

Urban Form of the Traditional Arabic City in the Light of Islamic Values

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Abstract : The environmental impact, economics, social and cultural factors, and the processes by which people define history and meaning had influenced the dynamic shape and character of the traditional Islamic Arabic city. Therefore, in regard to the period when Islam was at its peak (7th- 13th Centuries), Islamic city wasn't the highly dynamited at the scale of buildings and city planning that demonstrates a distinguished city as an 'Islamic' as appeared after centuries when the function of the buildings and their particular arrangement and planning scheme in relation to one another that defined an Islamic city character. The architectural features of the urban fabric of the traditional Arabic Islamic city are a reflection of the spiritual, social, and cultural characteristics of the people. It is a combination of Islamic values 'Din' and life needs 'Dunia' as Prophet Muhammad built the first Mosque in Madinah in the 1st year of his migration to it, then the Suq or market on 2nd of Hijrah, attached to the mosque to signify the birth of a new Muslims community which considers both, 'Din' and 'Dunia' and initiated nucleus for what which called after that as an 'Islamic' city. This research will discuss the main characteristics and components of the traditional Arab cities and demonstrate the impact of the Islamic values on shaping the planning layout and general built environment features of the early traditional Arab cities.

Keywords : urban, Islamic, Arabic, city

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