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Public Engagement and Green Walls in Urban Environments

Zunaira Naeem[1], Muhammad Waheed[2*]
[1]University of Agriculture Faisalabad
[2]Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering Science and Technology, Nawabshah
Corresponding Author: Muhammad Waheed waheedkumboh94@gmail.com

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A B S T R A C T

This research investigates the health and well-being implications of integrating indoor vertical gardens within the context of green buildings. With a growing emphasis on sustainable architecture, incorporating living green elements into indoor spaces has become a prominent trend. This study employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining aspects of environmental psychology, indoor air quality analysis, and occupant health assessments. A green wall is an option for sustainable urban development as there is no vacant space in the urban mix. The study explores the innovative concept of green walls within the realms of ecology, horticulture, and architecture. Focusing on urban design, the research aims to recognize green walls as a distinctive element contributing to urban renewal. The primary objective is to highlight the advantages of incorporating green walls in enhancing the city's aesthetic appeal, particularly in large urban settings. The study aims to present the various ways that green walls are used in urban design while offering workable solutions through examples of actual buildings

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INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization's comprehensive definition of health, encompassing physical, mental, and social well-being, the influence of urban green spaces and nature-based solutions on human health is increasingly evident. Numerous studies affirm the multifaceted benefits derived from these environments. Firstly, urban green spaces act as a natural filtration system, purifying the air by absorbing pollutants and retaining harmful particles, contributing significantly to mitigating the adverse effects of pollution [1]. Additionally, these green spaces serve as effective noise barriers, particularly against urban traffic noise, a prevalent source of disturbance in urban settings [2].

Particularly historical urban areas face a scarcity of green spaces due to factors like narrow streets, compact urban layouts, and high construction densities. The lack of conventional green areas like gardens or parks poses a challenge. To address this issue and achieve sustainable urban rehabilitation, innovative strategies are needed. One such strategy involves implementing green walls on buildings in the densest parts of cities. Green walls offer an opportunity to enhance urban greenery and improve public enjoyment of the environment without utilizing the limited free space at the street level, which is often scarce in compact cities [3]. Social life extends beyond the building's interior, with walls serving as communication elements that connect the interior and exterior. This transformation gives buildings an active role instead of a neutral position in the city. Green walls, and vertical spaces with integrated plants, represent a contemporary approach to urban design. While green roofs are not a new concept, modern green wall techniques are at the forefront, and green facades are still in the early stages of development. [4].

In the 1980s, open field cultivation, particularly in Germany, marked the beginning of a trend that has now spread globally. People are growing more conscious of the advantages offered by green walls in enhancing their surroundings. As a result, space planning ideas incorporating green walls are gaining popularity and relevance worldwide.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Depending on the qualities and development of the plants, the kind of growing substrate, or the building system, multiple methods can be employed to differentiate between various types of green walls. Therefore, green walls related to each vertical space where plants are located can have different names, there are two main types: Green facades include buildings. The growth of plants scattered on the building surface, climbing plants related to climbing plants, and hangers related to descending plants; plants living walls growing parallel to the building, including vertical gardens associated with modular and light screens associated with the connection between groups.

Generally speaking, there are many modern constructions, building materials, or technologies involved in the construction of green walls. They may be used as models of self-regulation, guidelines for newly constructed or renovated buildings, or a means of defining and integrating urban areas. The integration of plants and support structures from the building's construction

characterizes the current use of the plant wall, which is different from its previous use [4].

These adaptable systems for utilizing green space in buildings can be tailored to intricate forms, dimensions, or difficult-to-reach areas, like window sills or windows of already-existing buildings in cities (refer to Fig. 2). The plants' size and appearance, which can be influenced by the local climate or other factors, are also crucial considerations when choosing plants for green walls. Therefore, Using native plants in green space solutions is beneficial due to their adaptation to local conditions. This approach encourages community participation, as people are familiar with these species, creating a special connection to the environment.

Figure 1. Green Walls

METHODOLOGY

Implementing Living Walls in Urban Development

Urban indices and parameters, density, location, or urban proposals can all be influenced by incorporating green walls into the composition and design of the city. Urban design elements like controlling building height, the significance of placing buildings on the street, and the concealment of empty walls without regard for aesthetics or the support of buildings can all be demonstrated through the use of green wall application partnerships in limited contexts [5].

Using Green Walls in Urban Planning to Standardize Height Standards

The implementation of green walls in urban design has gained traction in Pakistan as a means to harmonize building heights. By integrating lush vegetation vertically along building exteriors, green walls soften the visual impact of tall structures, creating a more balanced and aesthetically pleasing cityscape. These living walls not only serve as natural insulators, reducing energy consumption but also contribute to improved air quality and urban biodiversity. Embracing green walls in urban planning represents a sustainable approach to mitigate the starkness of high-rise buildings, fostering a greener and more livable environment in Pakistani cities.

Using Green Walls in Urban Planning to Standardize Building Placements along Roadways

The incorporation of green walls in urban design in Pakistan aims to align buildings along streets more harmoniously. By integrating vertical greenery into building facades, these living walls help soften the starkness of architectural

alignments, creating a more visually appealing streetscape. Beyond aesthetic enhancement, green walls contribute to environmental benefits such as improved air quality, reduced urban heat island effect, and biodiversity promotion. Embracing green walls in urban planning represents a sustainable approach to enhance the alignment and visual continuity of buildings along streets, fostering a more inviting and eco-friendly urban environment in Pakistan.

The Application of Green Surfaces in Small Spaces to Cover up Blank Walls and Enhance the Feeling of Intimacy

The application of green surfaces to mask blank walls and enhance the sense of intimacy in small spaces has gained attention in Pakistan's urban design. By employing greenery to cover plain walls, this approach transforms sterile surfaces into vibrant, natural elements that infuse warmth and character into confined areas. In smaller spaces, such as courtyards or narrow alleys, these green surfaces create a cozy atmosphere, fostering a feeling of seclusion and intimacy. Beyond aesthetic appeal, the use of greenery contributes to improved air quality, noise reduction, and a connection to nature, offering a holistic enhancement to the ambiance of these compact areas. Leveraging green surfaces in design applications represents an innovative way to maximize limited space while promoting a more welcoming and serene environment within Pakistan's urban settings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Green walls present a unique opportunity for urban design, offering a path towards more integrated and sustainable cities. While scientific research on their benefits is ongoing, they're not commonly integrated into urban planning, both in new developments. However, their potential is substantial they can significantly impact a city's structure and aesthetics by enhancing building appearances, concealing blank walls, and improving design in smaller spaces. Incorporating green walls could be a game-changer in shaping cities and elevating their overall quality and visual appeal. Certainly, the incorporation of green walls in urban regeneration and city design presents a compelling challenge.

CONCLUSIONS

The key objective is to establish a seamless connection between buildings, the urban environment, and nature. Encouraging the use of green walls becomes crucial in maintaining basic urban homeostasis – the city's ability to stay in balance. This innovative approach serves as an ingenious method for infusing biodiversity into historic city areas that might otherwise lack green spaces. By integrating green walls, cities can enhance their ecological footprint and contribute to a more sustainable and harmonious urban ecosystem.

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