

tion experience in which a new lifestyle is brought about at the expense of a loss of diversity and plurality of life forms.

Next, attention is given by Riedler to the isolation and marginalization of temporary labour migrants in the late-nineteenth century with reference to associated spatial typologies. Discussing 'otherness' and its association with the shaping of urban space in Istanbul, Grabolle-Celiker evaluates the notion of 'the public' and how it permeates individual lives to different degrees through discourses of gender and identity. Similarly, Ozdil neatly portrays how one distinct social group, West African immigrants, create new spaces and new forms of social relations as a form of resistance to their exclusion from formal citizenship. Taking the issues of race and gender further, Prehl discusses the rapid gentrification of Hayriye Cikmazi where gypsies and unemployed migrants from East Anatolia used to live; and with reference to spatial codes of urban gendered cartography Cicekoglu explores the alienation of women in public space. The book closes with Bosch's chapter on 'Subjects that don't count: places that are not important', which introduces works from the realm of media art so as to probe issues of otherness and migration.

Though not directly intended for the readers and followers of, say, Conzenian morphological analysis, *Public Istanbul* lays the socio-spatial foundations of transformations of urban form. Despite its limited number of illustrations, it successfully highlights non-tangible motives that shape tangible aspects of the urban environment. With its strong references to aspects of philosophy, *Public Istanbul* skilfully bridges from the domains of sociology, economy, politics and urban history to those of city planning and urban design. Although at first sight it may appear to lack coherence owing to its breadth of subject matter, *Public Istanbul* is an important contribution to the existing literature on Istanbul's urban transformation because of its alternative insights and critical appraisal of spatial changes at the micro-scale. Therefore, for scholars who wish to cast light on the socio-spatial structure and processes that directly condition the form of urban space, or to unveil current events and recent historical developments in global centres in various parts of the world, this book is an excellent choice.

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From Zangan to Zanjan (in Persian) by *Kyoumars Habibi, Ahmad Pourahmad and Abolfazl Meshkini*, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran, 2008, 394 pp. ISBN 978-969-8885-13-2.

From Zangan to Zanjan discusses several themes central to analyzing the evolution of cities. It also provides a historical analysis of Zangan in what is today the Zanjan Province of north-west Iran, in so doing explaining how this historic city has been transformed to its present-day metropolitan condition. For the authors the current state of Zanjan is definable through three structural/spatial layers within the city, 'old areas', 'middle quarters' and 'marginal districts', which together form the analytical bedrock upon which *From Zangan to Zanjan* sits. Partly based on Kyoumars Habib's University of Tehran doctoral thesis (entitled 'An evaluation of the rehabilitation of the historic core of cities through GIS: a case study of Zanjan') this book offers much original material on Iranian urban morphology and in so doing relates the development of Zanjan, a noted historic city in Iran, to both theoretical perspectives of urban design and urban development in practice.

Organized into seven chapters the opening chapter on 'The concepts of urban development' provides the reader with a background to the general ideas and strategies of urban planning and the management of historic urban places in the Iranian context. Explaining the process of urban change in relation to, for instance, the rise of modernity and national modernization, the chapter relies heavily on the works of various scholars to lay the foundation for subsequent analytical chapters. In the second chapter, 'Geographical setting of the city', the emphasis shifts to the geographical characteristics of Zanjan including its topography, flora, soil and geology, and climate, an element that greatly influenced the development of traditional urban form in Zanjan Province. Together the first two chapters offer general information concerning the physical fabric of the city and its development, and pointers are provided as to planning principles that have shaped the city in the past.

The third chapter, on 'Changes in the city's physical fabric over time', is the investigative backbone of the book and presents in detail the growth of Zanjan, a settlement originally located in proximity to an historic commercial road between the ancient city of Ray and the Azerbaijan border to the north. The first section of this chapter describes the nature and significance of the earliest images of

the city. The city acted as an important economic node in the region and had a strategic location along a prominent north-south roadway within the west of Iran. It was destroyed and then renovated numerous times before the Qajar dynasty (1794-1925). In the last part of the chapter, which mainly deals with the history of modernization, the shift from organic patterns of urban development to the explicit use of modern planning principles is spelled out, giving particular attention to the Pahlavi dynasty (1925-1941) when attempts were made to provide Iran's rapidly-growing urban population with a better quality of life. A dramatic reduction in the growth of traditional parts of Zangan and an acceleration in the growth of newer parts of the city are described. Several factors are considered by the authors as having affected early-twentieth century Zangan's socio-spatial changes. These include the introduction of cheap rail fares for the transport of goods from Tehran to Turkey, the development of a regional train system to allow for the fast movement of passengers between the major cities in Zangan Province, and a land reform strategy, known as the 'Shah's white revolution', which accelerated population migration and helped change the pattern of urban development from a compact and labyrinth-like urban form to one of greater urban sprawl and informal development. Within this important chapter the authors provide an account of the policies of authorities in Iran and the challenge of urban development that they faced as they endeavoured to modernize the nation. They argue that the preparation of a master plan for Zangan was a pragmatic means to solve the city's many problems, such as the degradation of the socio-spatial character of the traditional city, and to simultaneously embrace the international modernism movement. The master plan of the city contrasted markedly with that of the traditional city and is interpreted as granting a foundation for further planned urban development following the Islamic Revolution and the end of the Eight Years War between Iran and Iraq in the second half of the twentieth century.

The modern transformation of Zangan, which imposed a new spatial structure upon an historic city, not only redefined the appearance and plan of the place but is shown to have also influenced the socio-spatial nature of Zangan's bazaar, the traditional hub of Iranian cities. Now the bazaar was no longer defined by its former 'hedonistic function' (Alemi, 1991), but rather it became an urban space lined with commercial activities and other functions borrowed from Western countries. In socio-spatial terms this development led not only

to the decline of the traditional bazaar, which subsequently only maintained a social function for those of low income, but ultimately the advent of modern planning: the traditional form and life of Zangan was displaced, reflecting the attitudes of the authorities to implementing modes of urban design derived from contemporary concepts of urban planning.

The chapters following the central analytical section of the book deal with some general themes specific to urban development plans in Zangan (for example, matters of socio-economics, housing characteristics, and different urban development scenarios) but little is provided on the complexity of spatial, social and political interactions, and their effects on the shape of the local urban environment. Nonetheless, the authors reveal the great potential for urban morphological exploration of Iranian cities and their social structures, in particular for analyzing and understanding their environmental histories and appraising the interventionist policies of modern political elites. Those wishing to learn more about changing patterns of urban development, especially concerning the application of modern strategic plans to old settlements, will find that *From Zangan to Zangan* is an important guide book.

Reference

Alemi, M. (1991) 'Urban spaces as the scene for the ceremonies and pastimes of the Safavid Court', *Journal of the Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre* 1, 98-107.

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Cities in modernity: representations and productions of metropolitan space, 1840-1930 by *Richard Dennis*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 2008, 452 pp. ISBN 978-0-521-46841-1.

Studies in historical geography have made a major contribution to the expansion of urban historiography during the past few decades. As H. J. Dyos, the founder of British urban history