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Role of an architect in urban development and liveable spaces

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Over the years, urban development and liveable spaces have continually developed. Architecture is considered as a representation of values for civilization in the society ranging from monumental structures, residential and commercial buildings. Architects play a vital role in the development agenda that ensure creation of more sustainable societies and communities. Architecture focuses on the design of individual buildings that ensure more liveable spaces. Architectures conduct vital roles such as creating new designs for construction projects, redevelopments that increase sustainability and planning guidelines, enhancing resilience and standards that uphold sustainability. The architect applies the concept pf design and offering solutions following established methods and programs that increase sustainability.

The architect facilitates a self-organizing systems that is aimed towards the creation of more resilient cities. The rationale integrates urban design and the theory of architecture in the conceptualization process of sustainable and liveable spaces (Eken & Resmiye, 2019). In the modern day there are robust Building Automation Systems (BAS) that facilitates the design and construction process. The architects have immense influence on urban development, city planning and their surroundings. Indeed, it serves as a frame work of success that indicates optimism for the future. Modern cities have a different layout that reflects spatial planning. In this light, urban development involves the design of public spaces, building design, transportation systems and other social amenities. A blend of architectural skills in urban planning is vital in making cities be functional and look attractive. As the evolutions of design occur, architects ensure that building are connected to the evolving styles in modern construction (Chen et al., 2019). The architect is responsible of planning and creation of the building layout during the development process. The function is geared towards the achievement of urban development objectives that advocate for spaces that are reinforced by

locally distinctive patterns. Ideally, the role of an architecture is vital in the facilitation of a self-organizing system in urban development.

Progressively, architect play a role in the creation of more liveable spaces in the modern day. Ideally it is the creation of a sustainable physical environment that forms a central part of culture because it contributes to how the society is perceived. Liveability contributes towards improved health, productivity and mood of the occupants (Alaily-Mattar & Alain, 2018). For instance, a mindful connection with nature is vital to make individuals feel relaxed, happy and engaged because it is therapeutically. Thus, the role of an architect can be considered as both art and science because they ought to understand the community, client needs and the environment in which the project will be put up. Architects make use of technological advances in their practice make the impeccable designs (Al-Kodmany, 2018).. Indeed, technology has drastically changed the architect profession and contributes towards creation of liveable spaces.

In the modern era, cities and buildings are under pressure of destructive processes. These processes include, earthquakes, storms, fires, floods or terrorist attacks. The events of extreme weather are increasing and have changed the practice of urban development and planning (Al-Kodmany, 2018). In this light, the architects are responsible for evaluating, designing and maintenance of resilient buildings. The component of resilience is vital because it means enhancing standards and promoting quality. Architects ought to ensure resilience on national, regional or global level through evaluating risks that might be related to natural disasters. Architectural design entails paying attention to details and dimensions that enhance stability and resilience of buildings. For instance, the materials used must be capable of recovering from sudden stress and outside forces. Architects regularly analyse concepts and trends that promote resilience of the structures (Majerowitz & Allweil, 2019). It is an indication of paradigm shift on the concept of building because architects are now focusing on the process

rather than just the product. Therefore, the concept of resilience must be upheld in the architectural practice because it covers the spatial social and environmental dimensions.

Livability and sustainability are popular in urban planning because they represent values and priorities which many people accept. Redevelopment is a role of the architecture that entails upgrading structures, amenities and facilities can greatly increase sustainability and livability. Urban redevelopment is usually done by or through the government and involves turning an area from a low-density to higher-density buildings and structures (Merlino, 2014). It is also accompanied by improvements in infrastructure such as mass transit and metro lines that can support the building upgrades. Redevelopment can make robust, complete and affordable neighborhoods with accessible and sustainable mobility and vibrant public spaces.

One way redevelopment increases sustainability and livability Is reclaiming the quality of the streets. The city should be an interesting, joyful and safe place to walk and live in. Reconstruction of buildings and public places helps people move freely and creates a good social space for them (Goldberg et al., 2012). Highway and roads reconstruction reduces the speed and congestion of traffic in residential streets and widens the sidewalks. Another way redevelopment increases sustainability and livability is by providing fast and frequent local and regional transit. A public transit is the fastest way to move around urban areas, and when roads are reconstructed in a way of aiding this connected, effective and robust means of transport, it leads to a livable and sustainable urban area. Redevelopment can make housing cheaper and more affordable (Hayati & Sayadi, 2012). We need to spend a lot of money on affordable housing. Reconstruction of brick houses to wooden houses would lead to affordable housing in turn solving housing shortage.

Noticeably, there is a close relationship between design and construction in the planning facilities. In general, design is a process of creating an illustration of a new facility by the use

of plans and instructions which are detailed (Seidel et al., 2020, p. 243). Construction planning is the process of detailing what is to be carried out and the resources that are needed to make the design a reality, which usually done by engineers and architects. In creating designs for new construction projects, many operations have to be carried out that supersede other tasks and relate with them (Pendlebury & Ian 2011). Therefore the architect plays a vital role in the design process or pre-construction process of a new construction project is very crucial and determines the success of the construction. The first step to undertake is to define the project goal. The designer meets with the team and key stakeholders in order to determine the goal of the construction project. The next step taken is to determine the outcomes, which are realized after the goals are broken down into smaller pieces which are manageable. Solutions to problems that would arise in construction are identified in this stage. The risks and constrains are then assessed in the next step, usually in terms of budget, time and resources. Preparing a visual representation is the next design step, which involves an architect creating a visual design of the facility to be constructed. The first design is the pre-design, then the schematic design, then the design development. Afterwards the construction is documented, then the constructor implements the plans.

In order to make a city livable, transportation, land use and living spaces must be improved. One way the architect ensures urban mobility that is fast and efficient (Al-Kodmany, 2018). Construction of roads and paths that reduce traffic and congestion of pedestrians improves mobility. According to Maulam & Rachelle (2018) current architectural practices tend to aim at moving vehicles quickly and improve the quality of land transportation systems.

Another way to make cities more livable is through affordable housing. Housing shortage can be solved through construction of affordable houses in city neighborhoods. The city's cultural diversity and livability depend on building of a pro-housing culture.

Additionally, infrastructure should be constructed in a way of facilitating social connections. Houses or buildings constructed close to each other allow this, as is seen in most urban areas (Al-Kodmany, 2018). Infrastructure designed to allow residents to walk freely to shops, do services easily and reduce congestion of people also allows social connections. Vibrant public spaces stimulate face-to-face interaction, encourage collective gatherings and also encourage public art admiration and public events. Another guideline is making sure infrastructure provides access to amenities like good sewage and rain drainage and clean water. This increases livability by promoting the health of the city residents and about 90% of all structural damage can be prevented by proper drainage (Merlino, 2014). Good drainage systems can turn basements into living spaces for sports, recreation and leisure because the walls are kept dry.

In conclusion, it is clear that there is a close relationship between design and construction in urban development. Architects ought to focus on creation of liveable spaces during the creation and design of construction projects. An architect is tasked with creation of a visual representation of the design to be used. Since urban development and creation of liveable spaces has continually improved over the years the architect plays a vital role in facilitation of a self-organizing system. Creation of more liveable spaces is reflected by increased resilience, standards and quality designs.

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