

Review Report ISVSej_12.01.08_Ihsan
Compiled from Reviews of Two Anonymous Reviewers

Please use this number to identify the revision.

Title of paper: Multi-Functionality as a Tool to Cater to the Social and Cultural Needs of “Ziyarte Al-Arba’een” Visitors to the Holy Karbala Center, Iraq

General

This paper examines an issue related to cultural aspects of a significant historical place. Although the paper is well written, it has some issues that need to be resolved. It has a good potential to be developed as an insightful and valuable research paper.

Language: Language is generally good. Nevertheless, please pay attention to grammar and to appropriate use of definite and indefinite articles. Write short and meaningful sentences. Separate the paragraphs when the ideas change and construct an argument supported with evidence. Take extreme care about the punctuation marks, which are not appropriately done. Ensure that the paper constructs a good line of argument. This is essential.

Formatting: There are some formatting issues. Sub titles are sometimes 12 points and some times not. They must always be. General text must be in Times New Roman 11 points. Fig titles must be 10 points. Leave no spaces between the paragraphs, except when the section ends and a new sub title emerges. There should be a space between a figure and the text above it too. Please use the ISVS e-journal template to the last dot.

Abstract

The abstract is reasonably well written. However, contents have some issues. First paragraph must introduce the issue and say what is investigated. Second paragraph must explain briefly the research methods employed, followed by the data gathering techniques. This research employs descriptive analysis of selected spaces within Karbala, examining specific variables such as size, location, and function. It evaluates the spaces identified there based upon a set of indicators derived from the review of literature. The third paragraph must say what the conclusions are. This abstract introduces the issue and says that it explores the application of the concept of multifunctional space to enhance the infrastructure, particularly in managing crowds and providing for their physical, social and cultural needs at the Ziyarte Al-Arba’een” event in Karbala Research methods require more details. Conclusion are written well.

Paper

- 1. The introduction:** Introduction is written reasonably well. It constructs the argument logically by introducing the sacred city of Karbala and the Ziyarte Al-Arba’een” event which faces a significant challenge in accommodating the immense influx of pilgrims to Imam Hussein's shrine. After introducing the issue, it says that it investigates the application of multifunctional urban space concepts in addressing these challenges. However, it has no aims and objectives. It should conclude the introduction with a statement about the aims and objectives. Please say what the aim is and afterwards produce a list of the objectives starting with ‘To’. There must be at least one aim and two or three objectives. Aim must be properly defined. Term such as ‘examine’, and ‘explore’ are aims and not objectives. Please note that aims are noble, unmeasurable, long term, almost impossible-to-fully-achieve expectations while objectives are practical, measurable, short term, achievable intentions.
- 2. Theoretical Framework:** Theoretical framework is well done. It introduces ideas such as ‘urban space and multifunctionality’, ‘activity and time’, and ‘multifunctionality as an urban spatial concept’; the concepts this paper deals with. Often, it uses the authors voices. Preferably, use the theoreticians’ voices.
- 3. Review of Literature:** There is a very good review of literature. What is good about it also is that it produces the indicators of multifunctional urban spaces, based on previous research, which can be used in both the research methods and the findings. Please provide more citations to the discussion.

4. **Research Methodology:** Currently, there is a reasonably well written research methodology. However, it is brief. It is understood that the research employs multiple data from observations as a data gathering technique: 'observations and data collection about urban space usage, visitor movements, and service availability'. These are appropriate techniques. However, please explain these activities in detail. These details must enable another person to repeat the research to see if they will get the same results. That is the test of science.
5. **Case Study:** The case study is introduced well. However, it should end before the comments about the actual research activities are presented under the sub title Visitors' Needs .
6. **Findings:** Findings are well presented, applying the indicators to evaluate. Introduce the sub title 'Findings' after the introduction to the case study, before the sub title 'Visitors needs'. However, currently, few sources are cited, although observations were mentioned as a research method. It is suggested that the analysis articulates how to deal with the crowds and how it happens now. Multi-functionality is one strategy.
7. **Discussion and the Conclusions:** Discussion is well done. It summarizes the findings and then points out the most appropriate functions for each space based on the analysis presented in the previous results. Recommendations are written well. It produces a good set of recommendations to address the challenges posed by the "Ziyarte Al-Arba'een" event in Karbala's city center and to maximize the potential of multifunctional urban spaces.
8. **References:** References are generally well done. However, some issues exist. Do not italicize the Vol. No. of a journal. Page numbers must not have pp. There should be no comma before '&' when listing names of authors. Books must have place of publication followed by a colon and the publisher; not a comma. Follow the template to the last dot in producing the list of references.

Final Decision: Major Revisions

Summary of the overall observations of the paper:

This is a very valuable paper making a significant contribution to knowledge about the challenges of catering to social and cultural needs of "Ziyarte Al-Arba'een" visitors to the holy Karbala Center, Iraq. It ascertains if multi-functionality of spaces can be used as a tool to face the challenges. The paper is reasonably well written. However, it needs revisions to bring the argument to be cohesive. Please revise the abstract to make the research methodology clearer. Theoretical framework is well done, although it is preferable to use the theoreticians' voices. Literature review is well done. Explain how the research-methodology more clearly spelling out the details of activities in employing observations. Findings need to have more citations to the sources of information. Discussion, conclusion and the recommendations are well done. Re-examine the references for completion and to be compatible with the ISVS e-journal template.