VISUAL DIRECTION AND ORIENTATION OF URBAN SPACES LEADING TO RELIGIOUS ISLAMIC BUILDINGS IN HISTORIC CAIRO

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Abstract:
Visual direction and orientation are two main visual properties of urban spaces. Buildings laying on the side of linear space is considered to lay on its visual orientation. Buildings laying in the longitudinal axes of the linear urban space facing its width, is considered to lay on its visual direction as a vista. The aim of this paper is to determine dominant, secondary and marginal cases of urban spaces leading to “Islamic Religious Buildings” (I.R.B) in historic Cairo in terms of visual direction and orientation, and in term of spatial quality (Linear and Collective Spaces). This paper followed an Inductive and Analytical methodologies. Several maps in relationship to their manuals were studied in order to identify I.R.B. with their spatial context. The identified I.R.B. were then grouped qualitatively. A quantitative evaluation was applied to each group in order to put into light dominant, secondary and marginal cases. While the existence of I.R.B. on visual orientation of linear spaces came in first place as dominate case with 69.5%, I.R.B. on visual direction of linear spaces came in second place as secondary case with 21.4%. I.R.B. on collective spaces (intimate and celebrative), I.R.B without elevations on urban space, I.R.B. on city gates and entrances came in third, fourth and fifth position with 6.2%, 1.65% and 1.25% respectively and prove to be marginal cases.