Urban Design Criteria for Makkah Al-Mukarramah Central Area

M. A. B. Alsunari

Supervised by: Majid Abdulsamad Enany

Master Program, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, Faculty of Environmental Design, King Abdulaziz University

Abstract. Makkah City "Ummalqura", the Holy Capital which all Muslims around the world faces it while they are praying five times every day because of the presence of Ka'aba in the Holy Mosque of Makkah.

Today many landowners and investors of large scale or small scale want to invest to Makkah (urban-wise), to get some benefits and to offer the visitors who are coming to Makkah for Omrah or Haj nice comfortable place to stay during the visit.

In this study the researcher concentrates on Urban Design for Makkah City Central Area, the aim is to suggest urban design criteria to control the urban renewal projects which will affect the whole city, not only the central area.

In order to get to the recommendations the researcher went through the present situation of the central area studying some issues (natural topography, transportation, urban issue, services, and finance) also went through the largest five urban new projects in Makkah City Central Area as case studies (Jabal Omar, Jabal Khandamah, Jabal Al-Ka'ba, Jabal Al-kal'a, MCDC 1st Project) studying and analyzing these projects.

Finally the author could suggest some criteria of the urban design; these were as follows:

Urban Design Criteria for Makkah Central Area:
– Maintain Haram as a Landmark of the city.
– Maintain the Natural Slope of the mountains.
– Continuous Prayer Rows from Haram to projects.
– Overlooking to Haram Area.
– Accessibility to the projects.
– Mass Transit.
– Movements (Pedestrians & Cars).
– Car Parking.
– Open Spaces in the projects.
– Land Pooling.
– Special Needs Group (handicapped, low-income).
– Commercial Centres.
– Public Services.