

Islamic Exhortation to Earthen Architecture A Case Study in Old Mosul Residence Area



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ABSTRACT

There are numerous citations from the *Qur'an* and the *hadiths* that mentioned the wise utilization of natural resources. They all lead to the conviction that all elements, species, and ecosystems are part of the perfect universe created by GOD. Hence, respecting the law of nature is an obligation of every Muslim, who by definition has “submitted” himself, body and soul, to the Creator. Depending on the main Islamic concept in the *Qur'an* “*And remember when He made you successors after the 'Aad and settled you in the land, [and] you take for yourselves palaces from its plains and carve from the mountains, homes.*” (Al-'A`rāf, 7:74). This paper tried to discuss the main principles of Islamic roles that deal with nature as a main resource to architecture and human as a wise consumer for these resources. It aims to increase awareness to the importance of the theme of Islamic earthen architecture by expounding the core of the conceptual basis for the same. It also presents some general principles and ideas around which a comprehensive theory on sustainability in Islamic architecture, in line with the requirements of the Islamic worldview while fully conforming to the dictates of different circumstances, environments and cultures, can be developed today. To deal with such an issue, the paper will try to project the built environment and architecture of the old resident area of Mosul city within the “*Islamic building Fiqh*” to investigate how Islam deals with such an environment and its resources.

Keywords: Earthen architecture, Islamic principles of building, Islamic regulations, buildup environment.