AIN - SHAMS UNIVERSITY.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING.

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ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN OF THE CITY CENTRE

(THE CORE OF THE CITY)

BY; ARCHITECT.

GAMAL MOHAMED ATTIA EL.KHOLY, GRADUATED IN 1979.

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF PH.D DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

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1995



# DEDICATION.

# I DEDICATE MY THESIS,

TO MY WIFE,
TO MY SON KARIEM,
TO MY DAUGHTER YASMIEN.

TO MY PARENTS
MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER,

TO THE MEMORY OF

MY FATHER IN LAW AND MY MOTHER IN LAW WHOSE WISHES

AND HOPES WERE MY INCENTIVE TO COMPLETE THE WORK

DONE.

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The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author in the DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY, CAIRO, EGYPT From July 1989 To September 1995.

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#### ABSTRACT.

# ARCH ITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN OF THE CITY CENTRE. ( THE CORE OF THE CITY )

The construction and development of City Centres (heart of the City) have become a crucial problem of Urban Design in recent years.

The fast rate of urbanisation ,accelerated by social change , by the scientific and technological revolution, and - last but not least -by a particular demographic trend, demands not only that existing, developing and expanding Cities be able to accommodate growing urban populations , but that many more new Cities be built as well.

The Cores of existing Cities, especially in the Middle East Region are outdated both functionally and technically. The last development of City centres took place in Europe 70 - 90 years ago, that is the great City Centre developments were accomplished by about the turn of the century. In the past fifty years, City development has been of an extensive nature. Cities spreading over larger and larger areas lose their closed character, and dissolve into landscape. City Cores have become obsolete, when they fulfil one function only of perpetuating the past by their survival. Modern outer Centres for districts and suburbs surround outwom Cores, creating a contradiction that is becoming more acute. The agglomeration process leads to the development of giant metropolis, and linked up conurbations make the development of a structure of Centres for these large Cluster units and agglomerations urgent.

This research makes an attempt to establish and define the basic functional elements of the City Centre (the Core of the City), as well as the interrelation between these elements using analytical methods, in order to formulate up-to-date Principles and Guidelines (historical and theoretical) and the basis and conditions concluded from the comparative analysis for the chosen examples so that it could be used as a guide to design a scientific curriculum for the efficient Urban Design procedure as well as Landscaping for construction and development of

the Centre of the City and to lay down principles and basis for the design and development with flexible and exact considerations to change according to the needs of the present and the future and to insure its continuity by fulfilling its actual function. It should certainly not be considered only as a collection of directives and standards applicable to any city centre problem but In conducting this study, particular attention might occur, will be give to the exploring of relevant methodological approaches to understand and interpret specific City centre examples. Examples are chosen to illustrate difficulties frequently encountered, with special emphasis being given to the individual character of each one.

The general contribution of the study is redefining the basic functional elements of the Core of the City in order to provide and develop a systematic (conceptual) theoretical approach or procedure to be followed by others who are interested in obtaining general guidelines that would help in redesigning and replanning the Core of existing Cities as well as the designing of the future City Cores, so that it could be used as a guide to design a scientific curriculum for the Urban Design procedure for the Centre of the City and to lay down principles and basis for the design and development with flexible and exact considerations to change according to the needs of the present, and the future to insure its continuity by fulfilling its actual function.

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