



# Towards a Refined New Concept of New Urbanism in Egypt

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## Abstract

This paper introduces a method to apply the principles of New Urbanism on an Egyptian neighborhood unit. It extends to their relationship with the common dimensions of urban design. It proposes four objectives: a) Interpret the new concepts of New Urbanism, b) Cite principles of Urbanism and trends emanating from it, c) Discover the structure of the philosophical concept of urbanization and d) Design a matrix inventories the compatibility of the principles of New Urbanism and urban design dimensions. Finally, the matrix tests the combination of the principles and the dimensions in a traditional Egyptian urban fabric, Basilica Church Plaza.

Keywords: New Urbanism; Urban Design; Urban Design Dimensions; Behavioral Dimensions; PRAV.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Urbanism Today**

In the nineties, urban design and New Urbanism, as a new trend in Urbanism, emerged in synchronization (Duany, 2001). It integrates both of the perceptual, functional and behavioral dimensions with the sustainable environmental ideas. At the present time, the experts in urban design professional practice taking into account the people-related issues as a base to build cities (Carmona, 2010). Notably, this makes livable cities based on design solutions; convenient to the term of quality of life. The ABCs of urbanism is one of the current global trends emanating from the concept of urbanism that has emerged recently to (Artibise, 2010), as a summarizing method. It appears in twenty-six approaches arranged by spelling English letters (Fig. 1). The main thing is supporting the social life to make cities livable.

### **1.2 Pressing Global Problem**

Since the beginnings of the twentieth century, the mixed land-use is the main purpose of planning and designing the neighborhood. With the emergence of modern architecture, the dominance was for the car. After the World War II, this trend named as sprawl or conventional suburban development (CSD) (Duany, 2001: 3-18). Researches criticized CSD because of lacking pedestrian priority (Urbanism, 1996:5-10; Duany, 2001). On the other side, many cities suffer from the overcrowding due to the dependence on cars (Panerai, 2004:141-143). The spread of the deteriorated areas that include social groups of low-level of education and ethics comes without any plans for manipulating in the communities of the developing countries. Not only mistiness of the ability of the project investments, but also the architectural character, traffic problems and environmental issues (Gilderbloom, 2005:40; Steuteviller, 2009). Therefore, the New Urbanism came to improve the communities to solve transportation problems in the forefront priorities. It suggests action plans to CSD in order to improve the communities within walking distances.

### **1.3 Research Problem and Hypothesis**

Although New Urbanism is for livable cities, but there is an inappropriate use of the principles commensurate with the adequate uses of urban design dimensions. Therefore, the paper suggests a hypothesis addressed as "if each one of the group of the principles of New Urbanism and behavioral dimensions makes a livable city, the integration between both will provide solutions convenience to the quality of life". The paper inventories the principles of New Urbanism inside an Egyptian neighborhood. It extends to their relationship with the common dimensions of urban design. It provides a matrix addressed as "New Urbanism versus urban design dimensions" to be tested upon the case study from the behavioral milieu; it is the most tangible to the principles of New Urbanism.

## **2.0 New Urbanism Upbringing**

The principles of New Urbanism started as a movement in urban design in 1980 (Carmona, 2010; Duany, 2001), to improve the pedestrian movement in the neighborhood. It continued

to grow in the course of reforming the aspects of urban planning. It influenced in areas according to standards of urban design. This theory comes to improve the built environment and fosters the quality of life in safe and pleasant places. It retrieves the notion of citizenries which include various activities within a short walking distance. It drives the citizenries towards the utopian city, within the range of uses, people, forms and meanings (Kelbaugh, 2001).

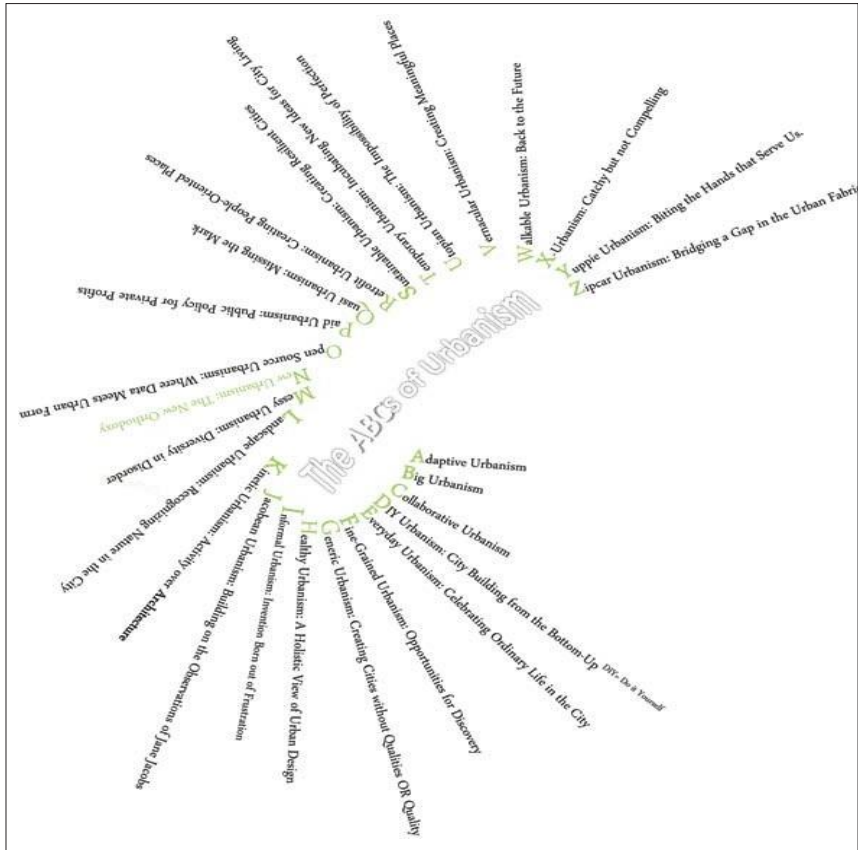


Figure 1: ABC's as a Trend of Urbanism

## 2.1 The New Urbanism Principles

The Charter of New Urbanism Congress (CNU) declared twenty-seven principles (The Congress of New Urbanism, 1996; Taarup, 2000). The principles are nine principles for each one of the region, the neighborhood and the buildings block. The principles declared to guide public policy, development, urban planning, and architecture design. According to a literature review pursued on CNU, the principles of New Urbanism, at the level of the neighborhood,

modified to be ten principles instead of nine (Carmona, 2010). The ten principles can be listed in five groups (Fig. 3). These are; first, enrich the community to provide choices for pedestrian with various activities for all users. Secondly, the comparability of urban component, thirdly, applying for the urban Infill, fourthly, holds smart transportation of connection. Finally, ensure the quality of life.



Figure 2: The Urbanization as a Global Problem: (a) the USA; (b) China; (c) Egypt; (d) Informal Transportation in Developing Countries (United Nations Human Settlements Program, 2009: 13); (e) India; and (f) Informal Settlement, Egypt.



Figure 3: The Principles of New Urbanism from CNU Point of View

## 2.2 How Can CNU Applied?

Some projects adopted the principles of New Urbanism; these are Adelaide and Copenhagen. The developments in Copenhagen followed for turning a car oriented city into a walkable city (Kersi, 2000). The public realm and increased taxes were the most demands

catalysts for this development. In the city of Adelaide reclaiming, Gehl defines 4 terms to match the New Urbanism trends (Gehl, 2002). These terms are the walkability/connectivity, responsiveness, appropriateness and variety/ robustness (Fig. 4, 5, 6 and 7). The research can classify the principles of New Urbanism, from the point of view of CNU and its implication in Adelaide and Copenhagen, into 4 categories, address as PRAV, Table 1.

Table 1: The Concluded Principles

The Term	Main Keywords
(P)	Pedestrian friendly, walkability, connectivity and car-oriented.
(R)	Responsiveness.
(A)	Aesthetics, appropriateness and quality of architecture.
(V)	Variety and robustness.

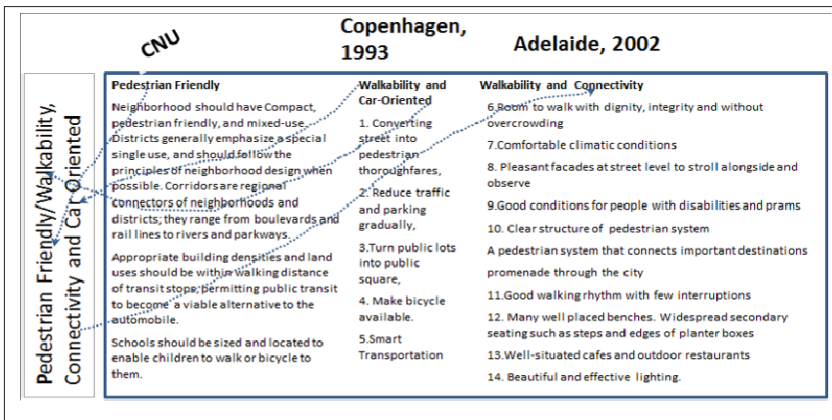


Figure 4: This Represents the Interrelation between the Title P with both the CNU, Copenhagen and Adelaide Represented by a Dotted Line (Author based on Gehl, 2002; Kersif, 2000; Evans, 2012)

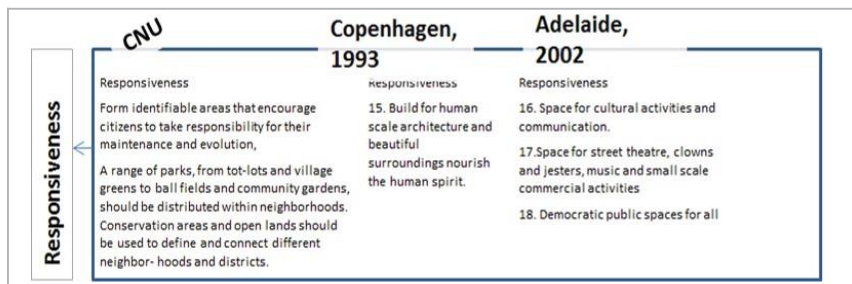


Figure 5: This Represents the Interrelation between the title R with both the CNU, Copenhagen and Adelaide Represented by a Dotted Line (Source: Ibid)

### 3.0 Urban Design Dimensions

The urban design through classified documents can be represented in six common dimensions (UDD) (Carmona, 2010). The UDDs are the perceptual, functional, visual, temporal, behavioral and environmental dimension (Banerjee, 2001; Baran, 2003; Bartuska, 2007; Carmona, 2010), Fig. 8. The present study focuses on the criteria of the behavioral dimension for the point of being the most striking feature to the principles of New Urbanism. Table 2 illustrates the two main descriptive indicators of the behavioral dimension.

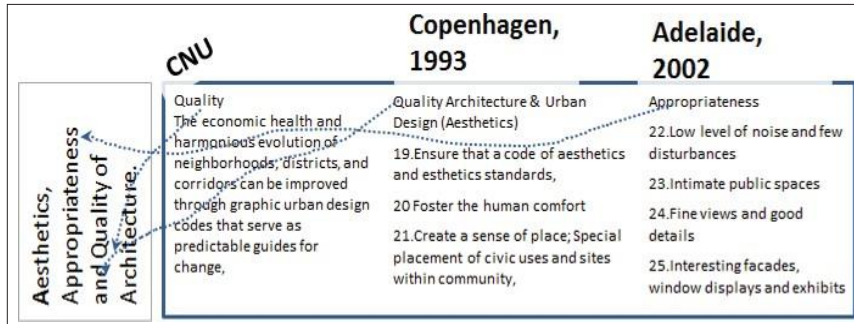


Figure 6: This Represents the Interrelation between the Title A with both the CNU, Copenhagen and Adelaide Represented by a Dotted Line (Source: Ibid)

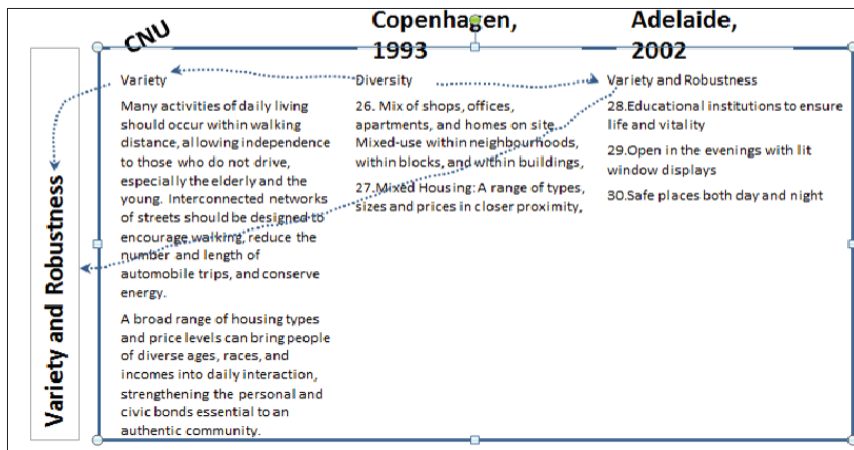


Figure 7: This Represents the Interrelation between the title V with both the CNU, Copenhagen and Adelaide Represented by a Dotted Line (Source: Ibid)

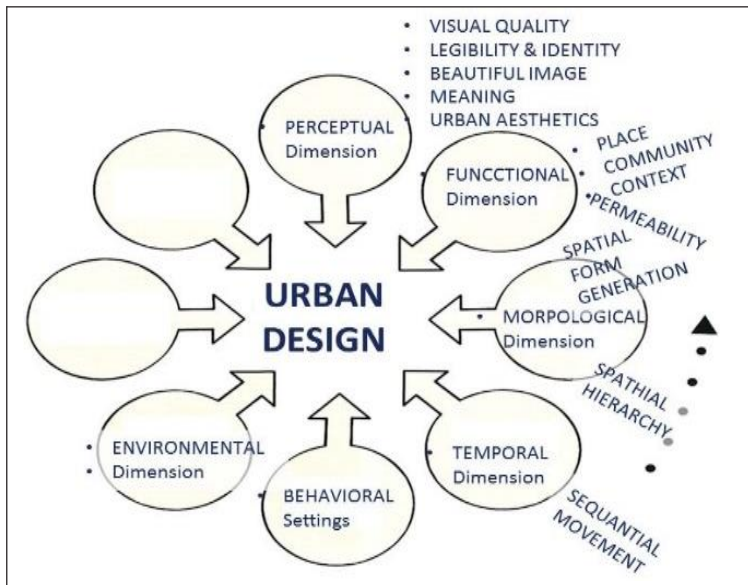


Figure 8: The Six Dimensions of Urban Design

Table 2: The Behavioral Dimension Includes Certain Sub Issues and Indicators  
(Berison, 2008; Ilewelyn, 2010; Evans, 2012)

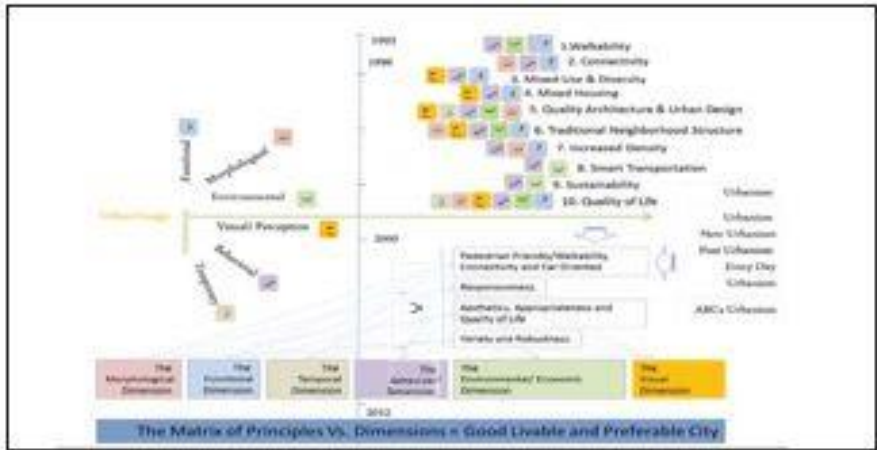
#### 4.0 Approach Apparatus

The paper deals with New Urbanism principles in comparison with the one of the six urban design dimensions. Therefore, it assesses the principles of the mentioned theory on an Egyptian neighborhood. In addition, it extends to their relationship with the behavioral dimension. Thus, the paper formulates a matrix which called as “New Urbanism vs. Behavioral Dimension”, Fig. 9.\* This matrix tests the behavioral milieu and the principles of New Urbanism upon the case study. Since, it adapts an assumption which concedes that the behavioral dimension is the most adjacent to the theory (Dunham, 2000).

#### 4.1 The Survey

The process of surveying aims at verifies the validity of the principles of New Urbanism in the Egypt. The field survey encompasses three main phases: appreciate the context, site survey and getting out the concluded remarks (table 2).

\* The matrix has two main axes: New Urbanism principles and the general framework of the behavioral dimensions. Fig. 10 shows the principles, which conclude from Fig. 4, 5, 6 and 7, list as thirty principles within four main axes. New Urbanism principles are in the vertical column and the behavioral dimensions the horizontal row. The results achieved from the analysis of a matrix of relations between principles and dimensions ranging between high and low. The highest comes from high potentialities with low constrains; medium occurs from small potentialities with low constrains, and the lowest occurs from small potentialities with high constrains. The mutual impact of the principles versus dimensions shows with dots, no joint impact shows by blanked cells. One issue is out of author specialization; the physiological abilities by blanked cells. One issue is out of author specialization; the physiological abilities (Fig. 10).



**Figure9:** The Relationship between the Urban Design Dimensions and Principles of New Urbanism. It shows that the Behavioral Dimension is the Most Connected to all New Urbanism Principles

Table 2: The Behavioral Dimension Includes Certain Sub Issues and Indicators (Berison, 2008; Ilewelyn, 2010; Evans, 2012)

The Indicators	
The Behavioral Dimension	<p>It depends on the <u>followings</u>:</p> <p>The physiological abilities of the users that hit the behavioral response.</p> <p>A person's presence that distinguish him from others, and give him unique in the way interacts with the surrounding environment (personalization).</p> <p>The social scene where the person resides determined by the rules by which routes, and the formation of relations between people which imposes on all of them.</p> <p>The cultural background is as sets of values and beliefs of the society, in which the individual belongs to and that govern the behavior and from the experience. Human needs direct the attitudes of citizens.</p> <p>Public participation in all design process and implementations.</p> <p>The resemblance between all users increases the effective interaction in the behavior context.</p> <p>The right to operate within the public spaces. The right to make political practices.</p>
	<p>It depends on:</p> <p>The range of land ownership according to the form of land from public to semi-private, reduce the effective interaction.</p> <p>The limits of the surrounding buildings and trees make a powerful of the space (enclosure). The defined and connected edges create a point of containment increase the effective interaction between people and the external environment. Movement system which affects the performance of such places and means of access and transportation to the parking space around the pool of housing units or positions of other activities.</p> <p>The treatment used in the space raises the value of the efficiency.</p>



		Behavioral Dimension													
		Physiological/Health	Humanization	Social Context	Cultural Background	Human Needs	Public Participation	Equity/Between all users	Spacious	Freedom to act within the Public	Freedom to political practices	The ownership	Evolution	Movement/Support	The Quality of Treatment used within the space
Pedestrian Friendly/Walkability/Car Disoriented and Connectivity	Principle 1														
	Principle 2														
	Principle 3														
	Principle 4														
	Principle 5														
	Principle 6														
	Principle 7														
	Principle 8														
	Principle 9														
	Principle 10														
	Principle 11														
	Principle 12														
	Principle 13														
	Principle 14														
Public-Private	Principle 15														
	Principle 16														
	Principle 17														
	Principle 18														
Activities, Appropriateness and quality of Architecture	Principle 19														
	Principle 20														
	Principle 21														
	Principle 22														
	Principle 23														
	Principle 24														
	Principle 25														
Public-Private	Principle 26														
	Principle 27														
	Principle 28														
	Principle 29														
	Principle 30														

No Relationship   
  Mutual Relationship   
  Conflicting Relationship   
  Out of Author Specialization

Figure 10: The Matrix “New Urbanism versus Behavioral Dimension”

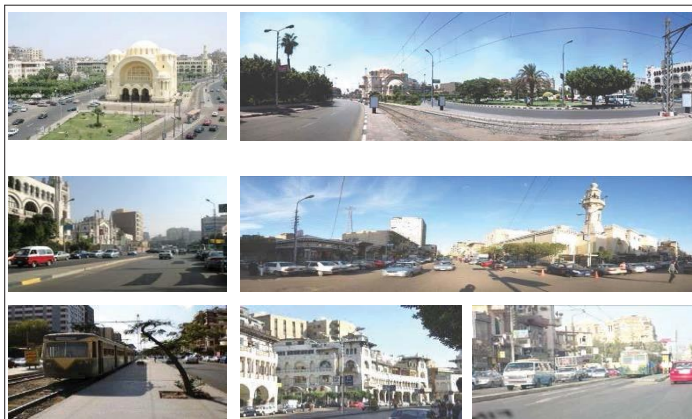


Figure 11: (a) The Basilica Church Plaza has the Dominance in the Site as a Landmark; (b) The Basilica Church appears from Al-Ahram Sreet; (Source: Ibrahim Shewei); (c) The Mode of Transportation passes by in Nazih Khalifa Street; (d) Haroon El-Rushed Street (source: Ibrahim Shewei); (e) The Metro line in El-Ahram Street; (f) Belgium Building Style;(g) Osman Ian Affine Street (Source: Third year students, Ain Shams University, 2011)

#### 4.2 Appreciate the Context

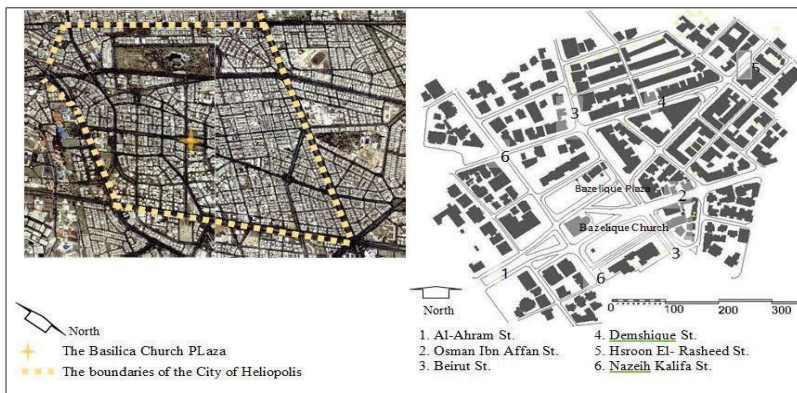


Figure 12: (a) The photo represents the city of Heliopolis, (source: the author based on (Dobrowlska, 2006); (b) shows the main feature in the study area (source: author and Sara Noeir)

The Basilica Church Plaza is the most predominance, Fig. 12, 13, functionally and visually, square in the city of Heliopolis.\* The choice of the Basilica Church Plaza, as a study area, is for its location as a focal point. It contains controversial elements of behavioral aspects, which could be analyzed from the perspective of PRAV. In addition to its location, the cohabitation field of the researcher makes exploring the site more reliable.

#### 4.3 The Survey Outcomes: Principles vs. Dimensions

This section answers the following question “to what extent does the Basilica Church Plaza conforms to the PRAV?” Fig. 14, 15, 16, and 17 find out results horizontally and vertically using a quantitative analysis. From Fig. 15, the paper concludes some remarks. There is no correlation between New Urbanism and both the properties and the public participation. Vertically, the issues equal between all users; enclosure and transportation are taking a high percentage of grades. Consequently, it leads to the percentage of a weak equity among all users. The percentage of the grades that follow express of the enclosure, the movement system, and the right to act in the outdoor public spaces range from medium to high. Ultimately, the following three principles; 6th, 9th and 13th received the highest percentage.



Figure 13: (a) Al-Ahram Street; (b) the occupation of sidewalks by shop extension and roadside parking; (c) bad treatment of sidewalk pavement; (d) the occupation of sidewalks by vendors (e) the greenery area nearby the Basilica Church surrounded by a fence; not accessible and not used as outdoor space; (f) Median El-Gamaa district

(Source: Ibrahim Shewei);

(g) The unsafe pedestrian movement

(Source: third year students, Ain Shams University, 2011)

\* The city of Heliopolis established in the first decade of the previous century. The Egyptian government granted to Baron Egmara a concession for the urbanization of 52 desert hectares. He gave a behest to Gaspar, the architect, to plan a new community. The ancient Heliopolis lies in the Cairo suburban of Morsy, 2006; Morsi, 2010). Heliopolis has two districts; Beirut Street separates between them. The first district is Korba. It lies to the south. It has both the average and the above-average housing. The second district lies in the northern part of the site. It addresses as Medan El-Gamaa. The second district devoted to economic housing and crafts areas. Baron Egmara derived the idea of electrical tram to develop remote areas and raise their value by linking them to down town. The Basilica Church Plaza is in an intermediate zone between the two main districts, Korba and Medan El-Gamaa.

Furthermore, the last sub issues received a small percentage of the grade of the behavioral dimensions in comparison with the New Urbanism principles. Horizontally, the relationships between both 8th and 13th principles comparing with the behavioral settings receive a high percentage (100 %). The same as the previous step, the principles such as 4th, 7th, 12th, and 14th have 0 % in with the behavioral issues. Therefore, these mentioned principles should have priority in redesigning process; especially, they have the highest achievements in the study area.

	Principles	Social Context	Cultural Background	Human Health	Public Involvement	Equitable Distribution of Land	Use Public Spaces	Provision of Affordable Housing	The Ownership	Economic	Ownership System	The Quality of Environment	Total points & achievement	
													N	%
Principle 1 (total achievement 5 points)			0	0				0	0	0	0	0	25	40
Principle 2 (total achievement 4 points)		0	0	0							0	0	14	28
Principle 3 (total achievement 5 points)			0	0	0						0	0	15	30
Principle 4 (total achievement 1 point)											0	0	0/1	0
Principle 5 (total achievement 3 points)				0	0		0				0	0	2/3	75
Principle 6 (total achievement 5 points)			0	0			0				0	0	4/5	80
Principle 7 (total achievement 4 points)		0	0	0			0						0/4	0
Principle 8 (total achievement 4 points)			0	0					0			0	4/4	100
Principle 9 (total achievement 5 points)		0	0	0		0	0				0	0	2/5	40
Principle 10 (total achievement 5 points)		0	0	0	0						0	0	2/5	40
Principle 11 (total achievement 7 points)		0	0	0	0					0	0	0	4/7	57
Principle 12 (total achievement 5 points)		0	0	0				0		0	0	0	0/5	0
Principle 13 (total achievement 5 points)		0	0	0	0		0				0	0	5/5	100
Principle 14 (total achievement 7 points)		0	0	0				0			0	0	0/7	0
<b>Total points</b>		0/6	0/9	0/9	0/12	0/11	0/11	0/12	0/10	0/10	0/10	0/10	2/5	33
<b>Percentage</b>		0	22	0	45	0	100	83	0	100	83	33		

Figure 14: This Address the Principle P versus the Behavioral Dimensions

From Fig. 15, the matrix finds out some notes vertically and horizontally. Vertically, the public participation has no effect to the principles of the New Urbanism. The social context, cultural background and the ownership achieve 0% of the number of relations

between them and the principles of the New Urbanism. This percent is detectable with a serious issue which is achieving the responsiveness. Bad responsiveness may affect negatively on achieving the New Urbanism principles. The freedom to act within the Public spaces, the ownership and the quality of treatment has a high ratio (100%) on the responsiveness quality. Horizontally, all principles, except principle 17, have a poor relationship with the behavioral dimension. Principle 17 has no feedback on this matter.

Fig. 16 indicates some regards vertically and horizontally. Vertically, there is no correlation of the New Urbanism principles with the issues of public participation, ownership, and freedom in the political practices. The low percentage of the total number of relationships between the issues of personalization, social context, cultural background, human needs, and quality of treatment inside the space achieve with the New Urbanism principles. In spite of, the percentage of the most of the issues include strong impacts on the site. Medium percentage (50 and 60%) of the total number of relationships between the issues of the freedom to act within the public spaces and enclosure with the New Urbanism principles. Horizontally, a poor percentage of the behavioral milieu with the principles 20, 21 and 22. In spite of, the percentage of most of the principles before being poor, the principles 22 and 23 have medium impacts on the site. High percentage (85%) of the total number of relationships between the principles 24 and 25 with the behavioral milieu. Previously, the above provides a future vision to the urban designer to increase the values of the site. It provides a significant importance for testing and developing the matrix. That refers to the importance of the strengthening of the correlation between the New Urbanism principles and the urban design dimensions.

		Behavioral Dimension																
		Personalization	Social Context	Cultural Background	Human Needs	Public Participation	Equally Between all users	Freedom to act within the Public Spaces	Freedom in the political practices	The ownership	Enclosure	Movement System			The Quality of Treatment			
Responsiveness	Principle 15 (total points of achievement 5 points)	•	•	•	•			×	×		•					3/5	60	
	Principle 16 (total points of achievement 4 points)	•	•	•	•			•	•							2/4	50	
	Principle 17 (total points of achievement 6 points)	•	•	•	•			•	•	1								
	Principle 18 (total points of achievement 9 points)	•	•	•	•			•	•					•			5/9	55
		2/4	0/4	0/4	2/4			1/1	1/3	2/3	0/1	1/1	1/1					
		50	0	0	50			100	33	66	0	100	100					

High Achievement    
  Medium Achievement    
  Poor Achievement    
  Conflicting Relationship  
 Mutual Relationship

Figure 15: This Addresses the Matrix "Responsiveness versus Behavioral Dimension"

From Fig. 17, the matrix finds out some notes vertically and horizontally. Vertically, there is no any correlation between the public participation and New Urbanism principles. The

issues of social context, cultural background, human needs, the freedom to act within the public spaces and ownership obtain the percentage between 80-100% of the total percentage of the relationships between the previous dimensions and New Urbanism principles.

		Behavioral Dimension													Total points of achievement		
		Per	Soc	Cul	Hum	Pol	Pub	Spe	Fre	Th	Own	Bro	Mov	Qual		%	
		Personalization	Social Context	Cultural Background	Human Needs	Public Participation	Equally Rawenall users	Freedom to set within the Public Spaces	Freedom in the political practices	The ownership	Brolosure	Movements System	The Quality of Treatment used				
Variety and Robustness	Principle 26 (total points of achievement are 6 points)	•	•	•			•	•			•				6/6	100	
	Principle 27 (total points of achievement are 6 points)	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•					6/6	100	
	Principle 28 (total points of achievement are 2 points)	•								•					0/2	0	
	Principle 29 (total points of achievement are 3 points)	•	•								•						
	Principle 30 (total points of achievement are 7 points)	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•		6/7	85	
		N° of points	4/5	4/4	3/3		2/2	3/3	1/2	3/3		0/1					
		Percentage	80	100	100		100	100	50	100		0					

Figure 16: This Addresses the Matrix “A versus Behavioral Dimension”  
 Figure 17: This Addresses the Matrix “V versus Behavioral Dimension”

Therefore, the principles 30 should take into account the political issues in Cairo. Horizontally, the percentage of the principles of variety and robustness in its relationships with the behavioral dimensions ranging between 80-100%. As well as, the principle 28 in its relationships with the issues human need and movement system has not taken any percentage.

### 5.0 Conclusion

This paper tried to find out the relationship between the principles of New Urbanism with one of the urban design dimensions. This was under a certain hypothesis. The hypothesis will be true if taken into account the following notes. First, the public participation can play a role in motivating the principles and dimensions, towards a real application. For examples, although the New Urbanism called for bicycle as a clean transportation, some communities are against the idea. Second, the principles of New Urbanism should respect the cultural context of the certain context. Third, the percentage of the mutual impact between the principles and the dimensions numerically needs to be done by a digital model.

Current work followed the inductive analytically and an empirically approaches. The first focused on the quantitative analysis whereas a case study analysis depends on the

results of the previous quantitative; by using the matrix that combines the principles of New Urbanism versus the human behavioral dimension. The second was the introducing the principles of New Urbanism in a comparative way with the urban design dimensions. The paper designed, for this purpose, a matrix which addressed as the principles of New Urbanism versus the behavioral dimension. In addition to, the matrix verified the validity of the principles of New Urbanism versus the dimensions of urban design in an Egyptian neighborhood unit, taking into account the of the urban design dimensions to accommodate the change in the human needs and rights.

The paper proposes future researches as improve the proposed integrated approach, evaluate a matrix that addressed the role of all urban design dimensions related to the New Urbanism principles, and provide expanded the matrix to cover all the Urbanism principles that exist within the urban design dimensions. In addition to, the PRAV may play a role in the constructive integration within neighborhood units inside the smaller Arab communities than Cairo.

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