

POST-MODERN URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RE-INVENTION IN GCC CAPITAL CITIES

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Abstract

The urban development during the last decade in the GCC has changed radically the socio-spatial tissue in the big cities: “landmarks” and quarters have been demolished to create spaces for new postmodern large-scale urban development projects. The modern oil city which had been developed and expanded in the second half of the 20th century has practically vanished. The modern oil city was practically the first form of urbanity in many GCC regions. The urban transformations required fundamental socio-spatial adjustments from the various national communities in the cities, which resulted on one hand in ethnically and sectarian fragmented urban space, and on the other hand, in “classical” modern city spaces constructed after the “Charter of Athens”: Spaces of living, spaces of work and spaces of recreation. The current research project explores how the communities of the GCC nationals re-invent their socio-spatial interactions in the “new” postmodern urban spaces. By exemplifying the cities of Doha, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Muscat a comprehensive overview of these processes in the GCC will be presented as first results of this ongoing research.

Keywords: Post-modern Urban Development, GCC Capital Cities, Socio-spatial Interaction, Doha, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Muscat