

neighborhood in city center of Mashhad. Studies related to this matter show that many works have done on AHP in engineering affairs (Saaty, 1977; Saaty & Vargas, 1991) but the only work which has been done into integrated AHP and GIS is the work of Marinoni, who developed this extension -ext-ahp. This extension is the basic point of this research, but for reaching to the above mentioned purpose, at first conceptual model, was defined then physical and socio-economic characters of 1097 plots of neighborhood in city center of Mashhad with 31 hectare area were collected. Based on Saaty preference table, 5 variables (material of building, land use, plot area, decay and street width) were selected into map layers, then these vector layers converted into raster one. Also consistency index calculated ($CI=0.013$), after this stage the background for doing the final stage was prepared. Finally, preference activities for specifying developmental potential areas have been done and the performance resulted to three categories: 1- the most important area, 2- more important area and 3- less important area. The results of implementation of model show the effectiveness of it in recognition of capable areas for urban renewal.



Social Dimensions of Livability in a Housing Project

Michael Arieh Medina

The study was conducted in order to establish a link between social factors and perceived livability. This is essential in order to better understand the concept of livability especially its social dimensions. The study gives a broad perspective for urban planners and community builders while trying to find ways of improving the quality of life of citizens of which livability is an important indicator. Results showed that livability in the area as perceived by the respondents does not have a significant difference when grouped by gender ($t\text{-value}=0.06$) and years of residency ($t\text{-value}=1.47$) but significantly differs when grouped by age ($F\text{-ratio}=3.59$). There is a significant relationship between level of social factors and level of livability with a chi-square value of 5670.77. It obtained a Cramer's Phi Correlation of 0.69, constituting a degree of moderate correlation, which means a substantial relationship between the two variables.



Housing Structure Change in Chengdu, China

Zhou Yan

This paper is about the changing processes in the pattern of residential neighborhoods in Chinese urban areas. Since the execution of the market-oriented reform from the end of the last century, social re-stratification has been undergoing a tremendous transformation in Chinese society, and so has the pattern of residential neighborhoods in cities. Residential spaces are changing from the old largely mixed work-unit compounds towards differentiated residential neighborhoods. This paper attempts to examine the change in the living patterns of the urban society in Chengdu. Has there been a shift from 'unit-based living pattern' to a 'social-stratum-based living pattern'? If a change has occurred, what are the characteristics of this change? This study uses two main data sources - primary statistical data from Chengdu's real estate market and a household survey to analyze the housing spatial structure and changes in living patterns in Chengdu. Based on this research, two implications are suggested. First of all, after more than twenty years of housing reform, Chengdu's residential spatial structure has experienced a dramatic change-from unit-based living district to social-stratum-form living district, resulting in the demise of the old solo unit-based living district. Secondly, the market allocation mechanism introduced by the housing reforms, however, has not yet completely replaced the entrenched influence from work units on home ownership behaviour. The unit-based living district has not thoroughly disappeared. In fact, there are many enterprises which still provide housing for their employees in Chengdu. Yet, unlike the old unit housing system, the ownership of the new unit housing is privately owned rather than company owned.

