
Deconstruction of Urban Space in Saudi Cities

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Definitions:

- "the whole city was affected by the irremediable calamity"; (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/disaster>)
- an event resulting in great loss and misfortune; "the whole city was affected by the irremediable calamity"; catastrophe, tragedy, cataclysm, misfortune, bad luck
- an act that has disastrous consequences, destruction, devastation (http://www.babylon.com/dictionary/42406/WordNet_2.0_Dictionary)

▪The disaster here is when urban heritage is demolished, buried, and developments became unrelated to residents, and actors are planners and decision makers of development.

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Main Objectives

- To explore traditional urban patterns in Saudi Arabia, and transformation stages
- To propose a concept model of urban space for Neo-traditional neighbourhood for the future's Saudi Cities.

Methodology:

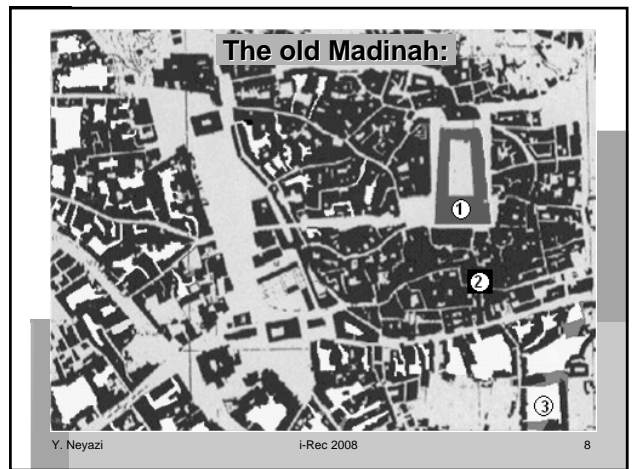
- Theoretical, and analysis of space syntax for the transformation of urban patterns in Saudi cities.
- Gamma diagrams of space syntax are simply abstracted figures to show the morphology and structure of spaces in each stage of transformation (Hillier 1996, and Onder 2002)
- Propose An initiative for futures' neighbourhood as a concept
- Methodology is to:
 - Simplify understanding the urban pattern of space in Saudi cities
 - Explore differences of space structures in past, present and how it should be in future
 - Preserve the traditional urban pattern, which regarded to segregate between vehicle's routes and pedestrians' ones, and integration of space and consequently the community in Neo-traditional build environment.

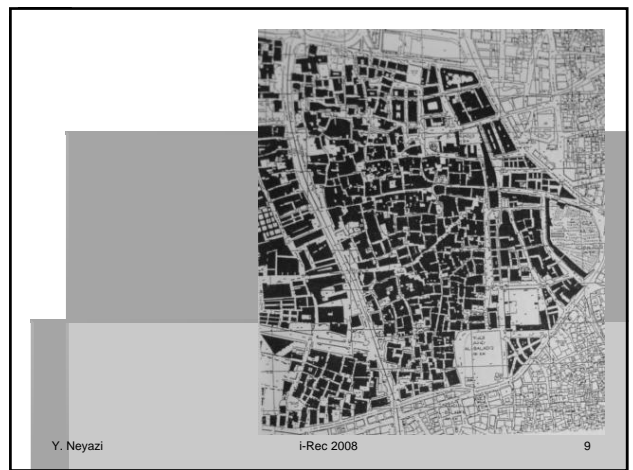
Background

- Arabic Islamic cities since 14 centuries.
- Fall of Othman Empire
- Saudi Cities and the discovery of Oil in 1938
- Transformation from traditional urban patterns to contemporary ones.

Traditional Urban Pattern

- Al-Madinah was the first city in Islamic
- Urban pattern
- Formation of urban and social neighbourhood
- Hoash was an open space surrounded by houses







Transformation lead to Fragmentation

- to high-rise cluster
- to cluster of detached dwellings
- to Cul-de-Sac form and the court

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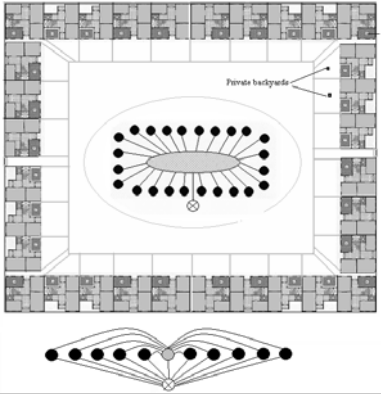
Modern urbanism

- Inequality of direct access
- Risk of car circulation
- Risk of inner open space

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Neo-traditional neighbourhood

- Semi private open space
- Equity in access
- Easy control by residents
- Safe and secure place for children



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Conclusions:

- New urbanism is to design a modern environment with regard to its culture and tradition.
- Culture is reflected in the morphology of spaces in dwellings, open spaces and networks between.
- Saudi cities which are mostly transformed could be reconstructed in term of deconstruction spaces and communities within by recalling traditional pattern of space morphology.
- Emergent of Neo-traditional urbanism

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i-Rec 2008: Building resilience: achieving effective post-disaster reconstruction

End of show
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