

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi Urban Street Design Manual



The Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council recently adopted the Emirate's first Urban Street Design Manual, with help from a team that included Otak International, Nelson\Nygaard, and Steer Davies Gleave. The document provides guidance to:

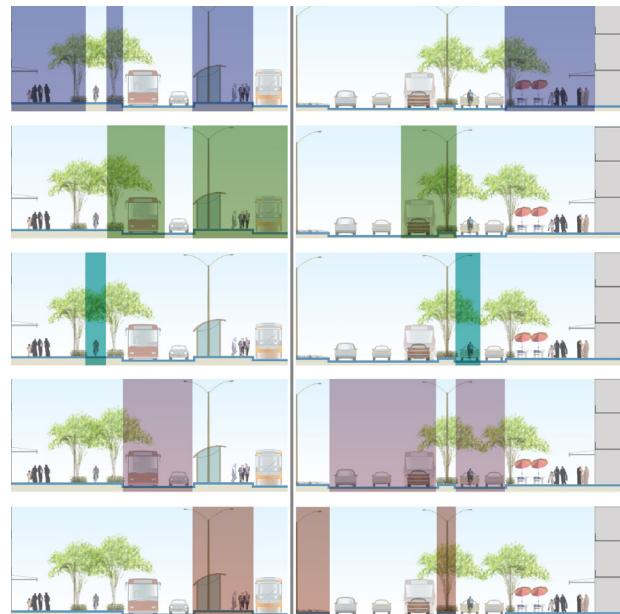
- Design streets that create a safe environment for all users
- Transition from a vehicle-trip based society to a multimodal society
- Introduce fine-grained street networks into the existing super-block pattern

The manual builds on similar efforts in Germany, the UK, Australia, and the US, and advances the principles espoused in the Emirate's 2030 Plan, also co-authored by Nelson\Nygaard. It takes as its premise that "Previous design guidance was influenced by documents such as the AASHTO Green Book, which is inappropriate for urban streets where modes of transport other than the automobile are present." Building on this premise, the manual introduces the concept of the pedestrian realm as an integral part of the overall street composition, and shows how this and the traveled way are combined to provide a balanced street network for all modes of transport. In this regard the manual is perhaps one of the most progressive in the world.

Nelson\Nygaard staff were involved in these primary areas of the manual's development:

- Key design principles, goals, and performance measures
- Street network layout and connectivity measures
- Cross-sections
- Street design including pedestrian, transit, bicycles, traffic calming, and intersections

Complementary to the manual, Nelson\Nygaard assisted with the redesign of three streets in Abu Dhabi which provided a feedback loop. The streets are to be rebuilt beginning in 2011. The project also included a training regimen and working with local officials to ensure the successful and consistent application of the manual.



Project Duration: 2009–2010

Total Budget: \$3,000,000

NN Budget: \$625,000

For more information:

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