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Place Energy and Urban Scene Drama in Iraqi City Centers (Case study Rusafa district in Baghdad-Iraq)

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Place Energy and Urban Scene Drama in Iraqi City Centers (Case study Rusafa district in Baghdad- Iraq)

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Abstract. The concept of place energy aroused as one of the historical concepts of active regeneration over time, several studies have tried to activate its part in dealing with the place, but all of them have addressed the place internally only and didn't take into consideration the outer part of place. Because of the prominence of this concept in our urban life, this study has tried to activate the concept of place energy at the urban level to go beyond the cramped frame that was created for it. Where the place has outstanding importance in making human interaction within society, particularly its urban part. The study will analyze the energy of the place which is related to people's collective events and the memory of city residents, and how to deal with it and adapt it to the formation of the urban structure which gets closer to the ideal, and the possibility of benefiting from it in dealing with the spatial and the social dimensions within the city, while giving planning decisions to help activating this energy towards the Urban scene drama with which the community interacts and produces a live drama, this research focuses on the concept of place energy that shows the relationship between humans and place. The collective memory of the people will be adopted to discover their mental map according to their relative priority to the urban event to determine the important landmarks of the city and thus the energy nodes in the city, then these nodes will be analyzed in space syntax to reach to the relationship between these nodes and the urban structure, to reach to a scenario that arranges the urban scene.

1. Introduction

There is a sense of place that needs to be realized, this growing sense is at the heart of the knowledge of the place energy concept, also focuses on the statement and clarification of the invisible capabilities of the place, its components and the impact of these sensory abilities on the psyche and performance of humans, and thus begins to find practical solutions to mitigate the negative effects of the place and the artificial environment on the human, Here we note the entry of the concept of place energy to other concepts related to human life and the nature of social relations within the same place where the concept of drama is only a concept that reflects this relationship, which must occur within the place designed for such interaction and therefore the activation of the power of the place will activate Human interaction in place this is called the concept of drama live, this place should contain strong historical events that are stored in the collective memory of the people, this will build the dramatic situation of every place in the city(the place with the events), and therefore it will build the dramatic situation of the urban scene in the study area(Rusafa , it will be analyzed in many ways in order to make scenario that arranges the urban scene of the study area, therefore the research problem:(There is confusion in the urban scene in the Iraqi city centers as general, and specifically in the centers of Rusafa area), while the research hypothesis:(The process of organizing the urban scene in the Iraqi city is based on activating the concept of place energy and building a dramatic situation).

1.1. *Research objectives:*

1. Arranging the urban scene of the Iraqi city.
2. Understand both concepts the place energy and the drama, and how to relate them with the city planning and design.
3. Using spatial analysis indicators to physically analyze the urban fabric and reach an understanding of the place energy of every area in the city.
4. Understand the mental map of humans according to their memories, and the link of these memories with the significant events that occurs in the significant places (landmarks) of the city.

1.2. *Space and place:*

The idea of "place" appeared to be one which could provide a concept which would act as a connection between the various fields of realization. However, the interest in "places was the will to understand the ways in which we represent them in our heads" [1]. Enclosed and humanized space is place. Compared to space, place is a center of established values. Human need both space and place. Human lives are a argumentative movement between inside and outdoor, correlation and freedom [2]**.** Kevin Lynch defined the place through the concept urban environment: It is a complex system of connections between human and a lot of things surrounding their city. Their image is mightily soaked in meanings and memories [3]. The place is an important intersection of memory and geography. Places can be in one common sense, where physical space is relatively stable [4]. The place is a center of meaning or care that confirms human emotions and relationships. It represents the convergence of perception, emotions and organized actions around human power [5].

Place is the core of the planning process in a constant existence that interacts with the people through their activities.

1.3. *The concept of Place Energy:*

The concept of place energy, we can find it in the philosophy of Feng Shui, which was considered the basis of dealing with the planning of the place to reach a state of balance between the place and its energy depending on the color, shape, directing energy and materials that help to move the energy in place as shown in figure1, this works interiorly and exteriorly. They can either be visible as the energy of the flow of water and rain, or invisible such as the energy of the movement of air and electromagnetic energy, etc. [6].
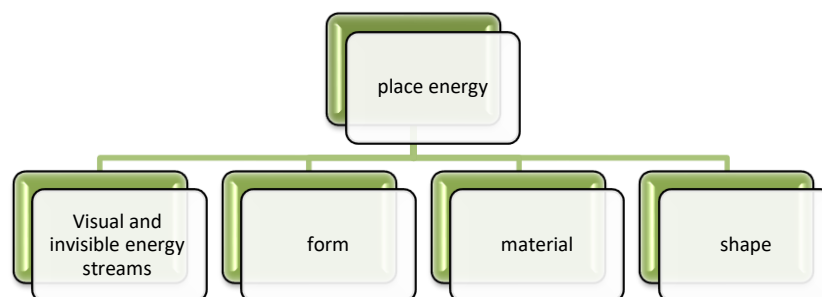

Figure1. The elements that can show the place energy.

There is great interest of the ancient civilizations of China, and India, in the concept of place energy and balance, which is the main concept adopted by the research, because this philosophy is of great importance in urbanization in terms of the place planning to fit with the human energy.

1.4. Urban scene:

The Urban scene is the result of the relationship between buildings and spaces, and between the buildings themselves, in this relationship we discover the beauty of the physical components which leads to the scene [7], the arrangement of the buildings in a certain balance send in the people a visual-sensual pleasure [7].the Urban scene can also be defined as: the hole image that people conclude about their city, this image is the city image. The impression of the city for the people is more than seeing, it contains city components (buildings and places), experiences, memories and drama of life, therefore every person makes his own image for the city [8]. Scenes conjugate a history of urban places by interacting a dramatic visibility. They are a measure of the vitality and clearness of a city [9]. From above, we can create concept about urban scene, which serves research hypothesis, the urban scene is a concept perception for visual and sensual components, this means what the human eye sees in the city and what it interacts with in the urban structure, by feelings that are connected with place and experience, this will lead us to the concept of drama that can be connected to the urban scene.
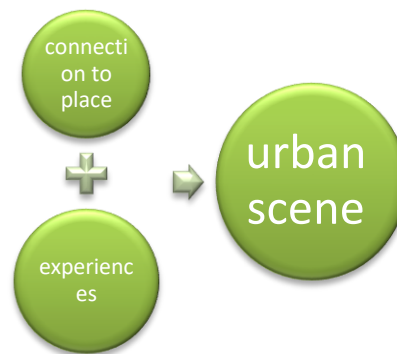

Figure 2. Shows how human interact with the urban scene.

1.5. Drama:

A Greek word means action, it is the action of simulating the human behavior and showing it, drama is an expression way to express people's feelings and emotions in all its forms [10]. Ashly sees that drama is affected by elements theory which contains place, time and events [11].

1.6. Collective memory:

The public place of the City of Collective Memory should cotain a continuous urban topography, a spatial structure that include places for public gathering, as well as private memory walks and personal events [12]. Not only was the city with its collection of monuments expected to be a source of inspiration, but monumental buildings were as well theatrical background for dramatic representation of human display [13]. our city memories lie in these physical landmarks, for the past(events) is transferred to the present through these sites, addressing the eye of vision and the soul of memory, a city as streets, features, and architectural forms often contain grand attendance of history [14].

1.7. Events:

Events are created in a certain place and time by an action, its presence is related to it being remembered and rediscovered in the place by humans, our connection to the event may change in time, it also varies from one to another, so its energy shows to the place, and being felt by human [15].

2. Data Used and Case Study Areas:

In this research two different methods were used to reach to an understanding on the urban structure and features, these methods are, first: questionnaire that was distributed to the people of Rusafa area, to distinguish their mental map and specify their collective memory, these mental maps were analyzed

to understand which features or streets were mostly chosen, then these features would be described by their distinguished events that led the people to choose them, then these features will be analyzed in Space Syntax program to spatially analyze them, the case study is a district in Baghdad, it was chosen for many reasons:

- This area has its own distinctive reason of arising, this area is commercial.

- Conceded as important and vital center inside Baghdad, and one of the most famously used by the resident of Iraq in general and the people of Baghdad in particular, but it differs from one area to another, thus this is with the historical and economical symbolic, this is why the resident movement is higher in this area from all around Baghdad city, and with the continuity around the day, the month and the year.

2.1. Rusafa analysis:
2.1.1. Rusafa Historical Background:
  Al-Khalifa al-Mansur was determined to build a city for his son Al-Mahdi , who came from the battles, in the western side of Baghdad, but he then decided to build it in the eastern side in order to control his army, this happened in the (151 hijri), therefore, Rusafa is considered one of the oldest cities in Baghdad [16].

2.1.2. Collective Memory questionnaire Analysis:
Shows that the people who answered this questionnaire identified a number of streets and features on the map, streets and landmarks that their frequency showed more than 15 questioners were selected, the results of the questionnaire are as shown in table 1.

Table 1. Shows the chosen landmarks and streets from Rusafa questionnaire.

Landmark or street name	Num.	Num. of repeat	Num. in questi. Tab.
Al-jumhuria street	1	51	112
Al-rusafi square	2	46	52
Al-rasheed street	3	44	111
Al-mutanabi street	4	42	73
Al-wathba square	5	22	101
Baghdad mayoralty	6	21	80
Ministry of defense	7	20	46
Almaydan	8	17	50
Alqushla	9	17	69
Al-shuhada'a bridge	10	16	54
Alsuq alarabi	11	15	76
Hafiz al qadi square	12	15	57

These results were marked on the map of the Rusafa area as shown in (Figure 3)

These streets and landmarks where selected according to the collective memory of the people, these memories came from certain events, these memories were passed through generations these events gave the chosen landmarks and streets their identity which distinguish them from other features. These events are as shown in (Table2) below.

Table 2. includes the landmarks and streets of rusafa area and their main events

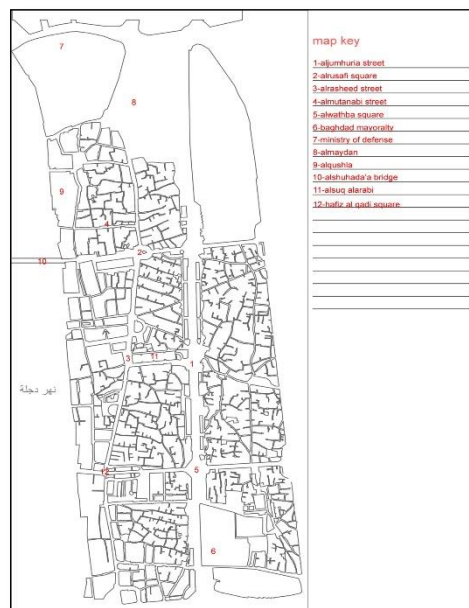| Landmark or street name	Num.	Main events
Al-jumhuria street	1	In 1956-1957 this street was opened in al Rusafa area, it was opened because of a political reason according to mecavely's book to the prince of Genoa, he advised him to destroy the city's urban structure if he wanted to rule. This decision ripped the urban and social distinctive structure of this old city. Its specifications for buildings were 7 storey buildings, cantilevered; the facades were covered with marble.
Al-rusafi square	2	It was a cemetery of Al imam taha, then the sculpture of Al-rusafi, who was a famous poet, was putted in this location in 1969(Ismail Fatah Alturk was the sculptor). it's considered on of the most famous squares in Baghdad.
Al-rasheed street	3	Khalil basha in 1916 opened this street for military reasons, this street has ripped the urban structure of the area and murjan mosque was divided into two parts.
Al-mutanabi street	4	It was called akmek khana(military bread store), after that it was turned to book stores street because it is near al sarai suq.
Al-wathba square	5	It was firstly named by king Feisal the second 1953, then it was called after the revolution of 1958
Baghdad mayoralty	6	The area is called al sadryia, before the mayoralty was built there was a public football field, baghdad mayoralty is one of the most significant buildings in the area it was built in 1978 designed by husham munir and nasir al-asadey.
Ministry of defense	7	It was Uthmanian military castle and it was near Baghdad wall, then it was destroyed in the royal covenant and ministry of defense was built.
Almaydan	8	It was one of the famous open spaces in baghdad and the famous open space in the area (the only one in the area), it has the famous latin church, now it is an area for parking
Alqushla	9	It was built by madhat basha, it was a military school, it has the famous and most old clock in Iraq, it has a museum in the recent time and this museum was rubbed in 2003.
Al-shuhada'a bridge	10	It was a wooden bridge at the authmani time, it was built in 1935, the most important event was that at the 1948 revolution a lot of young people were killed on it one of them was jafeer mahdi al jawahiri. it's considered the most important mean that connects al a'alawy with al shorja that was used by tradesmen. there were seagulls flying on the bridge.
Alsuq alarabi	11	This was altawrat area before al suq was built, al tawrat was destroyed to connect alrasheed street with aljumhuria street, Baghdad mayoralty decided to build alsuq alarabi building in the eight's, it is a two-storey building with a basement.
Hafiz al qadi square	12	It was named by king Feisal the second 1953, it had palm trees, the name hafiz al qadi was because of an Iraqi tradesman which called hafiz al qadi, the most distinctive building around it were: famous photography studies (arshaq), aljamia'a al arabia hotel, and hafiz al qadi stores.

Figure 3. Shows the map of Rusafa marked with the chosen landmarks and streets.

2.1.3. The spatial analysis of Rusafa area:

Six indictors were used in this method (Connectivity, Integration HH, Integration HHR3, Choice, Intelligibility, Synergy), these indicators give us facts about the urban structure, Axial analysis values were as shown in (figures 4,5,6,7) below.
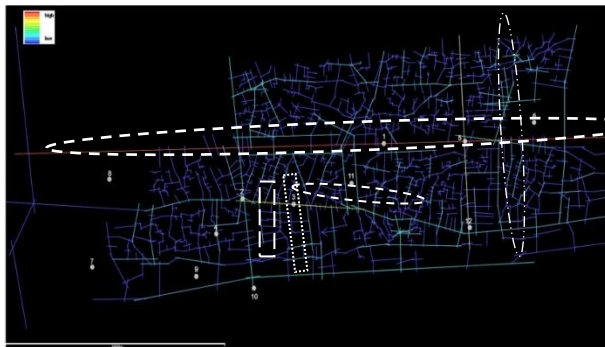

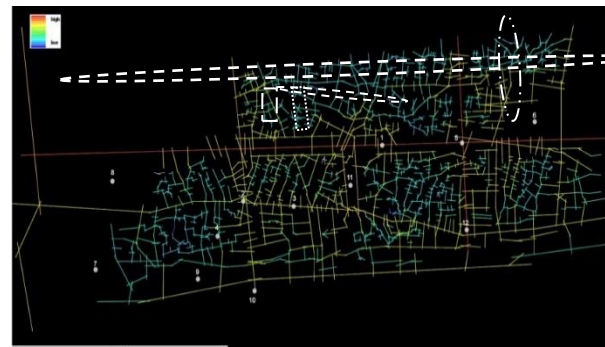
Figure 4. Shows the connectivity indicator in Rusafa map

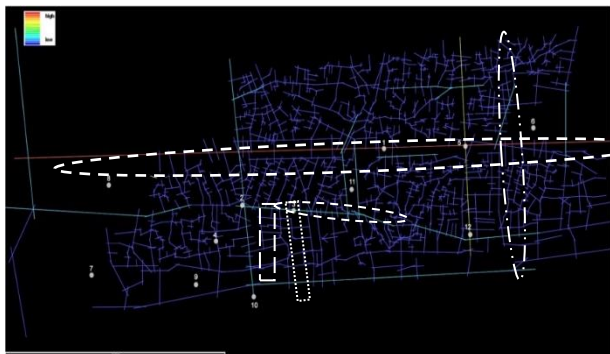**Figure 5.** Shows the global integration HH indicator in Rusafa map

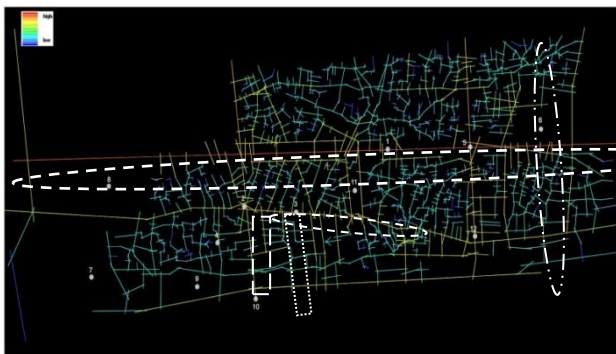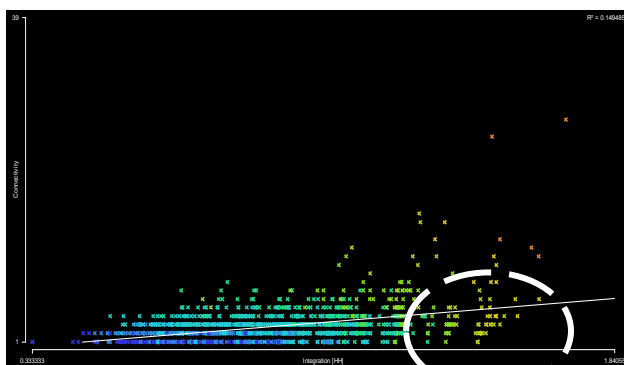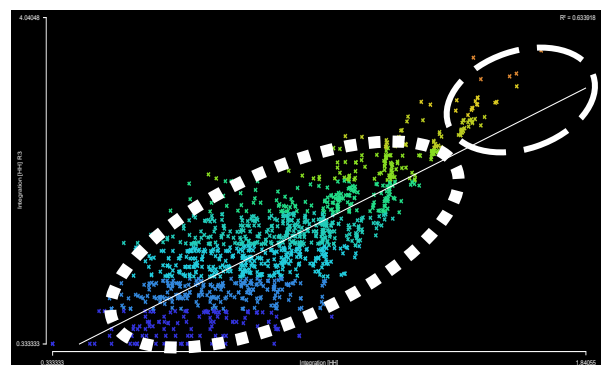**Figure 6.** Shows the choice indicator in Rusafa map

Figure 7. Shows the local integration HH R3 indicator in Rusafa map

Table 3. Shows the indicators average in every landmark or street in Rusafa area.

Landmark or street name	Num.	Connectivity	Integration	Integration local	Choice
Al-jumhuria street	1	39	1.840	4.040	0.924
Al-rusafi square	2	25	1.523	3.074	0.293
Al-rasheed street	3	25-9	1.523	3.580	0.291
Al-mutanabi street	4	5	1.101	2.241	0.016
Al-wathba square	5	27-39	1.714-1.840	3.661-4.040	0.574-0.924
Baghdad mayoralty	6	39	1.840	4.040	0.924
Ministry of defense	7	3	1.342	2.210	0.138
Almaydan	8	3-39	1.342-1.840	2.210-4.040	0.138-0.924
Alqushla	9	5	1.243	2.470	0.083
Al-shuhada'a bridge	10	13	1.375	3.078	0.096
Alsuq alarabi	11	25	1.523	3.225	0.291
Hafiz al qadi square	12	27	1.714	3.661	0.574

Global Integration and Local Integration Appeared in a consistent manner according to the same hierarchy for all the streets, but they varied in their values, this means that these streets are locally more important than globally, this is because Rusafa has an organic and narrow urban structure for their local streets, but their main streets are geometrical and wide.

The figures (8, 9) below shows two important indicators, first is Intelligibility which shows the relationship between connectivity and global integration HH (Intelligibility=0.149485) this shows the clarity of the urban structure which is considered in this area low (this means that the urban structure in Rusafa area is not so clear), the second indicator is Synergy which shows the relationship between Global and Local Integration(Synergy=0.633918), this shows a strong connection between local and global structure of Rusafa area.

Figure 8: Shows the intelligibility=0.149485

Figure 9. Shows the synergy=0.633918

3. Conclusions:

1. Everything in the universe is energy, and place energy can be defined as the result of human interaction with places, their everyday activities, and their experiences.
2. Big urban cities also look to dramatize the experience of urban life by creating memorable events and symbols with extraordinary places, thus tourists use the historic-cultural references of city residents to make their own memories, they follow the footsteps of residents or earlier visitors to plan memories, and document them in their own way (using their own memories).

3. In Rusafa area the landmarks(Al-rusafi square(2), Al-wathba square(5), Baghdad mayoralty(6), Ministry of defense(7) Almaydan(8), Al-shuhada'a bridge(10), Alsuq alarabi (11), Hafiz al qadi square(12))are the most important features but some of these features has no architectural forms to identify them, therefore these features combined help to arrange and build the dramatic situation of the urban scene of Rusafa area.

4. Recommendations:

1. These features were chosen because of the important events that took place in them, some of these features have no architectural forms to identify them, therefore we recommend that some of these features should be redesigned to fit with the events that happened in them, this will need a full study considered with each feature(study their events) and come out with plan to redesign them to fill their job in building the dramatic situation of the urban scene.

2. Knowing the place energy of the cities which is created because of the collective memories of the citizens and the important events that happened through time.

3. Knowing the distinguish and important events in every area, converting these events into features that represent these events to strengthen the mental map of the people, and thus develop their collective memories.

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