The Heart of the City: A Socio-Cultural Perspective

Heba Safey Eldeen

MIU_Egypt
The Heart of the City:
A so-long-studied theory

- Location
- Shape
- Type
- Capacity
- Activities
- Identity
- Change/Development
- Growth
- Immigration

Physical Planning Measures
The Heart of the City:

A so-long-studied theory

- Location
- Shape
- Type
- Capacity
- Activities
- Identity
- Change/Development/Growth
- Immigration

CBD
Down Town
City Center
City Heart
City Place

Physical Planning Measures !!!
The Heart of the City: A so-long-studied theory

- Location
- Shape
- Type
- Capacity
- Activities
- Identity
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CBD
Down Town
City Center
City Heart
City Place

Is that all?

Physical Planning Measures !!!
Towards the Humanization of Urban Life

CIAM
- meeting place of the arts

Le Corbusier
- repository of the community's collective memory
- natural expression of contemplation/quite enjoyment of body & spirit

I. Richards
Towards the Humanization of Urban Life

Philip Johnson

expression of the collective mind and the spirit of community

Jacqueline Tyrwhitt

spirit of community
The Heart of the City: A Socio-Cultural Perspective
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What:
The Concept: A Fresh Look

Why:
Incorporating Socio-Cultural Measures in City Planning

How:
Case of Cairo:
- Theoretical Review
- Grounded Observation
The Cairo Phenomenon:
A Chronological Review

Change/Development Along History
The Cairo Phenomenon: A Chronological Review

Change/Development Along History

Medieval Cairo
The Cairo Phenomenon:
A Chronological Review

Belle Epoch - Paris of the East

Change/Development Along History
The Cairo Phenomenon:
A Chronological Review

Belle Epoch - Paris of the East

Change/Development Along History
The Cairo Phenomenon:
A Chronological Review

Liberalization - Modernization

Change/Development Along History
The Cairo Phenomenon:
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Liberalization - Modernization

Change/Development Along History
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Centralization - Nationalization

Open-Door Policies & Beyond

Change/Development Along History (Greater Cairo Region)
The Cairo Phenomenon:
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Centralization - Nationalization

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Change/Development Along History  (Greater Cairo Region)
The Cairo Phenomenon: A Chronological Review

Turn of the Millennium

Change/Development Along History (Greater Cairo Region)
The Cairo Phenomenon:
A Chronological Review

Turn of the Millennium

Change/Development Along History (Greater Cairo Region)
The Cairo Phenomenon:

A Chronological Review

Today - Peripheral Cairo

Change/Development Along History

(Greater Cairo Region)
The Cairo Phenomenon: A Chronological Review

Change/Development Along History (Greater Cairo Region)

Today - Peripheral Cairo
3rd Millennium Cairo

Several Cities within the GCR

(Greater Cairo Region)
3rd Millennium Cairo

Environmental Behavioral Aspects NOT CONSIDERED !!!
3rd Millennium Cairo

Environmental Behavioral Aspects NOT CONSIDERED !!!
The Heart of the City:
A so-long-studied theory

Cairo’s Heart:
Followed all theories?

Physical Planning Measures?
The Heart of the City:
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Cairo’s Heart:
Followed all theories?

Physical Planning Measures?
The Heart of the City:
A so-long-studied theory

Cairo’s Heart:
Followed all theories?

Physical Planning Measures?
Tahrir Square on Revolt:

Tahrir Square and its surroundings as seen from Google Earth
Tahrir Square on Revolt:
Tahrir Square on Revolt:
Tahrir Square on Revolt:

Maggie Osama
Tahrir Square on Revolt:
Tahrir Square on Revolt:
The Heart of the City:
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Physical Planning Measures !!!
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Cairo’s Heart:
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Revolution:
Case Changed

Physical Planning Measures !!!
The Heart of the City:
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Cairo’s Heart:
Followed all theories?

Revolution:
Case Changed

Questions:

Terms Revisited

Planning Vs. Politics

Democratic Urbanism

Physical Planning Measures !!!
Tahrir Square on Revolt:
Tahrir Square on Revolt:

**In What Context?**

**With Whom?**

**Doing What?**

**Who?**
Observations & Reflections_[1]

Rejuvenation of the Old Heart
Observations & Reflections_[1]

Rejuvenation of the Old Heart
Observations & Reflections [2]

The Newer Hearts

Abbaseya: Army Supporters
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Nasr City: Former Generals Supporters
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Nasr City: Former Generals Supporters
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Shubra & Maspiro: Copts
Observations & Reflections [2]

The Newer Hearts

Shubra & Masprio: Copts
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Mohandeseen: Anti MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Mohandeseen: Anti MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Mokattam: Pro MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Mokattam: Pro MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Heliopolis: Former Regime Supporters
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Heliopolis: Former Regime Supporters
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Ethadeya: Clashes between Pro & Anti MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Ethadeya: Clashes between Pro & Anti MB
Observations & Reflections_[2]

The Newer Hearts

Peripheral Cairo: Detached
Observations & Reflections [2]

The Newer Hearts

Peripheral Cairo: Detached
Observations & Reflections_[3]

The Urban Poor

HERE TO STAY
Observations & Reflections_[3]

The Urban Poor

HERE TO STAY
Observations & Reflections_[4]

Emerged Street Arts

Graffiti & Performance Arts
Observations & Reflections_[4]

Emerged Street Arts

Graffiti & Performance Arts
Observations & Reflections_[5]

Changing Env. Behavior

Harassment - Aggression - Rivalry
Observations & Reflections [5]

Changing Env. Behavior

Harassment -- Aggression -- Rivalry
Discussion
Discussion

How Can Urban Planning Improve Cairo’s Resilience To Political & Social Changes Caused By The Upheaval Era We Are Living In ?
Discussion

How Can Urban Planning Improve Cairo’s Resilience To Political & Social Changes Caused By The Upheaval Era We Are Living In ?

How Can We Make Use Of This Transitional Period Towards An Urban Democracy Of Our Victorious City ?
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective
The Heart of the City

from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

A changing Role of the Heart in Present day CAIRO Society
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

A changing role of the heart in present day Cairo society

Making people visible in the planning process
The Heart of the City

from a Socio-Cultural Perspective
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

**Humanistic Values (Democracy)**

- Openness
- Diversity
- Culture
- Innovation
- Networks
- Tolerance
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Attractiveness

Based on Gehl’s
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS

- Walk-in / Stay-in for a while
- Social & Cultural Exchanges
- Talking / Watching & Experiencing
- Lively / Diverse / Safe & Comfortable

Based on Gehl’s
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS
Protection

crime/traffic/accidents/
unpleasant climate conditions
(quality of walking & staying)
The Heart of the City from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS

Protection

- crime/traffic/accidents/
- unpleasant climate conditions
  (quality of walking & staying)

Comfort

- safe/healthy ....
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

CHARACTERISTICS

Protection

- crime/traffic/accidents/
- unpleasant climate conditions
  (quality of walking & staying)

Comfort

- safe/healthy ....

Enjoyment

- human scale/ pleasant climate
  (quality of attractions)
## The Heart of the City
### from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activities/Uses</th>
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<tbody>
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Based on Gehl’s
# The Heart of the City

## from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

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Everyday Uses:
- Visitors/Customers
- Recreational Visitors
- Visitors to Events

Based on Gehl's
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

Human Dimension
Within the City

Location / Accessibility - Use for Public Purposes
Ceremonial Everyday Purposes - Specific Political Purposes
The Heart of the City
from a Socio-Cultural Perspective

Human Dimension
Within the City

Lively
Safe
Attractive
Sustainable
Healthy

Location / Accessibility - Use for Public Purposes
Ceremonial Everyday Purposes - Specific Political Purposes

Based on Gehl’s
Conclusion

Towards a DEMOCRATIC Urbanization
Conclusion

**Redefinition:**

Heart = City’s Reference Point ≠ CBD

Inviting Public Life to the City

Large Space/Complex Society

Towards a DEMOCRATIC Urbanization
Conclusion

**Redefinition:**
Heart = City’s Reference Point ≠ CBD

Inviting Public Life to the City

Large Space/Complex Society

Towards a DEMOCRATIC Urbanization
Connect Urban Planning with Democracy
Conclusion
The Heart of the City: A Socio-Cultural Perspective

"The city" is not a framework but a social practice in constant flux. The more it becomes an issue, the more it is a source of contradictions and the more its social manipulation is linked to the ensemble of social and political conflicts.

-Manuel Castells

Towards a DEMOCRATIC Urbanization
Conclusion

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Connect Urban Planning with Democracy

Towards a DEMOCRATIC Urbanization
Thank You ...