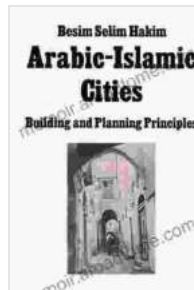


Unveiling the Architectural Legacy: A Comprehensive Review of 'Arabic Islamic Cities: Building and Planning Principles'



Arabic Islamic Cities Rev: Building and Planning Principles

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5



Delving into the rich tapestry of Islamic civilization, 'Arabic Islamic Cities: Building and Planning Principles' presents a captivating exploration of the architectural and urban development of Islamic cities throughout history. This seminal work, authored by renowned architectural historian Doris Behrens-Abouseif, offers a comprehensive analysis of the principles that shaped the design and planning of these vibrant urban centers.

Historical Context and Architectural Evolution

The book begins by providing a historical context for the emergence and growth of Islamic cities. It traces the evolution of urban planning and architectural principles from the early Islamic era to the Ottoman period. Behrens-Abouseif highlights the influence of pre-Islamic settlements,

nomadic traditions, and religious teachings on the development of Islamic cities.

Throughout the book, detailed descriptions and illustrations of key architectural features are provided, offering readers a vivid glimpse into the rich architectural vocabulary of Islamic cities. From the intricate geometric patterns of mosques to the towering minarets of madrasas, Behrens-Abouseif analyzes the symbolism and functionality of these architectural elements.

Planning Principles and Urban Design

One of the central themes explored in 'Arabic Islamic Cities' is the concept of planning principles. Behrens-Abouseif argues that Islamic cities were not haphazardly constructed but rather carefully planned according to a set of underlying principles. These principles included the incorporation of open spaces, the provision of water and sanitation systems, and the creation of a sense of community and belonging.

The book examines how these principles were applied in the design of specific cities, such as Cairo, Damascus, and Baghdad. Behrens-Abouseif analyzes the layout of streets, the distribution of public and private spaces, and the relationship between residential, commercial, and religious areas.



Social and Cultural Significance

'Arabic Islamic Cities' goes beyond the physical aspects of urban planning and delves into the social and cultural significance of Islamic cities. Behrens-Abouseif explores how the built environment shaped the daily lives and interactions of the inhabitants of these cities.

The book examines the role of mosques as centers of religious and community life, the significance of markets and bazaars as places of economic and social exchange, and the importance of public spaces for recreation and leisure. Behrens-Abouseif argues that Islamic cities were not merely functional spaces but also vibrant cultural landscapes that fostered a sense of identity and belonging.

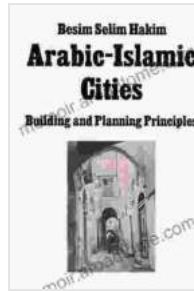
Relevance to Contemporary Urbanism

While 'Arabic Islamic Cities' primarily focuses on historical urban planning, Behrens-Abouseif also explores the relevance of these principles to contemporary urbanism. She argues that the principles of sustainability, community engagement, and respect for the environment that were embedded in Islamic cities can provide valuable insights for modern urban planners.

The book highlights the importance of preserving and learning from the architectural legacy of Islamic cities, not only for its historical significance but also for its potential to inspire innovative and sustainable urban design solutions.

'Arabic Islamic Cities: Building and Planning Principles' is an essential resource for anyone interested in the architectural and urban history of Islamic civilization. Doris Behrens-Abouseif's comprehensive analysis provides a deep understanding of the principles that shaped the design and planning of Islamic cities and their enduring significance for contemporary urbanism.

Through its detailed descriptions, insightful analysis, and beautiful illustrations, 'Arabic Islamic Cities' invites readers to explore the architectural legacy of a rich and vibrant civilization. It is a must-read for architects, urban planners, historians, and anyone seeking to understand the enduring impact of Islamic culture on the built environment.



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