

Old Urban Forms of Aseer Region in Saudi Arabia¹

Abdallah Zehrany² Saadallah Jabbour³

Jihad Issa⁴

Abstract

This study focus on old urban fabric in Aseer province in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fabric, due to its unique characteristics, such as the old period of time since it has been in practice by local inhabitants as well as clarifying the variety of urban centers distribution in Aseer province. For example, costal strip, mountain range and the building techniques which fit well with the surrounding environment, economical activity, social, political and security situation in the province, where they were big in number. The villages of Aseer were known and unique in the attached houses narrow streets, which reflect the need for security to protect each other. This urban fabric went through complete change in the building techniques and planning, where concrete modern building materials replaced mod and stones, to the degree were the modern building appearance it very similar to other towns and cities in the Kingdom, which in turn reflected negative image in the existing architecture in the province and its old suitable building with its surroundings.

The researcher recommend, as a result of the finding of this study, to protect the type of old building and its architecture in Aseer province, utilize these traditional villages in reviving the past heritage which included all villages in the province, in order to preserve the remaining urban heritage, and upgrade its built environment in a way that reflect its historical, urban and tourism importance, and enhancing the level of services to make it in match with traditional urban of each village separately.

¹ For the paper in Arabic see pages (189-228).

² Dept. of Planning Environment, Faculty of Architecture- Damascus University.

³ Dept. of Planning Environment, Faculty of Architecture- Damascus University.

⁴ Dept. of Planning Environment, Faculty of Architecture- Damascus University.