Faculty of Engineering
Department of Architecture

Social Sustainability and School Design in Egypt

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By

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STATEMENT

This thesis is submitted to Ain Shams University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture for the degree of M.Sc. in Architecture.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the researcher at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.

No part of this thesis has been submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other university or institute.

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ABSTRACT

A socially sustainable community is one where the needs of its members are satisfied in the present and for generations to come. Social sustainability concerns individuals, communities and whole societies which do not exist in a vacuum but within built environments. Architecture, as a human activity and a setting for human activities, can provide valuable contributions to the social sustainability of a community. This is especially true in the case of building schools, which already play a vital role in the social sustainability of communities.

This study aimed at developing a framework of criteria to facilitate and maximize the role of school architecture in pursuing social sustainability within schools and their communities. The study methodology depended on reviewing the literature for the concept of social sustainability, compiling a list of social sustainability themes that can be incorporated in the built environment, investigating examples of how they can be practically incorporated and finally developing the framework of criteria. The framework was used to evaluate the different models of public primary schools in Egypt. The study concluded that the developed framework of criteria assisted in maximizing the role of schools in pursuing social sustainability in their communities. This was done by providing a holistic view of the themes of social sustainability in which architecture can contribute, providing strategies in each theme to be decoded into practical tactics, and keeping the interest of all affected stakeholders in view.

Keywords: Social Sustainability; Built Environment; Architecture; Urban Planning; Human Needs; Societal Needs; Primary Schools; Egypt

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT **iii**
BOARD OF EXAMINERS **v**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS **vii**
ABSTRACT **ix**
TABLE OF CONTENTS **xi**
LIST OF TABLES **xv**
LIST OF FIGURES **xvii**
LIST OF ACRONYMS **xxi**
INTRODUCTION **xxiii**
OVERVIEW xxv
RESEARCH PROBLEM xxvi
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES xxvi
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY xxvii
RESEARCH STRUCTURE xxvii
PREVIOUS THESES xxx
1 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 1
1.1 Introduction 3
1.2 Social Sustainability and Fundamental Human Needs 4
1.3 Social Sustainability Themes 6
1.4 Social Themes and the Built Environment 9
1.5 Conclusion 20
2 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS 23
2.1 Introduction 25
2.2 Primary schools: scope of study 25
2.2 Social Sustainability themes in Architectural Design and School Guidelines 27
2.2.1 Creation 27
2.2.2 Democracy and Participation 30

2.2.3 Education and Skills 32
2.2.4 Equity 36
2.2.5 Identity and Pride 38
2.2.6 Leisure 39
2.2.7 Social Capital 41
2.2.8 Wellbeing 42
2.2.9 Work and Income 46
2.3 Social Sustainability Themes in Selected Primary Schools 47
2.3.1 Protestant Comprehensive School, Gelsenkirchen, Germany 47
2.3.1.1 Context 48
2.3.1.2 Design 49
2.3.1.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 49
2.3.2 Primary School, Gando, Burkina Faso 53
2.3.2.1 Context 53
2.3.2.2 Design 54
2.3.2.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 56
2.3.3 Hiidenkivi Comprehensive School, Helsinki, Finland 58
2.3.3.1 Context 58
2.3.3.2 Design 59
2.3.3.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 62
2.3.4 Te Matauranga School, Clendon Park, Auckland, New Zealand 64
2.3.4.1 Context 64
2.3.4.2 Design 65

2.3.4.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 66
2.3.5 Greensburg K-12 School, Kiowa, USA 67
2.3.5.1 Context 67
2.3.5.2 Design 68
2.3.5.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 69
2.3.6 Abbot-Downing Elementary School, NH, USA 70
2.3.6.1 Context 70
2.3.6.2 Design 71
2.3.6.3 Discussion of Social Sustainability Themes in the School 74
2.3.7 Buckingham County Primary and Elementary Schools 75
2.3.7.1 Context 75
2.3.7.2 Design 76
2.3.7.3 Investigating Social Sustainability Themes in the School 79
2.4 Framework for Incorporating SS Themes in Building Primary Schools 85
2.5 Conclusion 86
3 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN EGYPT 95
3.1 Introduction 97
3.2 Socioeconomic and Demographic Context 97
3.3 Situational Analysis of Public Primary Education in Egypt 98
3.3.1 Quantitative Aspects: Access 99
3.3.2 Qualitative Aspects: Quality and Management 101
3.4 Public Primary Schools Models 104

3.4.1. Arabic Schools 104
A. Nationally Funded Arabic Schools 105
B. German Funded Arabic Schools 119
3.4.2. Experimental Schools 136
3.4.3. Community-Type Schools 142
3.5 Conclusion 158
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 161
CONCLUSIONS 163
RECOMMENDATIONS 165
FUTURE RESEARCH 166
APPENDICES 167
APPENDIX A: ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THEMES IN REGARD TO THE FHNS 169
APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THEMES 173
REFERENCES 177

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter One

Table 1.1 Rationale for Merging of Themes. 17

Chapter Two

Table 2.1. A Comparison between the Reviewed Schools in Terms of Addressed SS Themes, Stakeholder Groups and Project Phases. 84

Table 2.2. Framework of Incorporating SS Themes in the Planning and Design Phase 87

Chapter Three

Table 3.1. Evaluation of Arabic Nationally Funded Schools against SS Framework 116

Table 3.2. Evaluation of German Funded Schools against SS Framework 133

Table 3.3. Evaluation of Experimental Schools against SS Framework 139

Table 3.4. Evaluation of Community-type Schools against SS Framework. 155

Appendices

Table A. Analysis of Social Sustainability Themes in Regard to the FHNs. 169

Table B. Definitions of Social Sustainability Themes. 173