

# Residential Location in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: A Partial Symbolic Representation

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**ABSTRACT.** In the early decades of this century, the study of human ecology at the University of Chicago was influenced by the work of Darwin and the earlier plant and animal ecologists. Robert Park of the University of Chicago applied methods and theories postulated by a number of plant and animal ecologists to a study of the urban phenomena. The central reorganizing concept for both the fields was "competition".

Competition in a city was interpreted as a struggle by individuals for advantageous locations in a geographic space. The individual's success was determined by land values and his ability to pay the rent.

Implicit in Park's analysis is the idea that within a natural community, certain species are segregated from the others. This segregation is the result of the process of natural selection. The basis of this segregation process can be found by examining the groups that have dominance within a community, because the character of the dominant group determines the basic form of the entire community.

Most of the studies that analyze cities of the Islamic culture have highlighted the concept of cooperation. These studies have established that the Islamic cities are built on the basis of "cooperation" not only with regard to geographic urban space, but also in consideration to all other economic and social aspects of urban life.

The Western influence on our local life style is increasing almost every day bringing considerable impact on the structure and content of residential areas. This paper, therefore, attempts to examine the extent of Western influence on the content of two local residential areas in Jeddah. In short, the paper attempts to determine what is shaping the content of the local communities. Is it 'competition' or 'cooperation'?

## 1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to identify trends and directions in residential location in the city of Jeddah. As an Islamic community, the city is characterized by the intermingling

and naturally mixed different socioeconomic classes within one neighbourhood. The rise of wealthy merchant class due to recent economic boom and the influx of rich tourists is creating a distinction between different classes in residential areas.

The idea of this paper developed through readings of research work on human ecology, which began at the University of Chicago, in 1914. Influenced by the thinking of Darwin and of plant and animal ecologists, it stimulated the imagination of the sociologist, Robert Park, at the University. Park applied methods, theories and terminologies of plant and animal ecologists to a study of the urban phenomena. The central concept for both the biological ecologists and the human ecologists was “competition”<sup>[1-3]</sup>.

Park’s idea about ‘competition’ is that it is the fundamental organizing principle in plant and animal community and it also plays an important role in the human community<sup>[2-3]</sup>. In plant and animal community as well as in the case of human population, Park thinks that competition has tended to result in the following:

1. An orderly distribution of population, and
2. A differentiation of the species within the habitat.

Therefore, as the process of ‘competition’ is continuous, Park has indicated that as in the “natural economy”, a balance develops within the community. Each species within that community, as a result of competition, will either find its ecological place or its extinction from that community. Each of the species that remains would use its own part of the habitat, rather than being in competition. They get into a situation of interdependence<sup>[2-5]</sup>.

In an urban area, this implies that an individual of high socioeconomic status is very unlikely to choose to live near a factory or in the path of its smoke or noise, while the poor may be left with hardly any choice.

In the traditional and most of modern Islamic cities, the distinction between different classes of residential areas is not very apparent. A “natural mix” continues to exist between different socioeconomic classes within the neighbourhood.

These neighbourhoods reflect dominant Islamic values, which are: “Equality among people”, “compensation from who can to that who can not”, and “carrying of one member of the community to another”. These and other values are still recognized as important by the planners and others responsible for planning the residential areas in the Islamic community. These values, though spiritual and intellectual in nature, are considered as of prime importance. However, any discussion on the social, political, economic and climatic factors, which undoubtedly are significant, is beyond the scope of this paper.

This conception of a “natural mix” and urban homogeneity of the traditional Islamic cities have been elucidated by some scholars<sup>[6]</sup>. Some observers have even gone to the extent of stating that a majority of modern environments of the Islamic world are suffering from crisis which is most directly reflected in their ugliness and stark contrast with the serenity and beauty of the traditional Islamic city<sup>[7-9]</sup>. Furthermore, they have underlined that the principles and values of traditional Islamic architecture and city planning, which are being often forgotten, have brought the present crisis into being. The patterns

and forms of the Islamic traditional cities are unique by themselves because of the development processes involved. Most of these cities are so much identical in their form and pattern that it is difficult to differentiate one city from the other or even to identify their location from photographs and plans (Fig. 1 & 2). The over riding rule which relates to their development is that they all knit together with the common thread of Islam and Shariah. Therefore, a study of the Islamic environments must of necessity be accompanied by an understanding of the Islamic philosophy and how it is expressed in the builtform.



Fig. 1(a). Vertical air photo of a portion of Old Unayzah, located in the North Central Region of Saudi Arabia.

Source: Joseph A. Wilkes, Editor-in-Chief, *Encyclopedia of Architecture, Design, Engineering and Construction*, Vol. 3, p. 89, New York, John Wiley & Sons (1989).

The all embracing nature of the Shariah, which includes (*ibadat*) as well as transactions (*muamalat*) has made it possible to integrate all forms of activity. Therefore, in the heart of the Islamic city, spaces designed for worship become interconnected with those designed for education, the making of things, business transactions as well as private living, whether in modest homes or in large ones in a totally “natural mix”.

## 2. A Background of The Chicago School's Theory of Residential Location

Darwin's idea of the web of life and the ecological perspective stimulated imagination of the sociologist Robert Park at the University of Chicago. He based his study of the



Fig. 1(b). Oblique air photo of the central portion of Fez in Morocco.

Source: *Joseph A. Wilkes*, Editor-in-Chief, *Encyclopedia of Architecture, Design, Engineering and Construction*, Vol. 3, p. 89, New York, John Wiley & Sons (1989).



Fig. 2(a). Aerial photo of a portion of the West Central area of Tunis Medina, Tunisia.

Source: *Besim S. Hakim*, *Arab-Islamic Cities: Building and Planning Principles*, London: KPI/Routledge and Kegan Paul, p. 113 (1986).



Fig. 2(b). Oblique air photo of a portion of the central area of Fez in Morocco.

Source: *Besim S. Hakim, Arabic-Islamic Cities: Building and Planning, Principles*, London, KPI/Routledge and Kegan Paul, p. 26 (1986).

city of Chicago from an ecological perspective, and believed that the general approach undertaken by the plant and animal ecologists could be applied to study human societies.

The underlying idea is that within a community, the same species are segregated from the others, and this segregation is the result of the process of natural selection. The segregation process can be found by examining the group that has dominance within a habitat. This is because the dominant group determines the basic form of the entire habitat<sup>[10]</sup>. For example, it is a well known fact that the tallest tree within a forest forces other surrounding plant species to take a subordinate position<sup>[3,11 & 12]</sup>. It implies that the key to understand the natural world is competition. Thus, urban areas when analyzed from this view point implies sorting out people into homogeneous groups.

Therefore, competition in the urban context was defined by Parks as a struggle by individuals for advantageous location in the urban space. Besides, an individual's success was determined by land values and his ability to pay the rent. By this economic competition, the location of ethnic, social, and economic groups within a city are the result of these groups' ability to cope with such a competition<sup>[13-14]</sup>.

### 3. Objectives of Study

In the context of Islamic values, the focus of this study is to examine the application of Park's idea of 'Competition' as applied to urban phenomena in case of two planned and recently developed neighbourhoods in Jeddah city, Saudi Arabia (Fig. 3). The study further examines the extent to which Jeddah represents the Chicago school's theory. The two neighbourhoods studied are: Al-Andaluse, (Fig. 4) and Al-Bawadi (Fig. 5).



Fig. 3. Jeddah city: Developmental growth stages.

Source: *Greater Jeddah Map*, Produced and Published by Engineer Zaki M.A. Farsi, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



FIG. 4. Al-Andaluse neighbourhood.

Source: *Greater Jeddah Map*, Produced and Published by Engineer Zaki M.A. Farsi, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Fig. 5. Al-Bawadi neighbourhood.

Source: *Greater Jeddah Map*, Produced and Published by Engineer Zaki M.A. Farsi, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



### **3.1 Selection and Identification of Study Areas**

The two neighbourhoods are selected for study mainly because these represent typical recently planned developments, which have taken place not only at a number of places in Jeddah, but also in other planned cities in the Kingdom. Also, both neighbourhoods having been planned during the last decade, represent two opposite types of development. Al-Andaluse consist of villa-type housing on large size plots, whereas the other consists largely of low-rise apartment buildings. This provides an interesting comparison for our study.

### **3.2 Study Areas Identification**

The Al-Andaluse residential area, located to the north-west of the city and much nearer to the Red Sea in comparison to the other neighbourhood (Fig. 3 & 4), has an area of 2100 hacs. approximately. It is bounded by Al-Madinah road on the east and Al-Tahliah road on the north. The pleasant and rich class dominated Al-Hamrah neighbourhood is located to the south of the Al-Andaluse. To the west, the area is bounded by Al-Andaluse road, which is one of the most magnificent boulevards in the Kingdom. The Al-Andaluse neighbourhood is estimated to consist of 800 households with plot size varying from 900 sq.m. to 3000 sq.m. approximately. The large size plots are located to the west side of the neighbourhood, whereas smaller prize size plots are located to the north and east, with mixed size plots located to the south.

On the other hand, the Al-Bawadi residential area is located to the further northern part of the city (Fig. 3 & 5), and is bounded by Al-Madinah road on the west. With an approximate area of 1700 hacs., it consists mainly of small and similar size plots. Besides, nearly 2000 residential units are located mostly in two and three story apartment buildings. The land to the north and east of this neighbourhood remains partly undeveloped.

The residents are mostly Saudis who have shifted to these neighbourhoods from other places in Jeddah, and also by those who have migrated from other cities in the Kingdom due to various reasons.

## **4. Methodology: Surveys and Investigations**

In the context of Park's ideas regarding the conception of a city and a community, a range of topics had been included in the questionnaire to be responded by residents of both Al-Andaluse and Al-Bawadi neighbourhoods. Ten most pertinent questions were asked from each respondent in two stages, which dealt with the demographic aspects, the choice of the residential area, and finally the environmental quality of the neighbourhood. Questions which relate to the first category were: Respondent's nature of job, his working hours, earning level per month, and value of the residential unit he owned. Some specific questions included with regard to choice of the residential area were: Cost of the residential unit (expensive or not), and whether ethnic reasons to live in a particular place were of any consideration. The third set of questions dealt with the environmental quality of neighborhood, and to ascertain any significant reasons for selecting a particular residential location. For example, whether prestige of the respondent, or

luxury and security factors were of any importance in deciding to select a particular area.

Five percent sample survey at random was conducted of the Saudi households in each neighbourhood. Both the absolute numbers and the percentage of responses to each question asked were recorded, cross tabulated and analyzed. Significant findings are presented as follows:

### *a) Demographic Aspects*

**Nature of Job:** In order to identify respondents' nature of job, response was sought as to whether he was engaged in the administration of a public agency or of a private agency, or if he was an employee of a public agency or of a private agency, or owner of a private business of a large scale, or owner of a private business of medium to small scale (Table 1).

TABLE 1. Nature of job.

Residential area	Employee of a private agency		Owner of a private business on a large scale		Owner of a private business of medium to small scale		Employee of a public agency		Administrators in public institutions		Administrators in private institutions	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Al-Andaluse	–	–	6	15	2	5	3	7.5	13	32.5	16	40
Al-Bawadi	32	32	5	5	11	11	52	52	–	–	–	–

### *Findings*

In the case of Al-Andaluse residential area, none of the respondents was an employee of a private agency, and only six (15 percent) of all the respondents had their own private business on a large scale. However, quite unexpectedly, two respondents (5%) owned private enterprises of medium to small scale. Another unexpected response was from three respondents (7.5%) who worked as employees of a public agency. As expected, the majority of respondents (72.5%) worked as administrators, either for the public or private institutions.

Response from residents of Al-Bawadi residential area came close to our expectations in that fifty-two respondents (52 percent) were employees of a public agency. Surprisingly, only five respondents were engaged in a private business of a large scale. They lived in much simpler and less expensive houses compared to lavish houses built in the Al-Andaluse residential area. Again, as expected, none of the Al-Bawadi residents interviewed occupied administrative ranks in either a public or a private agency. However, a majority of them (32%) worked as employees for private agencies. Finally, a normal situation was presented by eleven respondents who owned medium to small scale private business. Thus, none of the respondents in Al-Bawadi residential neighbourhood were holding any administrative positions compared to 72.5% respondents in Al-Andaluse residential neighbourhood.

### *Duration of Job*

Response to 'duration of job' was sought under three categories, i.e., less than 5 years between 5 to 10 years, and more than 10 years. The recorded percentage of the respondents' interviews were close to our expectations in both the neighbourhoods (Table 2).

TABLE 2. Duration of job.

Residential	Less than 5 years		5 to 10 years		More than ten years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Al-Andaluse	4	10	9	22.5	27	67.5
Al-Bawadi	10	10	26	26	64	64

### *Findings*

In the Al-Andaluse residential neighbourhood, twenty-seven respondents (67.5%) had been working for more than 10 years, whereas only four (10%) had been working for less than five years, compared to nine (22.5%) respondents who had been working between 5 to 10 years.

The study of the Al-Bawadi residential area has revealed that sixty four respondents (64%) which is the highest recorded percentage among the total number of respondents had been working for more than ten years, compared to a low figure of 10%, who had been working for less than 5 years. However, 26% respondents were engaged in their own business ranging from 5 to 10 years.

Therefore, the Al-Bawadi residential area presents a picture, which when compared to that of the Al-Andaluse neighbourhood, confirms our thinking that it is not a rule that who worked 'where', or for 'more time', could afford a more expensive residential unit located in a comparatively more expensive residential area.

### *Monthly Earnings*

The four categories listed for response were: Less than 5 thousand Saudi riyals, between 5 and 10 thousand, more than 10 but less than 20 thousand, and more than 20 thousand riyals (Table 3).

TABLE 3. Monthly earnings.

Residential area	Less than 5,000 S.R.		5,000 to 10,000 S.R.		10,000 to 20,000 S.R.		More than 20,000 S.R.	
	No.	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	Nil	Nil	3	7.5	10	25	27	67.5
Al-Bawadi	38	38	42	42	9	9	11	11

The highest percentage of response in the Al-Andaluse residential area was from twenty-seven respondents (67.5%) who earned more than 20 thousand riyals per month.

It is worthwhile to note that these figures correspond to the figures under the category of working for more than ten years in the previous question. The second highest number of respondents (25%) was of those who earned in the range of more than ten, but less than twenty thousand riyals. A normal situation was found in the case of three respondents (7.5%), who earned between 5 and 10 thousand riyals. However, none of the respondents earned less than five thousand riyals per month.

In Al-Bawadi, 42% of the respondents earned between 5 and 10 thousand riyals per month. The category of less than 5 thousand riyals earning was also represented by an expected high percentage (38%), while there were only nine respondents (9%) who earned more than 10 thousand but less than 20 thousand riyals per month. Surprisingly, there were eleven earners who had an income of more than 20 thousand riyals per month.

### *Findings*

There is a substantial difference in the income level of residents of the two residential areas. Residents of the Al-Andaluse residential area have a much higher income in comparison to middle and low income earned by residents of the Al-Bawadi area.

A comparison of income level of the two neighbourhoods also presents some interesting but unexpected results. In Al-Andaluse, responses were dominated by the high income householders, which is in line with the Chicago school's thinking. On the other hand, responses in Al-Bawadi represent a low level of mix between the high income on the one hand, and a medium to low income on the other. This seems to be prevalent till today. Although, the two residential areas indicate a marked difference in this aspect, Al-Bawadi residential area seems to provide a good opportunity to strengthen residents' low level of mix according to local traditions and values.

### *Residential Units Value*

The last demographic question recorded residential units value in the two neighbourhoods. Response was sought under four categories, i.e., between 200,000 and 500,000 Saudi riyals, more than 500,000 but less than 1,000,000 riyals, 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 riyals, and more than 3,000,000 riyals (Table 4).

TABLE 4. Residential units value.

Residential area	200,000 500,000 S.R.		500,000 to 1,000,000 S.R.		1,000,000 to 3,000,000 S.R.		More 3,000,000 S.R.	
	No. of units	%	No. of units	%	No. of units	%	No. of units	%
Al-Andaluse	–	–	–	–	21	52.5	19	47.5
Al-Bawadi	21	21	54	54	18	18	7	7

In Al-Andaluse, none of the residential units had a value of less than 1,000,000 riyals. Twenty one respondents (52.5%) indicated that their residence had costed in the range of 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 riyals, to nineteen respondents (47.5%) the cost was more than 3,000,000 riyals.

In comparison, in the Al-Bawadi neighbourhood, 7 residential units had a value of more than 3,000,000 riyals, and 18 units had costed between 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 riyals. The cost of 54% of residential units was in the category of 500,000 to 1,000,000 riyals. However, 21% of respondents indicated that the value of each of their houses was worth between 200,000 to 500,000 riyals.

### *Findings*

Response to this question clearly indicates a marked difference in the value of residential units in the two neighbourhoods. Whereas, the Al-Andaluse residential area is highly dominated by expensive houses, the Al-Bawadi residential area represents a mix type of housing of high, medium, and low cost.

### *b – Aspects Dealing with Choice of The Residential Area*

This set of the questionnaire paper contained six questions. The first question was: Has the cost of the house been expensive for you? Residents were asked to respond under one of the three categories: 'It has been expensive', 'not too expensive', or 'it has not been expensive'. As a part of the previous question, the objective of this question was to get an idea of respondents' difference of wealth in both the neighbourhoods (Table 5).

TABLE 5. Aspects dealing with choice of the residential area cost of the dwelling unit.

Residential area	Expensive		Not too expensive		Not expensive	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	8	20	24	60	8	20
Al-Bawadi	65	65	30	30	5	5

### *Findings*

Surprisingly enough, in the Al-Andaluse area, a maximum number of twenty-four respondents (60%) were in the category of 'not too expensive'. This was contrary to our expectation, since it was expected that the majority of respondents would represent the third category, i.e., 'it has not been expensive'. Nonetheless, the other two category of responses were represented evenly by eight respondents (20%).

However, to some extent, responses received in the Al-Bawadi residential area were rather vague and contradictory. The highest number of respondents, as expected, represented the category of 'it has been expensive'. Response of as many as thirty respondents in the category of 'not too expensive' was quite surprising. An acceptable response was from 5 respondents who represented the third category. This seems reasonable keeping in mind that there were eleven respondents who had an income of more than 20,000 riyals per month living in this area.

### *Ethnic reasons for living in a particular area*

Residents were asked to respond if they were living at a particular place because of any ethnic reasons. Response was sought under the three categories: 'Yes', 'to some extent', or 'not at all'. It may be pointed that ethnic reasons to live in a particular place or locality used to exist in the traditional habits of the local people. However, this has now become less significant in comparison to other factors such as the degree of high prestige and luxury for which the residential area may be known (Table 6).

### *Findings*

In the Al-Andaluse residential area, thirty-two respondents (80%) had chosen to live there without any consideration having been given to ethnic reasons. Against this high percentage, only eight respondents (20%) attached some significance to ethnic considerations while selecting a particular residential location.

TABLE 6. Reasons for living in a particular area.

Residential area	Yes		To some extent		Not at all	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	Nil	–	8	20	32	80
Al-Bawadi	53*	53	Nil	–	47	47

On the other hand, the Al-Bawadi residential area presented a different picture. Fifty-three respondents (53%) had chosen to live there because of ethnic reasons, out of which twenty-seven respondents (27%) were highly sensitive about it. In other words, they attached high importance to this factor. The remaining 47 respondents (47%) did not attach any significance in deciding to live at any particular place. Therefore, it may be concluded that majority of the respondents were conscious of their neighbourhood before deciding to choose a particular place in the Al-Bawadi residential area.

### *Environmental Quality*

Residents were asked to express their views as to whether the environmental quality of the neighbourhood had been of any significance to them. Three category of answers sought were: 'It has been', 'not very significant', or 'not at all significant' (Table 7).

TABLE 7. Environmental quality as a determining factor to live in a particular residential area.

Residential area	Yes		Not very significant		Not at all significant	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	27	67.5	10	25	3	7.5
Al-Bawadi	85	85	10	10	5	5

### *Findings*

In the Al-Andaluse residential area, the majority of respondents (67.5%) stated that the environmental quality had been an important factor before selecting a particular neighbourhood. However, ten respondents (25%) were of the opinion that the environmental quality had been a very significant reason. Only three respondents (7.5%) had decided to live in the area without any consideration having been given to the environmental quality of the neighbourhood.

The response from the Al-Bawadi residents was as much as expected. As many as 85% of the respondents expressed the opinion that they had chosen to live in Al-Bawadi because of good environmental quality that had existed in the newly developed neighbourhood. To only five respondents, environmental quality was not at all significant. Therefore, it may be concluded that a good environmental quality in both the neighbourhoods was one of the main reasons for deciding to live in a particular area.

### *Level of Prestige*

The question was intended to identify whether a resident enjoyed a high prestige by living in his neighbourhood. The categories for responses were: 'High prestige' or 'some degree of prestige', or 'not at all' (Table 8).

TABLE 8. Level of prestige being enjoyed by living in a particular neighbourhood.

Residential area	High prestige		Some degree of prestige		Not at all		Not important for living in the neighbourhood	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	32	80	8	20	–	–	–	–
Al-Bawadi	–	–	–	–	45	45	55	55

### *Findings*

Response to this question was much as expected. In the Al-Andaluse residential area, thirty-two respondents (80%) were of the opinion that they enjoy a high prestige, against eight respondents (20%) who enjoy only some degree of prestige.

Investigations in the Al-Bawadi residential area had revealed that 45% of the respondents were not enjoying any degree of prestige, whereas 55% of respondents did not consider the level of prestige as an important factor in deciding to live in this neighbourhood. Response to the other two category of questions, i.e., 'high prestige'. and 'some degree of prestige' were not represented by any of the Al-Bawadi respondents. These responses draw a sharp distinction between the two neighbourhoods in that while the Al-Andaluse respondents consider prestige as an important factor in deciding to live in the neighbourhood, the Al-Bawadi respondents did not consider it of any significance.

### ***Luxury***

The ninth question was framed to determine if luxury had been of any significance to the residents. Answers provided were: 'Main reason', 'of some consideration', or 'of no importance' (Table 9).

TABLE 9. Luxury as a factor for choosing to live in a particular neighbourhood.

Residential area	Main reason		Of some consideration		Of no significant	
	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%	No. of respondents	%
Al-Andaluse	15	37.5	18	45	7	17.5
Al-Bawadi	–	–	13	13	87	87

### ***Findings***

In Al-Andaluse, fifteen respondents (37.5%) stated that luxury was the main reason for deciding to live there against 45% of respondents to whom luxury had been of some consideration, but not the main reason. Seven respondents (17.5%) did not attach any significance to luxury for living in this neighbourhood.

The responses received in the Al-Bawadi residential area were in sharp contrast to those of Al-Andaluse who attached high importance to luxury living, as stated earlier. To 87% of Al-Bawadi respondents, luxury had not been of any significance for deciding to live in that neighbourhood. Again, none of the respondents considered luxury as the main reason; only thirteen respondents considered luxury as one of the reasons for choosing to live there.

### ***Security***

Responses recorded revealed that residents considered security as of prime importance. This might be because the security of resident is well taken care of in almost all neighbourhoods of Jeddah, as well as anywhere in Saudi Arabia.

### ***Summary of Findings***

The Al-Andaluse residential area is characterized by residents who have distinctive type of jobs and, higher earning levels. Residential units are of much higher value compared to those of Al-Bawadi residential area. Preference to live in the Al-Andaluse area seems to fall in line with Park's ideas, stated earlier. In other words, residents prefer to live in this neighbourhood in order to enjoy prestige, luxury living, and a more conducive environment.

Surveys and investigations of the Al-Bawadi have indicated several reasons for residents to live in this neighbourhood and at a particular place. Economically, they are mostly middle class, with rich and lower-middle class being rather limited. They are also cautious and considerate about the value of their residential units. House location is



also affected by ethnic considerations. Prestige and luxury are not regarded as of prime importance, but the quality of the neighbourhood and its security are no doubt important to the residents.

These findings reveal sharp differences between the two neighbourhoods. Residents have attributed strong reasons for selecting a particular neighbourhood. The local and Islamic values are of great significance to residents of the Al-Bawadi neighbourhood. Even though there is a marked difference in the income level, they prefer to live next to one another in the same area. However, this is contradictory to Park's understanding of 'competition'. At the same time, study of the Al-Bawadi neighbourhood presents a sense of 'cooperation' while selecting a particular place in the neighbourhood.

A study of the Al-Andaluse neighbourhood further indicates that the majority of respondents are engaged in jobs of a distinctive nature as administrators of public and private agencies, while some of them are running their own business for more than ten years, with a monthly income of more than 20,000 riyals.

The high value of their residential units (three million and more) is mainly because of their high income. It is also worth noting that in the Al-Andaluse neighbourhood, respondents did not choose a residence on ethnic grounds. The environmental study and the high prestige of the neighbourhood, besides the luxury and security reasons were of prime consideration. Clearly, such characteristics are representative of a modern neighbourhood and those which are generally found in a modern Western city.

## **5. Conclusion and Recommendation**

A study of the two neighbourhoods in Jeddah leads us to many interesting conclusions. The growth of Jeddah in many ways is similar to that of a number of cities in the West. For example, population distribution and related activities, including the locational choice of a residence are governed by both economic as well as non-economic factors. The two neighborhoods present this pattern of growth. The planning concept of the neighbourhood, the community, and the city is also based upon social organism, and not simply as a geographical phenomenon. Undoubtedly, this represents Park's theory of city growth.

The prestige of a high living and good environment has boosted higher plots value in Al-Andaluse. This has given rise to building of luxurious residences. Besides, provision of good security is an added advantage. A number of neighbourhoods in Jeddah and other cities in the Kingdom are now being planned on similar lines. However, foreign planning concepts and values often get preference over the local ones. We strongly advocate that this needs to be checked, as far as possible.

The concerned authorities in the Kingdom should undertake necessary measures to improve upon the environmental quality of residential areas, and to control the rising vacant lot and built-up properties' value. For example, the authorities could participate in defining plot sizes and in taking necessary measures to control the rising price. This is likely to provide a more conducive living environment with a mix of different size building lots and income groups in the neighbourhood.

In fact, such a situation exists in the Al-Bawadi residential area with a mix of high, medium and low income groups. Besides, prestige, luxury, good environment and security are all present in this neighbourhood. Such a neighbourhood could be considered as a prototype Islamic residential area, which encourages the mixing of different income groups, thus bringing the feeling of togetherness, that is 'cooperation'.

In concluding, it is important that the official authorities need to become aware of what the distinctive Islamic neighbourhoods should comprise of instead of following the Western neighbourhood planning approach which depend upon "competition" rather than upon "cooperation". Official policies need to be devised to encourage 'cooperation' and to discourage 'competition' in our residential neighbourhoods. Otherwise, it may not be very far when one might witness or even live in a society where the Chicago school's theory of residential location based on 'competition' becomes a common practice not only in Jeddah city but all over the cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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## المواقع السكنية في مدينة جدة : المملكة العربية السعودية « تمثيل جزئي رمزي »

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المستخلص . تأثرت دراسة علم البيئة الإنسانية بجامعة شيكاغو في العقود الأولى من هذا القرن بأعمال ورواد علماء النبات والحيوان . ولقد طبق روبرت بارك - أحد علماء الاجتماع من جامعة شيكاغو - نظريات ومناهج علماء البيولوجي على دراسات ظاهرة العمران . ولقد تزوجت أصول الأفكار الاجتماعية والبيولوجية حول مدلول « المنافسة » .

قد فهم مدلول « المنافسة » في المدينة على أنه الصراع بين الأفراد للحصول على مواقع متميزة فوق الرقعة الجغرافية الواحدة . ولقد تحددت المكانة الاجتماعية للفرد عن طريق قيمة الأرض ، والقدرة على دفع الايجارات العالية .

قد يستدل من فكرة المنافسة في تحليلات بارك على أنه توجد بعض الكائنات في المجتمع الطبيعي الواحد تنجح إلى الإنعزالية نتيجة لظاهرة الانتخاب الطبيعي . ويمكن اختبار أساس ظاهرة الانعزالية بين المجموعات السائدة في مجتمع معين عن طريق البحث عن خصائص المجموعة السائدة ، وهي التي تحدد بالتالي القوام الأساسي للمجتمع بكامله .

ولقد توجت معظم الدراسات التي عنيت بتحليل مدن الحضارة الإسلامية لفكرة التكافل الاجتماعي ، والتي أوضحت أن هذه المدن قد أسست عليه ، ولم يشتمل معنى التكافل على التوزيع الجغرافي للفراغات العمرانية فحسب ، بل تعداه إلى أطر الحياة العمرانية الأخرى بجوانبها الاقتصادية والاجتماعية .

هذا ، ولقد تزايد أثر التغريب (تأثير الغرب) على نمط الحياة المحلي من يوم إلى آخر . ولم تلعب هذه الأفكار الغربية دوراً في تغيير شكل تصميم الطرق أو انتشار المطاعم فقط ، بل تعداه إلى تغيير جذري في قيم هذا المجتمع المحلي ، وخاصة في تركيب ومضمون المناطق السكنية . ومن ثم فإن هذا البحث يحاول قياس درجة هذا التأثير على المناطق السكنية المحلية ، بمعنى مامدى القوى المؤثرة على شكل ومضمون هذه المجتمعات المحلية ، أهو التنافس أم التكافل ؟