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Design Education: Focus On Cultural and Contextual Impetus

Mehdi Sabet

*American University of Sharjah, School of Architecture & Design,
P.O. Box 26666, Sharjah, U.A.E.*

This paper attempts to present the process of symbiosis between design education and culture - the impact of culture on design and visa versa. Although, the primary design education and its constituent principles remain as universal phenomena; however, this with emphasis on culture as the mediator to augment students design experience makes the challenge of teaching informative. Furthermore I believe, teaching sustainable design remains as the principle impetus behind a good and wholesome design-learning environment, which enriches student's personal development. Design educators must ask, can design help humanity? Design must have a deep understanding of cultural values and relevance to contextual imprint in order to serve human needs.

Case Study: “Kabul Cultural Center”, Fourth Year Design Studio Project

- Examines Kabul as harmonic architectural order and dynamic social spaces, which for centuries provided citizens' livelihood and a framework for social hierarchy. Once a place of "power, politics" and prosperity; with a visionary prudence and community empowerment, these dynamic public spaces could again revive the neighborhood economy, elevate the standard of living, foster social order, and promise viable future for its citizens. The re-construction vision should be a collective desire, instigated by the Afghan people, with commitment of the local authorities, and the help of the international community.
- Takes the position that a re-construction project based on principles of cultural tourism that incorporates traditional building practices, which are environmentally sustainable and economically feasible. The future of this city has to be planned as a people-friendly and safe city that contributes to the economic growth, while improving the quality of endangered environment and preserving the rich cultural assets. Regional and native architectural strategies, as the expression of the evolution of tradition, should be employed to bolster the agendas of cultural tourism, and in return, improve the city's livelihood.
- Recommend, in the context of the "Old City" neighborhood revival, a design proposal for a Cultural Center which to promote Afghan cultural identity and

economic vitality through education offered to the local visitors and tourists. The preservation and endorsement of historic quarters of the city could help to maintain communities' sustainability. "Through such a process, cultural identity could be more readily translated into tangible ways of approaching the environment and the creation of social spaces that have meaning and identity

Analysis: Contextual Phase:



Figure 1 [3]

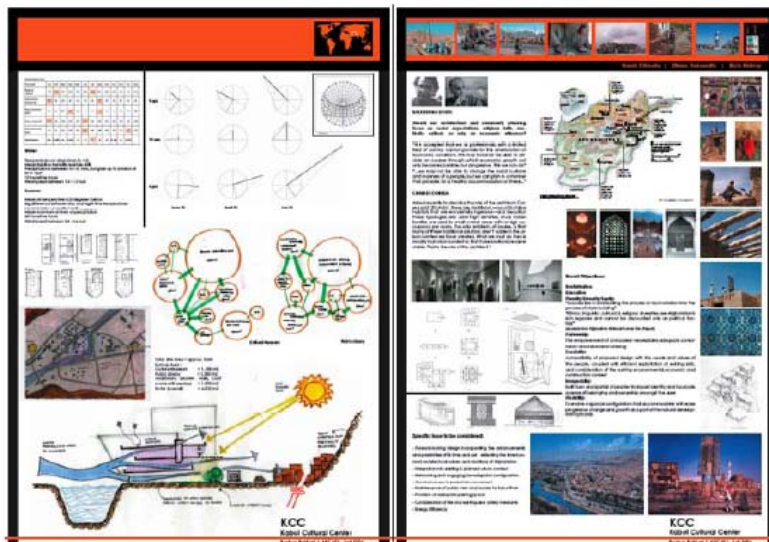


Figure 2 [4]

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