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## INTRODUCING HERITAGE VOCABULARY INTO CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE OF HERITAGE

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### **Abstract**

*Architecture in the past had a clear and specific heritage identity, and this identity reflected the characteristics of the peoples and their cultural, heritage and social backgrounds, but today the identity of Egyptian architecture has faded due to several reasons, including the control of the idea of alienation over architecture, technological development and the needs of the era, which calls for the importance of studying how contemporary architecture meets The needs of the times and do not affect the heritage identity. In return for the domination of the idea of Westernization as a symbol of development and keeping up with the times, an architectural trend appeared in Egypt in the nineties against this materialist thought and called for the necessity of returning to the roots and heritage and linking the contemporary architectural product with the aesthetic, architectural and urban values of the Egyptian heritage, whether it was Pharaonic, Coptic or Islamic.*

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### **Keywords**

*Heritage Vocabulary, Contemporary Architecture, Preservation, The Future.*

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## **Introduction**

the Egyptian heritage is the main source of modern ideas, concepts and formulations, and this is in order to create an architectural identity that fits the identity of the Egyptian society, and this comes through the study of different models of contemporary buildings (global and local, which used the heritage vocabulary in a contemporary way in order to preserve the future of the heritage identity and the extent of The link of these models with heritage and contemporary to define their architectural identity through three levels at the level of general formation at the level of molecular formations - at the level of the plastic vocabulary, to reach to extract a set of results of theoretical study and analytical study.

## **Research Problem**

The emergence of many buildings that do not fit the heritage of Cairo as a result of traditions of Western architecture and technological progress, which led to:

- 1- The emergence of vocabulary in architecture that does not express the heritage identity.
- 2- The users do not feel belonging to architecture as it does not take into account the local culture for them and does not suit their cultural heritage in general and their architectural heritage in particular.

From here, the following secondary goals are reached:

- 1- Defining the architectural identity and the factors affecting it and monitoring the opinions of some theorists on the problem of architectural identity in Egypt.

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- 2- Study entrances to deal with architectural heritage to preserve it.
- 3- Defining contemporary architecture and its importance and monitoring contemporary architecture patterns.
- 4- Study the problematic of heritage and contemporary and the importance of linking them to achieve continuity of heritage.
- 5- An analysis of contemporary architecture models that preserve the identity of the architectural heritage.

### **Research Methodology**

The research is based on two main axes:

Theoretical approach: It includes the concepts of identity, heritage and contemporary, and the importance of linking heritage and contemporary in order to preserve the architectural heritage identity that distinguishes society.

The practical approach includes analyzing the theoretical curriculum information by studying and analyzing contemporary global and local architecture to preserve the heritage identity by introducing heritage vocabulary into contemporary architecture.

A set of results are drawn from the theoretical study, as well as a set of results from the analytical study.

1- The concept of architectural identity:

Architectural identity is the uniqueness and distinction of a community, and this uniqueness comes from the factors surrounding this society, "political, economic, environmental, social and cultural factors". Accordingly, every nation has its urban and architectural identity that distinguishes it from other countries and it also stems from its civilizational and cultural components. What is meant by the architectural identity is not the details and shapes that are added to the buildings so that we can distinguish their style, whether it is Islamic or Moroccan, but what is meant is everything that gives the environment its distinctive character, whether it is the architecture of the building or the surrounding architecture.

2- Factors that affect the architectural identity: Preserving the architectural identity When introducing a contemporary architecture, the factors and variables that affect the heritage identity must be known to be taken into account. Architectural critic Charles Correa Ann says: "Architectural identity is a product of architectural thought, and then the factors affecting Architectural identity is the concepts and influences affecting architectural thought, and he divided these factors into main factors such as "aspirations of society and culture" and secondary factors such as: "climate and technology".

Key factors: culture and future aspirations:

A- Culture:

- Altman & Chenners that culture contains a set of epochs: the lifestyle of a group of people, the system of symbols and mental perceptions of this group, the set of policies related to the adaptation of this group to the surrounding environment, and therefore the culture includes the values, beliefs, rituals and the embodied rules of their life system. And culture, like a huge reservoir, is calm, stable and renewed across different times, and sometimes it contributes to shaping the aspirations of society.

B- Community aspirations: The aspirations of society are characterized by change, fluctuation and dynamism and are completely opposite to culture. These two forces are always interaction, and all arts are severely affected by all movements on the axis of interaction between these two forces, and since the aspirations of society are variable and fluctuating, some new aspirations replace the old. To dispense with society.

Secondary factors: include climate and technology, and they are:

A- Climate: the force of climate can impose itself on culture, and it can also be a source of philosophical criteria for the heavenly emptiness of the architecture of any region, as it participates in this as a helping force in forming the cultural stock of any society, and thus as a concerted force in the formulation of architecture for this society, acting as a cause Logical agreed upon creating causal formations in the core of architecture.

B- Technology: It is the most rapid factor in influencing architecture, and its effect on architecture is greater than its effect on other types of arts as it results in mechanisms, methods and building materials used, and the rate of influence on architecture varies from one society to another according to its location in relation to technology and the possibility of its application.

3- The views of theorists on the aspects of the identity problematic in contemporary architecture:

In recent years, there have been many criticisms and accusations directed at architects in Egypt regarding the loss of the identity of architectural production, as defining the architectural identity has become a very difficult issue, as the world today has become more open to each other, as the technological and communication revolution has severely reduced relations between societies, which resulted in a different social identity and thus has become A society can lose its identity once it interacts with a different environment.

These many movements left no room for doubt that there is a problem involving some deficiency in architectural and urban beauty, and it also reflects the existence of a state of dissatisfaction with the reality of the existence of the contemporary architectural and urban

formation in Egypt for several reasons:

Architectural chaos - lack of neighborhoods - deterioration of the aesthetic level - blind imitation of the West - absence of authentic Gothic.

4- Introduction to dealing with heritage:

There are three entrances to deal with heritage, the receptive entrance, the explicit neighborhood entrance, and the local entrance:

First: the receptive portal:

The architect borrows the heritage vocabulary and tries to formulate it within a contemporary architectural and urban product. Heritage is the source of formulas and the repository of vocabulary and spatial and plastic relations in order to produce works that are popular with the public, related to their heritage and compatible with their cultural background, thus achieving communication and interaction between these works and members of the Egyptian community.

Second: The entrance to the explicit revival:

The architect undertakes an explicit revival of heritage by designing and transmitting fully models from previous buildings in the same manner, and bearing the same vocabulary and spatial and plastic formulations of popular heritage architecture, believing that the distance between the day and the moments of creativity that produced this product can be crossed through simulating the past, or absorbing Repeating glyphs.

Third: the local entrance:

It deals with heritage more deeply, as it tries to analyze the ruling thought and the concepts that formed the product, and it works to reformulate these concepts in a way that is compatible with the age, technological progress and the new materials.

5- The concept of contemporary architecture: It is an intellectual product stemming from an era based on basic components, which is that it is an era of openness and astonishing scientific progress. It is a central economic era. It is an era of cultural overlap on the global level accompanied at the same time by affirming the civilizational specificity of peoples and their freedom to express this particularism.

6- The importance of linking heritage and contemporary: the importance of the intellectual link between heritage and contemporary is divided into two main parts, namely: the importance of heritage - and the importance of contemporary and its imperative. Its importance comes from the importance of linking them. The experiences of different peoples have proven that there is no way to abandon one value and preserve another value in At any time or place and that it is not possible to imagine one of the heritage values without the other in the life of any human group, the importance of linking with heritage comes from what has the ability to express the

unique national personality and on the other hand, everything that contemporary means in terms of attachment to the present time and commitment to development without transfer and reproduction from The past is another important value that human groups aspire to, and therefore the importance of linking heritage with contemporary is an intellectual and cultural importance in the first place, and an architectural practical importance in the second place.

A- The importance of architecture: the intellectual link between heritage and contemporary in the field of architecture confirms the existence of well-established concepts of Egyptian culture throughout its history with the renewal of applications of those concepts in architecture as one of the areas of civilization, and therefore the responsibility of the contemporary architect makes it imperative for him to live the past, present and future in his designs, innovations and creativity. Because it undoubtedly represents the determinants of its architecture and architecture, because the past is still between us, with the heritage of the architect, radiating civilization and culture and imposes itself in the urban void, requiring every consideration and respect.

B- Cultural importance: Cultural importance is the intellectual link between heritage and contemporary in cultural existence. On the one hand, interest in national culture is an important matter for people, especially those who possess cultural distinction that imposes on their children the sincerity of their expression, and heritage is considered as the distinct embodiment of the culture of a group over a past period of time, and on the second side, contemporary is an expression of life, presence and technical development, and on the one hand. The third, after an intellectual link between heritage and contemporary, is an expression of the validity of culture to survive through time.

C- Trends affecting the identity of contemporary Egyptian architecture: In the twentieth century, the October War affected the architectural identity, as it found the great openness and desire to build many new industrial and residential cities, which helped in the existence of a large application of the various architectural trends whose work was derived from contemporary Arab thought . The trends that have affected the identity of contemporary buildings can be divided into the following:

1- Social trends:

The impact of social factors on the identity of Egyptian architecture can be illustrated in the state's interest in providing housing for low-income people. The methods of assembling residential blocks have depended on providing the largest possible number of housing units.

Blocks came in a boring, repetitive order that has no specific identity. . Residential architecture has moved away from developing the traditional character of heritage architecture to suit the

needs and requirements of the era, because some thinkers consider that heritage architecture represents a backwardness from contemporary.

- The social conditions of the family affected the thanks to the housing unit, where the resident tried to meet his living needs in his home by using some methods such as: joining balconies, opening windows, which led to a change in the facade and the loss of architectural features that constitute a distinct architectural style, the emergence of the ownership system in the housing, and it has been The sales system without finishing led to each owner finishing it in a manner commensurate with his capabilities, so each unit in the building had a different shape from the general framework of the building's architectural design.

2- Cultural trends:

- The culture of society in the past was related to the human understanding of religious matters and the ideas of his belief, but with the intertwining of cultures in the era of globalization, the culture change and its reflection on contemporary architecture, and this is represented in the emergence of contemporary buildings associated with Western thought, and here it is sufficient to point out the use of glass facades in buildings Although not suitable for climatic conditions, and social requirements.

3- Political trends:

Political changes affect the architectural character and the identity of Egyptian architecture, and this is represented in:

4- The wars led to the emergence of new patterns of slum and economic quick housing. . The policy of openness in the year 1973 AD led to the emergence of tall towers, and the result was a Western architecture that lost the character of traditional architecture.

5- The consolidation of political centralization in the capital led to an increase in immigration to it, and informal suburbs were formed due to the housing crisis, so the government was forced to establish residential communities and borrow from foreign sources, which had an impact on architecture and its identity. (14)

Th. Economic trends:

- The policy of openness adopted by the state led to a decline in its role in the low-income construction process, resulting in the phenomenon of random housing, and also luxury housing that was built by investors and large owners, and they considered achieving the highest profit, so the residential towers spread and took on a western character in terms of Design and thought.

C. Educational trends:

- The missions consisted in sending architectural education missions to the West, and by their return they transferred with them the pattern of Western civilization to Egypt.

Universities are also liked by Western universities in terms of plans and curricula, and they suffer from multiple deficiencies, and this existing deficiency is linked either to the authenticity of the scientific content presented and not related to the environment and society, or the orientation towards preparing the architect for design for the elite and not for society.

D- Field study:

Various models of contemporary architecture (global and local) have been studied that used heritage vocabulary in a contemporary way in order to preserve the future of heritage identity by analyzing the extent of these buildings' association with heritage and contemporary and studying the design idea of these projects and determining their architectural identity by analyzing buildings on three levels:

a. At the level of the general formation.

B. At the level of molecular configurations

T. At the level of plastic vocabulary

Project Idea:

The design idea of the project was to create an architectural language that does not deny ancient heritage values and benefit from contemporary technological advancements. And the production of an architecture rich in heritage expressions that achieves harmony with the surrounding environment. An overview of the components of the project: It consists of 26 floors with an area of 525 thousand square feet. . Received AIA National Honor Award directly on a generation of office buildings. . It is considered one of the advanced modern structures on the site, which is located in open spaces.

## **Results**

The results of the theoretical study: Identify the concepts and levels of identity, the factors affecting the architectural identity in general and the factors affecting the Egyptian architectural identity in general. A monitoring of the opinions of some critics and theorists about the problem of architectural identity in Egypt. Knowledge of heritage and contemporary concepts, and global contemporary architecture trends.

C- Study the revenues of dealing with heritage, namely:

The pointing approach (borrowing the heritage vocabulary and formulating it within the contemporary architectural and urban production) The explicit revival approach (completely transferring models from previous buildings in the same style, vocabulary and spatial formulas, the analytical approach to my local (dealing with heritage in more depth and trying to analyze the ruling thought and concepts that formed the product, and reformulating These concepts are in line with the age and technological progress.) Modern architecture is characterized by

complete logic, concern for function, abstraction from decoration and complete separation from heritage, as its pioneers aimed to establish a self-contained building that has no relation to what has gone before. Where the intellectual basis for it depends on the necessity to create a contemporary architectural product for it (after the heritage) that is popular with the public and achieves communication with its history and origins.

Contemporary modernity architecture is characterized by extreme exaggeration in applying modernity concepts such as complete logic, emphasis on mechanical aspects, brilliant ornamental use of technology, complete detachment from history, heritage roots and traditional architecture, and a tendency towards modernization.

D- Results of the analytical study:

- A contemporary architecture can be introduced and at the same time preserving the surrounding local heritage identity by borrowing vocabulary and formations from the local surrounding environment and reformulating them with contemporary materials and technologies. Most of the contemporary buildings whose design idea was based on the link between heritage and contemporary has succeeded in expressing the heritage identity, which led to the confirmation and achievement of civilization continuity such as: (The Supreme Constitutional Court and the American University). Most of the contemporary architectural facades of the chokehold belong to the postmodern architecture trend. The basic idea of this trend is based on the necessity to create a contemporary architectural product that has a heritage that is liked by the public and achieves communication with its history and origins. In the use of glass walls and shiny finishing materials as an attempt to satisfy the social class with Western tendencies and not to submit to the architectural values inherent in Egyptian architecture.

Recommendations (suggestions) to preserve the future of heritage:

A- Urban recommendations: interest in reformulating architectural vocabulary and heritage symbols through contemporary technological techniques in heritage areas to keep pace with the spirit of the times. Attention to studying the historical value of the heritage vocabulary and not to overuse it without awareness so that it does not become lost copies of its heritage content. Finding ways to develop heritage architecture into a contemporary architecture that is compatible with modern technological and technical means to achieve future needs, creating a cultural continuity and future heritage.

C- Cultural recommendations: Paying attention to the development of the cultural dimension of the local architecture of the heritage and the exploitation of technological progress and scientific research in focusing on the creative, innovative and environmental aspects of the architectural heritage. Conducting training and awareness courses for Egyptian architects to



promote the local architectural identity and the necessity of introducing it to contemporary architecture and alerting the seriousness of the situation in heritage areas. Ensure the importance of the architect's awareness of the cultural aspects of the Egyptian society, while taking into account the heritage and climatic aspects of making contemporary buildings characterized by a unique architectural identity that enhances a sense of belonging to the local environment

W- Social recommendations: Raising the level of architectural awareness of the Egyptian Forum and highlighting the Egyptian models that have succeeded in linking heritage with contemporary, which may benefit the awareness of the local contemporary architectural thought among the community members.

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