



TOWARDS AN IDEOLOGY OF URBAN FORM

Open Space in the Built Housing Environment

with particular reference to the
Arid Urban Environment in the Middle East

by

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*A Dissertation submitted for the fulfilment of
the requirements for the degree of*

Master of Architecture

at the

Department of Architecture
The University of Adelaide

Adelaide, May 1991

Errata

In spite of the attention taken in the production of this work, a number of errors have been located after the thesis was bound. These are listed below.

- In the declaration page following the acknowledgement section, third line, “..research ot the author” needs to be corrected as “research of the author”.
- Page 27, sixteenth line, “..receptacle”⁴³ According..” the comma needs to be changed into a full-stop as follows: “..receptacle”⁴³ According..”
- Page 33, second line of the quotation in italics, “..civilisations have..” needs to be spelt as “civilizations have..”
- Page 46, footnote 5, “..late sixties an earl seventies..” is to be corrected as “..late sixties and early seventies..”
- Page 59, Claibourne’s quotation, fifth line, “..into ares were he could..” needs to be corrected as “..into areas where he could..”
- Page 71, the sentence “This shows that ... been regarded as entities.” on the lines 2, 3 and 4 is to be eliminated.
- Page 76, fourteenth line, the sentence “..seem to have implicitly related to..” needs to be changed to “seem to have implicitly led to..”
- Page 105, fourth line, “..and content. a concave..”, the small *a* needs to be changed into a capital *A* as follows: “..and content. A concave..”
- Page 118 fourth line, “..processes becomes..” needs to be corrected as “..processes become..”
- Page 189, fifth line, ‘conversionce’ is to be corrected as ‘convergence’.
- Page 194, second line, (among other) needs to be corrected as (among others).
- Page 207, illust. 13, “house” needs to be plural: “houses”.
- Page 234, illust. 42, “A Typical..” needs to be corrected as “A typical..”
- Page 241, illust. 49, “..aimed at develonpignig..” needs to be corrected as “..aimed at developing..”

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A b s t r a c t

The analysis of architecture is most often being restricted to its formal or visible characteristics. Once relationships are being considered, however, aspects of meaning and praxis become indispensable to any such analysis. But even then, the view of the built environment as a combination of more or less separate entities seems to persist, while different aspects remain expressed as mere dichotomies. The question here comes: is it enough to consider architecture as the space of representation and/or of experience? This thesis argues that this is not so, as such position would imply passivity on the part of those who experience space, or to whom the space is being represented. Rather, it will be argued that a proper understanding of the built environment is primarily attached to an understanding of ideology, as it is conceived through the architectural process.

From this point of view, the hypothesis tested is that *the question of the architectural creation is not in 'space', nor in its constituent elements, but in the nature of the causal forces which put them together in a particular combination in time and place (i.e. ideology).* Moreover, that *the quality of the environment lies in the ability of its various elements to influence one another, and interact causally.* It is suggested that the misconception

of this basic fact stands as a central factor behind many of the problems that the architectural environment currently faces. The aim is to offer a critical analysis or explanation for the failure of some earlier architectural/planning ideologies, and hence, outline some principles which would avert these failures. The arguments are focused on open space in the built housing environment, with particular reference to the arid urban environment in the Middle East.

Central to the evidence presented is the 'concave' and 'convex' model. This is a method that this thesis has developed which aims at illustrating the effect of various factors (social and cultural factors) and forces which are applied (local or global) on the level of causal interaction in the local environment. This method is based upon principles which are derived from preliminary discussion of some basic concepts (space, climate and culture), and the critical examination of existing theories in social and urban patterns. It is contemplated that the 'concave' and 'concave' model provides an important addendum for the explanation of urban phenomena. Particularly, this method helps in illustrating the significance of relationships over entities, and of causal interactions over spatial patterns.

It is concluded that the hypothesis tested is correct. It is thus argued that the efficiency of the built environment is related to the extent that it facilitates interaction between its various constituents (physical and/or social), as well as being itself the cumulative outcome of such interaction. Some of the implications of this in terms of architecture and the role of the architect are analyzed.

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t

If the English words that I learnt to use might have been able to point to a concept, or prove a hypothesis, I certainly found them very deficient in expressing my deep gratitude to all those people who through their commitment, concern, support or encouragement, made this thesis possible.

First, I would like to thank my family, particularly my parents for their moral and financial support, and for a life long dedication and hard work which enabled me to reach to this stage. I am indebted for the opportunity to do this thesis to Paul Downton, one of the first teachers in architecture whom I happened to know and respect. Only through his dedicated efforts was I able to come here to Adelaide to undergo my study. Thank you Paul, Cherie and 'kids' for accepting me as a member of the your family for the initial period of my stay. Also, sincere thanks to Dr. Judith Brine (now professor), ex-Head of the department, and Sharon Mosler, ex-Assistant Registrar, who as I understand took special measures in securing my candidature.

My most sincere thanks go to my supervisor, Albert Gillissen, who through his guidance, criticism, open encouragement, and most of all, through his patience, helped me out of the ruins I was in at the start. Thank you Albert for being a mentor and a friend. In its initial stages, this thesis was partially supervised by Dr John Brine, and Wally Dobkins, for whom I also express sincere thanks.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to J Derrick Kendrick, ex-Head of the department, now Dean, for his warm and continuous support, concern and understanding, and for showing his willingness to rise over the limits and barriers on a number of occasions. Particularly due to his persisting efforts, I was able to obtain a special one-year scholarship award when it was most needed. Thank you Derrick.

I would like to also acknowledge the general support I received from the various people I was to deal with whilst undergoing my study in the department. Particularly, this goes to Professor Anthony Radford, present Head, for his guidance and support, Janet Duddy and Sue Brooke for managing administrative matters, Peter Harley for elegantly handling my research finances, Rodger Chan and Simon Coppings for their technical assistance. To all these people I express sincere thanks.

I owe personal thanks to Vivien Hope, the Overseas Student Adviser at the university, who in many instances turned the bureaucratic roundabouts into humanly conduct, and helped ease my stay in Australia. Also, a word of appreciation for the general support and friendly service offered by officials and staff, particularly in the Baar Smith Library, and various other university departments.

Thanks also go to Deborah White for her last minute advice on some vital points in the final presentation. My warmest gratitude to Mrs. Allan, Christina, John, Marina, Jan, Robert and Davy, for the generous help, support and encouragement that they offered in the final stages of preparing this thesis. Your separate contributions are most appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to express my great pleasure for the opportunity to meet and know the many lovely people of Australia, colleagues and friends, with whom I was to share

memorable times whilst at study in here in Adelaide. Of those I would like to particularly mention Paul Horrocks, one of the very few postgraduates in the department, with whom the discussions over the many cups of coffee I often found enlightening. Thank you Paul for offering help wherever a chance occurred, and best of luck for your thesis.

For all these, and the others that I might have unknowingly missed, thank you very much - or as we say in Arabic, *shukran*.

Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, this thesis represents the original research of the author.

The author consents for the thesis being made available for photocopying and loan.

Charles I Kidess

To

Issa A Kidess and Regina T Kidess

my parents

The journey of love is a very long
journey
But sometimes with a sign you
can cross that vast desert
Search and search again without
loosing hope
You may find sometime a treasure
on your way

Muhammad Iqbal

If you can look into the seeds of
time,
And say which grains will grow
and which will not,
Speak then to me ...

William Shakespeare