

Modernité de l'architecture de l'Afrique de l'Ouest -vers l'ambiguïté des villes africaines-

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Abstract

The architecture and cities in Africa emerged as the sum of footprints of various cultures involving African ethnic beliefs, Islam thoughts and the colonial modernization. The process of modernization of architecture in West African cities can be trace back from the precolonial to modern era in order to shed lights on means of continuity and changes that characterizes African cities of today.

This study explores the process of making African cities and the factors of development of West African regional architecture and cities. On the basis of fieldwork conducted in historical cities and architecture through colonial and postcolonial modernizations, the study contrasts and compares forms representative models of traditional, colonial and modern architectures. By doing so the study try to establish relation between architecture and various actors of in the field of built environment in African cities. The study discuss and fulfilled: 1) classification of typologies, 2) comparative study of habitat forms and space meanings and discusses the forces of transformation of space meanings through the time. In order to shed lights on the transformation of traditional architecture. The study result through valuable lights in the current aspects of modernization of architecture and the profession of architecte in African countries by raising some of leading problems of the practice of architecture in today Africa.

Through this process the paper aims at clarifying characteristics of survival and changes of regional architecture in West Africa. Furthermore, the study discusses issues of the fundamental concept of African architecture leading to the question of the practice of West African architecture and cities.

Mots clés : African Cities, Modern architecture, cultural heritage