



A Development in Amman

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Amman's Central Region lies in a topographical challenging site that influenced the emergence and evolution of the land uses, built forms and movement networks within the area. The urban evolution of the city from its prehistoric clustering settlements, through its expansion into one of the Romans league of Decapolis, and spanning the progression of the Islamic civilization, until the city's recent blooming into the kingdom's capital city, owes its evolution to the layering of more than six thousand years of history. Today around forty percent of the total population of the Kingdom of Jordan live and work within Amman. Central Amman has been earmarked to be the setting for an ambitious regeneration development which is overseen and coordinated by Greater Amman Municipality (GAM): "Wadi Amman Regeneration Project". Coupled with sincere attempts by GAM to develop and plan for the city expansion, the project entails big commitments to the city and its inhabitants to re-position the site as an incubator of the overall memory and birth place of the city. The site contains the main bulk of the invaluable historical and heritage relics including the inherited urban tissue. Accordingly, a project with such magnitude will, with no doubt, have huge implications on the urban fabric, memory and economics, which will transcend the exact limits of its site and affect the whole city... Evolution is a natural ingredient of the urban dynamics. Projects and developments with site-sensitive pretext need to acknowledge the temporal and physical circumstances of their contexts. This paper will try to shed light on the general trends of urban from evolution within the area, that, and as the paper will argue, were mere reactions for the one persisting factor through the city's history, its topography. By studying this particular case, the paper lists criteria to discuss and proposes general design attitudes towards other regeneration endeavors with contextual similarities. More importantly, it will prepare new grounds for further discussions and diversions from the general topic instigation additional thoughts on the subject matter.

KEY WORDS: Urban transformation, memory, heritage, history, urban development.