

ROLE OF ISLAMIC VALUD IN SHAPING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF MUSLIM CITIES

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to identify and record the religious nonns that govented and continue to govern and continue to govern the development of spatial form in Muslim cities A discussion pertaining to the underlying principles of Islamic jurisprudence (usul al - figh) and the objectives of Islamed law (maqasid al - sharia) is followed by an in depth investigation of the basic Islamic value systems catening to the social and ethical practical governing the relation between the indicedual and the community and the economec and adminstratice systems . the [a[er then examines and analyses the impactt of these Islamic values on shaping the built environment of Muslim cities concluding wit an overview of where the city stands in terms of its evaluation.

1- Introduction

The im[act of religion on the landscape has been witnessed and documented since the inception of earth Sacred groobes ; sared structures; temples tombs; animal and plant domestications of religious calendars are but a fewrepresentations of religious man's transformation of the landscape The assimilation of temples to cosmic mountains and their function as links between earth seen "1 The ziggurats of Summer were literally cosmic mountains; the seven stories represented the seven planetary heavens; by ascending them priests reached the summit of the universe

On the other hand and for centuries social life in Muslim societies owed most of its customs to the predominant Islamic religion difining the relation between the individual and the community Intermis of building shared values religious consensus and social interdependence among members of a community were strong enough to co-ordinate individual decisions in a natural and flexible way thus bringing into existence an organic and articulated whole out of a sum of individual acts of buildings Urban forms emerged as a result of certain principles pertaining to the religious and