**Streetscape Improvements**

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

**PROJECT DETAILS**

- **Project Area:** 25 miles of roadway
- **Client:** Municipality of Jeddah
- **Year Produced:** 2008

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A large paved plaza in front of a mosque creates a civic gathering space along a predominantly commercial street.

Widened sidewalks, textured paving and street trees can change the character of even the widest streets to create a safe, pedestrian-friendly environment.

The proposed design for a typical single-family residential street includes a narrow travel lane and on-street parking.

**The Project**

Facing enormous growth pressures and rapid expansion, the Municipality of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, hired Dover, Kohl & Partners to create standards for making more livable, pedestrian-friendly and attractive streets. The team studied and redesigned five representative transportation corridors of varying widths and character as well as two typical residential streets. The Jeddah Streetscape and Urban Design Manual will guide future improvements on similar streets citywide with standards and best practices for the design of roadways, sidewalks, public spaces, and the placement and character of new buildings. Design work was done in collaboration with Hall Planning and Engineering, AFM Consultants of Damman, Saudi Arabia, and Cairo-based Earth for Architecture and Planning.

**Process**

Three visits were made to Jeddah during the process. During the initial site visit, Dover-Kohl conducted in-depth analysis of local conditions, from zoning regulations to typical street sections, building heights, and public spaces, as well as driving and parking patterns. A 12-day charrette followed, during which the design team worked closely with the Municipality to create streetscape designs and development regulations for each of the corridors. The completed Streetscape and Urban Design Manual and detailed technical plans for the corridors were reviewed during a closing presentation and follow-up workshop.

**Streetscape and Urban Design Manual**

The Streetscape and Urban Design Manual is the primary implementation tool for achieving the vision for transforming Jeddah’s streets. Simple and clear graphic instructions are employed for numerous street design elements that help define quality public spaces. Standards include design parameters for vehicular travel lanes, transit facilities, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, signage and building façades that face streets. The Manual is intended for use by the Municipality, civil engineers, architects, contractors, developers and other individuals who help to design new streets, improve existing streets, renovate existing buildings and construct new buildings. By detailing the vehicular realm, the pedestrian realm and the private realm, the Manual establishes a new paradigm for urban design in Jeddah focused on balancing the needs of all modes of travel. The accompanying technical plans specify the reconfiguration of major streets and the exact location of streetscape elements such as parking spaces and tree placement. Specific roadway features and security factors were also incorporated to allow safe travel for the King and other members of the royal family.

**Status**

The Streetscape and Urban Design Manual is currently under review by the Municipality of Jeddah.
Successful places work when a harmonious relationship exists between the multiple functions of a city. By recognizing the different “realms” that accommodate the needs of people – and then designing for them accordingly – a synergistic effect is created that is essential to real placemaking. With smart design, pedestrian and vehicular traffic can flow concurrently and easily with one another. The private realm can integrate mixed-uses to stimulate the neighborhood both day and night while also lending a sense of safety and character to the street.

The Streetscape and Urban Design Manual identifies the key elements of the pedestrian, private and vehicular realms. The needs and attention to particular details of each area are outlined through extensive photographs, renderings, and instructional diagrams.

The Pedestrian Realm

Outdoor dining and the physical placement of tables along wide sidewalks are one of several elements that relate specifically to the pedestrian realm. Other key features specified for this area include gateways, appropriate types of street signage, proper handicap access, landscaping, lighting, and public spaces.

The Vehicular Realm

Standards for roadway planning specify roadways and alleys, dimensions, materials, parking, and other provisions that regulate good street design.

The Private Realm

The private realm focuses on building configuration, massing, and typologies, as well as façade design, shopfronts, and arcades. Site guidelines, a variety of appropriate architectural styles, designated parking areas, and service utilities are also critical components of placemaking.