
CONTEMPORARY ATTEMPT IN AMMAN

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DOI : <https://www.doi.org/10.56726/IRJMETS33066>

ABSTRACT

Amman architecture is changing over time. This change is going rapidly lately especially due to the rapid change in culture and influence of globalization. In this paper documentation for Amman architecture from 2000 - 2018 will be held throughout site visits and Amman municipality support in supplying with the adequate information. The study takes Abdoun region as new constructed area contains villa style which is the core interest here.

Keywords: Contemporary Architecture, Jordan Architecture, History Of Jordan Architecture.

I. INTRODUCTION

This is explanatory thesis to describe Amman architecture after 2000. This paper is supposedly important because it explains contemporary architecture as a term and the related styles as well as how it is linked with the way of thinking rather than a specific style. Furthermore, the way that contemporary is applied in Jordan is discussed.

Abdoun region was the selected area for this study due to two main reasons; the study is interested in villa architecture where Abdoun mainly has this type of building. The other reason is time, as Abdoun is relatively new area and is getting extended rapidly there are a good number of new constructed buildings within the desired time range.

A number of buildings were captured and analyzed depending on contemporary architecture variable which were concluded through this paper.

This research tends to answer these questions:

What is contemporary architecture in Jordan from 2000 up to now?

What is the architectural style for villa architecture in Amman after 2000?

Why these buildings were considered to be contemporary?

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research depends on field survey and visual observation to investigate a number of buildings supposedly to be an example of contemporary architecture in Jordan.

A common features of contemporary architecture will be concluded and based on these features, investigation will be held to decide if these buildings accomplish one or more of these features in order to decide whether the building is contemporary or not. The paper will not discuss the internal lay out of the buildings and its reflection on the external facades. Abdoun was chosen as it is in Western Amman, "it is an area where architecture can be freed from the constraints of pragmatic necessities and economic pressures giving architects the opportunity to experiment with designs that address new ideas, technologies, and social and political orders. Furthermore, the freedom from pragmatism and economic necessity allows architecture to address social, cultural, and aesthetic aspects, and accordingly, to act as a visual metaphor of the value systems of people and the validity of social institutions they underlie." (M.Dahabreh, 2016)

The aim of this paper is to clarify what is contemporary architecture and its applications in Amman through visual analysis. The paper gives the chance for future researches about factors affect applying contemporary architecture in Amman in terms of identity and culture.

General background: Contemporary architecture

Contemporary is a Latin word means time and its form temporis give us the roots temp and tempor. Someone or something contemporary lives or occurs at the same time as someone or something else. In general, contemporary idiomatically has many definitions, and here are the most popular:

o Belonging to the same time. o Happening, existing or living during the same period of time. o Marked by characteristics of the present period. Contemporary can be dropped on whole life aspects including architecture. As architecture already has wide variables to deal with and defining an architectural style for a building is not as easy matter, contemporary architecture became a confusion term and it is narrower than the literal definition. It really became a big debate for many architects to define contemporary architecture. There is consensus that C.A is not about recently constructed buildings. It is to design what is different from what was done in the past and what is usually done today. It is a new process and way of thinking that breaks down what have become standard. So, it is innovative. . To have a better understood for what is contemporary architecture, we should eliminate the concept of being an architectural movement which reflect time or society, nor being a school of thought. So it provides different choices and has high level of variety. (Bovet, BONES STRUCTURE, 2005)

The notion itself is seen as a construction (historical and social) formed by architects as a result of debate, group effort and communication over time. The importance of a contemporary architecture has its roots in the belief in a "Zeitgeist", a spirit of the time. This zeitgeist is the key concept of C.A. (Villner, 2009) As contemporary architecture is about zeitgeist, it is out of time. For instance, modern architecture was contemporary at the time it emerged. As well it is out of specific architectural style...It is changing over time.

Zeitgeist

It literally means "the spirit of the times" or "the spirit of the age." Zeitgeist is the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time. According to David Watkin, the roots of Zeitgeist architecture can be traced back to such architects as Pugin, Viollet-leDuc and Le Corbusier and to historians like Nikolaus Pevsner (Durmüş, 2010). As pointed out by Tim Benton, Zeitgeist is an architectural state obtained by society (Berry, 1997) Alan Philips argues: "... architecture has a moral and ethical base that cannot be separated from the contemporary nature of its cultural and social milieu. Palladio was as modern to the Romans as Koolhaas is to the Dutch. The Zeitgeist is not something to question; it simply exists." (Berry, 1997)

Contemporary vs. modern architecture

"Contemporary" and "modern" architecture aren't synonyms; Modern refers to the modernist architecture of the early and mid-20th century where ornamentation and sentimentality were out; clean lines and superior function were in.

In modern, the structural cage of steel and ferroconcrete had eliminated the walls function of providing support, so wall became a member/screen which could be glass. As well as the plans became free of all supports, skeleton could become open geometries, walls, stairs and other services elements could be placed without distrusting the 3d space.(Larson, 1993)Contemporary architecture can have a number of influences but still tries to be aspirational, visionary, risky and uses new materials in an innovative way. (Corporation, 2003)As a result, contemporary architect has been influenced by the Modern Movement.

C.A basically lays between two opposite strands: neo-expressionism on one side (from Scharoun to Gehry and Hadid) and neo-rationalisms on the other (from certain Swiss and German versions to Parametric design), with a wide spectrum of hybrid tendencies in between. (Corporation, 2003)

Neo-expressionism 1955-present: It is sculpture-like architecture based on the German Expressionist movement from the early 20th century. It is the design to achieve the artistic forms.

Neo-Rationalism 1960-1970: Italian movement rejected the International Modernism and tries to treat architecture only as a commodity. It seeks about logic and reason for everything.

Factor lead to the creation of C.A

- 1- Pressing need must be met such as Increases in population and reduction of resources.
- 2- Coldness and impersonality of modern architecture.
- 3- Computer Aided Design allows the production of incredibly precise, durable, artistic, and efficient architecture.

Despite contemporary architecture is a way of thinking and doesn't have a certain style, but visually still it has some common traits such as:

1. Form: curved lines replaced straight lines (or combination).
2. Composition of volumes: curves allow creating unusual layout for interior spaces.
3. New materials: spatial properties to fit with its forms. Either in reusing old materials in innovative way or using new materials.
- 4- Windows: Larger windows, Multi openings and their uncommon positioning Panoramic windows and skylights.
- 5- Environmental Considerations: it is concerned about Eco- housing and energy efficiency.
- 6- Animated Architecture: to make building feel more alive. For example; animated exteriors (water element, colorful elevations and lighting). (Bovet, 2005)

Contemporary in Jordan

Global architectural trends made a shift in Jordanian architecture through reforming the urban environment, emergence of strange architectural styles and new types of buildings. Diversity of architectural styles led to conflict in arch terms such as identity, privacy, heritage, and so on.

There are two major trends of contemporary arch in Jordan:

- 1- Keep in progress with global contemporary architecture.
- 2- Return to the past and discover its richness. (Rjoub, 2016)

Architects have significant impact on the architecture of local Amman:

- 1- Ja'afar Tukan, Rasem Badran and Waddah el-Abidi. (ghanimeh, 2015)

Architecture in Jordan can be read through Villa architecture in Amman. Building architecture in Amman during the nineties: 1- High rise buildings (hotels and commercial centers).

- 2- 4-storey apartment buildings.3- multi-level road crossing tunnels and bridges. (Hammad)

Buildings analysis

The analysis will depend on the factors mentioned above with eliminating two factors; the composition of volumes because it is about interior, and the environmental factor because it needs additional information.

Zahrn region- north Abdoun neighborhood

1. Muhammad Bdair Street



form	3-Masses (not layers)
material	Stone, Glass and Color incorporation
windows	Large windows with uncommon organization
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits.

2. Alqahera street



form	5-huge masses
material	Stone and wood incorporation
windows	Large windows with uncommon shape and position
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

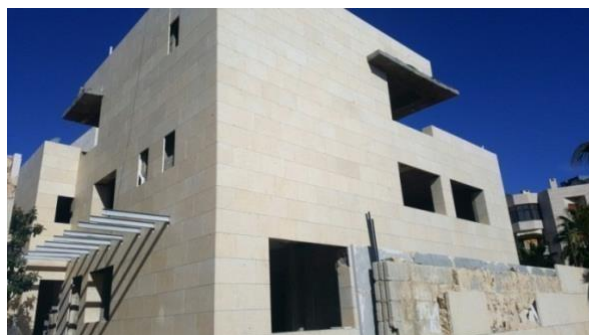
3- Hisham Hijjawi street



form	2-major masses with layers as modern effect
material	Stone, glass and concrete
windows	Large windows with uncommon shape and position
Animation	---

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 75% of contemporary traits

4- Qween Zain Alsharaf street- under construction building



form	2-Huge masses
material	Stone
windows	uncommon position
Animation	

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 50% of contemporary traits

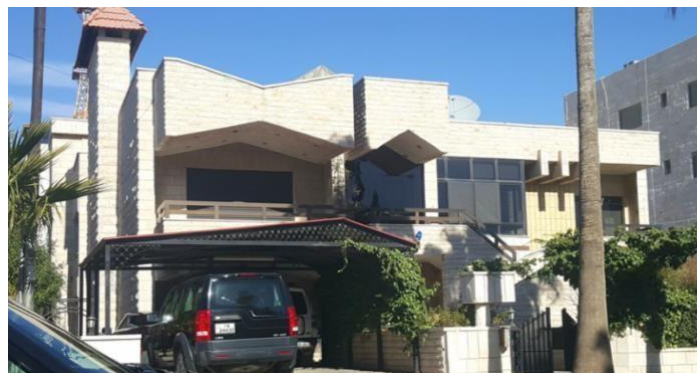
5- Alnibal Street



form	Curves integrated with straight lines to form 3 huge masses
material	Stone and glass
windows	Abstraction in stone
Animation	

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 50% of contemporary traits

6- Jamel Altotanjanj Street



form	Triangle and cubic masses with small layers effect
material	Stone and glass
windows	Large ones
Animation	---

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 75% of contemporary traits

7- Sa'ed Zaghlol Street



form	3-Huge masses of triangle and cubes
material	Stone and wood
windows	Large ones with uncommon position
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

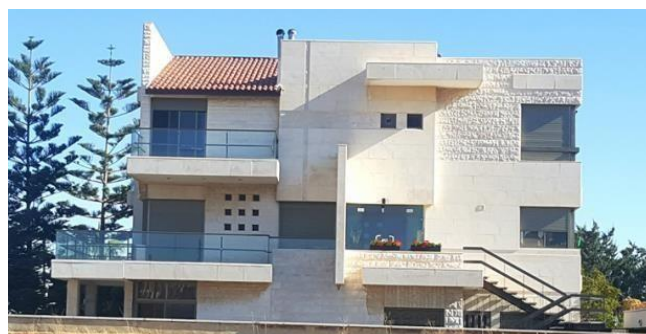
8- Alqahera street



form	2-Huge masses
material	Steel and stone mix
windows	Large ones with uncommon position
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

9- Alqahera street



form	Huge masses with few layers(modern effect)
material	Stone and glass
windows	Large ones with uncommon position and shape
Animation	---

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 25% of contemporary traits

10- Albaja'a Street



form	Huge masses with layers(modern effect)
material	steel and stone
windows	---
Animation	---

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 35% of contemporary traits

11- Albaja'a Street



form	Huge masses of curves and straight line of different angles.
material	marble, stone and glass
windows	uncommon position and shape
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

Zahran region- South Abdoun neighborhood

12- Zuhair Alkhoshman Street



form	3-Huge masses
material	stone, marble and wood
windows	Large ones with uncommon position
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

13- Hasan Abu Ghanemeh Street



form	Huge masses with few layers(modern effect)
material	Stone and Colored concrete
windows	Large ones with uncommon position
Animation	Colorful elevations

Result: the exterior facades accomplish 100% of contemporary traits

III. CONCLUSION

After analysis we can conclude the major elements of contemporary architecture that have been applied in Amman through observation about the most repetitive elements in all buildings. And this is mainly; massing rather than layering, windows organization and the use of new materials.

Despite, there is a clear new way of thinking shaping this type of architecture rather than specific features.

As well, there is factors affect applying contemporary architecture in Jordan. These factors need a new research in future to investigate them.

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