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Social space in architecture "A study of the values of social space in the Iraqi piazzas".

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Abstract–A social space is a physical space where people gather and interact, and It is the product of harmony between social activities and spatial practices that exist within society such as piazzas. Accordingly, the research problem was represented in the following: There is a lack of knowledge of the social space in terms of strategies, Orientations and its Values to reach a Piazzas that supports the quality and continuity of social life, The aim of the research was to reveal the role of social space in Iraqi Piazzas. The research adopted the descriptive analytical method through building a knowledge framework, then a comprehensive theoretical framework from the review of the architectural literature to be embodied in its final form in three main vocabulary, namely: "Social Space Strategies, Social Space Orientations, and Social space Values". It has been applied to the three piazzas, namely:"Tahrir piazza, Twentieth Revolution piazza, and Al- Haboubi piazza", to show the extent to which these indicators have been achieved in the Iraqi piazzas and reach conclusions, that explained the values of the social space are based on morphological values that are concerned with the external formation of the piazza, While symbolic and historical values preserve the identity of the piazza.

Keywords –Space, Society, Social Space Strategies, Social Space Orientations, Social space Values.

1. Introduction

Social space is a Multivalued space whose axes correspond to various social, psychological and even regional attributes, such as gender, class, ethnicity. Previous literature has dealt with the social space in architecture from several aspects: where studies have clarified "(Sıramkaya, Aydın,2014), (Masso, Opermann & Eljand,2014), (Siagian,2016)" Social development and space. While the studies (Siagian,2015) (Pattison, Robins ,2004),(Purdue,1996) clarified the construction of models for the social space. finally, the studies (Reed Danahai, 2019), (Boži, Coty,2019), (Claval,1984) explained Social space and the nature of geography. But it was not covered in terms of its strategies, orientations and social space values. Accordingly, the research problem is represented in the following: (There is a lack of knowledge of the social space in terms of strategies, Orientations and its Values to reach a Piazzas that supports the quality and continuity of social life). The aim of the research was to reveal the role of social space in Iraqi Piazzas, For the purpose of solving the research problem, the research methodology was divided into Four axes, the first of which was to build the knowledge framework for Social space. The second focused on building the theoretical framework through analysis of the literature and previous studies. As for the third: it deals with the elected piazzas for the purpose of application. Fourth and last: it included putting forward conclusions and recommendations.

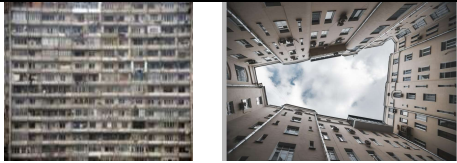## 2. The Knowledge Framework of the Research

The axis discusses Social Space in architecture through three main areas, namely: stages development of Social Space in history, the equation of Social activities & Public space, And the evaluation process it.

2.1 *Stages development of the Social Space in history*

The Public space is a way to extrapolate the Social Activity as it reveals the history of conflict and the values that dominate society. A comparison can be made between

Social Space in architecture as shown in the table (1), and Fig.1.

Table 1: Social Space in architecture, [7].

Comparison	Social Space in Cairo	Social Space in the Soviet Union
Social thought	- Republican thought	- Communist thought
The resulting architecture	-Radial architecture: It is concerned with designing radial roads emanating from the central piazza, Thus, the public space becomes a place for social events such as celebrations, festivals & demonstrations.	-Communist architecture Or brutality; It is architecture that neglects human taste, Where the Congruence between the inside and outside of the public space.
Social Space Strategies	Space reconfiguration strategy such as interior courtyard and facades design of surrounding buildings.	Converting horizontal hegemony to vertical; to maintain control as in Spaces of the tower buildings, where chiefs were given a place at the top, while employees places are distributed on the lower floors.
Examples	Talaat Harb piazza in Cairo - Radial Architecture	The piazza of residential complexes - Communist architecture
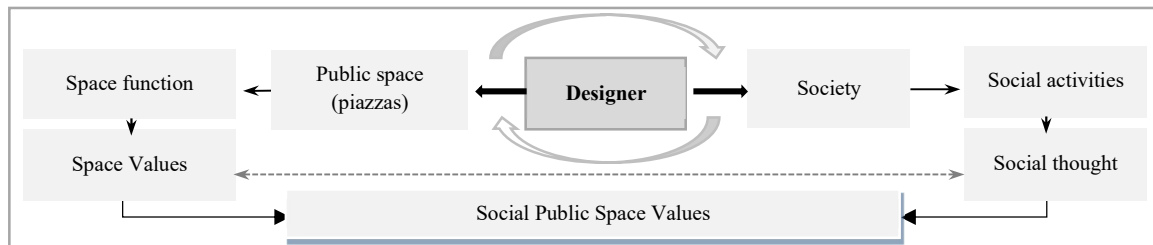
**Figure 1:** The difference in Public space according to the social activity, [researchers].

2.2 *Equation (Social activities- Public space)*

Architecture is a way to extrapolate the realities of society, This relationship includes three levels:

- Urban planning as Social symbolism: It stems from the political[1] orientation of the country, as it reflects the ideology in multiple forms on the city in order to transformation from pattern to another, which creates an architectural style.

- Urban design as Social symbolism: It embodies the strength of the country, and such type of Public space is common in Islamic city, as this symbolism is represented in a number of architectural expressions, some of which carry a cultural content, others are authoritarian content.

- Architecture as a Social witness: It is a record of many social activities that have been linked to the memory of society and the nature of the place [4]. Note the following fig. 2:

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[1] Political actions: A work designed to achieve a goal using political force [4].
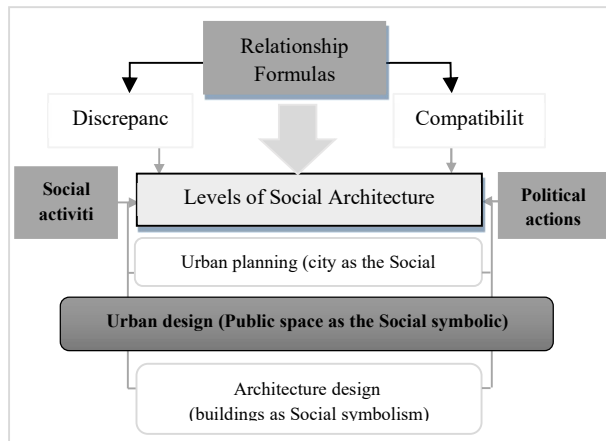
Figure 2: The relationship between Social activities and Politics in Architectural space, [researchers].

2.3 *Evaluating Social Space in Architecture*

Public space is concerned with the ability of society to recover quickly as part of preventive processes for rapid response to it, and the evaluation process is carried out within two levels: Direct evaluation (quick) which is an early evaluation process as a preliminary response to social activities that gives information on their impact on the environment[2] and the economy. Detailed evaluation (late) which is an accurate evaluation process that gives detailed information about the nature of the social activities and the amount of damage or benefits resulting from them, and their documentation with design maps. As for the determinants of the effects of social activities on Public space, which are:

- Magnitude: The impact of Social activities depends on the size of the action starting from "avillage, part of the city, several cities, on an international scale".
- Duration: The effect of Social activities depends on the duration of their occurrence.
- Preparedness ratio: The impact of Social activities decreases as the proportion of urban planning increases [11]. Note the following fig .3:
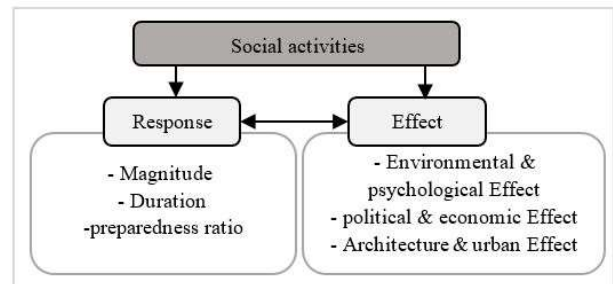
Figure 3: The effects of Social activities on Public space, [Researchers].

It is clear from the above that there are four basic stages in the Social activity, which are: "occurrence stage, Effect stage, response stage and the evaluation stage"; Although the previous literature provides a knowledge base that can be invested in building a theoretical framework, it does not clarify it in terms of strategies and orientations of social space in addition to its values; This will be done in the third axis of the research in order to determine the main and Secondary Vocabulary in addition to the possible values of the measurement.

3. Building the theoretical framework

This axis deals of literature review to extract the vocabulary of the main and secondary theoretical framework and its possible values.

3.1 *Abdel Raouf, 2019.*

The study determined Social space Values through three orientations, namely: First, the political orientation of space through a series of inductive characteristics that oscillate between compatibility and contradiction, as piazza characteristics can become a mechanism for communication or social distancing. Secondly, the social orientation of space through the characteristics of "spatial belonging & Integration with the urban context". Third, the economic orientation of space through two characteristics: "The first is the ability to adapt to the changes resulting from society or technological development, and the second is the ability to balance and continue the development process for the public space" [2].

3.2 *Al- Hayt, 2015.*

The study addressed Social space Strategies, including:
- Creative strategy: flexible space design as a mechanism to restructuring and substitution of the Social building function or piazza.
- Anticipatory strategy: green space design as a mechanism to contain any unexpected social activity, it is based on future perceptions and provides

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[2] Environmental and psychological Effect: It indicates a sense of belonging and approximating the relationship between the place and the environment. Social activity also improves your brain performance, and reduce risk of depression, anxiety and many other mental health problems [6].

mechanisms such as reducing & changing use instead of abandonment, demolition & substitution" [3].

3.3 *Tamam, 2014.*

It showed two Orientations of Social architecture, namely:
- Architecture conforming to Social thought: it is a political tool used by leaders to control peoples such Germany architecture, it was characterized by intellectual rigidity as a product of the fascist dictatorship of its leaders.
- Architecture opposed to Social thought: it is a political tool used by the current leaders to erase the ideas of the previous political system Such Russia architecture, where it was characterized by luxury as a product of the policy of the Communist country, which rejects any kind of abstraction in art and architecture"[12], Note Fig. 4- a.

3.4 *Khadija, 2013.*

The study showed the characteristics of Social space in architecture, namely:
- Adaptation, it is means a Transformation In the architectural outpu provided that they are compatible with the variables, which guarantees to remain space, continue and return to the original when needed.
- change, which means a uni-directional change in the Buildings or piazza according to the characteristics of the colonial style and the new construction methods, which guarantees the formation of Double code architecture in the countries that transcends the social dimension of their original society.[9], note Fig. 4-b.

3.5 *Al- Taher, 2011.*

The study discussed the concept of rebuilding cities affected by natural disasters, as it identified two principles, namely: First, the preservation of identity which is concerned with the reconstruction of the outer facades of the buildings, identical to the original because it symbolizes society. Second, preserving collective memory is concerned with sustainable local building techniques to preserve the privacy of society, it allows the possibility of modifying the internal divisions of horizontal plans to accommodate the requirements of the modern era" [6].

3.6 *Abdel-Alim's, 2011.*

The study addressed Social space Strategies, including:

- Design Method: the French architecture was based on "Biophilic & functional design", while the Russian architecture relied on the method of Transparency while the German architecture was based on "Symbolic camouflage&natural inspiration".

- Formation language: The architecture of the French was based on "Classic space", while the architecture of the Russian relied on "Flexible space & dynamism space", while the German architecture relied on "sculptural & structural space".

- General principles: The architecture of the French was based on "Multi Use space design", while Russian architecture relied on "Organized space and Uniting", while German architecture was based on the Relationship between Space & the environment, Space with occupancy. Finally, the study discussed Tahrir piazza as a container for Social activity, explaining its spatial values, namely: Natural values, it is generated by the environment and formed the place over time. Symbolic values, it is formed by the historical classes that gave the piazza a very large cumulative value. Morphology values, the place with its components and material elements. Revolution values, it is generating many ideas that are renewed in multiple forms. "[1]. Note Fig.4-c.

Subway stations in Moscow: Designed in the style of historical palaces against abstraction (Architecture opposed to Social thought)	Buildings of the University of Rome- Designed according to the ideas of leader Mussolini, (Architecture conforming to Social thought)
(a) Social architecture Orientations, [12].	

Bidirectional effect (change) (Colonial-Islamic architecture)	Unidirectional effect (transformation)(Colonial architecture in Algeria)
(b) Social space Characteristics, [9].	

Historical Powers – Tahrir Arena	Symbolic Powers: Sharm El-Sheikh Hospital - Umm Kulthum Tower	Revolutionary Powers: Pantheon - Tatlin Tower - Einstein Tower.
(c) Social Space Values,[1].		

Figure 4: Social architecture.

Based on the foregoing, previous literature can be analyzed as shown in Table No. (2) Below:

Table 2: Analysis of previous literature, (Source: Researchers).

Previous literature / Main vocabulary	Abdel Raouf, 2019	Al-Hayt, 2015	Tamam, 2014	Khadija, 2013	Al-Taher, 2011	Abdel-Alim's,2011
Social space Values	●					●
Social space Strategies		●				●
Social Space Orientations	●		●		●	
Characteristics of social space				●		
Social urban space (Public space)	●	●		●	●	●
Social architectural space (Private space)			●			

It is clear from this, the piazzas are a social urban space designed according to the strategies and Orientations of the social space in addition to its values.

Based on the foregoing, the vocabulary of the main and secondary theoretical framework and possible values can be summarized as it was extracted from the knowledge framework and previous literature, as shown in Table No. (3) Below:

Table 3: Explains the main and secondary vocabulary of the theoretical framework, (Source: Researchers).

Main vocabulary		Secondary Vocabulary & Possible Values	Symbol	Source
Social Space Strategies X.1	Design Method X.1.1	Biophilic design	X.1.1.1	Abdel-Alim's, 2011.
		Functional design	X.1.1.2	
		Transparency	X.1.1.3	
		Symbolic camouflage	X.1.1.4	
		Natural inspiration	X.1.1.5	
	Formation language X.1.2	Classic space	X.1.2.1	
		Flexible space	X.1.2.2	
		Dynamism space	X.1.2.3	
		Sculptural space	X.1.2.4	
		Structural space	X.1.2.5	
	General principles X.1.3	Multi Use space design	X.1.3.1	
		Organizer space	X.1.3.2	
		Unify space	X.1.3.3	
		Relationship "space &environment"	X.1.3.4	
		Relationship "space & occupants"	X.1.3.5	
Social Space Orientations X.2	Developmental orientation X.2.1	Renewal & modernization orientation	X.2.1.1	Khadija, 2013.
		Revival orientation	X.2.1.2	
		Double symbol orientation	X.2.1.3	
	Symbolic orientation X.2.2	Architecture conforming to social thought	X.2.2.1	Tamam, 2014
		Architecture opposed to social thought	X.2.2.2	
	Historical orientation X.2.3	Preserve of identity	X.2.3.1	Al-Taher, 2011
		preserving collective memory	X.2.3.2	
Social space Values X.3	Political X.3.1	Compatibility	X.3.1.1	Abdel Raouf, 2019
		Contradiction	X.3.1.2	
	Social X.3.2	Spatial affiliation	X.3.2.1	
		Integration with the urban context	X.3.2.2	
	Economic X.3.3	Adaptability	X.3.3.1	
		The ability to balance	X.3.3.2	
	Architectural X.3.4	Environmental natural values	X.3.4.1	Abdel-Alim's, 2011.
		Historical symbolic values	X.3.4.2	
		Morphology values	X.3.4.3	
		Revolution values	X.3.4.4	

The practical study requires an ordinal measurement, Where the search is based on Likert scale is a three point scale which is used to allow the researcher to express how much they agree or disagree with a particular statement.

Where all the vocabulary will be measured in an attempt to reach an integrated picture of Social Space Strategies as well as the orientation and values of the piazzas in Iraqi society by Relying on symbol(1) to indicate verification,

symbol (0.5)to Impartial and symbol (0) to indicate lack of verification as shown in Table (4) & Fig.8.

4. Application

4.1 *Application to samples:*

The research depends on the descriptive analytical approach, where the application process includes several stages, starting with "a general description of the piazza, its analysis, and the measurement of verification values for each of the detailed indicators". For the purpose of verifying the research hypothesis, which came in the following form: "The Social activities has an impact on the designer by directing it towards the strategies, Orientation, or Social space values in Iraqi piazzas", the criteria for selecting piazzas included several aspects, the most important of which are:

- The selected piazzas have the information base and the necessary plans to describe and analyse them, which enhances the desired results of the research.
- The selected piazzas have a history associated with society.
- The selected piazzas in the city center, and they are Multiple use.
- The selected piazzas belong to the different period of time which witnessed many Social events as festivals, therefore it relied on strategies, Orientations and Social space Values.

4.1.1 *Tahrir piazza in Baghdad.*

The piazza was known as a Social space that contained the popular protests that started on 25/8/2019, because include a set of architectural values:

- Morphological values: which are concerned with the external formation of the piazza, including: The Tahrir Tunnel an art gallery for social activity. The Turkish restaurant is a building that overlooks Tahrir piazza and includes (14) floors. And Freedom Monument, it contains (14 pieces) that contains symbolic images, including: "Hope in the form of a small child, a mother embracing her martyr son, and torture in prisons".
- Revolutionary values: as space has transformed from "uprisings piazza" to "an ideal city" in which differences disappear in favor of one word "we want a homeland", which was embodied in their murals.
- Symbolic values: the piazza transformed from "dead space" to "living space" through the design of murals and lighting design in the Tahrir Monument.
- Historical values: It witnessed a regime change from royal to presidential then parliamentary [10]. Note fig.5:

Figure 5: Tahrir piazza in Baghdad, [10].

4.1.2 *Twentieth Revolution piazza in Najaf.*

The piazza has been known as a social space since the English occupation in 1920; It included a set of architectural values:

- Morphological values: It contains the monument of Abdul Karim Qasim, but it was removed to replace it with the monument of the Twentieth Revolution.
- Revolutionary values: It was based on the characteristics of the place that supported social activity.
- Symbolic values: the piazza transformed from a "separate space" to a "communication space". It was formed as a neutral space as a mechanism for containing social activity, which gained it a dimension in the memory of society.
- Historical values: It is based on the cumulative intellectual dimension that was formed through the characteristics of the inductive elements of the piazza [8]. Note fig.6:

Figure 6: Twentieth Revolution piazza in Najaf, [8].

4.1.3. *Al-Haboubi piazza in Nasiriyah.*

The piazza has been known as a social space since the twentieth revolution, and it contains many architectural values, including:

- Morphological values: The piazza contains the Muhammad Saeed al-Haboubi monument, which was built by Abd al-Reda Kishish in 1971.
- Revolutionary values: theorists evaluate Al Haboubi piazza as an active social space, where tents are built as an application model for social space.
- Symbolic values: It has transformed from a "single symbol space" to a "second symbol space", because it is a space that contains social and cultural activities in parallel proportions.
- Historical values: it was characterized by a social dimension from the 1958 revolution to the 1963 & 1968 coup, which transformed the piazza to sustainable space" [5], Note the following fig.7:

Figure 7: The Haboubi piazza in Nasiriyah, [5].

4.2 *Analyzing and discussing the results.*

The paragraph shows the percentage achieved from the vocabulary of social space in the chosen piazzas:

- Results of (Social Space Strategies_X1): Their percentage is (47%), the indicators (X.1.1.2-X.1.2.1-X.1.3.1-X.1.3.2-X.1.3.5) achieved (100%) in the piazzas ,and the percentage of verification of the indicator (X.1.1.4) decreased to (67%), in addition to the decrease in the percentage of the indicators

- (X.1.3.4-X.1.1.1-X.1.1.3) to (50%, 33%, 17%) respectively. while the indicators (X.1.1.5-X.1.2.2-X.1.2.3-X.1.2.4- X.1.2.5) did not achieved.

- Results (Social Space Orientations_X2): Their percentage is (22%), the indicators (X.2.2.1-X.2.3.2) achieved (100%) in the piazzas, and the percentage of verification of the indicators (X.2.3.1- X.2.1.3) decreased to (50%, 33%) respectively. while the indicators (X.2.1.1-X.2.1.2-X.2.2.2) did not achieved.

- Results (Social space Values_X3): Their percentage is (31%), the indicators (X.3.1.2-X.3.4.1-X.3.4.2-X.3.4 .3-X.3.4.4) achieved (100%) in the piazzas, and the percentage of verification of the indicators (X.3.2.1-X. 3.3.1) decreased to (83%), in addition to the decrease in the percentage of the indicators (X.3.2.2-X.3.3.2) to (50%,17%) respectively. while the indicator (X.3.1.1) did not achieved, as shown in Table 4 and Fig. 8.

Table 4: Piazzas Analysis (A, B, C), (Researcher).

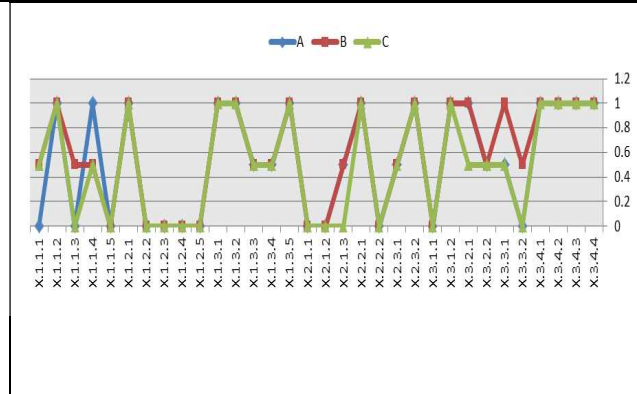| symbol	X.1.1.1	X.1.1.2	X.1.1.3	X.1.1.4	X.1.1.5	X.1.2.1	X.1.2.2	X.1.2.3	X.1.2.4	X.1.2.5	X.1.3.1	X.1.3.2	X.1.3.3	X.1.3.4	X.1.3.5	X.2.1.1	X.2.1.2	X.2.1.3	X.2.2.1	X.2.2.2	X.2.3.1	X.2.3.2	X.3.1.1	X.3.1.2	X.3.2.1	X.3.2.2	X.3.3.1	X.3.3.2	X.3.4.1	X.3.4.2	X.3.4.3	X.3.4.4
A	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0.5	1	0	0.5	1	0	1	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	1	1	1
B	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0.5	1	0	0.5	1	0	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	1	1
C	0.5	1	0	0.5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	1	1	1	1
Total	1	3	0.5	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	1.5	1.5	3	0	0	1	3	0	1.5	3	0	3	2.5	1.5	2.5	0.5	3	3	3	3
Rate	33%	100%	17%	67%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	50%	50%	100%	0%	0%	33%	100%	0%	50%	100%	0%	100%	83%	50%	83%	17%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 8: Ratios of verification of theoretical framework vocabulary in projects (researchers).

Based on the foregoing, the percentages achieved in the elected piazzas can be determined:

- Social Space Strategies_X1 : The Twentieth Revolution piazza achieved 50% of the social space strategies, while the percentage of Tahrir & Haboubi piazza decreased to 47% only.

- Social Space Orientations_X2 : Tahrir piazza & Twentieth Revolution piazza achieved 43% of the Social Space Orientations, while the percentage of Haboubi piazza decreased to 36%.

- Social space Values_X3: The Twentieth Revolution piazza achieves 95% of the social space values, while

the percentage of Tahrir and Al Haboubi piazza has decreased to 85%.

5. Conclusions

- The research frame the Social Space within three main vocabulary: "Social Space Strategies, Social Space Orientations and values of social space".

- Social space strategies depend on the functional design method more than the Natural inspiration and biophilic design in the piazza , while the formation language of

the piazzas is classic according to the principle of an organized social space.

- The historical orientation of the social space is the prevailing trend in the design of piazzas compared to the symbolic and developmental orientation to preserve the memory of Society.
- Social space Values are based on morphological values which are concerned with the external formation of the piazza, followed by symbolic values that convert piazza from a separate space to a multiple use space, while historical values preserve the identity of the piazza.
- The Twentieth Revolution piazza is a more social space than Tahrir and Haboubi piazza, depending on the percentage of values achieved in the piazza.

6. Recommendations

- The concept of the piazza is more than just a space, it is a space for social interaction & coexistence between people, and the research recommends the design of flexible, dynamic and multi-use piazzas that enhance the relationship between people.
- The research recommends the necessity of integrating the "symbolic, historical and developmental" social space indicators in the planning and design of piazzas, to form a coherent & specific social space that contains elements that attract people, as well as a distributive space that redesign the relationships between the place and the urban environment.
- The research recommends studying other values of the social space, such as the political and economic values of the Iraqi piazzas.

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الفضاء الاجتماعي في العمارة "دراسة قيم الفضاء الاجتماعي في الساحات العراقية".

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الخلاصة – الفضاء الاجتماعي هو مساحة فيزيائية حيث يتجمع الناس ويتفاعلون، وهو نتاج الانسجام بين الأنشطة الاجتماعية والممارسات المكانية الموجودة داخل المجتمع كما في الساحات. وعليه فقد تمثلت مشكلة البحث في الآتي: "هناك نقص في المعرفة بالفضاء الاجتماعي من حيث الاستراتيجيات والتوجهات وقيمه للوصول إلى ساحات تدعم جودة واستمرارية الحياة الاجتماعية"، وكان الهدف من البحث هو للكشف عن دور الفضاء الاجتماعي في الساحات العراقية، وعليه اعتمد البحث على المنهج الوصفي التحليلي بغية توضيح الفضاء الاجتماعي من خلال بناء إطار معرفي، ثم إطار نظري شامل من خلال مراجعة الأدبيات المعمارية لتجسيدها في شكلها النهائي في ثلاثة مفردات رئيسية، وهي: "استراتيجيات الفضاء الاجتماعي، وتوجهات الفضاء الاجتماعي، وقيم الفضاء الاجتماعي". وقد تم تطبيقها على الساحات العراقية الثلاث المنتخبة, وهي: "ساحة التحرير، وساحة ثورة العشرين، وساحة الحبوبي"، لبيان مدى تحقيق هذه المؤشرات في الساحات العراقية والتوصل إلى استنتاجات توضح ان قيم الفضاء الاجتماعي مبنية على القيم المورفولوجية التي تهتم بالتشكيل الخارجي للساحة، بينما تحافظ القيم الرمزية والتاريخية على هوية الساحات العراقية.

الكلمات الرئيسية – الفضاء، المجتمع، ستراتيجيات الفضاء الاجتماعي، توجهات الفضاء الاجتماعي، قيم الفضاء الاجتماعي .