



Alexandria University
Faculty of Fine Arts
Department of Architecture

Modern Urbanization of Urban Heritage Spaces

A Thesis Submitted in fulfilment of the requirement
For the Master degree of Fine Arts in Architecture

By

Lora Nabil Saad Henen

Demonstrator - Faculty of Engineering
Department of architecture - Pharos University

Under the supervision of

Prof. Dr. Alaa Mahmoud Al-Alfy

Professor of Architecture, Head of Architecture Department
Faculty of Fine Arts — Alexandria University

Asst. Prof. Walaa Elsayed Yoseph

Assistant Professor of Architecture
Faculty of Fine Arts – Department of Architecture – Alexandria University

2020

Chapter 1 : Introduction

1.1 Abstract

Urban open spaces are considered one of the most important components of the urban environment especially the heritage spaces which have unique value and identity. They reflect the city's conditions, traditions and culture; overall, they symbolize the city's identity. Those places are formed by people's relationship with physical settings, individual and group activities, and meanings.

This research focuses on the place's identity and its relation to the changes that occur in the urban environment, as many reasons negatively affect a place through every time period and lead to a disappearance in its identity. Specifically, the urban nodes which are considered an essential and important element of the city's image such as; squares and plazas, they are considered strategic points that users can enter, direct them to many destinations and places, as well as, gathering to do many activities.

The identity of any urban space is shaped and enhanced by five main qualities; Distinctiveness, continuity, significance, compatibility, and cohesiveness. However, place identity can also be affected by the absence of these qualities. On the other hand there are some basic principles for public spaces in general such as; Safety, accessibility, comfort, environmentally friendly, economic efficiency and flexibility.

An integrated criteria of sustaining urban heritage spaces collected all these indicators to be used to evaluate and take into consideration while developing or enhancing these heritage spaces.

The predicted outcome of the study will illustrate a criteria which can be used for enhancing or developing the heritage spaces and at the same time maintaining the place identity to raise the quality of these urban heritage spaces and enhancing the quality of life as well as the city as a whole. This will be achieved through reaching an integrated set of principles which can be applied on any heritage public space such as; squares, piazzas, etc. which are characterized by unique identity.

The research adopts the Mosques Square in Alexandria, Egypt as a case study where a lot of challenges threaten its identity and apply the set criteria to sustain it. Then, it will deduce recommendations in order to reach a point of better understanding the square's identity and significance.

1.2 Key Words

Place Identity, Heritage public Spaces, Modern Urbanization.