

The Transferability of Sustainable Design Concepts

The Case of Passages and Courtyards

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The transferability of sustainable design concepts within eco-cities features certain contestation, considering the variety of conditions and circumstances over different times and places. This situates such concepts in the middle of a tension between their effect as a global wave and their responsiveness to the local context demonstrating a variety of engagements and conflicts, possibilities and constraints that lead to different opportunities and challenges. Considering the Eco-city of Masdar as the case study of my research, focus will be provided on the spaces between buildings as one of its design concepts. Such spaces were intended to comprise narrow passages and courtyards as inspired by traditional treatments and supported by analytical tools such as generic and detailed models and simulations. The intention was to create a more cool and pleasant outdoor space for social interaction, pedestrian activity, and convenient movement, while creating shaded areas between buildings that allow light and breeze through and block heat. The presentation will aim at applying a closer look on such design concept to uncover different interpretations and reactions demonstrated by the involved human and non-human actors that affect and become affected by it.