

Applied Research Article

Revitalizing an Urban Void Based on Participatory Planning with Tactical Urbanism Approach

(Case Study: Sobhani Square, Shiraz)

Mozhgan Ansari^{1*}, Hajar Asadpour², Mahshid Lotfi¹, Nazafarin Negahdari³, Majid Delfi⁴, Raziye Mozaffari⁵, Pooya Aminlari⁶, Fatemeh Shahvaran⁷, Azarmidokht Pouravaz⁸, Ali Ghahramani⁹, Alireza Gholami¹⁰, Moozhan Ansari¹¹, Sarah Ghamar¹², Farzad Farazian Shirazi¹³, Ailin Akbari Soltanie¹⁴, Mansour Samiei¹⁴, Shiva Hakimian¹⁵

1. M.Sc. in Urban Design, Department of Urban Design, School of Architecture and Environmental Design, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran, Iran.
2. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Art University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran.
3. M.Sc. in Regional Planning, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.
4. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, School of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.
5. B.Sc. in Urbanism, Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Arts and Architecture, Bojnord University, Bojnord of North Khorasan, Iran.
6. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Art, Architecture and Civil, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran, Iran.
7. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.
8. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Islamic Azad University of Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran.
9. M.Sc. in Urban Management, Urban Management Faculty of Art and Architecture, Apadana Institute of Higher Education, Shiraz, Iran.
10. M.Sc. Student in Urban Design, Department of Urban and Regional Design and Planning, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.
11. Master of Public Administration, Faculty of Humanities, Payame Noor University of Shiraz, Shiraz, Iran.
12. M.Sc. Student in Urban Design, Urban Planning Department, Faculty of Art, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.
13. Ph.D. Candidate in Urbanism, Department of Urban Planning, Islamic Azad University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran.
14. B.Sc. Student in Urbanism, School of Urban Planning, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.
15. M.Sc. in urbanism, School of Urban Planning, École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-La Villette, Paris, France.

Received: 08/06/2023

Accepted: 11/01/2024

Available online: 21/06/2024

Abstract | There are several spaces in cities that are never used, although citizens are allowed to be in them. It seems that these spaces are invisible and do not exist. The existence of these spaces can be caused by various factors, such as weakness in planning and design, or functional and physical limitations. By ignoring them, social and safety issues will arise over time and also they can turn into a weakness for the city. This is despite the fact that many of these spaces have the potential to turn into quality places. This article which is a type of field research, describes the experience of Hamsaakht Urban Activists Society-NGO in revitalizing an urban void adjacent to Sobhani Square in Shiraz, Iran to find how activists and non-governmental organizations can be effective in revitalizing urban voids, with the participation of users, and what challenges do they face in this way? And what effects will the revitalization of this urban void have on other similar spaces in the neighborhood? The current research methodology involves field research using the observation technique of sample members. Activists encourage residents to participate and develop a sensitivity towards the space, to improve their sense of belonging. The aim is to determine whether meaningful physical changes will occur in this place compared to other similar spaces in the Mabaas residential complex and what effects these changes will have on other spaces. The research results indicate that despite the success of tactical urbanism methods, users were hesitant to actively participate in costs and social capital was inadequate due to a lack of trust in city authorities and a generalization to other urban activists. Additionally, a weak sense of belonging was observed due to rental and instable accommodation. However, the project had a positive impact on the municipality and board members of the Mabaas residential complex, and steps have been taken to revitalize similar urban voids.

Keywords | Urban void, Participatory urbanism, Urban activism, Tactical urbanism, Non-governmental organizations.

**Corresponding author: mozhgan.a1992@gmail.com, +989365408372

Introduction | Hamsaakht Urban Activists Society is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with registration number 4645 that has a primary core of urbanists and architects who take steps towards making a better city. Hamsaakht NGO has started its voluntary activities with the goals of “enhancing civic awareness”, “criticism of inefficient development policies” and “facilitating between city actors” in Fars province, Iran since 2018. This independent NGO also tries to highlight urban issues from the perspective of citizens’ rights, take a step towards a paradigm shift, and modify the current wrong path of urban development in this country. Hamsaakht to improve the quality of life in cities for all stakeholders and assert the people’s right to the city has tried to modify and update urban laws, take advantage of the citizens’ participation potential in increasing the quality of public places and urban spaces through various methods and tools based on the empowerment of citizens in a participatory process, awareness of the urban affairs and learning followers of Hamsaakht activities. Hamsaakht always seeks to achieve the “the city we want” slogan.

Currently, the weakness of planning has led to the spread of urban voids and meaningless spaces on different scales over the city. Since these spaces are mostly not noticed by the neighbors and are far from sight, these have become a safe place for crime and eventually the occurrence of social abnormalities. In addition, the lack of citizens’ participation in the planning and designing process of spaces in the existing urban planning methods, causes the stakeholders to not feel a sense of belonging to their surroundings and consequently, no sensitivity towards urban voids and their revitalization. Therefore, it seems necessary to inform citizens about urban voids and encourage them to revive them. This report is an experience of revitalizing an urban void in Shiraz based on the literature of participatory urban planning and design with the tactical urbanism approach.

Revitalizing urban voids can be achieved through various methods, one of which is clarifying the problem and spatial rearrangement, commonly used in tactical urbanism. By making small and low-cost changes, attention can be drawn to urban voids, and further measures can be taken to revitalize them. A short-term shock to the space can lead to its revitalization. This project focuses on a case study located in the center of the Maba’s residential complex, which has several similar spaces in the area. The project aims to identify challenges and find out how activists and non-governmental organizations affect the revitalization of urban voids by involving residents, and what effect it has on similar spaces. The results of this project will draw attention to these spaces and change the way they are dealt with in the neighborhood. It is important to research how to revitalize this urban void as a model for revitalizing other

voids in the area. The purpose of this project is to bring attention to the potential and capabilities of urban voids and encourage popular institutions and city authorities to revitalize them. The project has been ongoing for three months and has been monitored and evaluated up until now. In the following section, the literature on urban voids, tactical urbanism, and participatory urbanism will be briefly reviewed, and the research methodology and project process will be discussed.

Literature Review

• Urban void

Urban voids refer to spaces that are neglected and have no clear function. These voids are typically located between residential and commercial areas, and there is no clear definition of them. Sometimes, these voids are created unintentionally due to the construction of multiple projects. It is important to manage urban voids and revive them by reusing them to improve the quality of life, especially in developing countries (Hashem et al., 2022, 2). Neglecting urban voids can cause them to remain undeveloped due to ownership issues, physical conditions, or a lack of consideration in the planning process. As a result, they easily become trapped in a vicious cycle of decline, hindering the development of the area and causing it to be further neglected (Hwang & Lee, 2020, 7). Urban voids, particularly in residential areas, have the potential to be recycled, empowered, densified, modified, and integrated with green technologies (Omar & Saeed, 2019, 585). However, if left unattended, these spaces can lead to economic, social, and environmental problems for the city, it is crucial to address and repurpose these spaces to prevent them from becoming a burden on the community (Kasarabada, 2020, 25).

• Tactical urbanism background

The Tactical Urbanism (TU) movement is credited to Mike Lydon, who led the Street Plan Collective. This movement gave rise to small-scale projects that made urban areas more livable for local people (Lydon et al., 2011). Gradually, examples of tactical urbanism allowed people to make changes to the urban environment without having to go through the traditional channels of the planning process. This was seen as a shift in power towards the people (Mould, 2014). The tactical urbanism movement has gained widespread attention in a short period of time. For example, a group of artists and activists named Ribar paid for a parking lot in the city center and transformed it into a green space with grass, plants, and benches for people to relax on (Merker, 2010). The equipment was then removed after a specified time. This idea gave birth to the world’s PARKING DAY, which is now celebrated in America and beyond. Other cities have also encouraged similar activities in their own communities. The

Philadelphia Department of Transportation and Public Services has developed a parklet plan to guide people on how to set up a parklet. Boston issued a call for parklet designs in 2012, and San Diego launched pilot projects in 2013 (MOTU, 2013).

The study of the origin of tactical urbanism formation is a new subject in the field of urbanism. However, the difference in perspectives and approaches towards this issue is noteworthy. It appears that in other countries, municipalities and relevant institutions prioritize the persuasion and encouragement of citizens and activists to participate in tactical urbanism initiatives.

• Tactical urbanism

The trend of transforming streets into livable and accessible spaces for people rather than cars is increasing. This is mostly achieved through inventions such as tactical urbanism, which involves reducing or preventing traffic and making temporary changes to the rules, form, and use of streets (Campisi et al., 2022, 78). “Tactical Urbanism” is a broad term that encompasses a wide variety of inventions in urbanism that occur on different scales and are adaptable to different qualities (Marshall et al., 2016). By introducing the tactical urbanism concept as a tool for creating temporary, short-term, and inexpensive changes in urban spaces, this interest increased in the scientific field and shifted from discussing the acceptability of this concept to examining the characteristics, mechanisms, and effectiveness of the use of tactical urbanism (Bustamante et al., 2022, 12). Tactical approaches create new values that are often far from being systematic and evaluating. They prioritize the conflict between the short-term nature of interventions and the need for radical, feasible, challenging, and stimulating measures. Tactical urbanism was born as an independent and bottom-up approach that encourages public and collective use to avoid typical administrative bureaucracy. This approach also protects local communities from the economic difficulties created by the global financial crisis and other critical institutional measures (Cariello et al., 2021, 2).

“Tactical Urbanism” refers to a variety of actions taken by citizens when public institutions fail to respond to their needs. This includes concentration on self-organized spatial and social initiatives that are not adequately addressed by the government or market. It also involves a political aspect whereby new forms of social action in public spaces are created (Lydon & Garcia 2015; Devlin, 2018).

• Participatory urban planning

Citizens can directly help authorities by discussing ideas, developing solutions, and presenting various options (Klamert & Münster, 2017, 5). The word “participatory” refers to a two-way relationship between people and authorities to change the approach from up-bottom to bottom-up. The main core of the participation concept is

based on empowering citizens and their greater influence on urban plans. Participation (in terms of times and costs) of residents in local events is considered a tool to preserve the unity and well-being of society (Nop & Thornton, 2020, 7). Encouraging people’s active participation in managing their neighborhoods can help decrease the lack of responsibility of local authorities and positively impact the implementation of plans. When citizens evaluate their local environment and contribute their ideas, measures can be taken to support their implementation. Research findings emphasize the positive results of such projects and highlight the importance of actively working towards citizen participation in planning processes (Reiersølmoen et al., 2017, 3).

The main characteristic of Participatory Urban Planning is that it originates from a bottom-up process. Tactical urbanism, on the other hand, can be seen as a response to the current bureaucratic and rigid spatial planning and urban design that is based on strict guidelines (Silva, 2016, 7). This approach involves informal Guerrilla urbanism, which operates without permission the landowners and outside the control of the government (Stevens & Dovey, 2022, 1). Profits of tactical urbanism consist of urban compaction, community participatory, innovation, resilience, and place identity.

-Urban Compaction: Temporary and tactical urbanism can lead to an increase in the number and diversity of users in open spaces. Tactical urbanism introduces new users and creates new forms of public life in existing public spaces and makes them more vibrant. Areas that are usually empty or abandoned have the potential to be adapted for exploratory, experimental, and alternative activities that may be excluded from official public spaces. Participatory urban planning that expands the range of public space functions can address more diverse demands from citizens and promote greater social equality (ibid., 35 & 36).

-Community Participation: Tactical urbanism can lead to high levels of community participation. Engagement is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of people’s roles in leading, facilitating, shaping, and experiencing tactical projects. Actors involved in tactical urbanism projects include community groups, active artists and designers, landowners, entrepreneurs, and various government sub-categories (Haydn & Temel, 2006; Lydon & Garcia 2015; SenStadt, 2007). Engagement in the practice of participatory urban planning involves the inclusion of a diverse group of people who may have little or no prior experience in urban open space development and management. This approach also creates opportunities for interaction among immigrants and marginalized members of society who may not have a clear place in their original community. The second characteristic of interaction is that these diverse actors bring new ideas, entrepreneurial skills, social networks, and resources to social engagement processes. The third distinctive feature of community engagement with tactical projects is that

it changes the relationship between production and consumption. At different levels, the projects encourage the ordinary citizens who visit them, to turn into “buyers” who actively participate in the production and management of the space, introduce it to other potential users, and take advantage of their performance while using the space (Toffler, 1980; Richards & Wilson, 2006).

-Innovation: Large-scale permanent urban design projects are time-consuming and expensive, meaning that innovation is both risky and very slow (Dotson, 2016). Participatory urbanism accelerates creativity and innovation in urban development by reducing risk and cost (Bishop & Williams, 2012) and time duration. It is generally low-cost and low-tech, operating on a small scale with simple construction methods and movable elements. Creative open space ideas can therefore be easily developed, tested, and revised both by designers and through co-design involving end users. This city becomes a laboratory for urban experiments. Design creativity is stimulated by focusing on underutilized, degraded, and problematic urban sites where there is less risk of damage (Angst et al., 2009).

-Resilience: The diversity of actors and places shows the potential of tactical urbanism to quickly and flexibly adapt spaces to unforeseen changes, opportunities, and local challenges. These factors increase urban resilience in the face of an uncertain future (Lydon & Garcia, 2015; Greco, 2012). Temporary plans do not require major investments in large, permanent projects that can cause inertia. Temporary and flexible forms allow for easy reconfiguration and redeployment as conditions change. Technologies and their indicators allow for proliferation and ready adaptation to new locations and changing social, economic, and environmental contexts. Flexible systems are distributed over networks rather than being completely hierarchical. Unlike the inflexible hierarchy of top-down planning and management, tactical urbanism involves a wider distribution of knowledge, social connections, and resources for urban place-making (Radywyl & Biggs, 2013).

-Place Identity: participatory urban planning has a transformative capacity to transform the image of public spaces and abandoned neighborhoods (Nemeth & Longhorst, 2014). The production of place identity through urbanism is generally emergent rather than imposed. It often means vibrant, resistance, and change that are introduced through social and political differences (Sandercock, 2003). Studies of place identity and urban character show that concepts of place range from a relatively closed, stable, and deep to a more open and dynamic sense of place, where a diverse mix is essential to its character (Dovey, 2013). Participatory Urban Planning shifts the balance towards

more open, multiple, and dynamic concepts of place. The temporary and ephemeral nature of participatory urban planning can pose a challenge to the preservation of place identity over time. Temporary projects have the potential to impugn, re-evaluate, and enrich local identity (Stevens & Dovey, 2022, 43).

Research methodology

The current research is a type of field research in which the data collection method is generally qualitative, but in some cases, it can be quantitative. For example, a quantitative questionnaire was used in the work process to choose an urban void between other options, prioritize issues, and choose the optimal plan. In this method, all interviews and observations were noted and analyzed in several steps. Although this method faces disadvantages such as being expensive and time-consuming—even in small samples such as the current project—the inability of the research to generalize the findings and also the difficulty of repeating it can serve as an overview (successful or unsuccessful experience) of future activities and studies in the context of revitalizing urban void. Field research is determined in terms of methods, which range from direct observation (no researcher intervention in the behavior and situation) to studying the sample fellows (the researcher intervenes in the behavior of the sample and controls their behavior). In this research, both of these methods were used. In the first step, through direct observation, the urban void and users of the space were known, and in the second step, by holding collaborative events and meetings, we tried to create a sense of belonging and social capital in the users. The purpose was to see the effects of space revitalization on other similar spaces in the Maba’s residential complex. It should be noted that the decisions taken in the project process track consensus between urban activists and space users. The project process is shown in Figure No. 1 and explained in detail in the next section.

Steps of the Project

• Selecting urban void

Each volunteer member of Hamshaakht presented the urban voids they knew in their neighborhood and a total of 28 spaces were identified along with their strengths and weaknesses. The initial evaluation of the options was done by considering the four criteria of “Possibility of Social Participation,” “Response to Social Issues,” “Functional Scale of the Space,” and “Physical-Spatial Potentials,” and five spaces were selected as priority options. After discussing opinions, the space adjacent to Sobhani Square was chosen as the final urban void for action. This space is located in the center of an unenclosed residential complex and is the consequence of the abandoned space between

two building blocks. The overall process of the project is shown in Fig. 1.

• **Recognizing the urban void**

Since Sobhani Square operates at both the city and local scales, potential participants have been divided into three groups: residents, businesses, and visitors. Fig. 2 shows various areas of the Maba'as residential complex. The orange color represents the gathering place for elderly people, while the red color indicates where children and young people hang out. The yellow color shows the location of small businesses, cafes, and the Amiriyeh commercial complex that operate on an urban scale. The blue color highlights the behavior settings of residents.

organizations, and Hamsaakht. The internal structure of each category was analyzed to optimize planning and performance.

Before conducting resident interviews, Hamsaakht volunteers made an effort to familiarize themselves with the environment by visiting the space at various times of the day. They created maps to identify different aspects of the space to use during the interviews and engaged in a brainstorming process to gain a comprehensive understanding of the environment. In this phase, the team recognized the components of security, environmental comfort, urban furniture, and behavioral patterns separately as illustrated in Fig. 4.

To engage local residents and users in discussions about their surroundings and the urban void, a poster

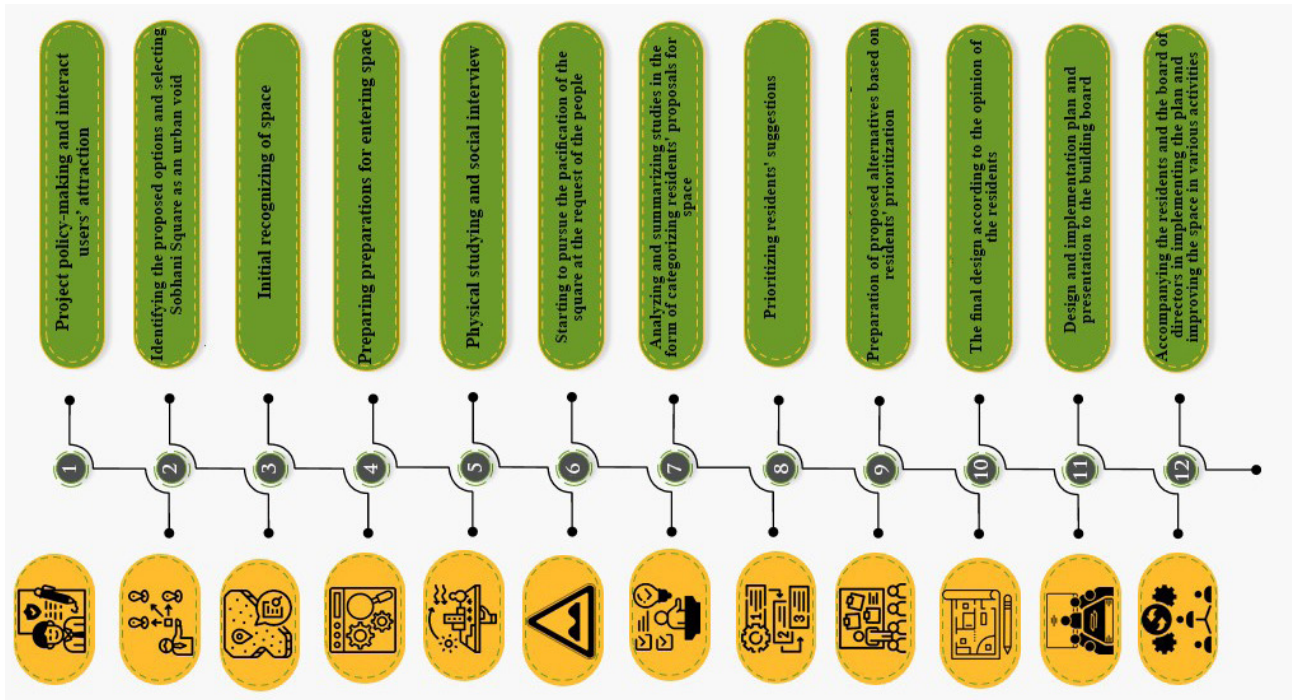


Fig. 1. Diagram of the project implementation process. Source: Authors.

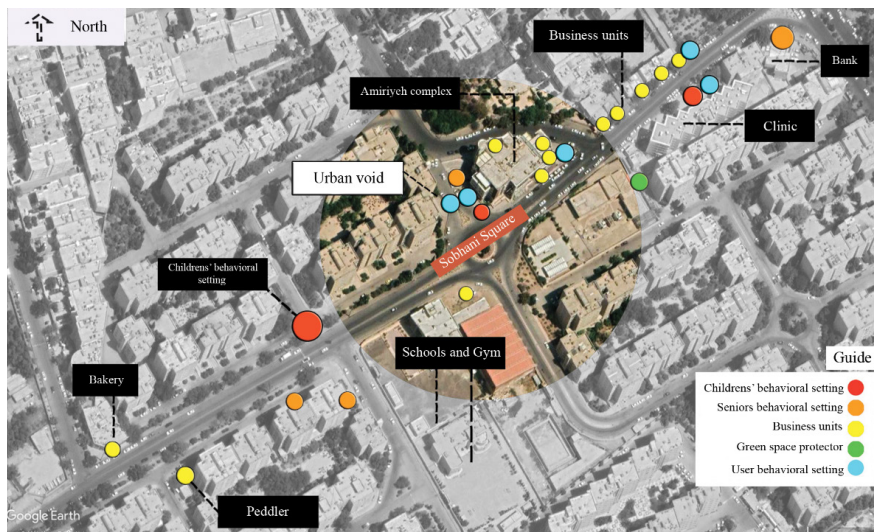


Fig. 2. Behavior settings of users in revitalizing urban void project. Source: Authors.

was created and displayed in various locations near the void (Fig. 5). In addition, Hamsaakht volunteers conducted interviews with 30 residents and users at different times of the day (Fig. 6). The results of these interviews showed that the residents were annoyed by the car demonstrations taking place in Sobhani Square and the loud noise that often accompanies these events, particularly late at night. The main issue with the void is the lack of lighting, which makes it an attractive spot for young people to use drugs and cigarettes.

In the primary steps of entering the urban void, volunteers realized that Sobhani Square had turned into a place for some youths to drift with their cars at late night. The opinions of Hamsaakht volunteers were diverse about this finding; some believed that it was an interesting matter, but others believed that it was much more dangerous. In consequence, car drivers were identified as one of the target groups along with the residents, businesses, frequent users, and children

who played football there every evening. The interviews and field observations show that the main challenge of residents and other users of the neighborhood is a car drifting at late night; so they had not seen any other space around the square.

Upon entering the urban void, the Hamsaakht volunteers discovered that Sobhani Square had become a spot for youths to drift with their cars late at night. The volunteers had mixed opinions about this finding; some found it interesting while others considered it to be a dangerous activity. Consequently, the volunteers identified car drivers as one of the target groups along with the residents, businesses, frequent users, and children who played football there every evening. Interviews and field observations revealed that the primary challenge faced by the residents and other users of the neighborhood was the car drifting that occurred late at night, as they had not seen any other space around the square.

During interviews with users of the space, problems were

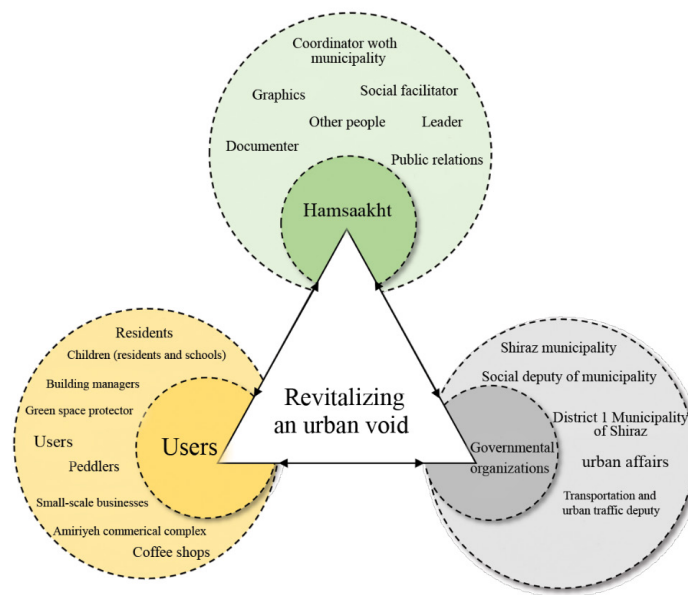


Fig. 3. Network of relationships in revitalizing urban void project. Source: Authors.

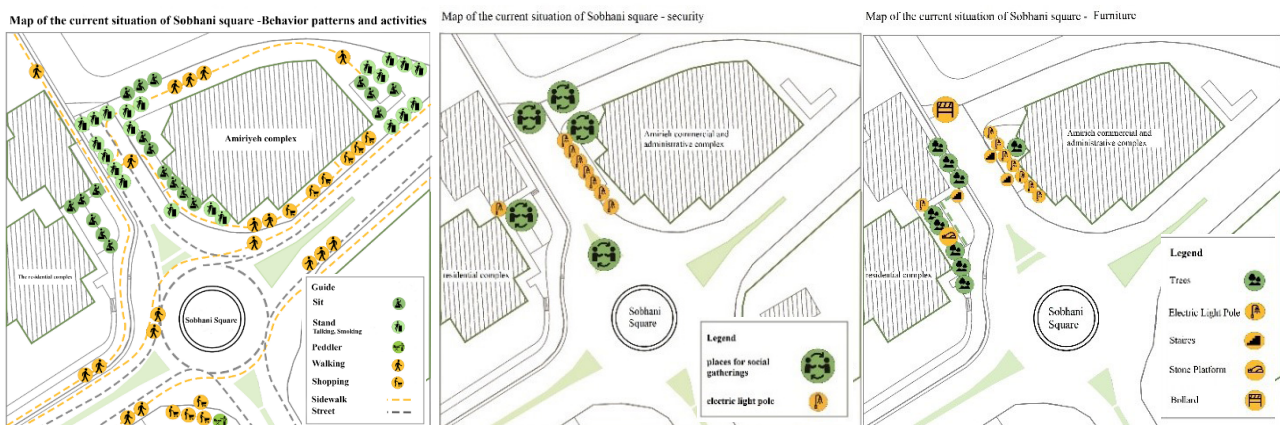


Fig. 4. Recognizing of Sobhani urban void. Source: Authors.



Fig. 5. The step of displaying posters to attract residents and users about their surroundings. Source: Authors.

identified and suggestions for improving the area were gathered, as shown in Fig. 7. The suggestions were classified into five categories: “enclosing the space,” “holding local events,” “creating a playground for children,” “adding green space,” and “creating a leisure area for residents.” A report of these suggestions and activities was created in the form of a video and shared with residents via social media. Residents were then asked to prioritize the suggested solutions for intervention, and the results of the survey are shown in Fig. 8. The top three suggested solutions were “creating a leisure area for residents,” “adding green space and a garden,” and “enclosing the space” (Fig. 9).

• Suggested alternative preparation according to residents’ prioritization

Considering the priority of the residents and based on the potentials and limitations obtained from the studies of other urban systems, the volunteers of Hamsaakht decided to present the proposed design based on all three priority fields. To ideate

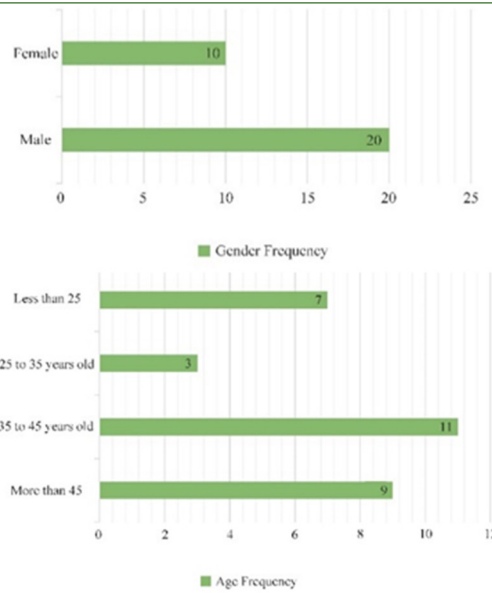


Fig. 6. Project participants’ gender and age frequency. Source: Authors.

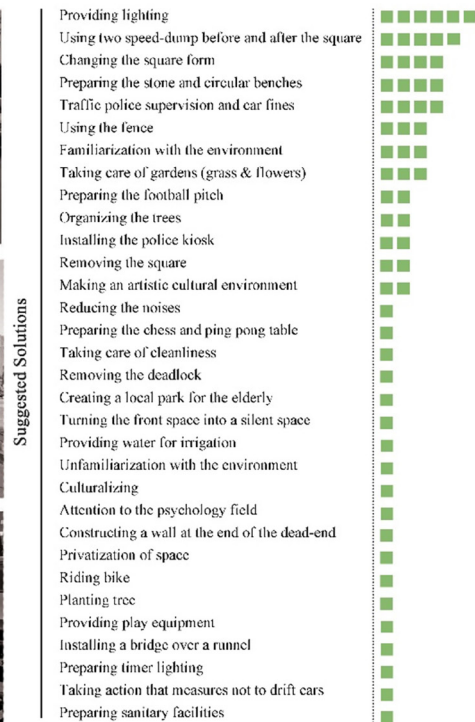


Fig. 7. Suggested solutions frequency by project participants. Source: Authors.

and design the space, a one-day workshop was prepared in the presence of the project members (Fig. 10). At the beginning of the workshop, the general design principles and criteria were reviewed by all members, and then they started designing the space two by two. In the next step, each of the groups presented their design, and finally, the last design was prepared by examining the strengths and weaknesses of each design, which is shown in Fig. 11.

• Presenting the plan to residents

The initial Hamsaakht plan for the urban void in Sobhani Square, derived from residents' recommendations,

was presented to the residential complex's board and a group of residents at the project site. The proposed plan was developed based on the characteristics of tactical urbanism to meet affordability and feasibility. By doing so, it was possible to modify it as a result of short-term feedback. According to the proposed plan, an attempt was made to enclose the space effectively, provide access for residents of the two adjacent blocks, improve the lighting of the space, and ensure that lighting does not lead to the creation of an urban defenseless space.

At the meeting, which included over ten residents out



Fig. 8. Participants' demographic characteristics. Source: Authors.

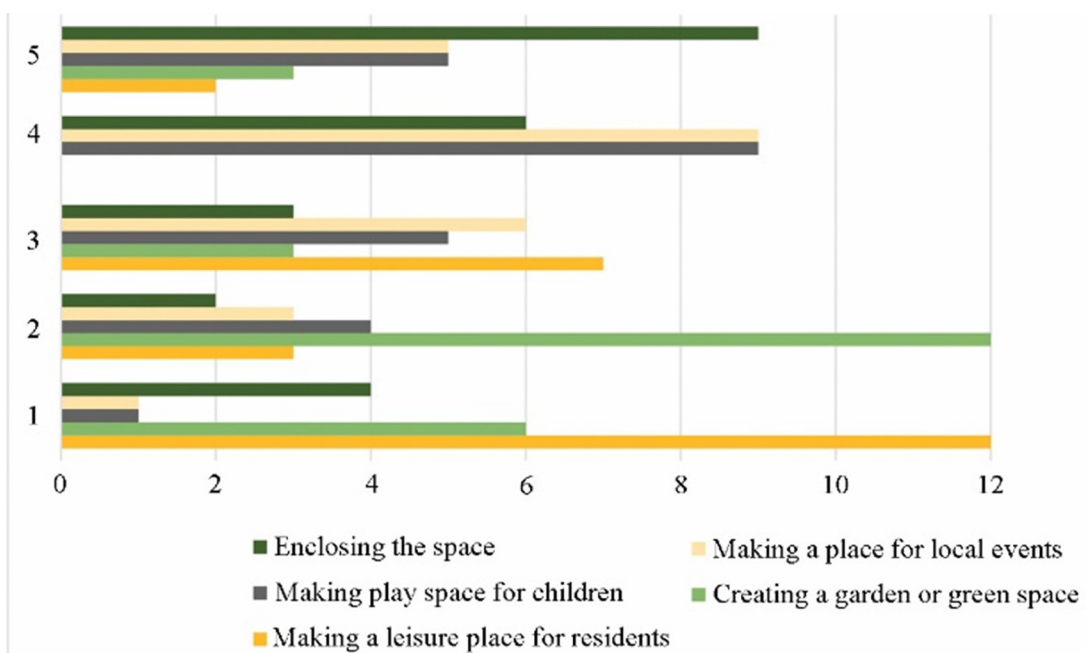


Fig. 9. Suggested solutions prioritization and their frequency by participants. Source: Authors.

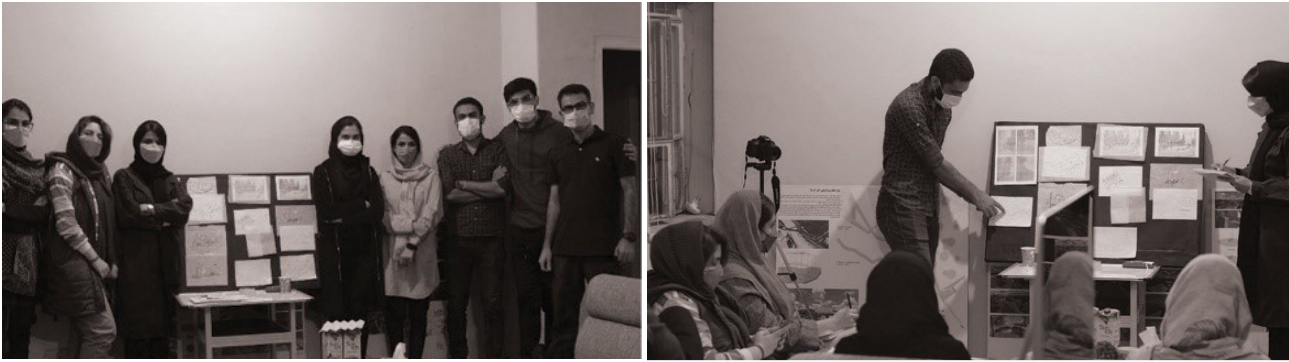


Fig. 10. Idea generation workshop to refine the suggestions of the participants. Source: Authors.

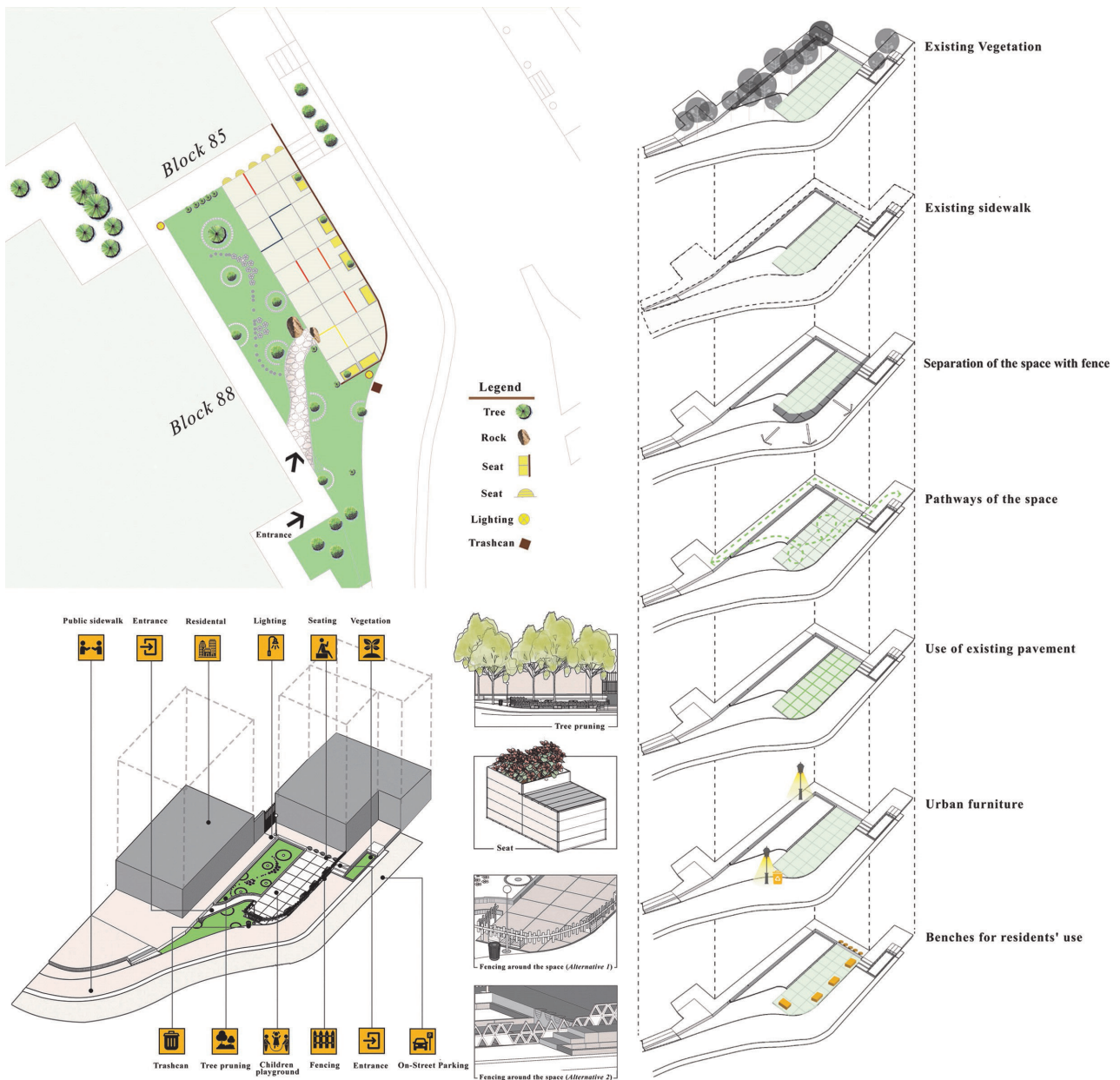


Fig. 11. Proposed Plan Based on Participants' Recommendations. Source: Authors.

of adjacent blocks, residents discussed space issues and problems first. Following that, Hamsaakht representatives introduced themselves and discussed the urban void project, its objectives, and the process from cognition

to designing the initial plan. They shared pictures and animations of the initial plan prepared in two alternatives (Fig. 12). After that, residents and board members expressed their opinions and ideas regarding the plan.

Meanwhile, Hamsaakht representatives took notes on the conversations and answered their questions, which were recorded on a board (Fig. 13). Ultimately, after reviewing these notes and adding others, residents voted to agree/disagree with the alternatives to reach a unanimous decision. At the end of the meeting, residents stayed at the site for several more hours, having intimate conversations with Hamsaakht representatives regarding

the space, Sobhani Square, suitable materials, and past experiences with similar spaces and projects. Following a minor revision of the plan in response to residents' feedback, an initial cost estimate for its implementation was prepared and presented to the residential complex's board. As a result of the 'boards' agreement to fund the project implementation and determine the range of costs they can provide ,



Fig. 12. Perspective images of the two proposed plans. Source: Authors.



Fig. 13. Presenting proposed plans to residents and obtaining feedback. Source: Authors.

Hamsaakht volunteers obtained a prepayment invoice to purchase the necessary materials, which were handed over to them. However, it was expected that the financial budget for the project would be provided by the volunteer members of Hamsaakht. Even though the project was under the framework of tactical urbanism and had minimal costs, it indicated a lack of realized social capital to bring about change in the space. One of the most significant reasons for this could be the individual impact on collaborative decisions. Therefore, the prepared plan was presented to them, and Hamsaakht expressed willingness to collaborate on its implementation. Throughout this project, Hamsaakht merely assisted residents in modifying the space according to their wishes, not to decide on their behalf.

Conclusion

One of the main challenges that non-governmental organizations and urban activists face, as is visible in this project, is the difficulty in forming and gaining the trust of space users and urban management. The interviews show that building trust in urban NGOs, activists, and volunteers working in the field of current urban management has exacerbated the pessimism among residents. It is a challenging task, and a proper understanding in this regard requires a significant amount of time and energy. Furthermore, such actions are often perceived as driven by individual profit-seeking motives, underscoring the importance of prior knowledge about them.

Another challenge related to the effectiveness of urban activists in revitalizing urban voids is the time-consuming and slow nature of such efforts. At the time of writing this article, two years have passed since the establishment of Hamsaakht Urban Activists Society. The activities and initiatives in the urban voids of the Maba'as residential complex are still being monitored,

and follow-ups are conducted by this group. While the users of these spaces did not implement effective physical measures, and the municipality only took minimal actions beyond the proposed plan - which was adjusted considering user priorities - it was able to influence the mindset of the residential complex's board of directors and the municipality to some extent. Establishing activities in urban voids can yield similar positive effects.

Another challenge is the ability to build consensus among space users, which should minimize individual influence in collective participatory decisions as much as possible. For instance, the managers of adjacent buildings, with their individual decisions, temporarily suspended the project implementation and postponed it to the future. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the principles of consensus and participatory processes in the implementation of such projects.

Moving on to the achievements of the revitalizing the urban void project can be categorized into three sections:

a) This project successfully captured the audience's attention and transformed the space from an invisible area into a recognized place with all its potential and associated risks, which can lead to its revitalization and improvement of the surrounding environment.

b) Numerous similar urban voids of varying scales exist within the residential complex, and this project brought about a change in how neighbors and the complex's board deal with such spaces. Instead of enclosing these spaces with fences, they recognized the possibility of revitalizing and using them optimally.

c) The achievement of the project for Hamsaakht volunteers was to learn how to practically study spaces, engage with people to address daily challenges related to space, and set aside their preconceived notions while finding solutions to revive urban voids".

References list

- Angst, M., Klaus, P., Michaelis, T., Müller, R. & Wolff, R. (2009). *Zone*imaginaire: Zwischennutzungen in Industriearealen*. Vdf Hochschulverlag.
- Bishop, P. & Williams, L. (2012). *The temporary city*. Routledge.
- Bustamante, Z., Federo, R. & Fernandez-i-Marín, X. (2022). Riding the wave: Predicting the Use of the Bike-Sharing system in Barcelona before During COVID-19. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 83 (10392). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2022.103929>
- Campisi, T., Caselli, B., Rossetti, S. & Torrissi, V. (2022). The Evolution of Sustainable Mobility and Urban Space Planning: Exploring the factors contributing to the Regeneration of Car Parking in Living Spaces. *Transportation Research Procedia*, 60, 76-83. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2021.12.011>
- Cariello, A., Feroelli, R. & Rotondo, F. (2021). Tactical Urbanism in Italy: From Grassroots to Institutional Tool- Assessing Value of Public Space Experiments. *Sustainability*, 13, 11482. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132011482>
- Devlin, R. (2018). Asking 'third world questions' of first world informality: Using Southern theory to parse needs from desires in an analysis of informal urbanism of the global North. *Planning Theory*, 17 (4), 568-87. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095217737347>
- Dotson, T. (2016). Trial-and-error urbanism: Addressing obduracy, uncertainty and complexity in urban planning and design. *Journal of Urbanism*, 9 (2), 65-148. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17549175.2015.1029511>
- Dovey, K. (2013). *Planning and place identity*, in G. Young, et al. *The Ashgate research companion to planning and culture*. Ashgate.
- Greco, J. (2012). From pop-up to permanent. *Planning*, 78 (9), 15-16.
- Hashem, O. M., Wahba, S. M. E. & Nasr-Eldin, T. I. (2022). Urban Voids: Identifying and Optimizing Urban Voids Potential as A Revitalization Source in Enhancing Developing Countries' City Income. *J. Eng. Appl.*

Sci. 69, 6. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s44147-021-00053-5>

- Haydn, F. & Temel, R. (2006). *Temporary urban spaces: Concepts for the use of city spaces*. Birkhäuser.
- Hwang, S. & Lee, S. (2020). Unused, Underused, and Misused: An Examination of Theories on Urban Void Spaces. *Urban Research & Practice*, 13 (5), 540-556. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17535069.2019.1634140>
- Kasarabada, D. (2020). *Urban Leftovers - Identifying and Harnessing their potential for the Agenda 2030 in Malmö (Dissertation, Malmö universitet/Kultur och samhälle)*. Retrieved from <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:mau:diva-23876>
- Klamert, K. & Münster, S. (2017). Child's play-A literature-based survey on gamified tools and methods for fostering public participation in urban planning. In *Electronic Participation: 9th IFIP WG 8.5 International Conference, ePart 2017, St. Petersburg, Russia, September 4-7, 2017, Proceedings 9*. Springer International Publishing
- Lydon, M. & Garcia, A. (2015). *Tactical urbanism: Short-term action for long-term change*. Island Press.
- Lydon, M., Bartman, D., Woudstra, R. & Khawazad, A. (2011). *Tactical urbanism vol. 1: short term action // long term change*. [Online]. Retrieved on 3 October 2013 from: http://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs/tactical_urbanism_vol.1.
- Marshall, W., Duvall, A. & Main, D. (2016). Large-scale tactical urbanism: The Denver bike share system. *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, 9 (2), 135-147. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17549175.2015.1029510>
- Merker, B. (2010). Taking place: rebar's absurd tactics in generous urbanism. In Hou, J. (ed.), *Insurgent public space: guerrilla urbanism and the remaking of the contemporary city*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203093009>
- MOTU. (2013). Philadelphia parklet program guidelines. [Online]. Retrieved on 9 October 2013 from: <http://phillymotu.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/parklet-guidelines-2013.pdf>.
- Mould, O. (2014). Tactical urbanism: The new vernacular of the creative city. *Geography compass*, 8 (8), 529-539. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12146>
- Nemeth, J. & Longhorst, J. (2014). Rethinking urban transformation: Temporary uses for vacant land. *Cities*, 40, 50-143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2013.04.007>
- Nop, S. & Thornton, A. (2020). Community participation in contemporary urban planning in Cambodia: the examples of Khmuonh and Kouk Roka neighbourhoods in Phnom Penh. *Cities*, 103, 102770. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2020.102770>
- Omar, N. & Saeed, E. (2019). Urban Voids as Potential Resources for the City Development. *JES. Journal of Engineering Sciences*, 47 (5), 585-600. <https://dx.doi.org/10.21608/jesaun.2019.109853>
- Radywyl, N. & Biggs, C. (2013). Reclaiming the commons for urban transformation. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 50, 70-159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2012.12.020>
- Reiersølmoen, M., Gianni, F. & Divitini, M. (2018). DELTA: Promoting young people participation in urban planning. In *Citizen, Territory and Technologies: Smart Learning Contexts and Practices: Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Smart Learning Ecosystems and Regional Development-University of Aveiro, Portugal, 22-23, June 2017 2*. Springer International Publishing.
- Richards, G. & Wilson, J. (2006). Developing creativity in tourist experiences: A solution to the serial reproduction of culture? *Tourism Management*, 27, 23-1209. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2005.06.002>
- Sandercock, L. (2003). Planning in the ethno-culturally diverse city: A comment. *Planning theory & practice*, 4(3), 319-323. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1464935032000118661>
- SenStadt (Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung Berlin). (2007). *Urban pioneers: Temporary use and urban development in Berlin*. Jovis.
- Silva, P. (2016). Tactical urbanism: Towards an evolutionary cities' approach? *Environment and Planning B: Planning and design*, 43 (6), 1040-1051. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265813516657340>
- Stevens, Q. & Dovey, K. (2022). *Temporary and Tactical Urbanism: (Re) assembling Urban Space*. Taylor & Francis. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003284390>
- Toffler, A. (1980). *The third wave*. Bantam Books.

COPYRIGHTS

Copyright for this article is retained by the authors with publication rights granted to Manzar journal. This is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Ansari, M., Asadpour, H., Lotfi, M., Negahdari, N., Delfi, M., Mozaffari, R., Aminlari, P., Shahvaran, F., Pouravaz, A., Ghahramani, A., Gholami, A., Ansari, M., Ghamar, S., Farazian Shirazi, F., Akbari Soltanie, A., Samiei, M. & Hakimian, S. (2024). Revitalizing an Urban Void Based on Participatory Planning with Tactical Urbanism Approach (Case Study: Sobhani Square, Shiraz). *MANZAR, the Scientific Journal of Landscape*, 16(67), 14-25.

DOI: [10.22034/MANZAR.2024.400258.2247](https://doi.org/10.22034/MANZAR.2024.400258.2247)

URL: https://www.manzar-sj.com/article_190472.html?lang=en

