ABSTRACT

Chapter 1 introduces the area of research as the use of city streets as settings for urban life and transactions. The objectives of the study are as follows: first, to determine the physical and spatial characteristics required to achieve the quality of permeability in the urban street; and second, to analyse the effects of permeability on pedestrian activities and street use.

Pedestrian street use is influenced by many variables in the relationship of people to their built environments. For the purposes of this study, however, only the variable of permeability of an urban space will be taken into consideration.

Chapter 2 describes briefly the urban street as a setting for city life and the variables involved in pedestrian street use. The distinctions between dynamic and static pedestrian street use and the different conditions conducive to each are also highlighted.

Chapter 3 introduces the concept of permeability and the types of permeability as well as their effects.

Chapter 4 documents a case study of Orchard Road. It sets up the framework for evaluation of the degree of permeability (based on a number of criteria) and applies this framework onto demarcated sections of Orchard Road. By comparing the evaluation results of different sections and relating them to the intensity of street activities observed in each of the sections, it was deduced that the degree of permeability of the street/building interface has a direct effect on pedestrian street use.

Chapter 5 then attempts to make certain recommendations based on the evaluation framework used in Chapter 4 with regards to:

- Improving the degree of permeability along Orchard Road as well as
- Designing for permeability in future developments.