarta and Istanbul makes improving QoUL increasingly urgent. Urban planning must address the unique challenges of each city, taking into account its socio-economic, cultural, and environmental contexts. While universal urban design principles offer a valuable foundation, their success depends on localized adaptation to ensure relevance and efficacy in different urban settings.

In Jakarta and Istanbul, improved public spaces, mixed-use areas, and sustainability efforts have enhanced QoUL. Jakarta's transit expansion and green initiatives reflect growing environmental awareness. Istanbul balances modernization with cultural and environmental preservation. Kyoto, as a highly developed city, serves as a benchmark for comparison. Kyoto exemplifies meticulous planning, combining density with human-scale design and efficient transit. Its emphasis on safety and accessibility makes it a liveability leader. Its smart technologies and disaster resilience show the importance of long-term strategies.

Cultural heritage and historical preservation also play a pivotal role in shaping each city's identity and aesthetic coherence. Jakarta's revitalization of historic areas strengthens community identity. Istanbul's layered heritage shapes its evolving urban form. Kyoto blends modernity with preserved traditions to maintain a strong cultural narrative.

Ultimately, improving QoUL is not just about addressing physical infrastructure, but also fostering inclusive social systems and a sense of belonging among residents. Whether through enhanced accessibility, safer public spaces, or greater community engagement, cities that prioritize the well-being of their residents can create environments where both individuals and communities thrive. A comprehensive approach to urban planning, one that integrates thoughtful design, sustainability, and social inclusion, will lead to more resilient, vibrant, and sustainable cities that meet the needs of present and future generations.

Acknowledgements

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interests

The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

References

ABA Standarts (2015). Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards. S.L.: DOD, HUD, GSA, USPS. Available at: https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/USAB/ABAstandards.pdf [Accessed 19 April 2025].

Addas, A. (2023). Influence of urban green spaces on quality of life and health with smart city design. *Land,* 12(5), 960. https://doi.org/10.3390/land12050960

Ahmadian, E., Sodagar, B., Bingham, C., Elnokaly, A., & Mills, G. (2021). Effect of urban built form and density on building energy performance in temperate climates. *Energy & Buildings,* 236, 110762. DOI:10.1016/j.enbuild.2021.110762

ASLA (The American Society of Landscape Architects) (2022). Principle of Accessibility Design for Landscape Architecture. Washington DC. Available at: https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Practice/Research_Reports/ASLA_Research_Accessibility_2022.pdf [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Bahadır, B., & Kart Aktaş, N. (2023). Evaluating the urban quality of life: A study in an urban residential environment in Istanbul, Turkiye. *Forestist,* 73(3), 285-296. https://doi.org/10.5152/forestist.2023.22056

Calthorpe, P. (2010). *Urbanism in The Age of Climate Change.* Washington, DC: Island Press. ISBN: 978-1-59726-863-6

Chapman Taylor (2021). Project profile: Creating a dynamic mixed-use neighbourhood at Istanbul's Büyükyalı. [Online] Available at: https://www.chapmantaylor.com/news/project-profile-creating-a-dynamic-mixed-use-neighbourhood-at-istanbuls-buyukyali [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Cramer, V., Torgersen, S., & Kringler, E. (2004). Quality of life in a city: The effect of population density. *Social Indicators Research,* 69(1), 103-116. https://www.jstor.org/stable/27522133

Cui, G., Wang, M., Fan, Y., Xue, F., & Chen, H. (2024). Assessment of health-oriented layout and perceived density high-density public residential areas: A case study of Shenzhen. *Buildings, 14*(11), 3626. https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings14113626

Cui, L., Rupprecht, C.D.D., & Shibata, S. (2021). Climate-responsive green-space design inspired by traditional gardens: Microclimate and human thermal comfort of Japanese Gardens. *Sustainability, 13*(5), 2736. https://doi.org/10.3390/su13052736

Dai, Y. (2022). Application of regional culture in landscape architecture design under the background of data fusion. *Hindawi Scientific Programming,* 1, 6240313. https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/6240313

Duman, U., & Asilsoy, B. (2022). Developing an Evidence-Based Framework of Universal Design in the Context of Sustainable Urban Planning in Northern Nicosia. *Sustainability-Urban Climate Adaptability of Buildings: Theories, Methodologies and Cases,* 14(20), 13377. https://doi.org/10.3390/su142013377

Edelman, D.J. (2021). Managing the urban environment of Istanbul, Turkey. *Current Urban Studies,* 9(1), 107-125. https://doi.org/10.4236/cus.2021.91007

Edita, E.P. (2023). From Waste-to-Energy: How Kyoto City Manages Its Trash. [Online] Available at: https://rkcmpd-eria.org/news/from-waste-to-energy-how-kyoto-city-manages-its-trash#:~:text=Waste%20to%20energy%20works%20by,the%20minimum%20temperature%20of%209000C. [Accessed 19 April 2025].

Ellisa, E. (2012). Toward sustainable urban design for enhancing tourism in historical districts of Kyoto. *Arte-Polis 4 International Conference Creative Connectivity and the Making of Place: Living Smart by Design,* 5-47, 399-414.

Garau, C., & Pavan, V.M. (2018). Evaluating urban quality: Indicators and assessment tools for smart sustainable cities. *Sustainability, 10*(3), 575. https://doi.org/10.3390/su10030575

Garg, H. (2022). Urban Pollution: Kyoto, Japan. [Online] Available at: https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/city-and-architecture/a7875-urban-pollution-kyoto-japan/ [Accessed 19 April 2025].

Gehl, J. (2010). *Cities for People.* Island Press.

Gemici, R.O. (2019). Evaluation of Japanese Kyoto Park in terms of user satisfaction. *International Scholarly and Scientific Research & Innovation,* 13(8), 488-493.

Gospodini, A. (2002). Europian cities in competition and the new 'uses' of urban design. *Journal of Urban Design, 7*(1), 59-73. https://doi.org/10.1080/13574800220129231

Gür, E.A., & Heidari, N. (2019). Challenge of identity in the urban transformation process: The case of Celiktepe, Istanbul. *ITU AZ,* 16(1), 127-144. https://doi.org/10.5505/itujfa.2019.47123

Hamameh, S., & Yücel Caymaz, G.F. (2020). Evaluation of aesthetic, functional, and environmental effects on the design of urban open spaces: A case study of İstanbul Şişhane Park, Turkey. Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs, 4(2), 67-86. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2020.v4n2-7

ICC Kyoto (2024). Achieving Sustainability. [Online] Available at: https://www.icckyoto.or.jp/en/icc-kyoto-initiatives/sustainable/ [Accessed 19 April 2025].

İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality & İstanbul Planning Agency (2022). Istanbul Vision 2050 Strategy Document. Available at: https://ipa.istanbul/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Istanbul-Vision-2050.pdf [Accessed 19 April 2025].

İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality – Waste Management Department (2021). *İstanbul Büyükşehir Belediyesi Atık Yakma ve Enerji Üretim Tesisi Projesi* [Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Waste Incineration and Energy Production Facility Project]. [Online] Available at: https://www.ibb.istanbul [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Javanbakht, M., Boloorani, A.D., Kiavarz, M., Samany, N.N., Zebardast, L., & Zangiabadi, M. (2020). Spatial-temporal analysis of urban environmental quality of Tehran, Iran. *Ecological Indicators,* 120, 106901. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2020.106901

Kang, N., & Liu, C. (2022). Towards landscape visual quality evaluation: Methodologies, technologies, and recommendations. *Ecological Indicators,* 142, 109174. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2022.109174

Kersley, A. (2021). The Wild Logistics of the Istanbul Canal Megaproject. [Online] Available at: https://www.wired.com/story/istanbul-canal-logistics/ [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Kocabaş, A. (2006). Urban conservation in Istanbul: Evaluation and re-conceptualisation. *Habitat International, 30(1*), 107-126. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2004.08.001

Kochskämper, E. (2024). Just transformations through resiliece experiments? Comparing policy rationales and narratives of the global south and north in the resilient cities network. *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*, 18, 207–226. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12286-024-00599-7

Lynch, K. (1960). *The Image of The City.* s.l.:MIT Press. ISBN: 0-262-62001-4

Mafi, N. (2017). Parks of the future may include elevated walkways through trees. [Online] Available at: https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/parks-of-future-may-include-elevated-walkways-through-trees [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Mahathir, M., Wiarsih, W., & Permatasari, H. (2021). "Accessibility": A new narrative of healthcare services for people living with HIV in the capital city of Indonesia. *Belitung Nursing Journal,* 7(3), 227-234. https://doi.org/10.33546/bnj.1409

Mandelker, D.R. (2023). Zoning for mixed-use development. Washington University in St. Louis, School of Law, Legal Studies Research Paper Series No. 23-07-01. Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4510458

Marans, R.W., & Stimson, R.J. (2011). *Investigating quality of urban life: Theory, methods, and empirical research.* s.l.:Springer Science & Business Media, ISBN: 978-94-007-1741-1

Meng, L., Lin, B.-g., Zhang, H.-z. & Bu, R. (2023). Sustainable development evaluation on the landscape design of industrial heritage park: A case study of Tao Sichuan, China. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health,* 1564614. https://doi.org/10.1155/2023/1564614

Miyagawa, T., Otsuka, N. & Abe, H. (2023). Green space creation an utilization in coordination with policies for healthy cities in Japan. *Cities & Health,* 7(5), 854-874. https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2023.2188636

Mulyani, A. & Dwiharti, W. (2011). *Jakarta: Panduan Wisata Tanpa Mal.* ed. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama. ISBN 9789792258202

Muthiyan, A. (2024). *Exploring Jakarta's Smart City Vision: A First-Hand Experience.* [Online] Available at: https://varidx.io/blog/exploring-jakartas-smart-city/ [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Nitschke, G. (2011). *A sense of place: Urban renewal in Kyoto.* [Online] Available at: https://kyotojournal.org/kyoto-notebook/urban-renewal-in-kyoto/ [Accessed 19 April 2025].

Ozawa-Meida, L., Ortiz-Moya, F., Painter, B., Hengebaugh, M., Nakano, R., Yoshida, T., Zusman, E., & Bhattacharvva, S. (2021). Integrating the sustainable development goals (sdgs) into urban climate plans in the UK and Japan: A Text Analysis. *Climate,* 9(6), 100. https://doi.org/10.3390/cli9060100

Ölgen, B., & Özker, S. (2020). High-rise buildings in cultural code of Istanbul: Büyükdere Avenue example. *6th International E-Conference on New Trends in Architecture and Interior Design.16-18 October.*

Paper (2023). Protecting Istanbul's Cultural Heritage. [Online] Available at: https://sanayi313.com/en/paper/community/protecting-istanbuls-cultural-heritage/#:~:text=The%20Istanbul%20Heritage%20project%20is,the%20benefit%20of%20the%20public. [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Prestamburgo, S., Sgroi, F., Venudo, A., & Zanin, C. (2021). Universal design as resilient urban space plan strategy. New scenarios for environmental resources' sustainable management. *AIMS Environmental Science,* 8(4), 321-340. https://doi.org/10.3934/environsci.2021021

Project for Public Spaces (2000). *How to Turn a Place Around: A Handbook for Creating Successful Public Spaces*. New York: Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

Psatha, E., Deffner, A., & Yannis, P. (2011). Defining the quality of urban life: Which factors should be considered? *51st European Congress,* https://www-sre.wu.ac.at/ersa/ersaconfs/ersa11/e110830aFinal00785.pdf

Puspitasari, A.W., & Kwon, J. (2017).The influence of tall buildings to the modern urban landscape of Jakarta city. *UIA 2017 Seoul World Architects Congress.*

Putri, S.A.E. (2021). *The Strategy to Climate Resilience in Jakarta.* [Online] Available at: https://smartcity.jakarta.go.id/en/blog/upaya-menjaga-ketahanan-iklim-di-jakarta/ [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Ronnen, G., Demura, Y., Kawasaki, M. & Higuchi, T. (2006). Visual perception of landscape-The approach from Shijo Street to Yasaka Shrine and Maruyama Park. *Journal for Architecture of Infrastructure and Environment,* 1, 115-121.

Rossi, A. (1966). *The Architecture of The City.* s.l.:MIT Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-262-18101

Sareen, S., & Haque, M. (2024). Re-imagining high-density mixed-use streets. *7th International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism (ICCAUA-2024) 23-24 May 2024,* Volume 7, pp. 787-800. https://doi.org/10.38027/ICCAUA2024IN0325

Sert, E. (2024). Urban green spaces of Istanbul: From 'beautifying' efforts to 'megaprojects'. *Planning Perspectives,* 39(6), 1359-1380. https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2024.2361372

Setiowati, R., & Koestoer, R.H. (2024). Valuation of urban green open spaces using the life satisfaction approach. *Civil Engineering Journal,* 10(4), pp. 1159-1181. https://doi.org/10.28991/CEJ-2024-010-04-010

Smith, M.E. (2023). *Urban Life in The Distant Past: The Prehistory of Energized Crowding*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Speck, J. (2012). *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at A Time.* s.l.:Farrar, Straus and Giroux, North Point Press

Tahalea, S., Novianti, E., & Damarjati, F.X. (2022). Urban aesthetics analysis with townscape theory approach in architecture photography (Case Study: Jakarta Old Town Core Zone). *Malang, Proceedings of the First Lekantara Annual Conference on Public Administration Literature, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Education (LePALISSHE 2021).* https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.3-8-2021.2315079

UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) Learning (2017). *Revitalizing Cultural Heritage: A Comprehensive Urban Plan to Revitalize Kota Tua in Jakarta.* Jakarta: UCLG Learning Team. Available at: https://learning.uclg.org/peer_learning_notes/pln-22/ [Accessed 10 April 2025].

UNESCO (n.d.). *City of Safranbolu.* [Online] Available at: https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/614/ [Accessed 16 April 2025]

UN-Habitat (2015). *Global Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice,* s.l.: United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2019/05/global_public_space_toolkit.pdf [Accessed 18 April 2025].

U.S. Department of Justice (2010). *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design,* s.l.: United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. Available at: https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/2010-stds/ [Accessed 18 April 2025].

Van der Wal, L., Zandvoort, M., Tobi, H., Van der Vlist, M., & Van den Brink, A. (2021). Infrascape-how coevolving infrastructure and landscape shape water systems. *Landscape Research,* 46(8), 1121-1139. https://doi.org/10.1080/01426397.2021.1948982

Verdini, G., Woltjer, J., & Cioboata, S. (2025). Localising and reimagining urban planning knowledge for effective global south climate urbanism. *Planning Practice & Research.* https://doi.org/10.1080/02697459.2025.2474817

Wastevantage (2024). *Istanbul: Navigating a sustainable path in a vibrant city.* [Online] Available at: wastevantage.com [Accessed 10 April 2025].

Whyte, W. H. (1980). *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.* Project for Public Spaces Publisher

WHO (Word Health Organization) (2010). *Urban planning essential for public health.* [Online] Available at: who.int/news [Accessed 18 April 2025].

World Construction Network (2007). *Kyoto Station, Shimogyo Shichijo District.* [Online] Available at: https://www.worldconstructionnetwork.com/projects/kyotostation/ [Accessed 19 April 2025].

Yoffe, H., Raanan, N., Fried, S., Plaut, P., & Grobman, Y. J. (2024). Sustainable urban landscapes: A computation framework for enhancing sustainability in early-stage design. *International Journal of Architectural Research,* 18(4), 870-894. https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-06-2023-0152

Yuan, K., Abe, H., Otsuka, N., Yasufuku, K., & Takahashi, A. (2023). A comprehensive evaluation of walkability in historical cities: The case of Xi'an and Kyoto. *Sustainability,* 15, 5525. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15065525

Zhao, L. (2021). Inheritance and innovation of landscape architecture design in the context of traditional culture. *4th International Conference on Arts, Linguistics, Literature and Humanities (ICALLH 2021),* Volume 4, pp. 137-140. https://doi.org/10.25236/icallh.2021.032

Zhu, Z., He, Q., & Zhu, X. (2022). Spatial analysis for the landscape visual aesthetic quality of urban residential districts based on 3d city modeling. *Sustainability,* 14, 11500. https://doi.org/10.3390/su141811500

Picture References

Akgul, Y. (2022). *The Galataport project, located in Karaköy, one of the port districts of Istanbul, Turkey.* Le Monde. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/culture/article/2023/09/03/how-istanbul-s-galataport-went-from-working-class-district-to-luxury-shopping-complex_6121520_30.html?epik=dj0yJnU9RHFza20tSTNUakg1VXZsb2JYYTFxNjJpcGxYUzhYS2cmcD0wJm49MEdCcDhWX1RqTzk5VFBvcVNOMXJxUSZ0PUFBQUFBR2dEZ0ow [Accessed 26 April 2025].

de Vasconcellos, W.J. (2022). *Alley in a town with a view of a temple.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/alley-in-a-town-with-a-view-of-a-temple-15830266/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Fajarmon, A. (2016). *Side to side nature and modern building. The green side of nature at Jakarta City in Indonesia.* Dreamstime. https://www.dreamstime.com/side-to-nature-modern-building-green-jakarta-city-indonesia-image161839411 [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Fisk, T. (2019). *Aerial view photo of houses.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/aerial-view-photo-of-houses-2315274/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Fisk, T. (2021). *Modern glass skyscrapers in city downtown.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/modern-glass-skyscrapers-in-city-downtown-7350897/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Izmapics. (2024). *Istanbul galata bridge and mosque at night.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/istanbul-galata-bridge-and-mosque-at-night-29934371/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Juliette, C. (2018). *The Philosopher's Path in Kyoto, Japan.* Clara's Compass. https://clarascompass.com/philosophers-path-kyoto/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Maulana, S. (2022). *Aerial view of the city traffics at semanggi Roundabout, Jakarta, Indonesia. Aerial view on highways and skyscrapers with noise cloud. Jakarta, Indonesia.* Vectors. https://www.vecteezy.com/photo/23670259-aerial-view-of-the-city-traffics-at-semanggi-roundabout-jakarta-indonesia-aerial-view-on-highways-and-skyscrapers-with-noise-cloud-jakarta-indonesia-december-21-2022 [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Özer, F. (2025). *Süleymaniye Mosque at Twilight with Full Moon*. Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/suleymaniye-mosque-at-twilight-with-full-moon-31647350/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Pavone, S. (2011). *Kyoto Station is Japan's 2nd largest train station and its futurism architecture opened amid controversy in 1997 in the otherwise historical city.* Shutterstock. https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/kyoto-japan-july-11-station-japans-81564757 [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Sarıgül, E. (2019). *An Aerial Shot of the City of Istanbul.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/an-aerial-shot-of-the-city-of-istanbul-8171237/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Simon, B. (2023). *Traditional temple in Kyoto.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/traditional-temple-in-kyoto-16153999/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Susanti, I. (2020). *Jakarta's Night View.* Indahs: Dive, Travel & Photography. https://indahs.com/2020/04/03/night-views-jakarta-covid19/jakartas-night-view-2/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Tsukata, R. (2020). *Gates of ancient Shinto shrine located on city street.* Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/gates-of-ancient-shinto-shrine-located-on-city-street-5745860/ [Accessed 26 April 2025].

URL-1. (2018). *Istanbul – secrets of the city*. Planmytravels.eu. Istanbul - secrets of the city - blog: PlanMyTravels.eu [Accessed 26 April 2025].

URL-2. (2019). *Downtown Kyoto.* First Time Visitors Guide To Kyoto. Japan Rail Pass Now. First Time Visitors Guide To Kyoto - Japan Rail Pass Now USA [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Vikry, M.A. (2019). *Sudirman Centre Business District – SCBD.* Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/B6IZ8Z8Jvop/?igshid=1e3op6ivpkx1y&epik=dj0yJnU9SzB5aXJqSnVYa3ZKV1ZxMmpvQlFsMmNEMEw0YmZjMmYmcD0wJm49ZTBFT3dibFRXOVZlcU1MTWFIZS1tZyZ0PUFBQUFBR2dEZ0Fz [Accessed 26 April 2025].

Zbe. (2015). Foursquare. https://tr.foursquare.com/v/fatih-korusu-do%C4%9Fa-k%C3%BClt%C3%BCr-merkezi/4f2d4e30e4b040eaff0eb4bf?openPhotoId=554f693e498e7c1ebf182a1f [Accessed 26 April 2025].