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REVIEW PAPER

An Exploration of Urban Design Governance: Defining Goals, Principles, and Tools

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Received:26/10/2024 Revised:20/11/2024 Accepted:18/12/2024 PP. 119-139 Keywords: <i>Urban Design Governance, Citizen Participation, Environmental Quality, Urban Design, Public Interest.</i>	Introduction: Urban design has evolved from a discipline primarily concerned with the physical form of cities into a multidisciplinary process involving institutional, social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Contemporary urban development is characterized by increasing complexity, multiple decision-making actors, and the need to balance diverse interests while improving the quality of the built environment. Consequently, attention has shifted from focusing solely on urban design products to examining the governance processes through which urban design decisions are formulated, negotiated, implemented, and evaluated. Within this context, the concept of Urban Design Governance has emerged as a framework that integrates governance principles with urban design practice. It emphasizes coordination among public authorities, private-sector organizations, professionals, and local communities while promoting transparency, accountability, participation, and the protection of the public interest. Rather than viewing urban design as an isolated technical activity, this perspective recognizes it as a collaborative process requiring effective institutional arrangements and governance mechanisms. Despite the growing international literature, particularly the contributions of Matthew Carmona, research on Urban Design Governance remains limited, and a comprehensive synthesis of its theoretical foundations and principal components is still lacking, especially in Persian academic literature. Existing studies have generally examined individual aspects of governance or urban design independently, leaving insufficient attention to their conceptual integration. This gap highlights the need for a systematic review capable of clarifying the concept, identifying its key dimensions, and providing a coherent conceptual framework for future research and professional practice. The Purpose of the Research: This study aims to clarify the concept of Urban Design Governance by developing a conceptual framework that synthesizes its theoretical foundations, objectives, principles, governance tools, stakeholders, indicators, and barriers. It also seeks to explain the relationship between Urban Design Governance and broader concepts such as public interest, spatial justice, sustainability, resilience, and citizen participation, thereby providing a theoretical basis for future research and professional practice. Methodology: This study is fundamental in purpose and qualitative in nature. A structured literature review was adopted as the research method to identify, evaluate, and synthesize the existing body of knowledge on Urban Design Governance. Relevant Persian and English publications were retrieved from major scientific databases, including Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, SID, Magiran, and Civilica, using keywords such as Urban Design Governance, Design Governance, Urban Governance, and Urban Design, along with their Persian equivalents. Given the emerging nature of Urban Design Governance, no temporal limitation was applied during the search process to ensure comprehensive coverage of the available literature. The identified sources were screened according to predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria based on their relevance to the research topic, scientific credibility, originality, and



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	accessibility of full-text documents. Duplicate and irrelevant sources were excluded through a systematic selection process. Ultimately, thirty-seven key references were selected from an initial pool of fifty-two sources and subjected to qualitative content analysis. The selected literature was comparatively examined to identify and classify the theoretical foundations, objectives, principles, governance tools, stakeholders, barriers, and other key components of Urban Design Governance. The findings were then synthesized into an integrated conceptual framework that explains the relationships among these components and provides a comprehensive understanding of the concept. Findings and Discussion: The findings of this study demonstrate that Urban Design Governance extends beyond conventional regulatory approaches and should be understood as an integrated framework that coordinates urban design decision-making, implementation, evaluation, and stakeholder collaboration. The literature review indicates that the concept has evolved in response to the increasing complexity of urban development, the growing number of actors involved in urban design processes, and the need to balance public and private interests while enhancing the quality of the built environment. Rather than focusing exclusively on physical design outcomes, Urban Design Governance emphasizes the institutional and procedural mechanisms through which urban design is guided, negotiated, and implemented. The analysis identified nine major drivers that explain the necessity of Urban Design Governance. These include the multi-actor nature of urban design processes, the gap between policy formulation and implementation, the need to improve environmental quality, the growing importance of sustainability and urban resilience, the pursuit of spatial justice and public interest, the enhancement of decision legitimacy through public participation, the strengthening of institutional and professional capacities, coordination among different levels of urban management, and the promotion of organizational learning and adaptability. Together, these drivers demonstrate that governance has become an essential dimension of contemporary urban design rather than a complementary administrative function. The review further revealed that Urban Design Governance is founded on several interrelated principles and values, including stakeholder participation, transparency, accountability, institutional coordination, flexibility, organizational learning, public interest, sustainability, spatial justice, and the quality of the built environment. These principles establish the normative foundation for governance while simultaneously improving the effectiveness, legitimacy, and inclusiveness of urban design processes. The findings also show that these principles are closely linked to broader governance objectives, including improving environmental quality, strengthening institutional coordination, promoting citizen participation, achieving sustainable urban development, protecting public interests, and enhancing the legitimacy of planning and design decisions. Another important finding concerns the governance tools used to influence urban design processes. Based on the reviewed literature, these tools can be classified into two complementary categories: formal and informal. Formal tools include guidance, incentives, and regulatory control implemented through planning regulations, design guidelines, policies, legal frameworks, and review procedures. Informal tools include analysis, knowledge dissemination, promotion, evaluation, and collaborative support, all of which strengthen professional learning, stakeholder engagement, institutional cooperation, and design culture. The findings indicate that effective Urban Design Governance depends on the balanced application of both categories, as neither regulatory mechanisms nor voluntary approaches alone are sufficient to achieve high-quality urban environments. Finally, the synthesized conceptual framework illustrates that Urban Design Governance functions as a dynamic system linking governance principles, stakeholders, governance tools, institutional arrangements, and urban development outcomes. This framework highlights that successful governance relies not only on formal institutions and legal regulations but also on collaboration, transparency, shared responsibility, and continuous learning. Accordingly, Urban Design Governance provides a comprehensive approach for improving urban design quality while supporting spatial justice, environmental sustainability, public participation, and long-term urban resilience. Conclusion: This study provides a comprehensive conceptual framework for understanding Urban Design Governance by integrating its theoretical foundations and key components. The

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	findings demonstrate that effective Urban Design Governance depends on stakeholder collaboration, institutional coordination, transparency, accountability, and the complementary use of formal and informal governance tools. The proposed framework contributes to the theoretical development of the field while offering practical guidance for policymakers, urban managers, planners, and urban designers. It also provides a foundation for future empirical studies examining the implementation and effectiveness of Urban Design Governance in different planning contexts. Funding: There is no funding support. Authors' Contribution: Authors contributed equally to the conceptualization and writing of the article. All of the authors approved the content of the manuscript and agreed on all aspects of the work Conflict of Interest: Authors declared no conflict of interest. AI Usage Declaration: The authors declare that the AI tool ChatGPT was used for language editing and improving readability. All scientific content, analyses, results, and ultimate responsibility for the manuscript rest with the authors. Acknowledgments: We are grateful to all the persons for scientific consulting in this paper.

Highlight

- Develops a comprehensive conceptual framework for Urban Design Governance by integrating its theoretical foundations, principles, objectives, stakeholders, governance tools, and implementation barriers.
- Identifies the key dimensions and governance mechanisms required to enhance urban design quality, institutional coordination, public participation, and spatial justice.
- Provides a theoretical foundation for future Urban Design Governance studies and supports the application of governance principles in urban design practice and policymaking.

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بررسی مفهوم حکمروایی طراحی شهری؛ تبیین اهداف، اصول و ابزارها

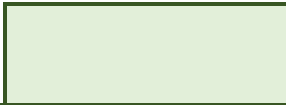
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ناشر: دانشگاه هنر ایران

چکیده	اطلاعات مقاله
مقدمه: با افزایش پیچیدگی‌های مدیریت و توسعه شهری، رویکردهای سنتی طراحی شهری به‌تنهایی پاسخگوی مسائل چندبعدی شهرها نیستند. در این شرایط، حکمروایی طراحی شهری به‌عنوان رویکردی نوین با تأکید بر هماهنگی میان ذی‌نفعان، بهبود کیفیت تصمیم‌گیری، ارتقای کیفیت محیط شهری و تحقق توسعه پایدار، مورد توجه قرار گرفته است. با وجود گسترش مطالعات مرتبط، هنوز چارچوبی جامع برای تبیین ابعاد، مؤلفه‌ها و سازوکارهای این مفهوم ارائه نشده است. هدف پژوهش: هدف این پژوهش، تبیین مفهوم حکمروایی طراحی شهری و ارائه چارچوبی مفهومی از مبانی نظری، سیر تحول، ضرورت‌ها، اهداف، اصول و ارزش‌ها، شاخص‌ها، ذی‌نفعان، ابزارها و موانع تحقق آن است تا درکی منسجم از این مفهوم و جایگاه آن در فرآیند طراحی شهری فراهم شود. روش‌شناسی: این پژوهش از نظر هدف، بنیادی و از نظر ماهیت، کیفی است و با استفاده از روش مرور ساختاریافته ادبیات انجام شده است. داده‌ها از طریق مطالعات اسنادی و کتابخانه‌ای و با بررسی منابع معتبر فارسی و انگلیسی گردآوری شدند. پس از غربالگری منابع بر اساس ارتباط موضوعی، اعتبار علمی و اصالت، منابع منتخب با استفاده از تحلیل محتوای کیفی بررسی و مؤلفه‌های اصلی حکمروایی طراحی شهری استخراج و طبقه‌بندی شدند. یافته‌ها و بحث: یافته‌ها نشان داد که حکمروایی طراحی شهری فراتر از یک سازوکار مدیریتی، چارچوبی تعاملی برای هدایت، هماهنگی و ارزیابی فرآیندهای طراحی شهری است. این چارچوب بر اصولی همچون مشارکت، شفافیت، پاسخ‌گویی، هماهنگی نهادی، منفعت عمومی، عدالت فضایی، پایداری و یادگیری نهادی استوار بوده و تحقق آن مستلزم بهره‌گیری هم‌زمان از ابزارهای رسمی و غیررسمی و رفع موانع ساختاری، مدیریتی و فرهنگی است. نتیجه‌گیری: پژوهش حاضر با یکپارچه‌سازی مبانی نظری و مؤلفه‌های کلیدی حکمروایی طراحی شهری، چارچوبی مفهومی برای فهم و تحلیل این رویکرد ارائه می‌کند. این چارچوب می‌تواند به‌عنوان مبنایی برای پژوهش‌های آینده و راهنمایی برای سیاست‌گذاران، مدیران شهری و متخصصان طراحی شهری در استقرار و ارتقای نظام حکمروایی طراحی شهری مورد استفاده قرار گیرد.	دریافت: ۱۴۰۳/۰۸/۰۵ بازنگری: ۱۴۰۳/۰۸/۳۰ پذیرش: ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۲۸ صص. ۱۳۹-۱۱۹ واژگان کلیدی: حکمروایی طراحی شهری، مشارکت شهروندی، کیفیت محیطی، طراحی شهری، منفعت عمومی. 
نکات برجسته: - چارچوبی مفهومی و جامع از حکمروایی طراحی شهری با یکپارچه‌سازی مبانی نظری، اصول، اهداف، ذی‌نفعان، ابزارهای حکمروایی و موانع تحقق آن ارائه می‌کند. - ابعاد کلیدی و سازوکارهای حکمروایی مؤثر بر ارتقای کیفیت طراحی شهری، هماهنگی نهادی، مشارکت عمومی و عدالت فضایی را شناسایی می‌کند. - مبنایی نظری برای پژوهش‌های آینده در حوزه حکمروایی طراحی شهری فراهم کرده و به کاربرد اصول حکمروایی در سیاست‌گذاری و عمل طراحی شهری کمک می‌کند.	ارجاع به این مقاله: میرزائی، فائزه. (۱۴۰۵). بررسی مفهوم حکمروایی طراحی شهری؛ تبیین اهداف، اصول و ابزارها. هنر مدیریت سبز، ۳(۳)، ۱۱۹-۱۳۹. 10.30480/agm.2026.6502.1066





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این مقاله برگرفته از پایان نامه کارشناسی ارشد نویسنده با عنوان شناسایی موانع و محدودیت‌های تحقق حکمروایی طراحی شهری در پروژه‌های طراحی شهری است که با راهنمایی خانم دکتر مریم محمدی در دانشگاه هنر ایران دفاع شده است.