

# **The human scale in Islamic civilization and its role in enriching society with spiritual and artistic values in light of cultural changes in the modern era**

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## **Abstract**

In the seventh century AD, the Islamic call appeared in the region of the Arabian Peninsula, spread and flourished until it reached the three aged continents of the world, from the Atlantic Ocean to the east and Indian Ocean and from Somalia in the south to Central Asia in the north. Several Islamic communities have been ascertained in sync with Islamic expansions, which were based on a great planning and urban renaissance, where Islamic urbanization was influenced by the architectural features of the countries that Muslims opened, such as the Greek, Sassanid, and Persian. Where Muslims mixed this great cultural heritage with the spirit of Islamic art and its value stemming from the spirit of this great religion. These cities achieved the functional and the spiritual dimension, which led to the emergence of urban patterns that express the Islamic society and its civilization. Hence, attention should be paid to the heritage in a practical way, through designs that respect this heritage and entrench its role in enriching society with spiritual values, as preserving the cultural heritage must take adequate attention from designers, so the technical methods differed in expressing the words that were lost.

## **Research Problem**

The human scale of Islamic civilization is considered a reflection of the functional and spiritual values, which created the artistic, scientific and spiritual character of Islamic art that we miss in our modern era. Designers should show the role of privacy and symbolism and how to communicate to create a visual system for the inner and outer space through maintaining the human scale and highlighting its role in Islamic civilization.

## **Keywords:**

The human scale - Islamic architecture - Islamic identity

## **Research importance**

Reviving the Islamic – Arab identity in the souls of the people due to its importance in influencing the society and its evolution.

Showing the diversity of Islamic civilization heritage and its richness, being out of the superficial form and searching for what this civilization includes deeply.

## **Research aims**

- Benefit from Islamic heritage, showing its effect on the society in modern Era.
- Trying to maintain Islamic heritage throughout simulating artistic spirits and great values of Islamic civilization.
- To be interested in studying the heritage buildings facades and to analyze them for what these facades have a lot of artistic values and beauty.

**Research methodology: Descriptive analyzing methodology:**

Research follows historical methodology, using descriptive methodology to show the identity role and the importance of human measurement and its impact on the society and how to use it in architecture to find a way to deal with designing issues in modern architecture to limit its impact on people

**Research hypothesis**

Research supposed that we should invest in the Arab identity, heritage arts and making use of technology in architecture to achieve the best results and the highest benefits and showing how human measurement affected our heritage and how is the connection with life.

**Introduction**

Art is the main way to reach spirits and feeling beauty; art is shaking the emotions and change societies and moral values, it is the only way to talk to feelings of human who can realize and appreciate the beauty. Therefore, human is affected by previous civilization arts. every human being feels like his civilizations arts apart of him and his history. Islamic civilization was distinguished with many flowing characteristics benefit human being and enrich his life.

Islamic art established the appreciation of beauty in souls but on conditions of building not demolishing, art has a great role in developing nation feelings, it is an art combines between beauty in the universe and noble values. it is a human art coexists with the meaning of humanity as it combines spirit and thought. Islamic architecture was characterized by sublime where the basis which the artist relied on was faith, so he was sublimed to the sky and all mosques were having the same direction which is the (Holly Kaaba). Islamic art combines between religion and life in balance.

Artist made his design on the basis of colours, line and dimensions as he interested in mass and space.

The present crises which resulted from lack of architecture values and the importance of human measurement- which human civilization were interested in- and resulted in building that in line with modern human, now this human scale was neglected and cities changed to:

- 1-absence of human scale and neglecting the social and functional aspect of building
- 2- changing of design thought according to changes in stored heritage and economy
- 3- imitation of western architecture and ignoring the human heritage of society
- 4- facades changed and contradicted, each owner changes according to his culture and his will.
- 5- variation of how facades are style- finished due to variation of design and material.

The most important factors of human scale:

**space**

- **The most important design basis in Islamic architecture:**

- 1-human scale and design relationship between environment and human
- 2- unit and diversity
- 3- integration, interconnectedness and moderation
- 4- simplicity and beauty
- 5- sublimation
- 6- privacy and social connections

## Golden sector

Golden ratio (1.618) is considered one of the most important digits throughout the history created works characterized with creativity and beauty whereas it is one of the beauty scales in universe, appeared in ancient ages, it was revealed in pharos and Greek civilizations. In modern era in 1945 engineer Le Corbusier

wrote a book focuses on golden ratio and its relation to human body scale and named it (MODELOR) in his book he introduced a painting as a reference of proportionality and measurement, he showed a raised arm man as he found four points in human body golden sector could be found through; the finger edges of the raised hand, navel area, head and foot.

## Design process:

- To analyze the location, geographical and physical factors.
- To consider climate factors like sun, ventilation, temperature and humidity
- To consider social factors, habits and traditions
- To consider history and civilization throughout the heritage
- To consider the religion and worship places
- To consider the economic aspects; type of houses and economy level
- To gather information about the used material
- To maintain the unity, consistency to ensure the design harmony
- To maintain the balance and rhythm throughout the module that keep the convenient human ratios
- To make an initial design relies on the experience of the designer and the taste of the owner
- Final design
- Execution

To verify the identity, we should adhere to:

- Develop design thoughts to match civilization heritage and maintain it

## Some of researcher's art work





• **Research results:**

Benefit of human scale as source of inspiration for the designer and achieve the beauty and functional values successfully.

Expanding the study and analyzing the modern architecture styles and their relation to human scale to get a unique environmental design.

Unqualified artistic management affected poorly architectural works ; they no longer express humans and their environment an civilization .

**recommendations:**

dealing with human scale and its importance as a design basic element not a secondary element. Country should embrace standards and rules which modern architecture relies on and considering the human aspects.

Necessity in the consideration of environmental factors in designs.

Artists should seek originality and contemporary in his art, and stick to our philosophy to establish a modern artistic renaissance with profound roots.

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