

labels, referring to it as *arabisante*, *algérianisée* or indigenous architecture. The design approach flourished with the coming of age, from the 1930s onward, of a generation of architects of European origin, though many were born in Algeria, proposing a Mediterranean-inspired architecture emulating local Algerian heritage.

This thorough and pertinent contribution prepares the ground for the characterization of French colonial built heritage in Algeria, while constituting a model practical handbook for researchers to follow. It provides an indispensable stepping stone and a prerequisite for the protection, preservation, enhancement and showcasing of that heritage. Its relevance is in its demonstration of buildings and urban fabrics in their typological and morphological diversity, and in its illustration of the range of construction techniques and specialized knowledge. It is pertinent to readers interested in North African architecture, urban form, and heritage, including researchers working on built environment history and morphogenesis, and practitioners concerned with the harmonious integration of old and contemporary architecture.

Radhwane Boukelouha, Laboratory: Ville et Santé, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Salah Bounider Constantine 3 university, New city Ali Mendjeli, Constantine, Algeria. E-mail: radhwane.boukelouha@mail.com

Persian historic urban landscapes: interpreting and managing Maibud over 6000 years by *Eisa Esfanjary*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, UK, 2017, 242 pp. ISBN 978-1-4744-1278-0.

The main message in this book is that a detailed survey of historical urban development and its principles has much to teach us about creating a balance between ‘continuity’ and ‘change’, a balance between two seemingly paradoxical paradigms. On one hand, the existing valuable historical heritage of an urban landscape demands preservation and conservation to safeguard continuity; on the other hand, contemporary requirements of modern life are undeniable and demand spatial changes. Therefore, the challenge between conservation and modernization has always been the subject of conflict between urban conservationists and modernists since the emergence of modernity and the

industrial revolution (Rogers, 1999). Eisa Esfanjari has attempted to find a synthesis out of this argument by formulating an approach to support the management of the historic urban landscape of Maibud, a desert city in the heart of Iran.

The book comprises three main parts and eight chapters. Part one, in three chapters, offers a conceptual framework clarifying the rationale for the context and the methodology (chapter 1). This part provides the reader with a concise theoretical backbone of the study based on the progressive awareness of conservation ideas during the last two centuries (chapter 2). The approach to the concept of urban landscape conservation is embedded in the discipline of ‘urban morphology’ (chapter 3). By overviewing the historical and morphological evolution of the city of Maibud, the application of the approach to this city is discussed in the second part of the book (chapters 4, 5 and 6). Part two also includes a detailed examination of earthen construction material – mud brick. Chapter 7 describes how mud brick has sustained and evolved over a long period and has contributed to the formation of different building patterns. In part three, the final chapter, the book attempts to draw a policy-oriented synthesis between the conceptual framework and the case study through which some potential policies, design guidelines and conservation framework can facilitate management and decision making.

The book contributes to the fields of heritage conservation and urban morphology and their applications. It reviews chronologically the work of influential thinkers that represents different attitudes to conservation; from monumental conservationists James Wyatt (1746–1813) and Eugène Viollet-le-Duc (1814–79) to minimal intervention and romantic ideologists John Ruskin (1819–1900) and William Morris (1834–96); from radical modernism and the controversial idea of ‘Grands Boulevards’ of Baron Haussmann (1809–91) to contextualism and ‘artistic principles’ of Camillo Sitte (1843–1903). The first half of the twentieth century in general, and the destruction and reconstruction crises during and just after two World Wars, shifted the attention of urban planners away from the harmonious development prompted by the movements of the late-nineteenth century. The modern movement has encroached on the old and removed the distinctiveness of places with outstanding values in many cities around the world. This has eventually become the concern of many urbanists as reflected in the outcomes of different international congresses such as the Athens

Charter (1931), CIAM (1933), the Venice Charter (1964), the Edinburgh Symposium (1974), and the Amsterdam Charter (1975). Following this chronological and thematic account, the book contributes to dialectic understanding of the tension between conservation and modernity. It also traces how intellectual boundaries have developed and conservation consciousness has evolved from individual historical monuments towards a more holistic environmental approach to historical urban landscapes at the turn of the twenty-first century.

The concept of urban landscape conservation is grounded in the discipline of 'urban morphology' where the correlation between urban form and people is studied through its socio-spatial processes (Larkham, 2005). The book achieves its main objective of highlighting simultaneously the social context of Maibud, its urban form and its evolution over time. Another contribution of this book can be found in its methodological approach. It links the concepts of Conzenian 'morphology' as developed in Britain, and 'typology' as widely practised in Italy in the work of Muratori and Caniggia (chapter 3). The concept of 'typological process' is similar to Conzen's idea of 'dynamic morphology' in that they both try to reconstruct the pattern of changes and continuity in the course of history. However, in Muratorian typology the tendency is to move from a building to a larger scale through a typological interpretation. The author suggests that a combination of both schools of thought provides a 'conversation-led methodology' for the management of historical urban landscapes in specific Iranian contexts (pp. 55–6).

Taking Maibud as a case study, the evolution of ancient settlements is traced chronologically, thematically and methodologically. Within this overall picture, three key morphological elements of the city are explored: the town plan, building types, and construction materials. It is interesting to see how the articulations between these elements from micro to macro city structure form and transform different patterns over several millennia. The typological examinations reveal flexibility, homogeneity, sustainability and vulnerability in the evolution of these patterns. The chronological table illustrating the evolution of the size of mud brick is another interesting part of the book (p. 204). It explains how a flexible, adaptable, available and often low-cost raw material can both respond to and cause the emergence of very different urban patterns.

Finally, the book contributes to a better understanding of Islamic urbanism in general and

Persian urbanism in particular, about which there are relatively few publications in English. The book is well-written, easy to read and logically structured. In addition to the useful collection of reading material suggested at the end of each chapter, there is a glossary to facilitate the understanding of Persian terminology by English readers.

References

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Toofan Haghani, Department of Planning, Islamic Azad University: Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran. Email: Toofan.haghani@iauctb.ac.ir

Street trees in Britain: a history by *Mark Johnston*, Windgather Press, Oxford, UK, 2017, 358 pp. ISBN 978-1-911188-23-0.

In many ways this book follows on from and complements Mark Johnston's earlier volume 'Trees in towns and cities: a history of British urban arboriculture' (Johnston, 2015; reviewed in this journal (Hopkins, 2016)). In both books the role of ideas from continental Europe, the development of a specialist horticultural press and especially the growing powers of municipal authorities from the 1830s onwards are identified as key factors in the expansion of planting schemes and the proactive management of urban trees in the United Kingdom.

In the introduction Johnston (pp. 3, 5–6) describes how the second book emerged from the research for the first. A great deal of material on street trees remained to be used, and it is hugely welcome that it has been brought together in this comprehensive and accessible form. Scholars will also appreciate the wide-ranging bibliography of contemporary and modern, primary and secondary sources.

Whereas the focus of 'Trees in towns and cities: a history of British urban arboriculture' could be summarized as being on trees, arboriculture and arboriculturalists, the focus of this second book is on the townscapes that they created and continue