

The 20th century Saudi Arabian buildings

Name:

Institution:

The buildings

HAJ TERMINAL AND SUPPORT COMPLEX.

Located in Jeddah city. It is an airport terminal building that has tensile fabric roofs. It was designed by architect Gordon Wildermuth under the architecture firm of Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM). It was opened in 1982 (Walker, 2010). Architectural style that was used for its construction is the High-Tech Architecture. This type of architectural style came to existence in the year 1970s with the idea of incorporating the high-tech industry and technology in the building designs. It bridges modernism and post-modernism. Structures of this kind of style have accentuated technical elements. It is popularly known for buildings with glass walls and steel frames (Walker, 2010). Ventilation ducts of the buildings designed using the high-tech style can be seen from the outside. Structures are characterized by large entry points.

The Haj Terminal has a large door for the entry and exit of passengers and the goods. There is also a large ventilation ducts for maximum air supply since the terminal is a place where there are very many people and goods and there are a lot of activities.

KING SAUD MOSQUE

It is a mosque located at the city of Jeddah and is the largest of all mosques in Jeddah city. It was designed by Abdel-Wahed El Wakil and its construction was completed in the year 1987. Brick is the main material used to build it. It has area coverage of 9700 square meters with 2464 square meters covered by the praying hall. It has a Minaret that is 60m tall. It is also made up of domes with the largest one having a diameter of 20m and a height of 42m (Walker, 2010). It is rectangular in shape though almost square. Its architectural style is Islamic architecture that comprises both the cellular and the religious styles. This style originated from the already existing styles in Rome, Byzantine and Persia. It is used for construction of buildings such as mosques, tombs, palaces, fort, public baths and other domestic structures. The buildings have an open hall for instance the praying hall found in King Saud Mosque. This style is also characterized by buildings with diaphragm arches and ceiling which is either made of wood or stone beams (Sharp, 2000). These buildings are also made of domes and muqarnas. There is also a presence of ornamental forms on the structures like the geometric patterns. The domes can be seen clearly from a distance and are the main descriptive features of this kind of architectural style.

THE KINGDOM CENTRE

It is a building located in the town of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is also called the Riyadh City Centre. It serves as a Centre of many commercial offices, residential houses and hotels. Its construction started in the year 1999 and ended in 2002 (Hawker, 2008). It is a 65-storey building with a height of 302.3m and a floor area of 185,000 square meters. It has an inverted parabolic arch at the top. It was designed by Richard Tenguerian but was developed by the Kingdom Holding Company with Arup as the structural engineer. Its architectural style is modernism architecture that is also defined as overarching movement. The materials are at 90 degrees with each other (Hawker, 2008). The materials appear natural and are not altered to bring out something else. Also characterized by visual emphasis on vertical and horizontal lines. The development of this style was driven by the Industrial Revolution that was dictated by emergence of new building materials. The presence of the inverted parabolic arch at the top of the building symbolizes the great advancement in technology (Isenstadt & Rizvi, 2008).

THE MUSLIM HOUSE

The building house is one of the outstanding architectural designs that has characterized the Saudi Arabian buildings in 20th century. It is normally constructed around the inner yard. The inner yard contains the courtyard house that are attached to each. The collective attachment will ensure a well maintained satisfaction of the family needs.

The design of the house assumes a pivotal part to fulfill males, female's and kids demands. For instance, men's and male visitor's rooms are straightforwardly accessible from the entrance of the house with the goal that guests would not intervene female zone. The men's visitor room is for the most part decorated with the valuable family possessions that symbolizes the financial status of the owner (Foster, 2011). It is also vital to note that courtyard executes as an

assurance from wind or warmth, where night air can permeate. In regards to courtyards, for the most part called architecture of the veil, alludes to a secret place. The courtyard, and additionally the entire house, is the safe region for kids and women, which shields them from the outside world.

THE KING SAUD UNIVERSITY

The University was set up in 1957 and expanded within years to areas such as research departments, medicine, science and engineering schools. The architectural style of the University can be best described as the one that combine older construction building with other recently established departments.

Discussion

The design and development of the structures in Saudi Arabia have been changing through hundreds of years – from materials, for example, limestone and clay to putting, tiling, and metal. Architecture Garry Martin in the paper 'building in the Middle East Today – in Search of a Direction' highlighted that following 600 AD Islamic architecture was inherent an approach to express the congruity between environment, people, and its Creator. All through the history Islamic architectural design adjusted to various cultures which was fortified by its spiritual essence. Case in point, urban focuses mirrored a solidarity through constructing it in certain logic– the mosque (Ching, Jarzombek, & Prakash, 2011).

Most Saudi Arabian building structures of the 20th century can be best described by Neo-vernacular" architecture movement. That is; these structures are characterized and defined by modern trends in the architectural field (Sharp, 2000). Vernacular architecture movement conversely constitutes small scale houses or buildings that survived recent pasts. However, it is worth stating that most of architectural structures in Saudi Arabia are influenced by religious beliefs. In Saudi Arabia, these buildings were built through a combination of empirical processes in handicraft and knowledge as well as cultural identity. The architectural designs present an allegory of cultural identification for the builders and historical experience for the people of Saudi Arabia (Hawker, 2008).

Conclusion

As the architecture designs of the buildings trickled from a generation to another, they formed a distinct building practice which characterizes most part of the country thus creating historical continuity (Fazio et al., 2013). On the other hand, these architecture acts as a memory of the past through symbols. These symbols associate the meaning of a particular place with its inhabitants and guests. In the modern world, physical changes in architecture tend to be rapid in developed countries. However, more emphasis is applied in protecting historical images of a given environment the surrounding buildings and Saudi Arabia is no exception.

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