

Abstract:

Palestine had gone through political, economical, technological changes in addition to social and cultural transformations through the twentieth century. The changes on these different levels left their print on the urban form. This research addresses the effect of the change of the local culture in Palestine on the sustainability of the urban form. Three criteria of the sustainability of an urban form were adapted in order to measure the change of the sustainability within the Palestinian context, which are: density, mixed-use and open spaces. A number of cultural elements were also determined in order to evaluate their effect on the sustainability criteria, which are: family, women's role, privacy, traditions and social interaction. Hebron was taken as a case study, and a comparison between an old and a new neighborhood was made. It was found out that the local culture at the beginning of the century enhanced the criteria of sustainability of density, open spaces and mixed-use. However, by the end of the century, local culture depresses the sustainability in terms of density and open spaces, but developed the mixed-use.