Strategies for promoting and preserving urban landscape identity through public participation amidst urban renewal changes: The case of Kisumu City, Kenya

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Abstract

Urban renewal to revitalise urban realms within cities should aim to reinvigorate landscape identity, in order to maintain the city's uniqueness and distinctiveness. The concern in urban renewal projects is how to sustain place identity, due to changes. In this study, urban landscape identity is the residents' opinions and perceptions of the special features in terms of the physical, meaning, and function aspects that help them differentiate between places. This article postulates that effective public participation is important in identifying, promoting, and maintaining a city's landscape identity in urban renewal projects. The article aims to propose appropriate strategies to develop and preserve urban landscape identity, with emphasis on public participation. At the time of the study, there were ongoing and completed urban renewal projects within Kisumu City, Kenya. A qualitative approach was adopted through interviews with four officials from County Government as key informants, four professionals as experts, and field investigation through mapping and photography. Archival document analysis was carried out based on documents from County Government. The study reveals that Lake Victoria and its scenery, parks, sociocultural activities at public parks, local foods, social interaction at public Central Square, and government buildings contributed to the city's urban landscape identity. The study concludes that, in order to preserve landscape identity, it should be acknowledged in legislations and policies that guide urban renewal and developments, and in public participation processes. The study proposes amendments to the existing planning regulatory controls to guide the preservation of landscape identity in Kisumu. The study reveals concern for the preservation of urban landscape identity within urban renewal projects in the postcolonial era in the Global South.

Keywords: Urban landscape, urban landscape identity, urban renewal, preservation, conservation, public participation, Global South

Stedelike vernuwing om stedelike gebiede binne stede te laat herleef, moet daarop gemik wees om die landskapidentiteit te versterk om die stad se uniekheid en eiesoortigheid te behou. Die kommer in stedelike hernuwingsprojekte is hoe om plekidentiteit te handhaaf as gevolg van die veranderinge wat dit meebring. In hierdie studie is stedelike landskapidentiteit die inwoners se opinies en persepsies van die spesiale kenmerke in terme van die fisiese, betekenis- en funksie-aspekte wat hulle help om tussen plekke te onderskei. Hierdie artikel postuleer dat effektiewe publieke deelname belangrik is in die identifisering, bevordering en instandhouding van 'n stad se landskapidentiteit in stedelike hernuwingsprojekte. Die artikel het ten doel om toepaslike strategieë voor te stel om stedelike landskapidentiteit te ontwikkel en te bewaar met die klem op openbare deelname. Ten tyde van die studie was daar deurlopende en voltooide stedelike hernuwingsprojekte in Kisumu City, Kenia. 'n Kwalitatiewe benadering is gevolg deur onderhoude met vier amptenare van County Government as sleutelinformante, vier professionele persone as kundiges, en veldondersoek deur kartering en fotografie. Argiefdokument-ontleding is uitgevoer op grond van dokumente van die County Government. Die studie het aan die lig gebring dat die volgende kenmerke tot die stad se stedelike landskapidentiteit bygedra het: Victoria-meer en sy natuurskoon, parke, sosio-kulturele aktiwiteite by openbare parke, plaaslike kos, sosiale interaksie by openbare Sentrale Plein, en regeringsgeboue. Die studie het tot die gevolgtrekking gekom dat om landskapidentiteit te bewaar, moet dit erken word in wetgewing en beleid wat stedelike vernuwing en ontwikkelings rig en in openbare deelname prosesse. Die studie stel wysigings aan die bestaande beplanningsregulerende beheermaatreëls voor om die bewaring van landskapidentiteit in Kisumu te

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rig. Die studie het besorgdheid vir die behoud van stedelike landskapidentiteit binne stedelike hernuwingsprojekte in die post-koloniale era in die Global South aan die lig gebring.

MAANO A KHOTHALETSANG LE HO BOLOKA BOITSEBAHATSO BA LITOROPO KA SECHABA SE NKANG KAROLO NAKONG EA LIPHETOHO TSA NCHAFATSO EA LITOROPO: BOITHUITO BA KISUMU CITY, KENYA

Nchafatso ea litoropo e lokela ho ikemisetsa ho ntlafatsa boitsebahatso ba tikoloho, e le ho boloka boleng bo ikhethang ba toropo. Se amehileng ka merero ea nchafatso ea litoropo ke mokhoa oa ho boloka boitsebahatso ba libaka, ka lebaka la liphetoho. Phuputsong ena, boitsebahatso ba litoropo bo nkuoa ele maikutlo a baahi mabapi le libaka tse ikhethang ho latela sebopeho, moelelo le likarolo tsa ts'ebetso tse ba thusang ho khetholla lipakeng tsa libaka. Sengoliloeng sena se fana ka maikutlo a hore ho nka karolo ha sechaba ka katleho ho bohlokoa ho tsebahatsa, ho khothaletsa le ho boloka sebopeho sa toropo mererong ea nchafatso ea litoropo. Sengoliloeng se ikemiselitse ho sisinya maano a nepahetseng a ho ntshetsa pele le ho baballa boitsebahatso ba litoropo, 'me se toboketsa ho kenya letsoho ha sechaba. Nakong ea liphuputso, ho ne ho e-na le merero e tsoelang pele le e phethiloeng ea ntlafatso ea litoropo ka har'a Motse Moholo oa Kisumu, Kenya. Mokhoa oa phuputso o ile oa etsoa ka lipuisano le liofisiri tse 'ne tsa 'Muso oa Setereke e le litsebi tsa bohlokoa. Ho ile hoa boetse hoa etsoa lipatlisiso ka ho etsa limmapa le ho nka lifoto. Tlhahlobo ea litokomane tsa polokelo e entsoe ho ipapisitsoe le litokomane tsa 'Muso oa Setereke. Boithuto bona bo senola hore Letša la Victoria le tikoloho ea lona, lirapa tsa boikhathollo, litloaelo tsa batho lirapeng tsa boikhathollo tsa sechaba, lijo tsa lehae, tšebelisano 'moho ea sechaba, le meaho ea mmuso li kentse letsoho ho tsebahatseng sebopeho sa toropo. Boithuto bona bo phethela ka hore, molemong oa ho boloka boitsebahatso ba naha, ho lokela ho ananeloe melao le maano a tataisang nchafatso le ntlafatso ea litoropo, le matsapa a hore sechaba se kenye letsoho. Boithuto bona bo sisinya lihlomathiso tsamaisong ea taolo ea moralo ho tataisa paballo ea boitsebahatso ba naha Kisumu. Boithuto bona bo boetse bo senola kameho ea paballo ea sebopeho sa litoropo ka har'a merero ea nchafatso ea litoropo nakong ea kamora bokoloni ba Global South.

1. INTRODUCTION

Saglik and Kelkit (2017) concur with Kaymaz (2013) and with Okesli and Gurcinar (2012) that the identity of a city is a very comprehensive entity that affects the image of the constantly evolving city. Baris *et al*. (2009) and Antrop (2005) posit that, due to processes within urban areas and globalisation, rapid changes have occurred that result in challenges in our social, economic, and cultural lives and environments. These challenges have placed the concept of 'identity' on the agenda of urban studies professionals (Geng *et al*., 2023; Huang, 2019). The major concern is the sustainability of place identity, due to the occurring changes (Kandemir, 2017; Oktay & Bala, 2015). Cities, especially developing ones, are constantly facing various challenges such as urban decay, deterioration of the environment, lack of infrastructure, social problems, and economic decline (Zheng *et al*., 2017; Ploegmakers, 2015). Cities in the Global South experience urban decay (Leon *et al*., 2020; Amado & Rodrigues, 2019; Njoku & Okoro, 2014). Urban renewal is important in addressing urban decay as an urban problem and it has been used to address physical deterioration of infrastructure in Luanda, Angola (Amado & Rodrigues, 2019); Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Layson & Nankai, 2015), and Lagos, Nigeria (Njoku & Okoro, 2014). Couch (1990) asserts that urban renewal is of increasing importance within urban areas. Huang (2019) avers that the crisis of city identity is mainly reflected in the weakening of the original identity and the difficulty in adapting to the new identity. Supported by Duan *et al*. (2021), Huang (2019) and Geng *et al*. (2023) posit that rapid urbanisation in many cities globally has led to identity crisis, bringing attention to the need for protection of city characteristics and identity recovery. Boussaa (2018) raises concern about the need to maintain identity in fast-changing historical urban realms in Qatar, while Kaymaz (2013) avers a similar concern in fast-changing cities in Turkey. Greco (2016) posits that physical changes within the urban landscape, occasioned by

periods of change in many cities, has created the current concern of how to harmonise modern architecture and historical urban form (Greco, 2016).

Public participation is a growing concern in urban renewal projects. Li *et al*. (2020) emphasise the lack of channels for participation in developing countries, while Yuen (2005) explains that people are interested in conservation and identity. Therefore, the interests, needs, and wishes of the people must be allowed to inform and influence key decisions and actions in various projects through the identification of urban landscape identity and places to conserve in the various public projects (Yuen, 2005). Layson and Nankai (2015) posit that levels of community involvement in the renewal projects are not clear and that public hearings and consultation do not guarantee that community views form part of the decision-making.

This study was conducted at a time when Kisumu City was undergoing various urban renewal projects, with some already completed. Kisumu City in Kenya was adopted as a case study for several reasons. Like many other cities in Africa, Kisumu City boasts a rich architectural history within the old town from the colonial era. Kisumu City thus offered a case study that could investigate urban landscape identity and the extent to which it is attached to various urban realms and features by the residents, taking into account the changes brought about by urban renewal.

This article proposes various strategies that could be used to ensure the preservation of urban landscape identity not only in renewal cases, but also in all new developments and reconstructions that affect the physical fabric within urban landscapes. The author postulates that public participation should be incorporated in renewal projects, with the aim of preserving the vital aspects that define the character and image of a given city. This is particularly so, bearing in mind the preservation of any heritage components therein. The findings are important to

policymakers within local authorities, who manage new developments, reconstructions, and urban renewal.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Components of urban landscape identity

In this study, urban landscape identity is the residents' opinions and perceptions of the special features that help them differentiate between places, by creating images they can recognise. It encompasses the forms/physical aspects, functions/ activities (sociocultural aspects), and meaning aspects. All three aspects combine to create individual and collective memories for the residents (K'oyoo & Breed, 2023, modified from Shao *et al*., 2020). Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework for urban landscape identity and its link to urban memory within the urban landscape.

Relph (1976) summarises identity of place as comprising three related components, namely physical features or appearance (landscape character and spatial factors) (Stobbelaar & Pedroli, 2011); observable activities and functions, as well as meanings or symbols (social factors) (Stobbelaar & Pedroli, 2011). According to Oktay (2017), the most powerful elements that contribute to the identity of the city are natural environment, sociocultural environment, identifiable quarters, public spaces, and, in some instances, landmarks. Oktay (2017) argues that, because cities are always changing and evolving in response to social, economic, and political forces, the urban environment must be considered in a time-based perspective identifying the changes in the local context.

Ziyaee (2018) assesses identity in terms of forms and functions that illustrate activities and semantics. Semantics includes various meanings and symbols attached to various elements. Components of the landscape include natural forms and man-made forms. Topography, vegetation, climate, and water bodies are the components of the natural environment. The shape of spaces, buildings, access, and furniture are components of the man-made environment. Social beliefs and patterns of behaviour are immaterial components of man-made forms (Ziyaee, 2018).

2.2 Importance and relationship between urban landscape and urban landscape identity

Gushchin and Divakova (2019) posit that the urban landscape, which is constantly in the eyes of the urban dweller, plays an important role in the reflection on belonging to the town and thus forms the urban identity. Kaymaz (2013) as well as Butler and Herlin (2019) posit that the urban landscape is a composite structure which is a result of the interactions between human beings and their urban spaces. It also involves the physical, social, cultural, and economic dimensions that vary from city to city. Human activities are responsible for forming and shaping the urban landscape and then inherit the values, beliefs, and meanings considered to be symbolic over time within society. The urban landscape and its identity are linked to the important concepts of sustainability and conservation in urban renewal.

According to Kamel and Shok (2022), four factors identify the relationship between identity and urban landscape: physical characteristics of the city and its capabilities; understanding meanings and concepts in the city; the current dynamic context of time and life, and the citizens' social and civic life. Kamel and Shok (2022) argue that part of urban landscape identity is linked to the past body of the city and that the destruction of memorable places with a historical connection to the past destroys urban landscape identity, because the historical continuity is destroyed.

2.3 Importance of urban landscape identity in changing urban realms

Insani *et al*. (2022) posit that urban identity plays an important role in shaping the social, cultural, and economic development of a city. It affects how residents perceive and relate to their city, as well as how the city is perceived by outsiders. Boussaa (2018) states that world cities strive to remain unique and distinct in a bid to captivate and retain markets at global level through trading and tourist activities. World threats from homogenisation, caused by globalising trends in city developments, have brought the need for cities to have their own identity to the level of world recognition and concern. Nasr and Majedi (2014) posit that, nowadays, the vast majority of cities are facing the problem of 'identity crisis'. Relph (1976) highlights the need for human
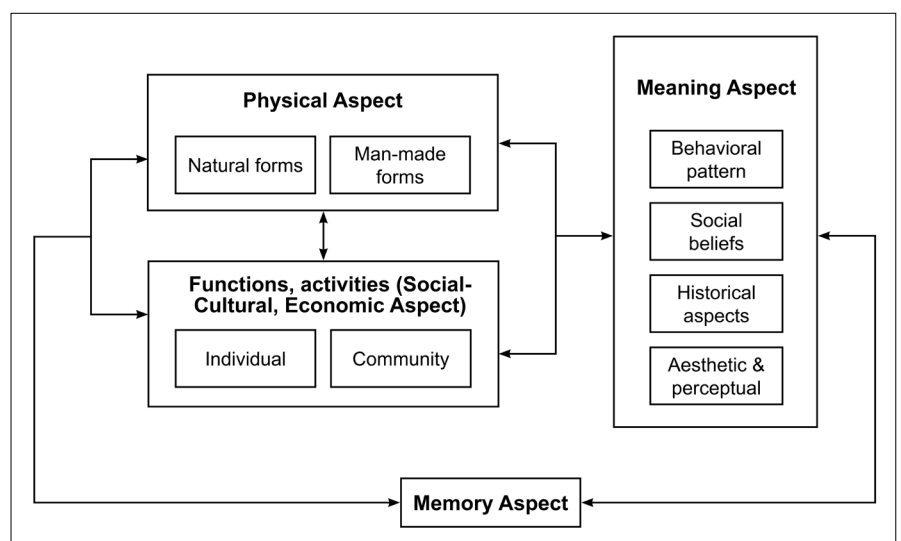

Figure 1: Conceptual framework for urban landscape identity

Source: Modified from Shao *et al*. (2020); Ziyaee (2018)

identity. He argues that there is a deep human need for associations with places that are considered significant. If placelessness is left to continue without any challenge, future environments will not matter to people. Lynch (1960) avers that a city identity is necessary and essential, as it provides harmony between the 'constant' and the 'changing' elements; people and history are incorporated by a shared link, making a particular city distinguished and unique.

According to Kandemir (2017), supported by Oktay and Bala (2015) and Oktay (2017), cities are not static and as such keep evolving and changing over time. The change in all aspects of city life and structure causes transformation of architectural and urban identity in time. Kandemir (2017) further argues that it is important to discuss the elements of change and their consequences in architectural urban spaces and their products in the context of identity (Kandemir, 2017). Studies reviewed on urban renewal in post-colonial Africa by Amado and Rodrigues (2019) as well as Njoku and Okoro (2014) are all concerned with creating viable communities, due to the upgrading of decayed neighbourhoods and urban spaces with concern for social and physical aspects, without giving attention to the need to preserve and strengthen urban landscape identity. Amado and Rodrigues (2019) point out that the need to preserve identity and memory associated with places is one of the challenges of urban renewal.

2.4 Role of public participation in identifying, promoting, and preserving urban landscape identity

According to Thomas (2003, cited in Foroughi *et al*. [2023]), public participation concerns how local planning authorities should consider the issue of 'public' influence over planning decisions in general. Public participation is a growing concern in urban renewal projects. Wen *et al*. (2023) posit that it is imperative to involve the public in the decision-making process of every regeneration scheme, since they are the end users and key stakeholders responsible to ensure sustainability. Foroughi *et al*. (2023) elucidate the theoretical framework in participatory practices to include the analysis of all actors in terms of stakeholders, data-collection methods, analysis, levels of participation (inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower), methods of conflict identification, assessment, resolution, how to reach a consensus, respect conflict, and maintain diversity (Foroughi *et al*., 2023).

The most recent studies on participation (Liu *et al*., 2020; Li *et al*., 2020) stress the myriad challenges that are involved with it. Li *et al*. (2020) state that, in developing countries, the public usually lacks the channels through which they can participate in urban-regeneration projects within their cities. Global South countries also face this public participation challenge. Huang *et al*. (2020) point out that, due to the varying interests of the different stakeholders involved in urban renewal processes, it is suggested that the need to accommodate various people can be addressed partly by having a framework. The framework should aim to include, in a flexible manner, varying voices, show the results in an appropriate way, and accommodate preferences of the public as end users. Li *et al*. (2020) emphasise the lack of channels for participation in developing countries, while Yuen (2005) avers that people are interested in conservation and identity. The interests, needs, and wishes of the people must, therefore, be allowed to inform and influence key decisions and actions in various projects through the identification of urban landscape identity and places to conserve in the various public projects. According to Li *et al*. (2023), new digital technologies can facilitate public participation in urban transformations. Digital technologies through platforms such as the social media and Digital Commons open ways for outreach, co-creation, and citizen-led decision-making. These methods can be regarded as potentially evoking the
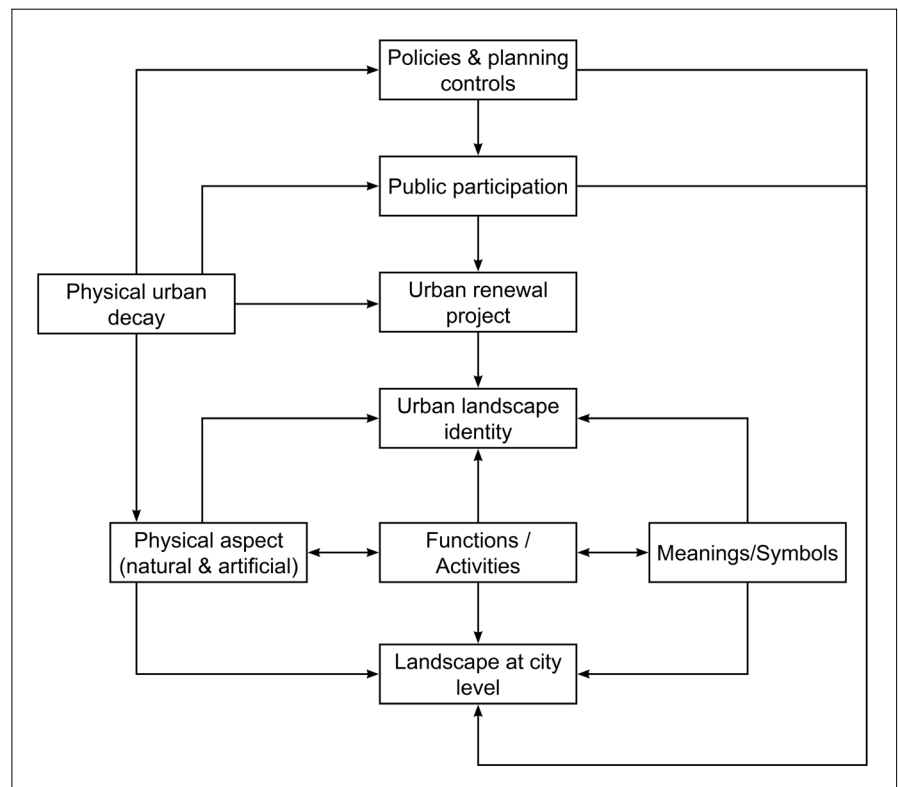

Figure 2: Conceptual framework of the study

awareness of residents to enhance their participation (Li *et al*., 2023).

The findings of this article are anchored on the concepts of 'urban renewal', 'urban landscape identity', and 'public participation' that should not be viewed as separate entities in city-upgrading projects. Landscape identity within the urban landscape needs to be critically considered during urban renewal projects in a city. There is a need for public participation during the planning process and implementation of urban renewal projects that result in changes to previously existing urban forms, thereby affecting urban landscape identity within the urban realm. How public participation takes place and what is done with the findings are critical for an urban renewal project to be successful. Figure 2 represents the conceptual framework of the study.

In the conceptual framework (Figure 2), the urban landscape in this study is considered at city level. The following three components form urban landscape identity: the physical, the socio-cultural-functional, and the meaning-perceptual aspects.

These all act together to shape the landscape identity and the memory associated therewith. The physical aspects comprise the natural and artificial forms once altered by the effects of physical urban decay. This negatively affects the image of the urban landscape and as such necessitates the undertaking of urban renewal to remedy and solve these negative effects. Urban renewal is influenced by policies and planning controls that may be in place within a given jurisdiction to necessitate the implementation of the renewal projects. As discussed earlier, public participation is critical for urban renewal projects to be successful (Layson & Nankai, 2015). According to the author, it is evident that landscape identity, which should form an essential part of public participation, is rarely given the important consideration it deserves during urban renewal projects.

3. STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in Kisumu City, the third largest urban area in Kenya (see Figures 3 and 4). Kisumu City is the main administrative centre and headquarters of Kisumu County and is located at 265km north-west of Nairobi. It lies on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria, the continent's largest fresh-water lake, and is 1,146 metres above sea level and located 0° 6' south of the Equator and 34^o45' east (AFD, 2013). In 2022, the city covered an area of 417km^2 (157km^2 of water and 260km^2 of land), with a population estimated at over 500,000 people. According to KNBS (2019:20), on Kenya's population and housing census 2019, the study area (Kisumu town area and its outskirts) falls within Kisumu Central Sub County that has a total population of 174,145 people, consisting of 84,155 males (48.3%), 89,985 females (51.7%), and 52,331 households. The Kisumu town area has a total population of 56,498 people and 17,258 households within a land area of 25.4km^2. Sub-locations within the Kisumu town area include Kaloleni, Bandari, Southern, Northern, and Kanyakwar.

Figure 3:   Map of Kenya showing location of Kisumu County
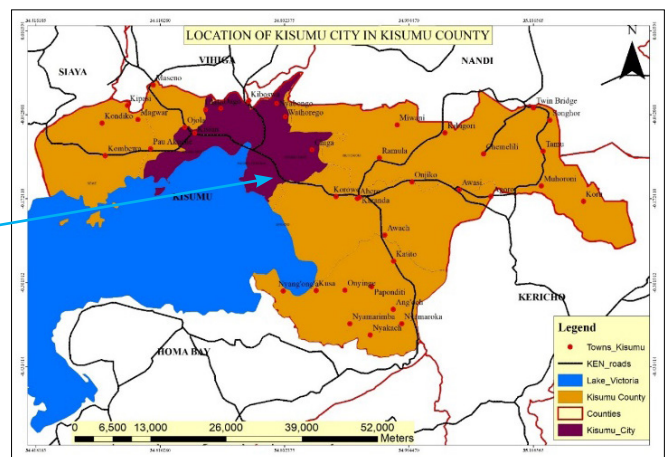
Source: Internet google maps

Figure 4:   Map of Kisumu County showing location of Kisumu City

Source: Digitised satellite aerial imagery.

According to the City of Kisumu's Kisumu Urban Project (CoK KUP, 2019),[1] Kisumu City designed and implemented the Kisumu Urban Project (KUP) from 2009 onwards with funding from the French Development Agency (AFD) to improve the residents' living conditions through various development projects. The main aim of the various projects was to improve the urban infrastructure, public facilities, and spatial planning and carry out slum upgrading, in addition to the modernisation of public policies to improve public service delivery through effective city management (CoK KUP, 2019). Consequently, from 2019 to 2022, several urban renewal projects were implemented in Kisumu City. These include non-motorised transport (NMT) within the CBD that comprises the improvement of pedestrian walkways and parking spaces. Other projects include the construction of new markets, bus parks, rehabilitation

1   This source (City of Kisumu, Kisumu Urban Project) is not available online but can be requested from the author.

of public parks (see Figure 5), beautification of roundabouts, road islands, and proposed new high-rise affordable housing.

4.   METHODOLOGY

The study investigated the preservation of urban landscape identity through public participation amidst urban renewal changes in Kisumu City, Kenya, by adopting a qualitative mixed research approach (Creswell, 2014). Qualitative research allows for the use of literature reviews, interviews with key informants and experts/ professionals, in addition to field investigation through photography and mapping to collect data (Creswell, 2014; Saldana, 2009). In this study, the literature review was carried out to obtain insight into the various components that form urban landscape identity, the relationship between urban landscape and urban landscape identity, and the role of public participation in identifying, promoting, and preserving urban landscape identity (Shao *et al.*,

2020; Oktay & Bala, 2015). The literature review led to the relation of various components in terms of the conceptual framework for the study (see Figure 2). Photography was used to compile photographic documentation of the various features of interest and the urban renewal projects undertaken. The photos were taken by the researcher in July 2021 based on Kisumu's sites of interest (CoK KUP, 2019) and other purposively selected sites. ArcGIS mapping was done to locate some of the features such as the parks under rehabilitation within the CBD. The qualitative interviews explored the various features of interest that contribute to the formation of landscape identity. It also collected views on public participation, the measures put in place, and urban form elements/features considered for preservation. Qualitative research allows for data analysis based on identified themes (Creswell, 2014; Saldana, 2009). The interview findings were combined thematically with the various features of interest from the photographic mapping to propose regulations/strategies for Kisumu City to develop, promote, and preserve urban landscape identity.

4.1 Interview participants

The researcher purposively selected the experts, due to their involvement in the management of the city as well as in the planning and implementation of the various urban renewal projects at the time of the study. Those interviewed included the City Director of Planning and Chief Officer of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning of CGK. The CGK key informants were labelled as CGK 1 to CGK 4. Four practising professionals were also picked for responses as experts. They were named KSM-P1 to KSM-P4. Table 1 summarises the profiles of the interviewees.

In analysing urban identity and conservation within urban environments, Tascioglu and Sirel (2020) relied on a total of 15 people with expert opinions from a landscape architect, an architect, and an expert in urban and regional planning.
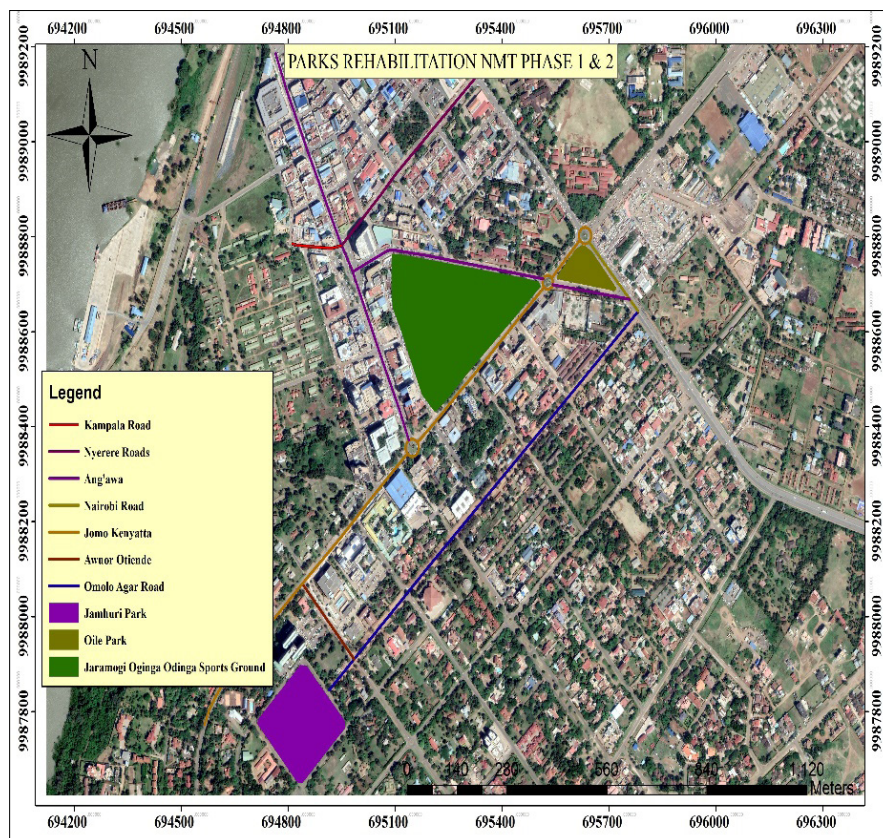

Figure 5:   ArcGIS Desktop 10.3 map, showing the location of the parks under rehabilitation, NMT road and street projects.

Source: Map design by author, 2021

Table 1: Profile of interview respondents (Key informants and experts)

Interviewee ID	Profession/Place of work	Type of respondent	Gender
CGK 1	Kisumu County Government	Key informant	Anonymised
CGK 2	Kisumu County Government	Key informant	Anonymised
CGK 3	Kisumu County Government	Key informant	Anonymised
CGK 4	Kisumu County Government	Key informant	Anonymised
KSM-P1	Physical planner	Private professional	Female
KSM-P2	GIS specialist	Private professional	Male
KSM-P3	Landscape architect	Private professional	Female
KSM-P4	Urban designer	Private professional	Male

4.2 Data collection

4.2.1 Literature review

The researcher analysed relevant documents relating to the inception and implementation of urban renewal projects in Kisumu City. Relevant documents about the history and development of Kisumu were also analysed. These documents were available at the City Planning Department in the County Government of Kisumu (CGK) and were availed after interviews with the city planner.

There was a need to undertake an archival literature review of the various features and sites of interest within Kisumu City. This is important in order to understandithe reasons why various respondents consider them important in contributing to landscape identity. According to CoK KUP (2019), there is important history of the Central Square, the Clock Tower, the Old Provincial Commissioner's building, the Kisumu Municipal Market, and the Old Town, among other sites of interest. The following is a brief summary of some of the sites and features of interest. Figures 6 and 7 provide the map and photos of the various features.

- Clock Tower: It was built by the colonial government to honour the memory of Kassim Lakha, a great Indian trader who contributed to the development of Kisumu Town in the colonial days from 1902 to 1910. The tower was unveiled on 19 August 1938 in memory of his charitable act of serving the residents of Kisumu with medical facilities at his expense, without discrimination of cast and creed (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Old Town: Kisumu boasts about the great Asian (Indian) architectural influence on its urban form. This is still present within the area earmarked for heritage protection. This area has old shops (Dukawalas) built by Indian nationals who settled in the town upon completion of the Mombasa-Kisumu railway line in 1901. The British colonial government brought the Indian people to construct the railway line (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Old Provincial Commissioner's office: Its construction was completed in 1909 and it operated as the base for colonial administration in Nyanza Province. It remained a provincial headquarter, even into post-independence after 1963. It was declared a national monument in March 2001 and is currently under National Museums of Kenya (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Kisumu Municipal Market: This was constructed in 1935 and was key to the economic development of Kisumu. It continues to be a dominant commercial space where agricultural products such as cereals are traded (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Central Square: It was constructed in 1957 as a focal point of the municipality. It still has great political significance for Kisumu City (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Jaramogi Oginga Sports Ground: It was previously named Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground. It is the large green space in the heart of the city in the Kisumu Triangle. It is famous for both passive and active recreation and a major site for large religious and political gatherings (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Kisumu Triangle: This consists of three major streets, namely Oginga Odinga, Jomo Kenyatta, and Ang'awa. They enclose the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Grounds. These streets are important to the city as they account for most of the city's pedestrian and bicycle traffic (CoK KUP, 2019).
- Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Referral Hospital: Famously known to the locals as Russia Hospital. Its construction was funded by the Russian Government and it opened in 1969 in post-colonial government. Its opening ceremony, which was meant to be a landmark day for the region, was marred by controversy, tension, and bloodshed (CoK KUP, 2019).

4.2.2 Interviews

The interview schedule for the CGK officials, as the key informants for this study (see Appendix B), entailed fourteen structured questions asked by the interviewer to elicit their views and opinions: Aspects that constitute urban landscape identity of Kisumu City; various aspects of public participation in terms of whether it was considered; planning controls and policies involved to ensure that landscape identity is preserved, and best practices to ensure preservation of the city identity. The interviewer probed for further clarifications, where necessary, and notes were constantly taken while recording, using mobile phone handset. Direct quotes from the key informants were included to illustrate certain points of importance.

In July and August 2022, semi-structured interviews were held with four officials of the County Government of Kisumu (CGK). The interview schedule for the professionals/experts for this study (see Appendix A) entailed nine structured questions to elicit their opinion on which aspects (physical, sociocultural, economic, and meanings) constitute the image or character of Kisumu, and thus form its urban landscape identity. Figure 7 shows a map based on a report of the City of Kisumu's Urban Project (CoK KUP, 2019), which features sites of interest in Kisumu City. Most of the features mapped are viewed as forming the landscape identity of Kisumu City and were used to investigate what constitutes the landscape identity of Kisumu City.

4.2.3 Field investigation

In this study, the field investigation entailed photography and mapping of the various sites of interest according to CoK KUP (2019) and of the various projects of urban renewal that were ongoing and already completed within Kisumu City. The photographs constituted the qualitative material that was part of data-collection methods.

Between June and August 2021, the researcher took photos of the various features of interest in Kisumu City during field investigation. Other photos based on urban renewal changes were also taken on site for the ongoing and completed projects to constitute the primary data. Photos of interest to the study were sought from the archives of the County Government of Kisumu Offices and from the internet to constitute secondary data. The first 25 photos were selected based on the CoK KUP report on Kisumu City sites of interest (see Figures 6 and 7, images 1-25). The last 3 photos (26 to 28) are of the NMT and Central Square based on urban renewal changes. These photos show the features that are considered to be forming urban landscape identity of Kisumu City and were used in the interviews with experts and key informants.

According to the City of Kisumu's Kisumu Urban Project (2019), Kisumu's sites of interest include parks such as Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground, monuments such as the Clock Tower, religious buildings such as St Theresa's Catholic Church, the Sikh Building, government buildings such as the old provincial headquarters, the railway station, the Kisumu port, the fire station, educational buildings such as the University of Nairobi building, Kisumu proposed historic and heritage core area consisting of old Asian architecture, the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Kisumu social hall, and the Kenya National Library Services building, among others. Figure 6 indicates the sites of interest that were identified after doing a situational analysis in 2019 by Kisumu City.

4.3 Data analysis

4.3.1 Archival document analysis

Document analysis examined urban development plans and policy documents that provided the context for studying urban landscape identity, and public participation within ongoing and completed urban renewal projects. Kisumu's situational analysis for 2019 (Cok KUP, 2019) provided a good background for the study in terms of sites of interest in Kisumu and other demographic characteristics. Some photos of sites of interest in Kisumu such as the Old Clock Tower (Photo 3 in Figure 7) were also retrieved from the soft copy records at the GIS department within the City Planning Department.

4.3.2 Interviews

The responses from the interviews were reported *verbatim* and no software was used in the analysis. The researcher picked out the themes during the analysis. Making use of content analysis (Drisko & Maschi, 2016:34), the responses were categorised and analysed in terms of what constitutes the image/identity of Kisumu City, public participation within the renewal projects, and considerations for preservation and conservation in the renewal projects.

4.3.3 Field investigation mapping

Mapping was done for the locations of the various sites of interest and the sites undergoing urban renewal. Figure 5 shows the various parks within the CBD that were undergoing rehabilitation, due to urban renewal mapped using ArcGIS software after picking the location coordinates during field investigation. This was important in understanding the ongoing and completed activities within the city that could impact on changes in urban landscape identity. The study greatly relied on the map of Kisumu's sites of interest (Figure 6) (CoK KUP, 2019).
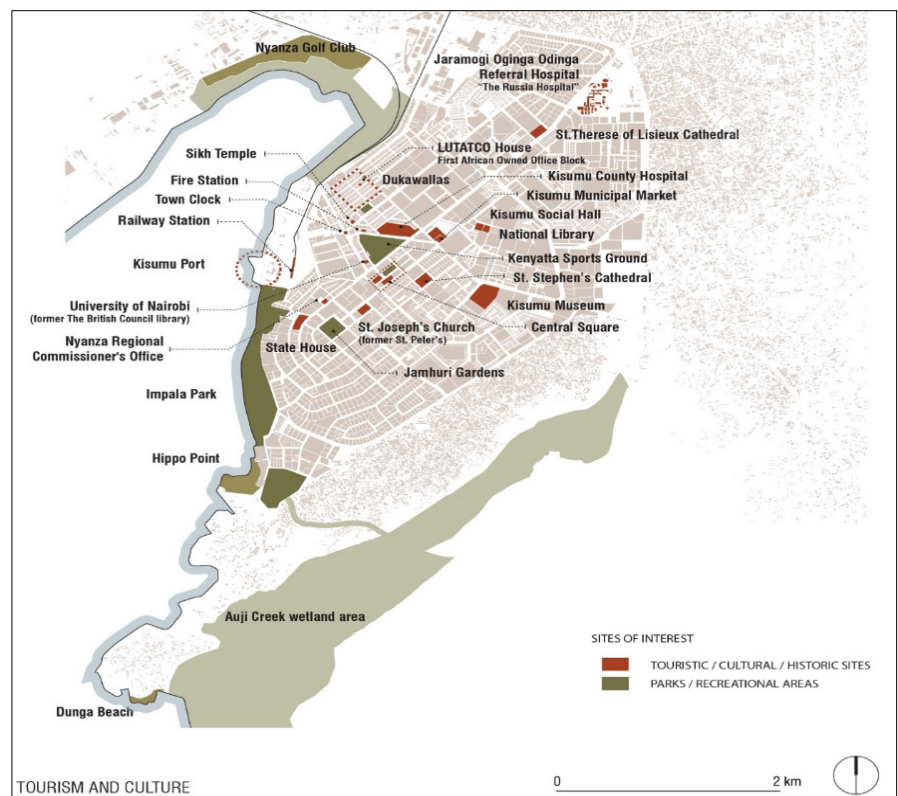

Figure 6:   Kisumu sites of interest
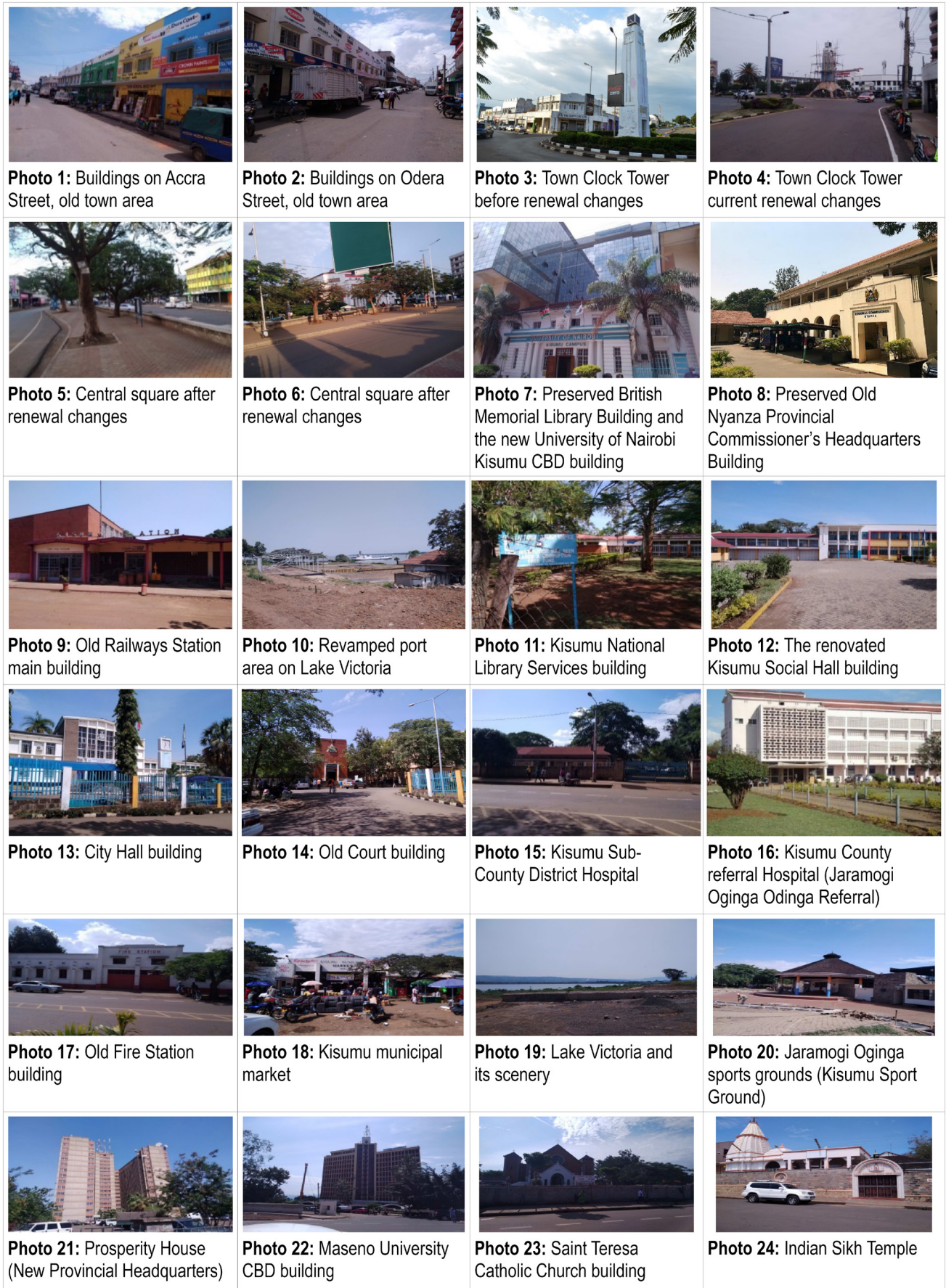Source: CoK KUP (2019: 342)

Photo 1: Buildings on Accra Street, old town area

Photo 2: Buildings on Odera Street, old town area

Photo 3: Town Clock Tower before renewal changes

Photo 4: Town Clock Tower current renewal changes

Photo 5: Central square after renewal changes

Photo 6: Central square after renewal changes

Photo 7: Preserved British Memorial Library Building and the new University of Nairobi Kisumu CBD building

Photo 8: Preserved Old Nyanza Provincial Commissioner's Headquarters Building

Photo 9: Old Railways Station main building

Photo 10: Revamped port area on Lake Victoria

Photo 11: Kisumu National Library Services building

Photo 12: The renovated Kisumu Social Hall building

Photo 13: City Hall building

Photo 14: Old Court building

Photo 15: Kisumu Sub-County District Hospital

Photo 16: Kisumu County referral Hospital (Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Referral)

Photo 17: Old Fire Station building

Photo 18: Kisumu municipal market

Photo 19: Lake Victoria and its scenery

Photo 20: Jaramogi Oginga sports grounds (Kisumu Sport Ground)

Photo 21: Prosperity House (New Provincial Headquarters)

Photo 22: Maseno University CBD building

Photo 23: Saint Teresa Catholic Church building

Photo 24: Indian Sikh Temple

Figure 7:   Photos of various features of interest in Kisumu
Source: Images taken by author, June 2021

5. RESULTS

5.1 Interview responses on what aspects constitute the image/identity of Kisumu City

The professionals/experts were asked about the physical, sociocultural, economic, and meanings aspects that constituted the image/character of Kisumu and formed its urban landscape identity. The findings revealed that Lake Victoria and public parks were mentioned by all as an aspect of the natural environment. The sociocultural factor is in terms of multi-racial integration of different races within the city in terms of Africans and Asians as permanent residents. The local food had a meaning aspect for individuals and groups in terms of individual/personal memory and social/collective memory. Staple food in terms of '*ugali*' and fish from Lake Victoria are the locals' favourite food and constitute part of the city image and local identity. Public buildings such as the Municipal Market, from colonial days prior to independence, are part of the physical aspects of the city image and resultant urban landscape identity. Table 2 presents the results.

An interview response by KSM-P4, an urban designer, revealed that Kisumu has many features that contribute to its image and resultant urban identity:

> Lake Victoria is very important since Kisumu City lies along Lake Victoria basin, Dunga Beach on the shores of Lake Victoria offers great eco-cultural attractions. The Kisumu International Airport is the region's busiest airport that serves the entire western region of Kenya. Lwang'ni Beach, though currently fenced and restricted under Kenya Ports Authority and had its structures flattened, gave Kisumu City a great socio-cultural and socio-economic meaning. Other features giving Kisumu its image are Kibuye Market that, although currently is closed to traders due to redevelopment offered a great centre for trade among residents and visitors from as far as other East African countries. Kisumu Impala Park is among the few animal sanctuaries that is home to the rare impala among other animals and plant species. Kisumu Museum exhibits the rich Luo culture, among other artifacts. Regarding parks within the city centre, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Ground is a well-known recreational park within Kisumu. Regarding aspects of trade, Municipal/Jubilee Market is among the oldest and well-known markets for its diverse fresh foods. Riat Hills offers a great scenic view of entire Kisumu from the hilltop. Lastly, the common means of transport commonly referred to as Bodaboda (bicycles and motorbikes) is a major means preferred by many residents [and] is also important for the image of Kisumu City (KSM-P4).

According to County official CGK 1, the image and character of Kisumu City is determined by the buildings along Oginga Odinga Street, the old provincial headquarters building, the Jubilee Market building, the University of Nairobi CBD building, especially the British Old Library building, and parks such as the Uhuru Park, as well as the Clock Tower. In terms of beaches, Lake Victoria and its front is an important natural feature that contributes to the image and identity of Kisumu as a lakeside city.

According to County official CGK 3, important physical aspects that contribute to the image and identity of Kisumu City are Lake Victoria and the old railway station:

> The Lake Victoria is very important in giving Kisumu its lakeside status and has been important for local and foreign tourism besides economic benefits in terms of fishing for trade and for transportation. The railway has been important in the historical development of Kisumu Town since colonial days. The important sociocultural aspects in Kisumu are the fish-eating habits, especially by the residents, the politics that is liked by the Luo dominant residents. Tourism within Kisumu is also an important aspect although it has not fully picked up yet. Trade in Kisumu is mostly dominated by the Asians and the locals are mostly trading in small scale, but all the same trade is an important economic aspect contributing to the image and identity of Kisumu City (CGK 3).

5.2 Interview responses on public participation

The professionals were interviewed about the ongoing and completed urban renewal projects in terms of their awareness of public participation, awareness of the measures put in place to ensure urban landscape identity was considered, and which urban form elements or features, of which they were aware, were considered for preservation. The findings revealed that rehabilitation of the public parks forms part of features and elements considered for preservation. Monuments within the various public spaces, in addition to the streets, are also considered for preservation, despite urban renewal changes. Table 3 presents the responses.

Interviewee KSM-P1, a planner by profession, was aware of public participation in the renewal project that is a must to be conceptualised, in order to conduct this public project. He was, however, not aware of any public participation measures that are put in place to ensure the city image and urban landscape identity are considered in the renewal project. Some members of the public complained about inadequate measures put in place to accommodate their interests. The respondent felt that recreational parks are considered for preservation in the renewal project, due to their importance to urban landscape identity.

Table 2:   Response on what constitutes landscape identity of Kisumu City (key informants and experts)

Interviewee ID	Aspects constituting image/identity of Kisumu City
KSM-P1 (Planner)	Lake Victoria, parks
KSM-P2 (GIS specialist)	Local food, multiracial integration, Lake Victoria, its beaches and scenery
KSM-P3 (Landscape architect)	Lake Victoria, local food
KSM-P4 (Urban designer)	Lake Victoria, Dunga Beach, Kibuye Market, Kisumu Museum, Kisumu Municipal Market, Riat Hills and scenery, Jaramogi Oginga Sports Grounds

Table 3: Responses on awareness of public participation, measures put in place, and urban form elements/features considered for preservation

Interviewee ID	Awareness of public participation	Awareness of measures put in place to ensure urban landscape identity was considered	Urban form elements/features considered for preservation
KSM-P1	Yes	No	Urban parks under rehabilitation
KSM-P2	Yes	Yes	Urban parks under rehabilitation
KSM-P3	No	Yes	Monuments and walkways
KSM-P4	No	No	Street walkways, landmarks, *e.g.* in parks, urban green spaces/parks, street names

Respondent KSM-P2, a GIS specialist, was also aware of public participation in the renewal project and of the measures that are followed to ensure that the city's landscape identity is considered, especially within the largest public park Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Grounds and other open spaces and green areas within the CBD.

Interviewee KSM-P3, a landscape architect by profession, was not aware of the public participation that was used to engage the city residents but was aware of the steps put in place by CGK to ensure that the city identity is considered in the wake of urban renewal changes within the pedestrian walkways and public monuments.

According to KSM-P4, an urban designer, Kisumu City considered preserving some components of the city, including street walkways, as the City of Kisumu (CoK) had preserved them and only improved them by paving and reclaiming their encroached reserves. Landmarks in parks under rehabilitation and the Clock Tower are also considered for preservation. Urban green spaces such as Oile Park, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Ground as urban parks have been preserved for recreational purposes and have been improved by the erection of wall fences, among other amenities. Above all, COK kept the previous street names, despite the developments within the CBD and beyond (KSM-P4).

According to county official CGK 2, the main aim of undertaking the various aspects of the renewal project was to ensure a friendly environment for the city's residents in terms of 'new' better markets, affordable housing, better urban open spaces, safer and cleaner streets, as well as orderly streets through NMT. According to county official CGK 1, some of the projects undertaken (for example, beautification of the roundabouts) involves the use of public participation in making decisions. An example is Kondele Roundabout in which the public is involved in the implementation and maintenance of the beautification. Public participation, however, has many challenges that could slow down the implementation of the projects, due to lack of agreements on the way forward (CGK 1 interviewee).

According to county official CGK 3, members of the public have been involved in various components of the renewal projects from time to time through stakeholders and active groups. Stakeholder mapping has always been done to identify various interest groups. The response regarding public participation was:

> Kisumu City has a politically charged population that would like to be involved in various components of city projects in terms of public participation. Some activist groups even go to court for injunctions to stop initiation of some proposed projects at inception or during the progress. The Dunga Beach Lakefront development project has not yet been initiated due to the problem of public participation. The traders on Dunga Waterfront land are worried about relocation again after previous eviction from Lwang'ni Beach/Lake front (CGK 3 interviewee).

5.3 Findings on considerations for preservation and conservation during urban renewal

According to interview responses from county officials CGK 2 and CGK 3, the area within Kisumu City earmarked for proposed preservation is the Old Town that falls mostly between Obote Road, Oginga Odinga Street, Nyerere Road, and Otieno Oyoo Street, with some of the oldest and first town areas within it. The old railways station area, currently under management by Kenya Ports Authority, should also be preserved, due to its historical importance for Kisumu City.

Based on the review of existing documents obtained from Kisumu City's Planning Department, the considerations for preservation and conservation were analysed, as indicated in the findings in this section. Field investigation through photography to support the review was also undertaken. Kisumu City's Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUD Plan, 2019) is intended to protect and valorise Kisumu's natural environment and heritage, and to improve the public realm. According to KUP (2019), some of the streets that form the preserved historic area of Kisumu City include Odera Street, Accra Street, Ogada Street, and Mosque Road. Structures along these streets are mostly single- and double-storey buildings associated with the Asian community. The historic core for preservation lies between Obote Road, Oginga Odinga Street, Nyerere Street, and Otieno Oyoo Street. The Asian community had an important influence on Kisumu's urban form after their arrival in the town at the beginning of the 21st century, with the construction of the Mombasa-Kisumu railway line. According to field investigation, no buildings have been affected by any improvements on infrastructure within this proposed heritage and preservation area at the time of this study.

According to CGK 1, the aim of CGK is to protect, preserve, and conserve the open spaces through projects undertaken in the

roundabouts, parks, open spaces, greening of streets, and NMT. Both CGK 1 and CGK 2 concurred that Kisumu City is cleaner and safer, with ease of mobility in the streets after the implementation of NMT and decongestion of the streets within its various spaces within the CBD and in other areas where the renewal works were undertaken. Regarding changes undertaken on the Clock Tower during ongoing urban renewal, CGK 1 opined that the Clock Tower must be preserved in its original form and colour and not be changed to its present appearance: "The Clock Tower ought to have remained the same. The present cladding with tiles followed by their removal during the ongoing works is not good. There was public concern about the changes on it despite the continuation with the works on it" (CGK 1 interviewee).

According to county official CGK 1, preservation of green infrastructure in terms of old trees, shrubs along the streets, where NMT was being implemented, is greatly respected and no trees are cut down. The trees are retained in their locations, even in areas where paving was done and street furniture was included within the Kisumu Triangle and the Central Square spaces. The main aim was to ensure that environmental stewardship protects, preserves, and conserves any greenery within the areas under renewal projects (CGK 1). This statement is supported by the field investigation and analysis. The official's support for preservation was as follows:

> The Owen Monument within the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Sports Grounds that is currently under major rehabilitation has been retained in its location and its original form with only painting done to give it a facelift. The Clock Tower that is undergoing some changes has faced several challenges in the implementation of the changes from its original form (CGK 1).

5.4 Professionals' interview responses on recommendations to ensure preservation of landscape identity and to improve public participation

The professionals were interviewed about the recommendations they would suggest, in order to ensure the preservation of landscape identity, ways to overcome negative perceptions during public participation, and appropriate techniques to ensure the preservation of landscape identity during public participation. Lastly, they suggested communication channels to facilitate consensus in public participation. Table 4 presents the results.

KSM-P1 felt that involving stakeholders from time to time during the planning phases and developing a shared interest in the various matters of urban renewal are some of the best practices that could promote and help strengthen

Figure 7a: Archive photo of the Clock Tower before ongoing modifications (Source: CoK KUP, 2019).

Figure 7b: Ongoing changes on the Clock Tower (Source: Author, July, 2021).

Table 4:   Recommendations to improve preservation and public participation

Intervie-wee ID	Recommendations to ensure preservation of landscape identity	Ways to overcome negative perceptions	Appropriate public participation techniques to ensure preservation	Communication channels to facilitate consensus
KSM-P1	Involve stakeholders from time to time Develop a shared interest in urban renewal matters	Increase membership in public participation Include special groups	Workshops Referenda Public gatherings with the right people	Focus-group meetings Social media/digital communication channels
KSM-P2	Regular public participation meetings	Educate the public on effective participation in public projects	All-inclusive public participation	Digital social media
KSM-P3	Involve the public before, during and after decision-making	Create awareness	Meetings Interviews	News on mass media Social media Public meetings/ barazas
KSM-P4	Adopt a long-term approach rather than a short-term one Set minimum standards to be met in achieving preservation	More civic education on public participation Offer incentives for time spent to participate	Highly interactive community workshops Public hearings/community barazas	Social media, *e.g.* Twitter, Facebook Online interviews, questionnaires

the preservation of Kisumu City's identity. In response to the ways that could be used to overcome any negative perceptions by residents during public participation, the respondent felt that increased social sharing, adjusting the membership, engaging all the special groups, and being keen on the public responses is important. Appropriate public participation techniques that could be used to ensure preservation and strengthen urban landscape identity could be through workshops, referenda, and holding public gatherings that involve the right people. The communication channels that could facilitate consensus-building and better decisions among different stakeholders in public participation includes printed materials, social media/current digital communication channels, and focus-group meetings (KSM-P1).

KSM-P2 indicated that the only way to overcome any negative perceptions by the residents towards public participation in urban renewal projects is by proper implementation with positive outcome to build confidence in them. KSM-P3 felt that involving the public before, during, and after decisions in the projects being undertaken is best practice to ensure acceptance and success by the public. The best way to avoid negative perception by members of the public is to create adequate awareness regarding what was being done on the project. Meetings and interviews with members of the public were the best ways to ensure preservation in the urban renewal project. Communication channels to facilitate consensus in public participation include news on mass media such as television and other media, social media, and holding public meetings from time to time (KSM-P3).

According to KSM-P4, the best practices in urban renewal projects should be to take a long-term rather than a short-term view, when urban renewal projects are compressed to fit within a specific period. For example, due to short electoral cycles, the objectives might not be met, thus losing the rationale for urban renewal. There was also

a need to have a set of minimum standards that should not be compromised. For example, agreeing that landmarks and historical sites should be untouched. These should not be negotiated, even when the community expectations point to the contrary (KSM-P4). Opinions by KSM-P4 on how to overcome negative perceptions by residents in public participation:

> There is a need for more civic education on the importance of public participation, particularly in the planning process. This can be done through mass media such as local radio stations and TV. The city authority can consider offering incentives if budget allows compensating the time people have taken off their schedules to be part of the planning process/ activity and lastly identify and work closely with community champions to create awareness and convince communities/the public on the importance of public participation (KSM-P4).

According to KSM-P4, appropriate public participation techniques to ensure preservation should entail highly interactive community workshops, where communities can be engaged in participatory mapping, ideation, and prioritisation, among others. Secondly, public hearings (community barazas) can be initiated through local administration such as chiefs. Thirdly, community panels and/or professional advisory boards. Fourthly, community pop-up events can include social activities such as football, athletics, and music, among others, and stakeholder approach entails approaching stakeholders in each sector such as the business community, environmentalists, and transport providers. Communication channels that can facilitate consensus include social media avenues such as Twitter and Facebook that have become common, due to increased affordability of internet-enabled gadgets, accessibility, as well as improved internet connection across the country, and online questionnaires/surveys through which community members can submit their thoughts (KSM-P4).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Public participation in the urban renewal

Layson and Nankai (2015) reveal that respondents discussed urban renewal projects, although they were not sure if the ideas they contributed were considered or not. They further state that these doubts by members of the public might have been due to their levels of education. The majority had low levels of education, in order to effectively participate in the renewal projects. This created a problem in analysing the technical issues involved (Layson & Nankai, 2015). Effective public participation could lead to better public satisfaction with the renewal outcome and better project sustainability, as propounded by Layson and Nankai (2015). Li *et al.* (2023) found that local spatial biography can be better identified through public participation. This then extends the people's footprints from the community to local individuals at micro-scaled features within the urban fabric.

This current study argues that public participation in urban renewal projects should strive to focus on the planning processes that identify, promote, and strengthen the preservation of landscape identity within the affected urban realms. These processes should ensure that issues regarding the preservation and strengthening of urban landscape identity are dealt with effectively and should propose the components on which future initiatives should focus. The communication techniques involved in the public participation processes should be broad and all-inclusive to accommodate the various ideas from all the stakeholders identified through prior mapping during the situational analysis of the urban landscape to be affected by urban renewal projects or other major developments. Public participation should strive to accommodate and take decisions based on the contributions of the diverse stakeholders.

According to the Council of Europe's Landscape Convention Report (2006), participatory tools

should facilitate community input and participation in identifying and preserving landscape values that relate to identity. In line with this recommendation, the researcher suggests that urban renewal projects should adequately involve the public first in identifying the components that contribute to the image and urban landscape identity of Kisumu, with the aim of taking into account preservation issues. Secondly, the project should involve the public in the implementation of the various aspects of the renewal projects to ensure that negative impacts are avoided and positive aspects are enhanced through public participation. Communities should be allowed to express their aspirations during the identification of the landscapes based on their characteristics and value.

Li *et al*. (2023) reveal that new digital technologies can facilitate public participation in urban heritage management in case of urban transformations. They conclude that digital technologies through platforms such as social media and Digital Commons open doors for outreach, co-creation, and citizen-led decision-making. They posit that new digital technologies can be regarded as potential methods to evoke the awareness of local inhabitants and enhance their participation in urban transformations. Smart city technologies that represent future expectations can significantly educate the masses and provide a great data resource for analytical research of the public's attitudes (Li *et al*., 2023).

6.2 Preservation and conservation considerations during urban renewal

Spennemann (2023) defines a heritage conservation area as an area of land recognised and valued for the collective nature of buildings and elements that distinguish it from other places and their surroundings. Geng *et al*. (2023) posit that each city should have its list of urban heritage identity attributes that inform local significance as well as local and regional identity. UNESCO and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments & Sites) expressed

preservation concerns through the historic urban landscapes (HUL) approach. There is a need for reflection on urban landscape as an important element of urban heritage that needs to be preserved (UNESCO, 2011).

Nursanty *et al*. (2023) posit that, as cities continue to evolve, adaptability and flexibility in preservation and the promotion of authenticity (urban identity) are crucial. They reveal that city authenticity is not solely confined to the preservation of historical monuments; it also encompasses the entire urban fabric. They propound that the collective memory, values and aspirations that are embedded in the city's physical and social elements contribute to a strong sense of community identity. Striking a balance between preservation and advancement in terms of new developments, reconstructions or urban renewals, on the other hand, is critical, as cities must adapt to changing times while retaining their distinct identity (Nursanty *et al*., 2023).

Zhou (2019) concludes that landscape elements with historical value can be protected and that their value can be fully developed and utilised in creating historical memories for the residents. Such elements provide good reference for the improvement of urban transformation. Geng *et al.* (2023) conclude that investigating the spatial characteristics attached to urban identity is vital for urban heritage sites, especially those adapted to modern functions in complex urban settings. Kisumu City's Old Town area should be preserved, despite privately owned buildings, to ensure continuity of historical memories, despite its current functions and activities. CGK should pass the proposed regulations to safeguard the preservation of this area that is important in the historical development of Kisumu.

Li *et al.* (2023) advocate for a more people-centred and landscape-based approach in the protection of urban heritage areas. They argue that there should be a more holistic process to retain 'old' values and manage

change in their adaptive reuse to gain 'new' values. Oktay (2017) advocates for effective urban design policies and strategies that have the potential to reinforce the local character and create places with identity. Stepanchuk *et al*. (2021) identify several basic principles for preserving identity while reorganising urban spaces. This includes creation of local identity by modern means of architecture and design that is participatory in terms of identifying potential users and stakeholders and use of festivals (festivalisation/eventification) of the space in terms of taking account of all interest groups of the target audience. According to these authors, festivalisation of urban space makes it possible to actualise the intangible cultural heritage of the city and thus create the sustainability of the space (Stepanchuk *et al*., 2021).

6.3 Proposed regulations/strategies for Kisumu City to develop, promote, and preserve urban landscape identity

This section has specific recommendations for Kisumu City, based on the various buildings/structures, landscape elements, and public spaces that should have policies developed and implemented, in order to preserve them as part of Kisumu's urban landscape identity. Aspects to enhance public participation have also been included. Kisumu City needs to initiate regulations and strategies that can be implemented as policies to guide the management of these identified features as part of urban landscape identity. The study also proposes general regulations and strategies for other sites of interest within the CoK KUP (2019) report that were not covered in this study in terms of urban renewal changes. These sites include St Stephen's cathedral, Kisumu Museum, St Joseph's church, and other green spaces such as the Kisumu Impala Park Sanctuary, Hippo Point, and Dunga Beach along the shores of Lake Victoria. All these have been discussed for their contribution to Kisumu's urban landscape identity. Table 5 presents the author's recommendations.

Table 5:   Recommendations to develop, promote, and preserve landscape identity

Landscape element/ structure/ space	Recommended regulations/strategies to develop effective landscape identity
Public parks (Jamhuri Park, Oile Park, Jaramogi Oginga Sports Grounds, Taifa Park, Uhuru Park	The need to recommend and adopt a policy with clear standards on the importance of public parks as contributors to urban landscape identity of Kisumu City. Strategies to implement and manage a network of green spaces from public parks, to all open spaces including Central Square, roads, streets, and their connectivity to Lake Victoria as the main element of the natural environment in Kisumu City. Create awareness on the importance of the parks and their various landscape elements that should be recognised for various reasons as part of the urban landscape identity. The need to create community conservation forums to enlighten the public on the importance of protecting, conserving, and managing these green spaces in a sustainable manner.
Central Square	The need to recognise this public space as an important contributor to Kisumu urban landscape identity. The need to enlighten the public on its importance in the historical development of Kisumu and to preserve it as a public social interaction space. Financial incentives for PPPP can be adopted to manage and protect its current form from colonial days and to present urban renewal changes.
Roads and streets	The urban roads and streets within the CBD should have the natural elements such as old trees recognised as part of Kisumu's urban landscape identity. These elements of greenery should be conserved and managed through PPPP. Public awareness should be carried out to enlighten the public on the need to conserve the urban greenery and other elements within the urban roads and streets network.
Clock Tower	The need to develop policy that first acknowledges the Clock Tower as an important landscape identity element in Kisumu City. Create awareness to enlighten the public about its origin and the need to preserve it in the wake of any new development to modify its colonial form and recent modifications during these urban renewal changes. By-law should be passed to recognise it as a protected landmark in Kisumu's historic development. This should be enacted through policies on its preservation and management from time to time through PPPP.
Government buildings (Prosperity House, City Hall, Old Court building)	These buildings have symbolic meaning among the majority of the residents and as such are important contributors to urban landscape identity in Kisumu. They should be recognised through by-laws and policies to ensure their preservation within Kisumu City. The public should be enlightened through forums on their importance in the historical development of Kisumu City.
Nyanza Regional Commissioners office (former provincial headquarter)	Recent efforts, at the time of the study, to have it gazetted as a preserved building is a good move that should be concluded. Public awareness through social media, press, and other forums should be undertaken to enlighten the public on the proposed preservation and why the preservation is important. It should be recognised as a building that is important in Kisumu's urban landscape identity in terms of the historical development. It should be open to both local and foreign tourism.
Kisumu Museum	This site forms part of sites of interest according to the CoK KUP (2019) report as a major tourist and cultural site. It was not part of the sites picked for the study. This site is already recognised by the central government as part of heritage sites in Kisumu City. By-laws in Kisumu City should recognise the site as an important part of Kisumu's urban landscape identity and play a part in its conservation and preservation efforts for various local culture artifacts and other natural elements. It should be recognised as an important site for public awareness about the preservation and conservation of other buildings, spaces, and landscape elements that are important in Kisumu's urban landscape identity.
Kisumu port and railways	These sites should be recognised with local by-laws as an important part of Kisumu's urban landscape identity. Policies with clear strategies and standards should ensure the conservation and preservation within these sites that are connected to the shores of Lake Victoria within the CBD. The public should be made aware of the importance of recognising these sites as heritage sites that are important in the historical development of Kisumu. These sites should have access to Lake Victoria to ensure interconnectivity to ensure they are visited to appreciate their heritage value in addition to recreation along shores of Lake Victoria.
Lake Victoria and its scenery	The need to recognise it as a natural element that greatly contributes to urban landscape identity in Kisumu City. The need to recognise the symbolic meaning that people attach to it and the individual, collective memories it evokes in local people. Develop policy to specify with the importance of Lake Victoria with regard to urban landscape identity. Connectivity to other green spaces along the lake such as Kisumu Impala Park Sanctuary, Hippo Point, Dunga Beach, and Lwang'ni beach should be enhanced to ensure tourist activities. It should also have connectivity with green pathways to the urban parks within the CBD to ensure tourist activities within them with effective access and full utilisation. Initiate financial incentives through PPP to ensure effective conservation and protection of its entire shoreline, wetlands, and main body of water. Create community conservation forums to support awareness on protection and good management and encourage activities such as water hyacinth removal and regular clean up from time to time. The proposed development of the lake front should be implemented to ensure full utilisation of Lake Victoria as the greatest asset of natural environment within Kisumu City.
Religious buildings (St Theresa Cathedral, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Sikh Temple)	These should be recognised for their unique architectural design and contribution in the historical development of Kisumu City. Cok KUP (2019) identified them as important sites of interest in Kisumu City. They should be recognised for preservation through by-laws to ensure that contribution to urban landscape identity as sites to visit is not lost over time, due to changes through new developments.

7. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The article argued for retaining the city's identities and culture in their built form and spaces. The author's contribution to place theory proves that space comprises various components that allow users to connect. The theoretical implication of this study established a conceptual framework that links urban landscape at city level to urban landscape identity, together with urban renewal projects that necessitate changes in the physical fabric in ameliorating effects of physical decay within urban realms. The findings advocate for public participation in urban renewal projects in identifying, preserving, and promoting urban landscape identity under the control and regulation of policies and planning regulations that exist in a given jurisdiction. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on urban studies with respect to urban landscape identity, public participation, and preservation efforts that should accompany new developments, reconstructions, and urban renewals. Understanding the importance of urban landscape identity and the associated role of public participation in its identification, promotion, and preservation is essential in creating and maintaining vibrant, all-inclusive, and sustainable urban environments in the midst of unavoidable urban changes to the spatial built forms in the environment.

The article highlighted the importance of public participation in city planning and how planners respond to urban renewal projects. This is key to understanding the city's response. The framework developed is of particular interest to this field of study, as it forms a basis for urban renewal projects. This study added to the discourse on the urgent need to preserve the unique and distinct character of various cities amidst the unavoidable threat of homogenisation from prevailing global trends in shaping physical environments. The study concluded that, in order to preserve landscape identity, this should be acknowledged in legislation and policies that guide urban renewal and developments and in public participation processes. The study proposed amendments to the existing planning regulatory controls to guide the preservation of landscape identity in Kisumu.

The general recommendations to be adopted by CGK and other jurisdictions include:

1. Adopt a landscape-based approach that promotes the identification and inventory of landscape values and urban historical resources when formulating urban development policies that guide urban renewals and reconstructions.

2. The need to adopt a participative approach, by promoting and protecting cultural heritage within the historic core. Identify the strategic targets and share vision on urban landscape identity among all stakeholders.

3. Create critical mass to incentivise investors/private sector to contribute to the enhancement of urban landscape identity through branding.

4. Promote stakeholder involvement from an early stage during inception of urban renewal projects to ensure conservation and preservation of urban landscape identity.

5. Gather sufficient information that is necessary to decide on the optimal level of public intervention and partnership in new urban developments, reconstructions, and urban renewal projects that affect urban spatial built forms and impact on urban landscape identity.

6. Build capacities for local governments to sufficiently identify, promote, and monitor urban landscape identity within the various built forms from streets, squares, parks, gardens, open spaces, monuments, and historic cores.

7. The need to raise awareness through education and training among residents about the importance of preserving urban landscape identity. This can foster a sense of responsibility among citizens, making conservation efforts more acceptable and sustainable.

8. Formulate effective urban design policies that safeguard urban landscape identity through public participation.

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APPENDIX A: PROFESSIONALS/ EXPERTS

1. What, in your opinion, are the aspects (physical, sociocultural, economic, and meanings) that constitute the image/character of Kisumu and thus form its urban landscape identity?

2. Are you aware of any public participation in the urban renewal project in Kisumu City?

3. Are you aware of any measures that were put in place to ensure that the city's character/identity/ urban landscape identity was considered in the ongoing/ completed renewal projects?

4. Which specific urban form elements/features and other aspects do you believe were considered for preservation, due to their importance to the city identity?

5. What recommendations do you suggest should be incorporated in planning controls and policies to ensure the preservation of urban landscape identity in cases of urban renewal projects?

6. What recommendations do you suggest should be incorporated in planning controls and government policies to ensure that public participation strengthens the preservation of the urban landscape identity in urban renewal projects?

7. What, in your opinion, are the ways to overcome any negative perceptions by the residents towards public participation?

8. What, in your opinion, are the appropriate public participation techniques that can be used to ensure the preservation and strengthening of urban/ landscape identity?

9. What communication channels do you feel should be used to facilitate consensus-building and lead to better decisions of public participation among different stakeholders in renewal projects?

APPENDIX B: KEY INFORMANTS (CGK OFFICIALS)

1. What, in your opinion, are the aspects (physical, sociocultural, economic, and meanings) that constitute the image/character of Kisumu and thus form its urban/ landscape identity?

2. Was public participation included in the planning and implementation of the already completed and ongoing urban renewal projects in Kisumu City?

3. Who were the different stakeholders engaged in the renewal projects?

4. What is the extent/level of participation of members of the public in the ongoing/completed urban renewal projects?

5. How did you handle, incorporate findings of public participation in the renewal projects?

6. Through what channels/ ways did you engage the various stakeholders in public participation?

7. What techniques of public participation did you find to be appropriate?

8. What communication channels did you use to facilitate consensus-building and lead to better decisions in public participation among different stakeholders?

9. What plans/measures were put in place to ensure that the city character/identity/ urban landscape identity was considered in the ongoing/ completed renewal projects?

10. Which specific urban form elements/features were considered for preservation, due to their importance to the city identity?

11. What best practices of urban renewal did you use to ensure the preservation of city identity during the planning and implementation phases of the renewal project?

12. What planning controls and government policies are in place to ensure that the urban landscape identity is preserved in urban renewal projects?

13. What recommendations do you suggest should be incorporated in planning controls and policies to ensure the preservation of urban landscape identity in case of urban renewal projects?

14. What recommendations do you suggest should be incorporated in planning controls and government policies to ensure that public participation strengthens the preservation of urban landscape identity in urban renewal projects?