

AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Engineering

Dept. of Architecture

**CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE TRENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD
"ANALYTICAL STUDY"
AN APPLICATION ON THE EASTERN ARAB COUNTRIES**

By

HALA FOUAD NASSAR

B. Sc. in Architecture

Dept. of Architecture

Faculty of Engineering

Ain Shams University

1988 - 1993

A THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the
Requirements of the Degree of Master in
Architectural Engineering

Supervised By

Prof. Dr. IMAM MOHAMED SHALABY

Professor of Arch.

Faculty of Engineering

Ain Shams University

Prof. Dr. YEHIA MOHAMED EID

Professor of Arch.

Faculty of Engineering

Ain Shams University

Dr. MOHAMED AL-ADLEY

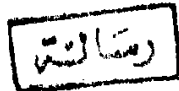
Teacher of Arch.

Faculty of Engineering

Ain Shams University

CAIRO

(1993)



Supervisors Committee

Prof. Dr. IMAM MOHAMED SHALABY
Professor of Arch.
Faculty of Engineering.
Ain Shams University.

Prof. Dr. YEHYA MOHAMED EID
Professor of Arch.
Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University

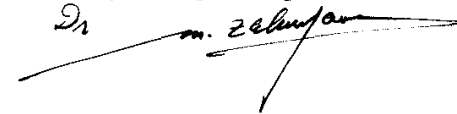
Dr. MOHAMED AL-ADLEY
Teacher of Arch.
Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University

Examiners Committee

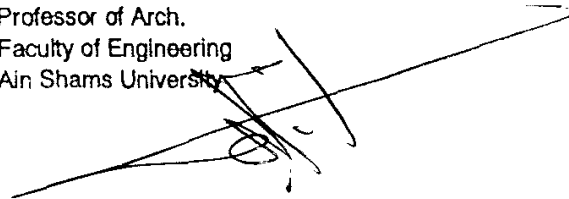
Prof. Dr. Magdl Abu El Nour
Professor of Architecture,
Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University,



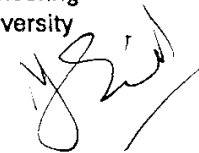
Prof. Dr. Zaki Hawas
Professor of Architecture,
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.



Prof. Dr. IMAM MOHAMED SHALABY
Professor of Arch.
Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University



Prof. Dr. YEHYA MOHAMED EID
Professor of Arch.
Faculty of Engineering
Ain Shams University





**Ain Shams University
Faculty of Engineering**

**DEGREE OF MASTER
in
Architectural Engineering**

Name : Hala Fouad Nassar

**Title : Contemporary Architecture trends in the Arab world.
"Analytical Study"**

An application on the Eastern Arab countries.

Degree : The master degree.

Supervisors Committee

- 1- Prof. Dr. Immam Mohamed Shalaby, Professor of Architecture. Ain Shams University
- 2- Prof. Dr. Yehia Mohamed Eid, Professor of Architecture. Ain Shams University
- 3- Dr. Mohamed AL-Adley Adley, teacher of Architecture. Ain Shams University

Post Graduate Committee

Date of research 10-10-1988.

Approval

Date of Approval

- - 1993.

Faculty Council Approval

- - 1993

University Council Approval

- - 1993.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Name : Hala Fouad Nassar.

**Date & Place
of birth** : 15.7.1966, Paris, France.

**First Accademic
Degree** : B.Sc in Architecture. Dept. of Arch.
Ain Shams University, Cairo 8.8.1988.

Others : M.Sc, Preliminary Courses, Ain Shams University, 1989.
- Practical training, for two month with Gradjevinska radna Organizacija
NAPRED, Beograd, Yugoslavia.
- Practical training, for three month with the EXPO' 92, Sevilla, Spain,
07.1988 - 09. 1988.

Career : Demonstrator, Dept of Architecture, Ain Shams University, Cairo.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

The Arab world occupies a very important and strategic part on the universal map. It links between the great continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. Today, over 200 million people spread across Africa and Asia carry this identity. The Eastern Arab countries raised as a new pole in the different economical and cultural fields. The enormous cultural development which took place there over short interval of time had increased the demand for a research that covers the status in the region.

The thesis discusses the architecture in this region, in terms of its historical background, as well as its contemporary situation. The thesis will also discuss the international Late and Post Modern architecture as guidance and reference. The contemporary architectural trends that appeared in the region will then be deduced and analyzed. The research relies on a number of references, specialized studies, architectural revues, and personal encounter with the different arab architects. Finally, a wholistic view of a number of recommendations and considerations will be driven out.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I gratefully acknowledge the valuable guidance and great support of

- 1- Professor Dr. Imam Shalaby, Professor of Architecture.
- 2- Professor Dr. Yehia Mohamed Eid, Professor of Architecture.
- 3- Dr. Mohamed AL-Adley Adley, teacher of Architecture.

I feel deepest gratitude to

- 1- Professor Dr. Mamoon AL-Wara, Professor & head of Architecture Dept.
Damascuss University, Syria.
- 2- Professor Dr. Udo Kultermann, Professor of Architecture, Washington University.

For their sincere concern and encouragment.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to my family, friends and colleagues who gave a hand and support.

LIST OF CONTENTS

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title of the research	i
Examiners Committee	ii
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgment	iv
List of Contents	x
List of illustrations	xix
Introduction	xxi
- Importance of the research	xxii
- The subject choice rationale	xxiii
- Methodology of the research	xxiii
- Organization of the research	xxiii
PART ONE: <u>Historical Background.</u>	
1.1 The Arabs	
1.1.1 Who are the Arabs?	2
1.1.2 The Eastern Arab Countries on the World Map.	4
1.1.3 The Rationale of choosing the Eastern Arab countries	5
1.1.4 The Strategic importance of the Eastern Arab countries	5
1.2 The historical background of Architecture in the Eastern Arab countries.	
1.2.1 Iraq	7
1.2.2 AL-Sham	15
1.2.3 The Arabian Peninsula.	18

	Page
PART TWO: <u>The Architectural Trends In the World Since Mid-sixties</u>	
2.1 Introduction	30
2.2 Late-Modernism	31
2.2.1 Sculptural form.	32
2.2.2 Extreme articulation; "structuralism".	34
2.2.3 Machine aesthetic.	36
2.2.4 Slick-Tech.	38
2.3 Post-Modernism	42
2.3.1 Historicism	43
2.3.2 Radical Eclecticism	47
2.3.3 Neo-Vernacular	51
2.3.4 Metaphor and Metaphysics.	53
2.4 Late-Modernism since 1980.	56
2.4.1 Monumental Expressionism.	56
2.4.2 Intutive Modernism.	60
2.4.3 High - Tech.	62
2.5 Post - Modernism since 1980.	68
2.5.1 Post - Modern classicism	68
2.5.2 Post - Modern Regionalism.	72
Summary and conclusion	74
PART THREE: <u>The Contemporary Architecture In the Eastern Arab countries.</u>	
3.1 Introduction	77
3.2 Criteria of selecting the examples	78
3.3 Criteria of presentation.	79
3.3.1 The contextual aspects	79
3.3.1.1 The building requirments	79

	Page
3.3.1.2 The environmental factors	79
3.3.1.3 The cultural influence	79
3.3.1.4 The social and economical factors.	79
3.3.1.5 The western architecture influence	79
3.3.2 The elements and components	80
3.3.2.1 Composition	80
3.3.2.2 Mass and size.	80
3.3.2.3 Shape and geometry.	80
3.3.2.4 Light and shadow.	81
3.3.2.5 Positive and negative planes	81
3.3.2.6 Openings.	81
3.3.2.7 Meaning and symbol.	82
3.3.3 The aesthetical qualities.	82
3.3.3.1 Unity	82
3.3.3.2 Variety	82
3.3.3.3 Proportions	82
3.3.3.4 Scale	83
3.3.3.5 Sky line	83
3.3.3.6 Harmony	84
3.3.3.7 Emphasis and accentuation.	84
3.3.3.8 Symmetry and balance.	84
3.3.3.9 Rhythm and repetition	84
3.3.3.10 Contrast	84
3.3.4 The exterior treatment.	85
3.3.4.1 The building material.	85
3.3.4.2 Surface and texture.	85
3.3.4.3 Colour	86

3.4	Presentation of the selected examples.	87
3.4.1	Iraq	87
3.4.1.1	AL-Rafidain bank.	88
3.4.1.2	The college of theology	90
3.4.1.3	AL-Mostansyria university	92
3.4.1.4	AL-Salam guest house.	94
3.4.1.5	Tobacco monopoly company.	95
3.4.1.6	Reinsurance company.	97
3.4.1.7	The telephone, telegraph and post building.	98
3.4.1.8	AL-Rafidain bank.	99
3.4.1.9	Villa Hammod	101
3.4.1.10	The redevelopment of Haifa street.	102
	Normative conclusion	
3.4.2	Jordan and Syria.	106
3.4.2.1	Villa Madi	108
3.4.2.2	Villa Handal	109
3.4.2.3	AL-Manhal School	111
3.4.2.4	Villa Rizk	112
3.4.2.5	Mubarak house	113
3.4.2.6	The cement factory personel housing	114
3.4.2.7	Riyadh centre.	115
3.4.2.8	Oceanography research centre	116
3.4.2.9	French cultural centre	117
	Normative conclusion	118
3.4.3	Saudi Arabia	119
3.4.3.1	The national commercial bank.	120
3.4.3.2	The haj terminal	122