

Evaluating the Efficiency of Sustainable Neighbourhood Planning and Design Criteria in New Housing Projects

Hala Abdulkarem Abdulghani

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Architecture, College of Engineering, University of Basra, Iraq.

hala.abdulkarem@uobasrah.edu.iq

(Received 18/10/2023; accepted for publication 14/12/2023.)

Abstract: The residential neighborhood is considered the basis of the city's urban construction. Contemporary trends have focused on the possibilities of developing residential neighborhoods to achieve a high quality of life for their residents. On this basis, many international criteria for sustainable neighborhoods have emerged. Given that the local criteria of the Iraqi Housing Authority are still within the traditional criteria, the research resorted to filling the knowledge gap through a theoretical framework based on discussing the basic concepts of the residential neighborhood, modern trends, and academic studies for developing the residential neighborhood while studying international criteria and recent studies in the criteria of sustainable residential neighborhoods. The theoretical framework resulted in extracting the basic criteria for planning, designing and testing their applicability in the local reality, achieving the research goal of addressing and developing local criteria and their applicability. The research was directed at application to the local reality within the practical framework while following the descriptive and quantitative approach in analysing data for selected samples of new residential projects. To conclude the possibilities of achieving design and planning criteria in modern projects, the research reached the most important recommendations for developing and amending the local criteria of the Housing Authority to suit the requirements of the current population and achieve quality life.

Keywords: sustainable residential neighborhood, residential diversity, neighborhood planning, contemporary planning trends, urban planning, and design criteria.

1. Introduction

The residential area represents the foundation of city development, which determines people's quality of life and well-being, and is the basis for enhancing residents' requirements. The residential neighborhood also constitutes the main influence on residents' daily lives, coinciding with the contemporary trend in sustainable urban planning in housing and new concepts in residential planning and urban development. The research stems from the importance of planning new neighborhoods according to contemporary planning criteria for sustainable planning, which have been used globally and in the Arab world to create residential neighborhoods that meet social, economic,

environmental, and urban requirements. Therefore, the research will focus on building a knowledge base to derive criteria for sustainable planning in residential neighborhoods by defining the concept of the residential neighborhood and its most important aspects, reviewing neighborhood planning theories, and introducing the idea of developing residential neighborhoods by addressing that most of the critical intellectual trends in sustainable residential neighborhoods depend on studying previous literature. International, Arab, and local issues discussed the idea of sustainable residential neighborhoods, and the final criteria were tested by residents and specialists to determine the extent to which it is possible to approach or move away from sustainable planning Criteria, given that the