

URBAN REGENERATION OF HISTORIC CITY DISTRICTS THROUGH THE REVITALIZATION OF PUBLIC SPACES

AL MANSOURA CITY WATERFRONT

By

Batool Awad Mohamed Awad

A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University
and The Brandenburg University of Technology (Cottbus)
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Double Master Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE and
URBAN DESIGN- Revitalization of Historic City Districts

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Title of Thesis:

Urban Regeneration of Historic City Districts through the Revitalization of Public Spaces

Key Words:

Urban Regeneration; Revitalization; Public Spaces, Waterfront, Historic Cities

Summary:

The thesis proposes an urban regeneration plan for the historic center of Al Mansoura through the revitalization of its public spaces. The thesis provides general guidelines and a strategic plan for the regeneration of the historic center of Al Mansoura while focusing on the remodeling and the revitalization of Al Mansoura waterfront. The concept of the project is to create a link between the historic center and the rest of the city and to improve the connection between the historic center and the waterfront. The project also aims to revitalize the historic center as a cultural hub and to promote Al Mansoura as a Medical city.

Acknowledgments

I would like to first start by thanking God almighty for lighting my path, guiding me throughout my life and giving me the strength and patience to improve myself. I would also like to thank my father, **Eng. Awad Mohamed**, and mother, **Eng. Howayda Nassr**, and my uncle, **Mr. Ahmed Nassr**, for everything they have done to support me in every possible way throughout my life until this very moment.

I give my immeasurable appreciation and deepest gratitude for the support from **Eng. Arch. Christoph Wessling**. I would like to thank him for introducing me to this master program and giving me the opportunity to experience this journey of knowledge. I was honored to have my supervisors **Prof. Dr. Heinz Nagler** and **Prof. Dr. Dalila El Kerdany** providing me with all the information and help needed to make this study possible. I would also like to thank **Dr. Asmaa Abdelaty** and **Dr. Sahar Imam** for making some time to consult with me and were keen to give me their honest feedbacks. Last but not least, I would like to thank my good friend and colleague **Eng. Rana Sadek** for being my companion in this journey no matter the consequences and for being such a great supporter and for believing in me. Thank you all for inspiring me and preparing me to inspire the future generations too.

God bless you all.

Declaration of Authorship

AFFIDAVIT

I hereby declare that all information disclosed in this master thesis is a product of my original and individual work. Neither this work in its complete form, nor any of its parts has been submitted to any university other than the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg and Cairo University for the award of any academic degree. Furthermore, I confirm that all sources other than my own have been duly acknowledged.

Date

Signature

Abstract

Al Mansoura, the capital of Al Dakahlia governorate in the delta of Egypt, dates back to the early 13th century. The city has been, and still is, witnessing major political, economic and social transformations ever since its establishment. The nature of the city has changed over the years from being a military based city to being an administrative and trade city. Recently, Al Mansoura became known for its advances in medical facilities and services especially after the establishment of the Urology and Nephrology center and the medical center and the improvement of the medicine faculty in the University of Al Mansoura. These projects attracted more people to the city.

Rapid urban growth forced the city to expand into its agricultural land. It had many social, economic and environmental reforms as a response to the urban growth. However, these reforms are usually applied away from the historic center. The historic center is now becoming more of a leftover of the city and it is losing its role as a cultural hub. Being a city with great historic roots, it is important to revive and use the existing assets in the historic core of the city, thus, renewing the city and emphasizing on the identity, image, and urban environment of the historic city center.

The thesis proposes an urban regeneration plan for the historic center of Al Mansoura through the revitalization of its public spaces. The thesis provides general guidelines and a strategic plan for the regeneration of the historic center of Al Mansoura while focusing on the remodeling and the revival of Al Mansoura major public space element, its waterfront. The concept of the project is to create a link between the historic center and the rest of the city and to improve the connection between the historic center and the waterfront. The concept of the project is to create a link between the historic center and the rest of the city and to improve the connection between the historic center and the waterfront. The project also aims to revitalize the historic center as a cultural hub and to promote Al Mansoura as a Medical city, hence, creating a catalyst for the urban environment improvements, urban image enhancement, economic development, and a better life quality for local residents.

To prepare a well-conducted proposal, the author will use the available literature resources, precedents analysis, interviews, and onsite observations.

Keywords: Urban Regeneration, Revitalization, Public Spaces, Waterfront

الملخص

المنصورة، عاصمة محافظة الدقهلية، يعود تاريخها إلى أوائل القرن الثالث عشر. وتشهد المدينة تحولات سياسية واقتصادية واجتماعية كبرى منذ إنشائها. تغيرت طبيعة المدينة على مر السنين من كونها مدينة عسكرية إلى مدينة إدارية والتجارية. كما انه في الآونة الأخيرة، أصبحت المنصورة تعرف بتفوقها في الطب والخدمات الطبية وخصوصا بعد إنشاء مركز المسالك البولية وأمراض الكلى وتطوير كلية الطب في جامعة المنصورة. وقد جذبت هذه المشاريع المزيد من الناس إلى المدينة.

أجبر النمو الحضري السريع الذي شهدته المدينة التوسع في الأراضي الزراعية. وكان هناك العديد من الإصلاحات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والبيئية كاستجابة لهذا النمو الحضري و لكن عادة يتم تطبيق هذه الإصلاحات بعيدا عن وسط المدينة التاريخي. فأصبح المركز التاريخي الآن ليس أكثر من بقايا للمدينة مهملة و متدهورة و سرعان ما تخسر دورها كمركز اجتماعي كبير مهم على مستوى المحافظة. كونها مدينة ذات جذور تاريخية كبيرة، فمن المهم إحياء واستخدام الموارد المتاحة في النواة التاريخية للمدينة لتجديد المدينة والتأكيد على هويتها والبيئة الحضرية فيها.

تطرح هذه الرسالة مقترح لخطة التجديد الحضري لمركز المدينة التاريخي من المنصورة من خلال تنشيط المرافق العامة. تقدم الخطة المبادئ التوجيهية العامة والخطة الاستراتيجية لتجديد المركز التاريخي بالمنصورة مع التركيز على إعادة وإحياء الواجهة البحرية لها. فكرة المشروع هو إنشاء رابط بين وسط المدينة التاريخي وبقية المدينة الي الشرق و الغرب وتحسين الاتصال بين وسط المدينة التاريخي والواجهة البحرية. ويهدف المشروع أيضا إلى تنشيط المركز التاريخي كمركز ثقافي وترويج المنصورة كمدينة طبية، وبالتالي، وخلق حافز للتحسينات البيئة الحضرية والتنمية الاقتصادية، وتحسين مستوى المعيشة للسكان المحليين.

كلمات البحث: التجديد الحضري، تنشيط، والأماكن العامة، الواجهة البحرية

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