

The Impact of Contemporary Iranian Society Challenges in Public Spaces of Large Scale Settlements (Case study: Tehran)

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Centralization of major political, industrial and commercial activities in Tehran has been resulted in rapid growth of population throughout the 20th century. Furthermore, the availability of educational and employment opportunities in Tehran has gathered a large number of people from smaller cities and villages having limited facilities. This is perhaps due to two important changes being evident in residential buildings. First, the size of the dwellings shrank and the density increased to house a larger population on a limited land and the city suburbanized and grew in all directions. Second, geographical situation, the possibility of growth was limited by deserts and mountains surrounding the city. Many transformations and reforms have occurred in large scale housing from tradition houses to modern apartments and the concept of urban dwelling has been influenced by different policies including: the rise of oil prices (1970), Islamic Revolution (1978-1979), long war with Iraq (1980-1988), and new waves of major urban developers and so on. Migration as a factor of growth of population is an important concept, not only because of its influences on space and time, but also reflecting the changes which have happened in the fabric of the society where residents belong (changes in cultural, social, economic, and political structures). Social housing, changes in the pattern of household structure, from extended families of the nineteenth century to the nuclear families of the twentieth, has meant a demand for more dwellings and challenge in demand and situation. Fundamental changes in the larges scales houses types have, therefore, changed the life style. The new housing took the form of medium to high-rise buildings to accommodate larger number of people, instead of traditional forms of courtyard. Also, the large-scale housing has generally changed over the years and can be classified in various definitions such as traditional house, middle class settlements, new towns, social house and gated communities. In this research, we focus on the characteristics of large scale housing in Tehran with a brief review on the history of settlement in this city and its theoretical basis. We have done a comparative study on the gated communities, social houses and traditional houses in Tehran with emphasis on social values reflected in the public space. The main questions of this study are on the role of public space in different types of large-scale houses and how is the situation of public space for

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family friendships in different social housing. We investigate the living arrangement, Iranian life style, and social values in the two heterogeneous social houses in the different geo-social location. This research is based on personal interviewing of several groups, as well as visual documentation of the large scale housing(e.g., photos and videos). Field Study and survey research are carried out using a questionnaire distributed among householder in the public space of two different social houses.

Keywords: Modernity, Culture, Religious, Islam, life style, , settlement, middle class, social value, housing, Public space.