

The design of outdoor space is fundamental to an individual's well-being and, as a direct consequence of this, the prosperity of a city.

“Our ultimate goal is to create a cohesive, contemporary and sustainable urban fabric for this new city and prosper as an attractive, liveable place that preserves the Emirate’s unique culture and environment.”

- H.E. Falah Mohamed Al Ahbabi - General Manager, Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council.

In order to create sustainable cities, development must go beyond environmental aspects and address the other key pillars of Estidama - social, cultural and economic. This demands a human scale urban environment that provides community focused facilities within comfortable walking distances for people. It requires designs that respect the cultural identity of the region and reflect the importance of family structure and religion on built form. As the towns and cities of the Emirate grow there is a need to create an urban fabric that supports mass transit modes of movement. This involves a response to the climate of the region, recognising the role that design can have in reducing the worst effects of the arid climate, learning from traditional design responses so as to reduce the reliance upon technology.

The Liveable Spaces section is intended to encourage responsive design and sustainable land use through the following:

- Thorough analysis and assessment of the social, economic, design and policy context;
- Analysis and appreciation of the climatic conditions;
- Provision of appropriate public realm amenities and facilities, including sport and recreation;
- Creating a well-connected public realm that promotes pedestrian and cycling activity; and
- Facilitating community cohesion.