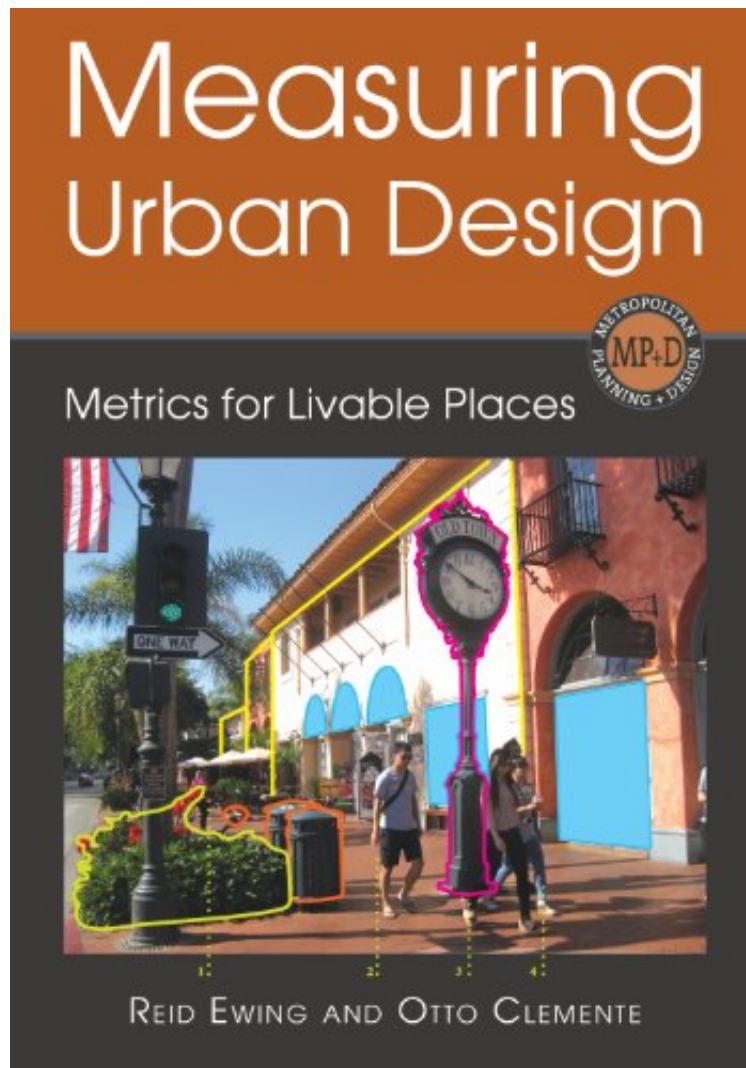


(Free and download) Measuring Urban Design: Metrics for Livable Places (Metropolitan Planning + Design)

# Measuring Urban Design: Metrics for Livable Places (Metropolitan Planning + Design)

*Reid Ewing, Otto Clemente*  
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**Reid Ewing, Otto Clemente : Measuring Urban Design: Metrics for Livable Places (Metropolitan Planning + Design)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Measuring Urban Design: Metrics for Livable Places (Metropolitan Planning + Design):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Look Deeper, Understand BetterBy Bur OakThis is an important and well cited document in academia. The text is not dense, well written, and a fairly easy read. Because of its unique experimental design in the investigation, I am sure to show it to my graduate students as a case study in research metrics. There are several perspectives concerning environmental perception and evaluation. Much of the world employs the use of experts to determine the contents and structure of the built environment, from Vitruvius, to

Palladio, to Frank Lloyd Wright. When reading this document, there are three caveats. First this work is based upon the beliefs about space by experts (some of the most noted world experts). However, some studies have shown that planning and design experts may not comprehend or assess space in a manner similar to the public. The reader should not assume that the preferences of experts are the preferences of the public. Second, the results in this document are primarily a validation concerning the consistency of experts to judge space based upon their own criteria. In other words, the study reveals that experts in this study were reliable in predicting their own values to evaluate space. The study is similar to a team creating an index and then using the variables in the index to corroborate the index-- a self-fulfilling prophecy. In most regression studies, the independent variables are not normally used to construct the dependent variable, and then after construction of the dependent variable, regressed to show that the independent variables do indeed predict the dependent variable. However this approach is an excellent way to get large r-squared values and significant predictors. Third, the range of spaces examined (streetscapes) in the study is relatively narrow (view the range of images in the document). When employing scales and equations to measure the universal appeal of environments from highly desirable to very undesirable, most of the images presented in the book might rate on the less desirable side. So the reader should not confuse preferred streetscapes with preferred environments. Across the full dimension of environmental preference, the more preferred streetscapes might possibly be only somewhat more preferred than the least preferred streetscapes. Still this book is worth reading and studying. Landscape metrics are in their formative early stages. Many more studies refuting and corroborating the ideas presented in the book will follow. Reid Ewing is a productive investigator and may have more to offer on the subject of environmental metrics. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Interesting conclusions but very hard to read. By Michael Lewyn This book is quite difficult, chock full of unexplained references to "Coefficients" and "p-values"; as a result, I think a reader who (like me) is not particularly familiar with the use of statistics in the social sciences misses a lot. Nevertheless, I did get something out of this book. What this book tries to do is (1) create a quantitative measure of a place's aesthetic appeal to pedestrians (in the first few chapters) and (2) see how closely these measurements correlate to which New York city blocks are actually most used by pedestrians. The authors showed video clips of various streets to urban design experts, asking experts their opinions about which streets were walkable and why. Based on the experts' views, the authors focused on a few major factors, including: imageability (how memorable is the street?), enclosure (do pedestrians feel enclosed by street walls and buildings?), human scale (do pedestrians feel dwarfed by buildings?), transparency (is it clear what's going on in the street or do blank walls hide it?), and complexity (is the street monotonous or diverse?). A second set of researchers visited a sample of New York streets in all five boroughs, and then measured pedestrian traffic on each of these streets. Surprisingly, three of the five variables had little relationship to actual pedestrian traffic. Human scale was slightly related, and only transparency was strongly related. What is transparency? In large part, "the proportion of active uses at street level" (as well as the existence of a street wall and windows). In other words, where there's lots of stuff for pedestrians to visit ("active uses"), pedestrians will visit them. So it appears that many of the more aesthetic qualities of streets don't affect pedestrian interest very much.

What makes strolling down a particular street enjoyable? The authors of *Measuring Urban Design* argue it's not an idle question. Inviting streets are the centerpiece of thriving, sustainable communities, but it can be difficult to pinpoint the precise design elements that make an area appealing. This accessible guide removes the mystery, providing clear methods to measure urban design. In recent years, many "walking audit instruments" have been developed to measure qualities like building height, block length, and sidewalk width. But while easily quantifiable, these physical features do not fully capture the experience of walking down a street. In contrast, this book addresses broad perceptions of street environments. It provides operational definitions and measurement protocols of five intangible qualities of urban design, specifically imageability, visual enclosure, human scale, transparency, and complexity. The result is a reliable field survey instrument grounded in constructs from architecture, urban design, and planning. Readers will also find a case study applying the instrument to 588 streets in New York City, which shows that it can be used effectively to measure the built environment's impact on social, psychological, and physical well-being. Finally, readers will find illustrated, step-by-step instructions to use the instrument and a scoring sheet for easy calculation of urban design quality scores. For the first time, researchers, designers, planners, and lay people have an empirically tested tool to measure those elusive qualities that make us want to take a stroll. Urban policymakers and planners as well as students in urban policy, design, and environmental health will find the tools and methods in *Measuring Urban Design* especially useful.

"This timely guide draws upon the best available research to show how contextually rich and robust metrics of urban design, like legibility and imageability, are associated with active, livable places. Designers, planners, public health professionals, and anyone else who cares about quality of urban living will gain a lot from this book."