

The Notion of Urban Imprint and its Manifestations and Transformations in Paris, Dubai, and Baghdad

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Abstract

Over the past decades, many studies have presented much research related to ‘imprint’, especially environmental, but the concept of imprint in urban terms is lacking in most studies. However, the concept of ‘fingerprint’ which is similar to imprint has been employed in other fields outside the field of architecture. Urban imprint is the study of factors of urban change caused by the processes of growth and urban expansion on the apparent aspects such as infrastructure, environmental performance, urban structure, and urban morphology, etc. as well as the latent aspects such as the economy, social and demographic aspects, etc. An urban imprint of a city is unique and distinct from the other cities. It is thus useful to define the concept of urban imprint as related to cities and identify its characteristics and manifestations.

This paper is founded on the idea that contemporary Iraqi cities suffer from the absence of an articulated urban imprint, which could have helped in producing better urban design. It could have also buttressed its growth, managed random encroachments, and guided the environmental and social urban changes. This research examines the effects of changes to the urban imprint of townscapes of Iraqi cities.

It employs this research uses the descriptive method. It explains the most prominent definitions of the concepts of the city’s urban imprint, then explains the urban imprint that occurs in the city through many changes, such as the construction of new roads, a difference in the skyline of buildings, a change in the city’s identity, and others. The changing imprints of three cities will be reviewed: global, regional, and local, and will take place over sequential time periods, and the most important landmarks of the cities in those periods will be highlighted as research methodologies.

Keywords: Urban Imprint (UI), Urban identity, Urban fabric, Urban Townscape, Cities timeline (CT), Baghdad, Iraq.

Introduction

The changes in cities on a global scale due to natural processes and human activities have sparked calls to reconsider the city’s urban townscape to create its own urban imprint, as

the impact of human-induced activities is increasingly concentrated in city centers. There is no doubt that the first of these activities is the urbanization process that appeared with the industrialization process. The change in the form of production with the Industrial Revolution led to an increase in the population, and this population gathered in urban areas where agricultural and non-agricultural production, distribution, and control functions are concentrated, and where cultural differentiation and class heterogeneity are experienced (Weber, 2006).

Urban expansion has emerged due mostly to economic and demographic reasons, but it not only leads to economic, social, and political consequences such as congestion, increased rent and land prices in addition to population overcrowding (Ulusoy and Vural, 2001), increased crime rates, and unequal distribution of urban services among the population. city, it also changes the structure of ecosystems and affects biodiversity, energy flow, and climatic conditions at the local and regional levels (Sukopp, 1990).

Modern urban sprawl is not very different in scale and impact from ancient suburban cities, with the main differences mostly due to the great changes in industry and technology that have occurred in the past 150 years. We owe our contemporary version of suburbia and sprawl to the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century, which brought us To the modern suburb, factories, mass production, and new forms of transportation and communication have led us to where we are today (Gillham, 2002).

The factor of friction with contemporary civilizations began with the English occupation and the emergence of global and Western architectural and planning trends that carried new concepts that were completely different from the context in which they had previously followed. This, in turn, affected the contemporary urban reality, our authentic urban environment, as a result of the unequal urban interaction between the two and the absence of a proper understanding of these concepts. This has caused us to lose our ability to ensure that the Arab urban townscape follows its original path and flounders between complete ancient transfer or blind imitation of what is Western and modern. The main reason behind the state of confusion that Arab architects suffer between dependency on the past or copying from the West is the absence of a correct understanding of both and the absence of a sound strategy in the process of balancing between them. This is what plunged the Arab city into a state of pluralism, which in turn caused a state of dispersion. Visual and intellectual together (Al-Falahi, 2020).

The research aims to show the timeline of changing the imprint of cities over specific periods. Its objectives are as follows:

1. To bridge the knowledge gap to show the urban imprint of cities with significant change in the urban townscape.
2. To showing the negative or positive impacts on the city's urban townscape by changing its imprint.

Theoretical Framework

The concept of urban Imprint

Semantically, the term fingerprint comes in the contemporary Arabic lexicon as “the trace of a finger on something, the mark of a seal with a finger.”

Basma [singular]: plural of fingerprints and fingerprints (Dictionary of Contemporary Arabic Language, 2008). Al-Munajjid Dictionary in Contemporary Arabic Language: The word fingerprint (noun) and the plural in it (fingerprints), which are: stamp, sign, mark, imprint, as for “fingerprint”: the trace left by fingers, such as a sign that enables the verification of a person's identity (al-Munajjid, 2000). It appears also in the dictionary of Al Waseet: “Fingerprint: the mark of the seal with the finger” (The Dictionary of Al Waseet, 2004), as well as in the dictionary of Al Raed, the meaning of the term “fingerprint” is identical to what was mentioned in the dictionary of Al Waseet as “the mark of the seal with the finger” (The Dictionary of Al Raed, 1992). In the book Al-Munajjid in the language, appears with the meaning of the sign, which is from the words of the public (Maalouf, 2009).

As for the English language, the Oxford English Dictionary offers the definition of an imprint as A great effect on something so that it cannot be forgotten, changed, etc. Print or press

a mark or design onto a surface. In the English dictionary (Merriam-Webster), the term (imprint) is mentioned as follows:

- a- A mark or depression made by pressure, the fossil imprint of a dinosaur's foot.
- b- An identified name (as a publisher) placed conspicuously on a product, also: the name under which a publisher issues books.
- c- An indelible distinguishing effect or influence.

First known use of the imprint was in 15th century, in the meaning defined above (Merriam-Webster, 2002). The International Arab Encyclopedia has defined 'fingerprint' as a process used to identify the identity and is based on impressions taken for the ends of the fingers and the thumb, and these impressions consist of forms of lines that tightly cover the tips of the fingers (The International Arabic Encyclopedia, 1999).

A method of leaving an imprint on cities :

In order to establish and uphold a city's identity, social and cultural aspects are essential. These include providing local communities with context, creating a cultural background, and comprehending and interpreting how the city functions in light of the diversity of its constituents and the differences in its locations. As a result, the architect must abide by all rules that promote quality, not from his perspective but rather through the guidelines established by theorists over time. In this situation, he must uphold all the standards that characterize the city as a place where people go to live in the best way possible while respecting the rights to the city, sustainable cities, smart cities, livable cities, cities for all, cities for strangers, and cities of opportunity (Abu Saada, 2016).

Literature Review

ElSemellawy (2011): Discuss the different identities and nationalities of the designers of the buildings and streets of the city of Alexandria in Egypt. The study showed how the city of Alexandria, which carries in its streets and architecture a unique European spirit rooted in the birth of a global community due to European migrations from the Mediterranean from 1830-1930, and to leave a noticeable imprint on the image of the city despite the different identities and nationalities of the architects who designed them, who left distinctive buildings. This created a mixture of identities in the streets of the city, and this harmony and homogeneity still floats its streets, so that it seems that one spirit affects the people passing by and affects their perception of the city.

The study confirmed that despite the different identities of designers in the city, it still has a noticeable imprint that distinguishes it from other cities. There is a mixture of identities in the streets of the city, which gives one spirit to the place and thus makes it an environment suitable for different people from different cultures.

Lima (2011): The study explores the different perceptions of the city and its impact on people's perceptions of it, as these perceptions (such as books, maps, photographs, and advertisements) represent some of the main influences in the formation of people's mental images of cities, and from this exploration emerges the concept of (the Imprint city).

The study analyzed the physical and mental scenes of the city and developed the concept of mental merging of images that build people's perceptions of the city and their urban understanding of it. The formation of mental images helps people understand the physical transformation of the city as special fingerprints that reflect images from the past and present as well as visions of the future, as the concept of the fingerprint city allows better identification of the urban elements of the city as reference points for orientation and spatial awareness.

The study confirmed that the imprint or feature of the city is achieved by re-conceiving the city, which has several effects: including material (physical) effects such as modern distinctive buildings as well as traditional and local buildings that allow creating environments and visualizing an unforgettable city. And non-material (mental) influences, such as symbolic places with old memories and others that apply in the mind-fixed images of the city, as well as cultural influences that reimagine and reshape the city as it allows urban spaces to be defined through important events such as areas of culture or local celebrations, the effects of new

technologies that show the image of the city Through architecture or urban design, events such as international exhibitions and the Olympic Games also emphasize the preservation of the local identity of cities that include historical and heritage centers because they have an image rooted within the people of the city, which are places of attraction for investment and capital.

Tomara (2011): The study indicated that music and architecture are considered creative processes in space and time, and they have a variety of common features and mutual values, with one goal being to make human life better. By looking back at the history of architecture, one can find a large number of musical references in the design process. As design parametric such as tempo, measures, repetition, and time values, or as direct translations of the musical score of architecture. In both cases, the design obtains the creation of spatial characteristics that will give the architecture a distinctive experimental character.

The study dealt with the importance of creating a sound image of the urban environment, where relying on Kevin Laing's classification of the elements of the urban environment to enable people, especially the visually impaired, to recognize and recognize places, and this sound representation of the city through music gives a fingerprint and feature to the city that distinguishes it from other cities.

Charradas (2011) : The study sought to clarify that urban expansion has a significant impact on remote rural areas, and little was previously known about this imprint. The study attempted to determine the greatest amount of urban and rural contributions to the imprint as possible.

The economic behavior of rural land investors had an impact on adapting agricultural activity in the countryside and reviving remote areas (suburbs), so the study looked at the effects of the city's urban footprint on the nearby rural areas. As a result, the city's urban imprint increases and developments in the city have a significant impact on the countryside nearby. Economic, demographic, and functional developments all have a positive influence on rural areas to varying degrees.

M., Sepe (2012): The study shows that cities, places, paths, habits, and behavioral patterns have become similar to each other, due to the impact of globalization and technological development, which have contributed to accelerating the rates of change in contemporary urban spaces, thus contributing to the increase in the urban identity crisis of cities.

Synchronicity and fragmentation became the hallmark of most contemporary cities, and the difficulty of deciphering the new urban landscape to plan the city sustainably led to the proposal of the place maker method, which includes the method of urban analysis and design, which reveals elements that do not appear in traditional maps and that constitute the contemporary identity of the city.

The study emphasized the adoption of a new method for drawing spatial maps for better sustainable city planning, as well as suggested principles to serve as a reference for urban projects.

GERMA'N BALDI, et al. (2013) : The study emphasizes the impact of the human footprint on ecosystems, which can be linked to factors such as demographics (such as population density), poverty, and wealth (such as per capita consumption and use of technology). These pressures allow a variety of interventions to take over and affect plant and animal resources, such as logging, biomass drainage, agriculture, and irrigation.

The study emphasized the role of human capital (the human social factor) as an imprint and its impact on environmental systems and urban nature, as humans in cities influence and imprint the environmental patterns around them.

Chloé Blysse Greene (2016) : The study presented the concept of societal cultural imprint, which aims to serve the black community in America, which requires fair community development, as blacks have suffered from living conditions as a result of unjust discriminatory planning policies, and how urban planners have failed to address the concerns of these marginalized groups, resulting in the need for an alternative model for practicing urban planning. This model includes the creation of community cultural imprints and explains the importance of black Americans participating in community development. This procedure is

used in various aspects of the planning process, where the cultural imprint of the community is presented in the reports of planning department employees.

The study confirmed that community participation and the cultural imprint of the community positively affect the solution of some problems between two groups of society and attempts to integrate them into participation with urban planning departments and also fill the gap in the community's contribution to planning laws, which leads to related development projects far from the culture of the community, indicating the importance. Cultural imprint and equitable community development are emphasized by inefficient urban planning practices for the city, as is the importance of the urban economy.

Sudha Ravindranath, et al. (2018) : The study examined the significance of keeping an eye on urban growth or change when preparing the city's future infrastructure. The potential of SAR images has been investigated and used to generate the urban footprint of a city, which is defined as the general area of a city that is made up of man-made urban features, such as buildings and transportation networks. Urbanization has recently been happening very quickly, so it needs to be watched. city expansion for improved planning.

The study emphasized the importance of understanding the urban features of the city and its urban imprint to monitor its growth in order to increase urbanization and growth rates significantly in recent years and thus achieve optimal planning for the city. The study placed a strong emphasis on keeping track of people moving from the countryside to cities and examining their patterns of settlement in order to assess the effects of human activity on the urban environment.

Branislav (2019) :The study dealt with the impact of urban development on the countries of the eastern half of Europe after it transitions to the post-socialist period, which left a tremendous impact on cities, as it shook its urban structure inherited by the socialist legacy and brought it closer to the more globalized form of western cities. These new influences left an imprint on the urban fabric of cities. It brought solid urban development patterns from the West. In line with these influences, the general urban development of post-socialist cities has redirected towards the already well-established patterns of urban development after the war such as the increasing urban sprawl and urban weakness of city centers, the contradiction between new and rehabilitated urban projects, residential neighborhoods and marginalized areas in which there are old buildings.

The study emphasized the impact of the multi-family residential pattern on the city and its imprint on the urban fabric there. It dealt with the impact of crises in cities and how it leads to weak urban management and thus negatively affect the real estate market in them, as well as led to the spread of slums in the city. It also emphasized the orientation towards the vertical residential pattern, which is preferred to be near important urban nodes with high densities, such as urban centers (historic nuclei) and river banks, or near important buildings such as hospitals, and this leads to the rise of the market economy in these cities.

Lopez Caroline & Cassio Fernando (2020): The study indicated that preserving old industrial buildings involves treating them as reused elements to develop the dynamics of today's society, and restoring them also implies a social value added to their historical and cultural importance. The study proposes a reflection of the specific footprint left by the presence of factories of Spanish tobacco in the urban landscape, where it studies its various dimensions such as the industrial heritage around the region and the city, its formalization of architecture (architectural formation) and the dynamics of cigarette makers as major factors, where the period following the global economic crisis of 2008 led to the current consideration of cultural heritage on a regional scale To redefine the concept of industrial heritage as a resource for economic development that has suffered from popular ignorance because of its valuable specificity with other types of heritage that are better recognized. Aesthetic to become a central element in the temporal and spatial system (fighting spatial amnesia).

The study confirmed that the existence of buildings such as factories with a distinctive architectural character gives a distinctive imprint to the urban landscape of the city and thus leads to the growth and expansion of the city in different directions from the city center to its outskirts around the factories because it is a point and an economic attraction engine that

gives prosperity to the area in which it is located, which leads to a change in the urban fabric. The city, as well as the human (human) dimension, whether for workers or dyes, has an impact on the urban landscape, where the urban yard is exploited in factories as a cover for the upbringing and social relations.

Yurong Chen, et al. (2021): The study proposed a tripartite analytical framework (spatial, temporal, semantic) to better understand the urban dynamics of the city by making full use of the footprint data of geographical names. Land use in urban areas is constantly changing due to human activities. These changes were recorded by fingerprint data that it created. Urban development may play a role in better understanding urban dynamics.

The study emphasized the clarification of the urban dynamics that occur in the city due to urban development and development due to urban activities, and a change is also caused by the use of urban lands. These changes are recorded by imprinting data for places and geographical names of the city, which are a product of urban development as well as cultural and societal effects. It also emphasized the importance of extracting deep knowledge. One of the characteristics of fingerprints is to understand the development and the inherent characteristics of the city and to discover the urban development law, where the fingerprints left by the urban dynamics may record the historical monuments of the city and thus may form a special identity for the city.

Wenxiao Jia, et al. (2021) : By examining and measuring the full gradient of urbanization intensity, which ranges from 0% to 100% in 343 Chinese cities, the study sought to clarify the impact of urbanization on the phenology of the Earth's surface. Due to their extensive urbanization and rapid global warming, China's cities were selected because they offer the best experimental opportunities for observing and forecasting phenological responses to temperature changes. It was discovered that phenological change is greater in central urban areas (where urbanization is more than 50%) than in rural areas (where urbanization is less than 1%). Each patch is 1 km by 1 km, and the density of the land use category in the built-up area is used to determine the urbanization intensity.

Studies have shown how the city's footprint of urbanization affects natural changes for living things from an environmental and biological perspective, as well as how urbanization and urban changes in the city contributed to the transformation of rural areas into urban areas and to urban changes in the city and its footprint before the urban transformation began (urban sprawl).

Previous studies, it turns out, have dealt with the concept of imprint or its meanings in various aspects, as well as attempting to develop a theoretical framework by presenting its concept and the factors that contribute to its generation in the city. However, none of the studies examined the timeline of city imprint change over time. The study presumes the possibility of achieving a city's urban imprint when cities retain their identity despite the changes they face over time.

Research Methodology

This research employs a case study approach. It examines three cities and looks at the changing imprints of them. They are selected from global, regional, and local scales. The basis of the selection is that they are important cities from diverse regions and show differences in urban imprint mostly at the skyline level.

Data was collected by looking at the history of each city and seeing the urban changes that have occurred in it by the author.

Findings

Urban Structures of Cities

Throughout history, different formulas for cities have been proposed, led by architects and city planners, highlighted by the patterns of road constructions, which have become distinctive urban imprints. Multiple factors have led to these formulations, some of which were affected by the green spaces through circles and the formulations of axis. However, the distinctive imprints of cities, structured by the main traffic arteries have remained. Figure 1

shows the symbolism of 49 cities throughout history, including cities that were the most valuable despite their default and utopia and the lack of implementation (Webb & Jacob, 2010).

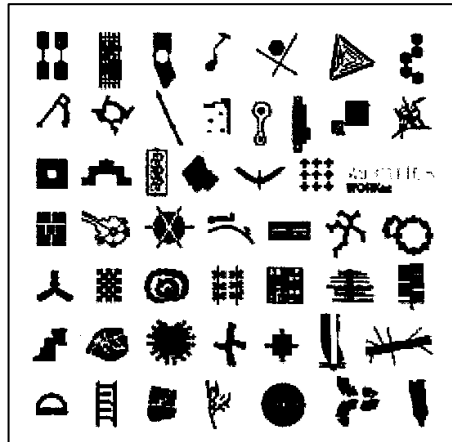


Fig.1 Symbolism and images of 49 important cities in the world
Source: Webb and Jacob, 2010

The patterns of cities varied according to the ideas produced by architects and city planners, and they were justified in the imagination of these. In the twenties of the last century, the architect Raymond Unwin gave descriptions of cities, some of which were irregular in formation and others were regular, circular, and diagonal shapes. While the architect Mogen Mogoly Nagy, in the middle of the last century, tended to activate formulations dominated by the influence of the Bauhaus school and the theories of the Siam urban conference, which were characterized by forms that lined the terrain and other central ones, and formulations that did orthogonality and varying spaces. In the eighties of the last century, the architect Kevin Lynch talked about planetary cities, linear cities, and cities that borrowed from the baroque axis, in addition to the orthogonal forms. In the nineties of the last century, the architect Albert Frey presented works for city planning that were characterized based on the essence through the concept of the city of the essence, the city of stars, the space city, the galactic settlements, and other polycentric ones, among others. Each creator presented his ideas with different images, expressions, and textures that expressed many differences, contrasts, and complexities among them (Al-Mosaed, 2015).

Urban Imprints Cities

Some special models and plans for selected cities will be studied, and their historical sequence will be reviewed over successive periods and analyzed according to the nature of the place, its specificity, and the skyline, as well as the patterns of road formation that formed different types of cities that came as a distinctive form of urban footprint. This is done by referring to a study of the structure and urban footprint of a global city (Paris), a regional city (Dubai), and a local city (Baghdad). A study of the historical sequence of the urban imprint in these cities will be presented.

Paris

Paris, the city of light, was and still is an example of civilization, organization, culture, and monumental construction based on strong objective foundations. Where the Haussmann project in Paris is based on a program to modernize the city of Paris, it was commissioned by Napoleon III in an ambitious plan (1853-1870) led by the city's governor, along with Baron Georges Hausmann. In 1870, the plan was also associated with the reforms of the Second Empire. The reform included various aspects of urban formations, especially the center of Paris. Thus, the roads, building facades, sewage networks, water networks, and various city facilities

were drafted. The reforms affected the history and shape of the city and the revolutionary popular movement that prevailed in that era (Al-Mosaed, 2015).

History imposed on Paris, the capital of France, an independent status and a heritage that gave it its fame and allowed it to offer its guests a welcome worthy of France, which is open to the world. Paris is among the three most attractive European capitals, with a population of 2,257,981. More than a million residents of North-central France come to work there, and it is the most densely populated city in France. For Paris to better meet the aspirations of all those who live, reside, and work there, since 2001, it has embarked on a new dynamism. The city is thus trying hard to make the lives of its residents more accessible with the facilities and offers of quality and new means of obtaining public services (Delanoë, , 2019).

Napoleon III dreamed of seeing Paris become modern, healthy, cosmopolitan, and radically transformed. Task included:

- Make the streets of Paris safer.
- Make the streets wide and straight.
- Comfortable and good accommodation.
- More health facilities and hospitals.
- Stores aimed at good communication between people.
- Smoother and easier streets and intersections.

Critics point out that despite its central position on the modern urban scene as a global city and the capital of France, Paris still faces competition. In fact, it is one of the few locations on earth that has managed to express and preserve it as the most ideal and typical European city, both in terms of its aesthetically uniform structure and its layout (Barnes, 2006).

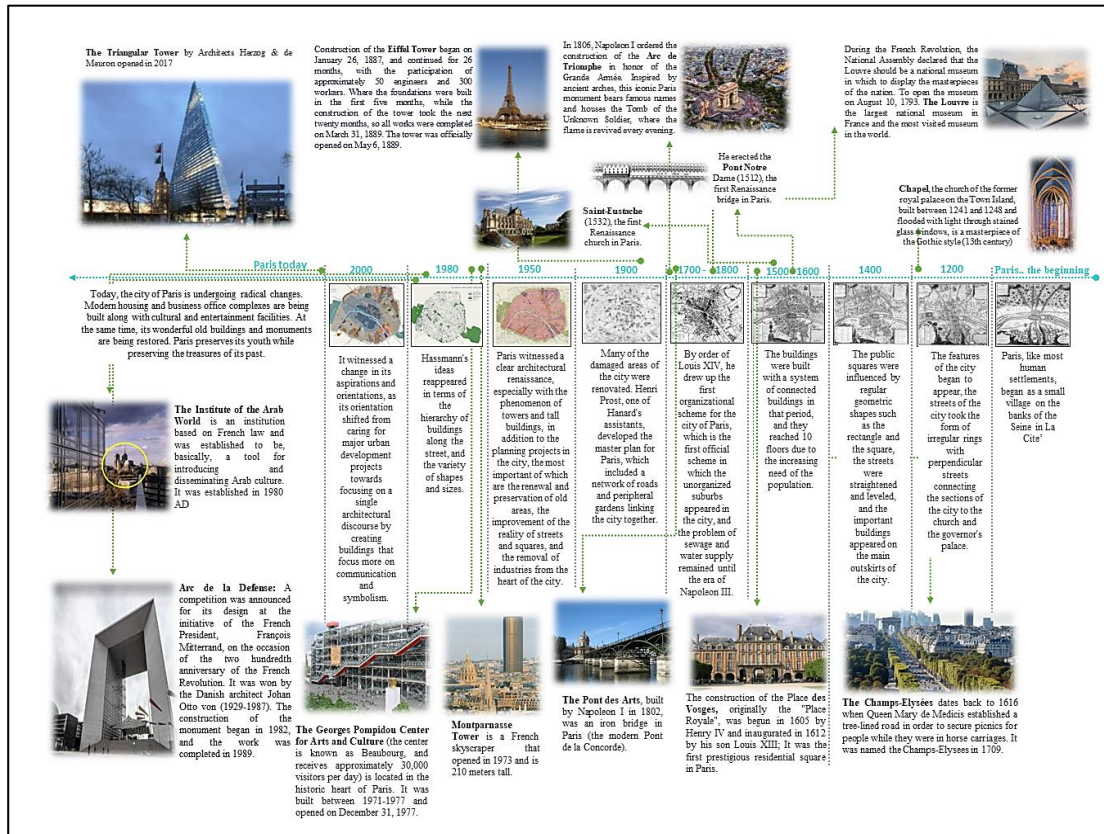


Fig. 2: Timeline of the change in the urban imprint of the City of Paris
source: Author

Through the historical sequence and chronological tracking of the plans of the city of Paris and its skyline, we conclude that it underwent changes in its urban footprint, as it started from a small village and began to create circular streets with vertical streets on them, where the layout took on a radial form, after which the buildings began to rise, and took on elements from some models that were strange to the context. Good for its urban scene. Fig. 2

Dubai

Dubai is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates located in the Middle East. Over the course of a few decades, it has turned into a developed area. The rapid developments that are emerging in the city may be related to the government's vision. Its goal is to transform Dubai from a regional commercial, financial, and entertainment hub into a global one. In the process, capital is invested in the purchase of concrete, glass, and steel, as skyscrapers in Dubai rise from the clusters, artificial islands rise from the sea, and neighborhoods containing residences and offices rise from the sand (CBS NEWS, 2007).

It is the second largest emirate in the federation after the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, with an area of 3,900 square kilometers, equivalent to approximately 5% of the area of the UAE. It is bordered on the West by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and on the East by the Emirate of Sharjah and extends to the South to touch the borders of the Sultanate of Oman, or in the North, it overlooks the Arabian Gulf (media office. ae, 2023). According to estimates for the year 2021, the population of the emirate was about 300,478.3 (U.ae, 2023), and most of its residents are foreigners and expatriate workers. Its society is characterized by great cultural diversity, as communities of nearly 200 different nationalities live in it.

Rapid urbanization poses problems for the traditional local city fabric and the emergence of contemporary high-rise towers in Dubai and other Middle Eastern regional cities. In order to effectively address project requirements, which in the majority of cases call for "distinctive high-rise buildings" while ignoring the fundamental requirements for producing sustainable building forms and comfortable and adaptable spaces and uses, project stakeholders must strongly consider cultural values, the local environment, the human scale, and the existing historic urban fabric. (Ogaily , 2015)

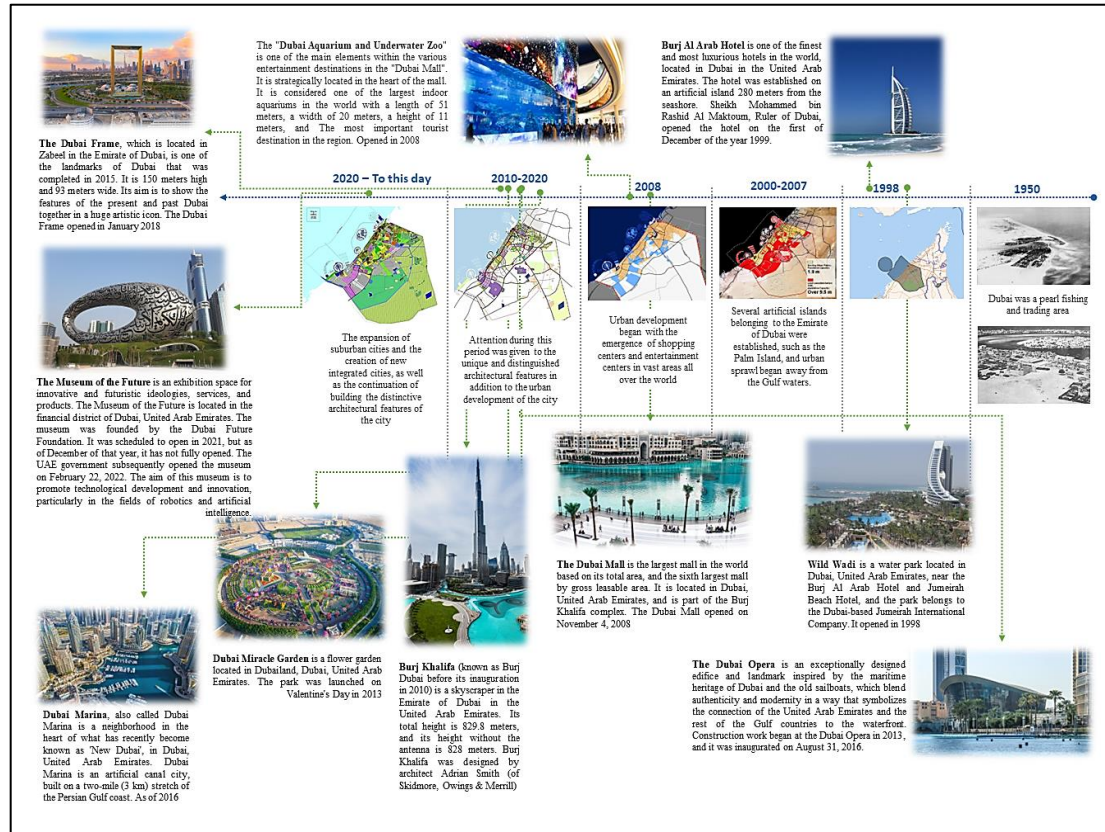


Fig. 3: Timeline of the change in the urban imprint of Dubai

Source: Author

From the Timeline of the city of Dubai, a significant shift is observed in the urban imprint of the city, as it was a small settlement area with a small number of residents who were engaged in pearl diving for their livelihood, but soon it began with urban expansion in two directions, one into the city and the second towards the Gulf, where it built artificial islands, and an integrated life in it. Just as the city's skyline changed by building the tallest towers in the world, which made it a distinctive imprint on all countries. The identity of the city changed by introducing Western forms and patterns to it, and it became far from the local Arab identity Fig. 3.

Baghdad

Like all the historical sites of Mesopotamia that emerged to serve humanity around the world, Baghdad stands at the head of the cities and provides an excellent example of dramatic developments over the decades. The city located on the Tigris River faced multifaceted transformations in the physical and cultural environment due to natural and political issues. The city of Baghdad is characterized by many urban features belonging to different historical periods. The transformation from a circular fortified city to an organic pattern reflects the local contents of physical, social, and economic characteristics. The city maintained its compact structure until the beginning of the British colonial period in 1917 when

the internal shape and urban components began to change until it reached a very critical situation. The absence of development strategies to protect the urban heritage of Baghdad has allowed modern construction to reach the outskirts of the old part and has destroyed the inner part where the historical monuments and neighborhoods are located. The approach was to promote modernism in the 1970s and 1980s with new architectural and technical facilities, the strong intervention in the historical structure accompanied by a strong extension of the souks have caused real damage to the spaces that have a spiritual and historical influence. Heavy interventions have caused more destruction to the existing urban spaces and have also created more empty lands and not defined and effective spaces. The spatial configuration of the entire city has been schematically modified and the result has been conflicts in urban structure and urban space accompanied by social and economic problems. The old city have been divided into several parts and separating spaces have been created between its parts. What has made matters worse is the absence of regulations that control any measure of urban development accompanied by corruption that has allowed for further destruction of the most traditional buildings and sites (Al-hashani, M.K., 2012).

The Saray Palace, the Qishla Building, the Abbasid Palace, and other historic sites have been neglected without taking advantage of the open spaces for activities that can revitalize the area. The urban fabric of the city center was ruptured and not integrated. It lost its distinctive identity and urban effectiveness. (Hasan and Abdul Ghafoor, 2023)

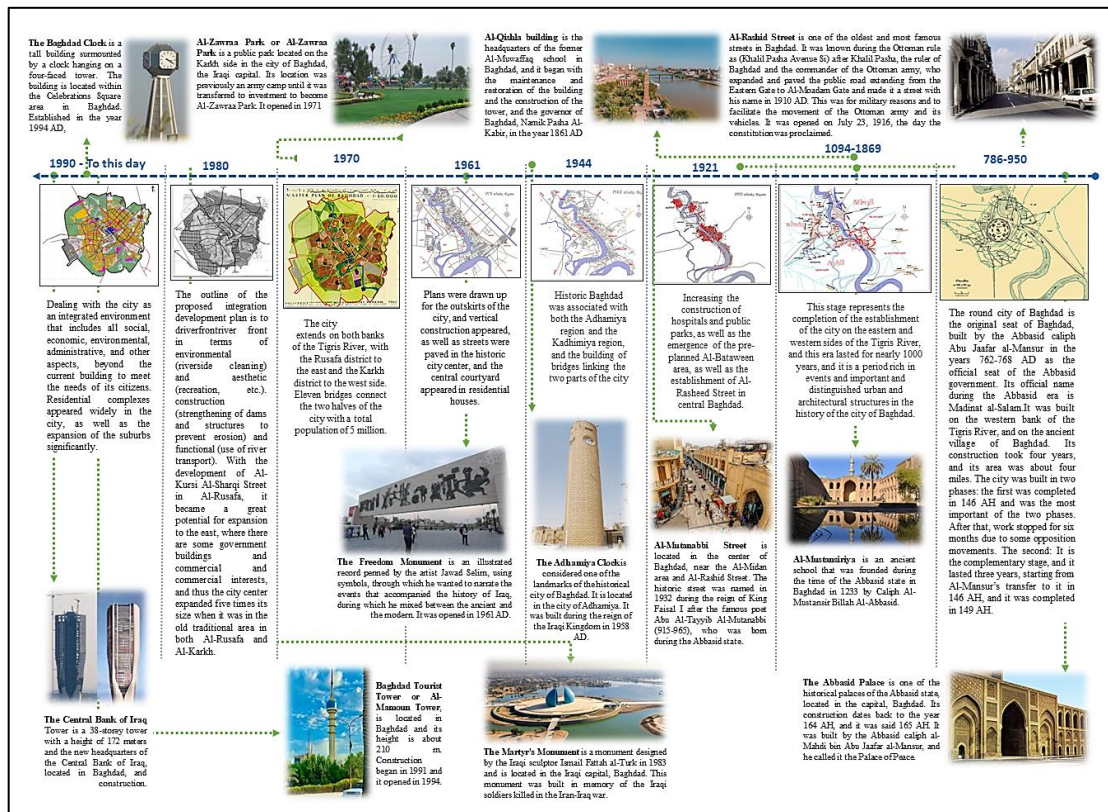


Fig.4 TimeLine of the change of the urban imprint of Baghdad source: Author

Through the Timeline of the city of Baghdad, it is noticed that there is an overlap between the traditional residential activities and the commercial and governmental activities and that there is a lack of clarity between them. The overlap exists at the level and intensity of movement, which has made the historical area, which is the center of the city, a crowded area. The other overlap is in the structures between the low-rise structure and the multi-story buildings, which did not appear as a clear structure, but rather in a scattered form. Despite the

urban and architectural interventions in the city, it has well preserved its urban and urban identity Fig. 4.

Conclusions

The research concluded that the distinguishing feature of the city from others in terms of design, skyline, urban planning, and the concept that describes the physical and moral characteristics and characteristics of the city is what is known as the urban footprint, as the cities' footprint has become important as a definition of its identity and one of the important requirements for urban areas, and the urban footprint is a continuous and changing process and not its result. Finally, the dynamics of the urban system varies depending on the factors to which the urban context is exposed.

Cities' urban expansion as a result of increased population and urban sprawl has resulted in an increase in urbanization, particularly vertical urbanization, which changes the city's urban townscape and thus changes the city's urban imprint.

To achieve the urban imprint, dealing with the physical forms in the city necessitates the process of assimilating the hybrid physical forms, either by giving them a specific meaning that is compatible with the basic values or by modifying the forms to fit the meanings present in the city.

The strengths and weaknesses of the city and its center can be determined by establishing special standards for each city that are adopted and developed in accordance with the needs of the community and the city, and which reflect its local identity.

Each city has its own set of urban imprint standards, and these standards, as well as the methods for applying and reviewing them, are updated on a regular basis.

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