

The Villa as Bios: Gated Communities as a Crystallized Anti-Urban Society

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Abstract

As a post -Metropolitan lifestyle, Gated community sprawl presenting protected, secured communities, reflecting the need for reorganizing a spatial space manifesting a dream for the elite. Whether it is a dream of secured living against the unstable community forced by political regime, or a dream of wealth influenced by the gulf imported undefined lifestyle. The term Villa refers to both social manifestation and the need for redefining local identity. Isolating the community through walls and using different tools for secured settlements, representing the villa as a product of capitalized community rather than a social entity. It becomes a manifestation of economic system that breaks the urban homogeneity establishing new values. Exploring the need for more liberal community, gated

communities are established by the elite, to be able to live within more democratic community. The villa -in that sense- is not an architectural expression of the social values of the elite rather than an expression for the need to isolate from the dictatorial community that suffers from poverty & instability. A bios is being materialized against a normal growth for the city with all its urban fabric, and it is considered -in another level- a manifestation for the bios of capitalism against the identity of local communities, as against its economic systems. The proposed paper is arousing the following question and in search for the answer: Did gated communities achieve the secured urban fabric for the elite? Whether Through architecture expression or urban fabric, its pattern language seems to reflect unsecured morphology rather than secured.

Methodology

The paper is proposing the pattern language and a system of activities as fundamental tools of measurement, exploring “lake view” -as a case study- which is a gated community located at New Cairo & defining the interaction between villas and harmony of spaces, refereeing to defensible spaces design rules. It is expected through paper to investigate the success of the elite residential design (the Villa) within the gated community to its very main target as an expression of bios for values of democracy liberty and secure, in order to discover the system of activities expected. These expected or non- expected activities are a fundamental part of design process, as well as investigating the negative and anti -urban society aspects on city shape and social order, as part of bios held within establishing a community within community.

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Introduction

The search for the features of private villa in the Egyptian society, as an integrated model and complex to the extent of carrying the compounded model's features of human being, and as the villa is an architectural product with distinctive privacy features, we have witnessed its evolution through the past ages in Old Cairo, Khedivian Cairo and Helmeyyet El Zaitoon district in Cairo. Consequently, we always find that the villa has a unique expression in terms of architectural aspects with a primary objective to reflect the values that characterize and signifies the unique class of which its occupants belong to. As well as it-the villa-embodies the inhabitants' ambitions and vision for an integrated system of behaviors that reflects their social, recreational and economic patterns.

Location ... Street ninetieth, New Cairo City, south east of Historic Cairo, and in search for the features of those arrangements/patterns, firstly, one must consider the urban environment as urban design inputs are the guidance and the entry to recognize personalities/characters of the public sphere, also, the relationship between spaces and masses is about integration as space is the carrier of values emanating from activities and practices made and carried out by the place's inhabitants. Secondly, architecturally wise, as masses and its vocabularies/elements are a language of communication that implicitly carries values and meanings, and accordingly features of individuals, an unlimited number of neighborhood of luxurious residential villas, and pockets/plots with a tentative appearance of middle or low-income classes, just terata with architectural configuration and isolated islands.

Time went by ... First decade of the twenty-first century, after hundreds of years of occupation, the implications of modernity, the superficial transition of values, the violent breaking of value's and historical cues, the unconditional submission to assessments carried by the western models as well as to unconditional ratification of the grandeur of history, and also many factors, including social mobility after 1952's revolution and openness, prompted media carrying untested/untrue messages, visual and readable media stenographer of culture, privatization, isolation of the poor from housing policy and real estate market. All these factors, have led to the occurrence of chaos and confusion, and sometimes the denial of ourselves as we are, with all of our structures.

Time and place do a resulting grey-alike features of urban environment, a non-specific model of planning that does not have a coordinated environmental or

economic values but for it's considered a place to escape for people who are financially capable, outside the framework of environmental/cultural pollution of Cairo city. On the other hand, the exclusion process of the least richer classes through housing policy, appears clearly at the local level of new cities, through the exclusion of medium/low class housing units in urban communities of their own with incomplete services or construction works. In addition, these unfairly dealt with units/urban communities, suffer from the lack of economic, cultural services and other needed services in general, and is also suffering from neglect and poverty in their architectural expression, also these gatherings are considered to be few in size and number among the rapid urban growth which has allocated most of the territory for the developments projects those are profitable and allocated for the financially capable social segments as closed/gated communities.

This isolation, which Eric Dennis dealt with through analysis, to try to link this desired isolation of the upper class, and between the security value as a primary desired goal of this exclusion, and possibly the social discrimination.

However, the insulation is a tool to install the bias features and desires of the upper class, also, to accommodate with its insistence on the separation from society, and this raises the questions:

Have gated communities succeeded in achieving its goal of escaping from the responsibility to communicate with the community in the form of urban bias surrounded by a fence, announcing its own rules as a city within a city? What are the values that underlie cities in the first place?

Where does the villa stand from that bias? The villa is a mean of bias, so that to pay off the controversial separation of identity - the villa has become a metaphor for economic patterns of certain sphere of individuals so that they can be included in a cultural group representing a group of owners of villas with different appearances for cultural backgrounds with their goals and values. This group may be divided into smaller groups depending on features of political, economic or social distinctiveness under the same umbrella. The bias in this context is a selective bias taken from the desire in the value of security as a pretext to escape from the core issue which is controversial expression of identity and understanding of the self's features, unconsciously to ignore the responsibility of belonging to a society and thus it's to be denied that the villa is an architectural product that reflects a certain society class with

all its vectors of cultural patterns including basic features, dreams, hopes, ambitions and values of which this society believes in. Such bias against the community has taken the idea of isolation as a strict framework as closed/gated societies, expressing a form lacking the characteristics of urban and social values.

And to find out the answer to these questions, it's possible to trace the value of security in closed societies through the study of stereochemistry spaces adjacent to the villa and its surroundings, using analysis elements by which to measure the basic concepts those shaping a society with a certain degree of harmony and security, despite the lack of clarity of its core cultural features, in an effort and search for these features by experience and interaction with the built environment and spaces, whilst selecting what is desired among them and expressing dreams of one's self.

Bias

Bias in the language is to own, and bias means having a specific choice of which individuals tend to take in accordance with their unique concepts/life views and their interpretation of the surrounding phenomena, also, in accordance with their awareness of the reality being experienced.¹

Bias as a Language and Sunnah

The origin of the arabic word of Bias as Hawaz, which includes only three arabic letters as (H, W and Z) as in (ح، و، ز)، reflects three meanings where cited by most dictionaries, linguistic and Qur'anic commentaries,² either together or separately, as sum/add (assembly), the bound (the united), and stepping down.³ Messiri sees that curriculums, forms of knowledge, and means of research:

“are not completely neutral”⁴

But:

“they reflect a set of values that define the field of vision and the research path, also they decide many of the results in advance”⁵

And this, says Missiri,

“what we call the term bias”⁶

When further explaining this, it's noticed that the curriculum/model hold within its core certain cognitive dimension, and a dimension of value, which means

that methods and models tend to take sides and make connections with certain elements, this is what Messiri called to be values or standards.

The presence of these criteria and these values - as already we have identified - are “closely approach Obalmazj, and terminology, and behaviors, and clothing ...] to the extent of being hard to get rid of them, is the so-called Messiri's “bias term”.

The emergence of the city in Ibn Khaldun's view:

It is necessary to place the definition of the city of the possibility of connecting the closed community in New Cairo with the cities' emergence system and their relationship to the state/city emergence evolution stages in order to understand the reasons for its appearance in theory. Since city is in Ibn Khaldun view is considered as “the very goal of urbanism,” which is the same as “the very goal of possession”, and once urban environment reaches its utmost extent, then this very extent is a sign for the beginning of its corruption and resources waste era. In light of that, the state and possession are the image for creation and urban environment, and made from all as consisting of parishes, cities and other conditions, however, he -Tarek Wali- believes that regions those form places of possession, do self-ruin by the ruin and derogation of the state, assuredly, this urban presence whether was a place for possession or not: If succeeded in reaching its supreme purpose, it turns to corruption.⁷

According to the above, regarding the example of New Cairo, it can be noticed that the situation starting from the political decision till the emergence of gated communities, is an expression of class differentiation and bias those are made by means of separation, which also includes the isolation of middle class and poor housing away from the housing policy, this can be explained by Ibn Khaldun as follows:

“The origin of the disparity between city population is prestige and power not money because material medium of exchange; is belonging and derived from immaterial elements, the social status of the individuals in the city were not dynamically renewed for what they possessed as they rarely had possessions, but were rather determined by prestige, wealth and influence they had. Thus, urbanization didn't occur gradually, but was suddenly taking place with a certain kind of an evolution in relation with a political change of society. the state in this case is the form that determines the level of development of this

¹ (Badran, 1992)

² (Haroun, 1990)

³ (Manzor, 1988)

⁴ (Badran, 1992, p. 10)

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ (Wali, 1996, p. 101)

society and the state is also responsible for the appropriate conditions for the growth of social life in the city whilst securing the conditions of production/construction within the entities of the city".⁸

In this context, the state or the ruling elite gathers funds of the parish and spend it within the same system and those who are responsible for the system, only then, their money expands with their prestige, mostly more than its breadth with money itself. However, Ibn Khaldun condemns this civilization, and he says it is the extent of urbanization and the end of its era, also it is a sign for its decay and corruption. The corruption of which Ibn Khaldun refers to here, is noticed in two types: one is the corruption of urbanization in terms of its image and the other is in terms of its substance, yet, the materialistic corruption here means the venality of which affects individuals those are the substance of built environment. In addition, the civilization criticized by Ibn Khaldun is the civilization of consumption without the planning nor production, a civilization of those who are unable to work and defend themselves to persist the returns of their own indulgence, it is a life of parasitic group on the surface of the city, living, consuming and waste at the expense of all parish whilst seizing their funds and their values of work.⁹

Values Which Form the City's Urban Structure

Ibn Khaldun talks about bringing benefits and avoiding harmful activities/settings, whilst applied on all inhabitants of the city and not just part of it, so, when dealing with the theory of Ibn Khaldun, it is to be taken into consideration to be applied on several levels. This is due to the change of several concepts, some are related to the well-being, prosperity, benefit and convenience (bringing benefits), and the other is related to achieving stability, security and peace of mind (avoiding harmful activities/settings) because the definition of both slit components is different from one social group to another, and in fact, these values are not necessarily applicable for all segments of society. Also, the insistence on turning the notion of achieving security, stability or peace of mind into an advertising and promotional goal for closed/gated communities implies the absence of the goal's presence outside these communities and therefore, the idea of bias grows at the level of value. Considering for example that achieving the value of peace of mind for example is closely linked to the high economic standard which is necessarily related to power/degree of influence (as demon-

strated in the media, and explained by Ibn Khaldun), However, these promoted notions are not offered necessarily in closed societies, as demonstrated later.

As for the values of equality through justice, their absence is a scourge foreseeing the collapse of the city,

"Injustice indicates the ruin of urban environment, whether such injustice is a result of cumbersome fiscal policy or bringing other types of abuse on the population and going beyond the state's legitimate policy, because there's no dignity for the state without individuals and there's no power for men without money, and there's no way nor route or access for money without the architecture, whilst there is no way to architecture without justice".¹⁰

Among the most prominent types of justice for Ibn Khaldun is the economic Justice, as injustice as a sign for the ruin of urbanization is beyond the tax injustice to include the domination of trade by taking people's money through a penalty policy.

It's clear here that the problem of social and urban exclusion is a bias not only to the lifestyle of entertainment, but this entertaining appearance is necessarily linked to higher classes of the community. whilst scourge appears when bias is in value of which being promoted in the media as primary objective of closed societies, showing an expression of bias on several levels starting from bringing benefits and avoiding harmful activities/settings, to being totally isolated away from responsibility. In light of that, the differences between the circumstances/time of the emergence of this theory and the present time, is that there is no evident features for values expressed by the class of which desires achieving stability and security while expressing its activities, homogeneity and dreams.

Given that security is the primary objective of this isolation, it can be measured by studying spaces as defensible spaces, as well, pattern language is considered a mean of measuring urban and architectural problems.

Creation/urban environment as a mean of forming communities in its material composition, is a tool of expression and measurement for the behavior of individuals, considering that activities practiced by individuals are one of the tools to recognize their own cultural characteristics, since spaces contain the carried out activities, also it represents and regulates their -individuals- effectiveness with themselves and

⁸ (Wali, 1996)

⁹ (Wali, 1996)

¹⁰ (Wali, 1996)

others, also, the very same space, receives and evolve with different streams and patterns of activities being carried out within, causing a value transfer from immaterial form –psychological form- to a material form – space, this value transformation allows the space to reform, and re-correspond to new variables , showing a reciprocal relationship and always in the case of the formation.

The Concept of Pattern Language

Pattern language is one of the frameworks to understand the effects of urban design and architecture on social, political aspects. It's possible through this framework to achieve several advantages in design (or in solving the problems of existing urban environments) as in linking between the social aspects and used spaces. This pattern language can also be used at the level of urban planning with an access to architectural details, in order to achieve the required flexibility in design. In addition, it is a way to link the main objective which is a sustainable design and the limitations imposed by the social and economic conditions and geographical location.

The Concept of Defensive Spaces

It's obvious that defensible spaces concept is to be addressed for the possibility of monitoring its elements in closed societies, agree most of the literature agree on the fact that defensible spaces is a system through which design standards/elements for housing, parks, pathways and residential neighborhoods can be utilized to prevent crime through the realization of the needs and requirements of security and safety. Also, all patterns of defensible systems share a general objective to provide a structured urban environment that enables its inhabitants to control spaces around their homes, where that includes surrounding streets, corridors and spaces of transition, in order to ensure that they -the inhabitants- can observe and control these spaces in accordance with their living requirements.¹¹

Correspondingly, defensible spaces self-depend to provide the required security without relying on the help of professional or governmental authorities, instead, it depends on the behavior of residents and their interaction to reducing crime rate. Also, it attracts people from all different social strata for housing whilst achieving a kind of social homogeneity, as these residents can become acquainted with many behaviors those would improve the neighborhood concepts/definitions and add to their humanitarian and urban

expertise, which accordingly gives them hope and ambition to work on natural social mobility through the acquisition of required virtues and therefore pursuing them.

It is also noted that according to defensible spaces studies that the one's sense of responsibility for the space and property is less when greater number of families participate in the ownership or use of a certain place. and thus, when less numbers of families those are involved in taking responsibility for the use of public property, whether they were interior paths, especially among residential units, or between green areas, this allows a relatively easier informal understanding between these families regarding the specifics of private usage of space and mutual acceptance. On the other hand, when more families share this mutual usage of spaces, it could be difficult to reach such a concept and the usage of space becomes limited as a place for having walk, since it is difficult for the occupants to consider the surrounding places as one of their belongings, as well as it becomes harder to feel that they have entitlement to control, change or to identify activities being practiced in these spaces, so it becomes easier for anyone to sneak into them.

There are many studies dealing with: crime prevention through urban design of the surrounding environment: Crime Preventing Through Environmental Design (CPTED). As the basic principles of which this approach depends on are about the possibility for adaptation of the built environment and to be changed to control the behavior of individuals in order to reduce the fear of crime. these behaviors can be achieved by reducing the contribution of the physical environment in the existence of criminal behavior and thus improving standards of living, thus, it can be defined as: It is the right and effective design for the built environment that could lead to reducing the fear of crime and improve the quality of life to achieve security",¹² this definition assumes that whenever our management of human and natural resources for the built environment was more effective, the more it is our chance to take advantage of benefitting from spaces, as benefit in urban communities means the protection of property.¹³

The definitions of the design word includes the physical, social and administrative aspects where they all aim for positively influencing the behavior of individuals whilst their interaction with the surrounding environment. The aim of the program is to prevent some

¹¹ (Newman, 1996, p. 9)

¹² (Newman, 1996)

¹³ (Newman, 1996)

of the crimes in an environment with specific features and characteristics, by providing alternatives associated with the nature of space and activity. It also includes the design of the materialistic space by knowing the user's social, physical and psychological needs, also, by knowing the expected and desirable usage for the space, whilst taking three axes of the design in consideration: Controlling entrances and natural surveillance (without the use of technology), and enhancing protection.

In addition, the control of entrances and surveillance is one of the previously known and clearly distinctive elements in the field of security achieving. Also, through environmental design, some solutions meet axis I and II while others focus on one of them.

Control approach is a concept of design which aims to minimize the chances of a crime occurrence and it is classified to have a systemic feature aiming to prevent access to desired targets through the creation of possible risks for intruders.¹⁴

Natural surveillance¹⁵ is a design concept that depends on bringing the intruder under surveillance, so the primary goal of surveillance plans is to facilitate the its existence and application inside the place/space, these two axis integrate to keeping intruders outside the space for their sense of high surveillance presence.

One of success factors of defensible systems is being viable by users as they are more knowledgeable of activities taking place inside spaces whilst having a genuine desire to carry out these activities in the optimum way, as professionals such as architects or landscape architects or security experts and others do not to hold all the responsibility of establishing the sense of security,¹⁶ considering that human spaces have certain design goals specified by its users. All these human spaces have a definition which includes social, cultural, and legal dimensions describing the expected behavior for the users' performed and desired activity. As well, all spaces are designed to support and control desired behaviors.¹⁷

Evaluating Spaces

Based on the previous basics, spaces can be evaluated through answering to the following questions:¹⁸

Design process

What is the design objective of the space? What is

the main purpose of which spaces were designed for? What the extent of space absorption of current desired usage? Are there conflicts between current use and the target use of which space was primarily designed?

Definition

How do you define space? Do spaces show who possess them, clearly? What are the space limits? Are there any cultural or social definitions that describe how to use the space? Have regulations and laws been applied clearly regarding the operation of the space? Are there guideposts? Is there any conflict or lack of clarity between the definition of the space and its usage?

Design as concept

How to support the physical design to use? How to define a vacuum support the desired behaviors? Is contrary to the physical design with effective use of space and human activity is required? Is there confusion or conflict in his handling of the control design in a vacuum? Do you design provides the means for ordinary users to enable them to exercise control and surveillance activities natural?

It was necessary to address some of the void defense literature, to be able to understand the philosophy of security within the urban space, in addition to the possibility of exposure when measured for the analysis of the closed spaces in assembly language using the Lake View pattern.¹⁹

The Lake View pattern

Introduction: Hierarchy of Entrances

The hierarchy in the transition from space to another within the city is one of the vocabularies that gives character to the city and reflects what civilization/state gives to populations. In addition, entrances in Lake View as a spatial transition from outside to the inside of the city, or as a spatial transition from the main street of neighborhoods housing to smaller ones, do have non-specific features and they even disappear sometimes.

The Achievement of Standards for Outdoor Defensible Spaces in Closed Societies-Lake view Community:

Problem: the defensible spaces system do succeed when the process of implementation starts from the urban design of cities and ending with the level of residential unit, which is the villa in this case study, through

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ (Newman, 1996)

¹⁸ (Newman, 1996)

¹⁹ Ibid



Figure 1. Location and accessibility of Lake View.



Figure 2. Entrances of New Cairo.

the hierarchy across six basic levels of which an application of control over standards those bringing security and settlement, do take place. Through the observations derived from site visits to New Cairo and the study area, an important question arises, to what extent do closed/fenced community achieves security? Because

the standards of security are not only achieved by building walls but they extend to include the residents' own monitoring behavior, also, the transition from space to another should not depend solely on the signs, but also through the urban design whilst taking into account the creation of a transitional spaces.

The first level of entries:

The entrance to the city: The planning of New Cairo's entrances does not include a clear determination for a space transition Figure 1, where individuals pass through to it would feel as an announcement for entering a new city that represents the future, or representing a different life pattern with a clear urban and architectural vision. Also, the disappearance of a gate or a spatial transition across a square or a distinctive landscaping elements which is different than the outside highway gives a non-specificity feeling and a gray impression of city features. In addition to this, the sudden jump into the city in its most important streets from the outside highway, gives the impression it's totally unsafe, since the ease of access to the city reduces the sense of security, stability and privacy, in the pictures below show the entry point.

Level second: Entrance to the closed society:

The transition to the interior space of the closed society is quite specific with a high wall, giving a clear and direct impression of separation and isolation, it also reflects the concept of achieving security through clear gates, but it does not make clear impression of urban or architectural character for only through buildings those appear behind the fences and trees with a

recreational nature/look. However, outside the walls, pavement and lighting poles give impression of a more stringent and aversion, and walls are solid to keep away the stalking behavior, but it also carries an isolation message against the surrounding urban environment. Adding to this, activities in the pedestrian walkways, spaces within a certain neighborhood cluster are separated from activities taking place in adjacent clusters, thus, this closed community is turned into a city within a city, by separations made of architectural, societal and synergies elements.

Level third of the entrances

Entrance to the residential groups: Clustered villas form housing groups along the road, separated by green spaces and trails movement, while the entrance of each residential group is not specified at all. Urbanely, there is no catalyst to separate these residential groups by gates, as the compound is considered a one neighborhood. In spite of that, processing residential entrances without gated separations, would be achieving more of the concept of privacy and security as in entering from the main gate would allow free roaming within the resort without being questioned. Also, a lot of pedestrian's paths cannot be monitored all the time, and that definitely helps reducing the sense of safety since there're no joint activities among the po-



Figure 3. Lake view master plan and entrances to closed society.

pulation in those scattered parks.

The fourth and fifth levels of the entrances are included within the framework of intimate space adjacent to the villa, so it will be studied through the open spaces later.

General Location of Lake view Compound

The general location shows the absence of hierarchy in the transition from the outside to the inside, as the main entrance is a point of entry control, in addition to the presence of the fence separator defining the limits of compound, but also it cutting off communication between the urban spaces of the city. The idea of bias appears at the level of resolution of security through isolation of which is shown clearly, Figure 4 because in addition to the high walls, the interaction between external environment and internal compound disappears, which is required as a design goal, but it is also one of the main reasons that security disappears, as secured spaces as previously mentioned, depend on clarifying the type of activities and preventing intruders without the use of fencing element. In addition, the need for social aristocracy for insulation is a call in the first place for the idea of bias to achieve the values of stability and tranquility. It is also difficult to identify this community from the outside, and its nature seems closer to touristic hotel facility rather than a distinctive and intimate residential community.

In addition, to reduce the severity of the fence, it is possible to resort to other solutions which enable the achievement of privacy factor, rather than applying bias using the insulation, such as adding transitional spaces around the urban settlement so that it can represent a natural psychological separation for the residential area, and in the same time representing a

space with distinctive and clear types of activities so as to avoid bringing danger to the residential compound, with a possible use of non-solid fences.

There are many styles associated with and complementary to this pattern, such as positive external spaces, green spaces, small squares, network paths, roads, green tracks.

Positive External Spaces within the Assembly Positive Outdoor Spaces Inside Lake View

The outdoors inside Lake View are places to practice various activities that express the recreational lifestyle for residents, associated with other smaller activities, like: open spaces hierarchy, paths form, paths and endings, plant walls, the density of pavement usage also these outdoors are linked to greater pattern which is to recognizing residential neighborhoods and entrances' hierarchy.

Indicating the impact of bias concept to achieve security and stability values:

Control of entrances: the fourth level of control: movement through pedestrian paths around the villas *Figure 5:* The villa's entrances are near to the street, but a lot of pavements have small width, those are not designed for walking usage nor encouraging the perambulation, also there are no green spaces in front of the entrances to give residents an opportunity to move or practice any activity. In addition, the proximity of the villas gives opportunity for social interactions and residents can see the parking places beside the villa. Also, windows near the street are relatively small on the facades, while windows in the back is relatively big for seeing the greenery spaces and background parks, but in the same time it reveals the inside of the villa



Entrance separates between the club and the closed compound.



Closed compound's main entrance.

Figure 4. Types of closed community entrances.



Figure 5. Aerial view showing lake view's self-sustained internal network.

easily. And the surrounding fences almost can't hide the view. In addition, the entrances are far to provide the privacy, but they don't give opportunity to exchange dialogue nor social interactions, which could occur in backyards (Fig. 6).

Access to the villa's private garden:

Some types have a prominent entrance in front but most of them have submersible entrance in front with a shading structure forming a semi open space to express the movement into the villa, and the fences surrounding plots vary between steel fences and short stone fences, which don't form a visual barrier or obscures the vision of the villas, instead, they clearly determine the private and public ownership. These short fences which could be just plant fence, do make a psychological barrier, determining the limitation of private ownership. The public ownership here is not generally a part of the city, instead, it's public for the compound residents, thus the backyards look like they have no determinants, and easy to penetrated somehow, with a variety of path/movement types (Fig. 7).

Monitoring the outdoor spaces of villas

The form of space: we can observe from the case study's general plan, that outdoor spaces which the

villas congregate around it, don't have an obvious geometric or organic shape, because it's a repulsive space, not centric, since villas don't form to create a central space, for one of its properties is to create a space for positive interaction between partners/individuals sharing the same space. On contrary, the non-specific form is hard to be defined also difficult to be observed effectively.

The Objective of Space

Outdoor spaces between the villas aim to provide a special place representing the quietness while bringing peace and serenity, with spaces for light sports activities such as walking or running or riding a bike, through the landscape elements as greenery, water features and paths.

The Usage of Space

No interaction has been monitored with the outdoor space, although there is an existing place populated by families and more than 40 units have been delivered in the first phase, which is considered completely implemented. Showing that human activity is absolutely non-existent, whilst considering outdoor space is abandoned although it's fully equipped. In addition, despite the simplicity of activity types of which expect-



Large Back Windows



Small Front Windows



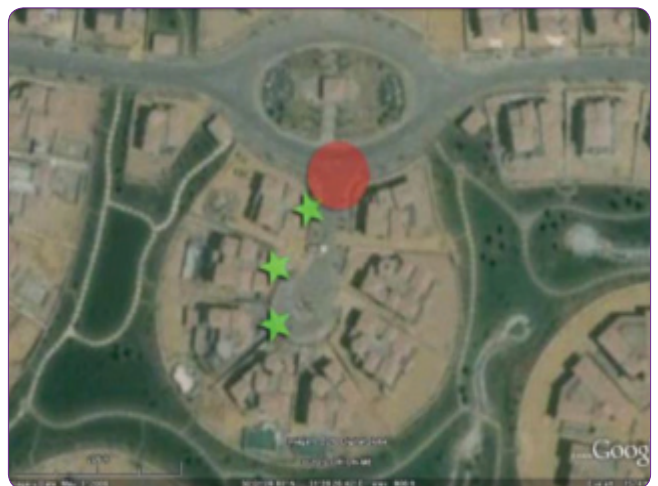
There're no playgrounds or othe types of spaces to carry out activities.



Path Ways in Front of Villas.



Minor Collective Square for Villas



Layout of a Residential Sub-Compound

Figure 6. Spaces hierarchy, Activities and Paths and architectural design elements.



Uniformity of Villas Main Entrances.



Villa's Backyard Entrance and paths connecting between villas.

Figure 7. Villas entrances.

ted to be practiced within these spaces, they never existed, as expected activity can be defined through the landscape features. In addition to this, there are no seating areas or places for chairs, those may be added in another phase, as well as the existing paths are narrow and barely accommodating two persons walking side by side and there is no separation between pedestrian paths and cycling corridor.

There is also no special character for the space, the aim is to include a water feature to be as a natural scene for residents, this reflects the idea that spaces were generated as natural sight scenery purposes more than as a place to practice social and recreational interactions. This is confirmed by the lack of any activities such as playing basketball or football or seating areas those would create opportunities for social interaction, rai-



Figure 8. Villas Entrances.



Lake as an overlook for all exterior spaces - a distinctive element for spaces, in addition to pergolas, however, with no seatings, even it might not be used by the population due to the lack of familiar activity around or near the lake.



Intimate space of the villa - the pool is essential element, in addition to a fence that was added by the resident, of which is covered with vegetation, and also near the swimming pool exists an umbrella for drinks.



Pedestrian paths that link all elements with each other, are narrow with no possibility of holding individuals with cyclists.



Each villa overlooks the lake and a large garden of which forms the neighborhood's shape.



Rows of villas also seem as a wall.

Figure 9. Spaces, Connections and Activities.



Seats to sit in spaces of distinctive areas.

sing the question about the primary goal of a residential community if the goal is not social interactions.

The lack of clarity in the form of space and boundaries whilst not answering questions determining the use of space, reflect an important result which is the lack of a sense of responsibility towards the users of spaces, consequently, the lack of ability to participate in the formulation and landscaping of this space. Considering that one of designing duties is to know what users really need regarding activities, so, supposing there are existing playgrounds somewhere far inside the cluster, this does not necessarily eliminate the need for the existence of playgrounds and spaces made for specific activities near the villas. *Figure 9*

Intimate spaces of the villa are mostly similar, in terms of the distribution of key elements as swimming pool and the entrance to open spaces behind the villas, and similar also at the fence in terms of shape and height, while there're no special design features that distinct the intimate space for each villa. However, all intimate spaces do share in small area feature as when compared to the size of the villa and the outside open spaces. Thus, the question here is related to the non-specific use or the possibly specified use of spaces due to the limited options of leisure purposes since it is being exposed to nearby villas' backyards and open spaces, considering in the same time the cultural traditions those put more determination to apply privacy. And this is where the contradiction in bias appear, because how can it be called bias while in the same time bias characteristics inside intimate spaces, are not fully achieved and do not allow maximum freedom even if isolated from outer community outside the closed community gates? Is it basically a cultural issue rather than a physical controlled variable? *Figure 10*

Conclusion of the Visual Barrier, Oblivious Spaces and Villas

Has safety been achieved?

Has stability conditions been provided by isolation which reflect the bias discrimination?

Has fenced community achieved the dream of stable social life which is based on clear principles, positive and effective practices of life, to be an experience about a society expressing itself, or it's just a hotel accommodation to a class of which couldn't correct its own deflection of appearance and its continuity?

The most simplest basic principle for any community is preventing/pushing away harm, has not been achieved, since the previous analysis reveal an im-

balance in the meaning of proposed safety in the urban design for open spaces of this urban community type, as one of the most important regulation in the defensible space is to identify the activities which will be take place inside the space, an addition, to determine behaviors which will be used to carry out these desired activities and practices inside the space. In addition, the hypothesis that activity is not defined or non-existent, raises a controversial argument that if these spaces are just being placed for beautification and bounding law factors more than being as a space for activity practicing, which weaken its role in being a defensive space with a property to prevent and detect intrusions.

In addition, the study area consists of a group of villas overlooking the main entrance over the street, and the back is overlooking the green spaces, which creates a kind of imbalance in understanding the language in which villas were compounded, as the design around a space has an aim of creating a special central space, where joint activities can be practiced, which enable families to make friendships and mutual relations, as well, back space is overlooked by other villas from nearby residential groups, so the neighbors who will have the opportunity to meet each other, they are in fact residents of the nearby neighboring groups, while the formed space resulted of villas does not have a specific character or form because it is the result of an assembled groups of houses next to each other.

And because the outdoor spaces don't achieve the concept of positivity, which firstly means clarity of space shape and boundaries, and secondly the existence of a specific activity which is agreed on by the users of the space, with the presence of compacted villas as a concrete firewall surrounding emptiness/space without any architectural treatments to create an interaction between mass and void. From the previously mentioned points, it's noticed that security as a target of isolation as a mean embodied in the presence of barrier expressing of bias or social class, is an untested goal with weak chances of success, but only with using aids such as policemen or means of control mechanism.

And it seems that the presence of this barrier is not real, not for its physical presence, but for its functionality absence. So that when internal security disappears, the wall as a part of security system becomes itself not effective.

But for the villa, despite the sale of all units in the Lake View closed community, it's noticed that when comparing the architecture of the villa and its spa-



Public spaces of the garden also leisure and intimate space, in many cases are not separated by any transitional pre-spaces for the private space. As well as the access of the park is possible through the corridors that connect all the parks.



landscaping elements stand for touristic and elite housing, rather than just normal residential units.



Spaces without activities or seating areas.



One of the villas showing communication with the an adjacent exterior space, thereby reducing the privacy of the intimate space of the villa



One of the interior fence models showing the diversity in creating a more private intimate space.



Most of villas exchanged the metal fence with solid fence, using maximum allowed height to block out vision from the villa's interior intimate space.

Figure 10. Spaces and separations.

tial qualities, with Halima or Historic Cairo's villas, it's noticed that two main qualities do exist in the villa's intimate space within this closed compound, the first one is that the space has a specific use, second quality is about the small size of the space compared to the villa's area and also the limited activities to be exercised in.

In addition, it is deplorable to build a city without foundations to bring security, stability and prosperity near of Historic Cairo of which survives since hundreds of years, in spite of the diversity of political, economic and social conditions.

"The knowledgeable makes state as a precedent value for the community, there is no civilian community without the state and when all forces in community fail, the state becomes the only living organism in theory, which plans, designs, builds industry, prepares development plans and controls the chaos of society. and when it cannot achieve all that, this is explained as a deficiency in the application and planning, and when this is failure is criticized, it is not to its hegemony, but because state did not speed up the modernization of society, as in tightening control over it".²⁰

State here became a thinker who formulates and architectural and urban environment selecting the most viable from the society, a moral and material entity that is known for its absence and presence, yet stronger than the practices of citizens, and their urban and professional activities, due to the lack of relationship

of influencing and being influenced. In addition, closed society is also a resulting political and economic decisions those are not made in absence from the state's global strategy, which is also a product of the last stage in the evolution of cities as a model of luxury and well-being whilst being a model for consumption in total contradiction with the urban pockets of the poor.

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²⁰ (Wali, 1996, p. 142)