

Urban transformations and the urban landscape of ancient cities

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Abstract

The urban transformation affects the urban landscape in terms of its components and elements through several variables that affect it, as this change occurs during certain periods of time. In this research, we will review the concept of urban transformation and how it occurs in city centers, and then review the concept of the urban landscape and its most important elements and components, and then learn how urban transformation affects the elements of the urban landscape And then come up with conclusions and recommendations.

Keywords: urban transformation, urban landscape, components of the urban landscape

Research problem

the absence of knowledge of the impact of urban transformation on the elements and components of the urban landscape

Research hypothesis

The research assumes that there is a relationship between transformation and the elements and components of the urban landscape in city centers

Research objective

To identify and research the relationship between urban transformation and the elements of the urban landscape

Introduction

Transformation processes in city centers imposed a lot of influences on the elements and components of the urban landscape, as these changes continued during the successive periods of time in the city centers. Hence how it affects the urban landscape in city centres

Transformation concept

The transformation is described as a final result of the process of change from one phase to another, or a phase to another different from it, and the process of change appears through the characteristics or appearances that accompany it, and the transformation in urban areas is the result of an invisible process that preceded the manifestations of the urban transformation process and led to it, and is usually paying more attention to urban visual changes (Steinberg, 2008, p7). Transformation is defined in the life sciences as: the phenomenon of changing the shape for the purpose of adapting to the changed conditions and their suitability, so a new form is obtained from the initial form and its function is the same as the primary function, and the transformations in life science are similar to the transformations of the city, when the organism

is unable to meet its functional requirements in an environment. Certain changes and undergoes a series of transformations to reach its new form that is more appropriate and adapted to its surroundings and environment, as parts of the city are adopted as raw materials or a primary source and subjected to a series of transformations that include the imposition of new structures or new structures (Antoniades, 1990, p25). Transformation in architecture is known as: the process of changing the form by which it reaches the final stage as a response to a number of external and internal dynamics (Maltoul, 2000, p. 17). In geology, it is meant by transformation (the change that occurs in rocks as a result of *exposure to heat and pressure*).

Procedural definition

The transformation process is described as the result of the accumulated changes over time, as the transformation represents a final image of many changes that occurred in the past and led to a gradual transformation in the form, or the raw material, and urban transformations mean all the changes that occurred in the structure of the city and its social and economic entity, which led to what it looks like today in terms of urban activities, events, shapes and images.

Transformation of cities

The emergence of cities formed the first urban transformations, so it was like independent and sudden leaps of civilization, and these leaps were often accompanied by the emergence of cities with different intellectual, social and political structures, and with the progress of this civilization, unequal ownership, class society, and specialists in the political, scientific, artistic and religious fields appeared that mix and appear through the urban features. Urbanism that expresses the values of the city (Lynch, 1990, p5). It is also called the processes of social change through which the rural population moves to cities and gradually acquires urban patterns (urbanization), which leads to urban densification in cities if they acquire urban life patterns. And the transformations, mechanisms and problems associated with this phenomenon (Al-Hiti, 2009, p. 37), the local city has changed a lot, and its old fabric is no longer able to withstand the need for modern buildings instead of the old buildings in it. To change the human scale in general (Legates & Stout, 1996, p466). The importance of transformations in the problems of city centers that led to the division of the city is evident due to the policies of zoning, the activities of urban renewal, the nature of land use, as well as the movement of modern spaces and the absence of institutions that strengthened the manifestations of division in the urban environment and the interest in individual architectural designs, and these problems are identified as follows (Tiesdell & Carmona, 2007, p64):

- 1- The policies of zoning and the nature of land use.
- 2- The increasing reliance on cars for transportation within city centers.
- 3- Abandonment of some of the major activities (military and industrial within cities).
- 4- High individualism, that is, denying the importance of open space to the orientations of the modern movement.

The modern changes in the old urban areas of the city are the result of the development activities that fall within the context of the arterial strips and the internal structure that characterizes most city centers. The urban transformation in the central areas of cities results in a clear change in the functions of the city in general, and therefore a state of balance is required between the activities of the city center and its surroundings when looking at the future of urban life in the city and when calculating structural changes in it (Goddard & Champion, 1983, p8). And what constitutes a major challenge to the transformation of cities is the increasing complexity of the conditions of contemporary life, which shows that the transformation of the city occurs through the continuity of adaptation to the demands of society. As adaptation), it is the ability to absorb and appreciate the required changes (Hoeven &

Rosemann, 2006, p82-83). Transformation serves as an analytical lens to describe and understand ongoing, complex and contested processes and dynamics in cities, as well as how these dynamics alter urban functions, local needs, and interactions between cities and their surroundings (McCormick et al. 2013; Iwaniec et al. 2019). On the other hand, the transformation perspective provides a normative orientation that emphasizes the need for radical and systemic change in order to overcome persistent social, environmental and economic problems and move purposefully towards sustainable and resilient cities in the long term. Accordingly, sustainability and resilience are complementary concepts for evaluating and guiding urban transformation processes. And there are those who focus on urban transformations as complex processes that drive change across multiple dimensions (eg, social, institutional, cultural, political, radical, economic, technological, environmental) (Wolfram and Frantzeskaki 2016: P142). Cities are understood as complex, adaptive, and open systems. This means that urban transformations are not spatially limited, and that cities driven by systemic and sectoral dynamics are “local nodes within multiple interwoven social, economic, environmental, political, and physical networks, continuously shaped by flows of people, matter, and information.” across the scales. (Wolfram and Frantzeskaki 2016: P143)

Urban transformation

Cities have undergone many transformations over time, and these transformations resulted from the impact of a group of changes and transitions in behavior, ways of living, and events that helped in the emergence of new patterns in urban areas that were not previously familiar. The transformation is measured over time by monitoring changes, additions, and new patterns that appear in the structure. The city, and urban systems are affected by a group of factors and influences that drive them towards change and urban transformation, which causes a shift in the urban system, so this topic will present the concept of transformation and a number of studies that examined this concept and the factors leading to its emergence. Transformation is considered one of the dynamic manifestations that reflect the nature of human life, and since the city represents the material expression of urban and civilized values for its occupants, which are embodied in the image and form of the city with its material and moral organization. The structure of the city has come to reflect an implicit state in the image of the city to achieve these human requirements, as its parts are linked in a relationship within the whole according to special laws governed by a series of transformations that work to reach a state of comprehensive balance within its ability to self-regulate. Steinberg, 2008, p6).

Types of urban transformations

The term (mutation) is used to give the meaning of the transformation defined by the philosophical lexicon attached to things and individuals and is essential when a new image occurs that follows the old essential image such as the transformation of the living and its transformation into a corpse after its death, and the term change is used in front of transformations and is referred to in the exchange of one issue with another issue equivalent to God and the equation here is What distinguishes one from the other. Transformation is related to change, which is defined as the state of something that it was not in before it moved to it, and it takes place in several areas. There are two types of transformations (Saliba, 1978, p. 259):

Transformations in essence: These are intangible internal changes that occur in the essence of things or in the elements that make up the form, such as the transformation of a living organism into a corpse after the soul leaves it, and this type of transformation is intangible (25. Antoniadis, 1990, P).

Transformations in form: They are external, tangible changes that occur in the external form of things, as in the transformation of an apple from green to red, as well as the transformation of snow into water after exposure to heat, that is, it transforms from one state to another, and this type of transformation is tangible (Antoniades 25.P, 1990), where the new paradigm is created) which includes meanings And intentional ideas that refer to the old model, and this transformation may be at the level of a specific part of the model, thus changing some of the characteristics that characterize it, or the transformation may be at the level of the whole in relation to the model, thus changing the entire shape (Longly, 1994, p84 & Batty).

Most urban studies have focused on considering transformation as a creation mechanism for planning production in contemporary urbanism, and a number of studies have indicated the impact of the concept of transformation on the structure of meaning. another shape ", And between the existence of certain strategies for transformation or the transformational process that have a great relationship with the visual value of the production generated from those transformations, which the recipient senses through internal and external dynamic stages (Antoniades, 1990, P). Emerging problems based on previous solutions interested in building ideas as a fundamental basis and influenced by many subjective and objective forces, internal and external, such as community values, prevailing concepts and ideas (Khalil, 2002, p. 5). The researcher believes that the process of transformation is a complex and continuous process of changing the physical forms that takes place gradually over time in response to the surrounding conditions and the factors influencing them, and thus produces new forms that differ in appearance while retaining some of the original properties of the old forms. Through the foregoing in this paragraph, which included an explanation of most of the philosophical concepts of the transformation process, as well as the study of the types of transformation, it became necessary to know how the transformation process takes place in cities known as urban transformation

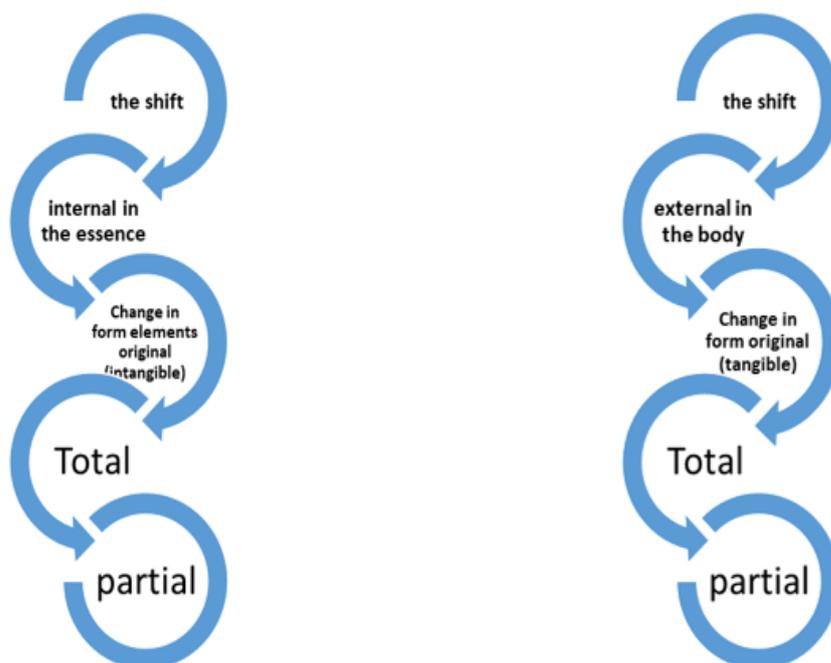


Figure (1-1): shows the types of urban transformations. Source: The researcher based on the previous information

Mechanisms and formulas of urban transformation

Al-Ani's study revealed "some transformation mechanisms carried out by the architects of deconstructive architecture through their violation of the approved laws such as continuity, distortion, fragmentation, repetition, tearing, confusion and deviation. This is to erase the images of modern architecture and post-modern architecture. These transformational processes affect the meanings presented and sometimes contradict them (Al-Ani) 2002,52). The study of (Al-Naeem) also revealed two mechanisms of transformation in the search for architectural identity, which are (Al-Naeem, 2001, previous source, p. 111): Qualitative continuity: in which something is either qualitatively constant at all times or is subject to qualitative transformations over time. In this case, the continuous qualitative transformation represents the urban structure, representing a series of small changes that occur in the built environment when people begin to test potential visual and spatial media. to express their individual and collective values. Spatio-temporal continuity: which means that the place a thing occupies changes over time. As is the case with qualitative continuity, the spatial continuity is characterized by the existence of a continuous movement consisting of small movements that the relative location is exposed to. As for Bogner's study, it mentioned "the derivation mechanism, which is at the level of the city, where it is possible to derive the final images of the city either from the historical urban landscape or from the urban context through the process of rational restructuring of the city to its basic urban realities." Either the urban transformation formulas are either at the level of elements (parts) or at the level of relationships that may be apparent relationships or substantial relationships. External circumstances led to a change in the relationship or element. (Ibid. Source, p. 52). After identifying the urban transformation and how urban transformation occurs in city centers, we will move to the urban landscape and learn its components and elements and how urban transformation affects the elements of the urban landscape urban landscape

1- Idiomatic meanings of the urban landscape

The term townscape (urban scene) is one of the relatively modern terms, and it has been used in many urban and architectural studies to denote a variety of meanings, some of which were linked to subjective interpretations, while others were characterized by comprehensiveness and non-specificity, while some of them were marred by ambiguity and lack of clarity in their dimensions. Urban and spatial in the city at its urban and architectural levels.

Townscape is the concept of acquiring an integrated physical vision of visual and sensory effects, i.e. what the human eye sees in the city and senses perceive and interact with in the urban environment, through sensations linked to the human entity of unity, place and experience, through concepts related to the visual aspects. And the perceptiveness of the urban landscape, such as visual homogeneity, integration, and internal organization, whether it is conscious or subconscious. It is the criteria circulating in the urban image that in turn create meanings for the urban environment. Each urban area has its own identity that distinguishes it by organizing the elements of the physical environment based on a set of determinants and design elements, in order to avoid the occurrence of any error that may result from the constant human need for change, and to provide the necessary flexibility for future expansions (Al-Baluri 1997, p. 168). Previous research and studies indicate that there are multiple and varied definitions that do not differ in their content by expressing the concept of the urban landscape, but the difference in those definitions enriches the image of that landscape and its elements and components.

Where the researcher (Ward) believes that the urban landscape can be defined as

Organizing the elements of the physical environment in the city, which crystallizes the integrated urban and sensory image of the relationships between the elements. It gives the city

its identity and distinctive urban character (Ward, 1968, p165). While the researcher (Eames) defines the urban landscape as: everything that appears from the city, is seen by the eye, perceived by the senses, and interacts with it in the urban form through a sense of unity, a sense of place, and a sense of experience through Several concepts, such as homogeneity, integration, and sensory and visual organization (Eames, 1977, p233). Whereas (Megerson) believes that the urban landscape is a visual impression of all the city's elements and components, as it is affected by a set of fixed and variable factors that affect the city's entity. While the researcher (Young) defines the urban landscape as: that scene that includes buildings, trees, gardens, sky, water, colors, buildings, surfaces, and floors, it is a three-dimensional phenomenon surrounding us that we move in and through (Young, 1977, p25). The researcher (Sbarp) also dealt with the changes that were made to the structure of the city due to social factors or economic factors ... which affected the formation of the city's structure, leading to the reasons that led to the distortion of the urban landscape (Sbarp, 1967, P12). The researcher (Smith) believes that the urban landscape of the city is: It represents one of the directions of urban design, which works to create visual relationships (space - spatial) between the characteristics of the vocabulary constituting the urban environment and organizing it in a structural framework, leading to the dramatic vision of the components of the urban body (Smith, 1977, P25). (Cullen) emphasizes that the organization of the urban landscape and the sense of it is related to the comprehensive organizational view of all the elements of the urban landscape, which consists of the interdependence of these elements with each other, which contribute to drawing the character of the urban landscape. He pointed out that the art of the relationship between the elements is what gives a harmonious scene, that is, the art of the relationship that he emphasized is the art of assembling buildings together to achieve one scene with an aesthetic dimension and specific characteristics. Visual sensory pleasure, and this is what a separate building does not give. So that the urban form system can be known in several levels.

- A two-dimensional system, which is meant by (the urban fabric) at the level of the plan.
- A three-dimensional system, which means the urban landscape and the details it includes (1971, p. 133, Cullen)

Spreiregen believes that the physical form of the urban landscape is a system of physical components, spaces, activities and movement systems. And the process of arranging these components, their positional formation, their reception by the recipient, their visual relations and their effects must be adopted as principles in urban design (p.69, Spreiregen, 1965). As for (Kevin Lynch), he believes that the elements that contribute to drawing the general features of the image of the urban landscape consist of (Kevin Lynch, 1959):

- 1- The schematic structure of the city
- 2- Overall urban form
- 3- Individual Character Space Organization
- 4- Individual characteristics (relationships).

Thus, he emphasizes the integration of the urban image through the organization of its constituent elements, and the role of visual relations that organize these elements and crystallize the integrated sensory image of the urban landscape.

Spreiregen also pointed out that urban formations consist of two main elements:

- Physical structures (fixed elements): - They are represented in the physical form of the urban landscape.

Visual activity (animated elements): It is represented in the events and activities consisting of the movement and sounds of people, vehicles and crowds that define the place for us and determine its identity (Spreiregen 1965, p.59).

Theorists agree that the urban landscape consists of five basic elements (facades, floors, detailed elements, ceilings, moving elements) (Al-Ahwal, 1986, p. 60). It is clear from this that the urban landscape consists of (fixed) physical components that can be controlled by formal relationships. Through some design and organizational determinants, And visible (animated) activities that cannot be controlled but directed. And that the personality of the urban landscape depends on organizing these components and showing them in a unified and homogeneous manner, provided that the unified formation moves away from the monotony that leads to boredom. We can define the urban landscape as what the human eye sees and the mind perceives, which gives an integrated visual impression of all the physical elements in the city. Therefore, the process of organizing the urban landscape is one of the important processes for organizing the relationships between the physical elements in the city.

Urban landscape levels

In his definition of the urban landscape, (Papageorion) gives levels to the city landscape, which are: (Papageorion, 1971, p75):

1: Town Scape as a Visual Composition

The city landscape is the visual and aesthetic aspect of the urban formation, where the landscape is formed through the organizational relationships of the multiple composed elements that man makes himself within the urban agglomeration and the impact of this organization on perception (and perception is defined as the acquisition, storage and organization of knowledge in a way that ensures the ease of its recovery and the formation of certain concepts According to it) (Al-Kinani, Amer Shaker, 2006 AD, p. 18).

2-Town Scape as a Spatial Composition

This reality reflects the three-dimensional spaces and takes its distinctive characteristics in particular from the rhythmic, harmonic and symmetrical properties of mass and space, which are present in:

- A- The relationship between solid walls and openings within urban spaces.
- B- The relationship between building sizes and open areas within urban spaces.
- C- Because of the factors of development and adaptation of the urban environment over time, the fourth dimension (time) is currently included in the picture as another factor, as the organizational capabilities of space today have been enriched with two new factors that qualify for creating a more integrated and flexible urban landscape in the future, and these two factors

They are (Papageorion, 1971, p76):

Mobility and flexibility of human-made structures.

- 2- The possibility of achieving total integration of structural spaces and natural spaces.
- 3: Town Scape as a Sphere for Human Activities

In addition to the visual and spatial space of the urban landscape, it fulfills other functions beyond that, as it works as a field for human activities and represents the reflection of the technical activities of the prevailing aesthetic methods and social structure of any time period. Sometimes the urban landscape is the product of the cumulative achievements of

different periods of time that reflect the historical continuity of human life and the cultural development of man. The urban landscape is a discourse tool for individuals and groups (Papageorion, Ibid, p79). Therefore, the scene should be filled with beneficial motivational charges that lead to the development of public taste and the development of the aesthetic sense of society. The scene, with its functional and aesthetic elevation, also contributes to stimulating and developing the sensory and behavioral abilities of its users, and generates new social characteristics and practices that elevate society to higher ranks. Thus, the urban landscape has performed a civilized message, in addition to its other functions.

Characteristics of the urban landscape

There are general determinants and indicators for the organization of the urban landscape, which provide the designer or planner with the possibility of achieving certain characteristics in the urban scenes of the urban environment to be designed. It defines formulas for arranging the relationships between the elements on the one hand, against the expressive properties of organizing the relationships on the other hand. Cullen has defined a set of arrangement formulas that lead to triggering certain expressive properties as follows (Cullen 1968, p.9-14):

First: the characteristics of urban succession

Various urban scenes are received. With a certain succession that leads to the excitement of visual drama, and the identification of locations in which the environment needs the events of cases of surprise that give life to this series of succession, and "Cullen" presents several mechanisms for the events of this surprise by manipulating the locations of the elements, changing the formal configurations, changing the floor levels, or changing Surface characteristics such as color, texture, or changes in movement paths.

Second: the characteristics of the spatial location

The expressive characteristics of the different external spaces according to the different needs of the population, such as spatiality and containment. Determining the method of organizing these spaces to achieve the required levels of these needs, by defining the external spaces and defining their locations, measurements and visual characteristics, which will have an impact on creating a sense of the recipient's location inside or outside the place. The relative location of spaces by achieving a sense of this location. As a result of the interrelationship between these spaces, and "Cullen" expresses this in terms of the relationship of God and God, and proposes several levels to achieve this. By framing scenes and seeing one scene against another. And manipulating the locations of the characters.

Third: the characteristics of the spatial content

Visual expressive properties of walls, details, and floors, and their various variables of decoration, materials, and intensity of lighting with the possibility of regulating the relationship between these properties, in order to enhance the expressive properties of spaces (Cullen, 1968, p. 161.). This method deals with the visual aspect of the generation process through the possibility of controlling and controlling the expressive properties of the urban landscape interfaces, and controlling the different methods of organizing the urban landscape.

Elements of the urban landscape

The urban landscape is represented by a set of influences that express the integrated vision, including visual and sensory, of the components of the city, as it includes a set of physical characteristics represented by blocks and spaces, and differs from one city to another according to the environments and nature of the society that lives in the city. Essential, and

what the eye sees, interacts with and perceives in the urban environment. (Al-Futyan, 2005, p. 23)

The most important elements of the urban landscape in terms of urban space and natural characteristics can be referred to as follows: Wankhede, 2017, p. 14).

1. View scape: This term depends on a set of elements, such as interrupts, edges, paths, nodes, and features, in addition to the shape, including color, size, and related matters.
2. Touch scape: It represents the elements associated with raw materials and feeling, such as dryness, coldness, and texture such as roughness and hardness.
3. Sound: Sound scape: This element includes the sound and its characteristics such as sound dimensions, sound signs and signals, in addition to the reverberation time and everything related to sound.
4. Smell Scape: This element has odor classification properties.

The elements of the urban landscape can be summarized as follows:

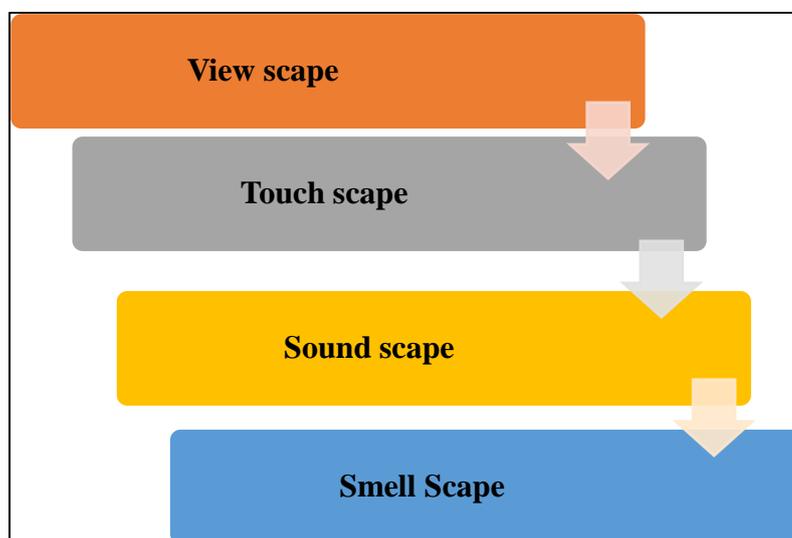


Figure (1-2) shows the elements of the urban landscape. Source: researcher's work

The urban landscape depends on determining the identity of the place on these elements. Through these elements, its identity and affiliation are determined, and these elements can be clarified in connection with the urban landscape of the place and its identity on the vision scene, as it is:

The vision scene includes the effect of color on the place, buildings, and the city, and color constitutes one of the most important sensory and visual elements in the city within its urban landscape, where color and the planning of the color scene play an important role in the city and give identity to the connotations and urban identity of the place, buildings, and cultures, where colors are identified in the city and places. The old ones were characterized by the natural colors of the buildings in a manner that takes into account its coordination and homogeneity in accordance with the spirit of the place and the culture of the population and their nature and cultures. Thus, each city was distinguished and unique with a color identity that distinguishes it from other cities. With regard to the focus of this research, we find that the religious world and symbols, characterized by domes of turquoise colors and gradations, have created a distinct mental and symbolic image for consideration. In the minds and memories of people over the years, the turquoise domes are still a color symbol referred to as a sign of

religious use. Color is considered one of the important elements that express movement within the urban spaces and give them continuity and formation of the scene within the urban spaces, as the placement of color is in a sequential manner and commensurate with the nature of the space. Also, the difference in color gradations as a result of light and shadow, in addition to the change of scale and relative size, which also affects the value and importance color in the urban landscape. (Gorzaldini, 2016 p. 4).

The quality of the residents' sense of the urban landscape also depends on the speed of their movements within the urban space according to the color element. The general urban space, and we conclude that there is a relationship between the element of color and the urban landscape, which can be summarized in the following scheme (Gorzaldini, 2016 p. 6).

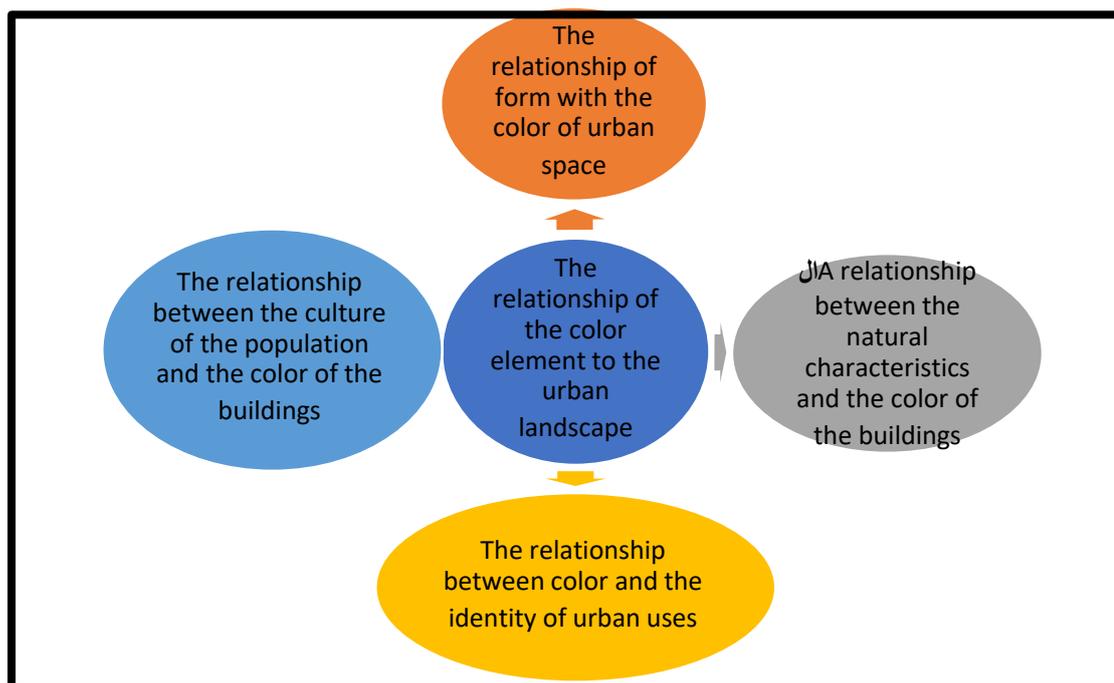


Figure (1-3) shows the relationship of the color element to the urban landscape.
Source: researcher's work

As for the elements of the urban landscape within the urban structure of the city, its elements can include two main parts: (Hussein, 2012, p. 24)

1. Urban facade elements

These elements express the facades of the buildings, including walls, doors and windows, as referred to by Antoniadis and also included the vertical and horizontal components of the buildings in addition to the additional vocabulary such as the chanasheels and the elements that express the culture and identity of the population, as the elements of the urban facades were classified into aesthetic plastic elements such as columns and everything that is related to building blocks.

2. Elements of outer space

These elements include spaces such as floors and elements of the land scape, that is, elements of the street, in line with the constituent elements of the urban facades, which add to the place a spirituality and belonging according to its characteristics, and with regard to the relationship of urban transformation with the urban landscape within its elements, it is that the urban space within the elements of the urban landscape witnesses continuous change and

transformation depending on The development of several factors, including economic, social, natural, and environmental factors in the city Cities have tended in the current era towards continuous transformation due to many reasons, including the needs of the growing population, and infrastructure problems arising from high density and conditions of need for housing, in addition to several problems, including problems of industrial pollution, and the renewable requirements of the changing social structure, which require identification and planning of urban transformation within a framework The elements of the urban landscape while preserving the identity of the place and use with the aim of preserving the identity of the city and its landmarks within its urban uses (Alpopi and Manole, 2013, p 21). The urban transformation within the urban landscape of the city includes a set of comprehensive and integrated approaches, strategies and procedures with the aim of improving the economic, social, physical and environmental conditions of the urban spaces that have been subjected to collapse and deterioration. 16) Where urban transformation within the city space provides opportunities to restore its identity, improve living conditions, provide public and green areas (gardens and recreational spaces), and develop modern urban infrastructure that is consistent with urban transformation, without changing not only the physical characteristics of the space and the identity of the place, but also the social structure and dynamics. Economic, social, including cultural, in the city, with the need to preserve the element of color and features of the city that reflect the identity of each use (Alpopi and Manole, 2013, p. 30). From the foregoing, we find that the relationship between the urban transformation and the factors affecting the urban landscape lies in the need to ensure that the transformation is within the scope of the city's response to the need for transformation without a negative impact on the elements of the urban landscape in a manner that leads to visual pollution.

Conclusions

- 1- Urban transformation is a dynamic sequential process that affects the urban landscape of cities
- 2- We can define the urban landscape as what the human eye sees and the mind perceives, which gives an integrated visual impression of all the physical elements in the city. Therefore, the process of organizing the urban landscape is one of the important processes for organizing the relationships between the physical elements in the city.
- 3- The elements that contribute to drawing the general features of the image of the urban landscape consist of:

Overall urban form

Individual Character space organization
Individual characteristics (relationships).

Recommendations

- 1- The need to know the urban transformation is a necessity that the concerned authorities must know to ensure that there is no transformation in the urban landscape
- 2- The need to know the elements and components of the urban landscape in order to enable us to control the sequential and sequential processes of urban transformation.
- 3- The need to collect comprehensive and integrated approaches, strategies and procedures with the aim of improving the economic, social, physical and environmental conditions of urban areas that have been subjected to collapse and deterioration.

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