

In the urban design context, morphology refers to the underlying factors of urban form that draw upon society's attitudes towards and in relation to physical elements and spaces (Franck, 1994). In this instance, even potentially conflicting uses can be placed side by side, integrated into a single comprehensive and cohesive urban fabric. This would mean that while the larger, more ornate structures were used as landmark structures isolated on the edges of major cities away from the urban center, the buildings associated with the working classes, the local crafts and trade, the mosques and smaller religious institutions, the community facilities, and the common residences were weaved traditional Arab settlements developed in two distinct ways: either "planned" or "spontaneous" urban patterns. As each cell interconnects and is overlaid onto another residential cluster, the urban fabric becomes a system of hierarchical elements of various sized cells creating a complex pattern of unity and homogeneity. Formally speaking, the Arab City can be seen as an integration of multiple cultures and eras as they came into contact with the Islamic culture, eventually leading to the urban structures and morphological form common in Arab cities.