

## **Vision for Islamic City Urbanism Compatibility Between New and Local Urban Traditions**



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### **ABSTRACT**

Historic urban heritage is an important symbol of its city and evidence of the past society that gives the guidelines for the future development and prosperity. Historic urban areas, usually located in the centers of the cities, are valuable places abundant with old, historic buildings and structures with high artistic values that are worth to be preserved. In some places, economic growth and new developments seeking to increase the profitability and attractiveness of the area have a priority over preservation of the historic and cultural values. The manifestations of Islamic architecture are not based on explicit formal prescriptions and have varied considerably from period to period and from region to region. Yet from an early point in history (about the 9th/10th century AD onwards) there is a specific Islamic quality which becomes apparent in every appropriation and adaptation of pre-existing architectural and artistic heritage. The respective regional styles of Islamic architecture are not necessarily linked by formal resemblances, but they show inner affinities which are clearly based on related customs, patterns of use and corresponding structuring principles. This “common denominator” draws on various sources: there are, for instance, certain climatic conditions, socio-economic factors and vernacular building techniques shared by many regions of the Islamic world. But above all, there is an unmistakably Islamic character that can only be attributed to a prevailing spiritual identity, as materialized through a consistent daily practice and the corresponding built environment. Similarly to other ancient traditions, Islam has developed and maintained a set of ritualized patterns of human behavior which embraced all aspects of daily life, on the individual as well as the collective level, permeating man's activities with constant references to an acknowledged religious truth. What concerns most this research is the attention given to the contemporary situation as well as the attempt to bridge the gap between past and present, which is also a divide between theory and practice. It is the research aim to discover the deep rooted human factors that contain the seeds from which cultural continuity can grow and explore these paths and their future implementation in terms of adapted architectural and urban design.

**Keywords:** Urban heritage, Islamic metropolis, religious and cultural beliefs, urban conservation.