

Evaluating the Relationship between Neighbourhood Satisfaction and Urban Safety: The Case Study of Riverwood, Sydney

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Abstract : Neighbourhood satisfaction and safety are the two main components of urban life and have a substantial impact on residents' quality of life. The relationship between these two components, especially in areas surrounding our individual private dwellings, is highly influential on many social, economic, and wellbeing activities that may benefit neighbourhood residents. Neighbourhood and urban design - which are liable to be affected by the perceived quality of local public spaces - are likely to be significant factors influencing broader residents' feelings of safety. With this in mind, this study reviews recent normative literature on how these design processes have influenced neighbourhood satisfaction including perceived safety with a focus on different aspects of public spaces including planning, management, and design in a mix-tenure neighbourhood. Following the study aim, Riverwood in Sydney's southwest was chosen as a case study to gain a detailed understanding of the context by engaging with community members, residents, non-government organisations, and experts. Moreover, archival studies on neighbourhood satisfaction and safety, expert interviews, and resident questionnaires are presented to shed light on the relationship between neighbourhood satisfaction and perception of safety. The study argues that for the safer neighbourhood in urban areas, social-cultural factors need to be aligned toward strengthening physical factors and since making the environments safer, it is important to understand practical and achievable mechanisms which are required to improve existing estates. Findings show that increasing the clarity of community social and physical environmental involvements can promote residents' feelings of safety and following neighbourhood satisfaction.

Keywords : neighbourhood satisfaction, public space, Riverwood, urban safety

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