

Public Space in Kuwait

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LSE MEC research seminar, 25 May 2021

Project link: <https://bit.ly/3oo53ew>

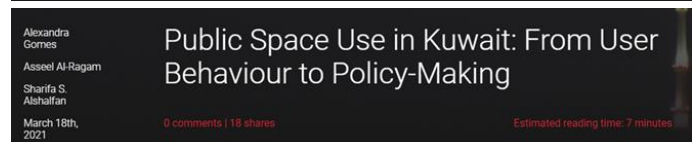
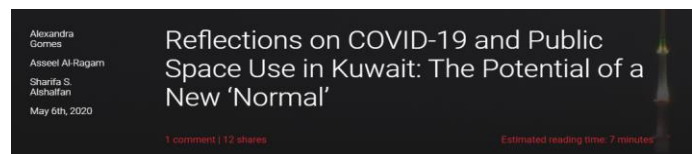
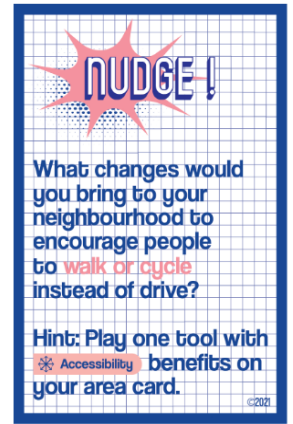
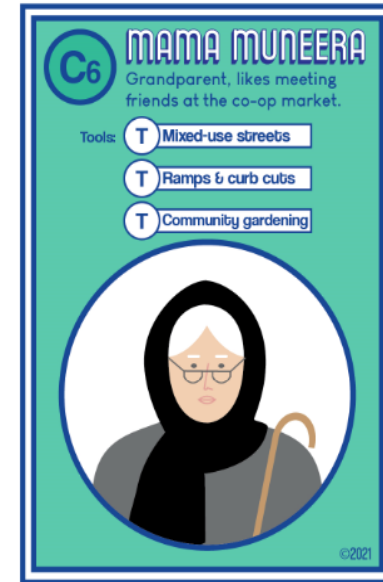
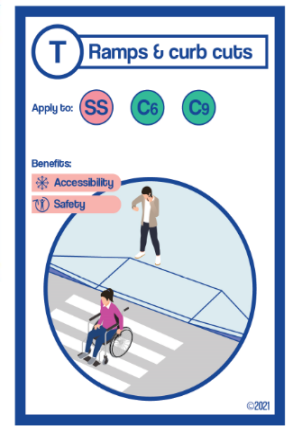
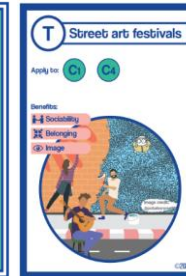
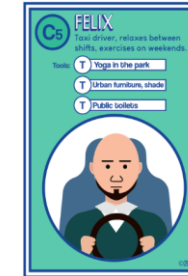
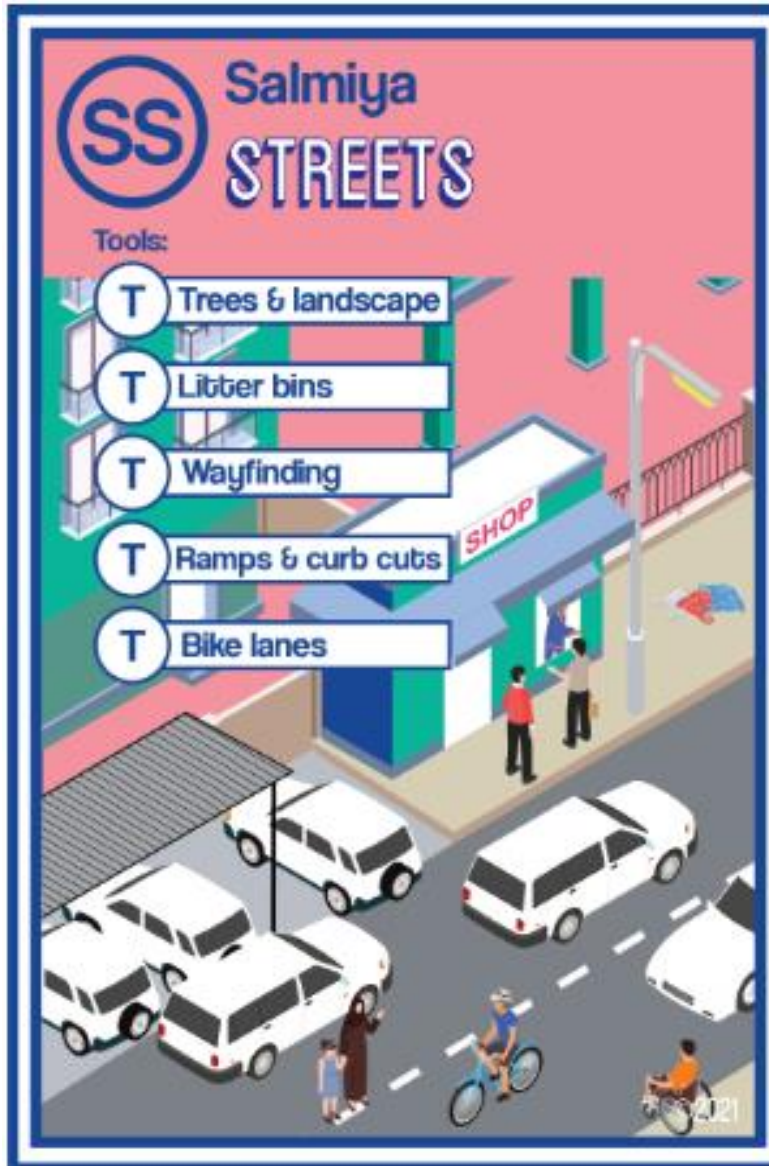


RECLAIMING PUBLIC SPACE IN KUWAIT'S RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

AN APPLIED POLICY-ORIENTED APPROACH

ALEXANDRA GOMES, ASSEEL AL-RAGAM & SHARIFA ALSHALFAN

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Non-kuwaiti population

Population (2015)

2,887,433 pers

% of the total population

69 %

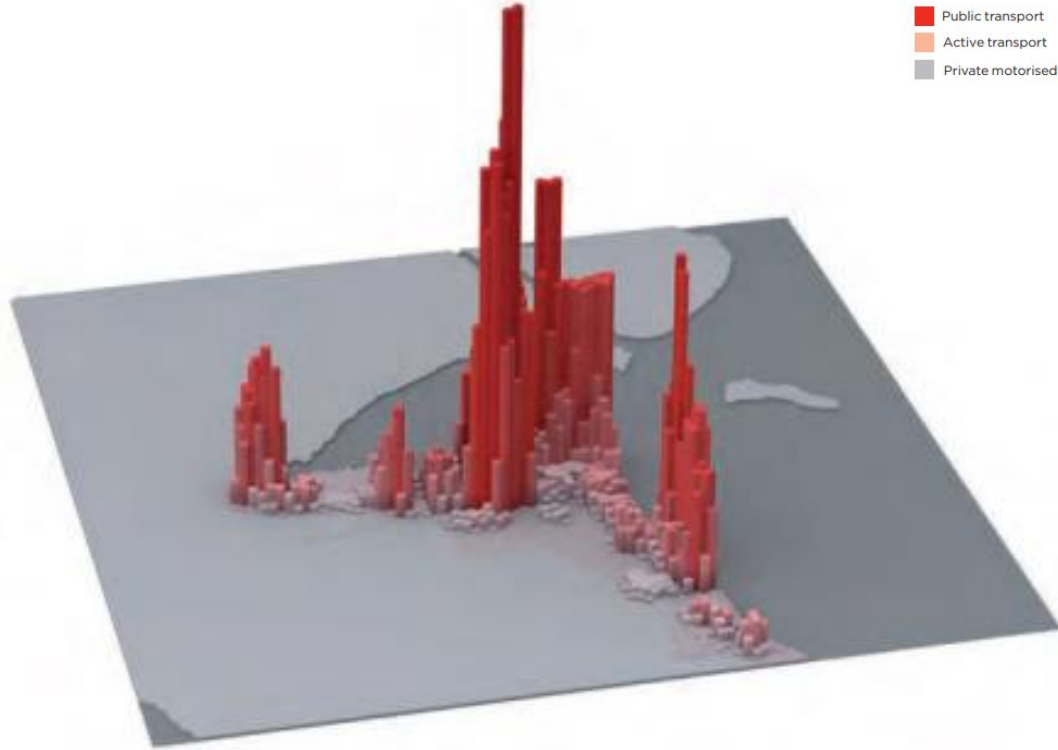
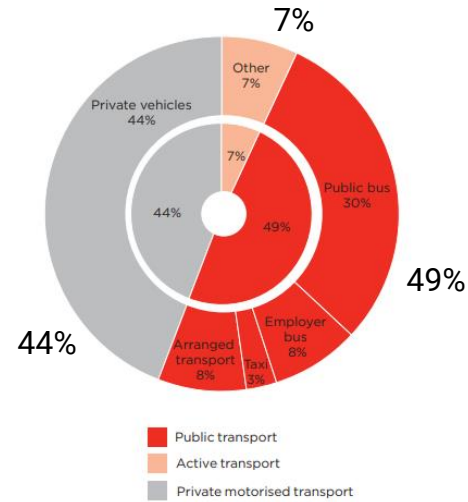
Urban living area density

6,805 pers/km

Peak density

51,582 pers/km

Transport mode share



Kuwaiti population

Population (2015)

1,291,139 pers

% of the total population

31 %

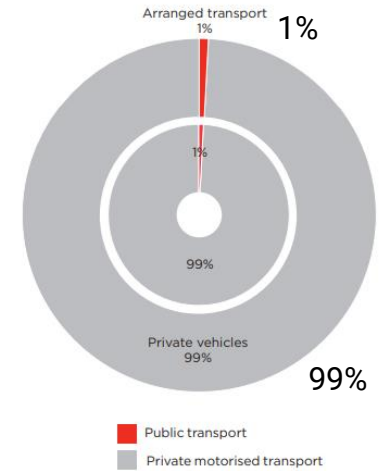
Urban living area density

3,043 pers/km

Peak density

9,888 pers/km

Transport mode share



Addressing Knowledge Gaps



“street-level”
urban design
characteristics



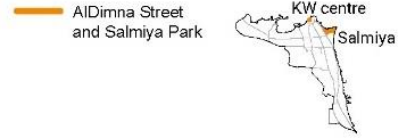
dominance of top-
down quantitative
public space
methods & analysis



public space
policy and
management

Salmiya neighbourhood

AlDimna Street and Salmiya Park



Block:

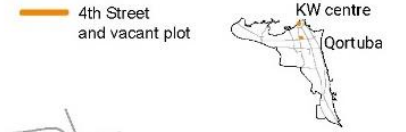
Population density 8,204 per/km²

% male population 56%

% non-Kuwait population 88%

Qortuba neighbourhood

4th Street and vacant plot



Block:

Population density 11,525 per/km²

% male population 48%

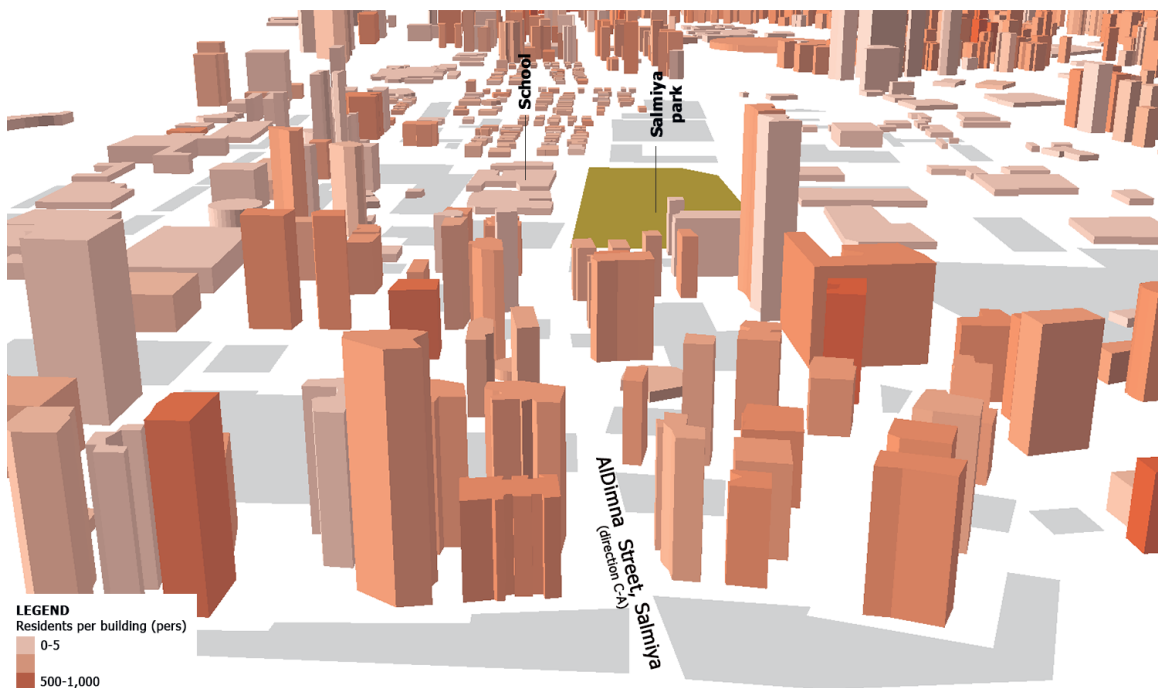
% non-Kuwait population 41%

	Salmiya	Qortuba
Survey participants' basic description		
Number of participants (space users)	101	32
Gender (%)	65% males 35% females	69% males 31% females
Percentage of non-Kuwaiti	94%	47%
Dominant type of users	72% Area residents and workers 28% others	87.5% Area residents and workers 12.5% others
Mode of transportation	50% car or taxi 42% walked 8% public transport	87.5% car or taxi 12.5% walked
Survey results		
Top 5 descriptors to define the area	Atmosphere General approval Urban form Mixed-use Cleanliness	Atmosphere General approval Urban form Cleanliness Road and car parking
Top 5 suggestions to improve public space	Green and play areas Walking conditions Sports conditions Road, car parking Mixed-use	Mixed-use Walking conditions Green and play areas Road and car parking Safety
Bottom 5 suggestions to improve public space	Cycling conditions Legibility Safety Nothing Urban furniture	Nothing Sports conditions (others as above)

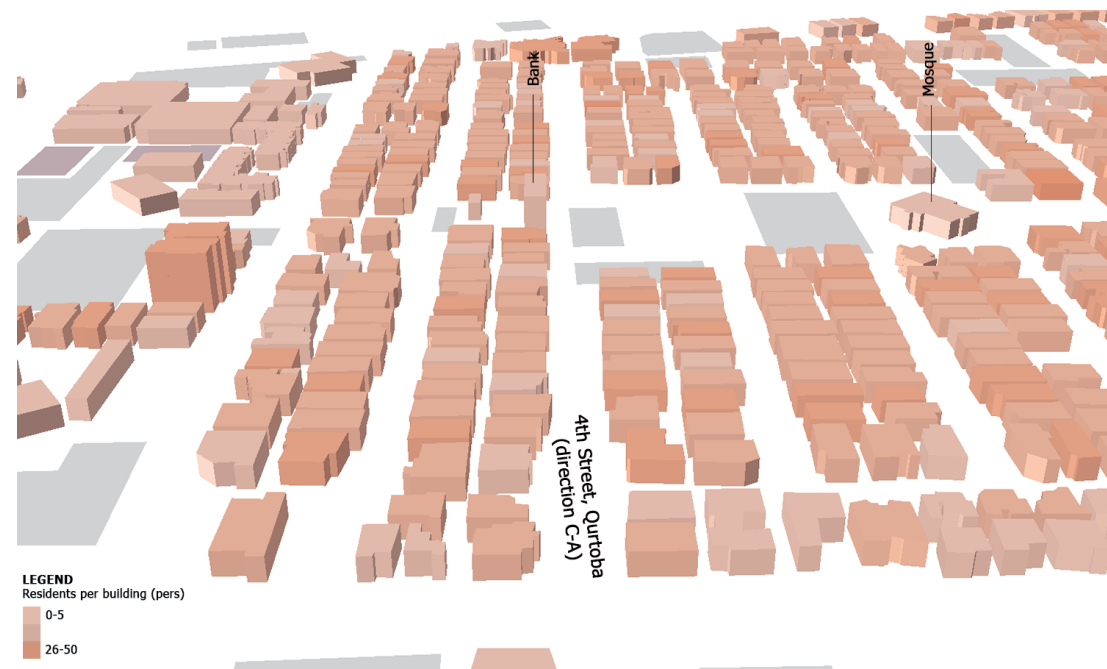
	Method	Scale	Questions	Worksheets & Tallies
Individual data	survey	individual	Understand social mixing in public space. Why do people use public space? How did they arrive there? Who did they talk to there and why? Do they feel comfortable?	Participant survey
Observational analysis	Observation	Groups	Understand the patterns of how people move and use a space	Age and gender tally; People moving count
Furnishing, landscape and program analysis	Furnishing, landscape and program analysis	Streetscape	Understand the relationships between the built environment and the ability of a place to foster social activities	Stationary activity mapping; Place inventory; Social space survey
Quality criteria	Quality criteria	Blocks	Understand and compare quality in the built environment and its ability to contribute or hinder public life	Twelve quality criteria



Al-Dimna Street, Salmiya
100m observation radius
100m street segment



4th Street, Qortuba
100m observation radius
100m street segment



DEMYSTIFYING THE EFFECT OF LOCAL
CLIMATE ON PUBLIC SPACE USE

CLIMATE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

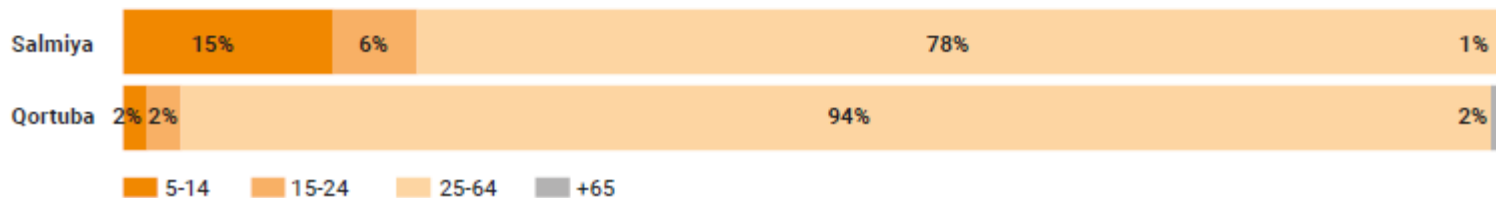
Percentage Distribution of Users per Period



Percentage Distribution of Users per Gender

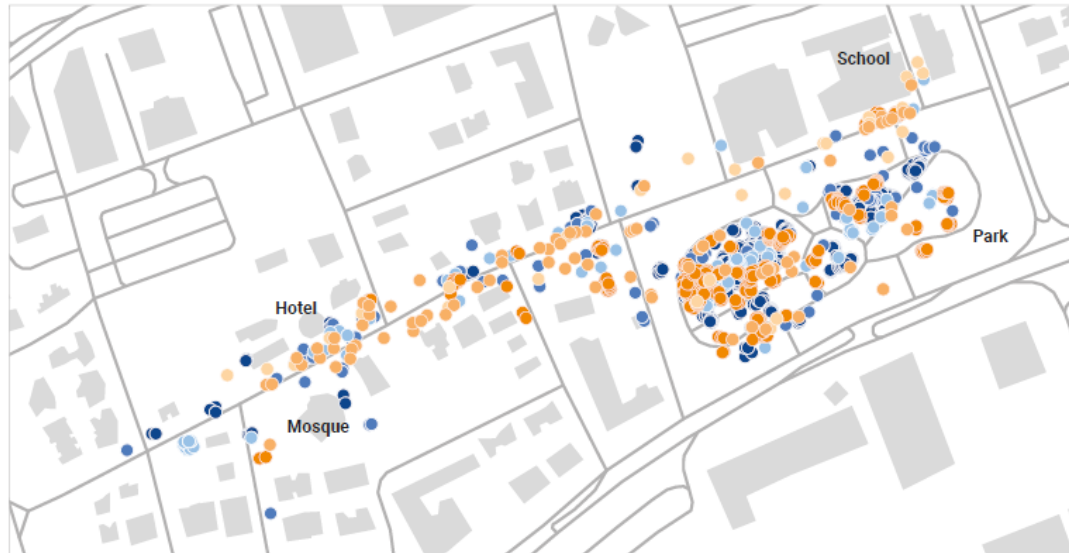
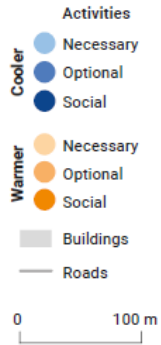


Percentage Distribution of Users per Age Group



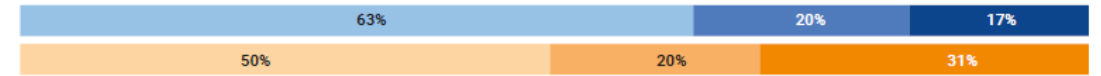
Salmiya

% of total activities



Qortuba

% of total activities



EMPHASISING THE CO-DEPENDENCY
BETWEEN URBAN FACTORS



Urban planning

Plot size
Building type
Population densities
Sustainable transport provision
Accessibility and connectivity
Mixed-use
Spaces for sports & recreation

Urban design

Streets
Walkways
Cross roads
Signalling
Lighting
Shading
Facades / Building interface
Urban furniture
Vegetation and water provision
Wayfinding

Individual and cultural behaviour

Comfort
Safety
Income / Citizenship
Sociability
Interest / aesthetics

DENSITY AND MIXED USE



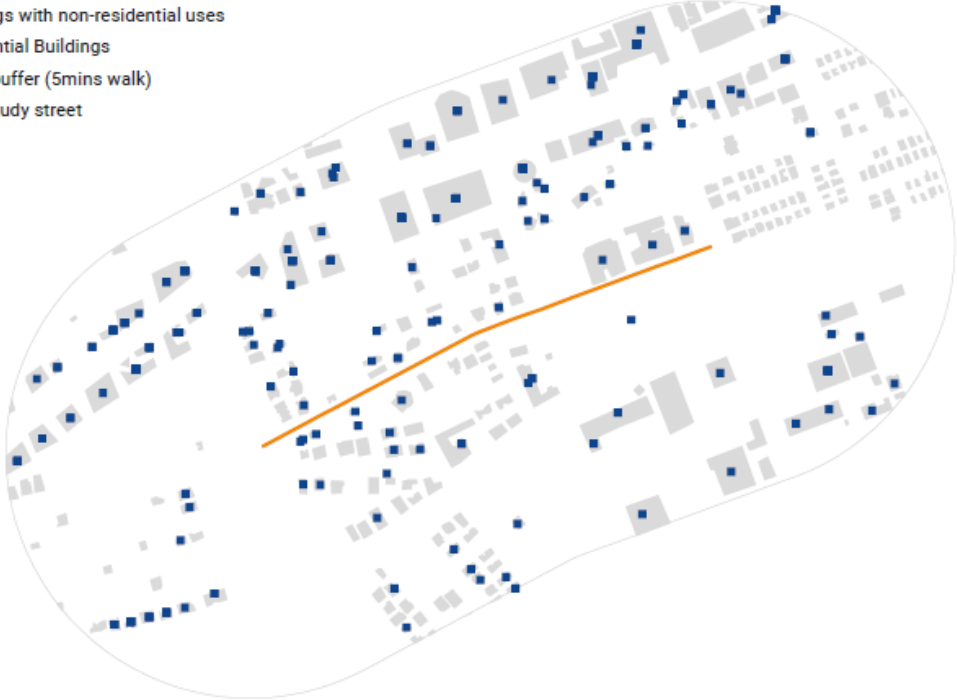
Salmiya

314 buildings

% of total buildings



- Buildings with non-residential uses
- Residential Buildings
- 400m buffer (5mins walk)
- Case study street



Qortuba

698 buildings

% of total buildings

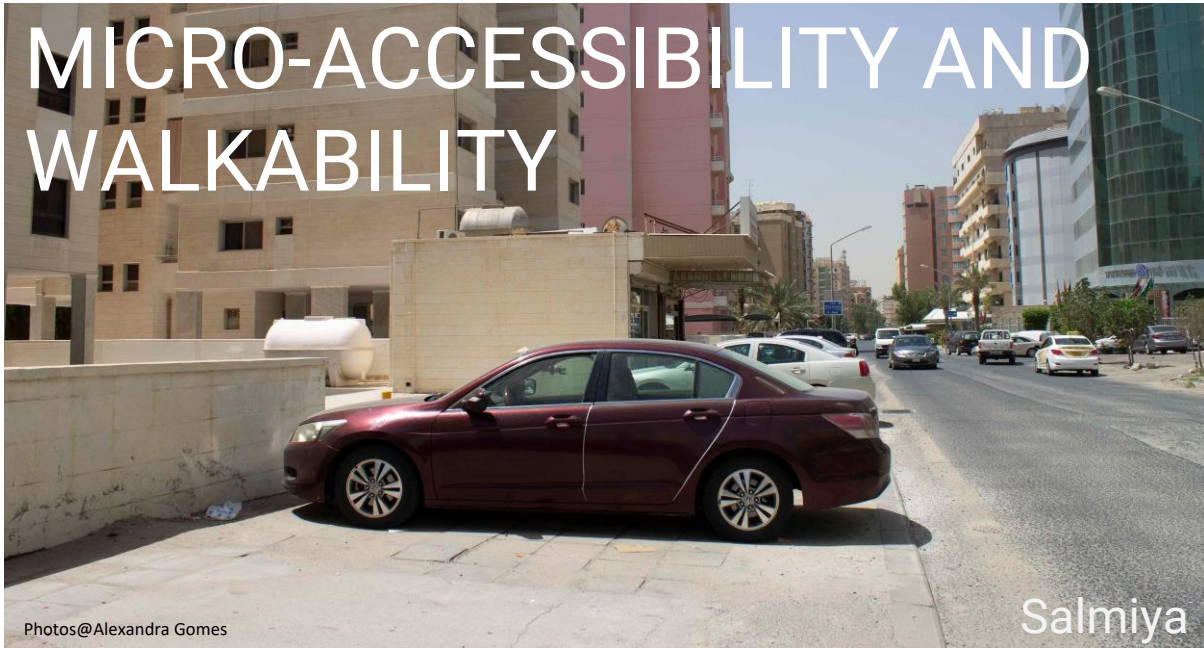


0 0.2 km





MICRO-ACCESSIBILITY AND WALKABILITY



Photos@Alexandra Gomes

Salmiya



Qortuba



Salmiya



Qortuba



Photo@Alexandra Gomes

Salmiya



Photo@Alaa Fouda

Qortuba

Total bus stops 16

Salmiya

Total area 1,163,676m²

% of total area



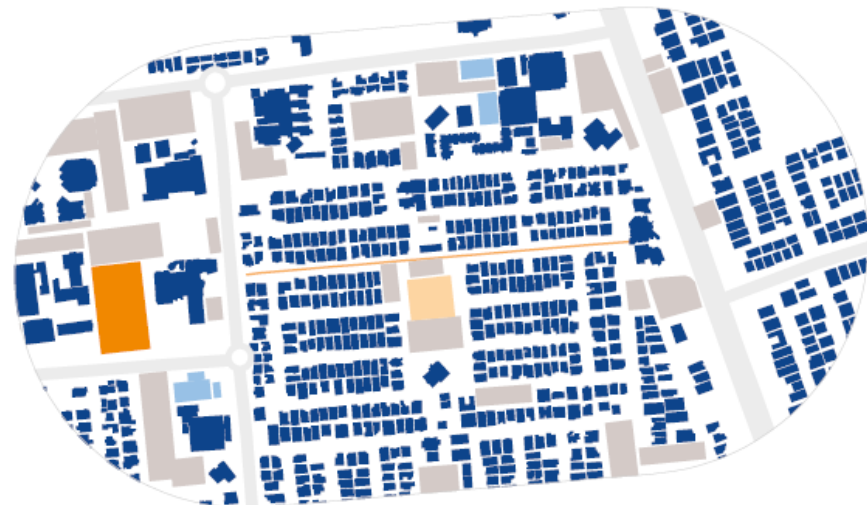
- Empty plots
- Green areas
- Parking areas
- Sports areas
- Roads/streets
- Buildings
- Open space
- Case study street
- 400m buffer (5mins walk)



Qortuba

Total area 1,041,099m²

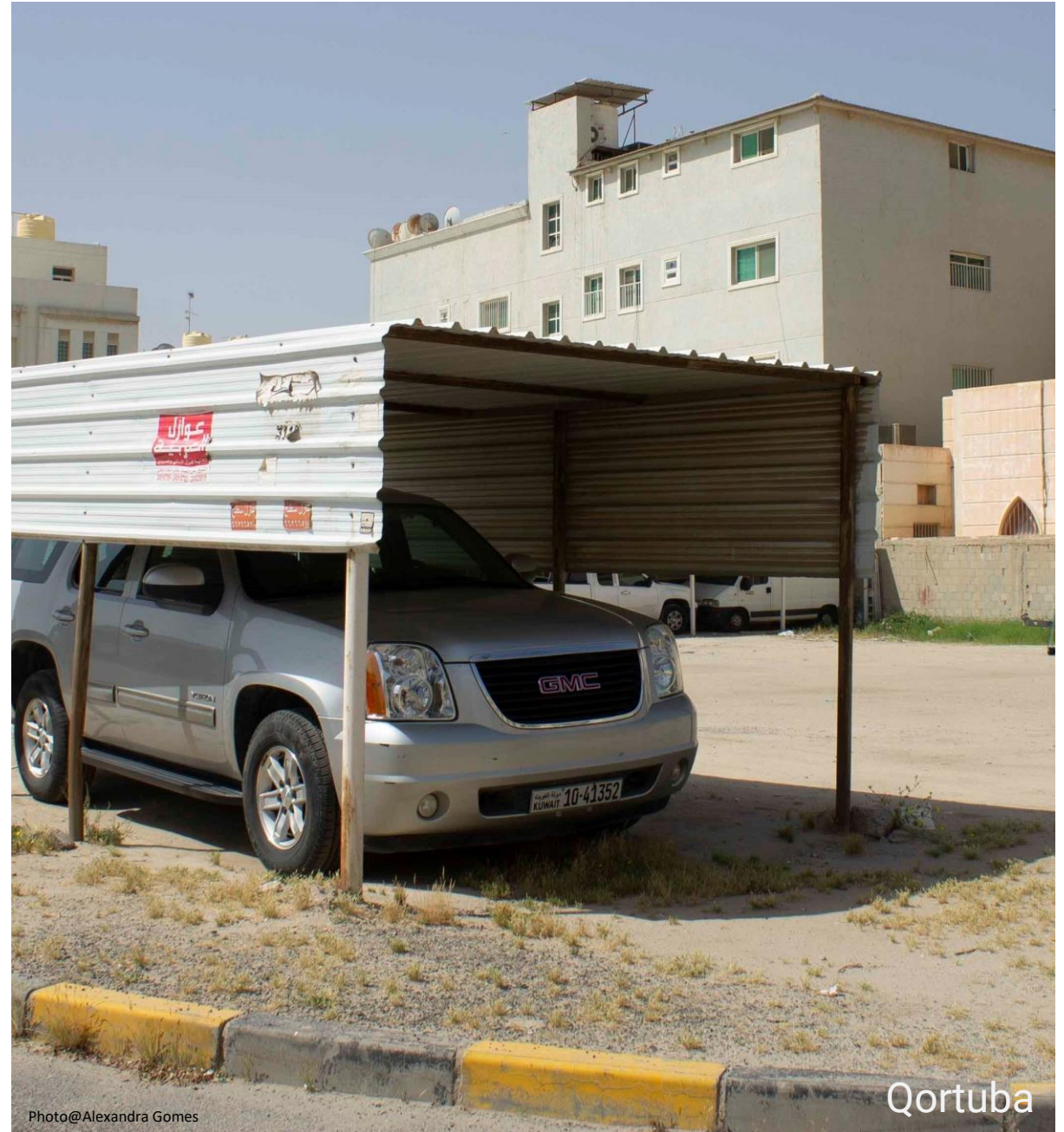
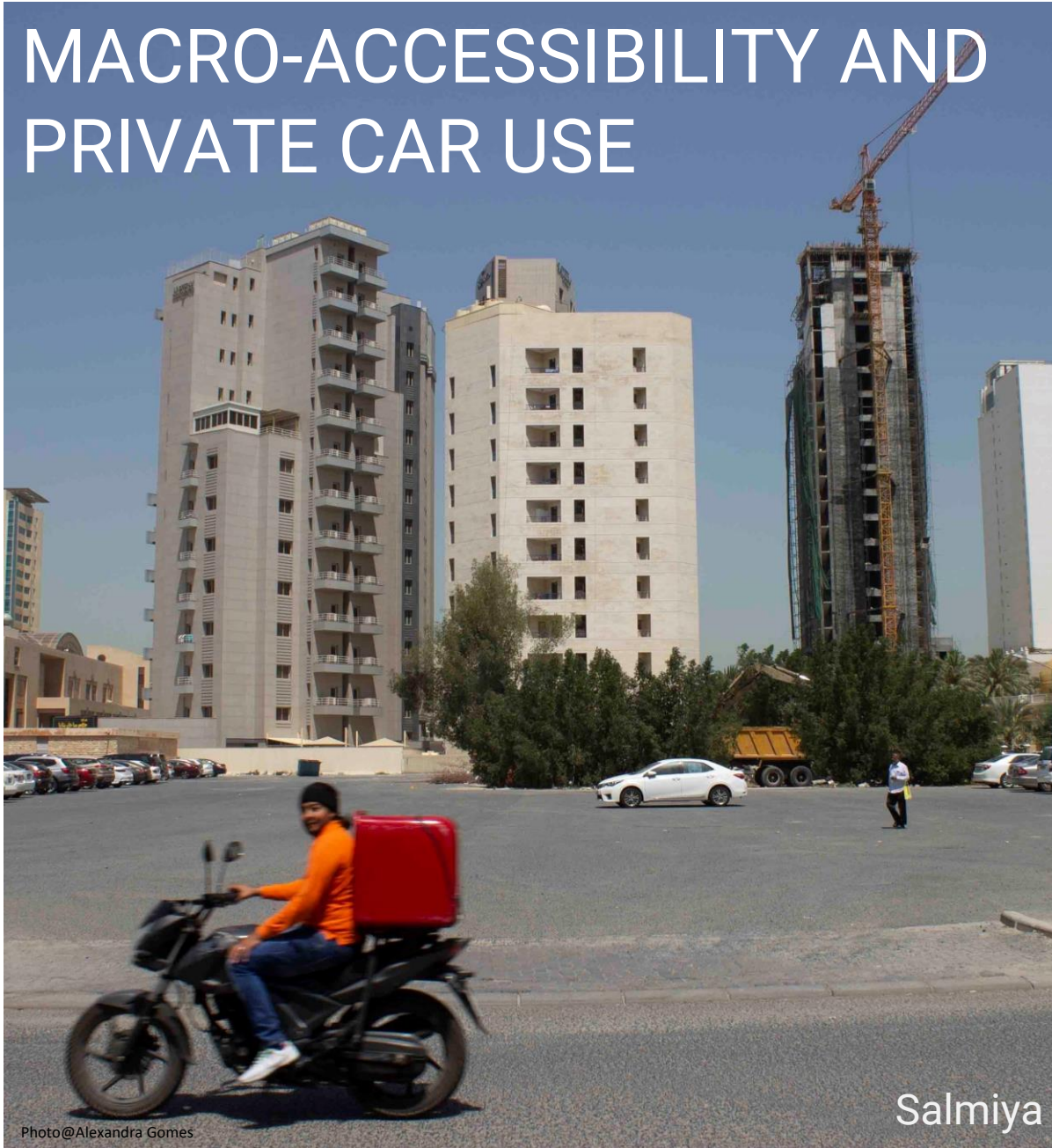
% of total area



0 0.2 km

Radius of 400m – approx. 5 minutes' walk.

MACRO-ACCESSIBILITY AND PRIVATE CAR USE



Salmiya

- ▲ Bus stops
- - - Alleyways
- Roads
- 400m buffer (5mins walk)
- Buildings
- Case study street
- Locations



Total bus stops: 16

Qortuba



Total bus stops: 0

Radius of 400m – aprox. 5 minutes' walk.

ADVOCATING FOR USER-CENTRED METHODS



Public Space in Kuwait

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