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The Algerian City Between Originality And Modernity: (Example: Boussada)

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Abstract:

Algerian cities are facing great challenges to meet the needs of the growing population in the areas of Housing and various services, where the government has adopted the idea of creating new cities. This plan is based on the implementation of large-scale projects with plans imported from other communities, which raises questions about the suitability of these plans for Algerian society and its cultural and social peculiarities...

The city of BOUSSADA is an important example where historical and cultural authenticity converges with attempts at modernization.

This study aims to reveal the reality of social life in new urban agglomerations, especially in desert areas whose population is characterized by the preservation of Customs and traditions. And to understand the impact of these new communities on the traditional and community lifestyle in these areas, and to make recommendations to improve urbanization policies commensurate with local particularities, while preserving the cultural and social identity of the population

It is necessary to achieve a balance between originality and modernity, to ensure an urban expansion that reflects the cultural and historical aspects of Algerian society and at the same time meets the requirements of modern life.

Keywords: cities, social identity, authenticity, contemporary, Boussada.

Introduction

Talking about the city dates back to the dawn of human civilizations. The first beginnings of its scientific study were associated with the emergence and development of sociology, so that the emergence of a specialized branch to address city issues has become its own subject, its methodology and theoretical approaches, which is the result of a relatively recent attempt that underwent theoretical and methodological developments that

Sociology has undergone. This topic has undergone a lot of study and development, as many theories have appeared that are interested in urbanism and the city on a large scale. With this development, interest in the idea of creating contemporary cities as a means of urban expansion has increased. Many developed countries have relied on this idea to solve their urban problems, taking advantage of their material potential and technological expertise. These capabilities have played a vital role in the development of advanced urban communities in all respects, both in terms of Housing and other necessary and even luxury equipment, within the framework of an integrated, balanced and harmonious urban network. In this context, the problematic balance between originality and modernity is manifested in urban planning. In Algerian cities, such as Boussaada, contemporary urbanization requires consideration of cultural heritage and local traditions. Originality is reflected in the preservation of historical Customs and traditions that form the cultural identity of the city, while modernity is embodied in the adoption of modern urban projects aimed at improving the quality of life and providing modern services. Achieving this balance requires a thoughtful approach that combines the preservation of cultural identity and the development of infrastructure to meet the needs of the contemporary population. Therefore, this topic is an attempt to reveal the reality of social life within new urban agglomerations, especially in desert areas, whose population is characterized by the preservation of Customs and traditions. It is necessary to study the impact of these new agglomerations on the traditional and communal lifestyle to ensure a balanced and sustainable urban development.

The problem of study and its importance:

The industrial revolution brought significant developments in various fields, including urban and architectural, which increased interest in the creation and development of new cities in many developed countries. In an attempt to keep pace with this development, developing countries have made intensive efforts to quickly provide housing for their citizens, which sometimes led to the loss of social, cultural and urban identity under the weight of modernity. This policy was mainly aimed at providing as many dwellings as possible to cope with the growing housing crisis.

This development is contrary to the preservation of socio-cultural peculiarities, since the contemporary style of production contrasts with the heritage forms that distinguish one region from another. Despite the huge differences between societies in terms of social and cultural identity, achieving an urban area commensurate with these particularities is one of the most important challenges for achieving sustainable development.

Cities should be characterized by a balance between originality and modernity, reflecting the interaction between heritage and modernity. Authenticity reflects the ancient history and cultural traditions that form the identity of the community, while modernity reflects the progress and development witnessed by the city and provides it with vitality to meet the needs of the growing population. The challenge lies in integrating authenticity and modernity in a way that preserves cultural identity and at the same time responds to the

requirements of modern times, including preserving historical and heritage monuments and supporting urban and technological development.

Algeria, like other countries, today faces many problems in its cities, so the creation of new cities was one of the political options imposed by unbalanced urban conditions, in addition to striving to provide the largest number of housing units to balance the supply and demand for housing. In implementation of this policy, many new cities or urban agglomerations have been created in Algeria.

In this context, the importance of a balance between originality and modernity in the planning of new cities stands out. Modern urban strategies should include elements that preserve cultural heritage and local traditions at the same time as seeking to meet the needs of modern times by providing advanced infrastructure and modern services.

To learn more about the reality of this topic, we took the example of the city of Boussaada, one of the mandate states in Algeria, where it has witnessed a remarkable urban expansion. We will seek to uncover the reality of social life within the new urban agglomerations of the city, focusing on how to integrate authenticity and modernity in a way that preserves cultural identity and responds to the requirements of modern times, from here we can ask a key question:.

How to achieve a balance between originality and modernity so that new urban agglomerations reflect the cultural and social identity of the population and at the same time meet the requirements of modern life?

Sub-questions fall under it:

1. **To what extent do new city plans take into account the nature and peculiarities of Algerian society?**
2. **How are the peculiarities of the local community in the city of Boussaada taken into account in the reconstruction plans?**
3. **To what extent do the urban plans correspond to the cultural and social peculiarities of Algerian families in terms of size and composition?**

Objectives of the study:

The research aims to achieve the integration of originality and modernity in the design of new cities by involving the local community and social and historical partners in the preparation of urban plans, taking into account socio-historical peculiarities. The main objectives of the research can be summarized as follows:

1. Analysis of social aspects in reconstruction plans: studying how to include social aspects in reconstruction plans and assessing their impact from the perspective of urban planning, in addition to studying the extent to which these plans are consistent with the history and heritage of the city.

2. Diagnose problems faced by beneficiaries: explore the problems experienced by beneficiaries and users of new housing and make recommendations to improve their experience.

Hypotheses:

The first hypothesis: the plans for new cities in Algeria to some extent take into account the nature and peculiarities of Algerian society, but there are gaps in adaptation to local customs and traditions.

The second hypothesis: the peculiarities of the local community in the city of Boussaada are taken into account in the reconstruction plans, but there may be challenges in effectively integrating historical and cultural elements into modern designs.

The third hypothesis: the urban plans correspond to the cultural and social peculiarities of Algerian families in terms of size and composition to a limited degree, as they may need to be further modified to meet the unique needs of local families.

Research methodology (methods and tools):

In this research, we relied on a number of tools, which are as follows:

1-observation: the use of this means (simple organized observation) of various urban manifestations and tissues to inspect, describe and analyze facts and information.

2-questionnaire form: after determining the neighborhood that is under study, we designed a form that includes a number of questions according to the goals and questions.

3. Interview: we have adopted this medium in order to obtain more accurate information.

First: the city:

- Definition of the city:

The city is distinguished in its familiar urban appearance from other, whether in terms of its external form, functions or growth, "City" and "city state" are two words and two synonyms.

Scientists from the perception of the city as an extension of the village, considering that there is a continuous gradient between what is rural and what is urban, and some of them define the city in light of the number of residents, considering that there is a minimum population size on which the city is defined, international bodies have agreed that any place where 20,000 or more people live is considered a city, as there has been a significant increase for the population of cities in the world, whether in industrialized or non-industrialized countries. [1]

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[1] Hussein Abdul Hamid Ahmed Rashwan. Problems of the city. A study in urban sociology. University Youth Foundation.P05

- **The concept of the city:**

They are designs based on mathematical, geometric, philosophical, ideological and symbolic formations and they express the development of urban art, which has tried throughout the ages to highlight the aesthetics that attract people, and the prestige that expresses the power and power of rulers.

As for the Arabs, Ibn Khaldun believes that " cities and sieges have great structures and great buildings, and they are intended for the public and not for the private, they need a meeting of hands and a lot of cooperation, cities must be Christianized and taken from the state. [2]

Second: the concept of new cities

It is the creation of an integrated city with a population exceeding 50,000 people, in which there are multiple jobs (residential job, work... In terms of logic, new cities are a distinctive creation with special technical and cultural requirements, and their final form was not the result of evolution over time, but was conceived as an integrated project according to a pre-prepared drawing.[3]

Third: the concept of social identity

It is that image or that form that a certain group forms about itself and that it arises from the inside of individuals towards the outside, it circulates within the group, and it is the basis of the question of knowledge, which is the awareness of individuals towards the outside under the phrase of this identity, i.e. tracking in fact from individuals or in the sense of autism or common self-perception among a group of people and the theory of social identity characterized by strong ties. [4]

Fourth: the concept of the social and cultural dimension

A-the social dimension:

"Sroken" says that sociology is the science that studies social culture, and this invited him to say:" the social reality has three overlapping dimensions (Society, personal culture, individual behavior). " what is meant by the social dimension is the study of the effects and mutual human relations resulting from the fact that a person is a social being who can only live in a group, he spends most of his time associated with them and in a relationship with them. the nature of humanity in it is due to participation in society and his contribution to the current of the social movement with all its cultural elements of customs, traditions and religion, which he acquires from society. [5]

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[2] Khalafallah boujmaa, El Omran and El Madina, Dar El Hoda for printing, publishing and distribution, ain Melilla, Algeria .2005, p. 67
[3] Khalafallah boujmaa , ibid. P. 122.
[4] Ahmed Zayed. Psychology of intergroup relations. I1, National Council for Culture, Arts and letters.Kuwait.2006.P. 26.
[5] Said Hosseini. A study in sociology. House of knowledge. Cairo. P. 81.

B-the cultural dimension:

It is the formulation of the social system and the retention of its existence based on the recognition of past experiences and the heritage of the past that provides us with patterns of behavior and models of human action. Social life was based on two cultures:

- Material culture in terms of technology and economics.

- An immaterial culture, such as values, beliefs and morals.[6]

Fifth: the relationship of planning with society

The relationship between individuals and their city goes beyond the functional concerns of urban planning. To fully understand a city, the meanings and relationships between its components and the behaviors of its inhabitants must be looked at, which goes beyond the aesthetic and formal concerns that architecture focuses on, which is mainly concerned with buildings and their physical components. A city is not just a collection of adjacent buildings and structures; it is more than the sum of its parts.

Based on this, interest in the city should include an understanding of how the physical components of urbanization and the behaviors of residents influence the formation of its identity. This requires a field of knowledge that integrates aesthetic material architecture and functional planning, takes into account moral aspects and social influences.

This field is not limited to a single science, but combines a set of interrelated interests that balance aesthetics and functionality, focusing on the behaviors of residents and their vision of their city. The role of professionals in determining the future of urbanism and its development in line with the needs and aspirations of society cannot be overlooked.[7]

Sixth: new cities in Algeria

Some of the decision-makers believe that new cities in Algeria are the ideal solution to address the problem of the rapid urbanization experienced by the Maghreb countries in general and Algeria in particular in order to control and organize urban human settlement, which will be the main characteristic of the Maghreb countries during the next century, but the idea itself needs huge investments to accomplish such ambitious projects, because new cities in the modern urban concept are not limited to The complexity of the urban system is even greater and these new (programmed) urban asteroids will remain completely dependent on neighboring major cities for various urban installations and job positions.

Seventh: urban policies in Algeria:

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[6] Said Hosseini. Ibid., the same.P. 93.
[7] Ahmed Mohamed Salah el-Din ouf. Introduction to urban design. Zahra Press, p. 04

The urban policy in Algeria has played an important role in national development. It has also known a significant development in terms of its plans and various programs from time to time.

Stages of development of urban legislation in Algeria:

There is no doubt that the field organization is important and necessary as a result of the many changes in the social structure and the huge increase in the number of people and in the developed civilizational services in quantity and quality. This is what has already happened in most countries of the world, and the Algerian legislator did not delay in this either, and Algeria has gone through several stages in this area, namely:

A-Pre-independence stage:

During this period, an urban policy was implemented aimed at draining national wealth and distorting Algerian history and culture, as historical urban and architectural styles were not taken into account, in addition to neglecting the economic and social aspects of Algerians traditions and values, which is clearly observed in the discontinuity between the published European styles. [8]

The provisions of Decree 05/01/1922 on the development and improvement of cities in Algeria were in force, followed by decree 25/07/1937 on regional urbanization projects, which stipulated in Article 21 that its provisions were applied in Algeria. [9]

B. post-independence period:

Algeria found itself immediately after independence in front of an inherited urban and economic field, dominated by chaos, real estate, lack of facilities and neglect of neighborhoods by Algerians among the first steps taken by Algeria was the establishment of the so-called preliminary urban plan for municipalities with a population of more than 10 thousand people, and did not take into account in the colonial period, and in 1965 increased interest in this area, by establishing the Ministry of Public Works and construction to take care of this aspect, where it established the Office of studies for Public Works and architecture in 1968.Then followed by other offices and bodies that are responsible for the development and organization of urbanization in Algeria, where they were entrusted with the task of completing plans Urban guidelines for all Algerian cities, we mention among them CADAT0) (office) (comedor), a national office entrusted with the task of creating the urban planning guideline for the city of Algiers (1970-1976), and it relied on some ideas and external studies where they tried to apply them to Algeria, including the initial reconstruction areas and new urban residential areas and due to the social, economic and political changes that occurred in Algeria, the urban planning policy

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[8] Bashir al-Tijani. Urbanization and urbanization in Algeria. University publications Bureau, p. 74
[9] Mohammed zaatar et al. The land occupation scheme is between the theory and reality of the city of m'sila. A supplementary note for obtaining a state engineer's certificate. M'sila University. June 2002.

was adopted in 1990 and the real estate orientation in the same year, and was applied by the following executive decrees:

- Development and reconstruction guideline (PDAV)"executive decree 91-176"

- Land Occupancy scheme (POS) «executive decree 91-178» [10]

Eighth: the extent to which the new buildings respond to the culture of Algerian families

After independence, the worsening housing and housing crisis in the cities led those responsible for the housing sector to take urgent measures to install a pattern of buildings around the city randomly, without prior consideration of the needs of Algerian families in cultural, social and demographic aspects, or for transportation considerations and the availability of water in selected locations. The urgent need for a safe haven prompted individuals to unconditionally accept any type of housing, which led to the spread of a haphazard and disorganized housing pattern.

The dwelling is primarily a socio-cultural structure before it was a set of walls, floors, ceilings, windows and doors, and therefore most of the current residences completed in cities do not respond to the cultural components of the Algerian family and family, these imported deaf boxes are being completed in European countries for revolutionary families and parties, because the idea of the extended family is heading towards extinction, and ...

The extent to which the internal spatial division responds to the size of Algerian families:

The rules used in various construction programs in cities are based on the following distribution: from 55% to 65% of projects were allocated to buildings with five-room dwellings, and the rest was evenly distributed between two and four rooms. the Vancouver conference-Canada-in 1996 set the global standards for the use of rooms by individuals, as follows:[11]

Percentage of people per room usage	Criteria
From 0.1 to 0.7	Housing density is poor
From 1 to 1.1	Regular
From 1.9 to 2	Acceptable overcrowding
From 2.3 to 3.3	Overcrowding
From 3.4 to 15	Unacceptable overcrowding

Source: World Conference on housing and housing Canada 1996.

It is clear from the table that the percentage of works per room in cities exceeded the standard of three individuals, and translates the state of congestion and housing that families live in new neighborhoods, and by analogy with the above, 90% of 135 thousand

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[10] Azizi Zayn. Individual continents of urbanism and ways of contesting them. Dar El Hoda, Algeria, 2000.P. 17.
[11] Mohammed zaatar et al. Ibid.P20.

collective dwellings in cities is known as overcrowding as a result of the acute housing crisis.[12]

Field study:

1 / definition of the study area:

  a. **Administrative location:**

   The city of Boussaada is located in the southern part of the territory of the state of M'sila, which is 65 km away from it. It covers an area of 255 km2 with an estimated population of 107,862 equivalents to 330 inhabitants/km[13]

It is bordered by:

* North: Municipality of Oulad Sidi Ibrahim.

* North-East: Maarif municipality.

* East: Al-Hamed municipality.

* West: Tamsa municipality.

* South-East and South-West: both the municipality of Waltham and the municipality of Hamel.

b. **Geographical location:**

The municipality of Boussaad is located in the south-east of the country, 248 km from the capital of Algeria and 320 km south of the capital of the east of the country Constantine.

2 / submit a research area:

The first November neighborhood is located on the edge of the new city Bousaada, on the north side it is bordered by a vacant land that can be reconstructed, on the South by a medium-intensity electric line +National Road No. 08, on the East by a division + vacant land that can be reconstructed, and on the West by a neighborhood of 110 dwellings, which are individual residences, and the neighborhood contains 250 collective dwellings.

2.1 The general shape of the urban fabric of the neighborhood:

The observer of the neighborhood sees that it has a cohesive urban fabric with an urban structure characterized by contiguity, which consists of 5-storey buildings intersected by Crooked, broken, narrow and sometimes windowless roads, and depends in its formation on schemes used across the country.

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[12] Abdul Hamid delimi. Reality and urban phenomena, publications of the University of manturi.Constantine.Pp. 127.
[13] Ibid.P. 128.

2-1-1 outlets: the neighborhood contains a number of outlets there is a main outlet that splits the neighborhood into two parts and a few other outlets separating a number of buildings. (See appendices)

-1-2 spaces: the neighborhood has a basic space that plays a role in the socio-economic aspect.

2-1-3 equipment: the neighborhood has a set of equipment, but few are frequented by residents of the neighborhood and residents of neighboring neighborhoods, due to the fact that the neighborhood is located at the entrance to the city, there are also some shops and a mosque. The neighborhood lacks green spaces. There is also a secondary, middle and school, but the latter is far away for children, and there is a health center, but it is poorly equipped and does not provide its services at night, which necessarily requires a transfer to the Old City Hospital. (See appendices)

3. Sample:

Our study of this" new cities and social identity" seeks to find out the social aspects included in the reconstruction plans, as well as to know the problems facing beneficiaries and users of Housing, and due to the difficulty of bringing all individuals, this calls for choosing a sample from this community to facilitate research, considering that the sample is the study of a selected group of people from among all individuals, that is, choosing a part of the whole and it expresses the whole.

From this point of view, we used a random sample, which is the basis of this study, so we adopted the following method:

The research community consists mainly of 250 dwellings, where we selected 16% of the total dwellings distributed over 50 buildings. The number of respondents was 40.

4. The form: it is one of the data collection tools and is useful and effective in all social research to collect the largest number of information.[14]

This topic – New cities and social identity-we have prepared a research form that includes a number of questions divided into axes and includes 19 questions:

1 / the first axis: it includes personal data and includes (03 questions).

2 / the second axis: these are data related to the use of the dwelling and include (04 questions) about the main entrance to the dwelling, the spaciousness in the dwelling, the guest house.

3 / the third axis: these are data related to the form and type of construction and include (03 questions) about outdoor spaces, public facilities (children's playgrounds, meeting areas), corridors inside the neighborhood.

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[14] Ibid.P. 128.

4 / the fourth axis: these are data related to the form and type of construction and include (07 questions) about the form and type of construction, and if there is suffering inside the dwelling (tightness, planning method, etc., making adjustments to the dwelling ventilation inside the neighborhood, proposing another dwelling, building materials used in the construction of the dwelling, ventilation inside the neighborhood, comfort inside the dwelling in summer, comfort inside the dwelling in winter.[15]

NB. The questions were two types closed and open.

5-Presentation of the study results:

1-drawing conclusions according to goals and assumptions:

Our aim of the study is to find out the social aspects included in the reconstruction plans for the creation of new cities, the characteristics of the new urban area, as well as to find out the problems facing the beneficiaries and users of housing.

We put forward hypotheses that we tried to validate according to the following results:

1.1 results related to the respondents:

  * The presence of 14.17% of the research community of graduates of Quranic schools indicates the spread of religious consciousness, which necessitates the inviolability and privacy of these residences.

  * The majority of the residents have not made changes to the housing, which means that they are satisfied with these housing, but they have limited income, there are 35% of the residents do not have a monthly salary that allows them to provide their daily needs.

1.2 results related to housing and its uses:

  * Most of the residents of the neighborhood acknowledged that these dwellings do not maintain inviolability in relation to the entrance of the dwelling to meet it with the neighboring dwelling, which supports the validity of the above-mentioned hypothesis that the beneficiaries face problems, and this is due to the miscalculation of the plans for the peculiarities of the community and did not take into account this aspect.

  * We found that 74.28% of the respondents suffer from lack of housing. This is due to the fact that the size of families is not taken into account. One or two-room dwellings are not enough.

  * 62.69% admit the lack of public facilities, meeting places and children's playgrounds...This confirms the hypothesis: it is necessary to find out what social aspects are included in the reconstruction schemes.

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[15] Ben said souad .Neighborhood relations in new urban housing, a supplementary note to the master's degree.2007.P. 143.

* 88.53% of the residents of the neighborhood are dissatisfied with the form and type of construction; they prefer to live in an old neighborhood that has some of the specifications of the new neighborhood.

6 / recommendations and suggestions:

1.6. Recommendations:

2. - Precise definition of responsibilities:

- Clearly define responsibilities between the parties involved in the process of urban expansion, including planners and engineers on the one hand, and those responsible for the management of the city from the political, administrative and financial bodies on the other.

3. Creation of interdisciplinary workshops:

- Organize multidisciplinary workshops at the level of university research teams, including specialists in the fields of urban planning, architecture, technologists (such as study offices), as well as experts in the humanities, to promote integration and knowledge exchange.

4. Updating and evaluating urban plans:

- Develop urban plans that are flexible and adaptable to future changes. Continuous assessment should be used as a tool to improve the effectiveness of urban projects and ensure their compatibility with the needs of the population.

5. Activation of competent associations:

- Support and strengthen the role of specialized associations in monitoring and evaluating urban instructions. These associations should be granted broad powers within the framework of Public Policy, and their role should be strengthened by law among the security and administrative authorities to ensure compliance with the standards of preserving the urban sphere and the built environment.

6. Promoting belonging and social integration in the urban field:

   a. Preserving the historical continuity of the urban fabric by creating living environments that promote the balance of the population and provide them with security in the face of social transformations, thus enhancing their sense of belonging.
   b. Strengthening the social dimension in the planning of residential areas through criteria that contribute to strengthening social ties and facilitating interaction between individuals.

c. Diversify the outdoor spaces of cities and residential areas to avoid routine and promote excellence, which contributes to improving the quality of the urban environment and breaks the feeling of boredom.

d. Ensuring the continuity of the urban fabric through the adoption of urban plans based on the appropriate reconstruction tools, which ensures compatibility with the developments of society and its needs.

e. Propose strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of urban development, to enhance cooperation and innovation in the implementation of urban projects.

2 / suggestions:

a. Taking into account the aspirations of the population in various interventions, as only the population is aware of what they lack and what suits their needs.

b. The creation of new cities by adopting foreign experiences and mixing them with the customs, traditions and cultural backgrounds of the population to avoid falling into the problems that the population faces.

c. Establishing the necessary facilities such as hospital, mosque, educational and administrative institutions adjacent to the new residential neighborhoods.

Conclusion:

In Algeria, cities are the embodiment of the diversity between authenticity and modernity, which makes them an example of how to balance the preservation of cultural identity and the reception of modern developments. By integrating heritage with development, Algerian cities can continue to strengthen their position as vibrant and prosperous destinations, combining the richness of the past with the potential of the future.

Algerian cities truly embody a complex equation that combines originality and sophistication, reflecting the ability of these cities to adapt to the changes of the times without compromising their cultural identity. The diversity between traditional style and modernity in Algerian cities provides an inspiring example for other cities seeking to strike a balance between heritage preservation and integration in the digital age.

The preservation of historical monuments and cultural heritage is not just a cultural duty; it is the basis for stimulating tourism and strengthening national identity. At the same time, cities must keep pace with the requirements of modern times by improving infrastructure and adopting technological innovations, to ensure a better quality of life for their citizens and enhance their competitiveness both regionally and internationally.

Successful integration of originality with modernity requires smart urban planning strategies, involving all stakeholders, including local authorities, civil society and investors. This includes attention to the development of projects focused on sustainability, such as the renovation of historical areas in ways that respect their heritage while providing modern technological advantages, and the promotion of educational programs that focus on the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

In the end, Algerian cities represent a vivid example of how to build a sustainable future while preserving historical roots. The ability to balance originality and modernity not only enhances the economic and social aspects, but also enhances belonging and pride in cultural identity, which contributes to building a cohesive society capable of facing the challenges of modern times with confidence and optimism.