

Contribution of Local Urban Discourse in Highlighting the Relationship between Security and Urban fabric: Lessons Learned from the War against Terrorism in Iraqi Cities

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ABSTRACT

During the recent war in Mosul, a relationship between security and urban fabric began to materialize, specifically in the old part of the city where streets are narrow, structure is dense, and layout is random. In this paper, this study attempts to highlight the necessity to revise and update the local urban discourse to see whether such relationship has been discussed or not. As these terms form the main features of traditional areas and informal neighborhoods, Literature concerning these two domains, is examined such that different attitudes imbedded in the discourse related to specific terms are explored. The study concludes that local urban discourse did not address the relationship between these physical elements on one hand and the security on other hand coherently. While articles about informal neighborhoods focused on this relationship, other articles about traditional urban fabric have ignored it completely. These two sets of articles adopted contradicting attitudes toward the studied elements.

Keywords: Traditional Urban Fabric, Informal Neighbourhoods, Local Urban Discourse, security

1. INTRODUCTION

Chicago City became a boomtown immediately after the great fire of 1871. Innovated techniques, new styles, and new building regulations had been adopted [1](Encyclopedia). Names such as Louis H. Sullivan, Daniel H. Burnham, and other distinctive architects in the USA became well known worldwide. Rayfield wrote “Their achievement was no accident, even though the opportunity had been created by accident.”[2] London’s fire in 1666, when 13 200 houses had been destroyed and 70 000 out of the population of 80 000 became homeless, created a big chance for London’s decision makers to rebuild a world city [3]. When the Industrial Revolution started in England in about 1760, many worldwide radical changes occurred at every level of human life. The production of steel, glass, and cast iron, resulted in the construction of structures that accommodate novel functions. World War II, the energy crisis during the seventies, in addition to other events were turning points that greatly affected the theory and practice of urbanism.

Iraq has encountered serious events during the last few years since terrorists invaded large urban settlements, such as Mosel. The efforts to push these militants away from urban areas were extremely difficult and torturous. Although these events stemmed from various geopolitical,

social, and economic levels, they occurred on the ground, mainly in urban inhabitant areas, and seemed to be related to specific circumstances in the urban fabric.

1.1 WAR AGAINST TERRORISTS IN URBAN AREAS

The most important and related concepts to the current study are shown in three quotations mentioned below. A journalist of Rudaw Media Network [4] reported on June 5, 2017, that the liberating forces faced a resistance during their attempt to liberate Old Mosul, where the streets are narrower than the eastern side of the Mosel. Arango, T., a reporter of The New York Times [5] reported on June 18, 2017, that battle of Iraqi forces against terrorists while they started to penetrate the narrow streets of Old Mosul which is densely inhabited , is difficult. He reported that commanders form the international coalition have described this battle as one of the toughest in urban warfare since World War II. George S., a journalist in The Independent [6] wrote on February19, 2017, described the advance of Iraqi forces into eastern side of the city is too quick, he reported that officials say the western side of the city is home to some oldest neighborhoods with narrow streets which make the mission more difficult. The fight against terrorists inside the old traditional part of Mosul as an example of other Iraqi cities, which are characterized with its dense structure narrow alleys, and random urban fabric , is more difficult than in modern planned neighborhoods. In other words, a relationship between the urban fabric and the security is observed.

As the theoretical discourse is supposed to precede the events and discover the future risks, either during the war or peace times. So, it is probable that the local urban theoretical discourse had expected the existence of a relationship between narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout on one side and the security from other. Therefore, it is expected to find some warnings about the danger of these physical elements within some local academic articles. Moreover, it is expected to find some evaluations and clear attitudes either positive or negative toward these mentioned elements. From this point of view, questions have been raised. Did the local urban discourse highlight a relationship between narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout on one hand and the security on the other hand? What are the attitudes embedded within the local urban discourse toward these terms?

To answer these questions, another important question has been raised. Which is; where do narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout could be existed in the Iraqi cities? In other word, in which built environments one can find these physical elements? Obviously, these terms are existing in two domains: traditional part of a city and informal neighborhoods. By identifying these two domains, the area of concern has been defined, what literature has to be investigated to find whether the local urban discourse has linked between these physical elements and the security? In other word, this study has to focus on the local urban discourse which is dealing specifically with these two environments.

According to Oxford dictionary, discourse is any “formal discussion of a topic in speech or writing” [7]. The similar definition is mentioned in Cambridge dictionary where the discourse is defined as “a speech or piece of writing about a particular, usually serious subject” [8]. In this study two sets of academic articles have been assumed to form the related local urban discourse. These sets are:

Local scientific articles that were published by Iraqi researchers about informal neighborhoods.

Local scientific articles that were published by Iraqi researchers about traditional urban fabrics.

In other word, these two sets of intellectual products are dealing with the physical elements that have been found through the concept: narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout. The purpose of this survey is to find whether the local urban discourse represented by these two sets of documents has linked between these physical elements and the security or, it perhaps such relationship has not been addressed by this discourse.

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

In spite of the unprecedented costs of the war against terrorism inside the urban areas of Iraqi cities, it is unknown yet whether the local urban discourse has highlighted previously the relationship between narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout on one hand, and the security on the other hand.

1.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

This study hypothesizes two hypotheses:

- The local urban discourse hasn't address narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout coherently to link between them and the security of the community.
- The local urban discourse is fragmented and deals with the issues related to urban fabric characteristics, such as narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout in a contradictory manner.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This research attempts to achieve the following objectives:

- To reread local urban discourse represented in the two sets of papers as mentioned above (papers about informal neighborhoods and traditional fabrics), related to those terms :narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout, and determine whether a coherent attitude has been built or not
- To reread local urban discourse represented in the scientific published papers about traditional urban fabrics and informal neighborhoods to know their different dominating approaches

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This study in its focus on the relationship between the security on one hand and the urban fabric on the other hand will not aim to explore this relationship inside samples of actual urban fabrics, but the adopted methodology in this study is to examine two sets of samples of local urban literature to know whether such relationship has been highlighted by Iraqi researchers or not.

Each set of these two sets that have been addressed to represent the local urban discourse should be contain a number of local scientific articles, to form two samples for the purpose of this study. In this moment a question has raised about the method that is to be applied in nominating these studies.

To nominate local scientific articles of each set, a web site of Iraqi Academic Scientific Journals has been selected to be the source of these data [9]. This web site is a formal web site, provided by Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research of Iraq. It includes 253 academic open access peer-reviewed journals that are supported by 50 institutions, including 122413 articles in different disciplines. The researcher assumes that depending on this source could be useful from many sides; because it is reliable and includes new published papers. Moreover, it facilitates the search of the data within the short available time.

The search engine of this web site has been used. For example when “slums” is entered, 22 results are to be found. These results are to be refined according to criteria to select only those articles which are related to urban discourse. By this way a few number of articles are remaining out of the total number of articles that have been found at the end of search process inside the web site. Terms such as narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout, informal neighborhoods, security and other key words have been used to find more articles and then to select the related ones to form the samples. The same procedure has been applied about the articles regarding the second set representing the scientific articles about traditional areas. By the end, 6 papers are nominated to form the sample representing the local urban discourse about informal neighborhoods, (the first set), parallel with other 14 papers to form the sample representing the local urban discourse about traditional urban fabric, (the second set). All these papers are meeting the adopted criteria of nomination. That means all remaining papers are local scientific articles, new published, reliable and related to urban and architectural institutes as far as possible. These 20 scientific articles are to be analyzed later to answer the above mentioned questions and to test the hypotheses.

Attempting to achieve its objectives, this study will follow the following steps:

- Screening local urban discourse by focusing on a sample of local published papers that tackled the informal areas and exploring the built attitudes toward the related items
- Screening local urban discourse by focusing on a sample of local published papers that tackled the traditional areas and exploring the built attitudes toward the related items
- Finding conclusions through discussing the results

The study structure is shown in (figure 1 in Appendix).

Actually these two types of urban fabric are found in the most of Iraqi cities. Abdurrahman [10] and Muhammad [11] categorized Iraqi neighborhoods into the following types according to the nature of their urban fabrics: traditional, displaced, marginal, investment, and municipal. These five categories can be observed in all Iraqi cities at varying extents. Marginal (informal neighborhoods), for example, may be found in a high percentage in some cities, whereas investment residential projects may not exist, and vice versa. The traditional type is found in all Iraqi cities occupying the centers or old parts of cities. The municipal type is the prevalent because municipalities used to subdivide lands for the allocation of plots for different dwellers since the 1930s. This type mostly comprise a grid network with hierarchal widths, open spaces, and centrally located social facilities, such as schools. Planned neighborhoods with their straight streets, low density structure, and planned layout occupy most of the areas of Iraqi cities.

2. LOCAL URBAN DISCOURSE

In the next paragraphs, this study attempts to discuss and examine each paper included in the two sets of samples to answer the addressed questions and to test the assumed hypotheses.

2.1 1ST SET OF SAMPLE: STUDIES ABOUT INFORMAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Cosit reported that the number of informal neighborhoods in Iraq by 2013 was 1,552, containing 346,881 dwelling units, where 2,418,864 inhabitants are living [12]. This number of illegal houses forms 7.3% of the total dwelling units on the national level.

Hamza [13] focused on the informal neighborhood problem in Baghdad City, exploring the causes, characteristics, and solutions of this dangerous urban problem, which has been expanding continuously on a daily basis during the last years. The researcher highlighted the socioeconomic and physical situations of the informal neighborhoods and summarized them. Some of the situations were lack of social services, lack in open spaces, bad health and environmental situation, low education, deteriorated living standards, and unavailability of religious facilities. One of the most dominant features of the slum is the random, unplanned, and dense built environment with narrow and random movement paths. The study highlighted the security problems caused by the informal neighborhoods and the high level of criminal activities. Jabur and Jasim [14] applied a similar methodology in their study on slums in Baghdad City.

Al-Zubaidi [15] found that the security problem of the informal neighborhoods is as important as socioeconomic problems. He mentioned the physical characteristics of informal neighborhoods related to their inaccessibility and the relationship of these characteristics to crimes.

Saeed [16] presented that the residents of the informal neighborhoods are not homogeneous and isolated from the social fabric of the city and thus cause many troubles and unrest to the city community. Poverty, ignorance, and social fragmentation are standing behind these social illnesses, such as human trafficking, organ trade, prostitution, extremism, and terrorism.

Kinsaa and Gharbi [17] highlighted the problem of child labor and illegal women employment, which causes many kinds of crimes in the informal areas.

Al-Baldawi [18] made a comparison between the slum area and sustainable development to determine how planners use a sustainable approach to upgrade informal neighborhoods. She explored the causes, characteristics, and social, economic, environmental, and physical risks of informal neighborhoods. She found that informal neighborhoods are formed according to ethnic and sectarian composition, which represents a dangerous risk threatening the entire community, in addition to various crimes due to narrow streets and inaccessibility. To solve the problem of informal neighborhoods areas, she suggested to use a compact neighborhood concept. (Table 1 in Appendix).

First summary: In all the mentioned above studies, informal neighborhoods are considered dangerous, to have various causes, and continuously growing. Informal neighborhoods form a serious risk to the community. The risks are related to the physical characteristics of informal neighborhoods, mainly their random, narrow, and unplanned streets, which cause inaccessibility and prevent the security forces from controlling them, making the informal neighborhoods places for crimes and possible focuses for violence, terrorism, and extremism. The academic vision toward informal neighborhoods where the streets are narrow, structure is dense, and layout is random is negative, risky, and polluting. Thus, informal neighborhood is a problem that must be solved by removal.

2.2 SECOND SET OF SAMPLE: STUDIES ABOUT TRADITIONAL URBAN FABRIC

The causes and factors that led to the spread of wide interest in heritage and traditions in the urban and architectural field remain unclear. One of the reasons is the critique to the modern urban

planning. The trend to learn from traditional urban solution occupies a commanding position in contemporary urban discourse. Traditional neighborhood development (TND) is one of the recent urban design approaches and has been used as a response to urban sprawl. In a compacted urban structure, where mixed land uses are gathered similarly with the traditional urban fabric, walking is the main means of movement in narrow roads with public green areas and squares that are the features of TND [19]

The local interest in heritage occurred perhaps because of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which the right to enjoy the arts and to participate in the cultural life of the community is included? Or as a result of the foundation of UNESCO in 1954,[20].

Many books and pioneer studies, such as Traditional Houses in Baghdad, by Fathi and Warren were published. Fathi's speech at TEDx Baghdad revealed how Iraq lost its cultural treasure through the demolition of its heritage sites [21]. In addition to the study of Hakim, Arabic-Islamic Cities [22], other similar publications were published. Traditional urban fabric is prioritized not only in local discourse but also in current international theoretical discourse. For instance, Othman et al. investigated 19 studies related to privacy, modesty, and hospitality. Their study reflected the extent of research on traditional houses [23]. Behsh [24]has deepen in his study on traditional house to find the dominant features of the house during its long history . In spite of the extension of this kind of research locally, a confusion remains even in the terminology. To solve this problem, Alsaliq and Alshami [25]attempted to distinguish the differences among monumental, historical, and traditional terms and explored policies and strategies related to the rehabilitation of buildings.

This paper attempts to examine 14 local studies about traditional urban fabric to explore the different attitudes of Iraqi researchers toward urban traditions, and to find the ways that the local urban discourse is tackling these traditions and the included targeted terms, and to explore whether a relationship between security and the urban fabric has been studied or not. These studies were classified into four sub-sets as mentioned below.

2.2.1 FIRST SUB-SET OF SAMPLE: CONSERVATION STUDIES

Raoof [26] tackled the causes of demolition of traditional houses within the traditional areas. She believed that the copying of western architecture, opening of new streets for vehicles, and effect of legislations, which encouraged people to disregard traditional parts of cities are standing behind this demolition. She mentioned that international companies who prepared master plans for major Iraqi cities were responsible for the loss of traditional environments through their technological considerations and their focus on vehicular circulation, neglecting the social, environmental, and cultural needs of the society. Kharofa [27] in his argument about the socioeconomic and physical problems that are facing the old part of Mosel, attributed security loss to uncontrolled traffic penetration. He also listed the fragmentation of the urban fabric because of the opening of new streets. (Table 2 in Appendix).

Therefore, it seems that these two articles not only argue to conserve the traditional urban fabric but they stand against the modern plans represented in the straight streets and other related physical characteristics .

2.2.2 SECOND SUB-SET OF SAMPLE: CLIMATIC & SUSTAINABLE STUDIES

When the concept of sustainability started to dominate the architectural and urban field, a number of Iraqi studies started exploit this new approach. Shaheen and Ali [28] made a comparison between old and modern environments within Mosel city. They found that the two neighborhoods show totally different climatic behaviors, climatic conditions were more stable in the old part than in the modern one. They found that the shading into the narrow street canyons is one of the reasons behind this different behavior. They recommended the use of narrow street networks and avoid the use of straight streets for climatic comfort. Al-Dabbagh [29] asked, if the traditions are successful, then why do we not make use of it? Shaheen and Abdullah [30] found that the traditional houses and traditional urban fabric are efficient with respect to sustainable solutions. Mustafa [31] attempted to link intelligent building design to traditional architecture and found that traditional treatments are smart. Therefore, he recommended the use of these treatments as bases for the innovation of contemporary intelligent architecture. Al-Anbari [32] made a comparative study between the characteristics of Arab-Islamic traditional cities and Arab contemporary cities. He considered planning and climatic treatments in the comparison and adopted a sustainable city scenario. His results showed that sustainable neighborhood is similar to a traditional one because it included the elimination of vehicular penetration and use of cul-de-sac and compacted urban fabric (Table 3 in Appendix).

Therefore, it seems that these five articles admire the traditional urban fabric with its physical characteristics, and argued to apply the traditional treatments regarding to climate and sustainability in the new projects.

2.2.3 THIRD SUB-SET OF SAMPLE: ISLAMIC TREND STUDIES

Sahab [33] stated that traditional towns retain the Islamic culture, thereby achieving environmental convenience and satisfying human needs. He believed that the traditional urban fabric is facing a serious threat because of the invasion of Western planning approaches. The study recommended that contemporary planning practices must include traditional characteristics and planners avoid Western approaches, advising them to build a new local urban theory.

Khamis and Khudheir [34] highlighted the problem of architectural identity loss owing to the unstudied use of Western approaches, which are strange to the Islamic culture. They described the current situation of contemporary local architecture as a chaos and considered traditional architecture an architecture of innovation rather than simulation. They concluded that architecture with local identity originates from the perception of our architectural history and artistic heritage through the revival of positive value in light of technological progress. Mohammed [35] attempted to link religious statements to urban and architectural features and elements in traditional urban environments. Focusing on privacy, she followed this issue and attempted to study its effect on the components of traditional forms and layouts. Although she did not find any religious statement about the necessity of zigzag paths in old patterns, she emphasized on the originality of this feature. AL-Khateeb [36] attempted to match Islam with traditional urban designs. He urged that the styles of houses and urban fabrics changed from organic traditional types to grid organic (mixed or hybrid) and then to alienated (expatriate) modern types. Even the terms, which are related to the modern types, carries a negative connotation, and this attitude is found in most literature. Hasan [37] highlighted the romantic image of traditional architecture by exploring the concepts of some architects who adopted this approach, particularly Rasim Badran, Al-Wakeel, Makia, and Hasan Fathi. She attempted to link Islamic thoughts, such as man–God relation, to the characteristics of

Islamic architecture, such as courtyard. She summarized the features of Islamic city in ten points. One of these characteristics was the feeling of security and belonging due to the existence of narrow streets (Table 4 in Appendix).

Therefore, it seems that these five articles pushed the argument to far limit through linkage the urban traditions with the religion. These five articles highlighted the concept that the local urban traditions are providing security, so they educate to not only to conserve the existing but furthermore to apply the traditional approaches on the new practices and avoiding what they called it the Western approaches.

2.2.4 FOURTH SUB-SET OF SAMPLE: CRITIQUE TO MODERN APPROACHES

Al-Bazaz and Abona [38] concluded that the contemporary local built environment suffers from three forms of alienation: physical, social, and psychological alienation. They found that the innovation and renewal processes with rapid and sudden change were responsible for the alienation. According to them, renewal and development processes consist of discontinuity and rapture in man-built environments and man–man relationships. Although Shaheen and Kamuna [39] examined a historic city and considered its special situation as a holy city, their attitude toward radical and extreme urban development and urban upgrading are reflected in their literature review. They described the current development approaches as an overwhelming and rapid transformation that involves non-accompanied forms of traditions and domination of Western trend. They identified the transformations in terms of opening new straight streets and creating geometric wide open spaces, which are incompatible with traditional urban fabric (Table 5 in Appendix). Therefore, these two articles highlighted new terms through describing the new modern urban planning practices with their straight streets, planned layouts as alienation and overwhelming and rapid transformation.

Second summary: Most of the examined articles in the second sample do not tackled directly with the targeted terms, but while they are dealing with other concerns, it could be said that they neglect the relationship between security and the narrow streets, random layout and dense structure. The majority of these studies have a positive outlook on traditions in many aspects. Meanwhile, they consider modern practices bad, copied, strange, imported from other cultures, and not belonging to local communities. The common vision is that traditional built environments, with their compacted urban fabric and narrow streets, are sustainable, comfortable, secured, and meaningful. The majority of researchers involved in this sample consider urban transformation within old parts of cities unstudied actions and cause of loss of control. The examination of the sample clarifies that the scientific articles about traditional urban fabric, hence, researchers generally either did not link between the targeted terms and the security, or, they contradictorily found that these items are means of providing security instead.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The summaries mentioned above show that researchers involved in the local urban discourse have formed different entities. Each of them uniquely addressed urban environment, consequently building their different attitudes, as shown in Table 1 and 2. Finding diversity in theoretical discourse regarding any issue is reasonable and expected. However, how narrow streets cause security problems in informal neighborhoods, and at the same time provide security in the traditional areas, remains unclear. The examined papers reported inconsistent attitudes toward

random layout. In particular, some papers reported that random layout causes security problems, whereas others reported they provide security.

Table (1) attitudes of examined groups of articles toward the dense structure, random layout, and narrow streets

Groups of studies	Attitude toward the studied items (dense structure, random layout, and narrow streets)		
	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Studies about the informal neighborhoods	✓✓✓✓✓	✓	
Studies regarding the conservation approach			✓✓
Studies regarding the climatic and sustainable approach			✓✓✓✓✓
Studies regarding the Islamic approach			✓✓✓✓✓
Studies regarding the critique to modern approaches and modern practices			✓✓

Table (2) attitudes of two sets of samples toward the dense structure, random layout, and narrow streets

Groups of studies	% of the attitude toward the targeted items
1 Studies of informal neighborhoods	83.3% Negative
2 Studies of traditional parts of the cities	100% Positive

Local theoretical urban and architectural discourse regarding the related issues is not coherent enough to link similar built environments to one another. This paper shows that the examined studies highlighted the lack of the security in informal neighborhoods because of their random layouts, density, and inaccessibility, which are all logical. Meanwhile, other studies overlooked traditional urban fabrics from the same points of view. Although the old parts of cities have the same physical characteristics as informal neighborhoods, where there are random, dense, compacted layouts, inaccessible networks, and marginalized and poor community, no relationship between their physical conditions the security was reported by these studies.

Whatever the causes of the interest in heritage were, many researchers believe in the simplicity, beauty, and harmony of heritage in the social and environmental context. Many researchers have started focusing on the conservation, rehabilitation, and preservation of the traditional parts of cities. These efforts are in parallel with many attempts to describe, analyze, and obtain lessons from traditional buildings and urban fabrics. Many researchers believe that municipalities have done crucial mistakes by opening new streets through compacted urban fabric of old towns. They believe that the planners attempted to westernize the local cities. Others extend this vision and start looking to the straight streets that facilitate ambulance and fire vehicles close to the citizen's doors within the new built neighborhoods as a collusion.

Planning authorities failed to conserve most of the Iraqi traditional parts. Demolition done by municipalities to open straight streets inside the traditional fabrics caused heavy losses and

changed the unique identity of these parts. Neglect and absence of strategic vision dominated the urban policies during the last one hundred years. Owing to the transfer of real estates in old parts of cities from private to public ownership either for redevelopment or for conservation without project implementation, these parts tend to transform slowly into slums, where low-income families reside and commercial activities invade. These transformation causes sharp demographical transformations in old parts of cities. Thus, the relationship between urban configuration and security disappears.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the first hypothesis is valid. The analysis proves that the local urban discourse neither address narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout coherently to link between them and the security of the community, nor expect the existence of such relationship. Although the two studied environments; the informal neighborhoods and traditional urban fabric, are sharing the same physical characteristics, the local urban discourse failed to deal with them in the same vision. While the studies of informal settlements considered the studied items dangerous, the studies of traditional urban fabric dealt with them as means of providing security.

This study also concludes that the second hypothesis is valid too. The analysis proves that the local urban discourse remains fragmented and deals with the issues related to urban fabric characteristics, such as narrow streets, dense structure, and random layout in a diverse ways.

The traditional urban fabric forms a unique cultural identity, and physical structure is related to the needs of past society. The need for secure environment has been translated to dead-end alleys and compacted urban fabric. The source of danger and risk at that time may be represented only in the form of foreign pedestrians, who may enter the community and cause illegal action, such as theft. Nowadays, such form of risk no longer exist. Danger may come in other forms, therefore, the local urban discourse needs to update the adopted attitudes in light of recent circumstances,

Traditional fabric is not the cause of security loss, but neglect is. These old parts of cities may become slums, where poverty and ignorance flourish, crimes become prevalent, and terrorism thrives. Therefore, the traditional urban fabric must be conserved and sustained with respect to cultural, and economic opportunities.

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Appendix

Table (1) summary of studies about the informal neighborhoods

No.	Study	Date	Problem	Goal
1	Hamza	2015	Informal neighborhood spread	Shedding a light on causes, characteristics, policies, and solutions of informal neighborhoods
			Issues	Recommendations
			Informal neighborhood characteristics: building deterioration, overcrowding, instability, lack of services, low educational and health conditions, low living standards, security threats, crimes, tribal conflicts, dense, random lay out, narrow street	Applying census on informal neighborhoods, need for new serious legislations, provision of dwelling units
				Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods: negative
2	Jabur and Jasim	2016	Increasing informal neighborhoods	Finding a suitable policy that addresses problems in informal neighborhoods
			Informal neighborhood removal, subsidiaries, governmental action to provide land and services	Planning reaction, economic, private sector, migration eliminating action, legislative actions
				Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods: negative
3	Al-Zubaidi	2011	Informal neighborhoods spreading	Finding a solution for informal neighborhood problem
			Informal neighborhood characteristics: traditional type of buildings, contrast with the surrounding or nearby planned neighborhoods, random spatial structure, lack of aesthetics, unharmonious land uses, inaccessibility, dense urban structure, pollution	Comprehensive planning for the problems of informal neighborhoods and its causes
			Security issues: crimes, drugs, terrorism, extremism	Removal of informal neighborhoods, subsidiaries, private sector involvement, legislations
				Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods: negative
4	Saeed	2017	Informal neighborhood phenomena	Providing insights into social, economic, environmental, and security threats related to informal neighborhoods
			Informal neighborhood characteristics: illegal, random, unharmonious building materials, inhomogeneous community, lack of services, diseases, social isolation, crime, illegal economic activities, physical deformation, pollution	Preventing illegal construction by enacting legislations, fighting ignorance, building new residential projects, supporting cooperative residential societies, implementing consistent municipal following up
				Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods: negative
5	Kinsaa and Gharbi,	2016	Informal neighborhood phenomena	Determining the spatial distribution of informal neighborhoods in Baghdad City and determining the causes of extension of informal neighborhoods in specific locations
			Informal neighborhood characteristics:	Upgrading services in small towns and places in the countryside for the elimination of migration, social justice

bad and primitive building materials, high density, deteriorated built environment, instability, low socioeconomic conditions, illegal employment of women and children, pollution, low living standards, lack of security

spatial distribution of economic investment, implementation of financial sanction for the prevention of illegal construction, supporting and empowering municipal authorities, removal of informal neighborhoods, resettlement of immigrants on their previous locations, subsidiaries

Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods:
negative

6	Al-Baldawi,	2008	Upgrading informal neighborhoods by sustainable development approach	Finding a way of solving the informal neighborhood problems through upgrading the social, economic, and environmental conditions by applying sustainable development
Informal neighborhoods, sustainable development, sustainability, causes of informal neighborhoods, risks of informal neighborhoods, informal economic activities, pollution, high rate of crimes, drugs, narrow streets, healthcare problems, policies				Applying sustainable development, public participation, legislative amendments; updating plans; upgrading slums such that they become similar to traditional built areas in old parts of cities
				Study attitude toward informal neighborhoods: neutral

Table (2) the examined studies regarding the conservation approach

No.	Study	Date	problem	Goal
1	Raof	2010	Demolition of traditional area and replacement of new Western buildings	Conserving traditional parts of cities, creating harmonies between traditional and modern
Issues				Recommendations
Heritage conservation, preservation policy, demolition, opening of new streets, effect of Western architecture, loss of traditional heritage due to many causes, Mosul City heritage, legislations				Implementation of laws, documentation, private sector involvement, prevention of demolition
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
2	Kharofa	2014	Lack of knowledge about the relationship of sustainability and renewal policies	Determining the effect of sustainable approaches for urban renewal policies
Urban renewal policies, traditional cities, sustainable design, conservation, rehabilitation.				Preservation of traditional urban areas, unification of efforts for the translation of theoretical knowledge to real practices, encouragement of public participation, issuance of legislations for conservation
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive

Table (3) the examined studies regarding the climatic and sustainable approach

3	Shaheen and Ali	2013	Relationship of urban form and microclimate	Defining relevant parameters in traditional and modern housing areas
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Air temperature, relative humidity, urban form, streets				Using narrow street networks, using traditional building materials, avoiding the use of straight line streets, using zigzag shapes, cul-de-sac
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
4	Al-Dabbagh	2013	Lack of knowledge about the relationship of sustainability and heritage	Exploring the norms of sustainability and the output of traditional design regarding sustainable local architecture
Energy consumption, renewal energy, sustainable urban fabric, environment-friendly building, smart building, green architecture				Conservation of traditional houses and use of traditional houses as models of sustainable design
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
5	Shaheen and Abdullah	2009	Lack of clear knowledge on utilization of traditional solution in climatic adaptation in local modern architecture	Finding sustainable methods for traditional local houses
Sustainability, ecology, compactness				Exploiting the climatic efficiency of traditional houses and traditional urban fabric
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
6	Mustafa	2016	Lack of knowledge on how to use principles of intelligence in the traditional architecture as a base for contemporary intelligent architecture	Exploring ways for the exploitation of principles of intelligence in the traditional architecture and planning for the design of environment-friendly and sustainable cities
Smart building, intelligent traditional design				The possibility of using traditional intelligence imbedded in traditional architecture for the creation of intelligent contemporary architecture
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
7	Al-Anbari	2013	Lack of sustainable approach that merge the heritage of Arab-Islamic city planning in the climatic modern local planning practices	Comparing traditional residential areas with modern ones and subsequently determining a sustainable balanced scenario as a planning tool
Islamic city planning, compactness, narrow street network, zigzag streets, modern master plans done by international companies in Iraq, sustainability, compacted city strategy, green city strategy, healthy city strategy				The importance of sustainable scenario
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive

Table (4) the examined studies regarding the Islamic approach

No.	Study	Date	problem	Goal
8	Sahab	2015	Deformation of urban fabric due to neglecting basic elements of traditions and usage of modern approaches	Identifying basic planning elements of Arab-Islamic city centers to preserve them from the negative effect of Western approach implementations
			Arab-Islamic planning elements, Islamic roles regarding urban planning, copying Western practices	Finding local urban theory expressing the Arab-Islamic city characteristics, avoiding copying Western approaches
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
9	Khamis and Khudheir	2010	Absence of indicators that help to achieve modern local architecture with local identity	Finding indicators that can be used as bases for local heritage related architecture
			Heritage, identity, chaos of modern architecture, Islamic architecture and community, basic principles of Islamic architecture, harmony, human scale, unity and diversity, flexibility, adaptability	Innovation of contemporary local architecture established from Islamic architecture
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
10	Mohammed	2013	Lack of harmony between values and usage that prevailed in the urban society of Islamic cities and modern cities	Exploring the role of visual penetration and privacy in urban planning processes
			Privacy, visual penetration, Islam, Islamic roles, windows, doors, narrow zigzag street networks	Importance of using Islamic roles in the enhancement of urban and architectural local identity
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
11	AL-Khateeb	2010	Absence of a comprehensive factors that create the traditional dwelling unit characteristics, along with the planning thought	Identifying the effect of Islamic thought on the design of spaces and land uses in residential level
			Urban fabric, compactness, narrow streets, privacy, social and climatic factors, courtyard, basements	Possibility of developing traditional residential types for economic and cultural development when planning vision consisting originality and modernity is available
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
12	Hasan	2012	Lack of knowledge about mechanism of continuity in the Islamic architecture	Identifying the concept of continuity, methods of conceptual continuity

Theoretical discourse, man–man relationship, God–man relationship, Islamic architecture

Rewriting the Islamic architectural heritage

Study attitude toward traditional fabric:
positive

Table (5) the examined studies regarding the critique to modern approaches and modern practices

No.	Study	Date	problem	Goal
13	Al-Bazaz and Abona	2007	Alienation in architectural and urban local practices	Identifying alienation in architectural and urban practices on a local level
			Alienation, forms of alienation, spatial alienation, illness, erasure, intervention, conjunction of opposition, social alienation, psychological alienation, disorder, attachment, aloofness deviance due to alienation	Integration between traditional and modern areas, removal of modern strange structures, rehabilitation, commitment in human scale
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: positive
14	Shaheen and Kamuna	2009	Lack of public awareness in preservation of historic building	Finding an approach to preserve the unique historic identity of Najaf City
			Preservation policy, demolition, opening of new streets, transformation, urbanization, modern planning practices	Prevention of applying Western approaches, revision of planning programs
				Study attitude toward traditional fabric: Positive

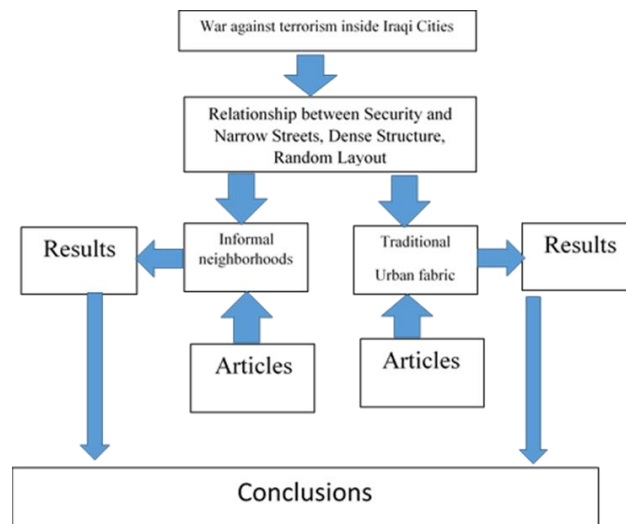


Figure (1) the study structure