

Public Space and Morphology of Neighborhoods

(Case study: Tehran)

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Over the past 460 years, Tehran has increased from 4 square kilometers to over 750, and the number of its neighborhoods has increased from 5 to 374 (In the comprehensive plan of 1992 the proposed number of neighborhoods was set at 524). With the explosive growth of Tehran especially in the last three decades after the Islamic revolution 1978-79, there are many degradation, changement in form of the neighborhoods which, due to their historical background, remind many of Tehran's older citizens of social and political events, and fond memories of leisure times in the past. Contemporary Tehran was formed by the fusion of three distinct cores- *Shemiranat*, old Tehran and ancient Rey. Geographically they form an inverted triangle on a North-South axis, with *Shemiranat* at the foothills of the Alborz mountain as its base in the North, and Rey as its apex in the South. Along with the three core areas, they have also become incorporated into the development of contemporary Tehran, thus creating a very high potential for the retention of geographical and historical identities for contemporary Tehran. This paper uses analysis of types of the neighborhood in Teheran, capital of Iran to examine how physical form produces or reproduces various social forms. This review presents an analysis of current sociology and human ecology dealing with neighborhood morphology. The review is organized in four major sections. The first deals with the concept of neighborhood. The second discusses the classic models of neighborhood change-invasion, succession and life cycle. The third deals with the current perspectives on neighborhood model: demographic/ecological, socio cultural /organizational, political economy, and social movements. The paper argues that the form of the public space in different types of neighborhood. Also, the settlements offer valuable insights into the interaction of human behavior and the built form.

Key Words: neighborhood, Tehran, public space

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