Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Where omanis walk? A comparison between the perception and the Morphology of the built environment in different Neighbourhoods of Muscat.

• Format(s):
Written paper

• Author(s) Name:
De Siqueira, G.*, Pasha, P.*, Heydeck, J.*

• University or Company Affiliation:
German University of Technology, Oman

• Abstract (300 words):
Countries of the Gulf region experienced a great cultural shift in the four last decades as an effect of the economic growth based on oil export. This Phenomena had a great impact on people’s mobility patterns and led, as an aftermath, to an increase in health problems due to sedentarism, as well as social disaggregation. This paper is based on a comprehensive study of the walkable potential conducted in seven different neighborhoods in Muscat: Al Hail, Al Khoud, Al Mawaleh, Bawsher, Halban, and Mabaila. The study was structured in two Phases. The first was a cross-sectional quantitative survey of the perceived qualities of the built environment. The second was an on-site assessment of the physical characteristics based on the same attributes assessed during the survey. A comparison of both, the perceived and the physical characteristics measured on site will reveal the biggest constraints to pedestrian mobility in Muscat. It is a common sense that the walkability is one of
the main factors for a healthy, wealthy and social integrated neighborhood development.

Finally, this paper discusses how to integrate walkability studies in planning processes in the specific case of Muscat.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr. Gustavo de Siqueira is a Assistant professor at the German University of technology in Muscat, Oman. He graduated in Architecture and Urbanism in 2001 at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. He holds both a master and a PhD from the HafenCity University in Hamburg. His expertise is in design processes ranging from Sustainable urban design to passive and low energy architecture.