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DISSERTATION

Changes in the Architecture and Urban Planning of the City of Erbil, against the Background of the Social and Geopolitical Situation of Kurdistan

Abstract:

In recent years, Kurdistan has undergone complete changes to the previous system, which has resulted in transformations in economic systems affecting rural and urban development. It is a fact, that the changed economic situation of the country and management systems have always left a mark on the architecture and urban planning of the country. During the previous dictatorial governments, the priority was always careful Kurdistan armaments, not its development. It was deliberately planned to destroy the village, and as a result of frequent bombardment, the country lost numerous historical and cultural monuments.

The communist system also led to a fall. There are examples from Romania, where, like in Kurdistan, all villages were destroyed, and the population was gathered in cities for easier control over it. Also in Iraqi Kurdistan, several hundred villages were closed down by the same method. The population was moved to suburban communities to specially prepared settlements, which could be more easily controlled. The remaining houses in villages and communes were completely destroyed, equating to the ground. This process was called "Anfal". It also made it easier to build houses. Most of them were built of bricks made of dried clay. The roofs were built of very light wooden beams and reeds. Such a construction method provided residents with security during bombing and enabled a fairly quick and relatively cheap way to rebuild a destroyed house. After the fall of the dictatorial system, the system was changed from communist to democratic. **The geopolitical change entailed a huge change in architecture and urban planning.** Due to the shortage of educated staff in every area also construction, i.e. engineers, art historians and professionals dealing with the protection of monuments and the lack of literature, they began to use the architecture of neighboring countries such as Iran, Turkey or

Jordan. Therefore, the theory of architecture differs from European and Asian architecture. A resultant architecture of patched architecture from neighboring countries is created. Therefore, the architecture of Kurdistan is very diverse without a single general concept.

Town planning was deprived of any control after the fall of Saddam Hussein. Every manager, even a commune, took away tracts of land, laid out plots of land and built them according to its own rules, without any permits and rules regulated on a national scale. There were no regulations regarding the shaping of architecture and urban planning. This was also true for green areas.

Kurds after the end of the Gulf War in 1991 began to rebuild the country from rebuilding their own families. Large families have become fashionable. At that time, there was a large natural increase which was not without impact on the architecture of houses, which had to be adapted for the right number of inhabitants.

The city of Erbil, whose plan is shaped in the form of a circle, had a radius of 3.8 km at the beginning of the 90s and over 15 km in 2018. This proves the unique development dynamics of the city. Today, Erbil takes on a metropolitan character and has 1.7 million inhabitants.

Numerous housing estates, service districts and also governmental districts were created. Urban planning and architecture of Erbil require description and graphic representation (photographs, plans, project visualizations). It also requires subordination to the principles and styles of architecture harmonized with the existing spatial environment, corresponding to the local cultural identity of the region. That is why this work is undertaken so that after a thorough analysis, we can critically evaluate the current devotions of recent years and propose further directions of design and implementation.

The analysis of the above issues was carried out in the work prompts to sum up the application for referring the city of Erbil to the path of the **Metropolis of the World**.

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