



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

Objectives

The theme is suggested by the evidence that the importation of exogenous economic-cultural models injures the integrity and the conservation of consolidated urban structures with high historical value; Cairo is exemplary.

The investigation is founded on the following concept:

the urban environment, its ways of use and evolutionary processes are expressions of a given social form; vice versa the urban environment determines behaviours and social changes.

These considerations led to the following questions:

- which are the social-urban structures, permanent in the metropolis' complexity, that made the elements of the historical city?
- can be they used as resources for a new, participated and aware city development model and for a conservation of the cultural heritage?

The answer to this questions needed an investigation that is the object of this study, by aiming to the comparison among historical districts and spontaneous expressions of the city: a research of traditional social-urban structures to define the historical determining factors belonging to the material and immaterial heritage that remain in the actual metropolis. As constants of the social-urban pattern, they can be posed at the base of historical urban heritage safeguard strategies and of development project for the informal areas.

Methodologies

The investigation has been performed during a six months stay concerning:

- analysis of the **historical-urban evolutions**;
- classification of the principal **types of urban pattern** present in the metropolis;
- selection of six **study-areas** representing different types of urban pattern exemplifying the urban composition;
- identification of the **traditional urban and social structures** in the historical city;
- definition of eleven **keywords** useful to investigate and to compare the six study-areas;

- search, through the keywords, of the identified structures in the spontaneous and informal urban expressions inside the metropolis, to verify their value as **social-urban organization constants**;
- collection of the results in a interactive **multi-medial CD**.

Results

The traditional urban pattern corruption implicates the disappearance of some correlated habits, not replaced by a new system of features.

Today that the metropolis satisfies only the demands of a minority, some features identifying the traditional city are reaffirming themselves as spontaneous answers to the unsatisfied necessities by morphologically modifying the spaces of the planned neighbourhoods integrated in the urban structure, not suitable because projected for an extraneous living way.

Also some urban functions are spontaneously managed applying to ancient customs.

So, around the official city, a self-managed new one is been able to rise, lived by those people for which normalcy is privilege, where social and cultural identity increases.

The transfer of western planning models excludes from the space production the spontaneous pushes and the local affairs, producing planned places unsuitable to the real necessities and neighbourhoods that, penalized by emergency and illegality, they don't reach an acceptable housing quality.

On the contrary, it would be desirable to have an integration between governmental managerial abilities and natural organization of the traditional social structure, inspired to those realities that valorise the local communities' abilities.