The Place Identity Criteria of Sustainable Urban Design

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ABSTRACT

According to the research conducted, it can be stated that the three main criteria of unity, durability and distinction can be presented for measurement and evaluation of place identity and its sustainability in the urban design. This means that if a place (urban space) has the three criteria above, and/or if one considers the criteria in the design of an urban space, this place (urban space) will have both the identity and sustainability. On the other hand, in the discussions on sustainable development and in particular several definitions that are available in this regard, it is clarified that the three criteria, which are introduced about the enjoyment of a place with a good identity, can also be used as criteria in the discussions on sustainability. Given that one of the roles introduced in urban design to manage the sense of place and give the identity (desirable identity) to urban spaces, and on the other hand, the issue of sustainability is considered as one of the most important and most sensitive issues in the last three decades in the field of urban design, it can be said that urban design is a knowledge that, even before raising the sustainability paradigm, has contributed to the occurrence of sustainability in the city and urban space, simply by managing the sense of place. In other words, attention to physical identity of the city can lead to a form of sustainable city; and the development of a built environment having an identity, in fact, is a necessity to achieve sustainable urban structures.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 150 years, the Earth has complied with the rapid pace of change so that it has been unprecedented in the history of human settlement on the planet. The industrial revolution and increased consumption of non-renewable resources have dramatically changed life in urban areas. For example, it has encouraged people to change the natural systems to satisfy your needs [1]. It has fundamentally changed the way people perceive and understand in relation to the rest of the world, so that it has helped people to feel that circle of human progress has no restrictions. Although these changes have had many positive impacts on people's lives (such that the production capabilities have increased more and more, and a range of products and services that were previously unknown to most people has been available to ordinary citizens), new forms of transport and communication have improved the movement in these places and access to information [2]. However, it has become clear in the past decade that this progress has been made by high costs, and in fact, the problems that have been resolved after the industrial revolution have been replaced with new problems. In the current context, concerns have been reflected about issues such as global warming, the extinction of natural species and climate change. While the man essentially has to grapple with this dilemma, the environmental, social and economic problems are still examined as case studies. One of the main problems to deal with these issues is most political systems in the world at the macro scale and professionals at the micro scale have focused on human activities outside of the natural environment, rather than understanding of basic communication between a healthy environment, a strong economy and a supportive social network.

There is increasing evidence that represents a move towards an undesirable situation. Almost every day we are confronted with the news about deforestation, reduction in the size of the ozone layer, widespread hunger in many developing countries and other global environmental as well as social disasters that exist or are being occurred. Along with the increasing size of cities and filling their margin, agricultural lands and open spaces are
being destructed. Cities are faced with the crisis of solid waste; municipal facilities are not developed, and there is no place for the disposal of new waste. In such circumstances, it seems clear that sustainability is not a choice, but it is a necessity that has been imposed by the constraints of the nature.

Objective:
Accordingly, any discussion of urban design is absolutely unacceptable unless special attention is paid to the principles of sustainability at present. The discussion of the physical identity of the city is also a major concern of urban planners. Therefore, this thesis tries to analyze the principles of sustainable urban design, examine the status of place identity in this issue, and provide the criteria for evaluating the physical identity of sustainable urban design.

Criteria for the physical identity of sustainable place:
According to studies on place identity and its sustainability, three criteria of unity, durability and distinction can be introduced to jointly evaluate each of the themes of identity and sustainability in the urban design issues. In the following sections, a description is provided on the concept of each of these criteria in connection with the both issues, and finally, comments of the experts in urban design analysis have been analyzed in this context, to introduce Criteria for the physical identity of sustainable place; and the results are briefly presented. The concept of identity is a fundamental concept in everyday life and is an integral element. Thus, we recognize the identity of people, plants, places, and even nations. Perhaps because of this fundamental quality, the phenomenon of identity is not easy to define, despite its clear and obvious features. In fact, the difference and the relationship between “identity of one object” and “identity with an object” should be clear more than anything. The identity of one object implies the sameness, continuity and unity, which makes it distinguishable from other objects. Such inherent identity and durability is inseparable from the identity with other objects.

In a debate about human identity, Erik Erikson believes that the term “identity” refers to a durable sameness within a person as well as some characteristics shared with others. Thus, the identity can be found in both a person/object and a mass culture to which the person or thing belongs. Identity is not something static and unchanging, but it varies with changing conditions and trends. In addition, it is not a particular and unchangeable thing, but it has many components and shapes [3]. Accordingly, the three criteria of unity, durability and distinction can be considered for place identity. Furthermore, the role of these three criteria in sustainability of place will be examined; and the professional literature related to place identity and sustainability will be studied.

Unity:
As a criterion of place identity, unity means the perception and experience of a set of various elements as a whole. Unity means a special (systematic) coordinated and mutual relationship between components [4, 5]. As is obvious, unity cannot be conceived without plurality of thought; and plurality cannot be imagined without an ultimate goal to achieve unity. The two issues are so ingrained that they are dependent on one another. The variety in the types of components, which is the so-called diversity, is a qualitative problem. Since each element has its own character, drive and trends, the order of the components is of particular importance. This means the order that should take into account the properties of the type and quality obtained from the number of components, and can convert the elements into a whole (consistency) by the creation of a specific relationship [6]. One of the concepts of unity is attention to the important point that if there is no interaction between the elements of place (i.e., physical characteristics, previous activities and experiences of the environment), urban places will be gradually move less, dull and monotonous areas emptied of life.

In other words, urban places cannot be considered as cities in case of lack of activity; and the environment will not be significant for people who do not have the cultural associations, legibility and functionality of mental imagery [7]. As defined by Tuan, space, along with its activities and events, is transformed into place[6].According to Pinter’s theory, urban places are resulted from the unity of physical space, activities and perception of users (subjective view) [9]. Peter Buchanan [10] regards urban design as an equivalent to place making [11]. In addition, it has been said by many experts that the issue of urban design is to make the place where is not a special location, but is the arena of occurring different public activities and events [12]. This refers to the concept of unity in urban design and identity. Canter asserts that the main problem is not only to recognize the activities and their physical environment, but also to understand the ways that places can link activities to the physical form [13]. On this basis, he considers the place as a unit for the environment, which is experienced by people in their daily lives.

On the other hand, Relph believes that the three basic components of place cannot be reduced to a smaller number. Here, it is clear that the physical environment, activities and meanings have a dialectic relationship, and that a series of dialogues may be conceived between them, which can be defined in the context of a global structure. As was mentioned, the three fundamental components of place are not reducible to each other. Nevertheless, they are inseparably intertwined in our experience of the place [14]. Places are like the basic
components of a painting (canvas, paints, symbols, etc.) that are not reducible to another, but they are yet inseparable [4]. According to Schultz, the world of life is caused by the interaction of phenomena that are inherently different, but they should never be analyzed separately. Rather, they should be considered as unified phenomena [15]. The term “place” is a perceptual totality whose meaning depends on our experience of the actual and unique places [5]. According to Schultz, the totalities unified as a whole are made of components. When these components are put together in a specific order, the entirety at a specific time and place begins to take shape; or in other words, it will have a concept, like a sentence in the language [15]. Several studies have been conducted on the sense of attachment to place as a prerequisite for a place having an identity, which rely on the role of place body in relation to other features of place in this regard [16-19]. These studies are seeking to answer the question that “what kind of places are important to people, and what is the reason for this feeling?” The results suggest that the physical and social characteristics are both equally involved in creating the sense of attachment to place (referring to a type of unity). Stedman’s studies, which have been done on the role of the physical dimension of place in the sense of attachment to place, refer to its direct role in the satisfaction and indirect role in the sense of attachment to place, while it is also influenced by the symbolic meanings of place [18].

The cases that have been cited in previous studies are: background and context, the availability of services and facilities, location in the urban context and the ways to connect with the surroundings and many other features [20, 21]. The realization of the concept of unity is also conceivable by the attention given to orientation [22]. Local structure makes it easier for us to identify a place by understanding how its components fit together. In fact, all the familiar features of space don’t give identity. In a changed space, only a familiar statue can give identity, but the modified space that has not lost its structure is considered to be the same old space, even with the new additions and elements. In other words, unity means the ability of the components to shape a whole. In a modern city, unity is created between the components when they are able to be placed in a common and coordinated context that has differences and even contradictions [23]. In other words, the context is very important in creating a coherent whole. Some of the major contextual elements of the city can act as the linking and coordinating factors. These elements are as follows:

- Central-historic core - city
- Urban landmarks
- Main roads
- Gates and entrances
- Sky line
- Borders and edges [24]

In addition, the quality of diversity and variety typically refers to the concept of unity. In explaining the qualitative concepts to that must be used by designers in their proposals in order to create responsive environments, the authors of "Responsive Environments" have proposed the term “variety” as a concept that refers to the placement of different uses in the range of design so that it can impact on the diversity of capabilities available to the public, as one of these qualities. This concept has been defined as a variety of functions, physical forms, as well as individuals and community groups in places [25]. Regarding the concept of unity in sustainability, it can be said that efforts should extend beyond physical structures so that cities can achieve social sustainability. If the city is to function properly, efforts should focus on all aspects, from the physical environment and social institutions to the less colored cultural aspects that have a significant impact on our understanding of individual neighborhoods and the entire urban communities [26]. Jencks and Dempsey presented a broad and inclusive definition of the sustainable city as follows: "sustainable cities are economically viable and efficient, and socially equity-focused, which help to environmentally protect all the natural species [27]. It is clear that the definitions related to sustainable development address the environmental, social and economic components, either individually or together and mutually (as defined by Jencks and Dempsey) [28]. Overall, according to the definitions set forth on sustainable development, the following can be offered regarding the criterion of unity:

- The integration of conservation and development, as a general approach (satisfaction in providing basic and social human needs, achieving social justice, and protecting the ecological integrity) [29]. In addition, four main underlying concepts or obligations can be found from the definitions of sustainable development in connection with the criterion of unity, as follows,

- Equity: the responsibility to make resources available, at the local and global scales based on equity and opportunities provided for all [30]. Among the principles and criteria set forth about sustainable urban development, which have been proposed by experts, the following principles refer to the concept of unity:

- Natural/geographic focused: providing the context for sustainability requires measuring environment situation and recognizing it in an integrated manner based on their natural and geographical characteristics, rather than on their political and built units [31].
- Conceptualism/unified vision: sustainable development considers the functional and sartorial areas of programming and planning (such as transportation, housing, economic development), as a tool to achieve a goal, instead of a goal. The goal is sustainability of community[31].
- Holistic/interconnectivity: sustainable development puts the thought of functional areas aside as separate spheres.

Using a sustainable development approach to problem solving, the concepts must be seen as pervasive overlapping lenses, through which the interdependence of organizational, economic, political, structural and natural systems can be clearly seen and better examined. Sustainable development acknowledges that the totality of a system is nothing more than the sum of its parts[29].

Durability:

Durability means long lasting, i.e. what has the talent and the power of life, and survive. The concept of staying in a long time is the first thing that comes to mind in the definition of sustainability [23]. Hence, the protection and the importance that they consider simultaneously for the unique historical places having an identity in various professions have played an important role in the evolution of contemporary urban design. Many contemporary approaches to urban design seek to meet the need for understanding the sense of place and create continuity with the past rather than discontinuity from it. Today, the sense of place, stability of character and place identity are of great importance and value; while the city is constantly changing, and the rate of changing elements and its different parts are not the same size, and thus its identity is preserved [13]. According to Buchanan, the movement network, monuments and the main buildings that are located along the network, make up the main and permanent parts of the city [32]. Parts of the city that are durable over time can create a sense of continuity and continuity in place.

The relative stability of an urban space leads to a significant quality to be added to the space. Gradual passage of time is recorded in the body of space, and in this way, the collective memory is created [11]. In fact, humans change over time and are constantly changing and becoming more complete. Hence, the design of fixed places, according to Canter, is meaningless, because the space robustness is a necessity [13]. From the point of view of Mumford, the city is actually an automated system of making culture, in which there is no stagnation [33]. In other words, the durability of place character both depends on the duration of change we are experiencing and is also highly dependent on a very natural feature of the change that creates a sense of attachment in person along with the changes in the place [5]. The concept of continuity/change that was proposed by Mirmoqtadaei and Talebi means to make consistent the global changes within the context of our own traditions and circumstances [24]. Concerning the concept of durability in sustainability issues, it can be said that the sustainable means stable, durable, i.e. what remain constant and established.

Sustainability of sustainable phenomena is due to the durability of pattern, method or system of these phenomena over a long period; i.e. in this case, the phenomenon itself would not remain constant with all its material and immaterial features, rather, in each period, it is repeated on a unit, stable model through which it will continue to change itself, and then it will be repeated again and again. In each period, it tries to coordinate more with its surrounding conditions [23]. Sustainability can be defined as the human responsibility for continuing durable and high-quality life for present and future generations. Thus, resources must be used so as not to destroy the root of natural capital[28].In general, a set of the definitions set forth in the sustainable development, which are related to the concept of durability, can be presented as follows:

- The responsibility to meet the needs of future generations and satisfy current needs, without a negative impact on future generations) [23].
- Addressing the bearing capacity of ecosystems (and improving the quality of human life), as well as the capacity of supporting ecosystems.
- Preserving wealth and natural capital (conservation of natural resources as environmental assets)
- Maintaining and improving systems as well as the overall level of diversity and production
- Not making worse (no positive changes should wear out or destroy the ecological and social systems)
- Making sustainable human life (maintaining the ability of the system to make sustainable the lives of people)
- Protecting the environment (renovating and improving it)

Some principles and criteria set forth in the context of sustainable urban development, which have been raised by the experts and refers to the concept of sustainability are:
- Environmentality: the responsibility for the effective protection and management of environmental and biological resources
- Futurism/long-term focus: sustainability is committed to planning for the current generation as much as for future generations[31].Indeed, its sustainable development and management is a type of development that should consider how to establish, maintain and improve the quality of life for all human beings at all times[34]and meet the needs of future generations (satisfying the current needs without any negative impact on the future generations) [35].
Bound to constraints: planning approaches to sustainable development are explained with an awareness of the limitations of local development and population potential of communities [31, 36]. Sustainable selection can be achieved by the design of durable building – the building that has an attraction and character and is created for the long term [11]. Sustainable environments must not only be designed for greater durability, but should also provide facilities for easier maintenance. The use of high quality materials is effective in this regard. The detailed design of the building and its maintenance practices is also of great importance [11]. The peak reflection of the concept of lack of identity implies that the form and function are not consistent with the changing needs of the people and they need to be changed to fit the progressive needs of the community [37]. In other words, the city is a changing and developing phenomenon, which regularly organizes their response patterns. It is not an eternal form or a mechanical repetition that wears out at one point in time, or even a repeated constant period (with an ecological concept), which is simply powered with the energy consumption. In addition, sustainability is related to cities or urban spaces [23] that promote cultural continuity and also contribute to the survival and sustainability of the citizens. The latter also provide or strengthen the context for their personal growth and add to the sense of the relationship between time and space.

**Distinction:**
Identity is the simplest form of meaning, i.e. the limited concept of this general term, namely the meaning of a place. Identity refers to the extent that one can recognize a place as a distinctive location from other places, such that it can have a determined, unique, or at least unique character [22]. On the other hand, according to Lynch, the first condition for having an image of anything is that the object has an identity that distinguishes it from other objects and identifies the intended object as a separate and independent entity [22]. According to Lynch, identity does not mean that it highlights the sameness between an object and other objects; rather it includes the qualities that are specific to the object itself and makes it unique [38]. According to Relph, it is not merely important to understand the difference and sameness between places, but it is essential to understand the sameness in differences [5].

In the words of Colin, the new city does not invite people to walk around the city” because it is always the same everywhere”[39]. Regarding the recognition of the identity components of the city, which may refer to the criterion of distinction, Behzadfar believes that this difference is related to the natural, built and human components, either separately or in combination with each other [37]. Preserving the unique characteristics of each city is one of the principles that are discussed on the conversion of normal cities into sustainable cities. In fact, the distinguished characteristics of cities, including their human and cultural values, as well as their history and natural systems, will be considered in this context [40]. One of the criticisms that the sustainable development perspective presents about the functionalism, is the need to consider the differences between the needs of residents in a city, which has a significant role in the formulation of per capita [41].

**Table 1:** Criteria for the physical identity of sustainable place, and its examples from the perspective of experts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expert</th>
<th>Title Book - paper</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Distinction</th>
<th>Durability</th>
<th>Unity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colin Lynch</td>
<td>The book &quot;The Image of the City&quot;[36]</td>
<td>- Visual clarity or legibility of the image of the city</td>
<td>- Being familiar with the place</td>
<td>- Structural legibility of the components of the city, and understanding the interconnection of the city’s components</td>
<td>- Intertwined nature of form, function and meaning of the environment</td>
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<td>Gordon Cullen</td>
<td>The book &quot;The Concise Townscape&quot;[40]</td>
<td>- Addressing the individual character of each environment and its special features</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Jacobs</td>
<td>The book &quot;The Death and life of Great American Cities&quot;[41]</td>
<td>- The need for diversity in the antiquity of old buildings in a neighborhood in order to create a wide range of uses with different incomes</td>
<td>- Emphasis on satisfying the diverse needs of residents</td>
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Variety in form
- Lack of uniformity and standardization of cities
- Dynamics of urban form in compliance with the cultural change
- Variety in form
- Visual unity

Lack of uniformity and standardization of cities

**Table 1**: (continued): Criteria for the physical identity of sustainable place, and its examples from the perspective of experts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expert</th>
<th>Title - Book - paper</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louis Mumford</td>
<td>The book “The City in History”[31]</td>
<td>- Lack of uniformity and standardization of cities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Emphasis on the interaction among the three components of physical characteristics of the environment, functions and activities visible in the environment, and the concepts that can be understood in the formation of place identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Norberg-Shulz</td>
<td>The book “Meaning in Western Architecture”[42]</td>
<td>- Emphasis on the physical characteristics of the environment in shaping the environment identity</td>
<td>- Emphasis on the interaction among the three components of physical characteristics of the environment, functions and activities visible in the environment, and the concepts that can be understood in the formation of place identity</td>
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<td>Edward Relph</td>
<td>The book “Place and Placelessness”[3]</td>
<td>- Introducing the physical characteristics, as one component of places</td>
<td>- The need for space robustness over time</td>
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<td>- Emphasis on the intertwined nature of physical characteristics, activities, and ideas in shaping places</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Canter</td>
<td>The psychology of place”[11]</td>
<td>- Introducing the physical characteristics, as one component of places</td>
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<td>Leon Krier</td>
<td>The article “The Only Path for Architecture”[43]</td>
<td>- Not paying attention to the discussion of style and fashion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Krier</td>
<td>Book of “Urban Space”[43]</td>
<td>- Lack of uniformity and standardization of cities</td>
<td>- The correlation between the old and new elements in the city</td>
<td>- Addressing valuable elements</td>
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<td>Christopher Alexander</td>
<td>The article “Beyond Humanism”[44]</td>
<td>- Focusing on the notion of environmental differentiation in creating the sense of attachment between the individual, the environment, and the place identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Lynch</td>
<td>The book “A Theory of Good City Form”[20]</td>
<td>- Use of native materials specific to certain places</td>
<td>- Emphasis on the concept of continuity in the usefulness of place form as well as its change</td>
<td>- Encouraging proper maintenance and care of places</td>
<td>- Addressing the concept of unity - plurality as the most important application of significance</td>
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<td>Amos Rapoport</td>
<td>The book “The Meaning of the Built Environment”[45]</td>
<td>Emphasizing differentiation and distinction, as part of the concept of place identity</td>
<td>Emphasis on continuity as part of the concept of identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Norberg Shulz</td>
<td>The book “The Concept of Dwelling on the Way to Figurative Architecture”[46]</td>
<td>- Highlighting the similarities and differences in creating the place identity</td>
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<td>- The role of geographic features in shaping the place identity - The role of important natural and built elements in shaping the place identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Bentley et al.</td>
<td>The book “Responsive Environments”[23]</td>
<td>- The role of form legibility in creating differentiation and orientation</td>
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<td>The book “Responsive Environments”[23]</td>
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<td>Addressing visual appropriateness (visual consistency) to the concept of the consistency between form, function and meaning - The role of variety in providing a variety of forms in the environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert</td>
<td>Title Book - paper</td>
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</table>
| Roger Trancik   | The book “Finding Lost Spaces”[47] | - Providing the theory of place and emphasizing on natural backgrounds  
- Recognition of indigenous materials  
- Providing the theory of place and creating a link and compatibility between new plans and existing conditions  
- Emphasis on temporal continuity and the need to connect with the past  
- Creating the flexible places that are physically dynamic  
- Emphasis on temporal continuity and the need to connect with the past  
- Maintaining the spatial continuity of the urban environments  
- Maintaining a link with the past to design the future  
- Providing the theory of place and creating a link and compatibility between new plans and existing conditions  
- Emphasis on temporal continuity and the need for connection with the past  
- Creating the flexible places that are physically dynamic  
- Emphasis on temporal continuity and the need to connect with the past  
- Need to clear body for a specific function in urban spaces  
- Emphasizing on side enclosure and continuity of edges, while moving in the space  
- Maintaining pedestrian crossings as well as changing sequences  
- Addressing structure in the design of urban spaces, and contributing to orientation in place  
- Addressing the mutual relationship between form and function in the organization of urban spaces  
- Addressing the streets as a factor connecting elements of the city structure  
- Providing the theory of role-context and emphasizing the structure of urban spaces in the city  
- Providing the theory of connection and emphasizing the role of the motor systems and infrastructure network in the definition of urban form  
- Mingling inside and outside spaces (responsibility for the climate needs)  
- Responsibility of physical shape to the social needs of people and functional meaning of space  |
- Prevening the destruction of local diversity |
| Walmsley       | The book “Urban Living”[48] | - The use of standard construction methods in environmental design and urban planning  
- Not using the global building materials and construction techniques for all cities  
- Not creating a uniform landscape  
- Employing local and traditional materials  
- The need to comply with traditional sophisticated regulations by architecture and design culture and making elegant the buildings  
- Avoiding the one-dimensional view toward the issues |
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The book "Principles of Modern Architecture"[37] - Avoiding the uniformity of different places in the city - Addressing the totality of space (form, function and meaning)

"Identity of City, a Look at Identity of Tehran City"[35] Distinction of natural forms, including:
- Addressing the general natural location of the city (latitude and longitude of the city and its associated indicators)
- Addressing geographic structural components of the city (topography, hydrography and related indicators)
- Addressing the natural structural components (rivers, valleys)
- Addressing the natural basin and structural components (diversity of soils, vegetation and the overflow of basins)
- Addressing point components (springs, hills and so on)
- Addressing point and linear components (water paths and so on)
Distinction of the built forms, including:
- Addressing the general view (including the totality of the city's form at the sight of a bird), which represents the situation of the city, from the past to the present
- Addressing important linear and structural elements: including the main streets of the city
- Addressing the focal and point indicators of the city, including squares, gateways, parks, and so on.
- Addressing the historical and physical linear and point indicators, including palaces, markets, and so on.
- Addressing the important single buildings of the city
- Addressing the important masses, areas and spaces of the city: the old neighborhood of the old city, set of residential buildings and so on.

"Cities for People"[24] - Addressing a clear hierarchy that shows the most important spaces.
- Addressing all physical, social, economic and cultural aspects of cities.
- Addressing the spatial dimension
- Emphasis on promoting the diversity of exciting activities in urban space by creating active edges

Conclusions:
As this paper is aimed to introduce the criteria for the physical identity of sustainable place, or in other words, to examine the relationship between identity and sustainability of place and role of knowledge of urban design in making sustainable the places by giving identity to it, all the studies that have been conducted in this research to confirm this issue, first have obtained the result, by examining the evolution of knowledge of urban design, that addressing the perceptual aspects of the environment (including place identity in urban design), along with the occurrence of identity crisis in cities, dates back to 1970; and on the other hand, according to sources related to sustainable development, it was determined that the discussion on the sustainability in international community’s also dates back to the 1970s, although it has gotten into the area of urban design in the late 1980s. Thus, the possibility arises that the factors causing non-sustainability in cities can also lead to a crisis of identity in them.

Then, according to the results of a review of the literature on place identity and its sustainability, three criteria of unity, durability and distinction were identified for evaluation of the place identity:
- Unity: it means the concept of the totality consisting of different, but harmonious components;
- Durability: it means the continuation of form, function and meaning of an environment over a long time and their compliance with the new changes and needs; and
Distinction: it means the enjoyment of differences due to the particular form, function and meaning characteristics of a place in particular time context.

Thus, for each of the three criteria of unity, durability and distinction, three physical sub-criteria were introduced as follows:

- form unity
- form durability
- form distinction

The above classification was formed because a review of the professional literature related to the issue of identity and its sustainability showed that each of the criteria obtained from the deductive analysis of the theoretical bases has the form examples that, in fact, are the same attention to physical components that constitute a place to give identity and sustainability to it. Finally, for each of the above physical criteria, some examples were introduced in the urban design, which are presented in table (1).

REFERENCES