Abstract

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Ground-floor façade design and staying activity patterns on the sidewalk: A case study in the Korba area of Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

This study investigates the relationship between building ground-floor façade design and activity patterns on the sidewalk. A case study was conducted in two intersecting streets of the Korba area in Heliopolis, Cairo. Data collection methods included documentation of ground-floor façade characteristics, observations, and behavioral mapping of sidewalk activities. The study confirmed that ground-floor façade characteristics play an important role in promoting staying activities on the sidewalk. The study also identified a set of specific characteristics associated with increased staying activities on the sidewalk: (1) diversity of building ground-floor uses including in particular food outlets and cafés, (2) physical and visual permeability of ground-floor frontages, (3) the spillover of indoor activities and the territorial appropriations of areas of the sidewalk, (4) high levels of rhythm and complexity in ground-floor façades, (5) appropriate sidewalk width, and (6) the presence of seating opportunities. In its conclusion, the article discusses implications for future research.