Interior Design of Tourism Housing Units towards a Sustainable Environment "Al-Uqair Beach Development"

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Abstract: Sustainable tourism is an approach and method upon which many international tourism institutions are based, it is one of the most important concepts and types of the tourism industry that emerged in the 1970s and since environmental protection is a major issue in recent years due to the importance of environmental awareness. Local development without affecting the environment, society and the economy, the application of the concept of sustainable tourism relates to three aspects, which are the material return for the owners of tourism projects, the social dimension and the environmental dimension, as tourism institutions are part of the environment that must preserve their natural resources and the dimension that any negative impact harms the environment.

The study problem was identified on how to achieve the tourism environmental sustainability of the residential units of Al-Uqair Beach in Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia.

The study aims to shed light on the importance of sustainable tourism and how to achieve it in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is one of the main objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, in order to reduce the damage caused by Traditional methods in architecture and interior architecture, taking into account the environmental terms in construction and planning according to tourism plans that apply the principles of sustainable development.

The researcher used the descriptive, analytical and experimental approach by study the proposed sustainable interior designs for the tourist housing units in Al-Uqair Beach in Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia.

The study defines the role and importance of the sustainable interior design of the design-proposed tourist housing units at Al-Uqair Beach in enhancing the quality of the internal environment towards a tourism environmental sustainability and how to choose materials, starting from the selection of building materials for residential units and ending with sustainable interior designs, that achieve the requirements of tourism development and environmental protection. And reach the least possible negative impact on the environment. This leads to energy efficiency, avoiding environmental toxins, and using materials and resources in a responsible manner with a positive physical and psychological impact on the occupants of these tourist housing units.

key words: Sustainability, sustainable design, sustainable tourism, sustainable tourism housing units.

1. Introduction

Tourism is one of the basic pillars of contemporary society, due to its economic, social, cultural, historical and developmental implications. A delegation that domestic tourism has gained prominent importance in various countries of the world in general, and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular, because of its distinct tourism features.

Domestic tourism is an internal tourism activity for the same country as it is of great economic benefit to society. Domestic tourism (domestic tourism) contributes to raising the level of new job opportunities for young people within the country through the establishment of hotels, restaurants, services and entertainment places. And domestic tourism has a major role in saving the tourism sector in light of the recession it faces in light of the repercussions of the new Corona virus, as it contributes to revitalizing the tourism sector. It also works to inform citizens of their national heritage and the value of archaeological potential in it.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030 vision is working to increase interest in supporting domestic tourism, which leads to a reduction in the number of departures for external tourism and thus reducing the volume of spending on foreign tourism, which is estimated at billions of rivals.

Tourism at the same time is increasingly becoming an important subject in environmental and social sciences as the result of many socioeconomic and environmental factors influencing the movements of people.¹

¹ Nijkamp, (1974), 'Environmental Attraction Factors and Regional Tourist Effects', Paper 14, Free University of Amsterdam.

Achieving sustainability requires us to support and develop ecotourism and use it to serve the environment and social and economic life, and this is what sustainable development calls for.

2. Problem Statement:

The problem of the study is about the possibility of achieving environmental sustainability in the tourist housing units in Al-Uqair Beach in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition to how to maintain a high level of satisfaction among tourists while increasing their awareness of sustainability issues and how to promote sustainable tourism practices.

3. Research method:

The researcher used analytical and experimental descriptive approach.

4. Questions of the study:

What are the concepts of sustainability?
What is sustainable tourism?
What are the 3 main principles of sustainable tourism?
What are the types of sustainable tourism?
What is the aim of sustainable tourism?
What are the goals of sustainable tourism?

5. Research Objectives:

The study aims to:

- -Achieving sustainable tourism development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- -Development of domestic tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- -Development of Al-Uqair Tourist Beach in the eastern region.
- -The study aims to make Al-Uqair Tourist Beach a distinct tourist destination in the eastern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- -A design proposal for Al Uqair Beach that includes (Residential Units Outdoor furniture units Bathrooms Playing area).

6. The importance of study:

The importance of the study lies in the context of the increasing interest by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in sustainable internal ecotourism to achieve an environmental and economic balance, which emphasized the importance of the tourism sector in increasing economic growth, promoting sustainable and social development, and supporting efforts that contribute to the development of the tourism industry, calling for the preservation of the environment, And the application of sustainable principles As the Kingdom possesses a rich cultural heritage, it is distinguished by its different regions, from its vast deserts to its steep mountains, and many cultural manifestations in the Kingdom have been documented in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This is exemplified in the practical application of the development of the tourist beach of Al-Uqair towards sustainable tourism, which is a form of tourism that follows the principles of sustainability in preserving the environment.

6.1. The concepts of sustainability:

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social.²

6.2. Definition of sustainable tourism:

Sustainable tourism is tourism that takes into account its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts while meeting the needs of visitors³.

Sustainable tourism development is defined as a development whose implementation begins after a complete scientific study and planning within the framework of integrated planning for economic, social and environmental development within the homeland, in which the components of tourism development are combined with natural and cultural attractions.

² https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/sustainability.asp

³ "Sustainable development | UNWTO". www.unwto.org. Retrieved 2020-09-25.

In 1993 the European Union for the Environment and National Parks defined sustainable tourism development as an activity that preserves the environment, achieves economic and social integration, and improves the architectural environment. 4

There is a difference between the word sustainability and the word sustainable tourism. The concept of sustainability focuses on avoiding Resources Depletion, whether economic, environmental or cultural. And sustainable tourism is where tourism focuses on respecting the culture of the environment and people.

-Sustainable tourism is related to thinking about the environment, as it is a development process that meets the needs of the present without affecting the ability of future generations. And sustainable tourism takes into account the current and future economic, social and environmental impact.

Sustainable tourism has the potential to advance urban infrastructure and promote regeneration of degraded areas while preserving cultural and natural heritage.

- -Sustainable tourism aids in making a minimum impact on the local environment, helps in generating incomes and bring employment in local communities by preserving local ecosystems, and strikes a balance between social, economic and environmental goals.
- -Sustainable tourism promotes positive growth for the development of countries.
- -Tourism could be the only factor of change in the unstable economy and environments.
- -Sustainable tourism reduces the negative impacts we can have on the environment. By 2030.

6.3. The three main principles of sustainable tourism:

There are actually three "pillars" to consider: environmental, economic and socio-cultural:

-The environmental:

Respect for ecosystems, with compatibility between social and economic activities, as well as conservation of biological diversity. It indicates the need to adjust consumption patterns in order to: Preserving the environment from deterioration. Improve monitoring of the environmental impact resulting from production activities.⁵

-Social- Cultural:

Meeting the needs of society such as education, health, food, housing, security and work.

Giving great importance to the dimensions related to the quality of life (education, employment, health, social security, and housing in risk-free places.

-Social Justice. -respect human rights.

-Environmental quality -Safety. -Democracy. -equality.

-Freedom.

-The economic:

-luxury.

-Material goods and services and their correlation with the population.

6.4. The types of sustainable tourism:

There are many forms of tourism that the literature has defined as sustainable tourism, such as ecotourism, green tourism, rural tourism, agro-tourism, community tourism, and all these opposing to the traditional tourism.

6.5. The aim of sustainable tourism:

- -Sustainable tourism aims to increase the benefits and reduce the negative impacts caused by tourism.
- -It aims to protect the natural habitats, wildlife and natural resources when developing tourism activities.
- -Sustainable tourism celebrates and preserves heritage and culture and creates social and economic benefits for societies through employment opportunities.

6.6. The goals of sustainable tourism:

Sustainable tourism helps to improve urban infrastructure and is working on renewal. Degraded areas while preserving the cultural and natural heritage.

6.7. Sustainable tourism:

⁴ Eman Helmy, **Towards Sustainable Planning for Tourism Development: Case Study on Egypt, An International Sustainable Development in Emerging Markets: Sustainable Development Forum**, George Washington University, Alexandria, Egypt, January8-9,1999, p58.

⁵ http://www.ecogo.org/dispatches/chapter-1-dot-2-three-principles-of-ecotourism/

-Sustainable tourism, is traveling with the intention of having a positive impact on the environment, society, and economy or at least not a negative one.

-Is an industry committed to making a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate future employment for local people. The positive of sustainable tourism is to ensure that development is a positive experience for local people; tourism companies; and tourists themselves.⁶

7. History of Sustainable Tourism:

-Sustainable tourism is not a new idea as maintaining an ecological balance and preserving the environment is a global concept. Environmental experts also emphasized the necessity of preserving nature in 2002, the World Tourism Organization launched a sustainable tourism program. An organization named the "Partnership for Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria" was formed in 2007 as a coalition of 32 partners, initiated by the Rainforest Alliance, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation), and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The purpose was to foster increased understanding of sustainable tourism practices and the adoption of universal sustainable tourism principles. Through the development of a set of universal, globally accepted criteria the partnership took the first step toward standardizing a common language for sustainable tourism.

- IN 2008 Criteria was developed. Over a period of 15 months, the Partnership consulted with sustainability experts and the tourism industry and reviewed more than 60 existing certification and voluntary sets of criteria already being implemented around the globe. In all, more than 4,500 criteria have been analyzed and more than 80,000 people, including conservationists, industry leaders, governmental authorities and UN bodies, have been invited to comment on the resulting criteria.

-The set of baseline criteria were organized around the four pillars of sustainable tourism: (1) effective sustainability planning; (2) maximizing social and economic benefits to the local community; (3) reduction of negative impacts to cultural heritage; and (4) reduction of negative impacts to the environment.

-2009 – Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council was created in 2009 the Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council was created to give form to regional certification networks that had begun forming from 2003.

2010 – Global Sustainable Tourism Council was merged. Considering the broad overlap of goals, and the role of the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria as the foundation for the proposed STSC accreditation standard, the STSC Temporary Executive Board together with the GSTC Partnership Steering Committee agreed that the two efforts should merge into one single body – the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

-IN 2010, began serving as the international body for fostering the increased knowledge and understanding of sustainable tourism practices, the adoption of universal sustainable tourism principles, and the promotion of sustainable tourism accreditation, products and services.

-IN 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held, which pledged to encourage the promotion of sustainable tourism and the development of specialized sectors for cultural and environmental tourism.

-IN 2013 saw Destination Criteria, which serve as the world's baseline standards for tourism destination management and as a framework for national or regional sustainability standards.

-IN December 2014 the Global Sustainable Tourism Council merged with the Tour Operator Initiative, an organization led by large tour operators committed to sustainable value chain development.

-December 2019 saw the release of Destination Criteria version 2. Which includes performance indicators designed to provide guidance in measuring compliance with the Criteria. Application of the criteria will help a destination to contribute towards the 2030.⁷

7.1. The Benefits of Sustainable Tourism:

⁶ https://www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk/resources-categories/what-is-sustainable-tourism/

⁷ https://www.gstcouncil.org/about/gstc-history/

- -It has a Lower Ecological Impact.
- -Sustainable Tourism Keeps the Environment Clean.
- -It Supports Local Communities.
- -It Allows Travelers to be More Conscious of Their Choices.8
- -It helps to conserve precious natural resources.
- -It gives tourists a more honest look into the local area.
- -preserving cultures and traditions we visit.
- -Enriching the host community in a positive way
- -It can help avoid the displacement and resettlement of local communities.

7.2. What is the future of sustainable tourism?

-Sustainable tourism, defined by the World Tourism Organization as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, and meeting the needs of visitors, industry and the environment has become increasingly important to a large segment of the world's population.

- -Technology is one of the main factors in the future of sustainable tourism. As rapidly evolving technology makes it easy for those interested in sustainable tourism to communicate and exchange ideas.
- -Technology also helps spread public awareness about sustainable tourism and why it is important.
- -Achieving sustainable tourism is a continuous process and it requires constant monitoring of impacts. 10

8. A Proposed Experimental Tourism Housing Unit towards a Sustainable Environment" Al-Uqair Beach Development" consists of for elements: Uqair Beach:

Al Uqair Port is an ancient sea port located in Al Ahsa Governorate, in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The port is 65 kilometers from the city of Hofuf and is located to the west of the Arabian Gulf. Al Uqair port is the oldest sea port in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Al-Uqair Beach is one of the most important tourist sites in the Al-Ahsa region and one of the most beautiful Saudi coasts that overlook the Arabian Gulf in terms of nature and scenic views. It is about ninety kilometers away from Al-Ahsa. It is characterized by its heritage nature and works to attract many tourists, nature and sea lovers. It also features green spaces with large areas, places for families, public toilets and children's play areas. Development of Al-Uqair Tourist Beach, which has an area of 100 million square meters, with beaches extending 24 kilometers on the coast of the Arabian Gulf, where Al-Uqair Tourist Beach is not more than 70 kilometers from the cities of Dammam and Al-Hofuf and 400 kilometers from Riyadh.



Figure 1. Al Uqair Beach Park



Figure 2. Al Uqair Beach



Figure 3. Al Uqair port map

In addition, Al-Uqair Beach mainly targets citizens and residents of the Eastern Region, Riyadh, and visitors from the Arab Gulf states, as the study seeks to localize domestic tourism.

The study focuses on developing the beach on a number of facilities that serve all segments of society, and the researcher gave a proposed design vision for furnished environmental housing units, as well as coordinating park services, including the development of public bathrooms within the beach, and places for entertainment and play for children.

The researcher will develop the four elements mentioned in design to fit the contemporary vision for the development of Al Uqair Beach in order to achieve actual and aesthetic utilization of the beach area, which leads to achieving sustainable development in the tourism field in a way that serves the vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In Addition to Create an appropriate environment for residents and visitors to public sites.

ttps://www.gooverseas.com/og/benefits-of-sustainable-tourism

ureandculture.com/s_____-tourism-care/

¹⁰ https://www.visitorguard.com/what-up/s-the-future-hold-for-sustainable-tour/m/



Figure 4. Planning design elements for the study

8.1. Project Description: 1-Housing Unit:

The proposed design for the Tourist Housing Unit at Beach Al-Uqair is to develop daily accommodation units to become chalets suitable for overnight stays and the proposed design model fits a family of four, father - mother and children, consisting of two bedrooms - two bathrooms - kitchen - dining - living – terrace. and designed according to the functional internal needs of the occupants of chalets. The interior design of the Experimental Tourism Housing Unit depends on using Sustainable Environmental Materials such as Bamboo material. The approximate total area of the floor plan of the proposed of Tourism Housing Unit is approximately 85 square meters. In addition to the terrace, it contains outdoor seating units - and barbecue areas.

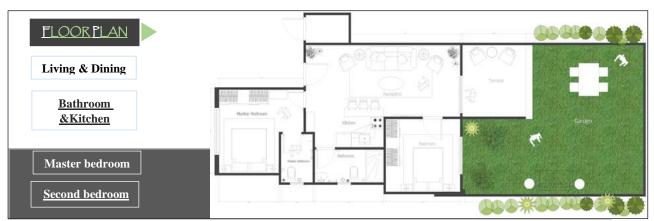


Figure 5. The floor plan of the proposed Tourism Housing Unit.



Figure 6. The floor plan of Tourism Housing Unit, explaining the layout of the furniture and the integration between the architectural and interior spaces.



Figure 7. Top Perspective of Tourism Housing Unit.

8.2. The internal spaces of Tourism Housing Unit:



Figure 8. Front Elevation Tourism Housing Unit.



Figure 9. Section A-A for Tourism Housing Unit. Represent Living Area-Terrace.



Figure 10. Section B-B for Tourism Housing Unit.



Figure 11. Section C-C' for Tourism Housing Unit.

8.3. Internal perspectives of Kitchen Dining and Living Area:



Figure 12. Kitchen Perspective represent Kitchen Units Design.



Figure 13. Kitchen Perspective represent Kitchen Units Design and Dining.

sustainable design of Tourism Housing Units is an environmentally-conscious approach to interior design which integrates sustainability into its very principles, by making nature and natural resources a part of the design, itself.



Figure 14. Living Area Perspective represent Seating Units.



Figure 15. Internal perspectives of the functional spaces of the proposed Tourism Housing Units.

Architecture has a key role on the spaces that society inhabits. Thus, for a sustainable development, all agents have to turn traditional construction into sustainable construction and rehabilitation while being able to respond to today's comfort and well-being needs, through passive design and the use of active systems, with aims to reduce the environmental impact of the consumption of resources and to reduce costs in the operational phase of the construction. Sustainable tourism housing offers a great spectrum of opportunities to promote economic development, environmental stewardship, quality of life and social equality. The interior design of the residential unit depends on the use of sustainable environmental materials in the interior treatments, such as bamboo material in the treatment of the interior walls. Also, the color scheme derived from the colors of the external nature was used to give the feeling of nature.

-Internal perspectives of Bedrooms:



Figure 16. Internal perspectives of the Master Bedroom.

Sustainable Furniture

Furniture plays one of the most significant roles in interior design, influencing both the aesthetic and functionality of a house. As such, to make the interior of a house eco-friendly, it is a must to ensure that only furniture made using natural wood or other organic or sustainable materials, are used. These can be made using any materials which have been used for something else previously, and have since, been recycled or re-purposed to create new furniture. While fast-growing bamboo has emerged as the top choice for sustainable furniture materials¹¹, a sustainable material is one that: Does not deplete non-renewable (natural) resources. Has no adverse impact on the environment when used.

-Bamboo material:

Sustainability experts nearly universally agree bamboo is one of the best eco-friendly building materials on the planet¹², has been considered a local building material for thousands of years, in addition to being a building material suitable for modern buildings due to its strength, light weight and renewable nature. It can be an alternative to expensive or heavy-weight imported materials and is an alternative to building concrete and steel reinforcement, as it is used in reconstruction after disasters and is suitable for low income levels in construction due to its availability as a local natural material. Its rate of self-generation is incredibly high, Bamboo technically is a perennial grass, not a wood, and it continues spreading and growing without having to be replanted after harvest. It is prevalent around the world and can be found on every continent except Europe and Antarctica. Bamboo has a high strength-to-weight ratio and exceptional durability even greater compressive strength than brick or concrete.



Figure 17. Internal perspectives of the Second Bedroom.

The interior design of the tourist housing unit was designed and built to be:

- -Healthy, durable, safe and secure.
- -Affordable for the whole spectrum of incomes.
- -Using ecological low-energy and affordable building materials and technology.
- -Connected to decent, safe and affordable energy, water, sanitation and recycling facilities.
- -Not polluting the environment and protected from external pollutions.
- -Using energy and water efficiently.
- -Renewable energy generation and water recycling capabilities.

2-Outdoor Furniture:

Public garden furniture is considered as service and cosmetic furniture units for public garden sites and urban areas, as these units help to provide comfort for users of gardens and parks, in addition to being environmentally friendly units made of sustainable environmental materials free of gaseous emissions. The outdoor furniture units vary in design and function in proportion to the nature of the design in order to achieve integration between the elements and units of the outdoor furniture.

¹¹https://www.constructionweekonline.in/people/16195-five-principles-of-sustainable-interior-design

 $^{^{12}\} https://www.smartcities dive.com/news/most-eco-friendly-building-materials-world-bamboo-cork-sheep-wool-reclaimed-metal-wood/526982/$

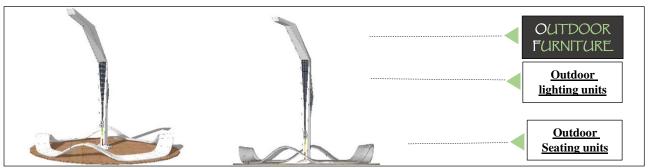


Figure 18. Outdoor Seating Unit with lighting.

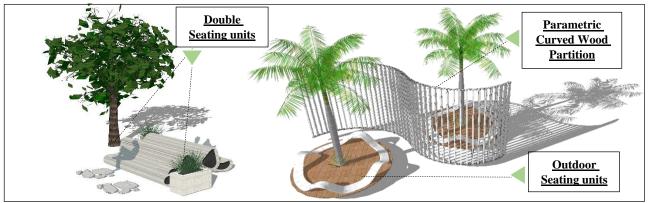


Figure 19. Outdoor Seating compact with wood Partition



Figure 20. Outdoor Seating

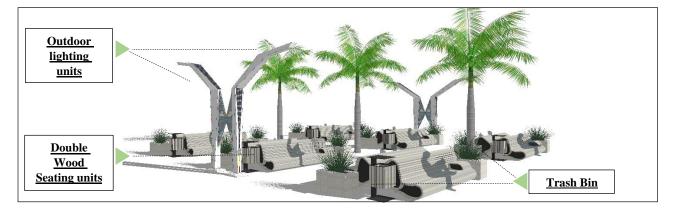


Figure 21. Modular design Seating Units.



Figure 22. Shows the current design of the green area at Al Uqair Beach



Figure 23. Design showing seating units, green areas and movement paths

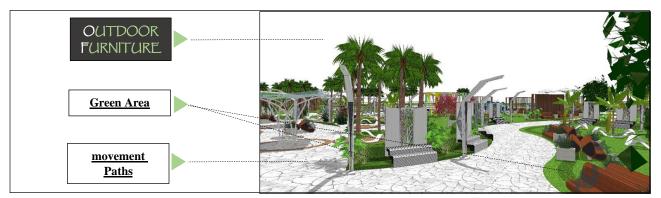


Figure 24. Design showing seating units, green areas and movement paths

3-Bathrooms:

The floor plan of The bathroom is consisting of two units grouped together so that one unit suitable for men and another suitable for women and contains of 8 bathrooms in each unit and a total of 16 bathrooms for the Hall Unit, the beach contains more than one unit of floor plan at different distances to match the total area of the beach and the number of its visitors to achieve the required functionality.

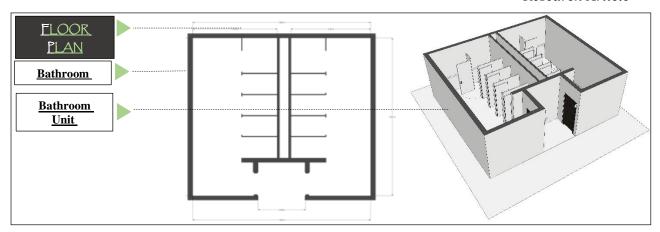


Figure 25. The floor plan of the bathroom unit.

The floor plan of the Bathroom unit consists of eight bathrooms and four Sinks.

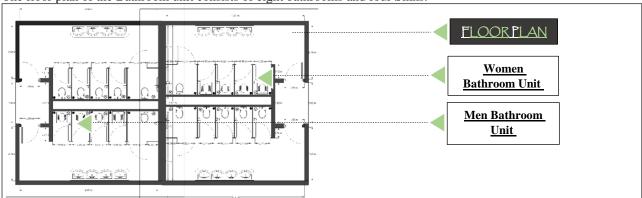


Figure 26. The floor plan of the bathroom unit.



Figure 27. The floor plan of Bathroom layout of Toilets and Sinks Units.

- Internal Sections of Bathroom:

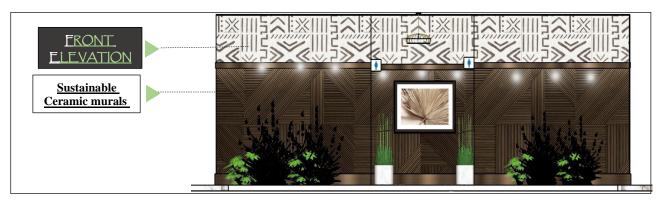


Figure 28. Front Elevation of Bathroom Unit.

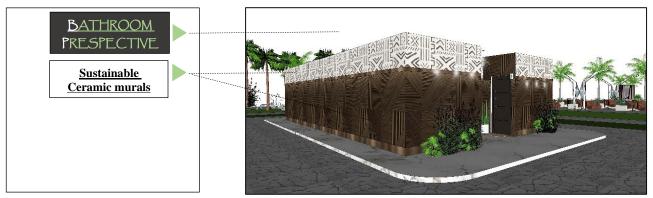


Figure 29. Bathroom Perspective Units.



Figure 30. Section A-A in the bathroom.

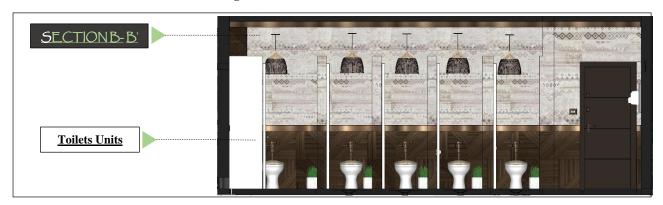


Figure 31. Section B-B in the bathroom.



Figure 32. Top Perspective of Bathroom Unit.

4-Playing Area:

The concept of the children's play area design is based on providing play areas that reflect the natural environment and encourage children and enable them to play and cooperate together while providing spaces to explore and imagine the natural environment through children's own abilities to enjoy it. In addition, it improves children's well-being, develops interactive social skills and encourages them to take positive Risk Taking, children's confidence and capabilities, Kids Creativity and Educational learning skills, Respect and knowledge of the Natural Environment.

In addition, the nature-based play materials are designed from local, renewable, natural and recycled sources to reduce carbon emissions and resource use.

areas are places that children can enjoy and explore with some characteristics:

Natural: sustainable environmental materials are used that reflect the natural environment.

Interactive: The designs encourage and enable children to play and collaborate together.

Creative: providing spaces based on exploration and imagination.

Educational: allow accurate learning about the natural environment through their own capabilities. ¹³

9. Results and Discussion

- -Sustainable tourist homes are those that are designed and built using environmentally friendly, low-energy, affordable building materials and technology.
- -Tourism contributes greatly to the advancement of the national economy and its level.
- -Providing all possibilities and requirements, whether economic or human, to implement sustainable tourism development.
- -Tourism is a major industry or as a leading sector for many countries and becomes the fastest growing industry in the world.
- -A sustainable development approach is a must do to keep tourism on.
- -Sustainable tourism development can be achieved if the level of utilization of various resources does not go beyond the regeneration ability of those resources.
- -Sustainable tourism is managed in improving the welfare, economy, and public health.
- -sustainable tourism development can be seen from three dimensions, namely environmental, economic, and social.

10. Conclusion

- -The effort to develop alternative tourism should be sustainable and maintainable in the future time.
- -Raise awareness and active role of local community in tourism activity.
- -Emphasis on greater benefits to local communities.
- -Monitoring changes that occur due to tourism development.
- -Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development, maintaining essential ecological.
- -Sustainable tourism should also maintain a high level of tourist satisfaction and ensure a meaningful experience to the tourists.

¹³https://www.naturebasedplay.com.au/about-nature-based-play-playground-designers-perth/sustainability/

- -Sustainable tourism will be achieved if there is a continuous use of natural resources, cultural resources, and human resources in addition to economic sustainability fairly and equitably.
- -All tourism stakeholders should pay their attention to the principal of tourism sustainable development.
- -The certain resources which are used to supply tourism demand should also consider their sustainability in the future time.

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