

## **XXXVII IAHS – A Design Tool for Documenting Socio Cultural Aspects of Communication in Urban Areas and Housing Projects.**

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### **Abstract**

Development in methods and techniques of data collection and analysis tools is needed to enable better understanding of the complexities of change in contemporary urban settings. Tools and methods evolved from basic analytical simplification to incorporating time layers, cultural aspects and contextual frameworks. The limitation of current tools and methods calls for the development of new approaches in research methods and continuous evaluation and upgrading of existing ones. [4]

The present work reviews means and methods used to monitor and document non physical aspects of the built environment. It examines a tool developed by the author to document and classify visual materials (photographs) in a way that helps identifying community and social group characteristics, behavioral patterns and activity systems. The tool helps in defining intangible conceptions (non physical) through the deployment of tangible data (visual material).

The paper highlights the application of the proposed tool on a selected case study (a small open space in Al Darb Al Ahmar historic Cairo, Egypt), to test the structure and key entries, and to adjust them to secure better documentation and accurate interpretations of communities and settings.