

The Impact of the Ecological Zones on Urban Planning and Design of Iraqi Cities¹

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Abstract

Ecology is defined as the science which studies the relation between the organic systems and the environment through the relation of urban systems. Many studies have referred to the issue of ecology and its relation to the physical environment in general but did not clarify the influence of ecological zones on local urban design and planning. Therefore this research aims to explore the nature of this impact locally. It hypothesized that urban planning and design of Iraqi cities influenced by ecological zones.

The research relied on the descriptive analytical method and observation checklist. Eight local cities were selected as a sample. Eleven persons were selected as intentional respondents. The factor analysis was used to process the data with the statistical bag SPSS.

The results revealed that the ecological zones effected urban planning and design of Iraq cities through orienting the streets or grading them or relying on the principle of inner courtyard to increase the activity of ventilating passive systems, and street planting increasing the use of plants and fountains together with creating active open spaces and introducing natural elements inside the urban tissue in order to create a microclimate, using natural building materials like clay, stone, wood, tiles and other reusable or recyclable materials having a long working life and minimal service requirements. The conclusion demonstrated the variety and the strength impact of the ecological zones on the urban planning and design of Iraqi cities.

¹ For the paper in Arabic see pages (443-486).

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