



Presenting New Method on Renovation of the Islamic Cities

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 12 October 2014

Received in revised form 26 December 2014

Accepted 17 January 2015

Available online 28 February 2015

Keywords:

Renovation, Islamic cities

ABSTRACT

City, like the human is renewing and changing in every period and time. Also during its lifetime, city had experienced many ups and downs and had been changed by the shift of political regime. Islam and the Islamic thoughts were one of the events which has changed the structure and the view of many cities either existing or newly established. As a result Islamic cities came into existence, influenced by the religion, with an independent identity, because of the unique spatial pattern which defines the sense and the spirit of that city. In course of time, changes continued to take place in the Islamic cities and different factors had effects on the structure of those cities and one of the most important factors was entering the western culture through the Islamic cities that changes everything resulting duality between the structure of the new cities and the old cities. This paper presents a brief proposal for renovation of Islamic city in order to preserve the Islamic identity.

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To Cite This Article: Raheleh Akbari Joni, Nangkula Utaberta, Tajuddin Mohd Rasdi, Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos, Nor Atiah Ismail, Sumarni Ismail., Presenting New Method on Renovation of the Islamic Cities. *Adv. Environ. Biol.*, 9(5), 397-399, 2015

INTRODUCTION

During the changes stem from entering of the western culture, most of the cities faced with rapid changes in functionality, spatial structure and physical development. Modern cities thus show a duality between the structure of the new cities and the old cities that the duality was due to the contrast between the thought patterns of the past and the present time. Today modernity is used for developing and constructing the cities. In order to create a balance between such a contrast and duality and bring unity in the built structure of the cities, it's necessary to comply the old principles with the principles used today and finally, derive the principles which would be in harmony with the cultural factors and religious philosophies of Islamic cities.

In the past, sufficient attention was not paid to such new methods of restoration of the historical part of the city based on the characteristic and location of the city. But in the recent years, after experiencing some evidences in restoring historical cities, new researches and methods are being applied in order to generate a more sophisticated way of conversation and renovation. This article intends to extract the total principles by investigating principles of the tenets, thought and traditions which in the past led to unification of the cities. Then complies these principles with the ideas, theories and the methods of restoration of the historical structure in the western countries and provide guidelines for the historical structure in the Islamic cities.

The research methodology is based on the library and internet study and is a qualitative study. Also, this study first examines and collects the information about the features of the structures of Islamic cities and the theories and patterns which are useful and extract the rules and the patterns that are in coherence with the Islamic rules. In this case, some studies about the Islamic thought and tenets seem to be necessary. The reason of using such a method is creating new methods in the studies and restoration.

The purpose of this study is to present some new methods, include:

- Conservation of the historical structures with the protection of the identity and the memories of the past
- Maintenance of the tradition while responding to the new needs.
- Revival of the ancient structure of the city and comply with the new applications by using the modern technology.

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- Refreshing the values of the historical structure.

Acceptance of the western patterns of the structure and restoration of historic Islamic cities includes problems like: social abnormalities, environmental pollution and duality in urban designing. Therefore, new strategies to protect the Islamic culture in the Islamic cities seem to be essential.

Literature review:

Most of the Islamic cities before entering the western culture were influenced by the religion and the spiritual thoughts. Values of this thought which is followed by the architecture and urbanism, show that Islamic city like the Islamic culture is in contrast with the western cities and culture. But from the beginning of the modernism urbanism and the architectural practice have lost their unity with the past and the relations which are in contrast with the Islamic culture has been substituted [6]. For instance, in undeveloped countries restoration of the historical structure of the cities, is implementing through incomplete patterns of the European and the American countries [7]. Intrusion of the western culture and its effect on the urban designing changed the traditional face of the Islamic cities without any necessary planning, as the historical structure that included all part of the city in the past, with the western approach of design, faced severe negative effect [3]. Whereas the restoration of the historical structures of the cities in developed countries were perform by the reliance with revival of the historical values [9].

Balbo has considered the problems and issues about the restoration of the Islamic cities [2]. Shamaee and PourAhmad talked about the reforming and reconstruction of the city in the school of cultural studies. One of the doctrines in this school is to consider the spiritual needs of reconstruction of a city [14]. Kalantari emphasized the protection of the values and the religious thought while reconstructing the historical structures of the cities [8].

Pour Jafar, in addition of mentioning the westerns experiences about the restoration of the historical structures of the cities, emphasized on the necessities of the restoration of historic Islamic cities. He considered the Islam and the Islamic culture as a way of conserving and reviving any Islamic city [12]. Alipoor and Khademi, believed, the restoration experiences of the developing countries with Islamic culture has better results than the developed countries, because the urban situations of developed countries are different with the Islamic cities and their procedures are not suitable for the ancient structures of the Islamic cities [1].

The inherent characters of a Islamic city:

Some researchers have presented same model for the most of Islamic city base on traditional view and it is a place with religious and a bazaar with economic function as the central core of city and buildings with business, residential and defensive functions which have been built around a core.

After entering modernism, the cities of Islamic world similar to the other developing countries grew but faced with some problems such as to change the structure and form of the city and traditional centers, build streets and squares, transfer activities of traditional bazaar to new government buildings, change the function of old alley or lane and build units like western cities [11].

Analysis, discussion and conclusion:

There are some theories which can help formulating the principles for restoration of the historical structures of the Islamic cities;

In order to renovate the historical parts of the cities that follow the specific culture and religion, we can extract some rules from the other thoughts and compose it with that specific culture, because some rules are from the human temperament and the common needs of the human. For instance, Prozen in 2012 has written about Urbanism (Ibruham) theory that is one of new theories which for building Islamic city and has said this theory respect to all Islamic values. This theory is based on Quran's verses and prophet's (pbuh) hadiths. Based on this, Mosque becomes the center of the city and around it there is commercial axis and units for social, cultural and business commnuties [13].

Some of the famous theorist has mentioned some theories based on the general rules which is not special for any specific traditions, but it can be complied with the other cultures and also in restoration of the Islamic cities. Therefore, by following the rules and goals, we can present some instructions that within them, we can restore the historical parts of the city. For example, Baken, believed that coincidence and equality of the motion and the evolution system of the city with the geographic and the natural features, are the necessary factors. He considered this action as a suitable means for emphasizing and promoting the visual views in a new sense to the public buildings in the urban memories [4]. Pakzad wrote that Kamilosit wanted to organize the spaces of the cities and revival of the spaces and the ancient structures of the city and also planned some solutions that can be used in organizing the historical structure of the Islamic cities [10]. Habibi and Maghsoudi believed that they could use the Cristopher Alexandre's theory in restoration of the historical structures of the Islamic cities. In his opinion, when something development as a whole, any other new development from that in that nature has some inner rules. He concluded that satisfaction of a wholesome development, depends on the general rule is that

every new developing action should create a continuous structure of its surroundings. Therefore, in restoration of some of the Islamic cities that the structure and the historical structure by the time are shaped continuously and in the long periods have a wholesome pattern of developing (Habibi and Maghsoudi, 2007). These instructions includes involvement in the construction with the ancient concepts but with a new style, construction with the full of secrets in an ancient city, construction based on the ancient rules in restoration of Islamic cities.

In brief;

- Islamic thoughts and tenets, plan some patterns for the restoration of the city that the outcomes includes: mental independence, special designing, addition of permanent construction, unity and unification of the religious and unreligious constructions of the city.

- Using the restoration views and experiences of the developed countries and the effects can represent some rules and patterns that are in conformity with the Islamic culture that can restore the historic of Islamic cities in a better way.

- For developing a city away from the problems, it's better to correlate and then perform the methods and the theories about the restoration with the culture and the operation of each city.

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