THE CHANGING USE OF URBAN PUBLIC SPACES IN SINGAPORE

by

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ABSTRACT:

Chapter 1 introduces the area of study: assessing the changing use of public spaces within the urban environment. It also establishes the objectives and scope of research, which investigates the factors affecting adaptation of public spaces within the local context.

Chapter 2 defines public space and highlights the different attributes of the private and public realm. It establishes the basis of perception and implications in relation to urban public spaces as settings for public life. This provides the basis for the understanding of the public space characteristics.

Chapter 3 presents the underlying factors that contribute to the changing use of urban public spaces. The implications of changing use are reflected through the adaptations of these social settings. This is achieved by identifying the two forms of public space adaptation in Singapore: the private use of publicly owned spaces and the public use of privately owned spaces.

Chapter 4 highlights the importance of accessing the public spaces within the private domains to encourage greater adaptation within the social setting. It also determines the various physical and spatial variables that affect the form and extent of use within these public spaces. Various behavior patterns and environmental features regulating the quality of the public settings are
also underlined. The purpose is to set up a framework for the analysis and assessment of this form of changing use.

Chapter 5 documents the case studies to illustrate and investigate the changing use in some local examples of privately owned public spaces. By adopting the proposed framework to analyze the environment settings, the case studies set out to verify and compare significant conditions or characteristics affecting the extent of use within the public spaces. This is to allow evaluation and recommendation to be drawn for the encouragement of greater adaptation within the social environment.

Chapter 6 concludes the study by analyzing the scope and limitations to the research. It also identifies further developments towards the study of urban public spaces.

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