

An-Najah National University
Faculty of Graduate Studies

**Changing Urban Landscape Effects on Social
Activities.**
(Case Study of Ras Al-Ain District, Nablus)

By
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**This Thesis is Submitted to the Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Urban and Regional Planning Engineering,
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This thesis was defended successfully on 25/11/2018, and approved by:

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III **Dedication**

It is so common

To be almost traditional

To dedicate a work of science

To one's teachers, or to one's parents,

As the first teacher. As if one felt the need

To give back for what has been taken.

But a work of science,

And I have tried here to create a work of science,

Always includes a big amount of taking from previous researchers,

And teachers-see bibliography-. Then adding a little bit,

According to one's ability, and then giving back, not to

One's teachers, but to the whole community, and to

Other people as well, who might find the work

Interesting, and bring it on. It is for those

People that this work has been written.

And to them that it is dedicated.

So,

My Master's thesis:

To whoever might find it interesting

Acknowledgment

After the praise and thanks to God the Lord of the Worlds and prayers and peace on the master of creation and messengers Muhammad, Peace be upon him.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Doctor ZaharaaZawawi for her unwavering support, collegiality, and mentorship throughout this project.

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And take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks to all the faculty members of the department of Urban and Regional Planning for their help and encouragement.

I likewise place on record, my sense of gratitude to one and all who, directly or indirectly, have lent their helping hand in this venture.

This is also dedicated at the first place, to the memory of my mother, whom I still miss every day, to my Father, my infinite source of power, my beloved husband, who helped me in more ways than anyone else, my dearest brothers, family, and friends.

Thank you

الإقرار

أنا الموقعة أدناه، مقدمة الرسالة التي تحمل العنوان:

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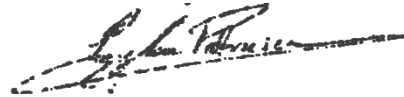
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By

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Supervisor

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Abstract

Every urban environment is distinctive from the other due to its significant characteristics that define its identity, these characteristics are not limited to the physical aspect of the urban space, but it also extends to involve the societal qualities of the inhabitants and their daily activities that they are able to practice and are enhanced by their lived environment.

This study attempts to understand and interpret the morphological characteristics of the built environment in one of the neighborhoods of Nablus, which has been considered distinctive being as one of the oldest neighborhoods emerging in the city during the British mandate as a natural expansion due to population growth outside the boundaries of the old city of Nablus. The main aim of this thesis is to analyze how the urban characteristics of this neighborhood developed and evolved through time, affecting meanwhile on its livability and inhabitants activities.

The research methodology adopted is deductive, descriptive, analytical, and historical based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches of data collection and case study. The tools used to collect information include: personal observations, semi-structured interviews with different age-groups (children, adults), site survey, computer science, and urban analysis.

For an in-depth investigation, a case study neighborhood situated in a strategic location adjacent to the old city of Nablus was chosen named Ras Al-Ain neighborhood. The study starts by analyzing the metrological urban development of the area in line with the expansion of the city of Nablus. Then, it examines the different levels of its morphological resolutions (blocks/plots, buildings forms and heights, street patterns, and land use), in order to reach for a clear vision about the neighborhood available urban space potentials and problems that affects the enhancement of the inhabitants social activities.

The study reveals the real needs of the people living in the neighborhood, and shows some of the children mental maps and demands towards the improvement of their urban spaces qualities. Thesis concludes with feedback on the existing conditions and translate it into on ground and achievable suggested actions and practical solutions for the optimization and integration of Ras Al-Ain, in order to have a distinguished urban environment that encourage people social life and interactions in a good conditioned urban spaces.

Keywords: Urban Morphology, Ras Al-Ain, Neighborhood, Social Activities, Urban Space.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview and problem description

“We shape our cities, and they shape us” – Winston Churchill.

The above statement is not attributed to an architect nor a planner, but to the British statesman Winston Churchill. Such an assumption reflects the belief in a socio-spatial dialectic that takes place in our homes, neighborhoods, streets, public spaces and cities. Our spatial practice in everyday life is a vehicle of meaning and a journey of moral deliberation (1991a, p. xi; David M. Smith, 2000).

The formation of cities laid back in history to more than thousands of years ago, after the human transition from being migratory to more stable, urbanized one. Since stability and living in groups is a human need, these groups turned out and developed through time to be known as cities; since then, these small or large urban communities, were not formed only by the accumulation of physical components, but also human and civil society were the focus of these communities. Through their relationship with each other, community practices, and various shared activities happening daily, these activities had been linked unconsciously with the culture and beliefs of population which in turn affected on the shape of the city. *“Human being shape his habitat which in order shape the city, and people shape their cities, then cities shape people.”*(Rapoport, 1977)

In the Palestinian context, we notice the huge evolutionary expansion of cities, in alignment with the morphological change in the urban form of a specific area generated through time; which can affect the residents already living in that area, leading to some changes in their social lives, and interactions between each other.

In another words, modernization movement due to the rapid urbanization, was the reason for the increase of buildings and private housing, leading to urban congestion at the expense of public areas, squares, and urban spaces that are originally meant to be used for recreational social activities, and fulfill other inhabitants needs rather than housing needs, which is happening in Nablus, and can be noted specifically in the area of Ras Al Ain.

1.2 Research objectives

This research seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

- Reach a clear understanding of the circular causality between the change of urban morphology of a particular space through time and its corresponding effects on its user's activities and social life through conducting a detailed morphological analysis of the urban space comprising the study area of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood.
- Analyze the physical environment of Ras Al-Ain in all its morphological aspects, in order to develop an understanding of the neighborhood urban landscape changes that affect its social context and inhabitants daily activities

- The presentation of a chronological analysis of the urban development of the city of Nablus emphasizing the area of the case study, and adopting an urban analysis process through comparing maps and changing situations.
- Recognize the specific physical space where people interact and study its characteristics, and what kind of activities are taking place there in line with the study of the physical and urban conditions that encouraged and affected this activities to be held and enhance as a result of the use of relevant urban spaces.
- Instruct for future recommendations of some possible applications to be considered regarding the improvement of the urban landscape pattern of Ras Al-Ain in in light of people needs and demands within current possibilities.

1.3 Research Hypothesis and Case study

1.3.1 Hypothesis

Since I assume that there was, still, and always be a mutual interaction between people and their built environment; the study of form per se should not neglect the dynamic forces creating those forms (Bobek, 1927).

This thesis tries to prove that the change in the urban form of blocks, streets and areas through time is strongly bounded with the change of social life in that area, since social activities are affected by the nature of buildings, area, location, and purpose. Thus, the lack of adequate urban spaces, poor built

environment qualities, or congested streets, all can effect on the livability of this neighborhood, and the social ties and ability of the inhabitants to share activities and interact with each other.

1.3.2 Case Study

The case study adopted in this thesis is the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain, situated on the adjacent southern boundaries of the old city of Nablus. This neighborhood forms one of the oldest and most prominent neighborhoods in the city of Nablus, it form a main vital route connecting the two peripheries of the city with each other and with the city center, its limited plot area due to the continuous urban development and population growth affected the availability of urban spaces necessary for the inhabitants of this neighborhood to use and enhance their daily activities.

The challengeable urban situation of Ras Al-Ain, in addition to its geographical and historical importance, made it a potential case study to be adopted in this thesis and analyzed in depth in order to reach for a suitable and comprehensive analytical conclusion that would help into a future optimization and integration of the area as discussed further in the next chapters.

1.4 Thesis Questions

The study will attempt to answer the following question:

- Is there any relation between the evolution and change of the urban morphology through time and the change of its inhabitant's social activities?
- If so, how?
- And to what extent can affect people and their social life and activities in that space?
- What is the process of the historical development of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood within the development framework of the city of Nablus?
- How the urban development of Ras Al-Ainneighborhood affected on the quality and availability of urban spaces, and this affected people's activities in turn?

1.5 Research Methodology and Data Collection

1.5.1 Methodology

In this thesis and in order to fulfill and answer the research questions. A clear methodological process is adopted, and which is based on three main pillars:

1. The first axis includes the general and theoretical framework of the study by reviewing the concepts, theories and models related to the subject of the research of urban morphology, its prominent schools, fellows, and related methods and works. In addition to theoretical review clarifying the main interrelations between urban morphology, urban space, and social activities. All of this by following a historical and descriptive method of scientific research.
2. The second pillar includes the information framework of the city of Nablus in general and the study area of Ras Al-Ain in particular, in terms of characteristics and urban development through history, it also comprises studying the reality and current situation in the study area through the use of field study method (urban survey) and spatial analysis through analyzing the evolution of its urban morphological pattern.
3. The third one comprises the analytical side and the comprehensive evaluation of the study area based on the theoretical framework, in order to determine the nature of the interrelationship between the changing in urban landscape and morphological characteristics of the place and the social activities practiced by its inhabitants and its users by referencing to the theoretical framework in the first axis and benefiting from some theories in order to end up with a group of conclusions and recommendations. Figure (1.1) below, shows a diagram of these main pillars with their corresponding chapters that are briefly introduced in the following section (**1.6 thesis structure**)

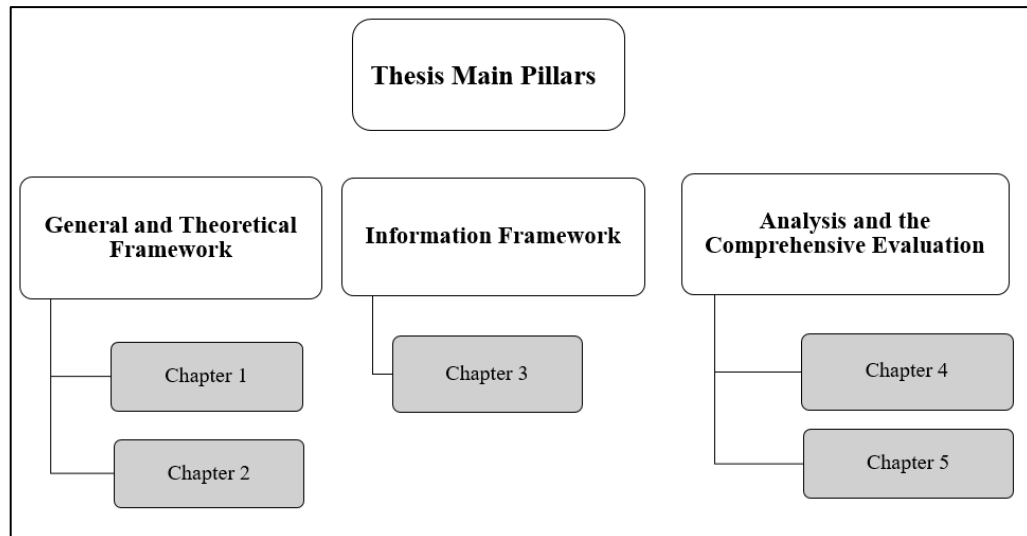


Figure 1. 1: Thesis Main Pillars Diagram. Source: (the researcher,2018).

The study will take into consideration people origins and their development through the course of time, as their existence in a specific area, having a specific social life, and doing a specific social activities, will affect and be vice versa be affected by the integration of form, function, and historical development.

In order to analyze and study the change of the landscape of Ras-Ain neighborhood in light of its urban morphological change, it is important to analyze and discover the temporary and movable nature of function and uses in the specific area, as it is considered to be the central element to the evaluation of change. To do so, a detailed urban morphological analysis of the physical urban form and social context of the neighborhood is conducted. The physical urban form is analyzed through a comprehensive morphological analysis that includes a metrological analysis of the urban development of the different aspects of the urban form (Plot/Block pattern, Street patterns, and building typologies).

After that, the social context is analyzed by after in depth interviews with the different inhabitants of Ras A-Ain, fieldwork,, snapshots, photographs, personal interviews, and mental maps drawn by the children of the neighborhood in order to be able to compose a complete picture that can reflect the reality of the social life lived in the region and understand its relation with the urban physical aspect, within the aim to realize what are the potentials and problems of Ras Al-Ain landscape and try to suggest some possible developments and recommendations that will promote a suitable urban environment to enhance a livable neighborhood. (Figure 1.2)

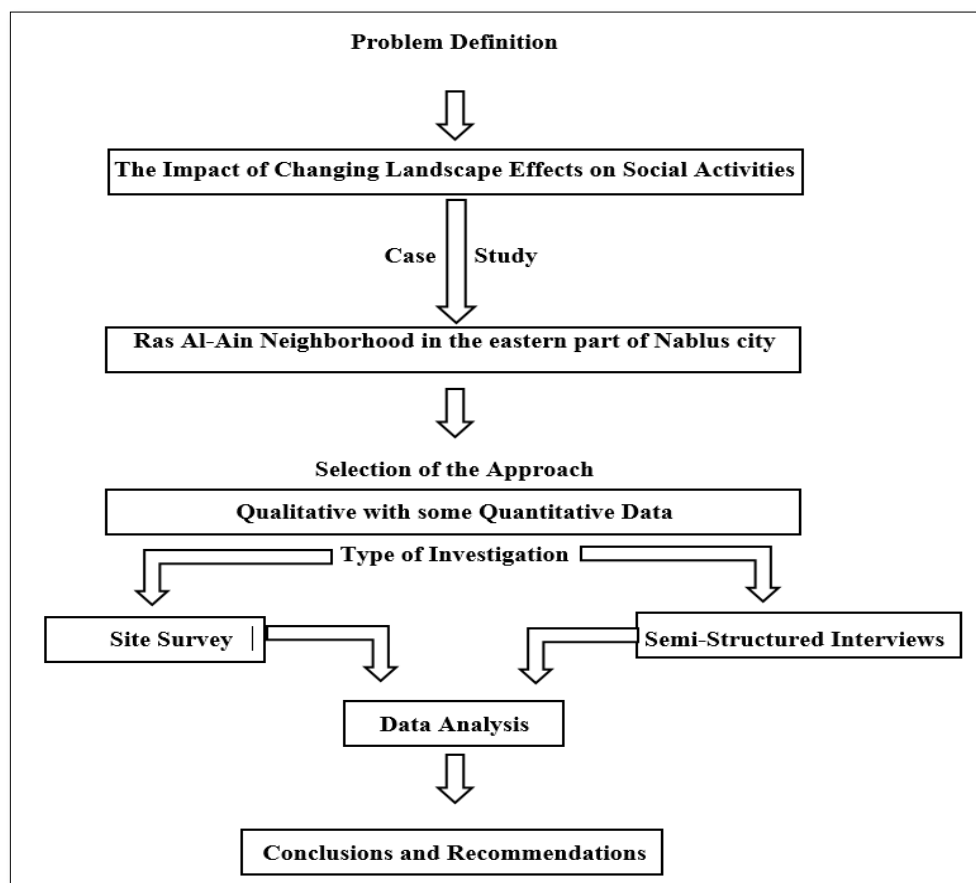


Figure 1. 2: Research Methodology And Procedure Of Investigation.Source: (the researcher, 2018).

1.5.2 Data Collection

As data collection provides a better understanding of the thesis and its case study, in this thesis, data collection falls into two main categories, which are primary main data, and secondary data adopted for the analytical study.

Primary data are reflected in interview of different inhabitant's age-types (children and adults), analysis and creation of new maps after site survey and observations. The secondary data are summarized by previous studies, reports, maps, and photos that are mainly used in the literature review chapter.

Thus descriptive, historical, and analytical methods are adopted for data collection. First of all, the descriptive methods are applied in literature review chapter describing the main concept of the study subject and previous related studies. Second, the historical methods are mainly reflected in the historical development of the case study area and its comprising city, and in the metrological analysis conducted on the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain using maps and photographs from site survey. Finally, the analytical methods are applied on the case study area of Ras Al-Ain through its in-depth urban morphological analysis in order to evaluate and understand its current situation and urban and social characteristics. Table (1.1) shows the different tools used in conducting the methods adopted in this study.

Table 1. 1: Case Study analytical tools used. Source: (The researcher, 2018).

Tools of Ras Al-Ain Urban Landscape Analysis
➤ Historical Development Maps
➤ Space Syntax Analysis
➤ Snapshots and photographs
➤ Interview with children
➤ Interview with adults
➤ Region Mental Mapping

1.6 Thesis Structure

This thesis is divided into several consistent and sequential chapters as follows:

1. Chapter one: “Introduction”, which presents a comprehensive introduction including a general overview and problem definition related to the changing urban landscape effects on social activities, showing the main ideas of this research objectives stated out through this study hypothesis and main questions, by using a methodological approach in line with data collection set, to finally build a well comprehensive structure for the research.
2. Chapter two: “Urban Morphology an social activities”, a literature review enclosing all the collected data regarding the subject of urban morphology, a detailed definition of urban morphology, examination of its traditional and recent approaches, its historical developments and leading schools methodologies. After that a section about urban space explains how the change of urban morphology affects people’s

activities, and what is the nature of the relation between urban space, social activity, and urban morphology.

3. Chapter three: “Ras Al-Ain in the framework of the historical urban development of Nablus city”, this chapter highlights the area of the study of Ras Al-Ain within Nablus city illustrating its urban and morphological development through all its historical stages.
4. Chapter four: “Ras Al Ain changing urban landscape”, this chapter intakes the prefund analysis of the case study are in order to fulfill and answer the research questions
5. Chapter five: “ Results and Recommendations”

Due to the present and continuously revolution of urbanization and socio-economic development, a considerable change in the forms of cities had occurred and affected the urban tissue and fabric of cities and urban spaces, in order to respond to the changing needs of its inhabitants and to accommodate their preferences and everyday activities. Despite this changes, many difficulties arise and problems such as urban sprawl and social segregation appeared in cities, these problems required urban design to adopt new techniques and create solutions to all this issues, to do so, urban morphology should be profoundly studied and understood correctly in all its elements and compositions, thus the next chapter presents a detailed definition of urban morphology, examination of its traditional and recent approaches, its historical developments and leading schools methodologies.

Chapter Two

Urban Morphology and Social Activities

2.1 Introduction

Ever since the built environment exist and urban life begun, the form and look of the built environment attracted the attention and interest of many researchers in order to understand and describe its components, elements, and particular shapes which differs from one region to another and develop throughout time.

These researchers belong to various branches of knowledge and professional disciplines, such as history, architecture, sociology, geography, anthropology, art history, landscape architecture, and engineering. But to assign a main discipline to be the most prominent in interpreting urban form itself, in all its varied physical manifestations does not lie at the existential core of any of these fields.

The study of urban morphology is considered to be very important to both urbanism and urban design and planning; as it helps to understand the urban process, and explains its courses and effects on the spatial composition of different built environments, it permits the comparison between cities and helps to predict urban change.

This does not mean that to understand an urban morphology of a specific area we should focus only on its spatial composition and neglect the societal aspect of urban space, but it means that to understand deeply the specific characteristics of a community, the urban morphological theories

should be studied and understood in parallel with its livable characteristic and sense of community lived with its various social activities affecting and being affected at the same time by its surrounding urban space that comprises them. As a result, urban morphology can be described also as the social geography of cities, confirming that there is an intersection between changes in the urban form and changes in social and economic nature of cities.

It is a complex relationship of cause and effect which Fran Tonkiss explained, through clarifying that *“the production and use of space is a social as much as it is a technical problem as urban form is not only about buildings and the spaces between them, street layouts and open spaces, skylines and city boundaries- although it is about all of those things. Urban form is also about densities and distributions of people, spatial relations between social groups, the spatial markings of legal boundaries and entitlements, urban environments and the submerged or social infrastructures that shape and segment them. Those who seek to understand the city, as much as those “ agencies that act on it or try to influence it- creatively , logistically, politically” (koolhaas, 1995:961), need to think about the human clay as well as about the concrete.”*(Tonkiss, 2013, p. 40)

That’s why it is essential for researchers to take into consideration the morphological pattern of a specific space, when attempting to understand and analyze its inhabitant’s social activities as urban morphology is related to urban spaces since the number of people grows throughout the years, consequently the city needs to be adapted in order to accommodate them,

this implies building more buildings, changing spatial urban spaces, but that's not only it. Urban space is extremely important for those who live in a city, because it's in those spaces that people spend the majority of time, doing their own type of activities. "*The use of urban space is a function of this system, of the way the house and parts of settlements are used together for various activities*" (Rapoport, 1977, p. 21) which means that urban space is built in the way that it's going to be used for different activities from those who live in it and who are visiting the space as well. Hence, it's very important and essential to these social activities to be always considered, when a new neighborhood is being designed.

Finally, this chapter seeks to explore the different definitions and meanings that urban morphology entails, and its various study areas in different disciplines, in addition to examine historical, traditional, and recent approaches in the field. After that, it attempts to understand the meaning of urban space, its types and characteristics that help in enhancing social activities, and explain what these activities are, and how they are related with the urban space and urban morphology, in order to reach for a clear understanding about the mutual relationship between urban morphology and social activities.

2.2 Urban Morphology Definitions

The word "Morphology" as a noun was first used in 1824 in biology (from German Morphologie, 1817), and in 1869 in philology. It is a multidisciplinary term defined differently by each discipline. In linguistics

it refers to the words' structure and functional changes in the forms of words, such as inflection and compounding, internal structure, and how they are formed. In biology morphology is the branch that deals with the study of the form and structure of organisms, and in geology it refers to the study of the configuration and evolution of land forms.(Fudeman, 2011)

The origin of the word (Morphology/mɔ:'fɒlədʒi) goes back to the mid-19th century combining between two Greek words: morphē which means “form, shape” and –logy from Greek -logia which is a word-forming element meaning “theory, science”. Thus morphology is concisely the scientific study or description of form. Many dictionaries stated that morphology is the study of forms of things, it's the size, shape, and structure of an organism or one of its parts, and it is also described as the history of variation in form. While form is a three dimensional figure that can be perceived as a general system characterized with several visual properties such as shape, size, color, and texture. Shape is defined as the principal identifying characteristic of form, it results from the specific configuration of a form's surfaces and edges. Form may be considered as a product (state of being) by its shape and structure, or a process (state of becoming) by its arrangement, ordering hierarchy, and its conception idea and mental symbol.

Urban morphology is an urban science that refers to the study of form of human settlements and the process of their formation and transformation, it is defined as the “*the organized body of knowledge*” an integral part of urban geography (Whitehand, 1899, p. 1) it “*studies the city as a human*

habitat” (Moudon, 1997, p. 1). Urban morphology mainly aims to understand the urban form, hence “*contribute to both the theory and practice of designing that form*”(Whitehand, 2005, p. 19), as a result it is highly suggested to be one of the essential things an urban designer should know about, as Moudon stated that “*to build up actual knowledge in urban design, one should not look for the correct approach or theory, but should instead compile and assess all the research that adds to what the urban designer must be familiar with*”.(Moudon, 1992, p. 363)

Urban morphology interpret human settlements and built environment as an unconscious product that emerges over long periods of time, through building process activity. As Guelke stated that urban morphology might be defined as “*the study of changes in thought expressed in human activity on the surface of the earth*”. (Guelke, 1982, p. 3 originally referring to historical geography) This definition has the potential of providing a foundation for a stronger and more coherent field.

The main question of urban morphology is to articulate and analyze the logic of the traces left after generation of building activity, which serve to structure subsequent building activity and provide opportunities and constraints for city-building processes, such as subdivision, infrastructure development, or building construction. So it is essential to urbanism and urban design, it helps explaining urban process, permit comparison between cities, and helps predict urban changes. It analyzes the various elements of urban form comprising the city, such as roads, squares, streets,

and buildings, thus contributing to both the theory and practice of designing that form(Whitehand, 2005)

Urban morphology is considered as an “*analytical process of understanding the evolving form of a specific place and can reveal the evolutionary patterns of the city urban DNA*”.(Sanders, 2008, p. 8). It does not only concerns to explain what shape settlements took, but also how did they took that specific shape over time, and why they took it.

It seeks to understand the special structure, which includes the geography of space that is the physical setting of the space that we are in, and the geography of place which refers to the connection to those physical spaces or the community in those places, in addition to understand the character of a metropolitan area, city, town, or village, by examining the patterns of its component parts and the process of its development.(Miller, 2010)

All of this in order to explain urban process, help predict urban changes, and permit comparison between cities, for example, the work of (Morris, 1994), who compared between four different geometric layouts of four European cities; as shown in the (figure 2.1) below.



Figure 2. 1: Comparison Between Four Geometric Layouts Of Four European Cities (Morris, 1994) (A: Nijmegen With Artillery Fortification From Early 18th Century, B: Naarden With Its Fortification System, C: Retained Original Plan And The Fortification System Of Palma Nova, And D: Le Havre In Early Time And Three Lines Of Moats Were In Northern Side). (Source: Sun, Comparative Analysis Of Urban Morphology, 2013)

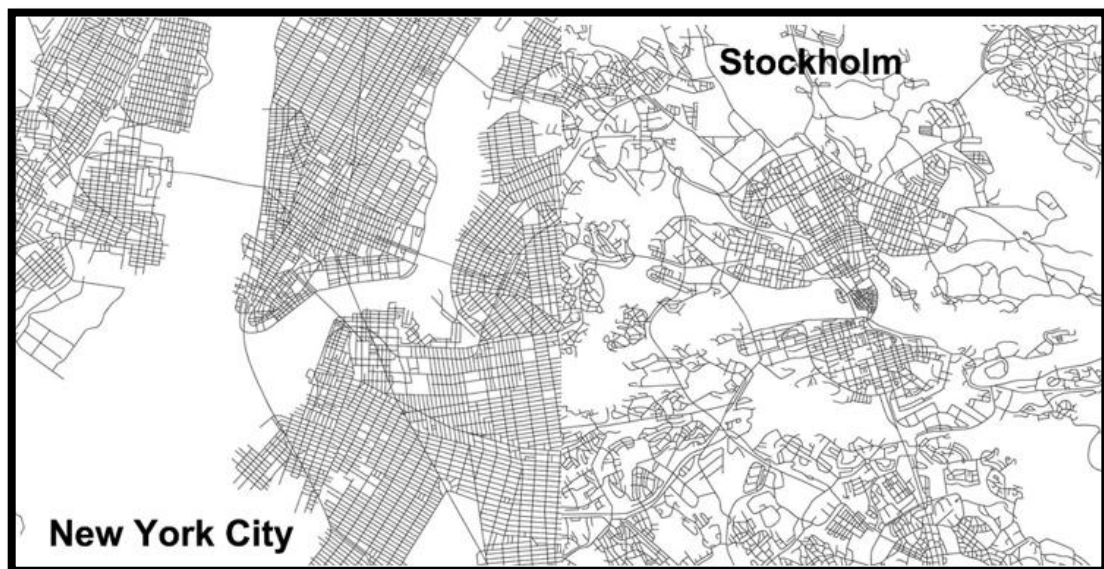


Figure 2. 2: Plan Layout Of New York City And Stockholm (Source: Urbangeographies.Tumblr.Com, 2018).

The layout of the city is the main factor that is reflected in its form and internal structure. A city without planning means a random urban development forming slums. (Figure 2.2) illustrates a clear difference between the layout of New York City with a grid uniform pattern, and Stockholm City with a more random layout. Therefore each city is active within the framework of its plan developed in the future and there is a difference between the morphology of the city that was established on a specific plan and those that did not arise according to previous planning. Both planned and unplanned city structures will be affected by the morphological stage passing through the city, and they will be characterized by specific qualities and characteristics that add to the form distinctive architectural forms and shapes that differs from one period of time to another.

In addition to the historical development that affects the shape of the city, there are some other natural factors that play a significant role in shaping the general scheme of the city:

- 1- The topographic factor, which affects the morphology of the city and the direction of its architectural style in building houses in the city, in terms of size and type of construction and materials used, in addition to the geographical distribution of buildings. It also shows the impact of this factor on the orientation and extension of transportation networks; the overlap and mix patterns of land use, and the cost of providing services to population in the urban stable. There is no doubt that the city's morphology is the result of the interaction of existing and

continuing between a combination of factors, historical, economic, political, and natural ones. Which correlates between each other in a complex combination, leading sometimes to difficulties in assigning the role of each factor alone in an accurate and clear way.(Saleh, 2009,unpublished thesis)

- 2- Geographical natural elements such as Rivers, the morphology of coastal cities have been affected by the existence of rivers, as they were used as means of transportation and communication purposes, they also were used as a military defense barrier against foreign invasions.(Saleh, 2009,unpublished thesis) Thus, its influence was evident in determining the shape of the city and its urban fabric, as can be noticed in (Figure 2.3) examples of river cities, London, and the city of Baghdad.

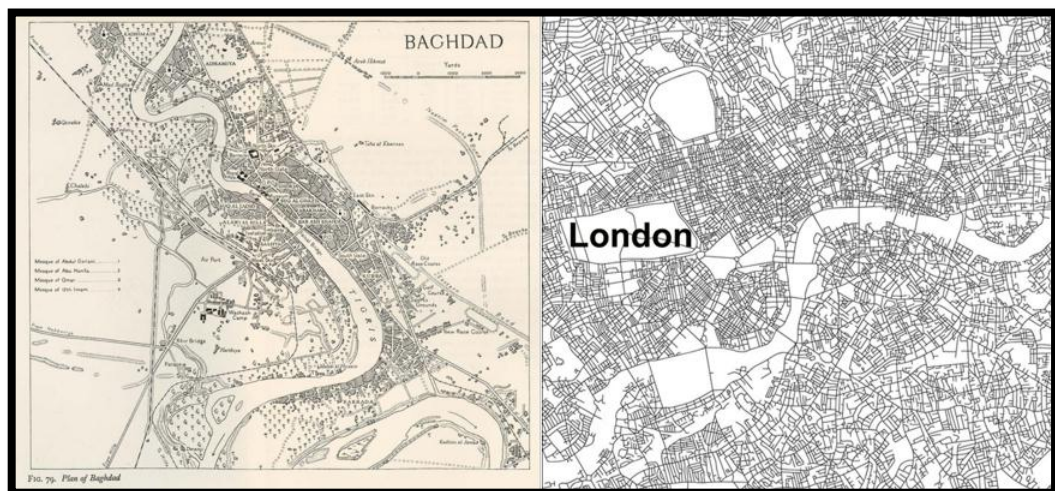


Figure 2. 3: Cities By River, Left- The City Of Baghdad, Iraq, Right- The City Of London, United Kingdom. (Source: The Researchers).

- 3- The Climate, the effect of climate on urban morphology was limited on the old cities, for example, it affected the architecture of the Nile Valley, where the excavations showed that the windows of the buildings and

residential floors were small; for example, the building of the Red Monastery in Nile Valley, Egypt (Figure 2.4), characterized with its small opening in order to get enough light and guide the architectural blocks towards the north to get the cold breeze. (Saleh, 2009, unpublished thesis)



Figure 2. 4: Deir El Ahmar, the Red Monastery in Nile Valley, Egypt. (source: the RESEARCHERS).

So, as Gauthier and Gilliland cited that “*Perhaps the most important contribution of urban morphology to the study of cities has been to show how the built environment can be understood as a system of relations submitted to rules of transformation*”. (Gilliland, Gauthier, 2005, p. 45). This process of studying urban morphology has been adopted by different academic disciplines, mainly by geography, architecture, science, urban design, and philosophy. All of these approaches are discussed in detail below.

2.3 Disciplines in Urban Morphology

The study of urban morphology have been characterized to neither belong to a specific field of knowledge nor specialty, but at the same time, the researchers in this field belong to various branches of knowledge and professional disciplines, such as history, architecture, sociology, geography, anthropology, art history, philosophy, landscape architecture, urban design, and engineering. Which each of them were in turn influenced by a variety of traditions, research objectives, programs, or tools. Leading them to express their understanding of urban morphology in different ways and from various perspectives.

As a result, it would be difficult to assign a main discipline to be the most prominent in interpreting urban form itself, in all its varied physical manifestations, it does not lie at the existential core of any of these fields. The reason is because historians focus on the decisions made by the human and his actions; geographers on spatial logics and their resulting place-to-place differences; architects on the challenge of designing workable and expressive buildings; sociologists on the interactions between people, anthropologists on the shaping influence of cultures; and between individuals and society; art historians on the visualizations of artists and their audiences; landscape architects on the functional and decorative aspects of open spaces; and engineers on conforming their infrastructural systems with the laws of physics and chemistry.(Larkham & Conzen, 2014)

Therefore, the tables below presents a brief overview of different pioneers in this five main disciplines, geography literature (table 2.1), architecture (table 2.2), science (table 2.3), urban design (table 2.4), and philosophy (table 2.1), which are arranged in chronological order according to the year of conceiving. (Source: the researcher)

Table 2. 1: Pioneers In The Geographical Discipline (Morphological Process)

<i>Geography (Morphological process)</i>	
1899	Schlüter& Geisler
1960	M.R.G Conzen
1981	Whitehand
2001	Kropf
2005	Larkham

Table 2. 2: Pioneers In The Architectural Discipline (Typological Process)

<i>Architecture (Typological Process)</i>	
1960	Muratori
1963	Gianfranco Caniggia
1986	Malfroy
1997	Moudon
2004	Samuels

Table 2. 3: Pioneers in the Scientific Discipline (Mathematical Process)

<i>Science (Mathematical Process)</i>	
1970s	Bill Hiller
1977	Alexander
2000	Salingaros

Table 2. 4: Pioneers in Urban Design (Design Process).

<i>Philosophy (Philosophical Process)</i>	
1935	David Harvey
1977	Foucault
1901-1991	Henri Lefebvre

Table 2. 5: Pioneers In The Philosophical Discipline (Philosophical Process).

<i>Urban Design (Design Process)</i>	
1889	Camilo Sitte
1959	Zucker
1978	Koetter
1979	Krier
1982	Aldo Rossi
1960	Kevin Lynch
1961	Jane Jacob

Each of these disciplines in line with their different theoretical approaches contributions to urban morphology are usually studied on its own isolated philosophical and epistemological island, but according to Pierre Gauthier and Jason Gilliland, in order to increase the intelligibility in the field, a simpler scheme that is straightforward reveals the intrinsic similarities in their treatment of urban form as an object of enquiry. (Gilliland, Gauthier, 2005)

The classification technique used in their work can be summarized in the division of the contributions in the history of urban morphology according to firstly, its primary heuristic purpose that they serve, by classifying them to cognitive and normative studies; and secondly, according to the

epistemic status of urban form, by dividing the studies into internals and externals approaches.

The cognitive studies of urban morphology according to Gauthier & Gilliland, refer to studies which are aimed at providing explanations or developing explanatory frameworks and answer questions regarding “what is” and “why”; they are interested in the heuristic nature of an intellectual enterprise concerned with producing knowledge; or at developing theoretical means, methods, and techniques, in additions to the contributions that aim to develop theoretical and analytical tools. Whilst, normative studies aimed at determining the modalities according to which the city should be planned or built in the future, it also aims at articulating a view of what the future should look like, answering “what should be” questions, or at exposing a doctrine or specific sets of norms and prescriptions that would serve such a view. (Gauthier & Gilliland, 2005)

The second differentiation was made between the internals approach, which consider urban morphology as an independent system and is concerned with understanding the internal logic of the urban fabric; and between the externalist approach, that considers urban morphology as dependent variable or passive product of various external determinants; and consider the urban form as the end product of processes driven by political, geographical, historical,...etc., determinants.(Gilliland, Gauthier, 2005)

These classifications were made in the intension to simplify the understanding of the different fields’ contributions in urban morphology,

and were summarized and illustrated in this simplified Cartesian grid below. (Figure 2.5)

Hillier (1996) Hillier & Hanson (1984) Cataldi (1977) Maretto (1984) Caniggia (1963)	Muratori (1960) Caniggia & Maffei (1979)	Cognitive	Normative	Caniggia & Marconi (1986)
Boudon <i>et al.</i> (1977) Castex <i>et al.</i> (1980) Conzen (1968) Conzen (1960)	Moudon (1986) Habraken (1998)			Conzen (1975) Spigai (1980) Samuels & Pattacini (1997) Levy & Spigai (1992) Levy & Spigai (1989)
Internalist approach				
Externalist approach				
Slater (1978) Whitehand (1972a) Whitehand (1974) Kostof (1991)	Rapoport (1982)			Larkham (1996) Whitehand (1981) Rapoport (1977)
Çelik (1997) King (1984) Vance (1977)	Lynch (1960) Mumford (1961) Benevolo (1980)			Lynch (1981)

Figure 2. 5: Mapping Contributions To The Study Of Urban Form, (Source: Gauthier And Gilliland, Mapping Urban Morphology, 2005).

Therefore, the previous mapping method can be considered as a simpler classification which resulted from processing the previous seemingly different theoretical approaches through illustrating their common intersections in the field of urban morphology, thus it could be the ideal method and way used to look at the subject in this thesis, especially when addressing the analysis of urban morphology from many interrelated

disciplines that simultaneously affect each other, emphasizing in this thesis the urban design, architectural, and social approaches in an integrated manner.

After this wide range of urban morphology disciplines, it's important to picture the history that reflects the progression and the historical evolution of the study of this complex, multi-disciplinary field, in order to understand the origins of each discipline and comprehend how it has been shaped and developed throughout time. The following section takes over this task.

2.4 Historical Timeline Development of Urban Morphology

As mentioned before, urban morphology turned to be a wide and complex field of study, with an overlapped interrelations in many different disciplines. So in this section, I attempted to present a detailed and simplified theoretical background reflecting the progression and the historical evolution of the study of this complex, multi-disciplinary field. To do so, it is essential to go back through its evolutionary history and detect the origins of the study of urban morphology; and how it emerged to be an independent field of study, by mentioning the succession of its most prominent pioneers and their most relevant works in the field.

As Bernard (Gauthiez, 2004) noted, urban Morphology arose as a field of study, as a result of some questions related basically with architectural types, and the analysis of plans. Back in history, the availability of typological maps was essential for the progression and emergence of the interest in analyzing them, in order to understand the structure and evolving

forms of towns. There was a special interest in analyzing the mediaeval town plans because of their wide availability. In 1798, the scientific findings of Bonaparte in Egypt were considered one of the earliest examples of town plans that are no longer available at the time.(Gauthiez, 2004) As shown in the (figure 2.6), illustrating an old map of the ancient Egypt in 1765 produced after the scientific findings of Bonaparte in Egypt.

On the same approach in 1832, Antonio Quatremere de Quincy an architect, archaeologist, philosopher, art critic, and French politician; emphasized the importance of studying this kind of town plans, in order to understand the history of that town and follow its historical progress, through the observation of population growth, and the expansion of different neighborhoods. The research was carried out in this field by several authors creating the starting point in urban and morphological analysis via the perusal of town's historical maps. (Gauthiez, 2004)

In 1894, the German historian Fritz adopted the town as an object of study, he offered a classification of towns according to their plan type. By his contributions he was considered as (Kretzschmar, 1907) noted, the first to demonstrate the value of town plans as a source for historical research. In

1899 Otto Schlüter who was influenced by Fritz's ideas, came out with a new science called "Anthropo-geography" which examines the different types of buildings in terms of materials, forms, and forms of the town itself, which in turn consists of the town center zone, and the outer neighborhoods, suburbs zone, shown in the figure below, (Figure 2.7).

As a result, Schlüter played the role of an intermediary between Fritz and the geographers, by emphasizing two notions in his work; the first one was, cultural landscape, comprising three kinds of objects; settlements, land use, and lines of communication. And the second one, cultural geography, divided into three groups; settlement geography, economic geography, and transport geography.(Whitehand, 1981)

Furthermore, his student Geisler, who examined the aspects of urban form by mapping various physical forms within the urban area; for example, he mapped the land and building utilization and number of stories in residential buildings in inner Danzing (Gdańsk), a port city on the Baltic coast of Poland, in the year 1918. After that, his publication of his major work of the comprehensive classifications of the sites, ground plans, and building types of German towns in 1924.(Whitehand, 2007)

By these wide contributions and influential works; Schlüter and Geisler became the predecessors of morphological tradition, influencing the future work of Conzen which came in the twentieth century.

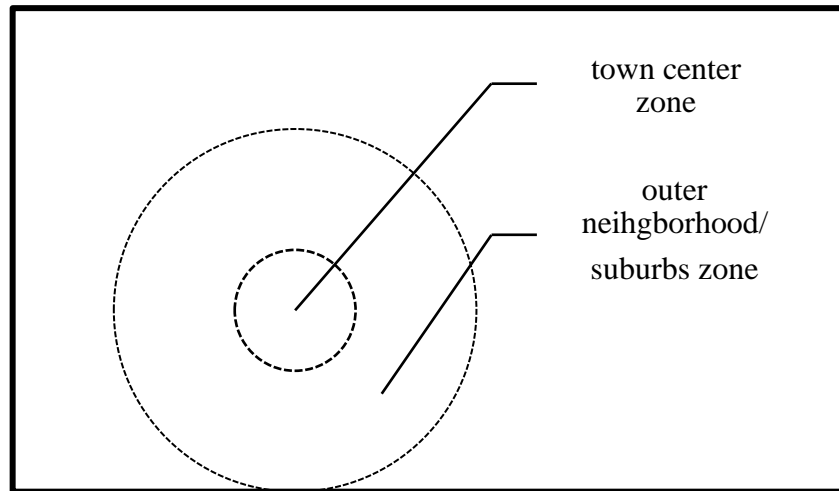


Figure 2. 7: Zones Of Town According To Schlüter. (Source: The Researcher,2018)

Moreover, in France in 1926, Lavedan a French historian and urban planner, appeared to continue the enquiry initiated by Fritz, and related to the distinction between “Founded” and “created” towns; he also created a simple classification of towns based on chronological periods, classical plans, rural towns of the early middle ages, and grid type plans from the 13th century.

After that, in the twentieth centuries, the field of morphological analysis appeared significantly, perhaps as a result of questions aroused related to the architectural types and the analysis of plans, which came together in a theoretical framework linking it to the actual planning practice. The two mainstream schools prevailed in this field were, the English school in England (1907-200) led by the geographer M.R.G Conzen, and the Italian school in Italy (1933-1987) initiated by the Italian architect SaverioMuratori.

In the late 1960s another school arose in France, called the Versailles school of architecture which was initiated by the philosophers, Philippe Panerai and Jean Castex, as a reaction against the modernist architecture and its rejection of history.

As these three schools became the main pioneering schools of thought concerning urban morphology, the next section presents a brief comparison between them, including their most important ideas, methods, and followers.

2.5 The Three Leading Schools in Urban Morphology

2.5.1 English School

Founders

The Anglo-German school of urban morphology was founded at the end of the 19th century by the German geographer and planner Michael Robert Gunter (M.R.G) Conzen; who immigrated to the UK in 1933.

Main thoughts and methods

This school developed the theory of city building processes and studies of urban landscape form with descriptive and explanatory purposes. Conzen had a huge contribution to geography, by his inclusion of plots as a primary element for analysis, he used a historical and evolutionary approach in his studies, by revealing how the physical configuration of cities developed over time. In addition to the exploration of town scape management. He

used urban morphology for decision making in control of change in the built environment.

The Conzenian method of exploring the physical development of an urban area took a historico-geographical approach, which is implemented by dividing the area and townscape into morphological regions, which means a region that has a unity in respect of its form and distinguishes it from the surrounding areas, the map of morphological regions is composed of separate maps of: plan type areas, building type areas, and land utilization area; in order to illuminate the historical development of an urban area, and explain the geographical structure and character of towns. (Conzen, 1960), (Kropf, 2009)

This map of morphological regions harnessed to provide a basis for rooting the future management of the urban landscape in its historical development. Moreover, Conzen mentioned the importance of the physical fabric in many respects; intellectually, where it gives value by providing strong visual experience of the urban area's history, aesthetically, by orienting and changing in the width of streets. And finally, in the practical utility field where it provides orientation. (Whitehand, 2001)

The methodology adopted by this school in the process of urban morphological analysis is based on the emphasis off four general aspects:

1. The study and analysis of the holistic definition of urban form by dividing its components into three main elements:

- a. The ground/ town plan, which comprises the site, land use, streets, plots, and blocks, of buildings.
 - b. The visual and exterior shape of the buildings and urban fabric.
 - c. The land use and building utilizations.
2. The analysis of social and economic context.
 3. The study of the urban development process.
 4. The metrological analysis of urban plots by analyzing the measurements of plot widths in order to understand the reconstruction of the histories of plot boundaries.

These aspects are characterized by their interrelation between each other on the basis of “use” and “activities” correlating humans and built environment. Furthermore, in order to understand properly the urban morphology of a specific area, it’s essential in the analysis process to understand and explore its different components:

1. Understand the urban form with its fundamental physical elements (buildings, plots/ lots , and streets
2. Understand the urban form at its different levels of resolution (building/ lot, street/block, city, and region)
3. Understand the urban form in light of its time framework, by analyzing its component elements through their historical formation, transformation, and replacement.(Kropf, 2009). Figure (2.11) shows

some types of plan units defined by Conzen in his famous work of the morphological analysis of Alnwick town.

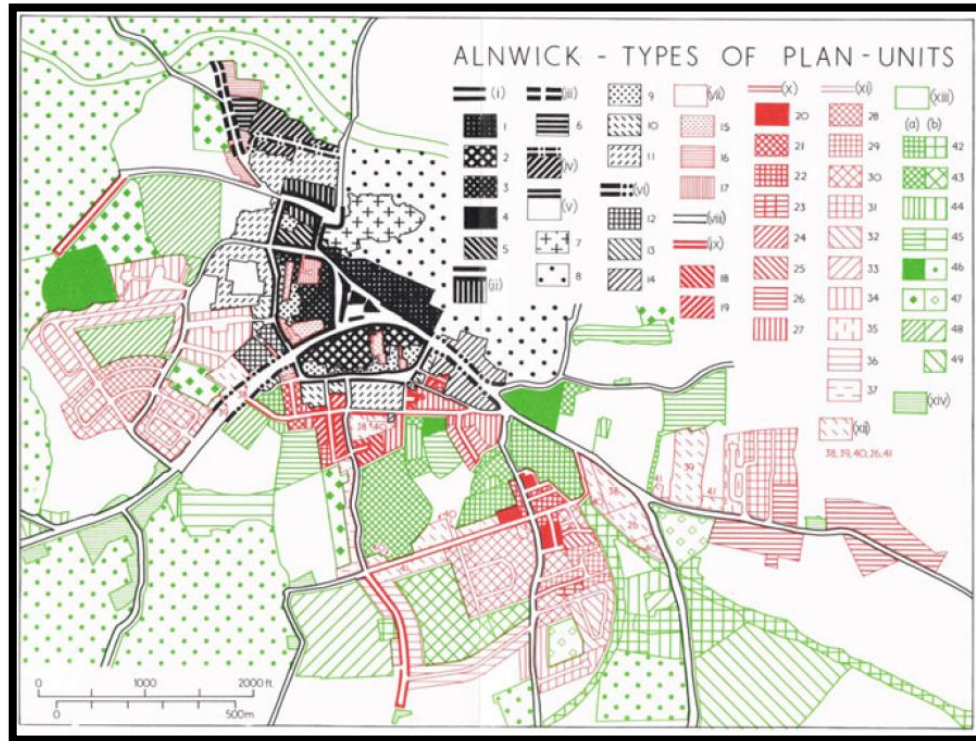


Figure 2. 8: Alnwick, Northumberland. A Study In Town-Plan Analysis-Types Of Plan Units (Source Conzen, 1960).

It is also noteworthy mentioning the most important concepts of Conzen that were developed and used in the analysis of the urban development process:

I. The Burgage cycle

This concept refers to the cycle of an urban plot containing a landlord's building and the progressive process of this plot filling-in with buildings of the backland, and ending up with urban fallow, as a result of redevelopment and changing plot's functional requirements. (Figure 2.9)

To Conzen, plots dimensions were an essential element when subjected to metrological analysis; that can serve in the reconstruction of the histories of plot boundaries. (Lafrenz, 1988)

For example, by analyzing measurements of plot widths in the English town of Ludlow, Slater (1990) was able to detect regularities, speculate about the intentions of the medieval surveyor when the town was laid out, and infer the original plot widths and how they were subsequently subdivided. (Whitehand, 2007)

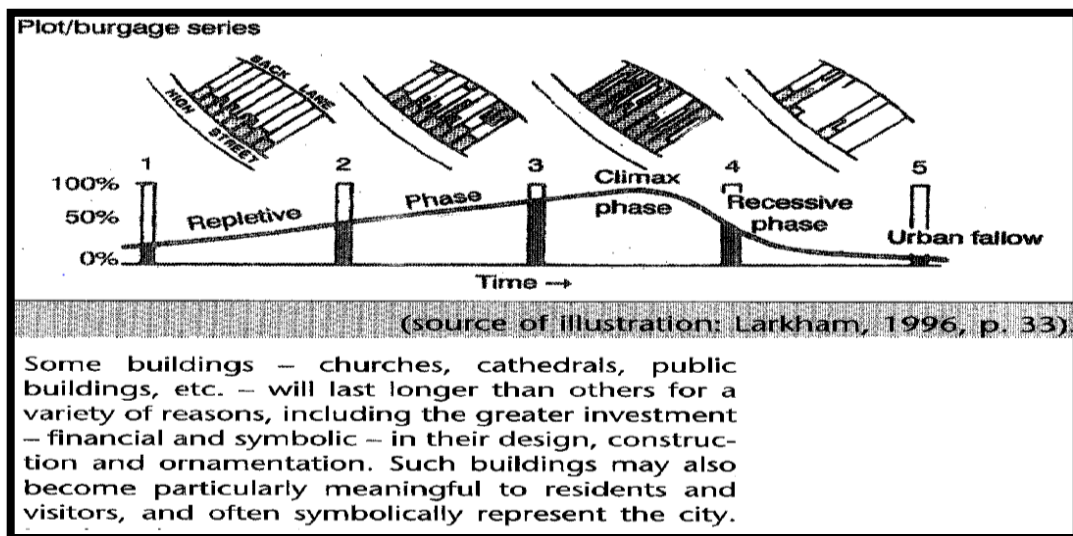


Figure 2. 9: The Burgage Cycle, (Source, Larkham, 1996)

II. The Fringe-Belt concept

This concept refers to the parts of town with variation in shape, size, and irregular plots dimensions, and which usually are generated in the peripheries (urban fringes) of the town, due to the outward growth of the city center. Fringe belts are characterized with their clear field boundaries, and the inclusion of many open areas that are often vegetated, such as

parks, sports grounds, and public utilities. The main concept of Fringe Belts is concerned with the process of rural land being converted to urban use.

The reasons behind the formation of this belts over time is associated with the changes in the amount of housebuilding, fluctuations in land values, whereas housebuilding declines and land values are low. Hence, this concept is essential in understanding the morphological structure of towns and cities, in addition to its influence in urban planning. Where it though emphasizes the historical grain of the city. (Whitehand, 2007)

Furthermore, in order to integrate his analysis, Conzen referred to two important elements needed; the first was the “historicity of the urban landscape”, by uncovering the historical and geographical order. And the second, was the “morphogenetic priority”, which reflects the hierarchy of the townscape complexes according to their persistence and lifespan. He noted that some elements such as cadastral (street) system patterns tend to have a high resistance to change through time in contrary to the land use and building utilization which are more resilient to change and more ephemeral. In between them lays building structures and plot patterns by their intermediate resilience to change. (Figure 2.11)

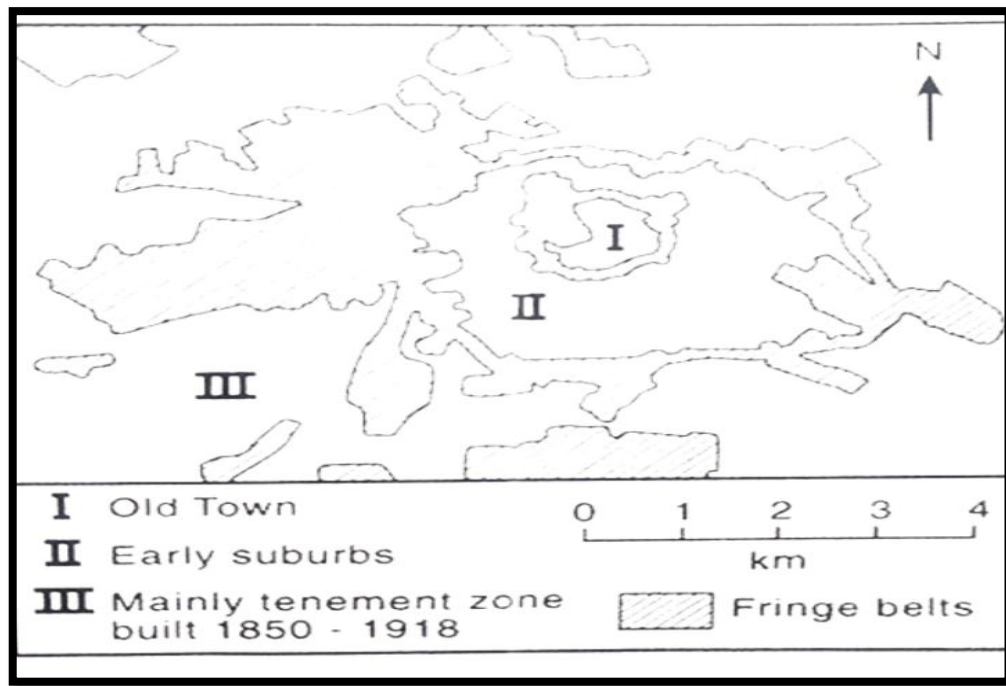


Figure 2. 10: The Fringe Belts Of Inner Berlin, C.1936. Based Upon Louis, Op. Su., End-Map1 (Note11). (Source: Whitehand, 2001)

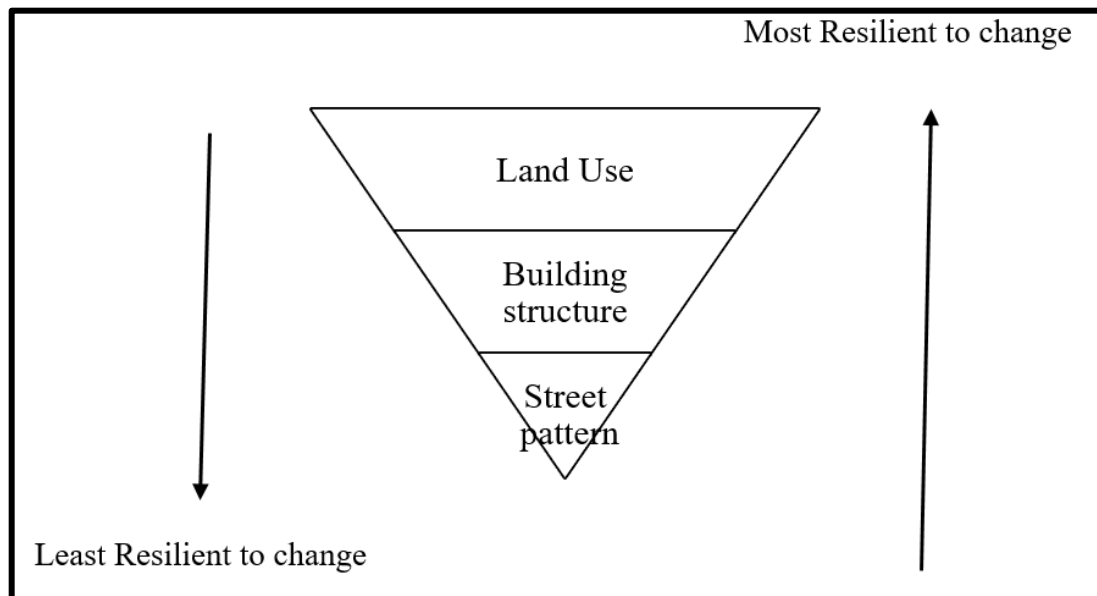


Figure 2. 11: Conzen's Hierarchy Of Elements Resilience To Change. (Source: The Researcher,2018).

Follow this school

Jeremy Whitehand, (1981), who compile and investigated the work of Conzen and the developments of his ideas; inserting the economics of location, and innovation and economic fluctuation ideas in the field; pushing the limits of urban morphology into urban economics, and studying the relationship between both fields. In 1974, he formed the urban morphology research group at the University of Birmingham, which focused the research on the medieval towns, studied the suburban expansions and transformation of the 20th century, and graduated a doctrines in this field who spread the group's influence; like Kropf, Larkham, and Lilly.

Most prominent works

1. Conzen dissertation about the ground plan and building form of the Havel town near Berlin (1932)
2. A survey of Whitby, (1958), a seaside town in northern England. Which is considered as a record of land and building utilization as well as building types.
3. Conzen detailed study in town-plan analysis of the English market town of Alnwick, Northumberland published in 1960 and revised in 1969. This study illustrates the methodological contributions of the English school; regional soil structure, ancient road network, the old town's site topography, and surrounding field structure, all explain the town's

layout. Urbs, suburbs, and original plot structure. (Moudon, From ordering space, 1994). He showed how the layout of the town had come into existence and changed over time, and how the various components of that layout fitted together. (Whitehand, 2001). Hence the urban plot was recognized after this work as the fundamental unit of the analysis in addition to the cartographic examination.

2.5.2 Italian School

Founders

The Italian architect Saverio Muratori who started this school of thought in 1940s in Italy and flourished in the early 1950s; as a response to the failures of modern architecture to fit with the built fabric of the cities.

Main thoughts and methods

Muratori adopted the method of operational history of the cities of Venice and Rome as basis for his architectural design studies. Providing a theoretical foundation for planning and design within age-old traditions of city building. This school adopted a process typological approach, and considers the urban form and structure as an aggregate of many ideas, and actions which are manifested in given buildings and their surroundings spaces, called *Edilizia*. It aims to study the urban landscape, and develop the theory of architectural design.

In the Muratorian approach the “type” has a central role, so typomorphological analysis was applied; this analysis consists of a systematic

way to classify the environment in structuring findings of people-environment studies, it deals with all scales of environments and its overlapped relations between the different scales. The spatial transformation is considered to be controlled by preexisted rules, and that the urban space and structure does not only have a material form, but it also has a cultural meaning.

This school approach is based on an abstract set of component subdivisions forming a hierarchy as illustrated in the figure below

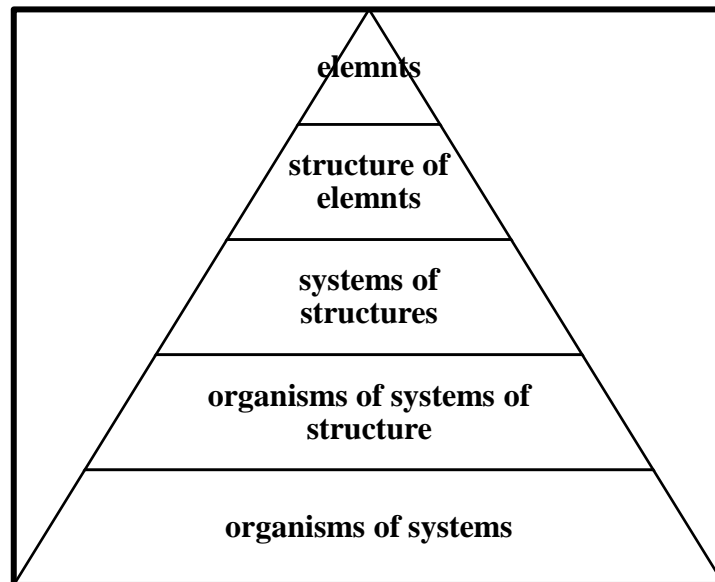


Figure 2. 12: The Hierarchy Of Component Subdivisions According To Muratori's Morphological Approach. Source:(Kropf, 2009)

This subdivision was first applied on individual buildings, starting with the top component of the schema, which is the element represented by the building material such as bricks, tiles, timbers etc. which fitted together to form the structure of these elements interpreted as walls, roofs, and interior floors; however this structure of elements is referred on a bigger scale to

the urban tissue. The different structures combine with each other to form the systems of these structures represented by the rooms of the building, staircases, corridors etc. And forming the regions or districts on the bigger scale, in order to finally compose the organism of the town. (Kropf, 2009) Figure (2.13) shows the different scale levels according to Canniggia one of the Muratorie's students and prominent procedures in the Italian school.

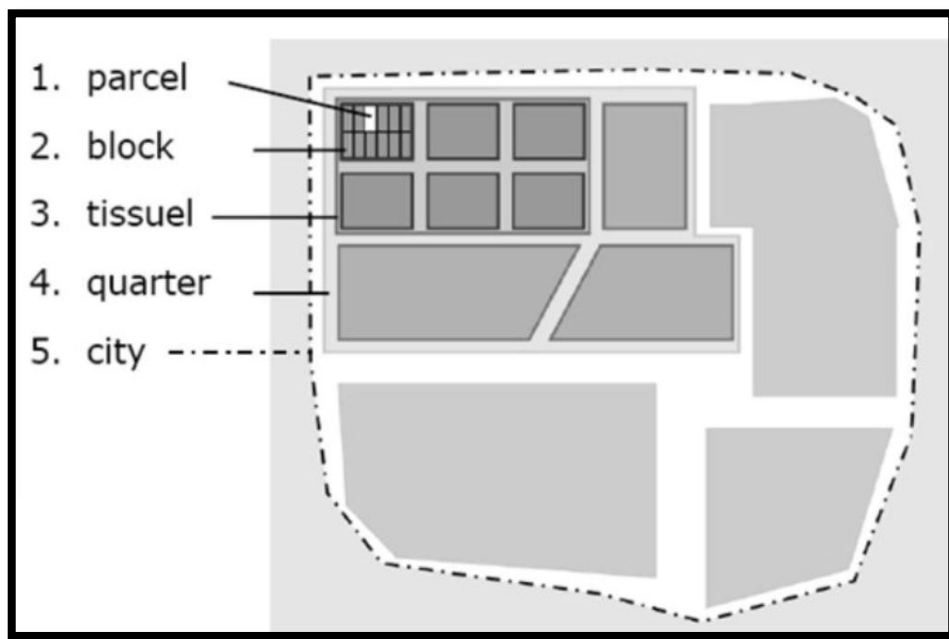


Figure 2. 13: Canigginian's Scale Levels. Source:(Kropf, 2009)

Follow this school

The architect Gianfranco Caniggia continued the Muratorian tradition, and called it "*procedural typology*"; because it focused on the building types as the elemental root of urban form. he explains the human environment as made of "built objects" at four different scales: the building, the group of buildings (the fabric), the city, and the region. He also specified four kinds of routes to the formation of building tissue: matrix route, planned building

routs, connecting routs, and restructuring routs “in conjunctions of new urban poles”.

Giancarlo Cataldi, Gian Luigi Maffei, Maria Grazia Corsini, Paolo Maretto, and Giuseppe Strappa, are name of some followers of this school of thought, who continued this tradition recently.

Most prominent works

1. The study of the city of Como, Italy
2. The historic typological research in the lagoon town of Venice, Italy.

(Figure 2.14)



Figure 2. 14: Iconic Morphological Study On Venice By Saverio Muratori (1959), (Source: A Joint Framework For Urban Morphology And Design - Scientific Figure On Research Gate. Available From: Researchgate.Net [Accessed 24 Apr, 2018]).

2.5.3 French School

Founders

The French philosophers, Philippe Panerai, Jean Castex, and the sociologist Jean Charles De Paul founded the Versailles school of architecture in France in the late 1960s.

Main thoughts and methods

It aimed to build a space for sustaining social practices and the interaction between social science and architecture; the school also developed both theory of city building and design theory, thus, differentiated between the theory of design as “ideas” and the theory of design as “practice”

Follow this school

Michael Dain in Nantes, and Lucien Bonillo in Marseilles.

Most prominent works

1. Researches on the historical evolution of Parisian neighborhoods
2. Detailed studies of the city of Versailles, and the city of Cairo

Recently, and as in the last two decades; it has been recognized more common ground between the English and Italian schools of morphology encouraging by that, the emergence of an international organization seminar of urban form for researchers and pioneers (ISUF) in 1994. Which helped to join and bring together morphologists worldwide. It aims to

develop the research field and practice related to the built environment, by the organization of conferences and publications in their urban morphology journal. (Figure 2.15) shows the different hierarchical levels of morphological analysis and the typo-morphological analysis.

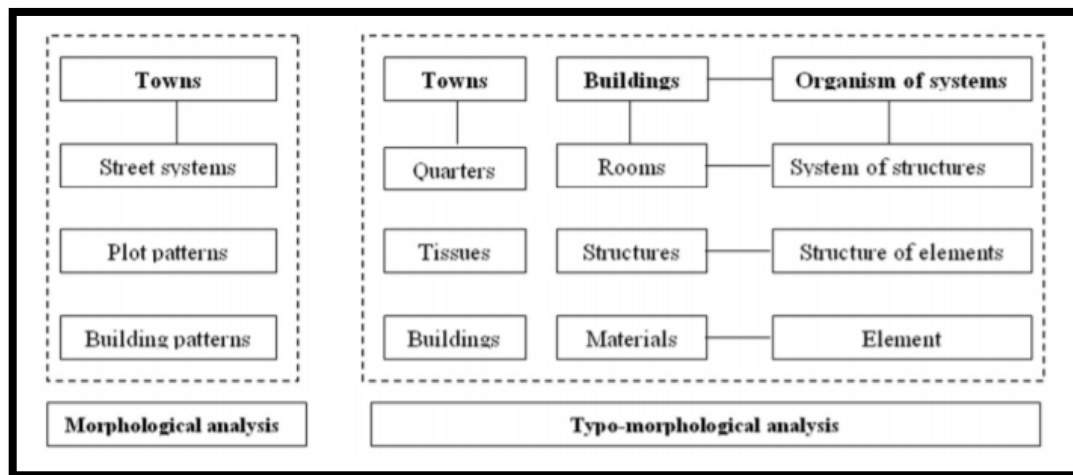


Figure 2. 15: Left - Hierarchical Level Of Urban System In The Morphological Analysis; Right - Typo-Morphological Analysis.

2.6 Recent Analytical Approaches in Urban Morphology

In light of the continues interest and efforts made in the field of urban morphological analysis, a wide range of analytical tools, methods, and approaches were developed, the recent analytical methods are based more on a quantitative analysis, adopting spatial analytical, numerical principles, and mathematical calculations resulting in a scientific explanations. These analytical science begun to root during the 1960s, when Krüger developed the “multiple graph representations of urban systems”; used to differentiate the regions of settlements and specify their characteristics. Another analytical tool was the “Q-Analysis”, used to illustrate people movements through space, by using convex space or axial lines, and geometrical ideas.

Nowadays the most used analytical tool is space syntax, representing a configurational approach to urban morphology. Appeared for the investigation of society-space relationship, in order to understand the spatial structure of settlements through a range of analytical methods. This theory of “Space Syntax” was integrated by the philosopher Hillier, who aimed to fill the gap between urban forms and structures, and their occupant’s characteristics and their social life’s being affected and affecting the urban space. As Hillier and Stutz (2005) mentioned, that space syntax helped to emphasize the similarities and differences of cities, developed a general theory of a city, analyses the city both at micro-and the macro- scale at the same time, and helps researchers to see what effects of future planning and urban design decisions might cause on cities.

Since cities exist to facilitate the social communications or interactions of their population (Wheeler, 1971), then, understanding the morphological structure of it, is essential in order to explain people’s behavior and why they opt to do a specific activity in a place rather than another, as “ *the built environment provides cues for behavior and that the environment can, therefore, be seen as a form of non-verbal communication* (Rapoport, 1977, p. 3)

Moreover, the human-environment relationship is considered to be a two way process termed as “*socio-spatial dialect*” (Knox, 1995), so it’s important to understand the qualities and characteristics of this urban environment and space that affects and enhance the human and social activities of its inhabitants, all of this is discussed in the following sections

starting with defining the urban space and its relation with social activities , through answering a main question of how the change of urban morphology affects peoples' activities.

2.7 Urban Space

The urban spaces refer to both built and unbuilt spaces, green areas, streets and water bodies. Other definitions consider that *“the space is a symbol of variation in volumes shapes, locations, and directions, it is considered to be the space mediator which life goes through it in permanent transformations, and every space has its own use and character, as every space has different shape, volume, material, texture, and other specific and unique characteristics, that suite the function that this space was made for.*“(Allam, 1983, p. 195)

The shape and form of the urban space is considered to be part of its function, hence the study of these forms should be taken into consideration, as these shapes follow the shape of the earth, which usually in turn takes one of the main geometric forms (square, circle or triangle). These shapes are one of two following types:(Allam, 1983, pp. 195-201) (Krier, 1988, p. 22)

1. Natural Space

The natural space is the one that is formed by natural geographical elements such as (mountains, hills, coasts, seas, beaches, valleys, forests,

and plains) where the presence of one of these elements forms the basis of the formation of a city

2. Man-made Space

These spaces are the ones created and formed by a man, for example (buildings, artificial lakes, etc.) whether these elements are part of a space or form a whole one. This man-made spaces are divided into outer spaces and inner spaces as follows:

A. The outer space is the one that represents the public life, serves a large group of people, and consists of the following:

- Pathways: three dimensional spaces through which people can see buildings and landscapes around, these paths also have their own visual and aesthetic features and functions, divided into (streets, squares, bus stops, and sidewalks)

- Public parks and green areas: these areas are designed in order to provide recreational and psychological comfort for users, and they are divided into several types according to their functions and targeted people to be used by (Kindergartens, national parks, etc.)

- Playgrounds: areas formed for the practice of different type of sport games (football playground, arenas, etc.)

- Open spaces: these are the spaces surrounding the city, such as vacant empty spaces, forests, and water bodies.

B. Internal spaces: are private spaces specialized in providing certain type of activities including (commercial spaces in commercial centers, mosques' plazas, railroad stations, and residential buildings yards). (Al-Farran, 2004)

The urban spaces are an essential element in the formation of the visual and aesthetic composition of the city through what affects the relationship of each of the elements that in turn affect the composition of the visual and aesthetic visualization of the city with each other. For example, the relationship of architectural blocks (built spaces) with neighboring areas such as squares, streets, and water. Urban spaces are considered as air fresheners or city vents, as they reflect the general impression of the city through the feeling that people feel as they travel through different parts of the city. For example, the absence of appropriate setbacks distances between the buildings and the lack of public green spaces in the city reflects a sense of discomfort to the people and vice versa.

Some examples of problems caused by the miss-use of urban spaces are the poor quality of streets, lacking proper sidewalks for pedestrians, street furniture such as benches, the lack of playgrounds and parks for children to play and families to gather, and thus reflect all on the psychological level of people and affecting their comfort and distort their vision of the city. (Samurai & al-Ta'ani, 1999, p. 127)

On the other hand, there are several things when designing urban spaces that need to be thought of *“in order to the house-settlement system in*

analysis and design, it is necessary to be specific and do a profile which includes, among others”(Rapoport, 1977):

1. *Which kind of places are used.*
2. *By whom they are used (ethnic, class, age, sex, lifestyle groups).*
3. *When places are used.*
4. *The latent aspects of activities” (Rapoport, 1977, p. 318)*

These are the most important topics that need to be included when it comes to examine the change of urban morphology.

An urban space can be generally defined as a set of many urban areas which have their own multi-centric municipalities, which means that there are several centers. A multi-centric urban space is where urban areas are linked together or adjoined by municipalities. Therefore, the space that is connected between them is a whole.

Against odds, these urban spaces might not seem very important, but they are and people use this spaces more often than they even think. They are essential for social activities, as they give form to the city, they are where people socialize, they’re the place where many commercial activities take place like cafés, restaurants, bookstores, etc.

Public spaces are the ones that people can access any time they want, without having to pay or to have a permit, and they’re able to stay as long as they want and can perform several activities in there. When it comes to

semi-public urban spaces, then these have a restricted access and there's a schedule to visit them and to stay there, because they are not public then the type of activities and the number are less than when it comes to public spaces. The social interaction in these public spaces decreases significantly in line with their privacy. Closed parks, urban parks, and squares, are just some of these semi-public spaces where there are some restrictions in their usage.

Then there are private spaces, which are totally restricted for just the usage of their owners or those they were designed for, this kind of spaces limit the activities and the usage from visitors. These spaces can be terraces, gardens of private buildings, patios, rooftops, or private parking lots. Basically spaces that are reserved to just being used by people who own them or who have authorization to.

“Urban space is generally divided into domains distinguished by various rules and symbols. Their purpose, in order to establish boundaries between users and the space, the degree of privacy ensuring the desired levels of interaction, inclusion or exclusion”(Rapoport, 1977, p. 293) Urban spaces aren't just urban structures and physical configurations, but much more than that since it's also their historical, economic, cultural, social status, technological past and future as well.

The inhabitants have their special links of identity with their own city, as it can affect each person in a different way. Urban spaces are in constant transformation, changes in Block/plots, street patterns, buildings layouts,

open and public spaces availability, and that's essential nowadays. Although these can be designed very well in order to cover a neighborhood's specific function, with time the demands of those who live there will change, and it'll be needed to make some changes regarding the new usage and activities of the inhabitants of that urban space.

There are two views of urban space. The first one is that buildings have most life while the streets and the rest of elements don't have any kind of life and are just considered as wasted space. This is the type of settlements classified from Anglo-American and high design tradition. The second view is completely different; the buildings are more private when it comes to the settlement, while the streets are very important for social activities and for life itself, this is very common when it comes to Mediterranean, Vernacular or Latin settlements. Playgrounds, parks, and green areas are the only open spaces in the neighborhood while plazas and streets aren't considered as open spaces. Even though there are some differences in the culture of each type of settlement, children prefer to play in the streets. When the urban spaces are being designed for those activities, then opposition is normal since these type of views result in sharing difficulties because of their incredibly different preferences and standards. Outdoor spaces always attract different ethnics and population, which means that there's an opposition from its residents. This is implied when the noise of kids playing can be worse than traffic noise.

It must also be pointed out that there are two types of cities, some where the urban space is used for several activities and which is completely

normal; and then there are others where that space is completely wasted and it's only used to get to somewhere. The urban space is used differently when it comes to the middle-class and lower class neighborhoods. Something as simple as a mall is usually seen by Americans who are middle-class as a space to be traversed while shopping, while the working/lower-class sees it as a place to eat, socialize, play music, etc. Generally, the lower-class has a much more different view of this mall and what can be done in it. This might not seem important at all, but this conflict reinforces how agreement and homogeneity about the normal behavior settings and norms are needed in any society. Another example is how in "Midwest" the behavior setting "streets" were used for 77,544 hours while in "Yoredale" they were used 300,000 hours a year." (Rapoport, 1977, p. 305)

Urban space needs to be thought ahead before actually being built, since its morphology can be truly affected and therefore, serious problems can occur such as not having any parks in a certain neighborhood, which means that the morphological pattern of a city is a crucial subject and needs to be thought throughout in order to be well designed. As urban morphology is considered to be a subjective meaning that it depends on how a certain group understands and experiences it, thereby, it's not the same for each group.

These urban spaces are a significant driver to promote surveillance, since they can avoid visual obfuscations and hidden spaces that can create places where there's no light and where people can't see properly, therefore it

won't be possible to know what's happening there, and that will result in a general fear of passing through. That's why buildings need to be built towards the streets since that's a way of their inhabitants to observe the outdoors and to see what is happening in the streets and then, keeping the streets and people safe.

The visibility criteria of a place is also essential since it will help it become a used urban space, and being used from people who won't actually damage it. This "*eyes on the street*" theory by Jane Jacobs is very important, as it can help the city to become less dangerous and more used by the people who live in it.

Previously, designers thought that starting from zero would be the best to improve a place. However, Allan Jacobs has a completely different opinion where he disputes that there are better models such as those that don't depend on central power, design and ownership, those that wanted physical change and also conservation opposed to having everything built "cleared", and also those that were based on acceptance, desire and love of urban life. Urban life can only be improved when there's preservation, incrementing and layering of the city, not the opposite. Which would be destroying everything ever built and then building in top of that new things. Urban space is more than a place to transit from one street to another, it's a magic experience that people can have and therefore, there's magic in the making of these streets. He stated that "*although streets are definitely a way to get people from a specific place to another, they're also a way of people socializing, they help building a community, they actually will cause people*

to interact with each other, and help them achieve together things that they wouldn't be capable of achieving alone. Urban space is helpful because it can create a brotherhood in a neighborhood since urban space "seems capable of transporting the collective citizenry into a mood of communal brotherhood."(Sauser, 2010, p. 18)

2.8 Social Activities

2.8.1 Urban Space and Social Activities

As deduced from the previous sections, urban space is where social activities happen, this space is any space located between streets and buildings, the social activities that can happen in the urban space are divided into three types as mentioned earlier, and they can happen in several places such as gardens, dwellings, private or public places, work places, etc. That's because people have a social life and consequently occupy the streets weather just to walk, to read a book, or to go out for a drink, hence an activity is taking place. *"Social activities occur spontaneously, as a direct consequence of people moving about and being in the same spaces."* (Gehl, 1971, p. 7)

These activities are a consequence of the daily life, and having good conditions when it comes to urban spaces is essential for them to happen. If urban spaces don't have any conditions, then social activities will be more limited, and urban spaces will be less social, and that can increase the stress amongst the population of a neighborhood. Figure (3.1) shows some characteristics of a good and democratic social space that is suitable for the

people and any type of individuals groups, which encourage the manifestation of many social activities. As not every urban space can be considered a social space.

Relations and social activities are affected and shaped by the urban space, so that the design of this space affects significantly the pattern of human activity and the social life, then, the culture of the society reflects the way of life, ethics, and the way of interaction within the spaces and accordingly the design of the space, so that it suits the needs and desires of all members of the society.

This interrelated and simultaneous relationship between social activities, behaviors, and urban spaces necessitate the existence of certain conditions for the success of this space, notwithstanding that urban spaces differ from one society to another as a result of different cultures, locations, and distances between them, there are some common conditions and general specifications that need to be met in order for these spaces to appropriate and suite their population and positively affect them by increasing their sense of resilience and adaptability.



Figure 2. 16: Characteristics Of A Good And Democratic Social Space. Source: (Onlineslide.Com, Accessed, April, 2018)

If people spend a lot of time outdoors, in urban spaces, then it'll be more common to meet and to talk with other people, of course, not all social activities are the same, and they depend on their context. For example, wherever there is a limited number of persons that have some interests in common, then these activities in those spaces are basically greeting other people, having small talks, and talking about their interests. When it comes to the city centers, then everything will be much more superficial and people are mostly passive and less active on other people's activities.

Urban space needs to be adapted depending on the people's social activities, since not all groups have the same ones. The different spaces where these activities happen need to have quality, and need to be developed in order to be accommodating for people. *"Cities are composed of physical structures but also by the patterning of urban life by social actors as this reproduces the city in built and unbuilt forms, and in more or less stable morphologies."*(Tonkiss, 2013, p. 20)

Kevin Lynch specified five main conditions that every successful urban space should have, which are:

1. Vitality: meaning the compatibility between the nature of the place and the needs and functions of the inhabitants.
2. Sense of space: the sense of space and place and linking them with time to ensure its organization.
3. Relevance: the appropriateness of the place, its shape, capacity, and user behavior.
4. Accessibility: the accessibility to whatever needed by people and its availability in the space, such as services, information, etc.
5. Control: the ability to access the place and its activities by controlling the movement of people within space. (Lynch, 1960)

Jan Gehl noted that there are three types of social activities taking place in between buildings and urban spaces, the first type is the necessary activities, this kind of activity can be considered more or less compulsory as they are necessary activities that people practice as daily tasks independently from the exterior environment – going to school or to work, shopping, waiting for a bus or a person, running errands, etc.

The second type is recreational-optional activities, those that people do if they have the time and if it's possible to do them, they choose to do this type of activities occasionally as they are dependent on the physical components of the exterior environment besides the natural and

environmental factors that aren't controlled by human as for example, the weather. These activities include reading a book in a public garden, going for a walk, sunbathing in the park, etc. The third type of activities are social activities, which all depend "*on the presence of others in public spaces*". Children playing in a park, communal activities, having conversations in groups or just seeing and hearing others, are all social activities. Hence, "*if activities and people are assembled, individual events will stimulate one another*".(Gehl, 1971, p. 107)

The morphological pattern of the urban environment adapts to these social activities that are essential for everyone, and these activities are just what people do every day. However, it's necessary to have good parks, good places in the urban space to perform these social activities. If these places are degrading, don't have any conditions, then people will stop doing social activities because it's uncomfortable and even impossible at times.

These social activities take place in different urban agglomerations, for example the neighborhood as it is something for a group, it has a completely different setting for others, and even for many of them it doesn't actually exist, "*life occurs in settings distributed throughout the urban milieu.*" (Rapoport, 1977, p. 304) The neighborhood is where the majority of people are many times, and it's definitely a core area for that specific group, because people normally spend the majority of their time in their house, then the neighborhood is actually where they spend the rest of the time that will not just affect the design of the city itself but also will define the behavior settings system for the groups that live in the city.

The designed city is only effective after being accepted and after being used, because that is how people evaluate if the design is appropriate or not, as a behavior setting system.

There are a lot of designs that weren't successful for a certain group of people, since it didn't take into consideration the lifestyle of those people. Many of them do not wish to be part of the neighborhood, and this means that the urban space won't be used by them as a behavior setting. To actually have a good neighborhood designed, it's needed to be able to understand how the urban spaces works, and what people who live there actually want from it. It has to be congruent when it comes to the image that people have of behavior settings and where they actually belong in the system.

This is also completely true about streets. If the streets have settings for several activities, then people are more likely to react to those than in other streets where there are no places to sit, to eat, to socialize, etc. People need to have a place where to be active, and by having those places, whether in a neighborhood or in a street, then it'll have effect on their life.

Something very important is the fact that many cities aren't actually good to socialize because they don't have any places to do that because *“an urban space cannot become sociable if it doesn't have the facilities about which to socialize”*(Sauser, 2010, p. 20)

The outdoor environment should promote social activities because *“When outdoor areas are of high quality, necessary activities take place with*

approximately the same frequency and because the physical conditions are better”(Gehl, 1971, p. 6), which means that when the morphological pattern of an urban space has quality, such as good parks, then people tend to do more of these activities, and they do that in a completely unconscious way.

Through information and also observation, William Whyte managed to develop strategies to evaluate and improve infrastructures that would better interactivity between people. He analyses the quality of sitting places in the street. The process of doing so has three phases:(Sauser, 2010, p. 20)

1. assess the visibility
2. assess the accessibility
3. assess the variety of sitting places

Then he observed the use of those seats and the interactivity between those who sat on them. It's obvious that sitting places need to be visible to people because, if they're not, then people won't even see them at all and therefore, won't use them.

Having accessibility is also very important since people need to actually be able to commute to that place without having any problems or obstacles in doing so. To be able to reach the seats without any problem is essential. If there is for example, mud around the seat then people will think twice before actually sitting on it. Accessing the seat is as important as the quality of it. If people can't access it easily, they won't access it at all.

Lastly, there's the variety and diversity which is also important, the more seats there are in a park the better as people can then choose the best ones for themselves.

If a city is properly structured it would mean that it facilitates and reflects the transactions and relations between those who live in it, in addition to its mostly spatial physical elements. It means that objects and people "*are related through separation in and by space.*"(Rapoport, 1977, p. 13) Moreover, it is essential for a space to be well distributed in order for people to know where things are situated, if there isn't any order about the city and where for example the urban space is, then it's more difficult to actually get there. Having spatial organization could be considered more important than materials, shape and other qualifications, as organization is what makes navigating in a city easier, it helps in finding specific city zones and districts easily and find everything that's inherent to it.

Another relevant determinant of certain social activities, is the fact of belonging to a certain societal group with predictable behavior, which could be something advantageous since it is stress reducing, also the physical environment will help, as it opens people's minds when it comes to being with others who are from a different ethnic.

Being exposed to different noises, gestures, clothing, smells, and symbols is often very stressful. In order to reduce this stress, then there needs to be a selection of habitats, the city has to be separated "*into a series of social worlds*"(Rapoport, 1977, p. 18) that depend on the different and diverse

environmental preferences, and also when it comes to the social distances between groups. There are boundaries that have led to very different cultures, which means that there are very different environmental preferences, the use of streets and also shops either private or public, aren't the same. In order to have social relationships, people or groups need to be aware of others and of their behavior regarding others needs to be regular, and that is social structure.

Some other essential goals for the future of a good urban environment are the livability, identity, control, access to opportunity, authenticity, meaning, community, public life, urban self-reliance, and an environment for all. (Jacobs & Appleyard, 1987)

These goals deemed by Jacob and Appleyard were to be in conflict as they are both individuals and collective ones, as a result, to obtain a good urban environment, there should be a balance between these goals “*allowing individual and group identity while maintaining a public concern, encouraging pleasure while maintaining responsibility, remaining open to outsiders while sustaining a strong sense of localism*”.(Jacobs & Appleyard, 1987, p. 116)

Recently, some urban design problems arises because of modernization and industrialization movements that affected the city quality and the design of cities, increasing the poor living environments where the conditions were becoming more dangerous, such as the problem of noise and pollution, even though the conditions of private housing improve, that will always be

a problem, having valued places destroyed because of agencies and developers greed of making profit out of the space, privatization and loss of public life as many spaces become either private or those who are public have inadequate environmental conditions or aren't properly maintained, the loss of control in what comes to over-scaled cities that are controlled by agencies and big developers, the feeling of *placelessness* because people don't know who owns what, where the products and also materials come from, etc.

All of this can happen without any warning and even without people who live there participating in it, due to the *"discrepancy between the environments of the rich and the environments of poor."* (Tonkiss, 2013, p. 30) Those are just some examples of inequality in the cities. Urban spaces sometimes aren't built equally around the city, and that's something that affects its morphology and also people's social activities.

The design of the city is essential, it will capture several activities and interventions that'll *"shape urban environments, construct and respond to urban problems, and integrate social, spatial and material forms in the city."* (Tonkiss, 2013, p. 17)

This means that the way how the city is designed is essential because that's how it will shape the urban environments and much more, since having a city properly designed is essential in order to make it more functional and more suitable for people who live in it, as that's how it can be used in many ways. Moreover, is the fact that its design can respond to the problems

there might be when it comes to the urban space and, therefore, it can either diminish them or just make them disappear.

2.8.2 Urban Morphology and Social Activities

Urban morphology is constantly changing in order to adapt to the different generations of people that come along, in addition to the different ethnics that have different types of social activities. For example, nowadays kids don't play in the streets as often as before, and that has affected how cities are built. However, children will stay and play where there are activities occurring or even where there are chances of events to happen as it is an attraction for them, they tend to play more in the streets, near dwellings' entrances, in parking areas than in actually areas that were designed for them to play in, like backyards of single-family houses or on the best side of multi-story buildings, where there's no traffic at all and not even people passing by very often.

Those urban spaces that have quality and that are filled with social interactions between those who live there, are able to generate and maintain a good community, which is a huge advantage for people that live in it. In order to become successful, these neighborhoods need to have a lot of time being revised and also improved in order to become great spaces full of social activities, resulting in a healthy community.

Cities evolve throughout the years, since they need to adjust and to adapt to the people who live in it. Activities are central to understand the city as a system. It's natural to have differences when it comes to the urban

environment because of the activities, and congruence between activity and physical form is something essential. There can be centered places that are highly prominent and have a high level of activity. However, the places or the signs of change might not be congruent with all the activities that happen in it. *“There may then be a lack of compatibility between the location, form, and signs of activity and conflict and uncertainty about the setting.”* (Rapoport, 1977, p. 377) Activities are very important, and people often tend to use the centers for activity such as (plazas in Latin America, temples in South India, etc.) This tendency and orientation is very important, it’s a matter of physical elements and socio-cultural rules.

Eventually the changing of urban morphology when it comes to how cities are built and expanded is very important, especially because new buildings need to fit into that area. For example, if more houses need to be built, designers aren’t going to add houses far away from transportation links or the city center where there is the wide availability of services and amenities on one hand, but on the other, there is a lot of environmental concerns such as pollution and urban congestion which are considered to be unfavorable urban conditions for the people who would live in these neighborhoods.

Making changes on the urban morphology of a city will definitely affect the social activities of its society, either in a positive or negative way. These activities depend on several different things especially on how people have been used to behave in the past and how they used the urban space. It’s highly important to know that the urban form isn’t just a fixed element of morphology, it is more than that as it entails the patterns of

mobility, interim structures, time-frames that can be longer or just seasonal, interactions and events, occupation, temporary patterns of settlements (design) and outward or inward flows of things and people.

These are the essential elements of a city, even if they're not permanent or fixed on a place. This gives the agents (architects, engineers, planners or designers) the emphasis although they don't have much when it comes to how cities are built. Not neglecting that there are other agents who aren't visible when it comes to the building of a city such as politicians, banks, pension funds and assets managers, populations, crime bosses, etc.

As such, coordination is very important for the morphology of a city not just for those who people think in the first place to have a hand when it comes to its design, a city is built out of several more or less conscious plans and also designs from the urban inhabitants: they can be temporary or permanent, improvised or long-framed, intentional or incidental.

Coordination is something that's more complex than most people think, since it's done by others than the ones that have the actual job to plan and design the city like designers, engineers, or planners. People are actually who can affect on the change of the morphological scheme of a city and that is something that can be done by having engineers or planners working on the project, otherwise it's impossible for the morphological pattern of a city to change. This new morphology changes social activities, since those are sometimes not taken into consideration and urban spaces therefore decrease and don't have a place in the new "city".

Another visible sign of the interrelation between urban morphology and social activities is that studying the morphology of an urban space is a way of learning the culture of its society, since examining its built environment helps clarify how they communicate, what they value, etc.

The way a specific society organize its space then helps to be highly understanding of their social and cultural formations. Within that society there are cultural differences, and that's also recognizable through the spatial order, for example, different ethnics can live and reproduce their own social existence very differently from others, and that is essential when city planners or an architect is trying to design the city's urban space. Having spaces where it's possible to have social activities then will increase those and even encourage them, and that's essential when it comes to urban morphology, since it needs to be adapted to people's activities and not the opposite. Urban morphology has to consider that social activities are those that happen when people interact with other people, therefore, the urban morphology needs to be constructed in the way that it enhance those activities.

2.8.3 How the change of urban morphology affects people's activities?

The changes that occur due to the growth of a city on its urban morphology definitely affect people's activities. It's essential for people to have their own activities and those depend on many things, but if the urban morphology doesn't take into account that a certain group or neighborhood needs to for example, gather daily, and thus there isn't any place for them

to do so, then it will affect their habits of activities, as that group of people while being the majority or not, are used to meet and gather, while now they have no place to meet because the morphological pattern didn't took into consideration that need.

It's important and an actual need when it comes to the design of a city that people think about the inhabitants societal needs besides much more things. If there isn't any sitting places, then people won't sit but that doesn't mean they don't want to, just that there isn't any means to do so, and that's a huge disadvantage in any neighborhood. *"If a place lacks or loses infrastructure to accommodate community-building socialization, it should be injected or replaced in bits and pieces and the present inhabitants and users can absorb and inhabit it."*(Sauser, 2010, p. 4)

A successful neighborhood environment should engage several criteria and physical elements in order to develop vivid neighborhoods with rich healthy societies and environments. (Calthrop, 1995) Defines these elements to be:

1. Walkable streets
2. Human scale blocks
3. Usable public spaces

This three main elements are essential for the richness of the neighborhood identity and its inhabitant's sense of belonging.(Calthrop, 1995)

Nowadays, many urban spaces completely alienate the true usage of the neighborhood, neglecting by that not only the usage itself, but also what people want, and that can lead to people finding another place to live in. Space and socialization are connected inextricably, which means that if there is a space there will be socialization from the people who live there, or who don't, and if there is socialization, there must be a space to do it. Urban morphology has been assuring that neighborhoods have their own space to do their own activities, and each group of people has different activities.

It's obvious that understanding the culture of a certain society is helpful and necessary to understand the organization of architectural and urban structure, since different societies have different patterns and ways of living, the spatial organization of a city is a mean to recognize that there are cultural differences, like how people live and reproduce their social existence, and that's very important to the urban morphology.

2.9 Conclusion

Today, and since urban change is important for adaptation, and in light of the vast territorial expansion of cities, all of this led to the emergence of a problem concerned with how to engage the new urban forms with the existing ones, as there should be a joint between the two main pillars forming the space; the materialist space and the social mental space. To do so, several morphological analysis which were mentioned previously emerged. These different methods helped to understand the process that

caused the change in the urban fabric, and are used to understand the urban morphology for future design and plans, in addition to help composing an image of how cities are functioning at the time and will function in the future.

In conclusion, it is clear that urban morphology is very important as cities are constantly changing and evolving throughout time, as it helps to understand or analyze the social life of an urban area; by comprehend the dynamic state of the city and the pervasive relationship between its elements. As Kropf stated, *“there are two kinds of relationship between people and urban forms, the first one is a relationship of use and activity related to the state of doing something or certain activity in or within the built space, and the second is a relation of control, related to the power and ability to determine who have the right and can use the space, plot of land, or the urban form”*. He depicted that this power of control is described as a property which take three shapes, the first as a land, the second as person or group, and the third as the connection of ownership between them. (Kropf, 2018)

There is some basic requirements that make the social interaction with the urban environment possible, which are the availability of some common spaces that encourages the interaction between people, some physical elements that are built in purpose for the use of people such as street furniture, and a transitional and intermediate space that links private with open spaces.

consequently, Being careful with how a city develops is essential and designers, architects, and planners need to be conscious with how they design it, since there are a lot to consider, without neglecting the social activities of a certain society, especially that each one has different activities than the others, *“if activities and people are assembled, individual events will stimulate one another”*.(Gehl, 1971, p. 107) So it’s important to get to know the society in order to be able to design proper urban spaces that will be used and will encourage the enhancement of these social interactions between the inhabitants. Since the fact that the *“settlement form” does not only comprises these physical components, but it is also shaped by its living organisms, activities of people, social structures, and economic systems*. As a result, Lynch defined the settlement form as *“the spatial flow of persons doing things, the resulting spatial flows of persons, goods, and information, and the physical features which modify space in some way significant to those actions, including enclosures, surfaces, channels, ambiances, and objects”*. (Lynch, 1981, p. 48)

These urban spaces need to be as good as possible, accessible, varied, and visible as well, that’s imperative since these are the three phases of interactivity of people with. Urban spaces are used along the day from different types of people, and that’s also important to take into consideration. They’re not just a way to get into one place, but they have an important role in societies since they can be used for many things depending on those using them, that’s why they need to be thought thorough so that everyone is able to use them and benefit from them.

Different neighborhoods might have different urban spaces, and that's completely normal. And with time, as the morphology of the city evolves then these spaces can increase and become more varied, then people will use these differently and even adapt to other new spaces.

Parks, green spaces, malls, playgrounds, etc. Each have their own purpose and each is different, but that doesn't mean that, people without kids can't use playground to relax. Social activities are done by everyone in different locals. Although there is a specific place for kids to play, that doesn't inhibit that a woman or man that wants to read a book can't do it on a playground or that kids can't play in a park. That depends on many things as discussed before, but it's essential to know that specific urban spaces don't have specific rules for their use since those rules are actually made by their users and the neighborhood itself.

Social activities depend on other people's presence, and that's important because in urban spaces there are a lot of people present throughout the day and the beginning of the night as well. These spaces are built with the consideration of how a certain society and more specifically, neighborhood behaves and then it's built. Urban morphology takes those activities into consideration and, therefore, when adding new parks, malls, green spaces, then planners, designers, architects, will add them on spaces where they make sense to be added.

After all, it's undeniable that urban form structure is a product of social and cultural habits, and at the same time, these habits can be altered and

affected by the availability and condition degree of the urban form as well. So we can say that urban morphology equals or is parallel to urban history. There is an “*interrelation between urban forms and human objective*” as the urban designers Lynch and Liloyd stated, the construction of designs is not only a technical process but it is also a deeply sociological one. Hence, the production and use of space is a social as much as it is a technical problem.(Tonkiss, 2013)

This chapter has devoted particular attention to the importance of the urban morphology in general and its impact on social live and activities, by discussing the conditions required to achieve this interaction, focusing on the social activities that are held in the urban space, what stimulate them and what kind of activities are adopted. following by, the next chapter that discusses and reflects on ground the interrelation between the change of urban development of Nablus city through time and its effect on both morphology and social activities, emphasizing the case study area of Ras Al-Ain alongside each period.

Although the morphological theories discussed previouslywith their main three schools were emerged in and by European researchers, they were not excluded in their application and use only on the western countries. As these theories formed a general theoretical framework with specific elements and a clear methodological process which can be applied and rearranged to fit in different urban tissues and spatial environments to reach for a clear and coherent morphological analysis of the desired area. Figure (2.17) below, shows a developed conceptual framework of this research

illustrating the study plan adopted to cope with this research objectives based on a comprehensive and scientific way.

This thesis tries to understand how the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain emerged and developed through time, by applying a coherent morphological analysis, adopting the urban design approach which requires the analysis of the urban fabric of the area from its smallest elements parts to its whole.

To do so, this study starts with a brief historical analysis of the city comprising the aimed neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain as a whole, emphasizing during this on the historical and urban change affecting Ras Al-Ain in specific; in order to understand the evolution of its current form, and explain concisely under which planning approaches, regulations, and circumstances this neighborhood transformed.

The methodology adopted in this thesis can be characterized both as deductive and inductive process, as it starts to analyze the whole reflected in the urban morphology study of the area, and moves into its parts, through the study of its urban form development at its different levels of resolution (land use, blocks/plots, buildings form, streets,...etc.) during the different historical periods of time, and then from parts again back into the knowledge of global pattern, affecting the whole urban space that comprises the different social activities in order to reach a comprehensive result that affects the urban landscape change, reaching for a conclusion

that will help in answering the questions of the thesis and suggest suitable recommendations.

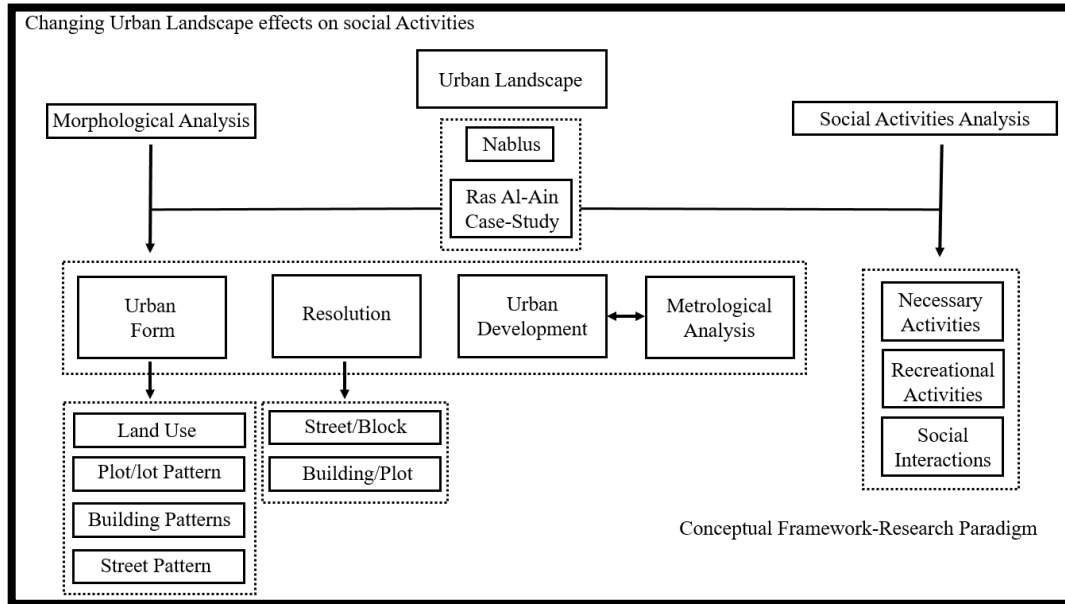


Figure 2. 17: Research Paradigm.Source: (The researcher,2018).

Chapter Three

Ras Al-Ain in the Framework of Historical Urban Development of Nablus City

3.1 Introduction

In order to study the urban characteristics and changes that occur in a specific urban area we should consider having a consistent background about the city in general comprising this area, and take into account its fundamental characteristics that affects its expansion and urban change.

Since cities grow as they are considered to be an organic human and functional agglomeration due to economic, social, cultural, and management forces from, within, and outside the city.(Allaban, 1999, p. 212) Thus, Nablus city grew and developed through different stages and historical periods that led to its current development.

Therefore, this chapter discusses some of the most important characteristics of the city of Nablus, such as its geographical location, topographical properties, and a description of its urban development since its emergence in the pre-history until now, in addition to emphasizing the most important eras and historical periods that have passed through, as well as the associated changes and effects on the urban fabric and landscape, and their impact on the city in general, and focusing on the case study area of Ras Al-Ain in particular.

3.1.1 Overview

Nablus is considered to be one of the largest and most important cities in Palestine, although the city has a total area of only 29 kilometers square and a population of 170,069 inhabitants, Nablus governorate has an area of approximately 605 kilometers, comprising 45 villages, and having a total population of approximately 348,023 inhabitants. (NablusMunicipality, accessed June, 2018)

The importance of this city has been reflected in many sectors, such as economic, political, industrial, and cultural ones, this distinction made Nablus conferred several names through history, which each of them have reflected its importance in a specific field. It has been named “little Damascus” by the geographer Al-Muqaddasi due its large areas and fields of greenery of olive trees, and paved streets. Besides, it had a lot in common with the Syrian capital, as they both have rich supply of natural water wells, both formed a “dry ports”, have a strong manufacturing sectors and commercial hubs, and their cultural life was dominated by conservative and entrenched merchant communities, in addition to the persistence of family politics.

Another name was “Nest of Scientists”, as its embracement of many scientists and intellectuals making it a distinct cultural center in the region. The most recent title that Nablus is known by is “Jabal Al-Nar” meaning the “Mountain of Fire”, this name was given to the city during the last decade, for the heroism of the tournaments and the valor that appeared

from its inhabitants during all the revolutions that were launched to resist against its occupation. (Aqleh & Taleb, 2016, 2008)

3.1.2 Location and Topography

Nablus is a city located to the north of Palestine, it expands in a fertile valley between chains of mountains, Mount Ebal to the north, 940 meters above sea level, and Mount Gerzim to the south, 880 meters above sea level, and extends from the southern parts of Marj Ibin Amer Valley and ends down to Jerusalem Mountains in the south. It lays sixty six kilometers from Jerusalem. (Figure 3.1) Shows the location of Nablus city within Nablus governorate. This strategic location of Nablus played a major role in its economic enrichment, as it turned out to be one of the main interior communication nodes in Palestine, and the first economic center and livable hub as well. (Dabbagh, 1988)

3.1.3 Origins of the City of Nablus

Nablus has been affected by several prominent historical periods and events that played a fundamental role in shaping what is nowadays the city of Nablus. This section presents a comprehensive and summarized timeline of the development of the city, since its emergence in the pre-history until today, to be followed then by the featured periods that the city has experienced with a simple glimpse of the most important urban changes, urban morphology, and social experience associated with each period and which affected the development and the expansion of Nablus in general and Ras Al-Ain neighborhood in particular.

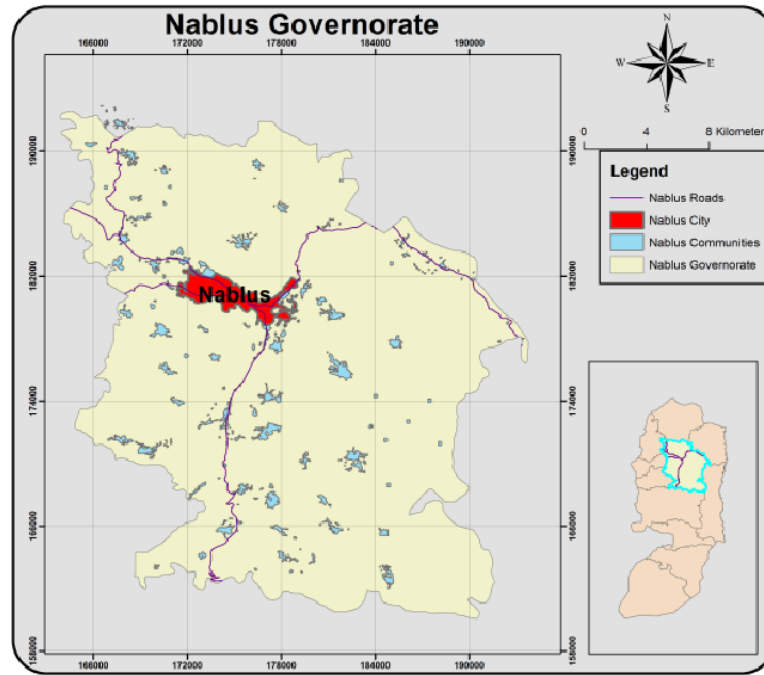


Figure 3. 1 :Location of Nablus city within Nablus governorate, Palestine. (Source: Researchgate.Net)[Accessed 27 Apr, 2018]

The origins of the human settlement in the area of Nablus laid back before the Canaanite period as mentioned in the excavations carried out by several exploratory researches during the fifth millennium, the city of “Shechem” as it was named in tell Al-Amarneh letters, and which means the high shoulder, or the high place; is located to the east of the actual city of Nablus, known today as Tell-Balata. (Figure 3.2) shows a map of Shechem and its ruins.

Around 550 B.C several destructions occurred in the area by the Egyptian Pharaohs, followed by several nations like Babylonians, Furs, and Greeks, causing an unstable situation in the city of Shechem due to disputes with the Samaritans (a Jewish tribe with similarities to Judaism) who settled on the top of Gerzim Mountain.(WELFARE, 2011)Shechem lived along several periods of history, inhabited by the Pharaohs, the Babylonians, the

Assyrians, the Persians, and the Jews until Romans took control of Palestine and Shechem began a new era in 72AD.(Dabbagh & Kalbouna, 1988 ; 1992)

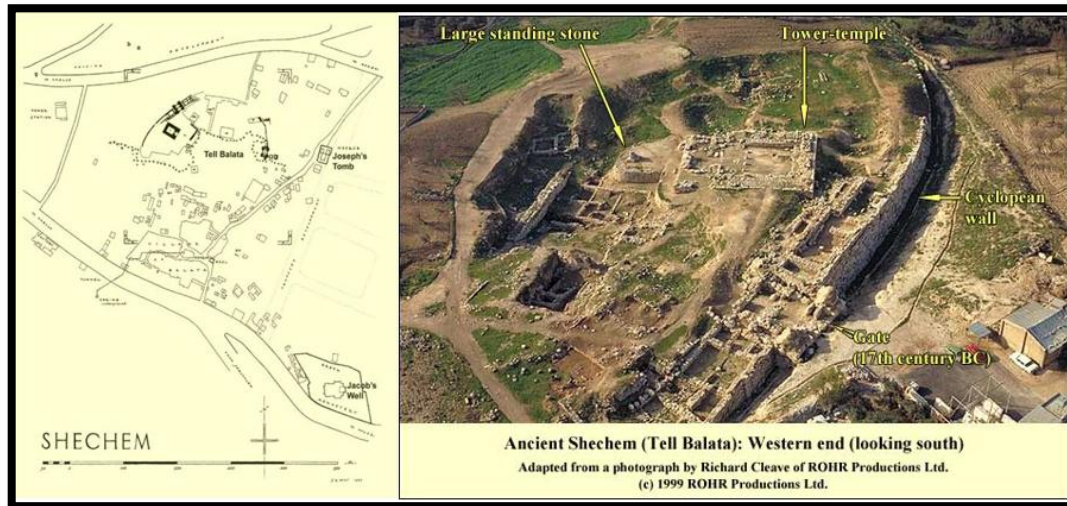


Figure 3. 2: Left A Map Of Shechem. - Right- Ruins Of The Site Of Ancient Shechem “Tell Balata”. (Source: Abrahamsdaughter.Files.Wordpress.Com/2014/12/Ancient-Shechem, Wordpress.Com, Accessed: April, 2018)

In this period, the first scenes of urban development emerged in the contrary of the previous periods, as the Roman destroyed the city of Shechem and built a new one, that was named “Flavia Neapolis” in honor of the Roman Emperor Flavius Vespasian, and which represents the old city of Nablus at the moment.

The Roman implemented a new planning layout where the longitudinal planning theme took shape, contributing to the expansion of the city towards the East-West, resulting in the emergence of a new architectural character, such as the Roman street grid design of the town as shown in the figure below. (Figure 3.3)

The city in addition, embodied some architectural features of the Roman city that most of them still exist until now:

1. The wall around the city
2. The main gates
3. The amphitheater in Ras Al-Ain
4. A central square in Bab Al-Saha
5. The governmental house
6. The Great mosque, which originally was a Roman temple and now is known as Al-Nasr mosque
7. A playing field that extends from Al-Mathana (mill) street to the municipality building of Nablus
8. Al-A'mida Street (Colonnade Street) which connects the eastern and the western gates of the city. (WELFARE, 2011)

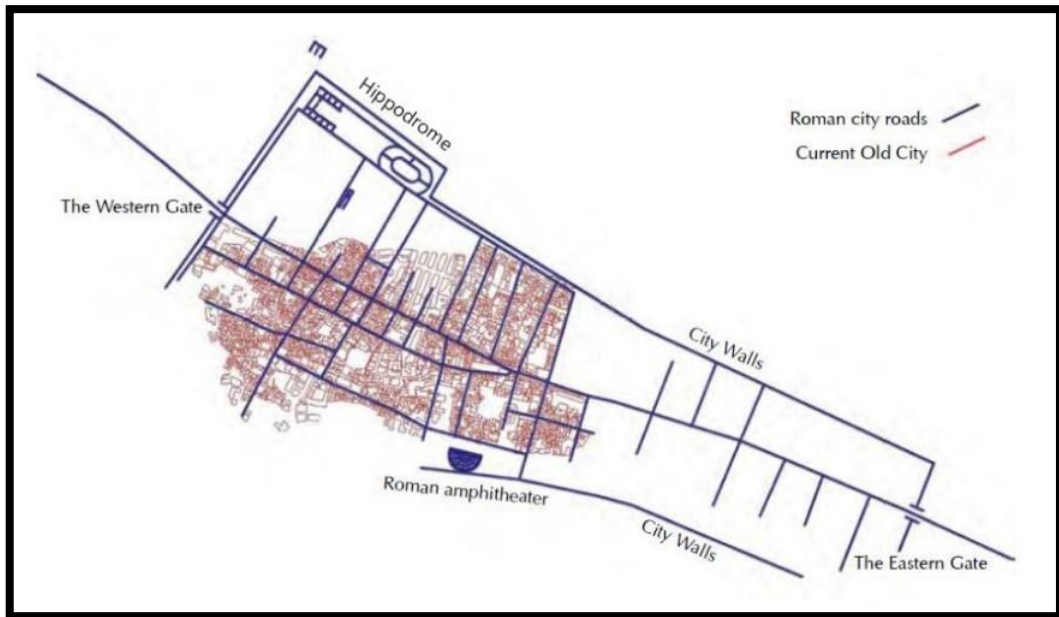


Figure 3. 3: Roman Street Layout Of Flavian Neapolis (Nablus). (Source: Welfare Association, Nablus: The Revitalization Plan Of The Old City; 2011, P.19)

The planning layout of the city during this period was applied to build a fortified city for military and security reasons, this can be reflected in the wall built to surround the city, the gates in each side, as well as the underground passages built and the Roman Amphitheater in Ras Al-Ain.

In (324AD) and after the Roman period, the Byzantines occupied the city until (336AD), where this era witnessed the transformation of the city urban character from idolater to Roman Christian, thus, many churches were constructed. (Figure 3.4)



Figure 3. 4: Jacobs Well Church Built In The 4th Century By Byzantines, Remained Until It Was Demolished In 1009ad In The Fatimid Era. The Crusaders Reconstructed It In 1154, But It Was Destroyed In 1187 After The Crusaders Left. Today The Church Is Relatively Modern In Situ. (Source: Info.Wafa.Ps; Accessed; April, 2018)

After that, an Islamic Era begun in (336AD) where the city became a commercial and a scientific metropolis, and adopted an Islamic architectural style where many churches where replaced with mosques, and people started to build in the surroundings of the mosques. For example, the Great Mosque, and Al-Naser Mosque which in 1167 and during the occupation of the city by the Crusaders, a church was built on its current site at the eastern end of the city, was built after the demolishing of the church due to an earthquake in 1927. (Figure 3.5)

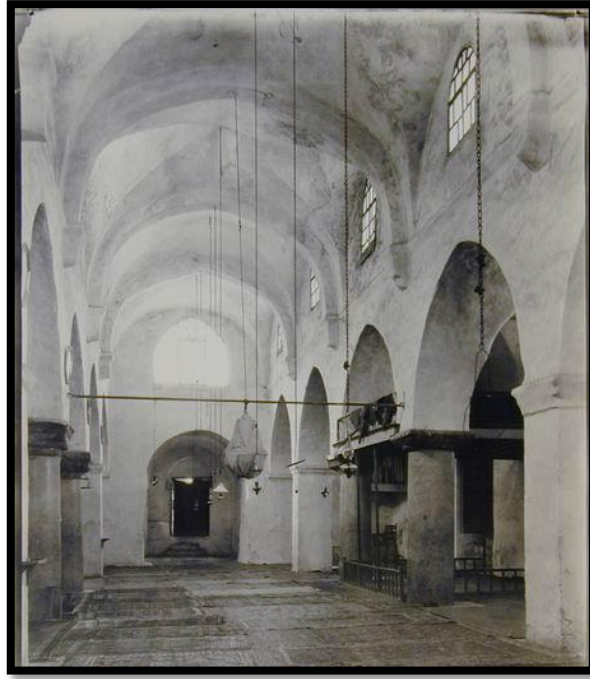


Figure 3. 5: Photo Of Al-Naser Mosque In Nablus, In The Early 20th Ccentury Which Was A Roman Temple Then A Church In The Crusaders Period, After That It Was Converted Into A Mosque In The 13th Century. (Source: K.A.C. Creswell, Arch Net Digital Library, Accessed; April, 2018)

In the period between (1260Ad-1516AD), the city witnessed a great prosperity in all respects, especially the architectural aspect. While it was occupied by the Mamelukes. This prosperity was evident and reflected in many public buildings that were built, such as schools, hospitals, mosques rehabilitation, waterways, public baths, and others. Leading to the expansion of the city towards the mountains (north-south), until 1517AD where the Ottoman period begun.(WELFARE, 2011)

3.2 Ottoman Period

The Ottoman period extended during (1517 AD - 1917 AD), where the ottoman emperor divided Palestine into two main administrative areas, the first was the North Province comprising the districts of Akko and Nablus, and the second was the province of Jerusalem. (WELFARE, 2011)

This period was characterized by the stability and architectural prosperity in which many public buildings, religious buildings, schools, soup factories, and palaces belonging to the wealthy families (Abdel Hadi, Touqan, Hashem, Al-Nimr) were built, in addition to the establishment of Al-Khan commercial market in the old city of Nablus, the building of Nablus Municipality in 1868, and the construction of many hospitals which still exist today, such as the Evangelical Hospital built in 1900, and the National Hospital built in 1910.(WELFARE, 2011)

3.2.1 Urban Development

Nablus city developed until the end of the 19th century within the boundaries of the old city, and continued to expand during that period maintaining its traditional and Islamic urban pattern. The urban expansion of Nablus outside the boundaries of the old city did not clearly appear until the beginning of the British mandate at the beginning of the 3rd decade of the 20th century.(Qamhieh, 1992)

During the Ottoman period, and until 1918 most of the city buildings were established on the flattened city's valley of Nablus, as the old city reached

a length of 880m east-west and a width of 550m north- south forming a rectangular shape. (Halapi, 2003) After that, the city expanded by about “two kilometers Squared from the Roman city of Neopolis, growing to the west and slightly to the North”.(WELFARE, 2011, p. 35) There were about 2422 of built houses in the city.(Halapi, 2003) Figures (3.6) and (3.7) show Plans of Nablus in 1860 and 1885 respectively.

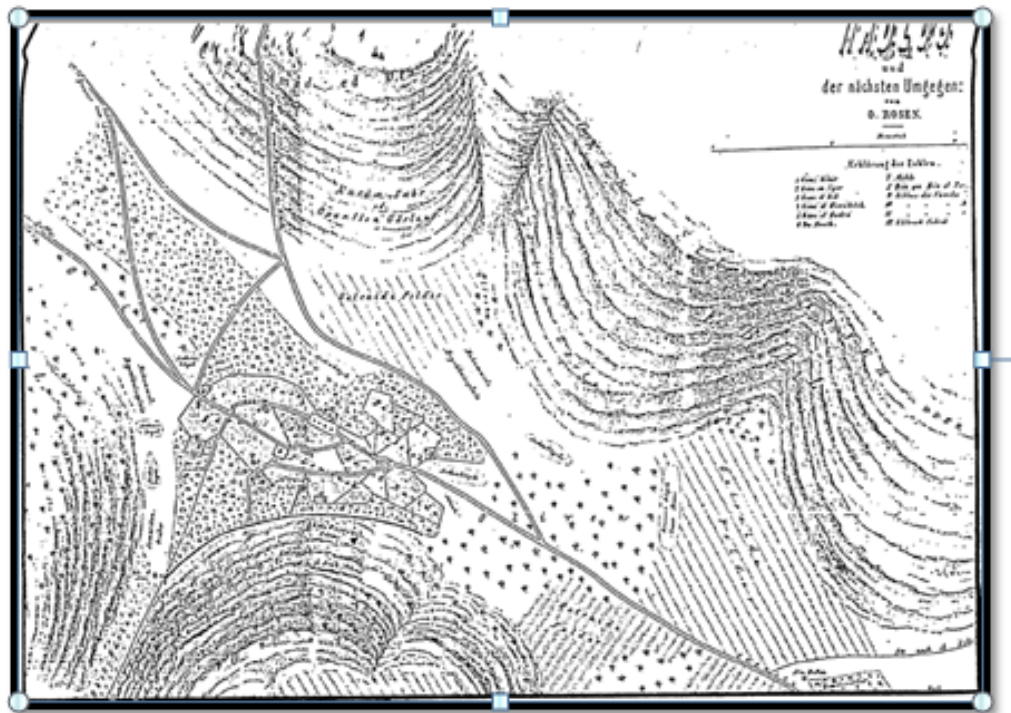


Figure 3. 6: Rosen Plan Of Nablus In 1860. Source: (Rosen, 1860).

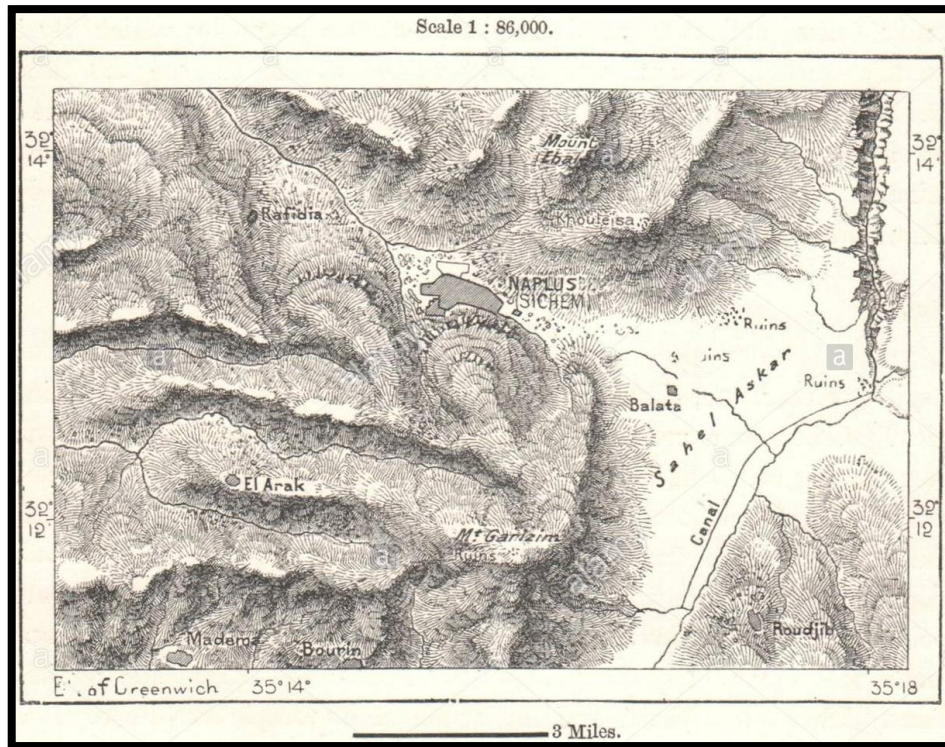


Figure 3. 7:Sketch Map Of Nablus City In 1885. (Source, Alamysketchphoto.Com, Accessed June, 2018.

The Ottoman period was known by its flourishing urban development, where many public buildings and projects were established, such as a water canal project for Al Qaryun spring, the restoration of Al Kabir Mosque, the building of many water fountains in the city, road restoration projects, the appearance of several feudal palaces, schools, libraries, teaching circles, and khans as the great khan Al- Tujjar being the largest and most famous one.(Qamhie, 1992) There was also five mosques at the time, two of which were originally Christian churches(Mills, 1864, p. 90)

The residential areas witnessed a rapid expansion, which started in Al-Habla Quarter one of the famous quarters of the old city of Nablus.(Al-Nimer 1975; Al-Dabbagh 1988; Kalbouna 1992; Al-Fanni 2003, n.d.), soup

factories were constructed and reached to be 30 factories in the city at that time, and at the beginning of the 19th century the clock tower was built in a central area in the old city of Nablus near Al-Naser Mosque, and a train station was built east to Al-Anbiya mosque in addition to several residential buildings for its employees (Nimir, 1975).

The urban expansion of the city during this period was limited within the boundaries of the old city as the city wall used to be rows of detached fortified houses (Khatib, 1985) and people did not opt to build outside this wall for security reasons, this situation lasted till the appearance of many governmental buildings outside the wall boundaries, encouraging by that, people to build their residential houses outside the boundaries of the old city. Figure (3.8) below, shows the expansion of the built area of Nablus during this period.

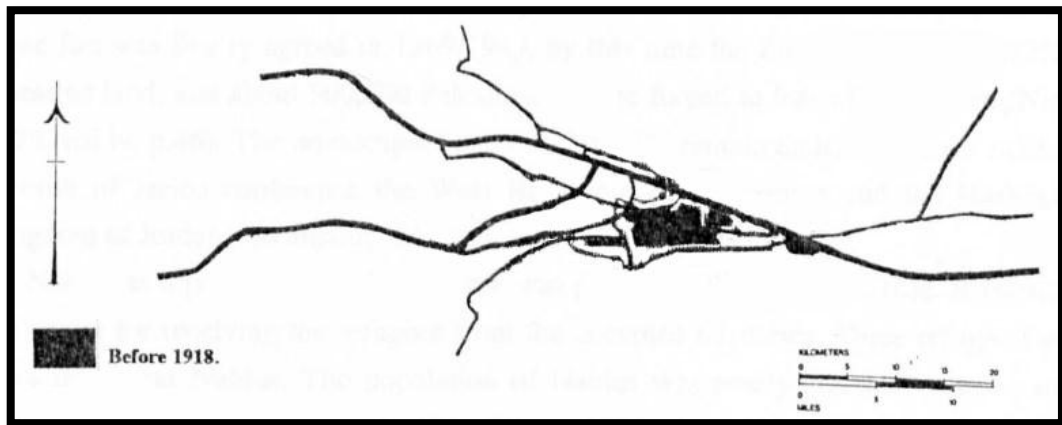


Figure 3. 8: Expansion Of The Built Up Area Of Nablus During The Ottoman Period Before The Year 1918. Source: (Qamhie, 1992), Edited By The Researcher.

The Ottomans remained in Nablus until their expulsion to Syria after the battle of MarjDabek and the end of the First World War in 1918, where Nablus fell under the control of the British Mandate.(Khalil, 2005)

3.2.2 Urban morphology

In this period the most important urban fabric characterizing it was the Islamic city fabric featuring the use of stone, ceilings, and nodes in the construction of most of its urban structures from houses, palaces, soup factories, to traditional markets including the famous Merchants Market (Khan AL-Tujjar market, Figure (3.9) shows the different markets of the Ottoman era in old city of Nablus.



Figure 3. 9: Map Of The Specialized Markets Of The Old City Of Nablus From The Ottoman Era. (Source: Arch. Dania Abdel Aziz/ Lecture 12, 25-7-2016, Slideshow.Com, Accessed July, 2018).

During the years 1648-1950 an Ottoman explorer known as EvliyaÇelebi visited the city and described it as “*a beautiful town situated in a spacious valley between two mountains, stretching from east to west, and consisting of eighteen quarters and four thousand and sixty masonry built-houses, including a lofty government house and other buildings. There are no houses whatever constructed of timber in the city*”.(Celebi, 1938)

The traditional house planning in this period was composed of a main entrance leading to a central interior yard known as “Hush” where the different functional rooms were distributed around it, such as a main meeting room named as “Diwan” in addition to other roofed rooms facing the yard, then there was a stoned stair leading to the upper floor. Figure (3.10) shows an illustrated photograph of an Ottoman traditional house in the old city.

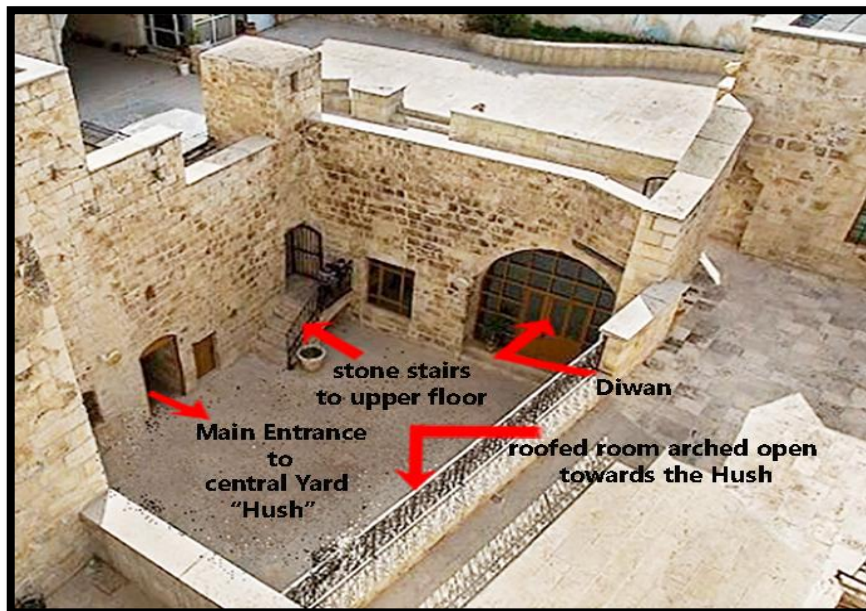


Figure 3. 10: Traditional Islamic House From The Ottoman Period In The Old City Of Nablus Showing Its Different Rooms And Building Components. Edited By The Researcher. Source: (Turkpress.Com, Published, March, 2016. Accessed July, 2018).

Morphological pattern

The Islamic city pattern of Nablus during the Ottoman period can be examined through the analysis of its different elements of Land use, Plots/Blocks, buildings and streets layout.

Land Use classification

The old city of Nablus maintained its Islamic morphological scheme since the Ottoman era up until present, it has a special urban composition and a unique traditional character that distinguishes it from other neighborhoods of the city of Nablus. It is composed from six residential districts as shown in (Figure 3.11) below.

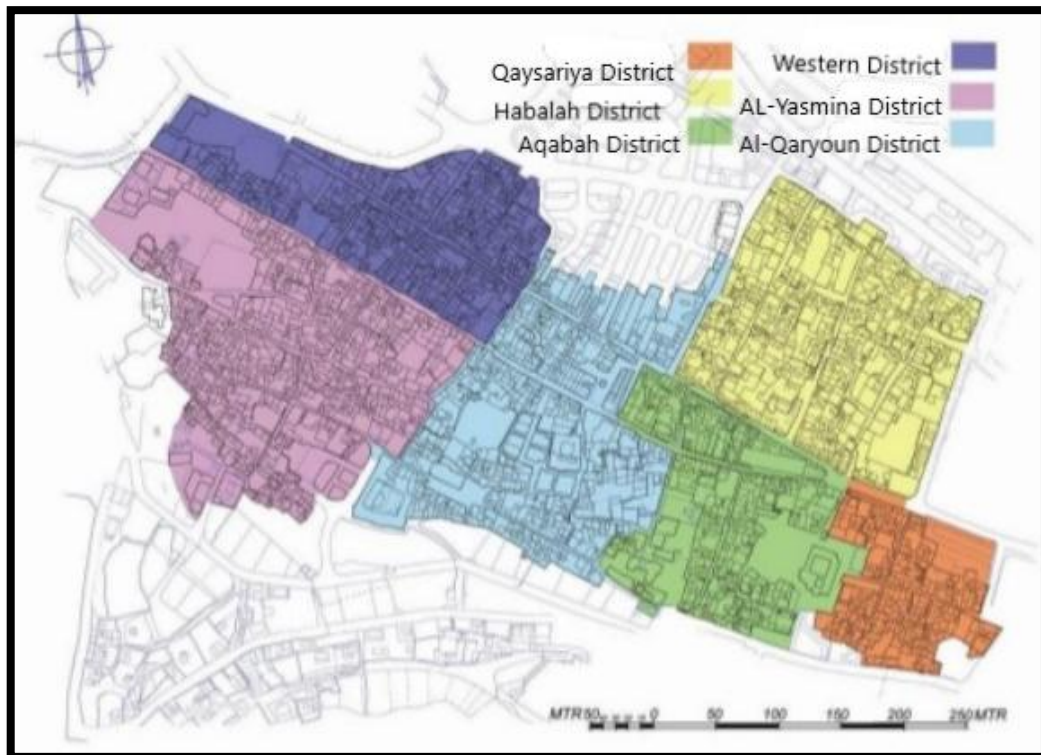


Figure 3. 11: Old City Districts Map. (Source: Ali Abdelhamid 2009)

It comprises a concentration of commercial buildings use at the northern part of the city and at the center along the main streets composing what it is known as the commercial Khan, the rest of the homogenous urban is classified as residential buildings with many religious, educational, and industrial buildings spread sporadically, in addition to the recreational buildings and open spaces between the residential exterior yards as shown in Figure (3.12) below.

Blocks/streets pattern

The urban fabric of the old city reflected the abstracted combination between the firm and uniformed Roman planning (indicated by its main grid network roads) Figure (3.13), and the organic and spontaneous development of the Islamic period (reflected in its traditional houses with their private and semi-private courtyards and spaces. (Figure 3.14) shows the main components of the old city of Nablus.(WELFARE, 2011)

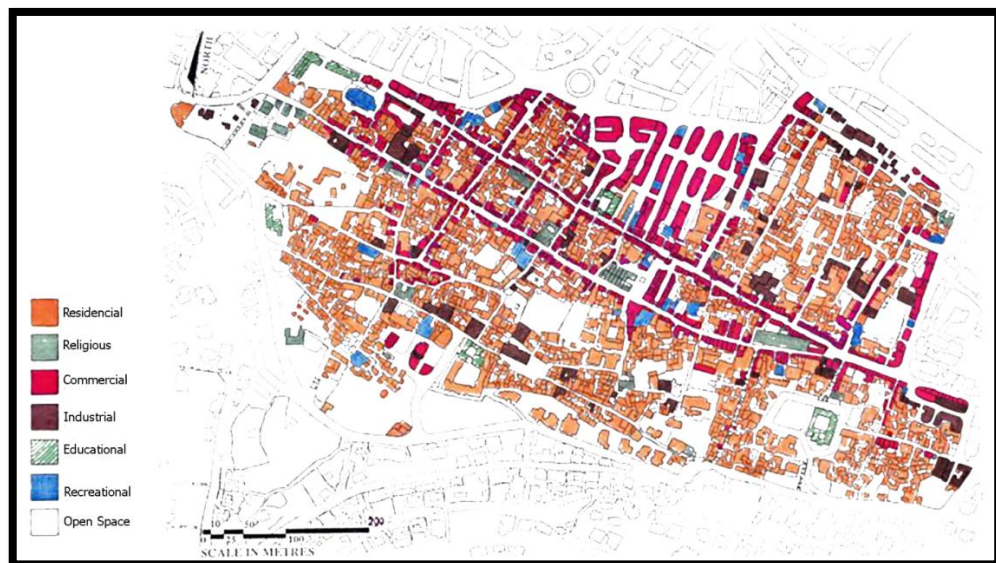


Figure 3. 12: Old City Land Use Map. Source: (Qamhieh, 1992)

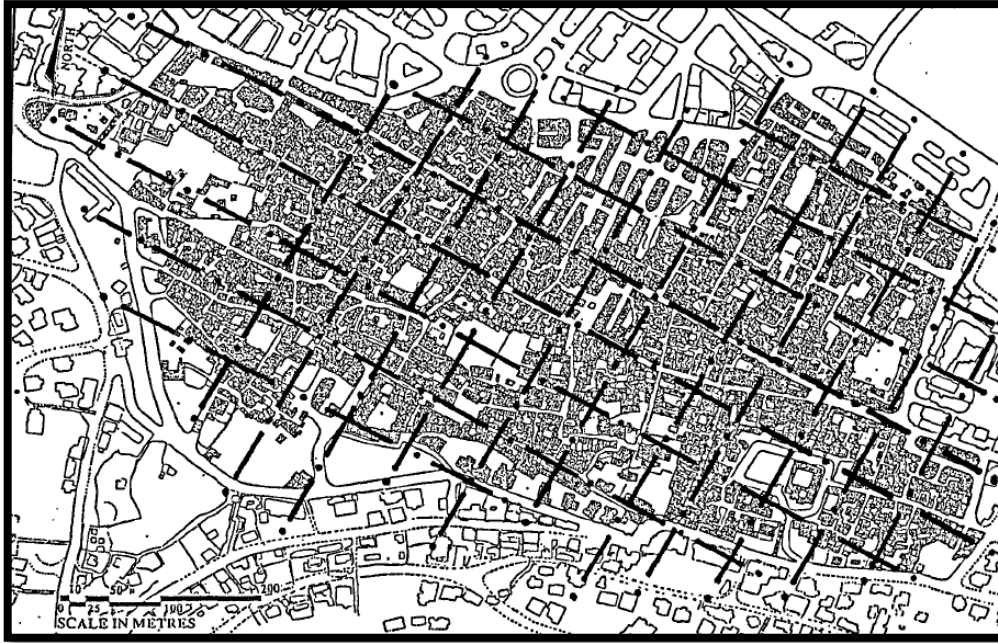


Figure 3. 13: The Roman Grid System Which Might Exist In The Roman City. Source: (Qamhie, 1992)

The six residential districts of the old city are delimited by the main public roads of the old city (Figure 3.15), and penetrated by semi-private residential courtyards, whilst roads and public spaces penetrating the urban texture of the old city and connecting with each other at common junction points forming public squares or semi-public spaces that comprise distinctive landmarks and many important urban features of the old city, for example, the clock tower in Bab Al-Saha square and Al Naser Mosque. (Figure 3.16) shows a plan of the old city with its most important urban features, while (Figure 3.17) shows the figure ground plan of the old city illustrating the distribution and relationship hierarchy between the different privacy levels of the built and unbuilt spaces.

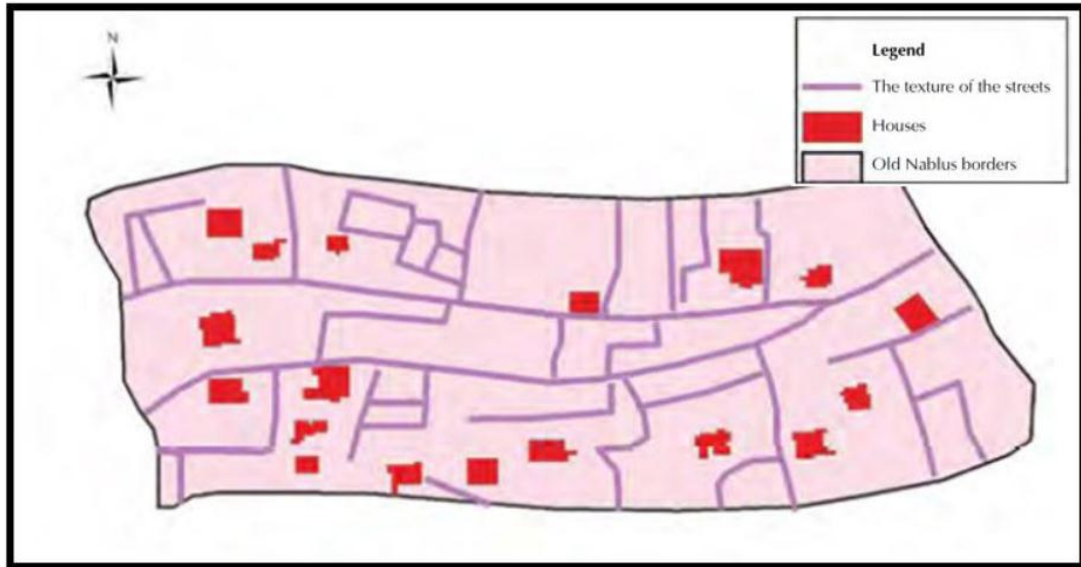


Figure 3. 14: Analytical Photo Of The Components Of The Old City Of Nablus. Source: Ali Abdel Hamid.

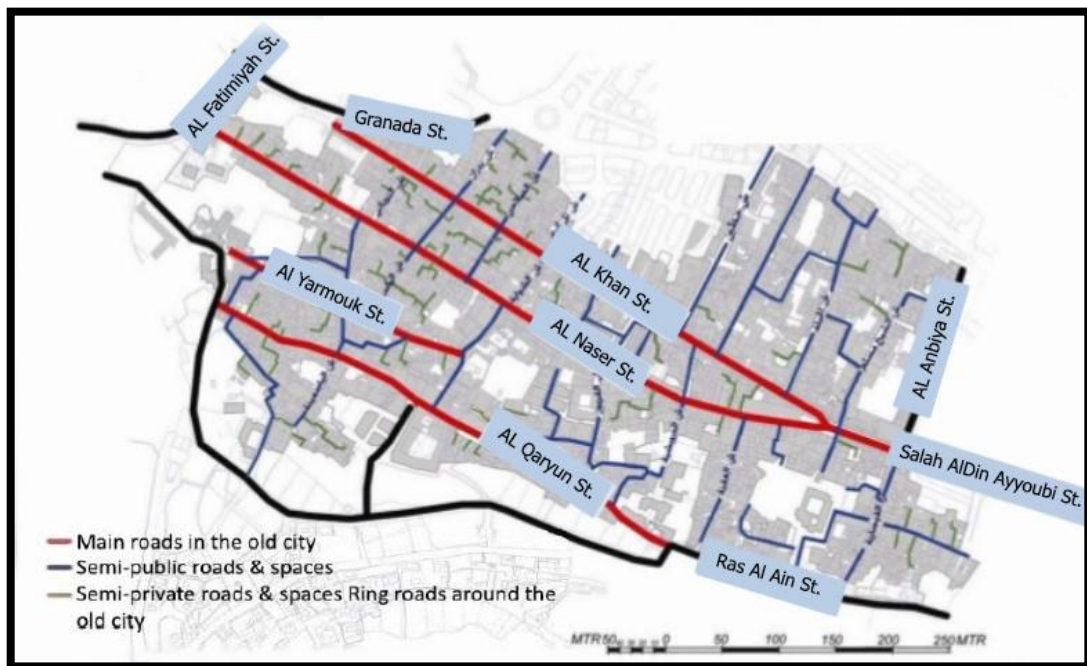


Figure 3. 15: Streets Map Of The Old City Of Nablus.(Source: Nablus Municipality 2011, Edited By The Author)

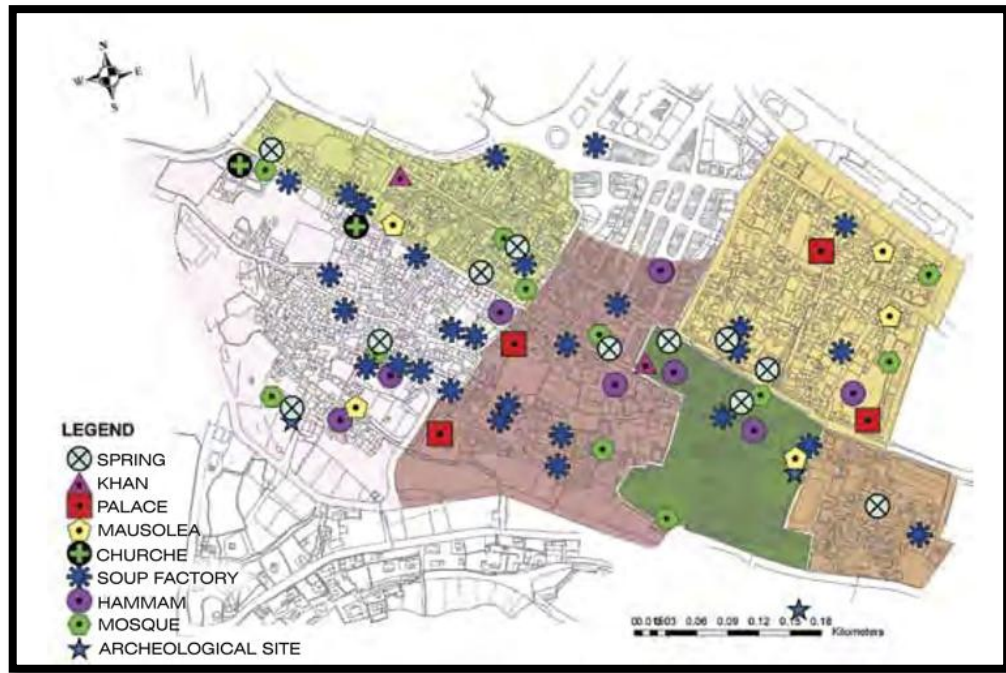


Figure 3. 16: Important Urban Features In The Old City. (Source: Ali Abdel Hamid)

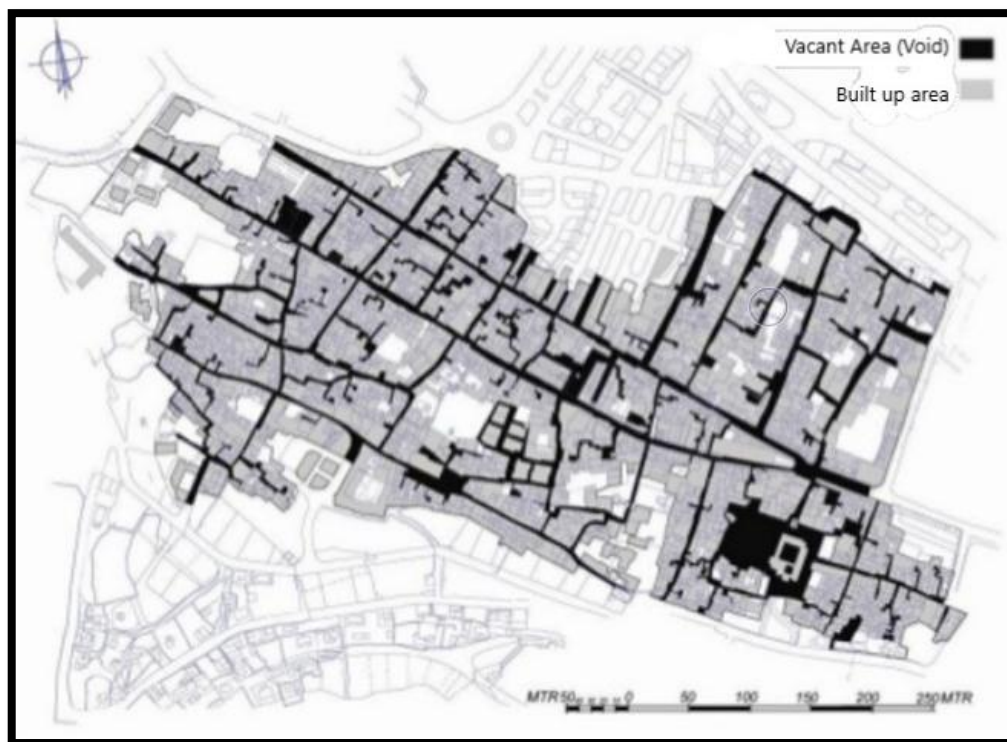


Figure 3. 17: Figure Ground Map Of The Old City Of Nablus Showing The Solid And Void Spaces Of The City. (Source: Nablus Municipality, 2011)

3.2.3 Social urban structure

During the Ottoman period on the city, and as the city's morphological characteristics mentioned in the previous section, Nablus city adopted a traditional Islamic architecture scheme, the city of Nablus reflected as a result, a traditional culture and a strong social ties between its inhabitants, especially as the extended families were sharing courtyards that centered their clustered joint houses, and were used for their daily social interaction between each other. (Figure 3.18) shows the distribution of the different spaces in the old city, it indicates the distribution of the open spaces and exterior yards among the built up area which are considered to be the most appropriate locations encouraging socialization and people interaction between each other.

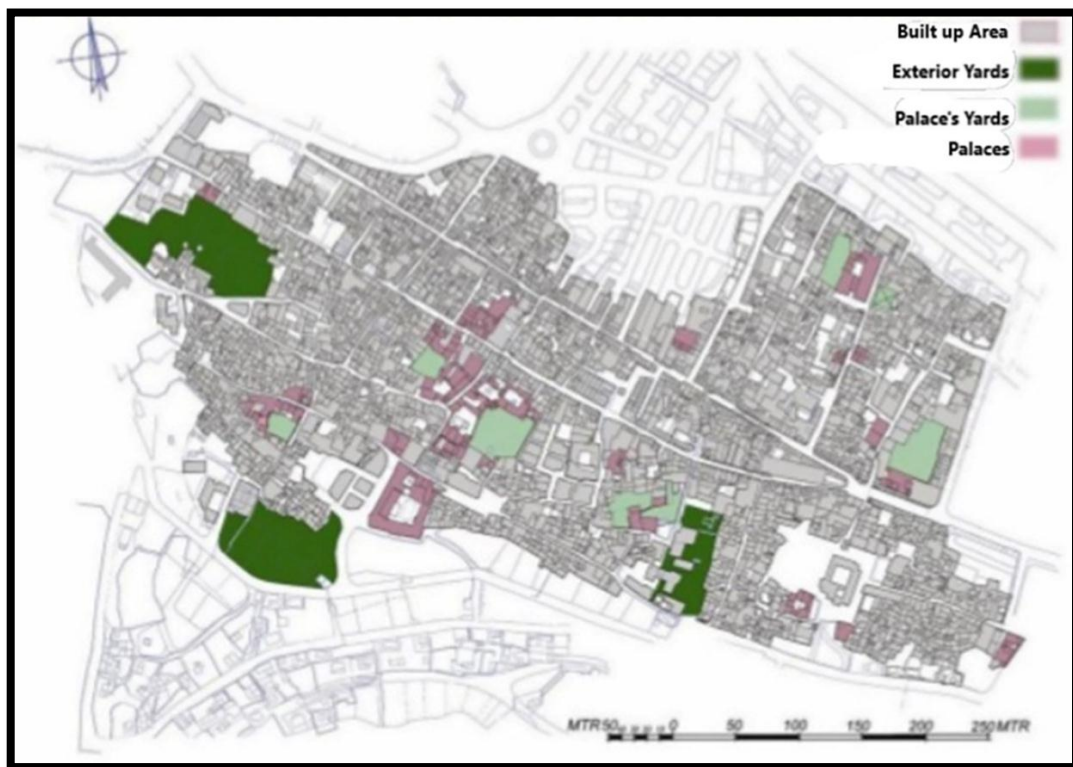


Figure 3. 18: Open Spaces And Palaces Plan Of The Old City Of Nablus. Source: (Abdelhamid, 2007)

The paved streets comprising the local markets and spread around and in-between the residential buildings made the old city of Nablus of a mixed urban use scheme which influenced directly on the social life of its inhabitants and made them be able to interact with each other easily while doing their daily routine jobs, as they were merchants working in their own market area, craftsmen in their local shops, or manufacturers in the soap and other factories all concentrated in the old city of Nablus. This urban fabric helped in the variation of the social activities of the inhabitants.

Moreover, the traditional market's ails and paved paths were considered as social streets used for communicating between the inhabitants during their day, while practicing their socio-economic activities. In contrast, the spread of wealthy families palaces in the traditional city of Nablus, which were formed and known for their distinct large scale structure, and which were described by the 19th century travelers as castles with iron gates that were compared to the Italian palaces of the middle ages. One of the largest buildings of that period was Touqan Palace in the old town of Nablus. (Khalil, 2005) Affected the traditional social ties between the inhabitants as it encourages unconsciously the emergence of social classes and the segregation between the wealthy and the poor.

Thereafter, this traditional culture experienced fundamental changes especially in the mid19th century as modernization begun and new Ottoman land reforms were introduced, this led to the emergence of new needs for the inhabitants and new styles of living.(Abdelhamid, 2007)

3.3 British Mandate

3.3.1 Urban Development

In light of the British mandate on Palestine during the years (1917 AD-1948 AD), there was a clear deterioration in all fields of life because of the British laws of land partition which prohibited the original population from using it. All these laws affected negatively on the urban development of the city, by reducing the rate of private land ownership, and raising the rate of unproductive common land. (WELFARE, 2011) Figure (3.19) shows a map of the city of Nablus in 1926.

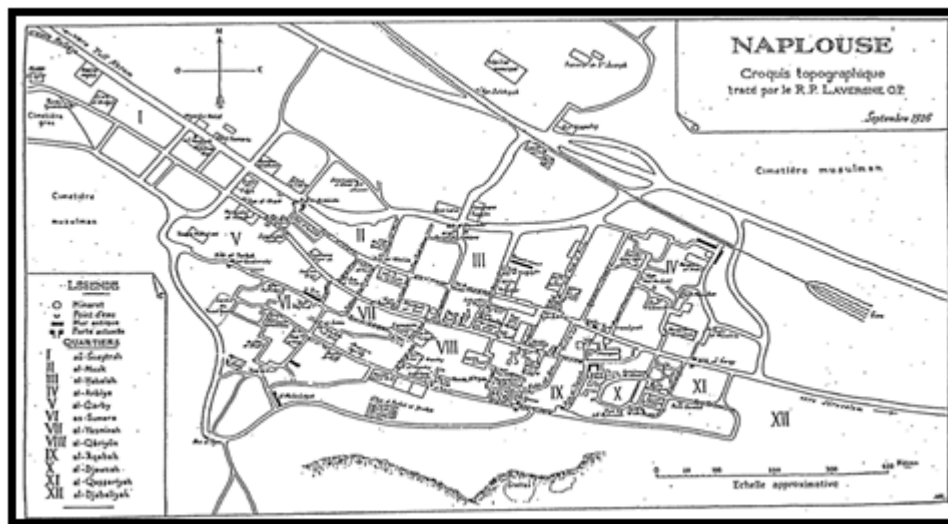


Figure 3. 19: Jausan’s Plan Of Nablus In 1926. Source: (Jausan, 1927.A)(Qamhie, 1992)

Another negative effect on the urban development of the city during this period was the major earthquake hitting the city of Nablus in 1927, which was considered as the most tragic incident on the city at that time, about six hundred houses and buildings were demolished including the historic Mosque of Al-Nasr and parts of the Al-Salahi Great Mosque. (Levitte & Wachs, 1978) Resulting in the migration of thousands of people, especially

the wealthy families who rushed outside the old city boundaries out of fear, and reallocated towards the peripheries and mountainsides in the north, a movement that marked a change in the development direction, for the first time- outside the boundaries of the old city. This also altered the architectural planning in the area affecting the appearance of the buildings and the social life of the inhabitants. Moreover, in 1935, another devastating factor represented by a flood that covered the historic city affected the expansion of the region.(WELFARE, 2011) Figures (3.20) and (3.21) show plans of Nablus city during the survey of Palestine, Jaffa in the years 1930, 1937 respectively.

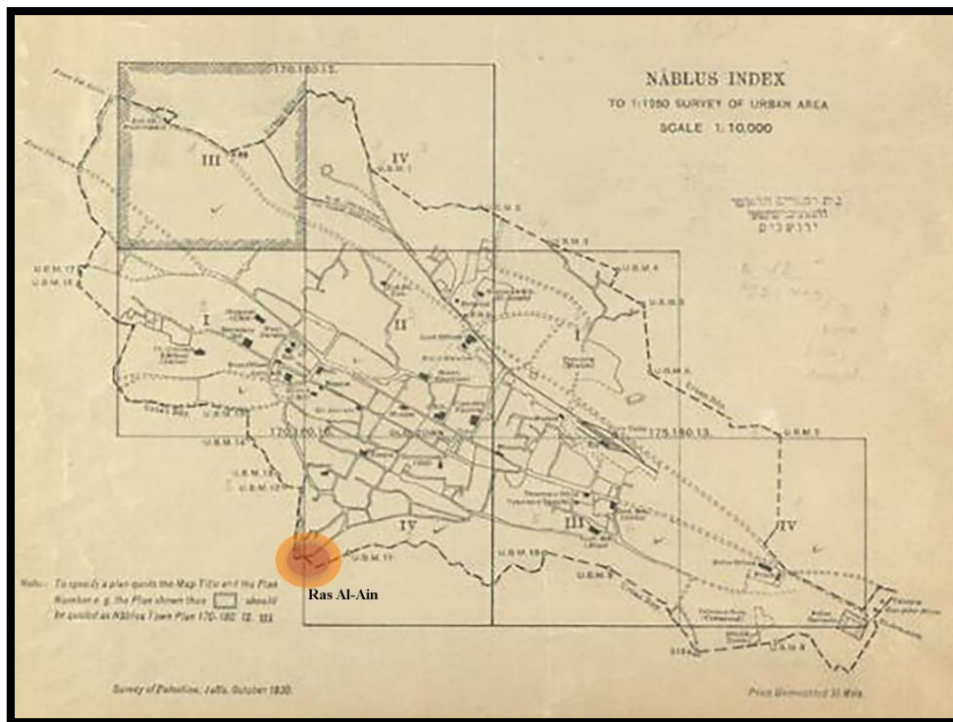


Figure 3. 20: Nablus Map From The Survey Of Palestine, Jaffa, October, 1930. Source: (The National Library Of Israel, Accessed, July, 2018)

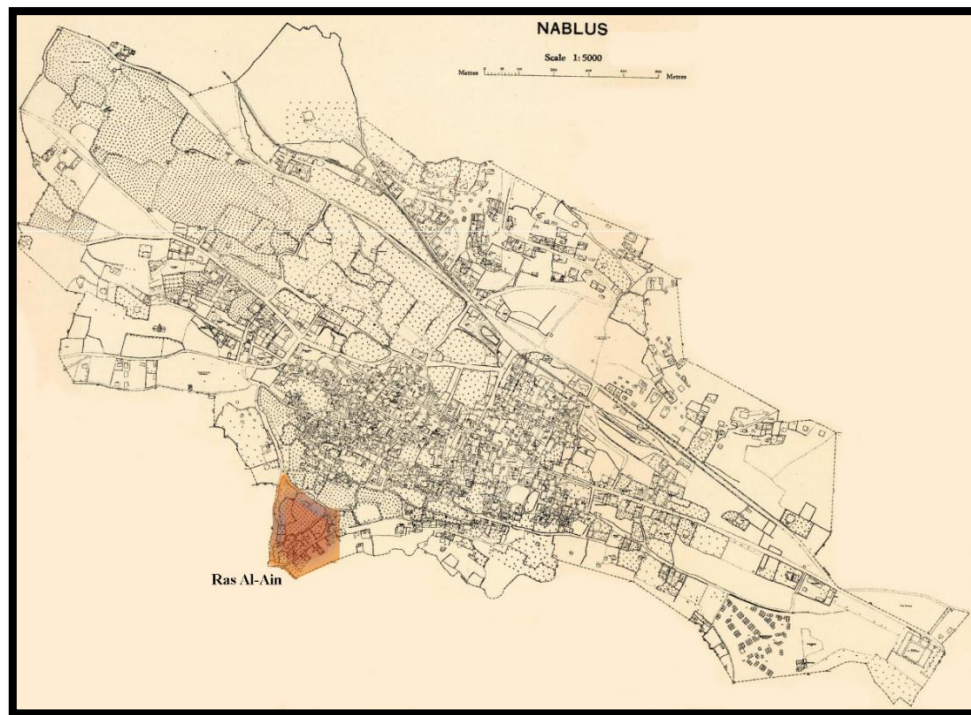


Figure 3. 21: Nablus Map From The Survey Of Palestine, Jaffa In 1937. Source: (The National Library Of Israel, Accessed, July, 2018)

Thereafter in 1944, the municipality boundaries of the city expanded from all sides of the old city of Nablus, and in 1945 the city tended to expand vertically over the slopes of the two mounts. Figure (3.22) reflects the directions of the city expansion during the British Mandate period.

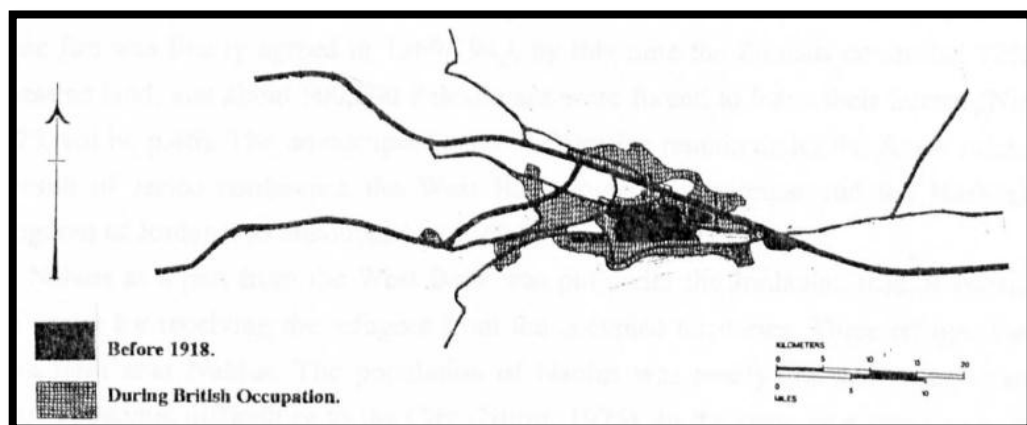


Figure 3. 22 : Expansion Of The Built Up Area Of Nablus During The British Occupation. Source: (Benvensti & Khayat, 1988)

As mentioned previously, this period was considered as the beginning of the city expansion outside the boundaries and the Roman walls of the old city towards the mountain slopes to the south, this expansion led to the emergence of the large populated neighborhood known now as Ras Al-Ain. This was followed by a spreading northward, although the orientation towards the East and West was most favored due to the ease and flatten of the natural terrain of these regions, making the city take a longitudinal shape, especially at the end of 19th century; during which the majority of buildings were commercial ones in the east side, and residential in the west. Also, as the municipal boundaries of the city expanded from and to all directions, the Samaritan left the center of the city to reassemble near the western cemetery of the city. (WELFARE, 2011) Figure (3.23) shows a map of Nablus in 1918, highlighting the location of the Samaritan and the very early appearance of Ras Al Ain neighborhood core.

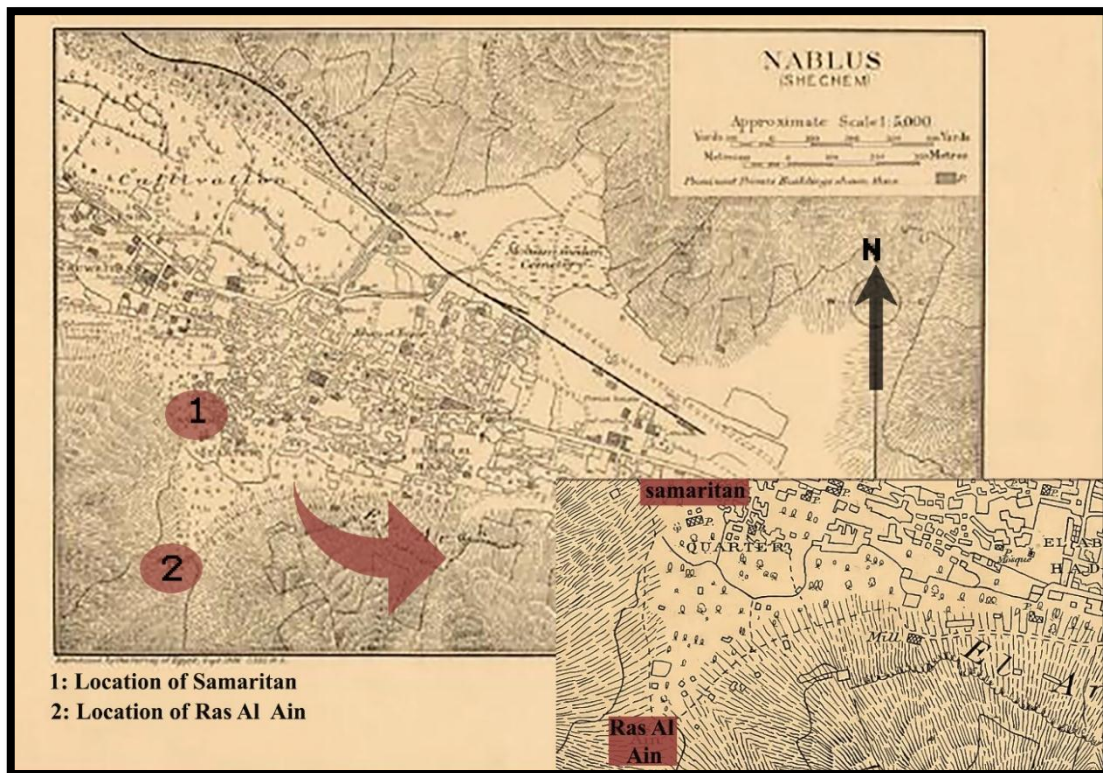


Figure 3. 23: A Map Of Nablus During A Survey Of Egypt, September, 1918. Source: (The National Library Of Israel, Accessed, July, 2018)

As all urban activities taking place during this period, they were controlled by the British rules and laws, the most distinctive and most visible building expansions during this period were as mentioned earlier, outside the center of the old city of Nablus in all directions (Northern and southern mounts, eastern and western valleys). This development is illustrated in Figure (3.24) below, and also can be summarized in the following points:

1. A significant amount of residential buildings were built to the north of the National hospital on the northern mountain during the years 1918-1940, forming what is known today as the north mountain neighborhood (Al-Jabal Al shamali).

2. An expansion beyond the boundaries of the eastern cemetery and on the top of Mount Ebal took place.
3. The appearance of some building activities in the western part of the city, although most of the land to the west of the city were used as agricultural land, hence 42.52% of the city was classified as agricultural land use.(Halapi, 2003)
4. The emergence of a new neighborhood after the great earthquake that hit Nablus in 1927, which is located south east of the city and to the east of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood, which was built as an initiative of the British government and now known as Khallet al-Amoud district, considered to be as the first modern neighborhood in Nablus and one of the oldest residential areas in the region that took the character of climbing mountain urban expansion.(Nablus.net, 2011)(Halapi, 2003)
5. The continuous expansion of the building development towards the southern part of the old city of Nablus and to the west of Khallet-Amoud Neighborhood led to the formation of Ras Al-Ain, which is discussed more in detail below.

Ras A-Ain Origins

This residential area appeared in the southern part of Nablus city as a natural expansion of the old city, it lays on the boundaries of the old city from the south forming the grains of what is known today as the crowded neighborhood of Ras-Al Ain. Figure (3.25) shows the location of Ras Al

Ain within the expansion directions of the old city of Nablus during the British Mandate.

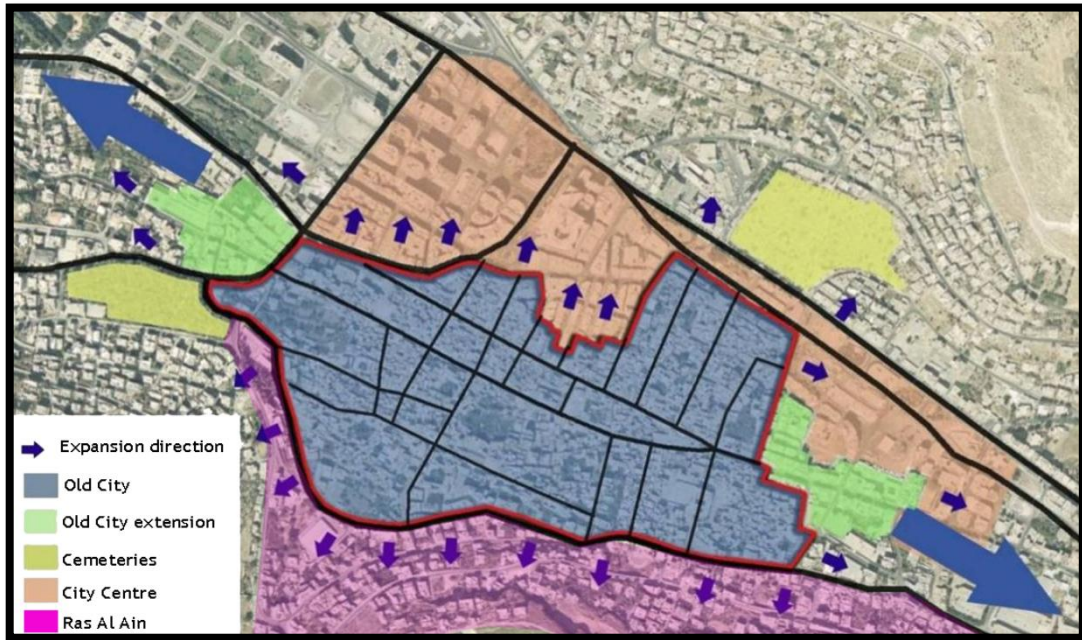


Figure 3.24: Old City of Nablus Expansion Directions in 1942. Source: (Abdelhamid, 2007)

During this period Ras Al –Ain began to expand and develop with nonstop while adopting a clear organic urban expansion character in parallel with the natural topographic contour lines of the area in order to fit with the sloped mountain terrain as it expands towards Ebal mountain top. A more in-depth morphological analysis of the area is given in the following section. Figure (3.26) below highlights the area of Ras Al-Ain in the year 1946.



Figure 3. 25:Map Of Nablus During A Survey Of Palestine, 1946. Source: (The National Library Of Israel, Accessed, July, 2018)

3.3.2 Urban morphology

In general, there was a transformation in the architectural style of the city during this period, from being Islamic to gain an European modern style, clearly as a result of the British mandatory government imposed laws; for example, the step by law which led to the separation of buildings from being clustered around a common yard “Hush” to separated single houses by the abolition of overlapping parts, contrary to what was widespread in the old city. Modern construction material were used, such as red bricks for the roofs, concrete for the walls, and iron dowels to carry the roofs.(Khalil, 2005) (Figure 3.26)



Figure 3. 26: The Old City Of Nablus And Ebal Mountain During The British Mandate.
(Source: Wikipedia.Org, Accessed; March, 2018)

In order to understand the development scheme of Ras Al-Ain in light with Nablus city development the morphological pattern of the city is analyzed thoroughly during this period as follows in the next sections.

Morphological pattern

Land use classification

During the British mandate several residential areas and projects in the new expanded areas in the North and south of Nablus appeared, these areas turned to adopt a residential area classification in the land use classification plan of the city, however the eastern part lived the appearance of industrial buildings which made some eastern areas to be classified as industrial, and in the west many plot lands were used as agricultural lands. Figure (3.27) below shows the early land use classifications of Nablus at the beginning of the British Mandate in 1926

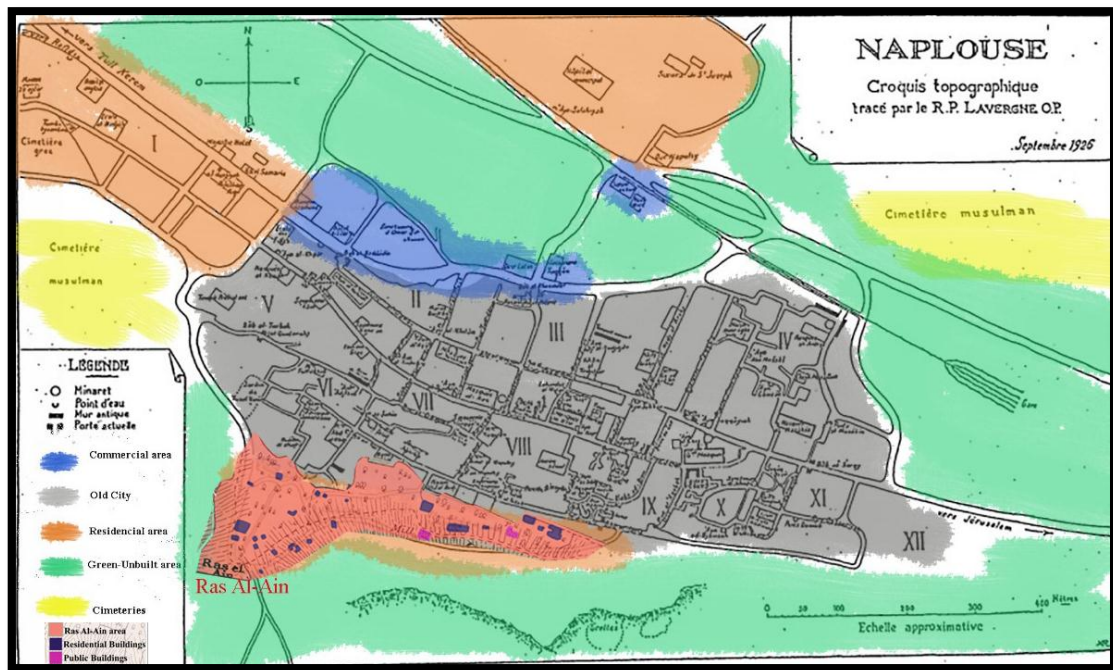


Figure 3. 27: Land Use Classifications Of Nablus and Ras Al-Ain At The Beginning Of The British Mandate In 1926, Map. Adapted by the reasearcher from source (Jausan, 1927.A)(Qamhie, 1992),The National Library Of Israel, (Accessed, July, 2018)

In Ras Al-Ain in specific and at the start of this period as an urbanization development took place to the south of the old city of Nablus, which consisted of the spread of several single residential buildings climbing up the slopes of the mountain and built far apart from each other between the unbuilt green areas available of Jerzim Mountain, however, in addition to the majority of residential buildings, there were few public buildings that were built, such as a Mill in the southern-east part, and a school in the eastern part of Ras Al Ain on the main road crossing the area as shown in the figure above (3.27).

Blocks/streets pattern

The neighborhood of Ras Al Ain developed clearly expanding in the southern part of the old city of Nablus, according to the organizational plan of Nablus in 1944, Figure (3.28) below, shows the figure ground plan of Ras Al-Ain comprising approximately 300 built houses.(NablusMunicipality, 2017)

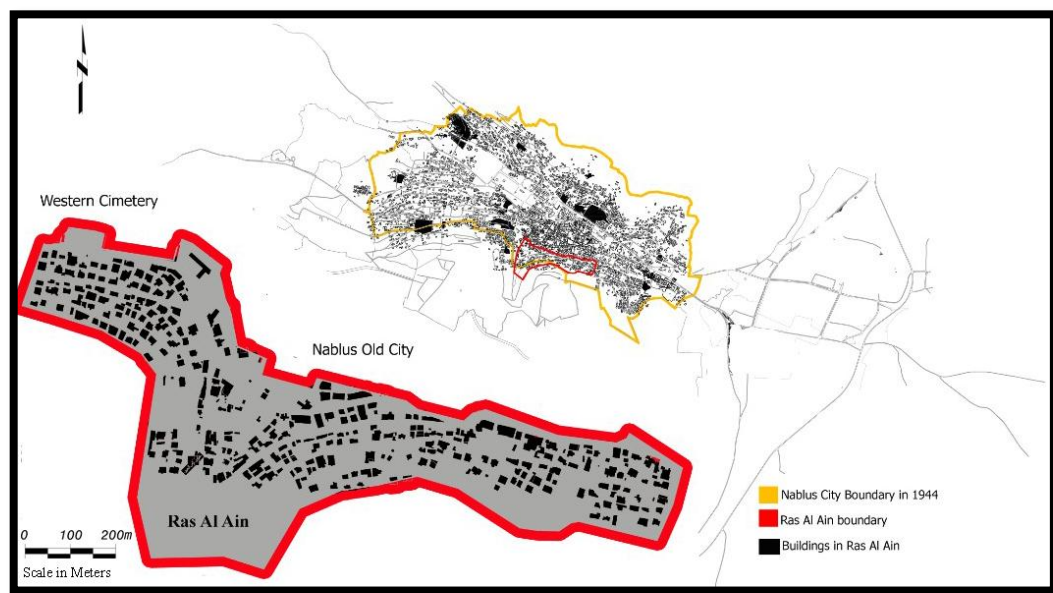


Figure 3. 28:Ras Al Ain Neighborhood Figure Ground Plan, 1944. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017.

However, the first actual planning project for the city of Nablus was endorsed during this British Mandate period in 1948, followed then by some partial structural plans and many other detailed ones.(Abdelhamid, 2007). Figure (3.29) shows a plan of Nablus city boundaries comprising the area of Ras Al-Ain after expansion in 1948.

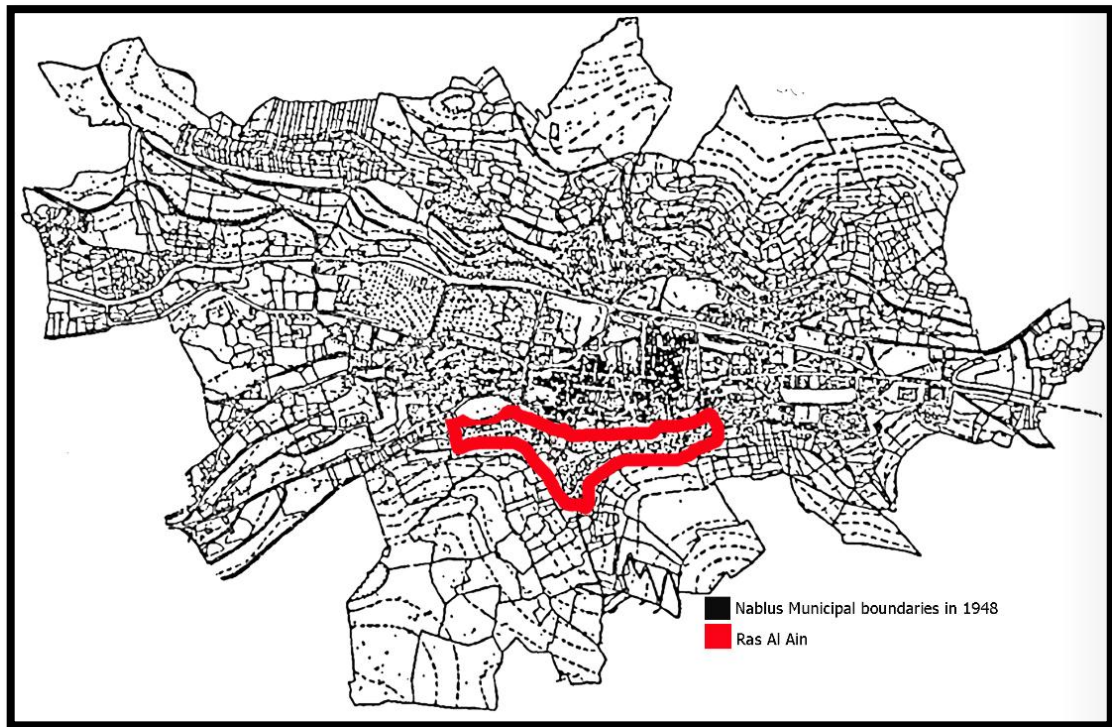


FIGURE 3. 29: Nablus Municipal Boundaries In 1948. Adapted By the Researcher From Source (Nablus Municipality, 1989)

The blocks and street pattern adopted during this era were characterized by their organic layout in contrast to the historical Roman pattern of the traditional old city, (Figure 3.30) below shows the street grid pattern of the old city of Nablus in contrast with its expansion in the neighborhood of Ras AL-Ain.

The street pattern in the expanded new areas of the city of Nablus in general, emerged accordingly to the topographical characteristics and natural terrain of each area direction, as expansion to the west and east was on the flattered area of Nablus led to the expansion of the main street arteries of the city that join both opposite directions with each other and with the city center in a straight linear pattern, and turned to be the main linkage line with the adjacent cities and villages, however the expansion

towards the north and the south, made the streets to be shorter and more arched in order to adjust with the sloped nature of the mountains.

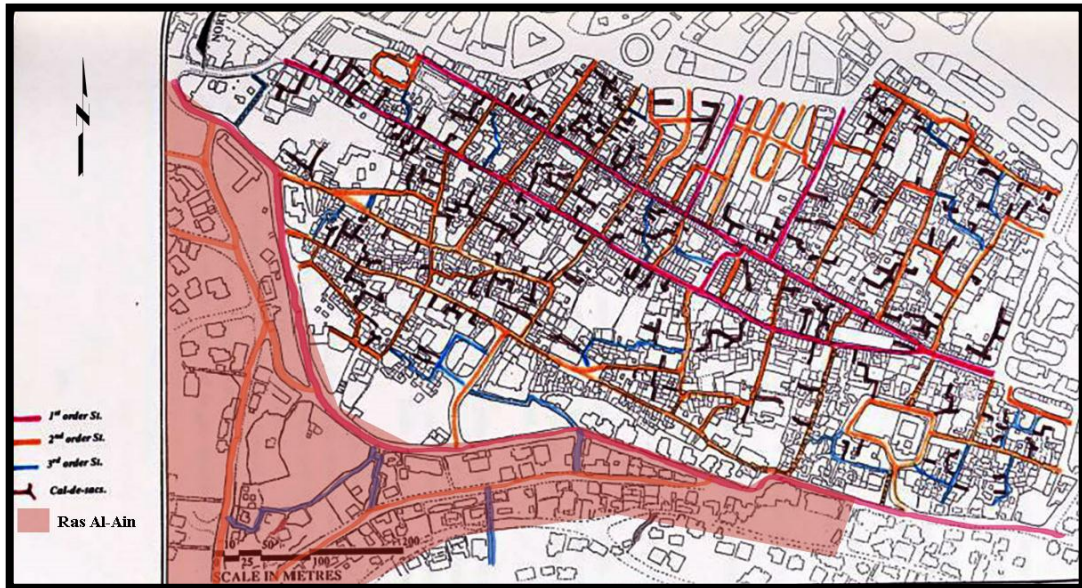


Figure 3. 30: Street Map Of The Old City Of Nablus And Ras Al Ain in 1944. Adapted by the researcher from source(Al-Bishawi & Ghadban, 2015)

As the urban development increased, the street network of the city expanded, and in the area of Ras Al-Ain some main and arterial roads appeared in order to serve the urban growth and building expansion taking place, joining the area with the city center and the adjacent developing areas in the east and west at that time. The previous figure (3.30) highlights the development of the streets in Ras Al-Ain at the end of the British mandate in 1944 illustrating the 1st. order street to be what is known today as Ras Al-Ain main street that join the center of the city with the eastern part, in addition to other secondary roads joining between the urban block and area of the neighborhood.

3.3.3 Social urban structure

The expansion outside the boundaries of the old city of Nablus, loosed the strong social ties between the inhabitants who left the center and moved to live in a more independent single houses. In addition, the socio-economic activities changed and varied to include activities held outside the residential areas.

The change from traditional Islamic to modern urban style also affected the privacy of the buildings and their inhabitants, as it reduces the common places for socializing and interact. British laws of land partition made people tend to live in crowded communities and congested neighborhoods like Ras-Al Ain, as a result of their need for safety and security in light of the unstable political situation lived, this resulted in diminishing the social interaction between the people as the urban expansion of the city took place, the new urban areas were identified by a single urban use, for example, the western part of the city was known to be identified as a residential area, while the eastern part as a commercial one.(Abdelhamid, 2007)

Social classes turned to be more evident in this period, where it was as it's known usually, the poor class people who remained in the center of the old city of Nablus, and the wealthy class who left the center to live in more independent single-family houses outside the city center boundaries, in the new emerged surrounding neighborhoods. To be adding that the ethnic

class of Samaritan left the old city to agglomerate in the south of the city, near the western cemetery.(WELFARE, 2011)

The social, economic, and cultural changes occurred during the British mandate period were basically because of the imposed planning based on English architectural forms and concepts, in addition to the appearance of the car as means of transportation, which helped in the transportation of the inhabitants and encouraged specially the wealthy of them to leave the center and settle in the suburbs. All of these changes affected the new need requirements of people, and led to social, educational, and economic changes within the society. As the rich left the center to live in the suburbs in single-family houses, were helped by the ease of transportation by the car, while the poor stayed in the center, and people from outside the center but works in the center and find it difficult to commute as there is no car access to the old city; found a proper place to settle inside the traditional fabric. As a result of this reallocation of population, division between the different socio-economic classes was clearly created.(Al-Bishawi & Ghadban, 2015)

3.4 The mid-20th Century Period- Present

This section extends to include several political governmental periods gradually represented as follows:

- A. The Guardianship and unity with Jordan period (1948 AD- 1967AD)
- B. Israeli occupation period (1967-1994)

C. The Palestinian Authority period (1995- present)

This section deals with these periods in detail, regarding to their urban and morphological development and the associated social changes occurred during each of them.

3.4.1 Urban Development

A. Guardianship and Unity with Jordan

After the British mandate period, the city experienced an increased vertical expansion during the Jordanian period, this expansion was in line with the expansion towards the east bank (trans-Jordan)(Qamhieh, 1992) as vacant land and basic services were available. After the Nakbah in 1948, the expansion of the city went towards both the east and west as follows:

1. In the western side, the expansion spread both ways along the main road joining Nablus- Qalqilya village, on the northern top of Gerzim Mountain reaching the village of Rafedia, and along the road of Nablus-Tulkarem reaching the southern top of Ebal Mountain, while the central valley of the city remained unbuilt and was used for agricultural purposes.
2. In the north direction the building activity continued to expand on the slopes of the mountains.
3. In the south, the construction started beyond the boundaries of Ras Al Ain neighborhood, and over the old quarries in the adjacent district of Fatayer, this expansion continued climbing on the foot of the mountain,

in addition to start construction in the Samaritan neighborhood.(Khalil, 2005) Figure (3.31) shows the directions of the city's expansion during this period.

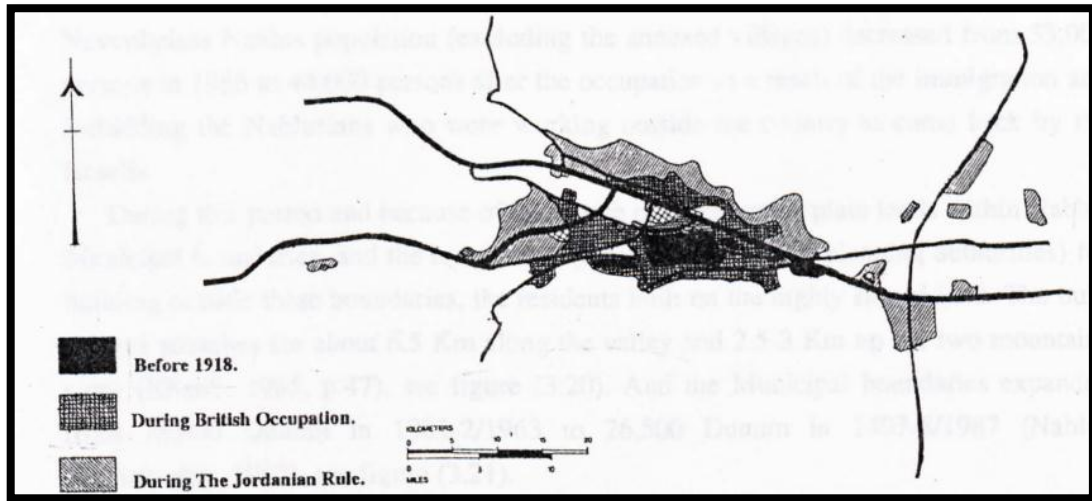


Figure 3. 31:Expansion Of The Built Up Area Of Nablus During The Jordanian Rule.
Source:(Qamhie, 1992)

There was a clear accelerated growth in the city's population during this period, which nearly doubled (Nimer, 1975), especially after the Israeli expulsion of Palestinians from their cities in 1948 leading to the establishment of four refugee camps, Balata camp to the east of Nablus and outside the boundaries of the city at that time, two Askar camps, the old and new one, and Ain Beit Al Ma' camp to the west. Figures (3.32) (3.35)

The villages of Balata, Askar, Junayd, and Rafidya were added to the municipal boundaries of the city in 1963, and the housing units in the city increased to reach 6500 units that housed about 8000 families. (Khatib, 1985, p. 44)



Figure 3. 32: Left-Aerial Photograph Of Balat Camp To The East Of The City Of Nablus, Right-Aerial Photograph Of Askar Camp. (Source: Wikipedia.Org, Accessed; March, 2018)

In addition to the emergence of the refugee camps, Nablus city developed considerably towards many directions, as a result of the establishment of the new commercial center to the north of the old market “Khan”, and the continuous urban expansion of buildings on tops of Ebal and Gerzim mountains, as many Population-based communities were established based on common family connections, such as the Fatayerr family neighborhood that was established above the old quarries to the southern part of Nablus along Ras Al-Ain. (Halapi, 2003)

In 1961, the first general land use plan of Nablus city was developed, which included the different land parcels with their classifications, as shown in the figure below, (Figure 3.33) it illustrates the location of Ras Al Ain showing that this neighborhood extends on a land use which is classified as residential zone class (B) to the south and as residential zone class (to the west beyond the western cemetery).

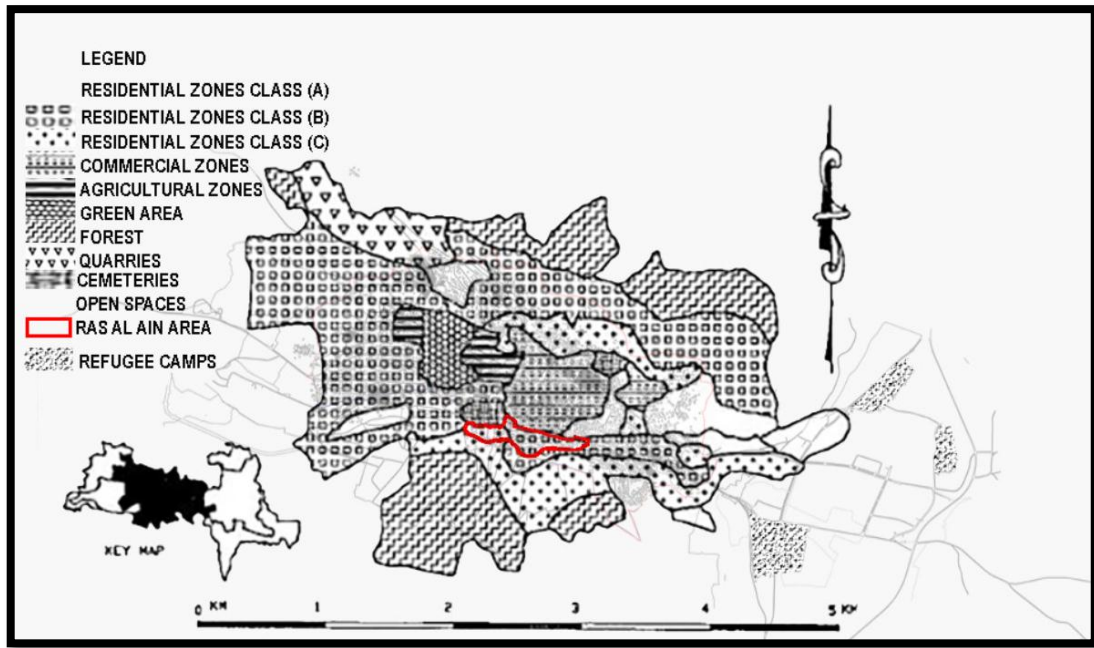


Figure 3. 33:Nablus Land Use Plan For 1961 With Ras Al Ain Location. Adapted by the researcher from source(**Abdelhamid & Municipality, 2015**)

After that, in 1963 a structural master plan for the city was expanded in all directions, west, east, and north, it included some villages like Balata from the east, Askar from the north, Iraq Al Tayeh, and Rafidia villages from the west. The last evidence of the city's expansion phenomena during this period was in 1964 in the west direction.(Sammoudi; Omran, 2006; 2008) Figure (3.34) below shows the new municipal boundaries of the city of Nablus comprising the refugee camps and many emergent villages.

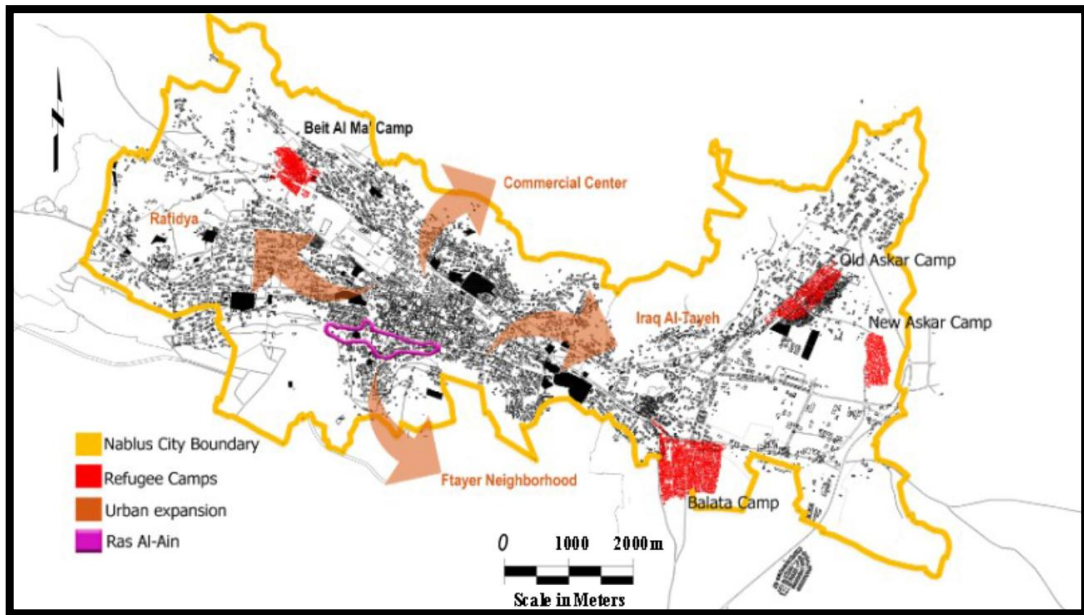


Figure 3. 34: Nablus City Map With Municipal Boundaries, Urban Expansion, And Refugee Camps In 1963. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017.

B. Israeli Occupation

The Israeli army occupied Nablus, resulting in the continuation of the expulsion of the Palestinians, in addition to placing gates, and the establishment of dozens of settlements all around the city, this settlement projects aimed to deteriorate the urban development and reduce the population expansion in Palestine in general, and in both Jerusalem and Nablus cities in particular. Moreover, the construction of massive separation concrete walls and barriers dividing the city into two parts (North, South), and activities of paralyzing the public amenities were applied.

All these arbitrary actions adopted by the occupation, led to the fact where the number of Palestinians houses which were allowed to be built, were less than those that were demolished by the Israeli military authorities, and

the population of the city dropped from being 53,000 in 1966 to 44,000 during this period.(Qamhie, 1992) Consequently, the development of cities and villages was stunted.(WELFARE, 2011)

Nevertheless, the urban development and expansion of the city during the years (1967-1983) continued, as building spread on the tops of the eastern mountains reaching the village of Junayd, and climbing towards the north and the south on both Ebal and Gerzim tops till buildings reached the neighborhoods of Ras Al-Ain and Kallet Al-Amoud, reaching 700m height of built up area above the sea level.(Halapi, 2003) in the eastern part, the buildings continued to expand along the main line of Jerusalem street and the eastern mountain top of Gerzim, reaching a height of approximately 650m above sea level, while in the center of the city, the urban development was reflected in new buildings that were built in the remaining vacant areas or replacing some old buildings after demolition, the new buildings established were distinguished by being high rise commercial buildings with multi-stories of offices, stores, and apartments, reaching an area of 2.32 square kilometers of the city's built up area.(Halapi, 2003)

Between the years (1983-1985), the phenomenon of establishing residential neighborhoods away from the city center appeared, for example, the establishment of housing of doctor's neighborhood near Roujeeb village, engineer's neighborhood in the western part of the city between Rafidya, Junayd, and Beit Wazan, and the employee's districts. All of these were built far outside the city center in the suburbs where their presence was

based on the function or societal status of the individuals.(Khalil, 2005) The total built up area in the city reached to be around 28.69 square kilometers. (Halapi, 2003) Figure (4.35) below shows the direction of the built up area development during this period, and figure (4.36) the expansion of the municipal boundaries of the city during the Israeli occupation period, whereas the municipal boundaries reached an area of approximately 26,500 Dunum in 1987.(Qamhieh, 1992)

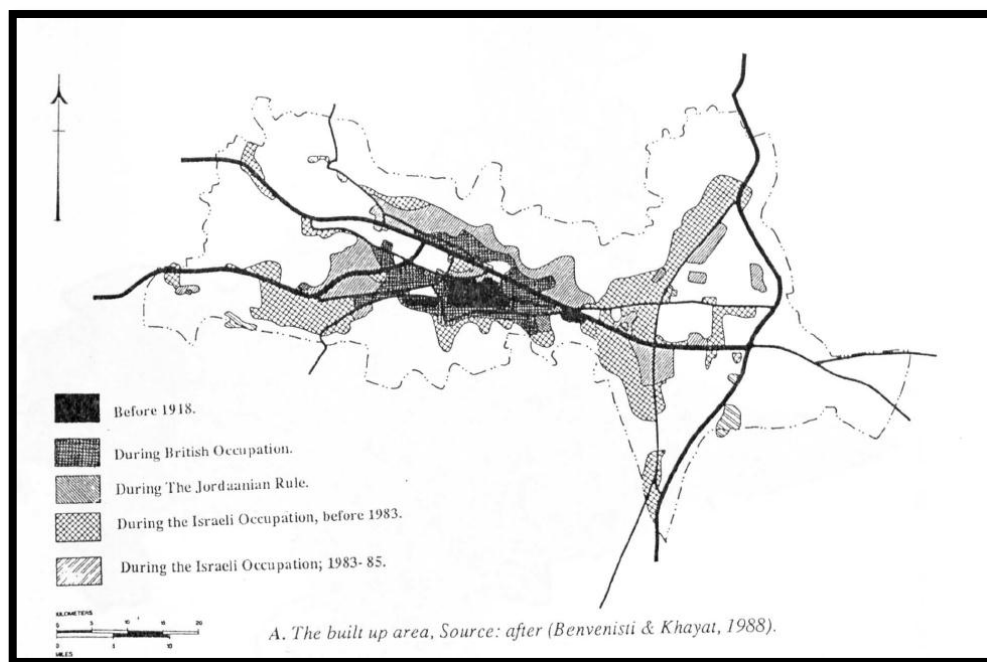


Figure 3. 35: The Built Up Area Of Nablus City During The Israeli Occupation. Source: (Qamhieh, 1992)

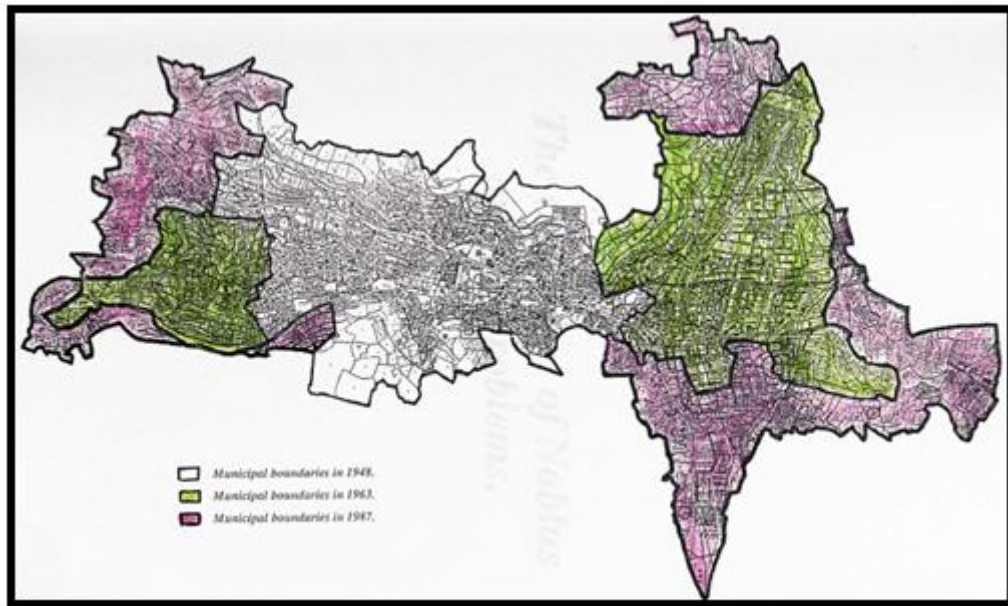


Figure 3. 36: Nablus Municipal Boundaries After Expansion In 1987. Source: (Qamhieh, 1992)

Ras Al-Ain in specific in this period expanded towards the west to reach the boundaries of the western cemetery and to south reaching the new emerged neighborhood of Fatayer.

C. Palestinian Authority –Present Period

During this period which started in 1995, when the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) took the control of the city, many rehabilitation and restoration projects after the devastating period of occupation were held, improvements of infrastructure, paving streets and ails, and the development of shops and markets, led to the nourishing of the economic life again in the city. The (PNA) worked on the expansion of the boundaries of the development plan of the city of Nablus, which focused in particular on the development of the eastern part of the city at the expense

of the eastern part, due to several reasons related mainly with the availability of services and vacant lands.(WELFARE, 2011)

In (2000AD) the second Intifada broke out, affecting negatively on the construction activity in the city, as 85 houses were totally destroyed, 395 houses turned inadequate to live in, and more than 2000 damaged houses. (WELFARE, 2011) Yet, in 2005, the city of Nablus experienced a gradual rise in construction activities, due to the relative stability in the security conditions, resulting in a better development and urbanization during this period.

The last development planning project for the city was the one prepared by the Palestinian National Authority in 1995, which was improved and modified in 2006, to cope with the urban needs aroused as a result of the population growth, and the consequent rapid urban expansion, especially towards the South and the west of the city. (WELFARE, 2011)

The widespread western expansion that Nablus recently experienced and which is still going on until the present days, extend from the plain of Nablus and reached to connect the residential buildings of Nablus with the near town of Beit Wazan through Rafedia and Al-Junayd area. On the other hand, to the east of Nablus, the urban expansion extended to connect the buildings of KafrQallil, Balata, and Askar. (Figure 3.37) shows the expansion of the city boundaries during this period, and (Figure 3.38) shows the growing neighborhoods of Nablus during PNA.

During this period the boundaries of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood presents continuous urban development and population growth within its boundaries without infringing upon its actual boundaries as it is delimited by other emerged neighborhood, as Fatayer to the south and Khallet Al-Amoud to the east.

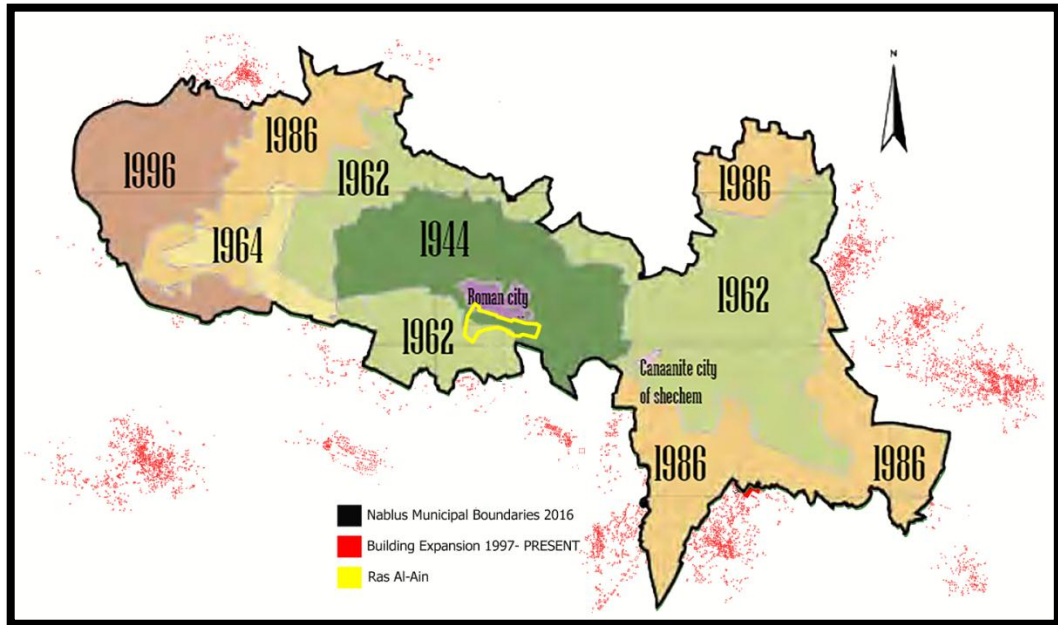


Figure 3. 37: Development Of Nablus City Boundaries Until Present. (Source: Nablus Municipality, 2018)

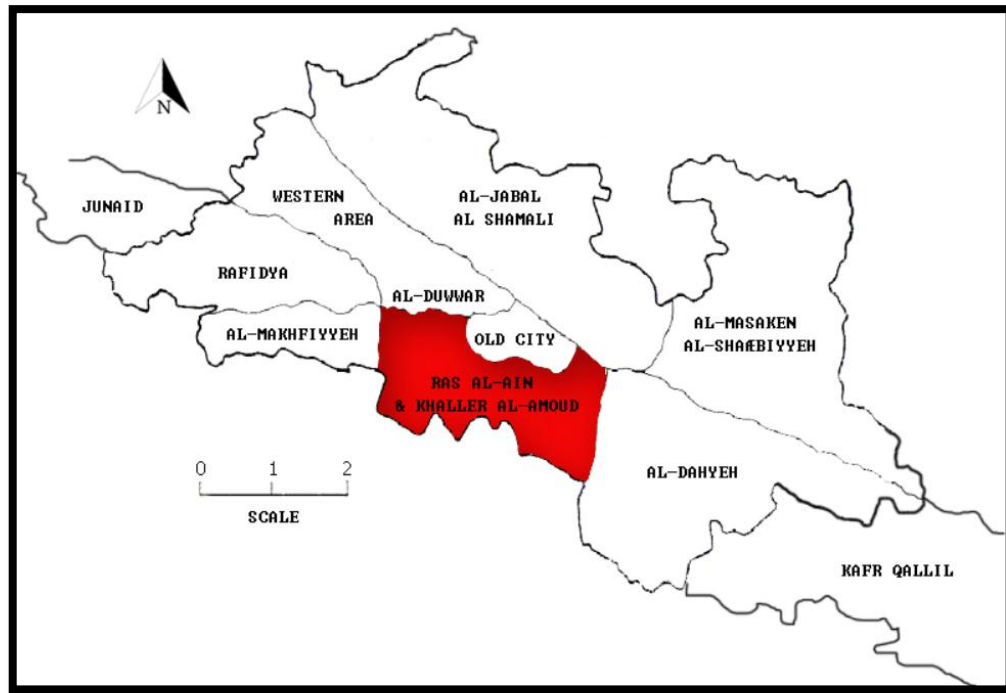


Figure 3. 38: Nablus City Growing Neighborhoods During (PNA). Adapted by the researcher from source(Dawoud, 2003)

3.4.2 Urban morphology of Nablus in the mid-20th century – Present

As a result of the different successive events during this period on the city of Nablus, the urban morphological fabric was affected by its geographical characteristics, referring to the location of Nablus city between two mountains, this encouraged Nablus to expand horizontally towards east-west, and at the same time retain it from freely expand on both mountains until the development of modern construction methods and transportation links that appeared in order to help dealing with the rocky sloped terrain of the mountains.

This section discusses the formation, transformation, evolution and constitution of Nablus city by retrospective analysis that searches the morphological momentum for each phase during the 20th century focusing

on the case study area of Ras Al-Ain, in articulation with the previous reflection around its historical and urban development.

A. Guardianship and Unity with Jordan (1948 AD- 1967AD)

During this period and as the urban development of the city expanded towards the east and west part of the city, the morphological scheme tended to be as follows.

Morphological pattern:

Land use classification

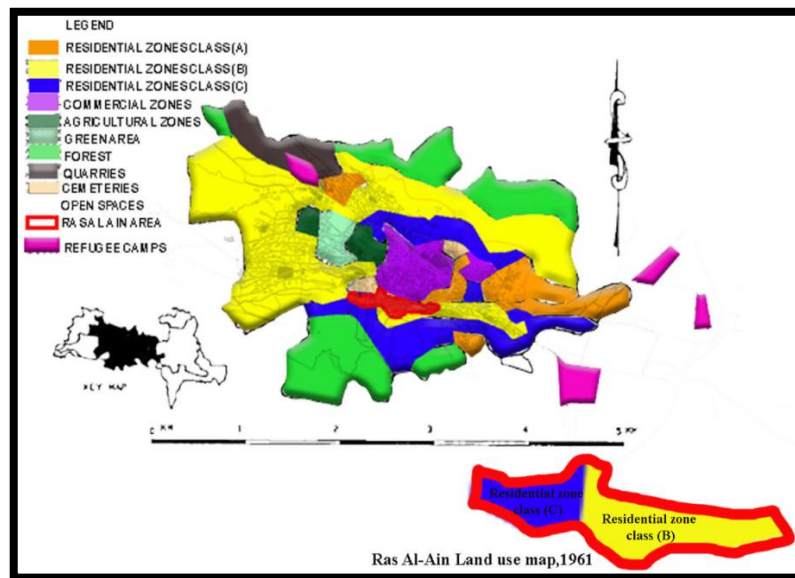


Figure 3. 39: Nablus Land Use Classification Map, 1961. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2015).

As shown in the above figure (3.39) of Nablus land use classification, the central part of the city comprising the old city is classified as a commercial zone surrounded towards the north and south by urban developments

classified as residential area class C which indicates to the new residential developments in the city that spread in the fringes of the city center towards the mountains tops classified as forests and vacant areas, these residential areas comprise the modern building pattern of detached houses. Instead, the urban development towards the east and west part of the city are mostly classified as being residential areas class B in the west and A in the east.

As a result the area of Ras Al-Ain laid on a land use classified as mostly as residential area class B and on a small part of residential area class C in the western modern part of the city.

Block/Street pattern

The new blocks and street network continued in this period to develop and expand in the new emerging areas oriented toward all directions. Figure (3.40) below shows a figure ground plan of the city in the year 1963 highlighting the area of Ras Al-Ain and how the new modern detached blocks scheme continued to expand vertically and toward the south simultaneously with the spillover of the street network linking the evolving urban areas. Figure (3.41) below shows the map of Nablus Street patterns in 1948 contrasting between the regular grid pattern of the old city center, the linear one crossing the city from east to west, and the uneven ramifications in the north and the west, especially in Ras Al-Ain. Figure (3.42)

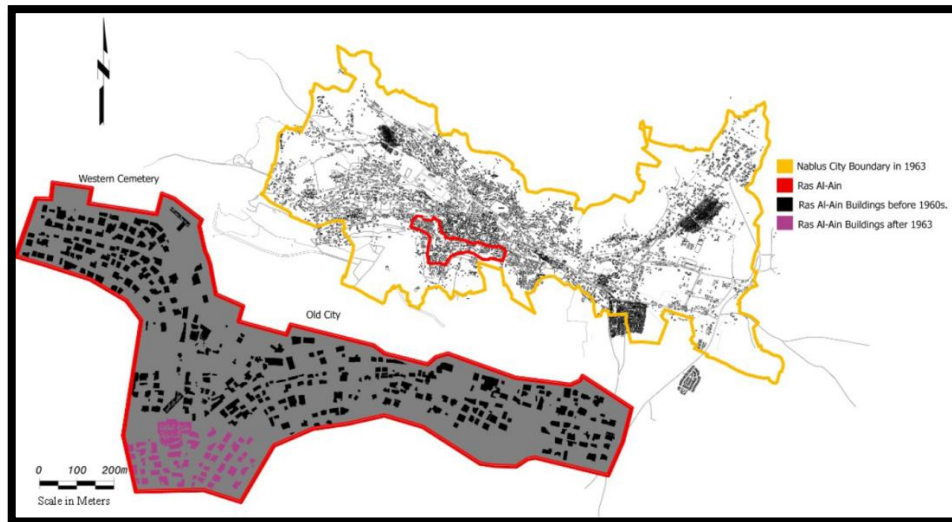


Figure 3. 40: Ras Al Ain Neighborhood Figure Ground Plan Within Nablus City Plan, 1963. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2017)

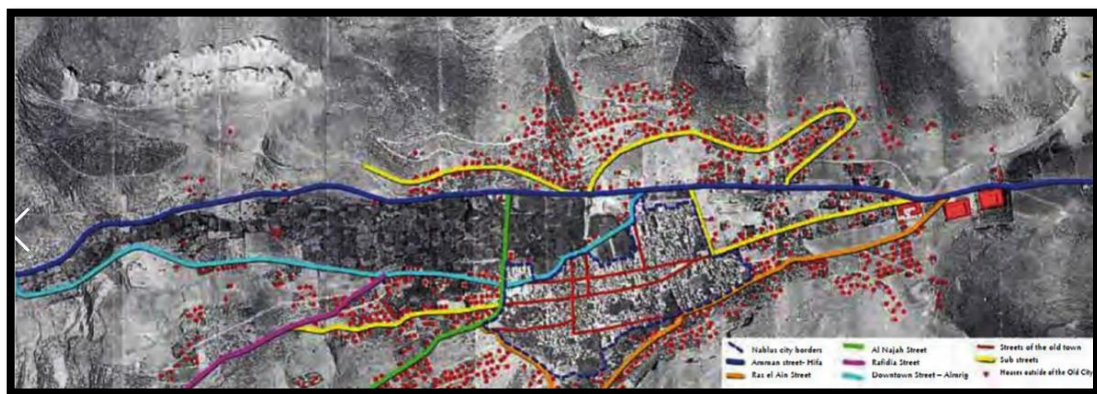


Figure 3. 41: Nablus Street Patterns, 1948. Source: Dr. Ali Abdel Hamid, 2009

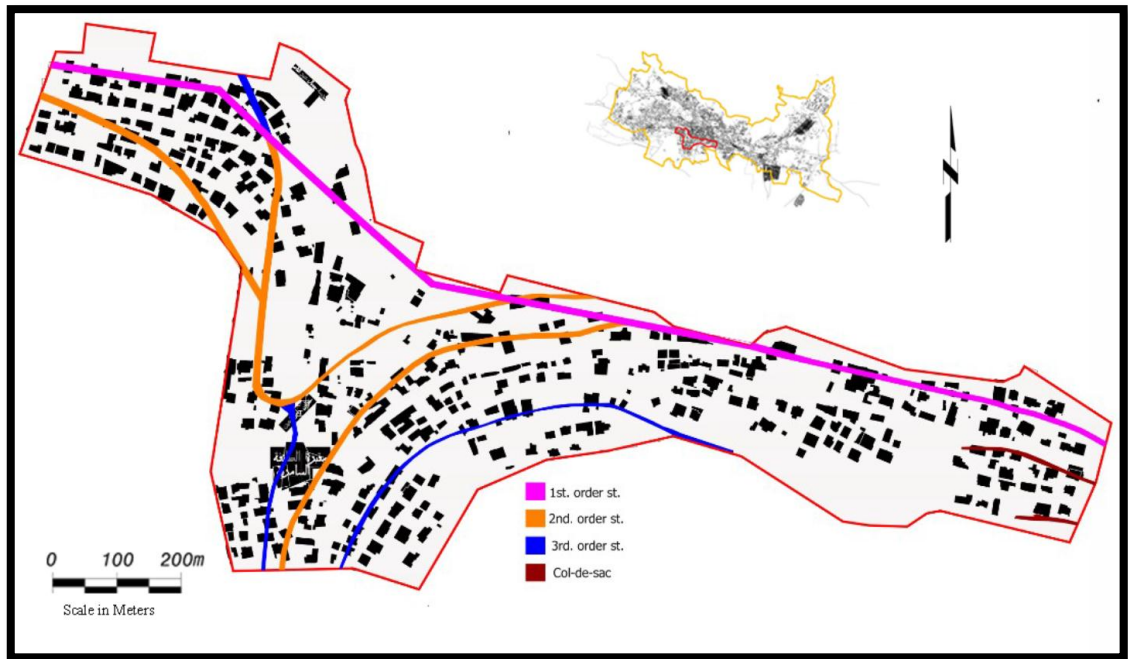


Figure 3. 42: Ras Al Ain Neighborhood Street Network Plan, 1963. Adapted by the researcher from source(Nablus Municipality, 2017)

B. Israeli Occupation (1967-1994)

Despite the many difficulties imposed by the Israeli occupation against the urban development of the Palestinian cities, Nablus city continued to expand and develop a new morphological pattern as follows.

Morphological pattern

Land use classification

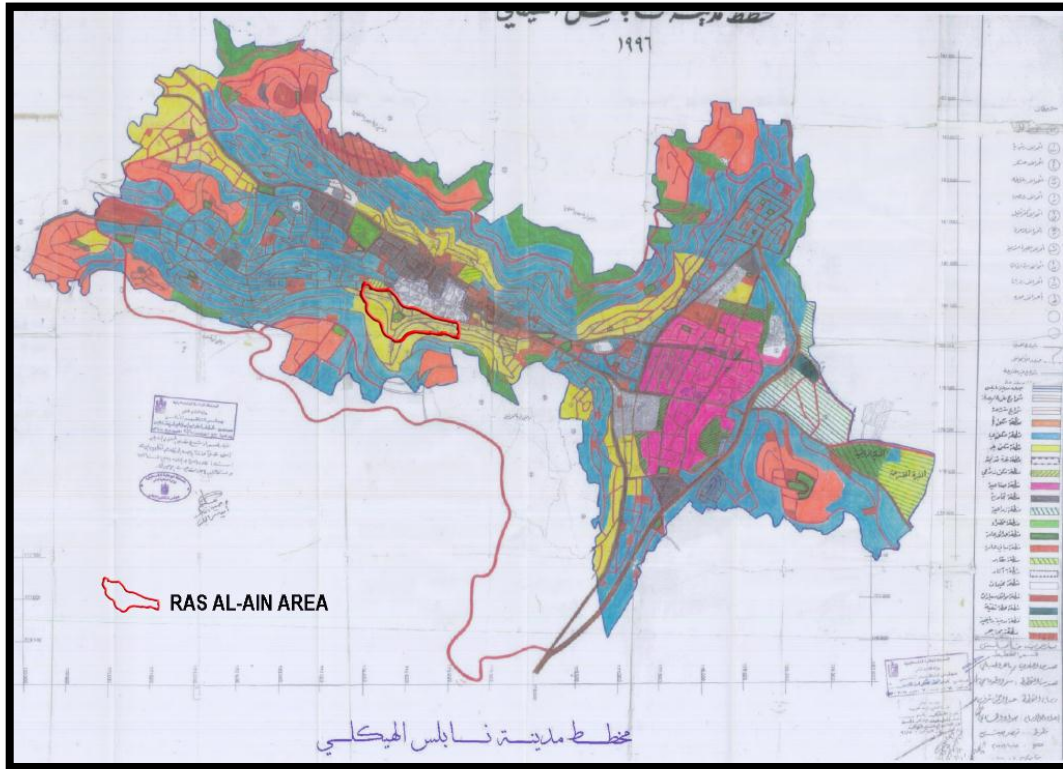


Figure 3. 43: Nablus Land Use Classification Map, 1996. Source: Nablus Municipality, 1996. Edited By The Researcher.

During the Israeli occupation, there were no new modifications or developments on the structural plans of the city until the start of the next period of the Palestinian Authority governance that implemented a structural plan of Nablus city in 1996 as seen in the figure above (3.43) which shows that most of the residential areas of the city were comprised in a residential land use classification of type B, and the new residential areas developed in the peripheries in a residential areas classified of type A. and the area of Ras Al-Ain turned to be classified entirely as a residential area

of type C as result of the urbanization expansion in the area as many new buildings were constructed and the area became more congested

The city of Nablus lived many obstacles and development restrictions that were imposed by the Israeli occupation, nevertheless, the urban development continued and expanded in all directions as discussed thoroughly in the previous section.

Block/Street pattern

During this period the block pattern of the city of Nablus varied as the three main refugee camps of clustered blocks and narrow ails with high population density were included within the municipal boundaries of the city, in contrast many residential neighborhoods appeared with full urban planning and organized distribution block and street pattern in the peripheries of the city, as for the area of Ras Al-Ain it kept expanding and many new blocks and buildings were built in between the existing buildings and new streets forks appeared to join between the new buildings.

C. Palestinian Authority –Present Period (1995- Present)

Morphological pattern

The structural plan and municipal boundaries of the city of Nablus continued to developed and expand widely until today in all directions reaching by that many surrounding villages such as KafrQallil to the east and Beit Wazan to the west; the population continued to grow and new land plots were reformed and reclassified in order to accommodate this

relatively rapid development. This development affected as a result the morphological scheme of the city and played a role in shaping what is now known as the distinguished urban pattern of Nablus.

Land use classification

A considerable urban development was marked since the PNA took the rule in 1984, as the city witnessed progress and prosperity in all sectors either in the urban or in the economic one, in line with the continuous expansion and construction activities in all neighborhoods of the city, the last municipal boundary plan of the city of Nablus was implemented in 2013 including the new expanded areas in the land use map, figures (3.44), (3.45) below show how the land use is classified in Nablus specially in the southern part of the city and how the area of Ras Al Ain is comprised in a land use classified as residential area type B, with many public buildings specially in the northern part near the commercial center and the old city, in addition to the Samaritan cemetery in the south west part.

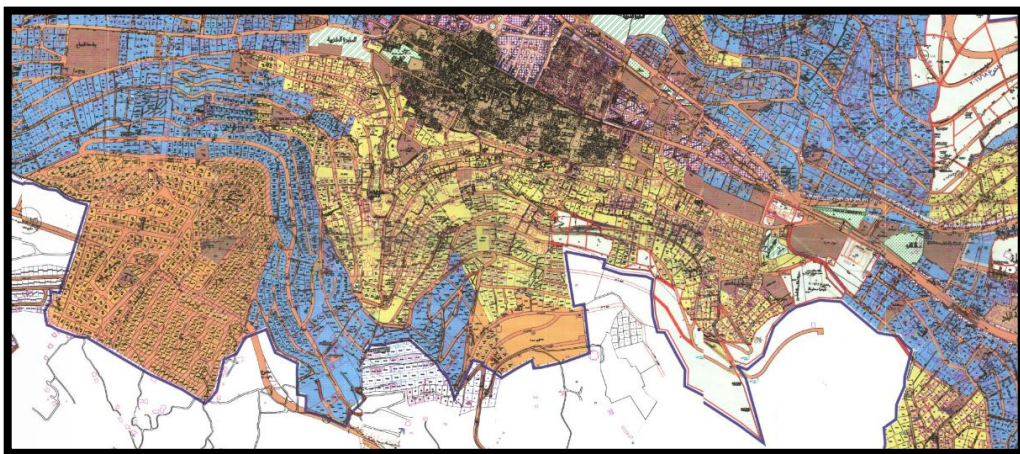


figure 3. 44:Nablus Land Use Classification Map, 2014. Adapted by the researcher from source (Geomolg.Ps, Accessed August, 2018).

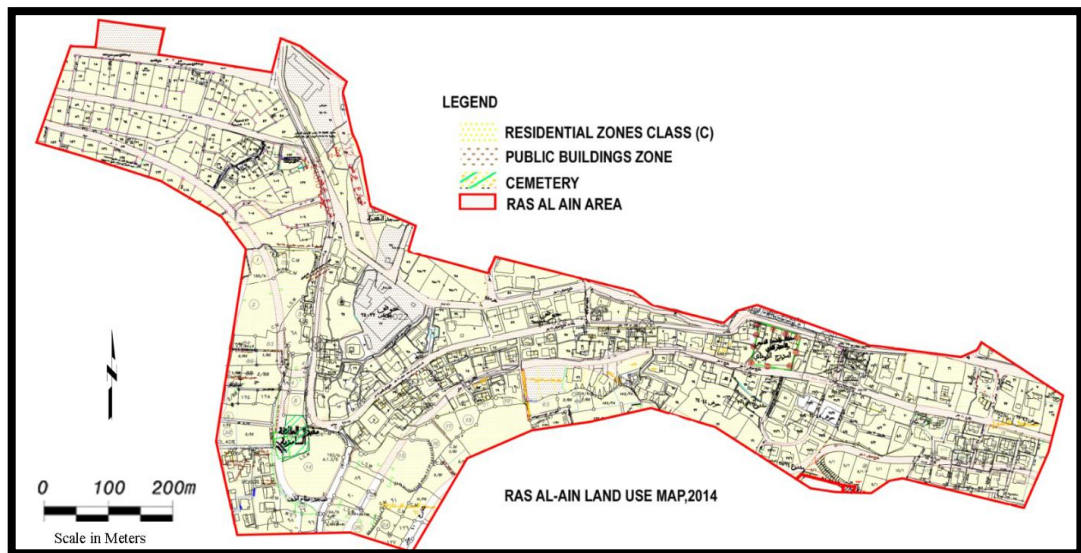


Figure 3. 45: Ras Al Ain Land Use Map, 2014. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017

Block/Street pattern

the block pattern of the city of Nablus developed during this period as the new structural plan was implemented, as a result of the new and continues urban development reflected in the expansion of the city in all directions reaching the near villages and the new construction activities in the existing areas and neighborhoods filling out the vacant areas between the existing buildings with new buildings or expansions and enlargements of existing ones. Figure (3.46) below shows the current figure ground plan of Nablus city and how the blocks and urban development extends beyond the municipal boundaries of the city

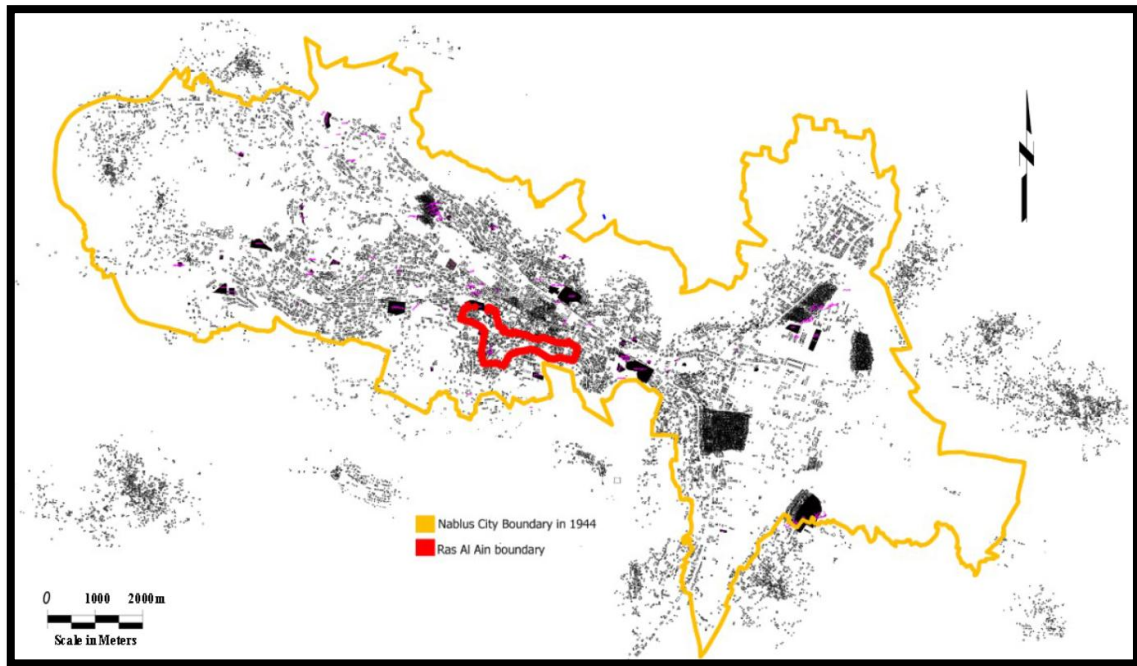


Figure 3. 46: Nablus Figure Ground City Plan, 2017. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017

while, figure (3.47) reflects how the current figure ground plan in the area of Ras AL-Ain developed to be more crowded as a result of the continuous urban activities and developments, reducing the availability of vacant areas as constructions continued to expand more towards the top of Al Tour Mountain.

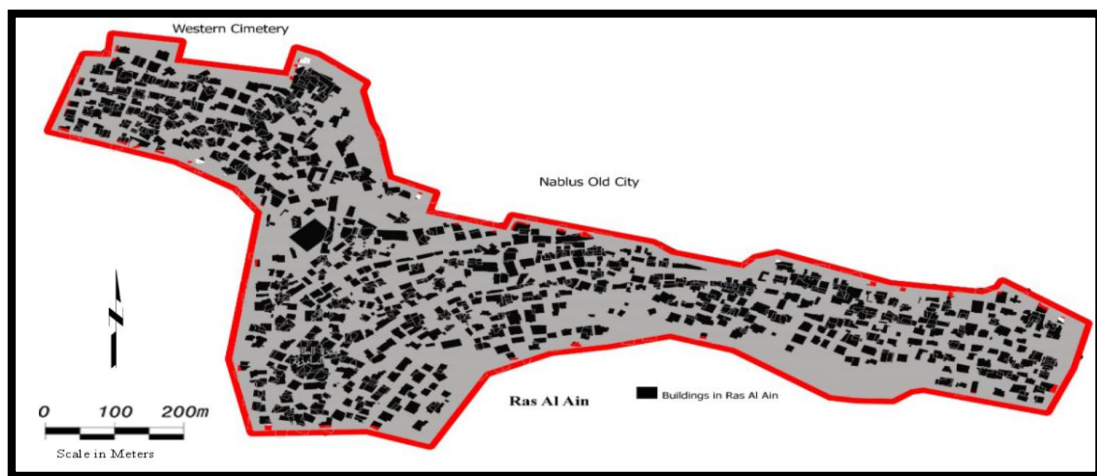


Figure 3. 47: Ras Al Ain Neighborhood Figure Ground Plan, 2017. Adapted by the researcher from source(Nablus Municipality, 2017)

Regarding the street network, it has developed widely during this period, as it expanded to reach and link all the urban areas in the city within the municipal boundaries and beyond to the near villages, and until present many expansion projects are held in order to provide adequate communication between all parts of the city. Figure (3.48) below shows the extensive street network covering all the municipal and regional area of the city in the year 2011.

In Ras Al-Ain the streets developed to become today mores defined and wide, many arterial roads were established to serve the need of inhabitants and growing numbers of population and buildings in the area. Figure (3.49) below shows the integrated relation between the street network of the neighborhoods with its urban blocks.

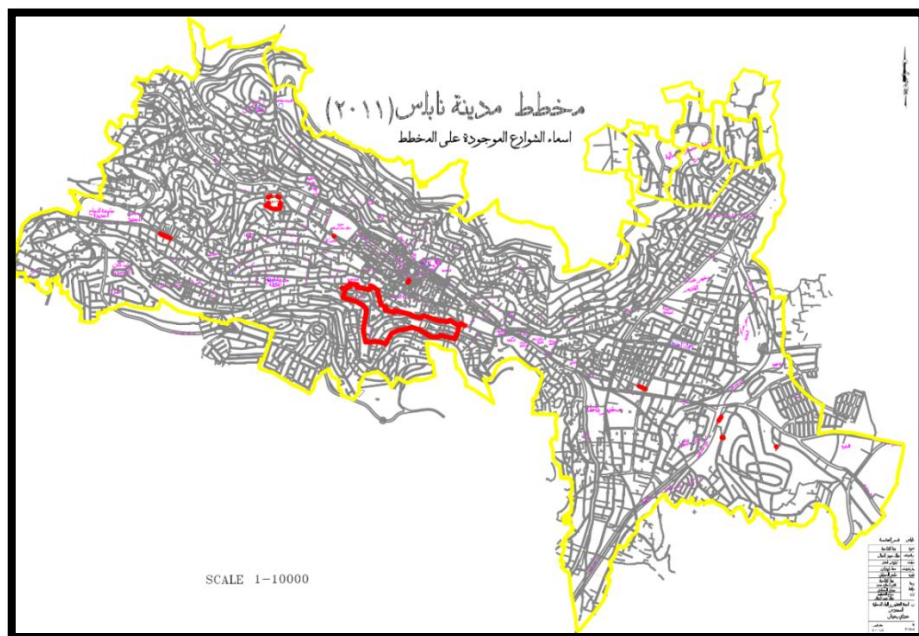


Figure 3. 48: Nablus Street Network Plan, 2011. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017

Moreover, the main street of Ras Al-Ain turned to be a main route heavily used and highly congested specially during the peak hours as it's being used by the inhabitants of the city of Nablus and other commuters in order to enter the city from the eastern part or leaving it. Figure (3.49)

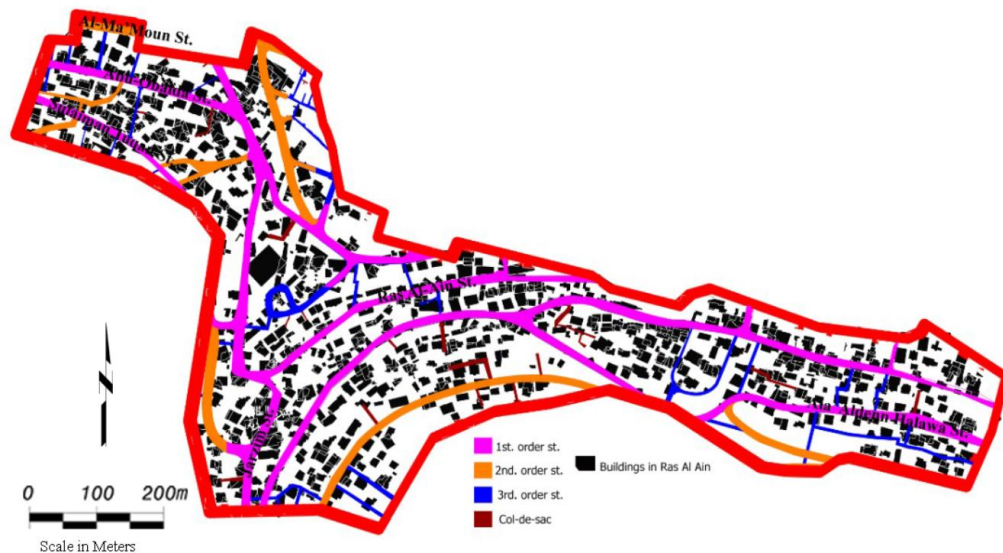


Figure 3. 49: Ras Al Ain Neighborhood Blocks And Street Network Plan, 2017. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017

3.4.3 Social urban structure in the mid-20th century- Present

During this period, the vertical urban expansion of the city encouraged and helped the mixed used of buildings, as multi-story buildings with the ground floor as a store, were built facing the main streets, this urban structure made common spaces more available, in where social communication and interaction were held. Moreover, the social segregation phenomena increased specially after the appearance of many refugee camps in the city.

During the Israeli occupation, their policies of annexation encouraged the remaining higher income, educated old and young people to leave the traditional neighborhoods searching for security and wellbeing, despite the inhabitants maintaining strong relationships among themselves, they suffer from bad socio-economic situations, as most of them belong to low or middle-income families.

While in the PNA period the social structure of the city turned to be more define as the urban pattern and areas started to mold and be assigned to different social types. The Western part of the city with its modern neighborhoods comprised the riches where their most social interaction between each other is held in the many restaurants spread in Rafidya and Junaid areas in addition to Rafidya Main Street being as the main vital social space for the inhabitants. While in the western part of the city urban spaces are neglected leading to diminishing the social life of the inhabitants and their ability to interact only as neighbors living near each other making them communicate by their common streets and small local shops.

3.5 Conclusion

Summing up, the city of Nablus in general, and in particular the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain urban fabric has been the result of many historical metamorphoses, besides economic vicissitudes, both natural such as earthquakes, and belligerent conflicts such as the last invasion in 2002. This have had a strong impact on what today is called Ras AL-Ain, this well-known neighborhood of an expanding larger city, still shows a

structured and layered sequence. Today this area can be a typical example of an Arabic modern architectural style on its urban morphology and built environment, as it emerged during the British Mandate with some traditional Islamic architectural style buildings in the adjacent part of the old city.

It join between the very traditional Islamic architectural style of the old city of Nablus, which is reflected in some buildings that still exist in the area such as the old building of Al-Khadra mosque, and some traditional residential houses, in addition to the contemporary mixed used architectural style which comprises the vertical scheme of multi-story building, and which appeared in the southern part of the district as it expands toward the sloped top of the Gerzim mountain, in addition to the mixed used pattern that extends all along the main road of Ras Al-Ain containing different commercial stores that vary from being small stores, auto Technician stores, Car Wash stores, Barbers, dry-cleans, etc.

Generally, as it can be seen from the map in the figure (3.50) below, that the natural shape of the urban growth of the city of Nablus is similar to the “Burgess” circular growth theory, in which the land uses are distributed in the form of urban rings,(Dulaimi, 2002, p. 183)

1. The CBD downtown business district which is the city center.
2. The residential and commercial transitional area.
3. The workers' housing area.

4. The suburban region.

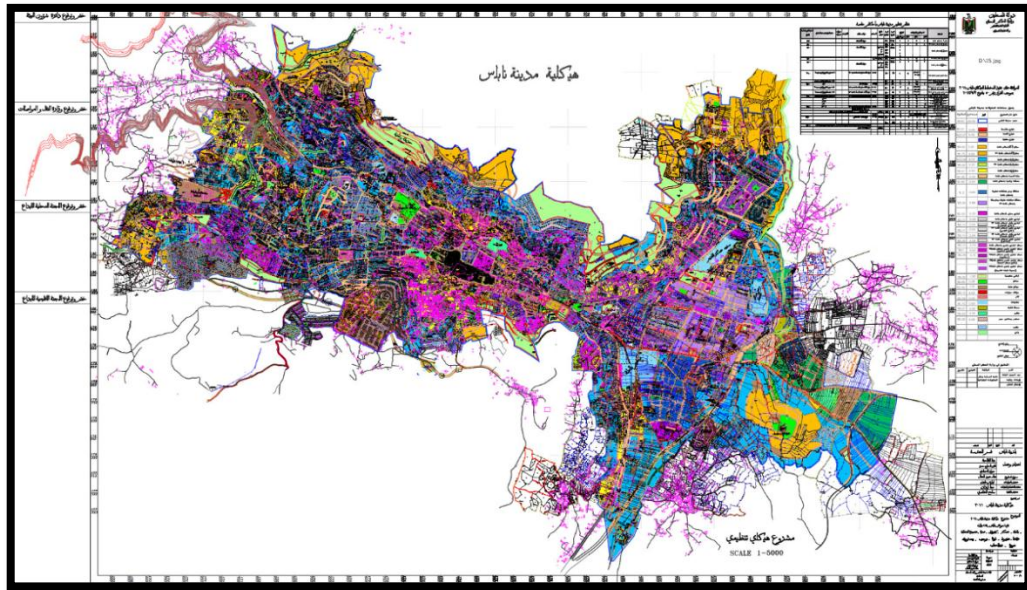


Figure 3. 50:Nablus Land Use Classification Map, 2013. Source: Geomolg.Ps, Accessed August, 2018.

This is reflected in the morphological pattern and land use distribution of the city of Nablus, as it has the commercial area and zone (Al- duwwar) in the heart of the city located in its center and then lies in the southern outskirts of the old town, comprising a traditional architectural housing scheme in addition to the traditional commercial market. Then comes the first urban expansion area, a residential area surrounding the old town, which is the case study area of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood. That it is considered to be one of the first urban neighborhoods emerged in the city, resulting to be a main housing area in the city. Then it comes the area of spread across all sides as a final link to the urban form in the city, it represents the suburban area where housing is characterized by sophistication and modernity. In this area, it can be noticed that there is a very large urban encroachment alongside the main axis road on the

flatlands which runs through the city in a longitudinal direction towards west-east. The morphological scheme of the city is also in line with the longitudinal or stripped form, as the city expands simultaneously with the main road extension, by distributing the land uses along-side the main street which secondary streets are scattered around.

The contrast in the current different urban patterns of the city of Nablus can be classifies in zones as shown in figure (3.51) below.

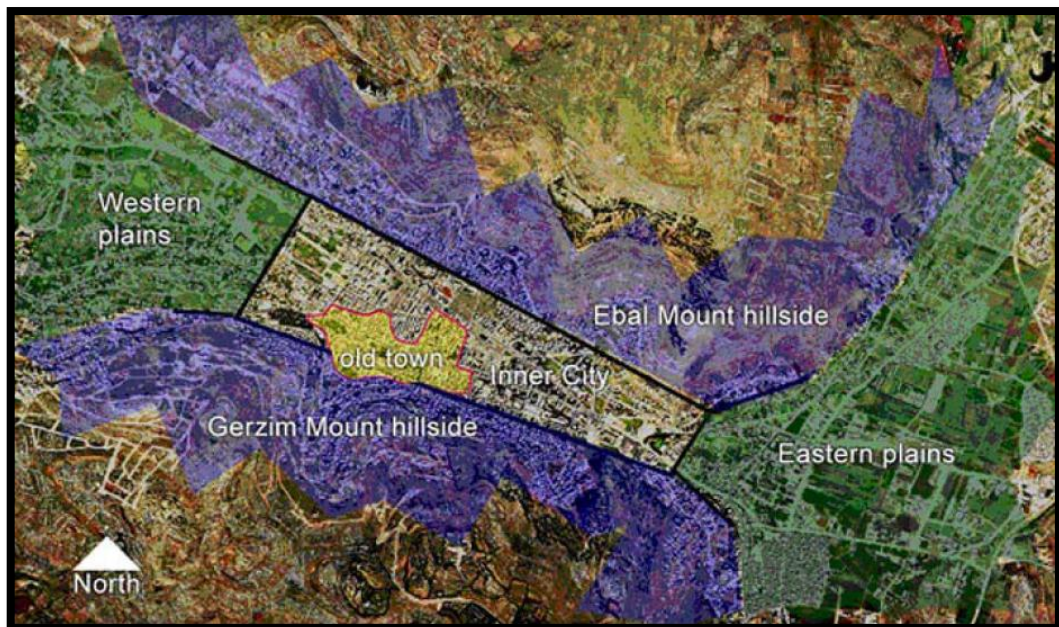


Figure 3. 51: Aerial Photograph Showing The Three Main Areas That Form The City Of Nablus. (Source: Hassan, K. Jorgensen, Computer Visualizations In Planning, 1st Ascaad International Conference, E-Design In Architecture Kfupm, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. December 2004)

From this classification, it can be mentioned some examples of significant areas in the city of Nablus that have distinctive urban characteristics:

1. The old city of Nablus, laying at the center of the inner city and characterized with a traditional architecture scheme, such as clustered

overlapped residential extended family houses, sharing a common centered semi private court yard, low heights paths, narrow ails, and random entrances, traditional markets, and arched roads. (Figure 3.52)



Figure 3. 52: A View From The Old City In Nablus. (Source: Wikipedia.Org, Accessed; March, 2018)

2. Rafidia Area in the western plains of Nablus, is considered to be the new and modern significant flourishing urban area of the city, it expands to join the city center from the east, and the village of Beit Wazan and Beit Iba from the west. After being just one of the towns surrounding the city center, Rafedia today in considered to be the modern verse of Nablus city, with its different residential building types, varying from vertical multi story building apartments, to single modern villas and single houses. In addition to the different public buildings all around the area such as many public and private hospitals, two different university campuses, and lots of commercial centers and stores located specially all along with the main street of Rafedia. (Figure 3.53)



Figure 3. 53: A View From The Main Street Of Rafidya In Nablus. (Source: Naluscity.web, Accessed; March, 2018)

3. The North Mountain Area known as (Al-Jabal Al Shamali) neighborhood, characterized with its road network, and classified by its prototype buildings as modern residential area. (Figure 3.54)(Khalil, 2005)



Figure 3. 54: A View From Al Jabal Al Shamali In Nablus. (Source: The Researcher, Google.Images Accessed; March, 2018)

In general, the residential areas in Nablus were shaped since ancient times away from markets and shops styles, in a homogenous and integrated urban fabric to take the basic character of spatial privacy at that time, with

approximately equal sizes, and average heights, that was in reference to its historical form which took a longitudinal direction depending on its commercial status.

This diversity has layered chronological strata on its urban fabric. Therefore, diverse historical characteristics reflected in the city's urban morphology have undergone continued physical and functional transformations, not only gradually by time and various socio - cultural, economic or political factors, but also radically by earthquakes and war destructions. Present - day Nablus' physical image echoes a palimpsest of urban/social identities and an asset for a very sensitive collective memory. Figure (3.55) below shows the transitional development of the city through Aerial photographs during different years.

Methodologically, this study is conducted on both urban and architectural levels, surveying street hierarchy and plot distribution. This understanding will be extremely important for an accurate perception of this tissue in order to advocate for a concerned idea of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood development.

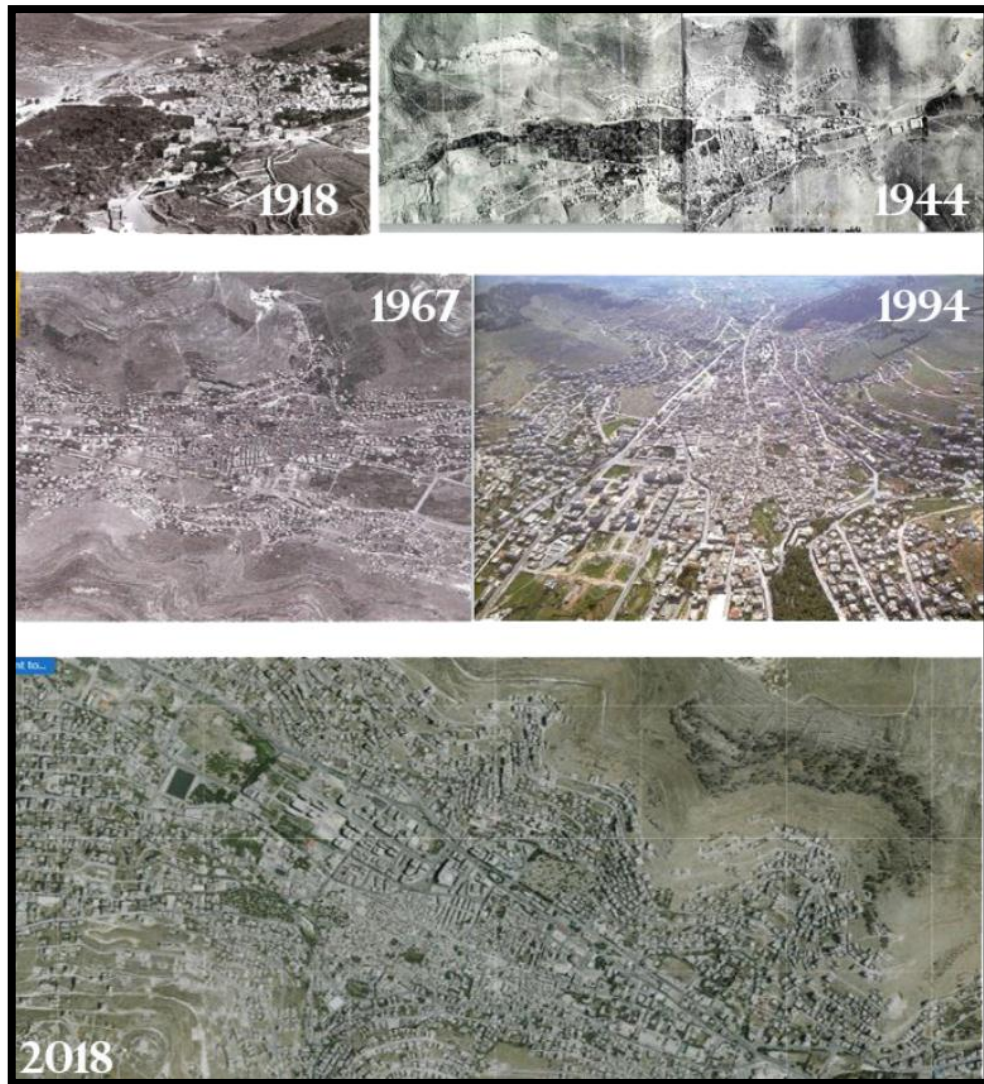


Figure 3. 55: Aerial Photographs Comparison Of The City Of Nablus Since 1918 Till Present.
 Source: Geomolg.Ps. Accessed, July, 2018

In the next section, these changes of the urban landscape of the city and in Ras Al-Ain in particular, associated with the morphological tissue are analyzed by conducting a detailed urban morphology analysis comprising its urban form (buildings, streets, and blocks/ plots pattern) in line with its buildings/ plots and street/ block resolution and metrological urban development. Then follows the study of its social activities and characteristics and how they changed accordingly with its urban

morphology through time. Reaching for a comprehensive analytical results that helped in formulating a useful recommendations for the socio-spatial improvement of Ras Al-Ain.

Chapter Four

Ras Al-Ain Changing Urban Landscape

4.1 Introduction

All urban Areas develop and change through time, as being affected by several different factors related to its urban location and characteristics, in addition to its social and economic conditions, after presenting a simple preliminary analysis of Ras Al-Ain in relation in light of the development of the city of Nablus in the previous chapter, this chapter develop an in-depth morphological analysis of Ras Al-Ain in order to know how its urban landscape has changed and affected its inhabitants social activities.

To do so, a preview of the location of the case study is presented with some general information regarding its area and population, then a detailed analysis of the neighborhood urban morphology is conducted based on the conceptual framework adopted in the study, which includes the study of Ras Al-Ain Urban form with its all aspects (land use, Plots/lots, street, and building patterns), moreover, the study of the different types of social activities manifested in the area and how they were affected by the urban conditions of Ras Al-Ain.

4.2 Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood

The study area of Ras Al-Ain is located on the southern side of the old city of Nablus and the main city center, it is considered to be one of the main junctions between the city center and the eastern part of Nablus, as well as one of the first neighborhoods that emerged as a result of the natural

population growth and urban expansion of the old city of Nablus since the British mandate period.

It is enclosed by the old city from the north, Gerzim Street and Mountain from the south, the western cemetery and An-Najah Street from the west, and finally, Schools Street and Khallet al-Amoud neighborhood from the east.(NablusMunicipality, 2017) Figure (4.1)

It has an estimated plot area of 363,000 meter square. Though it should be noted that there is no official exact mapped boundaries for the area of Ras Al Ain, but rather were implicitly created concurrently in line with the growth and appearance of adjacent neighboring and surrounding residential areas. And its population number is estimated from the site survey to be around 7554 people.

In order to fulfill the main objectives of this study, an in-depth morphological analysis is conducted alongside with the analysis of the social activities in Ras Al-Ain based on the methodological pattern and conceptual framework mentioned previously, and which goes as follows in this chapter.

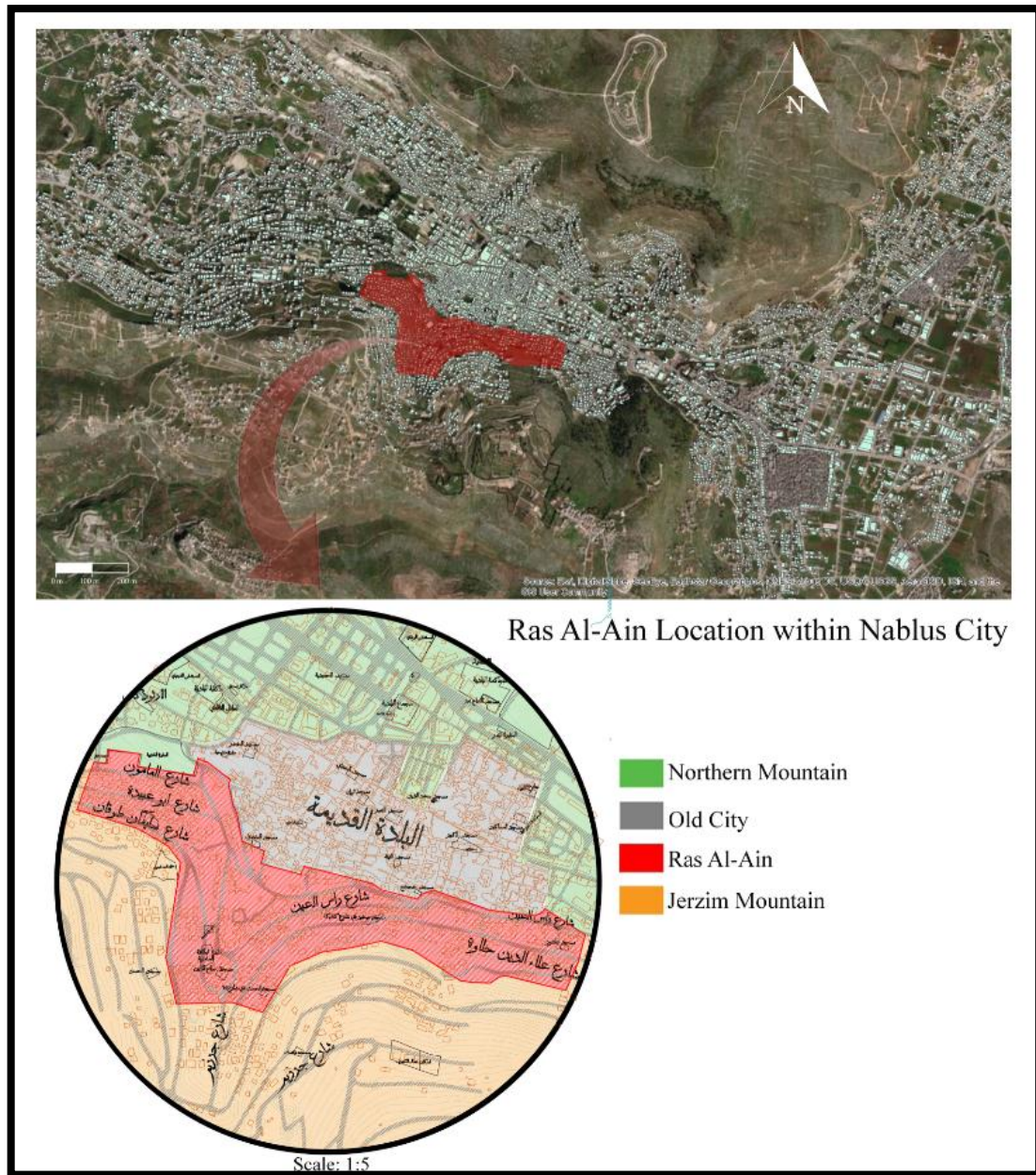


Figure 4. 1: Ras Al-Ain Location within Nablus City. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2017)

4.3 Urban Morphological Analysis

The analysis of the urban morphology of Ras Al-Ain conducted in this chapter is based on the Conzenian theory adopted in the conceptual framework of this study, which involves the study of the urban form of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood by analyzing its land use classifications, plots/lots

pattern, street pattern, and building fabric, through the different levels of resolution by understand the visual and urban relation between its block/street and buildings/plots tissue, in addition to trace the urban development of the area through a metrological analysis.

4.3.1 Urban form of Ras Al-Ain

The urban form of a specific urban area is examined by analyzing its component parts as follows:

Land use

The Land use of Ras Al-Ain didn't changed drastically through time, as it was always classified as a residential area since 1961 according to the master plan of Nablus city, where the neighborhood shows the first stages of its development and expansion toward the east and west, the eastern part of the neighborhood was classifies as residential zone type (B) while the western part was classified as residential type (C) since it was developing towards the new urban area of the city of Nablus in the west. (Refer to figure (3.39) in the previous chapter section (3.4.2) /urban morphology of Nablus City in the mid-20th. - Present / Land Use Classification, Pg. 92) which shows a master plan of Nablus city illustrating the land use classification in Ras Al-Ain in 1961.

As the population growth increased in the region and the construction of additional houses and apartment blocks increased. The neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain turned to be classifies entirely as a residential zone type (C) as

shown in Figure (4.2). This land use classification is a result of being a residential neighborhood, which means that the majority of land ownership belong to the inhabitants as private lands, affecting in turn on the availability of public urban spaces that is discussed further in the next sections.

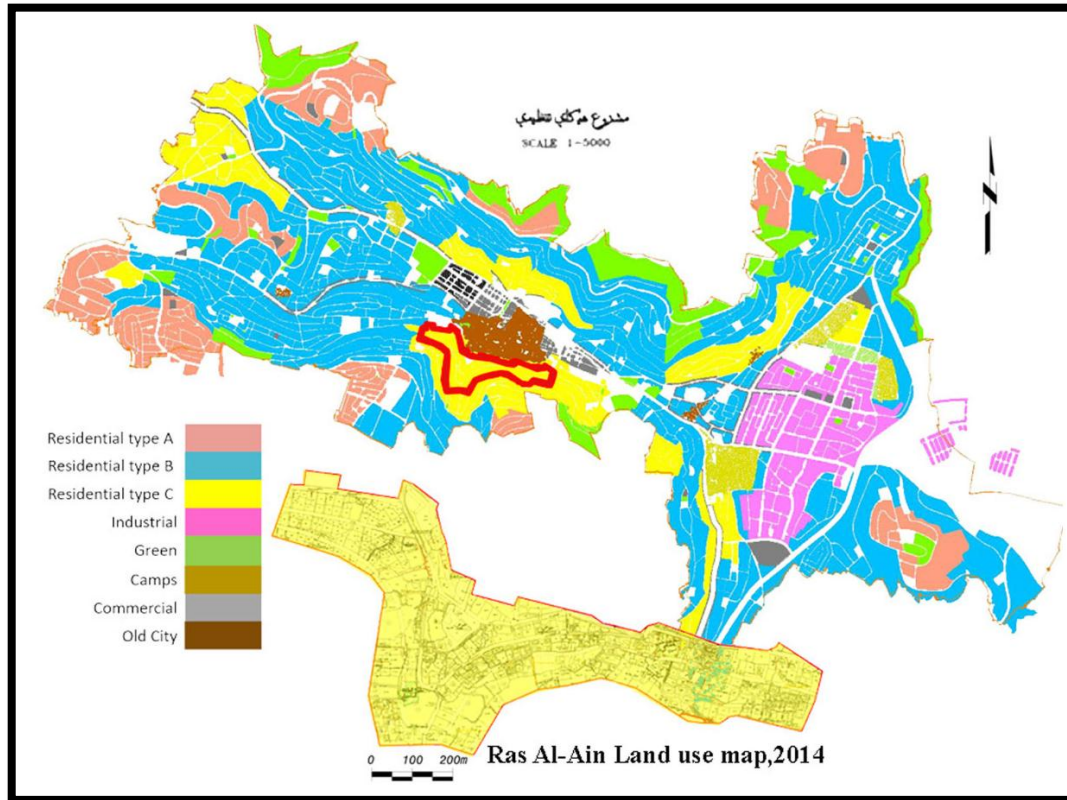


FIGURE 4. 2:Nablus And Ras Al-Ain Land Use Classification Map, 2014. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017

Being classified as a residential area of type (C), made Ras Al-Ain neighborhood subject to the construction regulatory laws implied by the municipality of Nablus, which stipulate that the maximum number of floors allowed facing the main street should be four floors, as the floors rate changes in proportion with the street width, with minimum area of plot sorting of 600m², in addition to setback standards of a front setback of 4

meters, side setback of 3meters, and a back setback of 4meters, as shown in the figure (4.3) below. Thus, buildings built in a particular land plot must conform to these regulatory codes in terms of size, shape, height and use.

الحد الأدنى لمساحة الافراز	شارع عرض	النسبة الطابقية	النسبة المئوية	الارتفاع عدد الطوابق	الحد الأدنى للارتدادات			المنطقة
					أمامي	جانبي	خلفي	
750م ²		150 %	39,9 %	2	5	5	5	سكن أ
600م ²	15م ² فما فوق)	320 %	49,9 %	7				سكن ب
	12م ²	270 %		6	5	3	4	
	10م ²	240 %		5				
	8م ² فما دون)	190 %		4				
500م ²	12م ² فما فوق)	270 %	49,9 %	4	5	3	4	سكن ج
	10م ²	240%						
	8م ² فما دون)	190 %						
200م ²		800 %	80 %	10	4	صفر بعمق 12م - 3م	0	مركز تجاري رئيسي
				7	تعامل معاملة المنطقة الموجودة بها			مرافق عامه
1000م ²				2	7	4	4	منطقة زراعية

Figure 4. 3: Construction Regulatory Laws According To Land Use Type, Source: Nablus Municipality, 2018.

Plot/ lot Pattern

The plot/ lot of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood developed since 1944 within the municipal city outline master plan of Nablus city, and expanded to the actual plots/lots distribution as shown in the figure ground plan of Ras Al-Ain. Figure (4.4) below

It can be noticed that the plot/lot pattern of the neighborhood is defined to be as a modern building/plot fabric that developed in contrast to the street/block reflecting the traditional urban fabric of the old city of Nablus. Figure (4.5) below shows an enlarged example of the urban fabric from different parts of both Ras Al-Ain and the old city of Nablus. This difference is because the neighborhood of Ra Al-Ain emerged during the British mandate, where buildings converted from being built as traditional blocks surrounding the street layout as in the old city, to single European buildings scheme characterized by the construction of the building blocks on separate pieces of land plots/lots that are arranged at the same time according to the construction regulatory mentioned previously to match the street pattern and the building type.

The plots of Ras Al-Ain neighborhood are characterized to have different typologies and sizes according to the street pattern they are aligned with and the building type that is built on. Where larger plots are for public buildings and smaller ones for residential buildings and both with different plot shapes according to their topographical locations. Figure (4.6)

Although, as a residential zone with most of the plots being as private plots, means that the majority of the plots/lots are of regular small sizes, there is some large plots that are assigned to either vacant unbuilt areas such as archeological sites such as the Roman theater ruins located to the east of Ras Al-Ain, cemeteries like the Samaritan cemetery in the west, or they belong to large public buildings in the area, such as the Northern electricity

company in the northern part of the neighborhood, and different school buildings like Jamal Abdel-Naser school to the west. Figure (4.7)

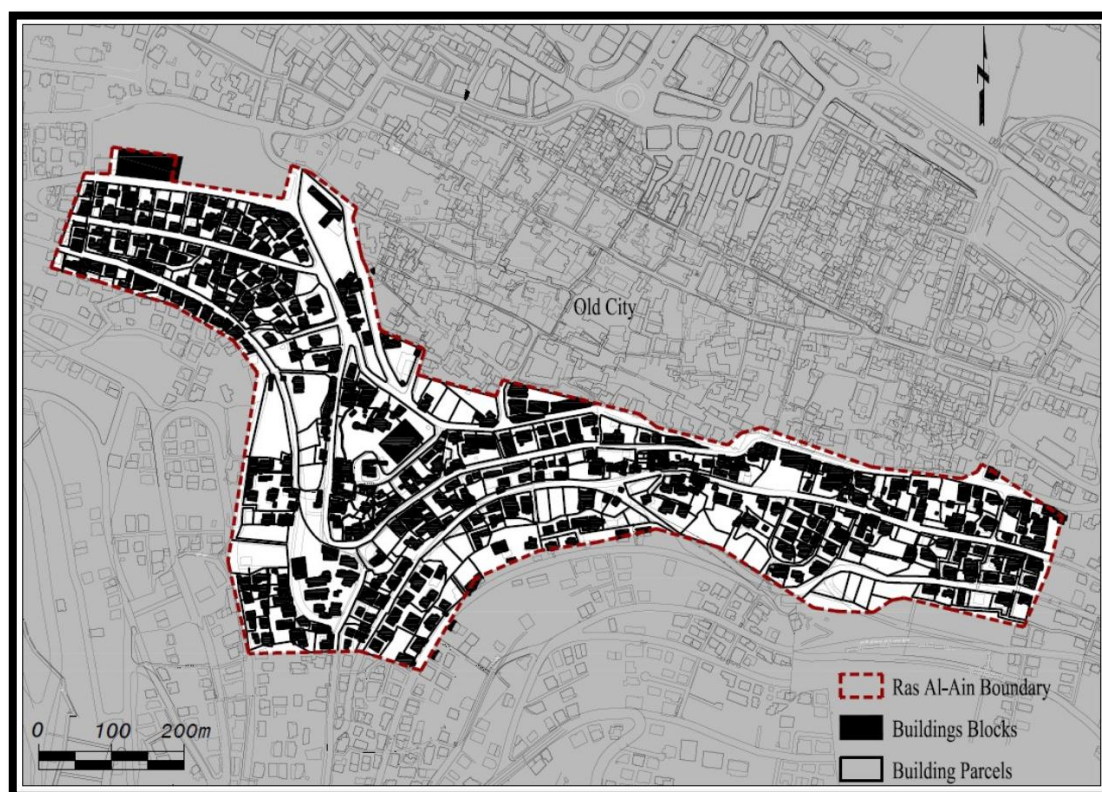
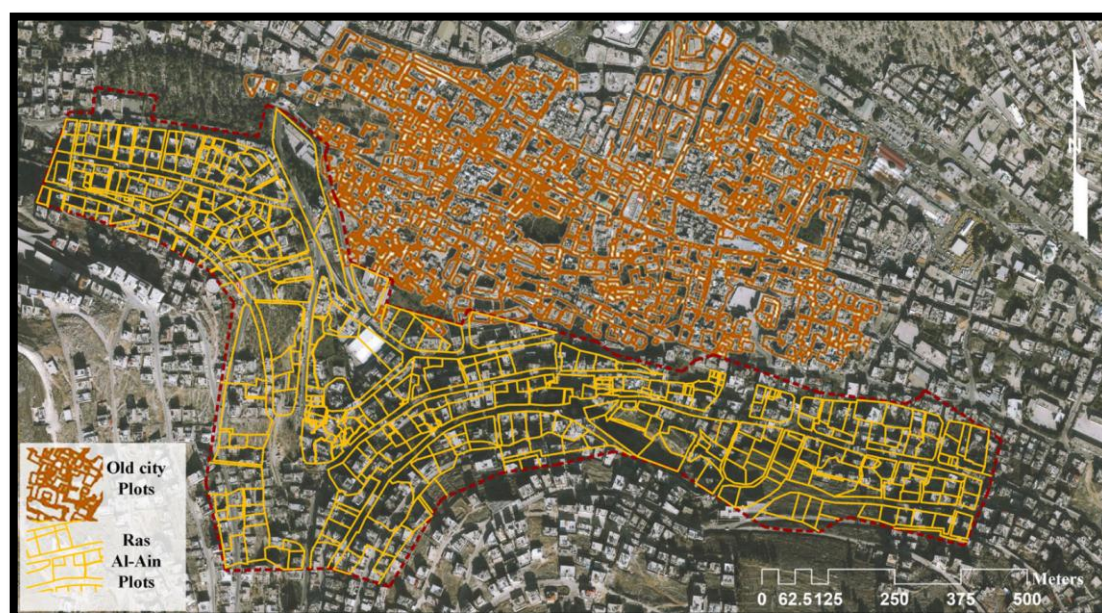


Figure 4. 4: Ras Al-Ain Figure Ground Plan. Source: Nablus Municipality, 2017



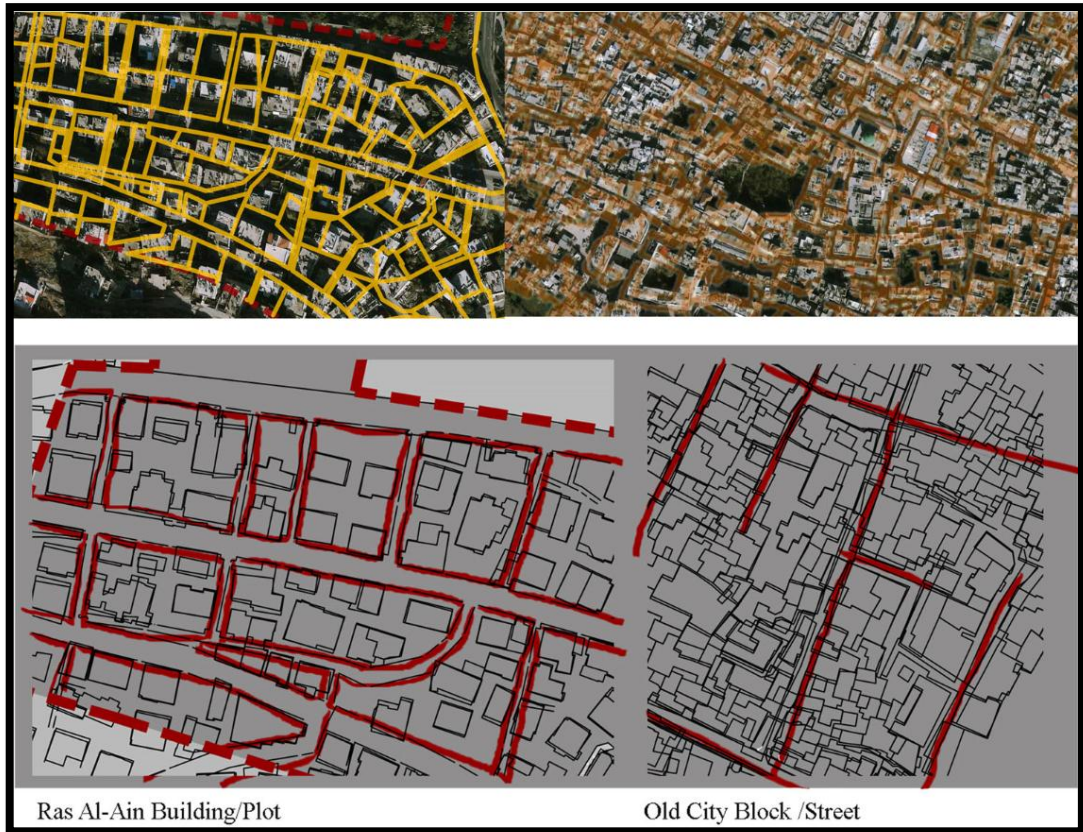


Figure 4. 5: Comparison between the Different Urban Fabric of the Old City Of Nablus and Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood.

Plot Patterns and Sizes	Building Type
 <p data-bbox="335 712 670 757">Irregular / Large Size</p>	<p data-bbox="778 510 1018 555">Public Building</p>
 <p data-bbox="295 1149 694 1193">Semi-Regular / Large Size</p>	<p data-bbox="778 947 970 992">Vacant Land</p>
<p data-bbox="770 1216 1098 1261">Residential Buildings</p>	
 <p data-bbox="279 1641 686 1686">Regular Plots / Small Sizes</p>	 <p data-bbox="778 1635 1273 1680">Semi-Regular Plots / Small Sizes</p>

Figure 4. 6: Different Plots Sizes And Shapes With Their Building Types. Source: Site Survey, 2018.



Figure 4. 7: Ras Al-Ain Different Plot Sizes With Their Different Building Types. Source: Site Survey, 2018.

The small sized plots are assigned to be for private ownership buildings, both single houses and residential multi-story blocks. Meanwhile, the shape of these plots differ as they were formed accordingly with the street pattern of the area. As a result, most of the plots have a curved irregular/ semi-regular shapes as shown in figure (4.6) above, in order to fit with the curved pattern of the streets that are discussed further in the next section.

Street Pattern

Due to the sloped mountainous topographical nature of Ras Al-Ain as shown in figure (4.8) below, the street network emerged crossing the terrain in curved lines in order to conform to the contour lines of the area. It started to develop and expand as the city of Nablus begin to spill over towards the west. Hence, the first streets to emerge and extend were the two longitudinal ones of Al-Basha Street and Ras Al-Ain Street, linking

between the east and west of the city. Figure (4.9) reflects the development process of Ras Al-Ain street network until it reached what it is at the meantime, where new ramifications of internal roads and cul-de-sacs appeared in order to join between the different crowded buildings in the area, forming the current homogenous street scheme consist with the topographical lines of the region. Figure (4.10)

This street network pattern affected by the topographical nature of the area also played a major role in forming the plot/lot pattern of the area as mentioned in the previous section and illustrated in figure (4.11) below. Where the land parcels were divided in line with street expansion taking curved shape integrated with the topographical nature of the site.

This natural topographical characteristics of the site led also to the proliferation of a large number of external long stairs in the area between blocks, to reach the different buildings and connect the streets that are located on different topographical levels. Figures (4.12) and (4.13) show a map locating the external stairs and how they are spread all over the neighborhood in addition to some photographed examples from the site.

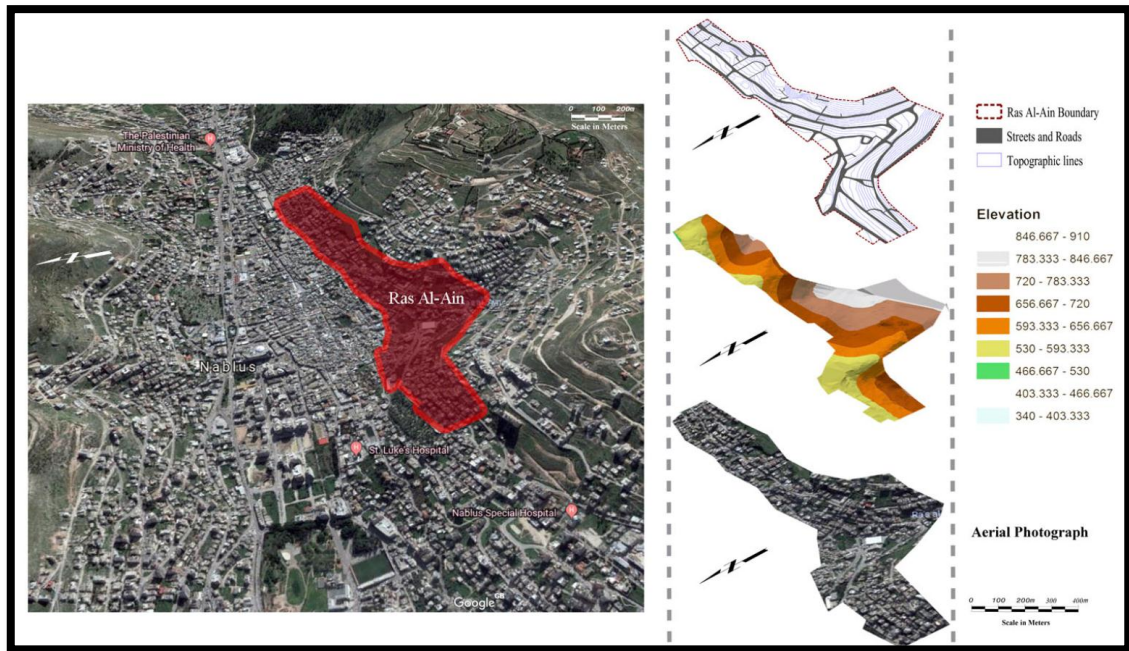


Figure 4. 8: Ras Al-Ain Topography. Adapted by the researcher fromsource (An-Najah University, Department Of Urban Planning, 2017)

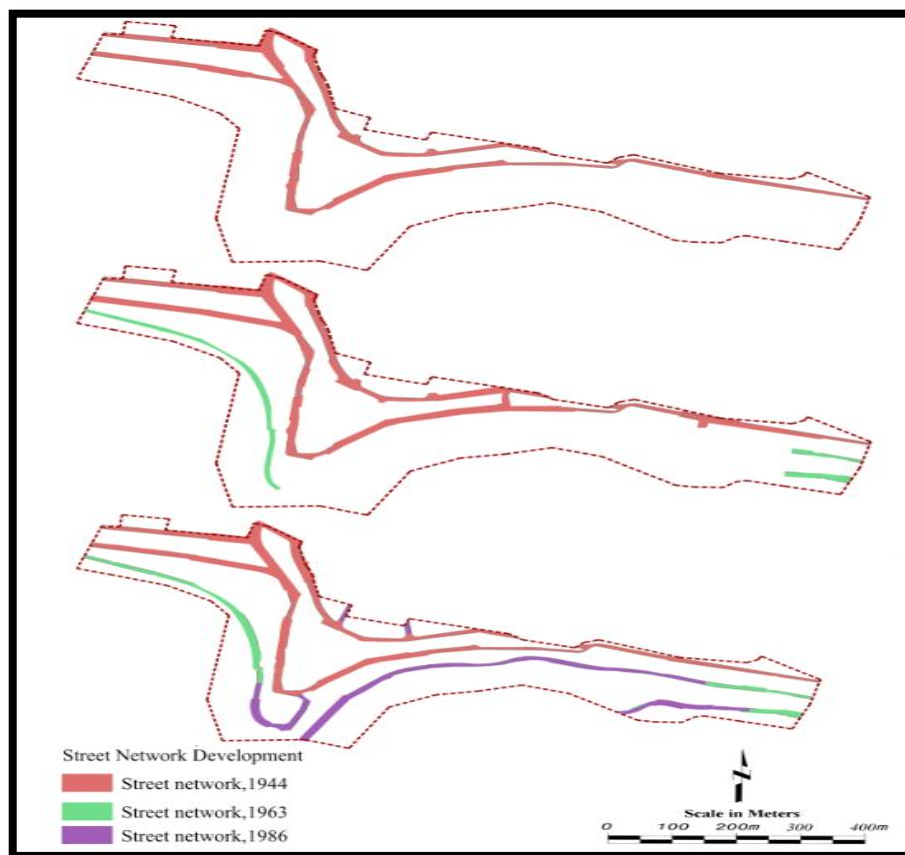


Figure 4. 9: Ras Al-Ain Street Network Development. Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Nablus Municipality, 2017).

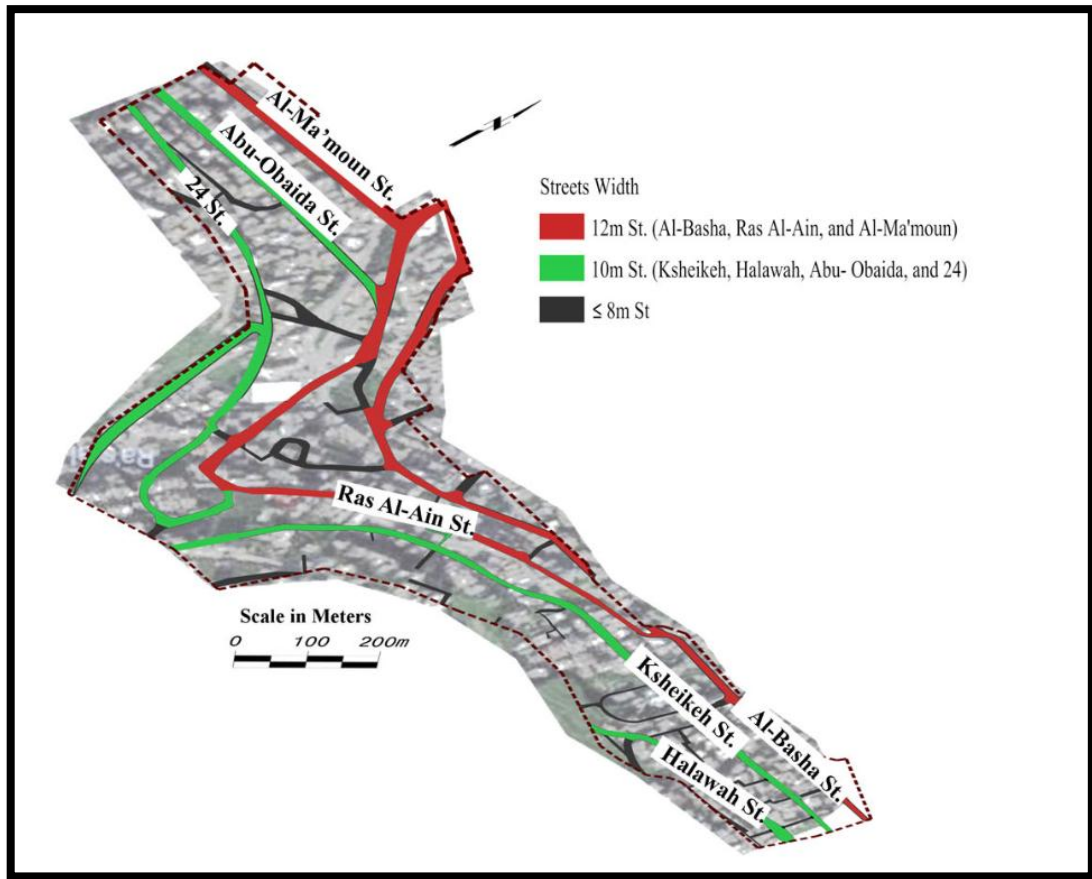


Figure 4. 10: Ras Al Streets Names And Widths. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2017).

The street widths of the neighborhood according to the master plan of Nablus city range from 12meters width for the main streets of Al-Basha and Ras Al-Ain, 10 meters width for Ksheikeh, Halawah and Abu-Obaida Streets, and 8meters and less for the other arterial roads in the neighborhood. Which are considered to be a medium width for the type of region as being a residential area with most of the buildings as residential blocks.

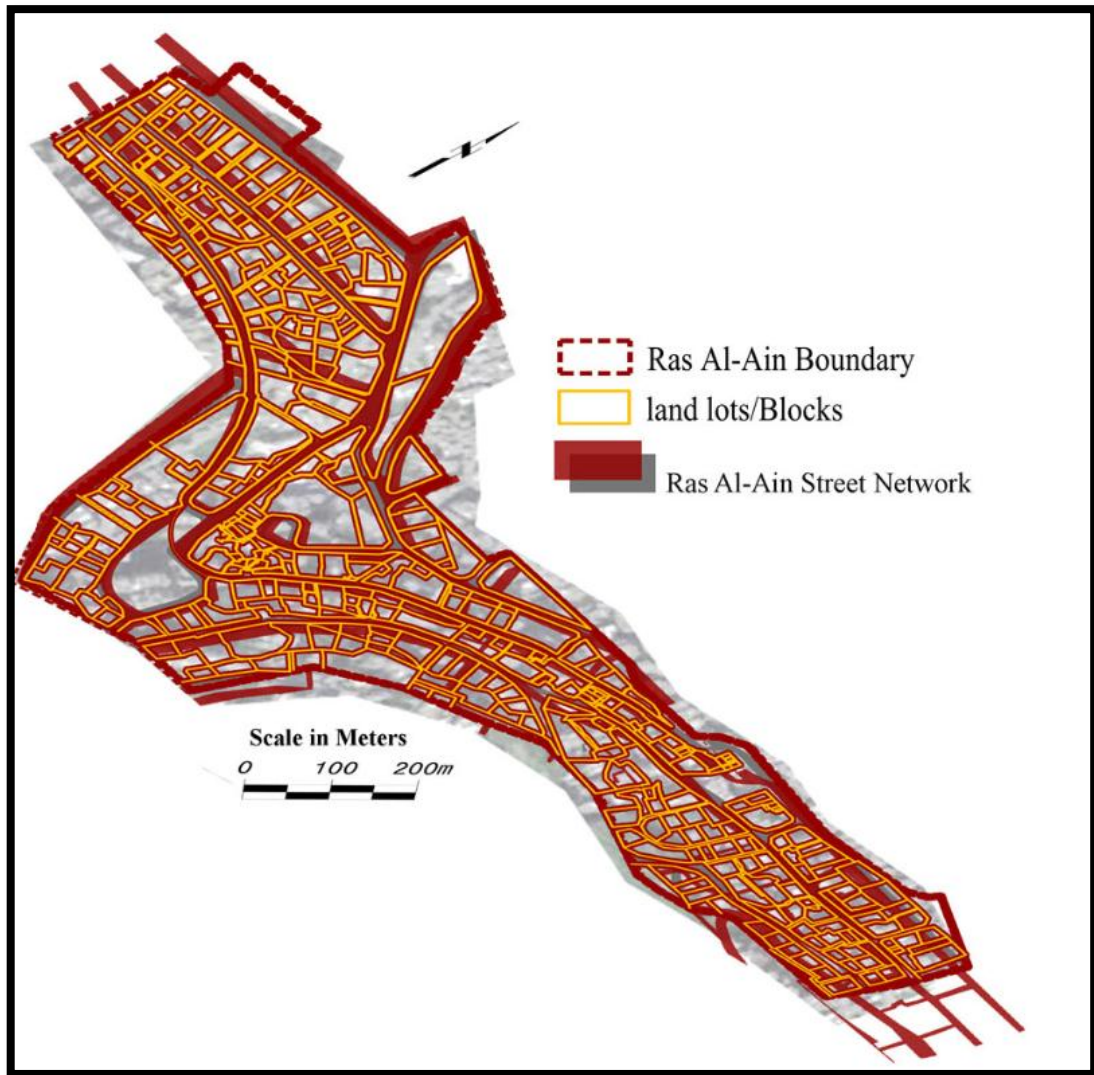


Figure 4. 11: Ras Al-Ain Actual Street Network Layout With Plots/Lots. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2017).

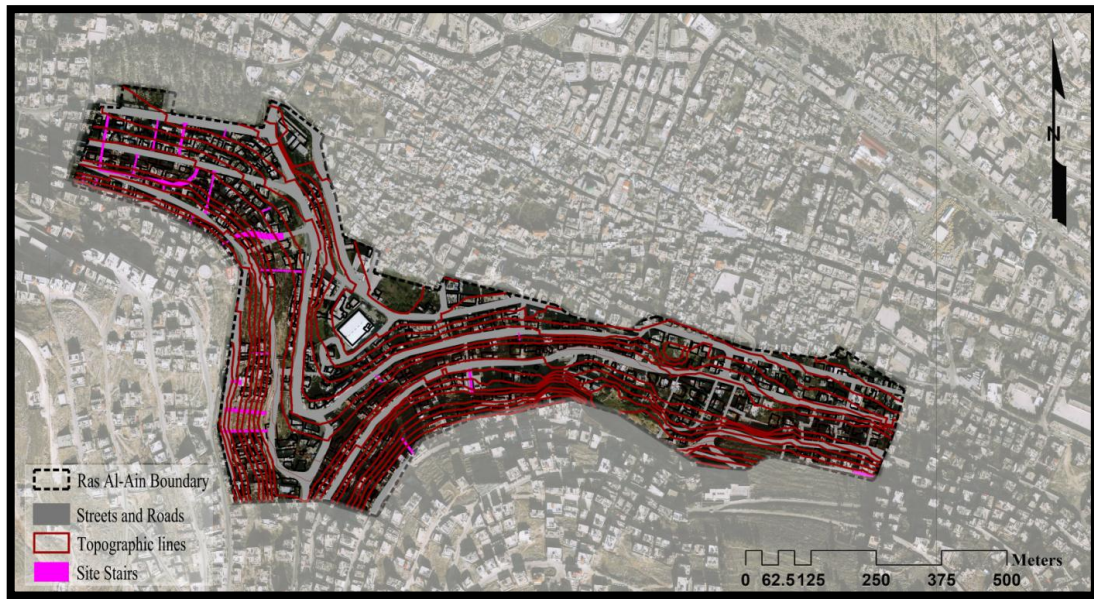


Figure 4. 12: **Ras Al-Ain Site Stairs with Topography.**Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Nablus Municipality, 2017).

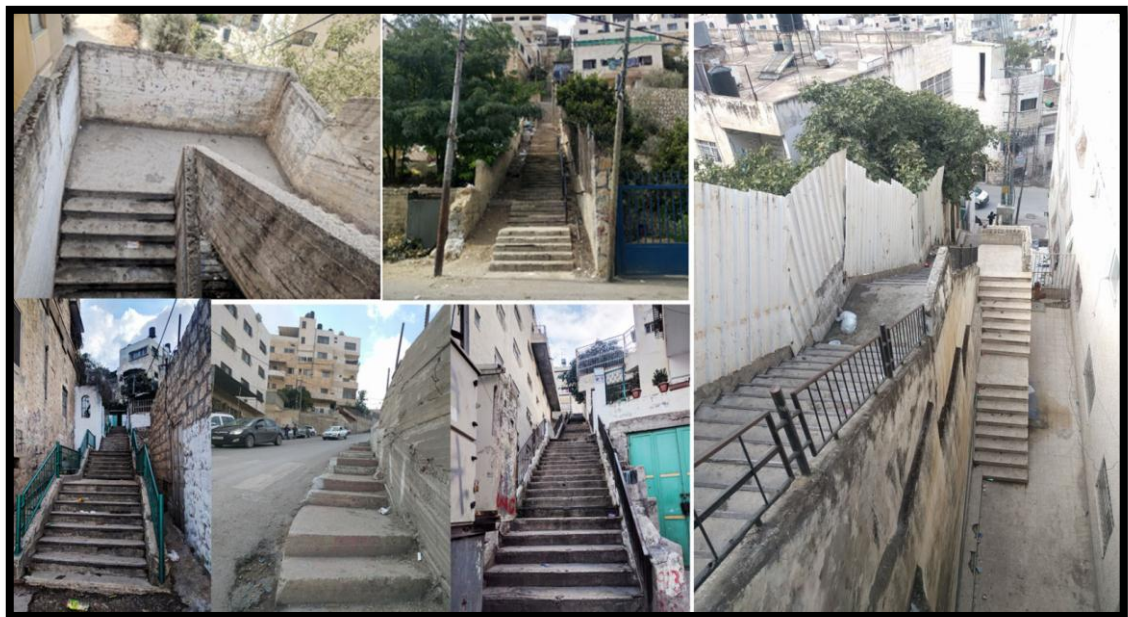


Figure 4. 13: Different Photographs of the External Stairs in Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey, 2018

The street network of Ras Al-Ain forms an important main element in the connectivity and integration of the neighborhood with the surrounding through connecting and accessing the different urban spaces in the area.

For example, the main street of Ras Al-Ain is considered to be a main route that links the eastern part of the city of Nablus with the city center, its mixed use and commercial shops facing the street made it to become the main livable street in the neighborhood as it was noticed from the site survey in addition to the space syntax analysis that confirms the connectivity degree of Ras Al-Ain street network as shown in figure (4.14) below where it shows that the main street of Ras Al-Ain has the highest level of connectivity in the area with the red and orange colors that indicate the high level of connectivity while the lower ones are bluish; and that corresponds to the fact that the main street of Ras Al-Ain links between the surrounding areas as it links the neighborhood with the city center of Nablus, it also connects people with the old city and the other surrounding neighborhoods and streets, hence it has a high level of spatial connectivity.

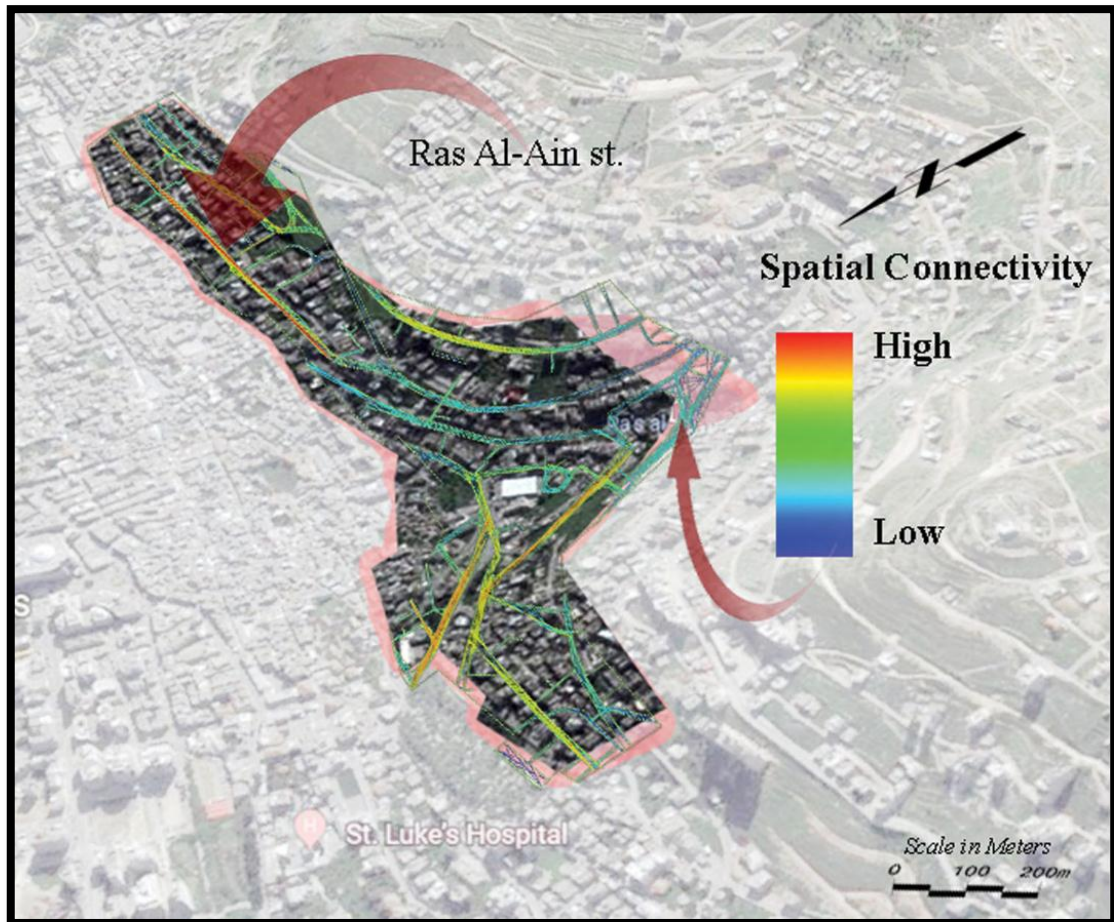


Figure 4. 14: Spatial Connectivity Analysis. Source: Space Syntax Analysis, Depth Map.

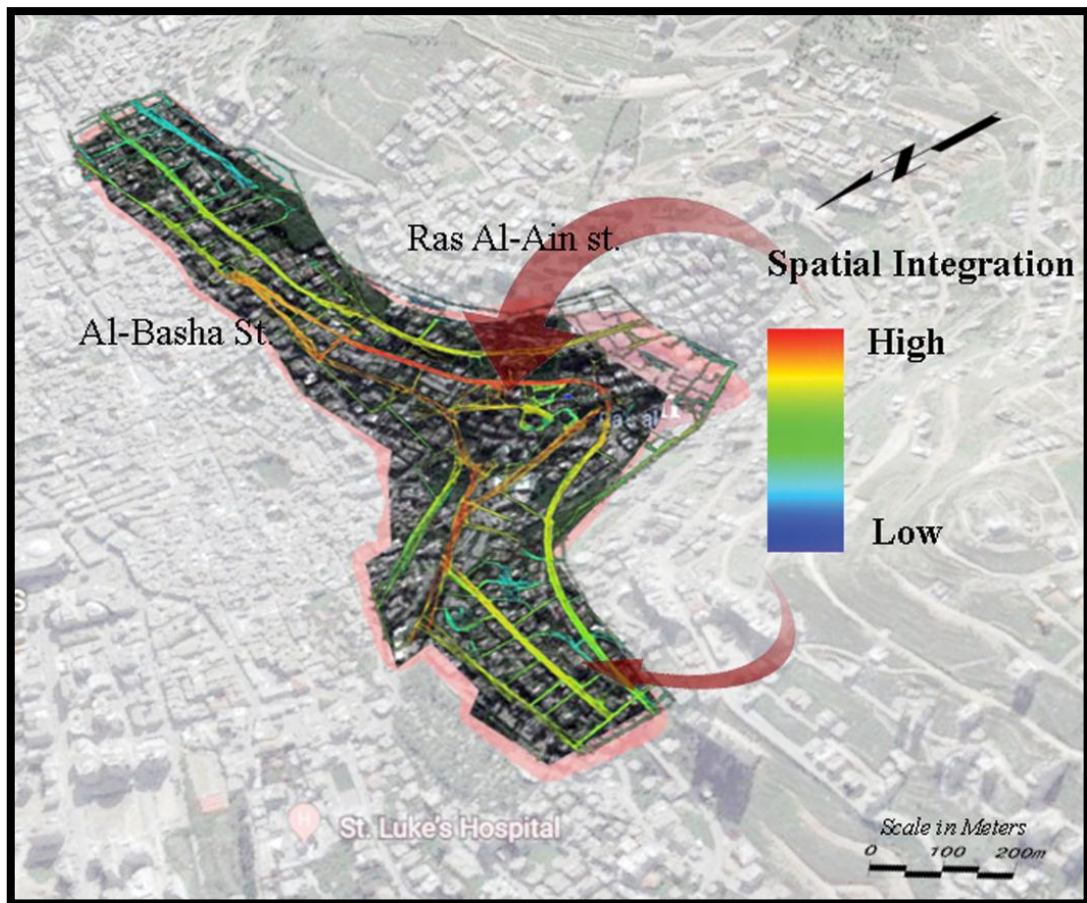


Figure 4. 15: Spatial Integration Analysis. Source: Space Syntax Analysis, Depth Map.

The same thing regarding the integration of the street network, it can be seen from figure (4.15) that illustrates an integration test of the streets, that the main street of Ras Al-Ain has the potential to be one of the most used, accessible, and passed through routes by visitors and inhabitants, it also shows that all the streets of the neighborhood in general have a high average of integration except for the inner arterial roads.

Building Pattern

To understand and analyze the building fabric and pattern of Ras Al-Ain, it is important to study the built-up area with its related open spaces, building heights and use, in addition to the building forms and typologies, as follows.

Built-up Area

Ras Al-Ain has a total area of approximately 363,000m², and a built-up area of around 258,709.07m². That means that this built-up area forms 71.27% of the neighborhood, and the rest of lands are either forming the street network with a total area of 81,639.6m², or vacant un-built lands with an area of 22,651.02m². As shown below (Figure 4. 16).

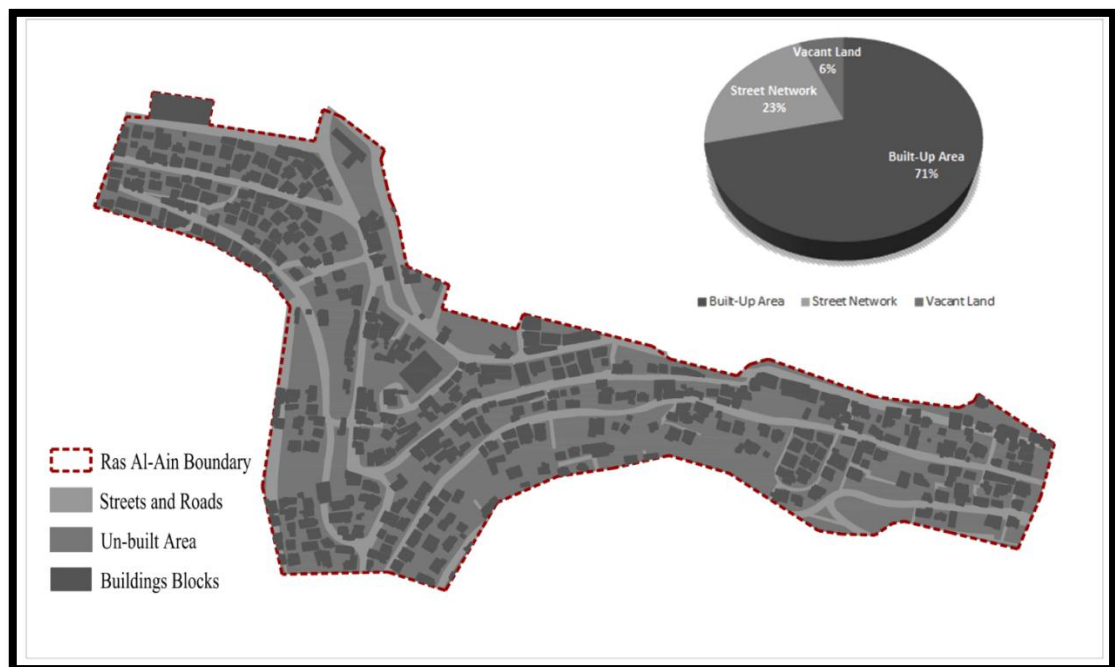


Figure 4. 16: Ras Al-Ain Built-Up and Vacant Land Map. Source: Site Survey, 2018

This high percentage of built-up areas in the neighborhood made it to become a very crowded neighborhood in the city, and affected in turn on the availability of open urban spaces that could be used by the inhabitants.

Table (4.1)

Table 4. 1: Ras Al-Ain land type areas and percentage. Source: Site Survey, 2018

	Built-Up Area	Open Spaces		Total/m²
		Street Network	Vacant Land	
Area/m²	258,709.07	81,639.60	22,651.02	362,999.69
%	71.27%	22.49%	6.24%	100%

Open Space

The available open spaces in the neighborhood form only 28.73% of the entire area, which 22.49% of it belongs to the street network, and the 6.24% remaining is vacant land which belongs to different types of ownership. 57% of the vacant land area belongs to private ownership, while the rest is distributed between the different types of public ownership areas as, cemeteries, archaeological sites, playground, and other unbuilt areas. Figures (4.17) and (4.18)

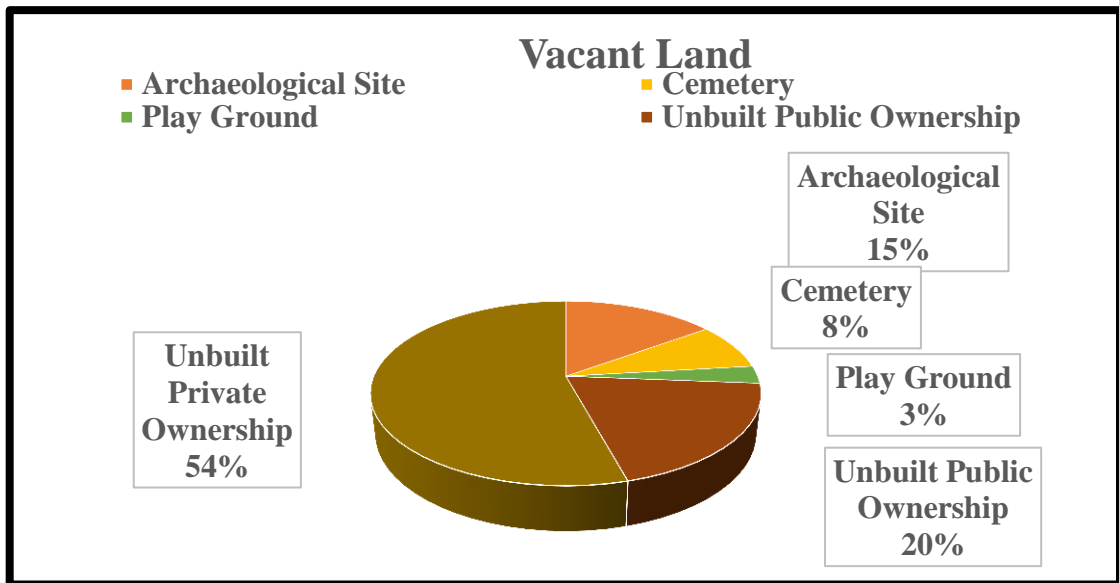


Figure 4. 17: Vacant Land Percentages and classification. Source: Site Survey, 2018

Affecting by that the availability of public urban spaces, such as social hubs, gathering places as social/cultural center, public library, public park, or just a public plaza where people can meet and interact with each other, and kids can play around with their friends as well.

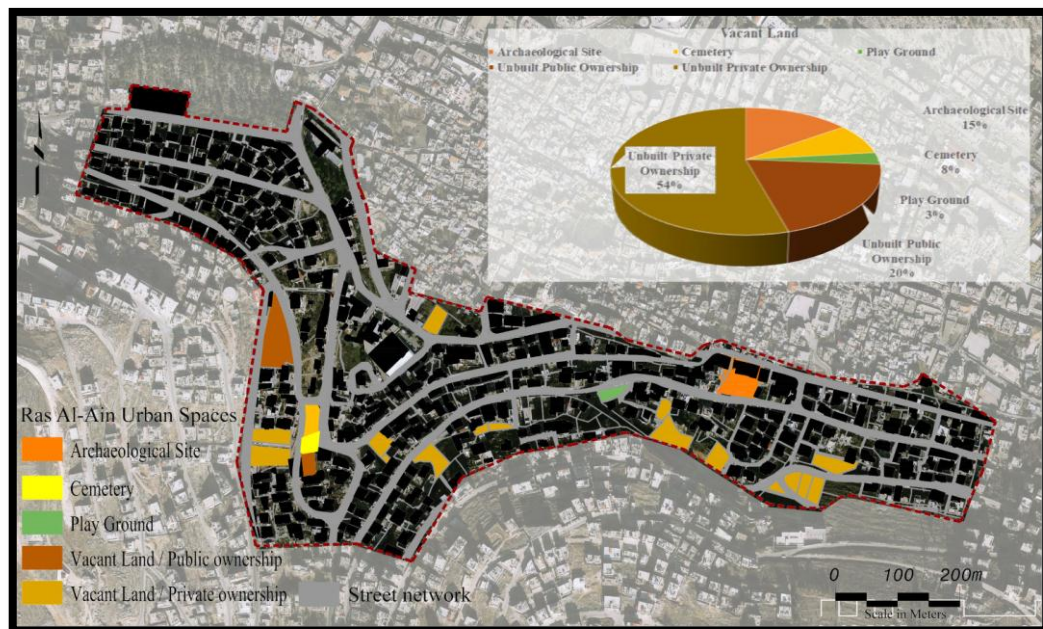


Figure 4. 18: Ras Al-Ain Vacant Land classifications. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2018).

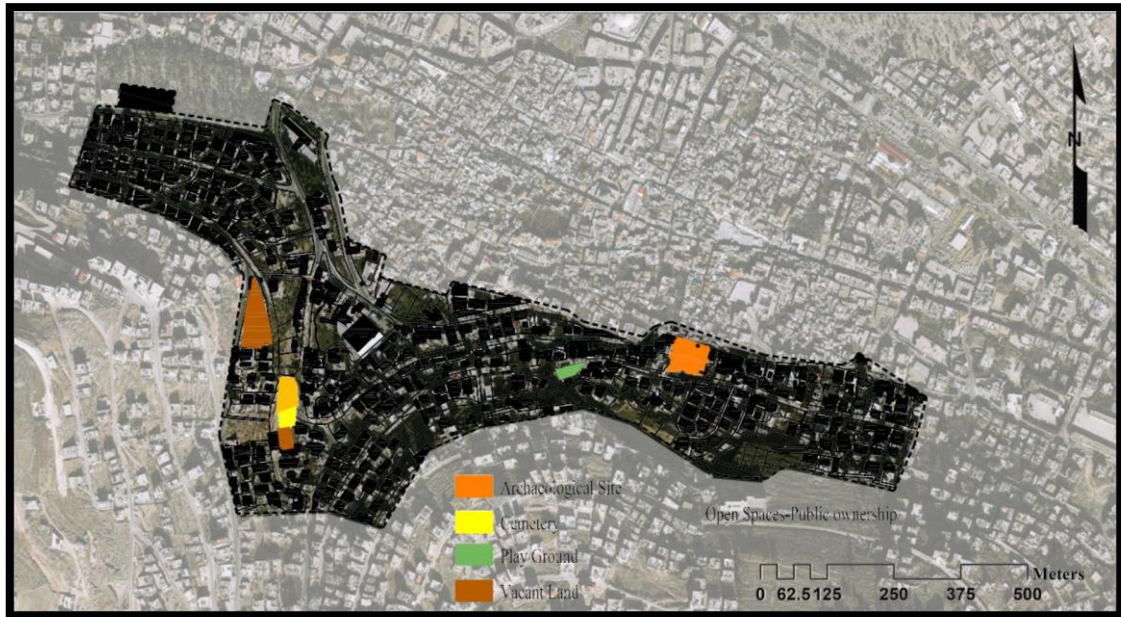


Figure 4. 19: Public Open Spaces in Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Nablus Municipality, 2018).

The Only public open spaces available in Ras Al-Ain as shown in the figure (4.19) above, are a Samaritan cemetery in the southern-west side of Ras Al-Ain, archeological sites, the first one contains the ancient remains of the a Roman theater and lays on the eastern part between Al-Basha Street and Ras Al-Ain Street, the second is classified to be under archaeological inspection, situated near the Samaritan cemetery in the west, a small playground in Ksheikeh street in the south, and some vacant land to the west near the Samaritan cemetery. Figures (4.20) and (4.21)



Figure 4. 20: Photography of the playground in Ksheikheh Street. Source: Site Survey, 2018.

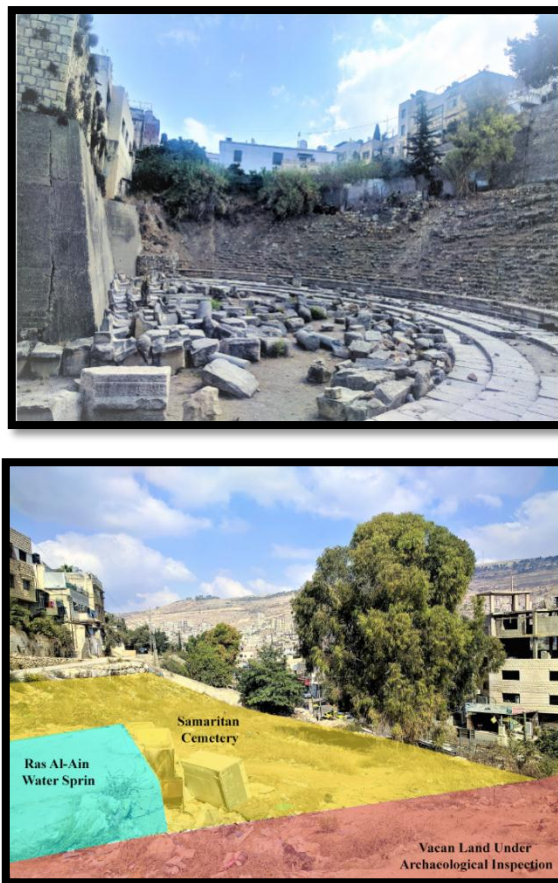


Figure 4. 21: Right: Ras Al-Ain Roma Theater, Left: vacant land adjacent to the Samaritan Cemetery. Source: Site Survey, 2018

Building Heights

The range of building heights varies mostly between 27% of the buildings having four floors and 26% with only two stories, which make the neighborhood of an average urban height. Figure (4.22)

While the other 15% of the buildings with more than 4 floors are located in the southern part of the neighborhood climbing the mountain top of Jerzim, and are considered to be the most recent buildings, as the new urban development is heading towards the south with being high residential blocks usually with more than 4 floors height. This continuous urban expansion make the actual visual composition of the neighborhood reflect the picture of an overcrowded residential neighborhood with high buildings, but the sloped topographical nature and the different street levels, prevent the high buildings located on the upper elevations from obscuring the buildings on the lower levels, consolidating by that the visibility character of the area. Figure (4.23) shows some examples of high buildings on the top of Jerzim Mountain and how the topography played a role in degrading the buildings to maintain visibility, while figure (4.24) shows how these high buildings are located in the southern part of the neighborhood.

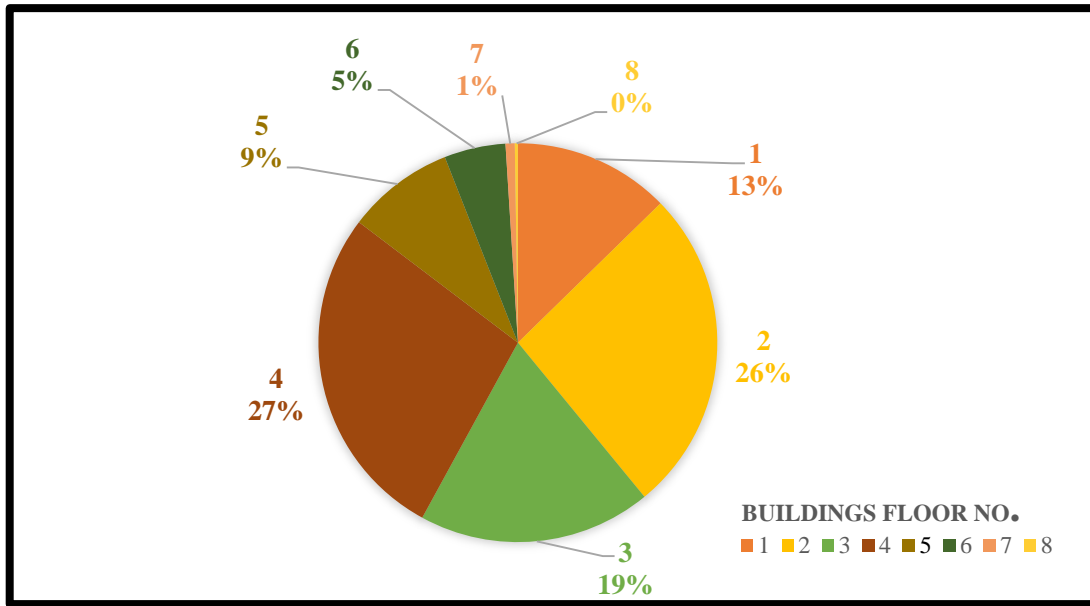


Figure 4. 22: Buildings Floor Numbers In Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey, 2018



Figure 4. 23: Photography Of Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood Reflecting Its Buildings Visibility Due To Topography Nature. Source: Site Survey, 2018

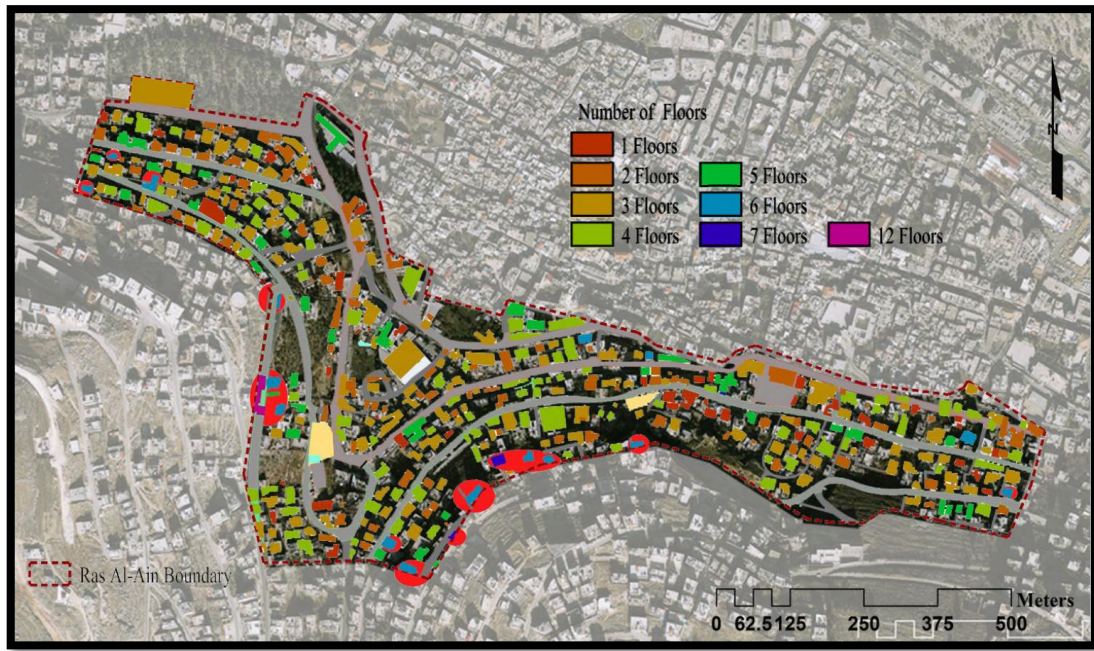


Figure 4. 24: Number Of Building Floors In Ras Al-Ain Highlighting The High Buildings With More Than 5 Floors. Source: Site Survey, 2018

There is also a relation between the number of floors and the street widths, where generally the high buildings (4 floors or more) are located facing directly the main streets of 10meters and 8meters widths, and the other buildings with less than 4 floors are located on the arterial narrower roads and in between higher buildings. Figure (4.25)

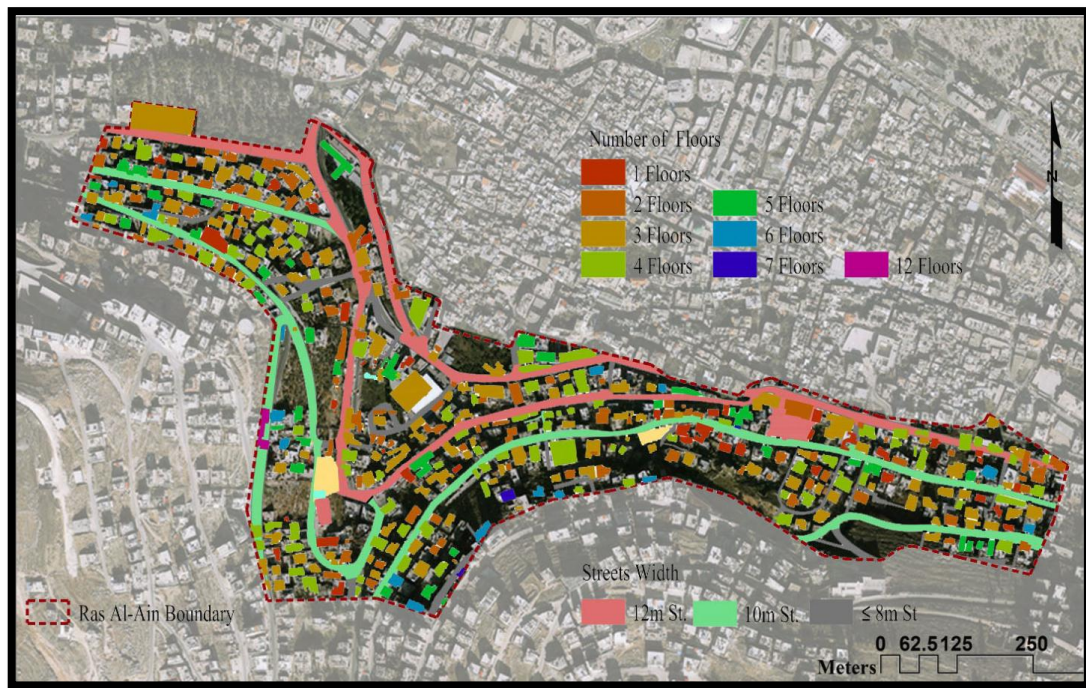


Figure 4. 25: Ras Al-Ain Map Of Buildings Floor Number And Street Widths. Source: Site Survey, 2018

This variation in the number of building floors and heights is also affected by the use of that building, where most of the one floor buildings are either large public buildings such as the electricity company in Al-Basha Street, or factories, as the marble factory in Ksheikh street, or mosques, or they can be old single houses. On the other hand, the two or three story buildings are also for public buildings such as some other mosques, or school buildings, while the other buildings with more than three floors are usually residential blocks either with commercial ground floor or the entire building as residential apartments that form the latest urban expansion in Ras Al-Ain towards the south. This relation between building heights and use is discussed further in the next sections.

Building Use

The building use in Ras Al-Ain is characterized to be of a residential scheme as it is classified as a residential zone, it has a distinctive and vital mix-use buildings spread all along the main streets of the neighborhood, as shown in the figure (4.26). These mix-use buildings enriched the livability of the area's social and economic aspect, while offering many different commercial shops and services that enhance and encourage the interaction of the inhabitants and strengthening their sense of belonging to the neighborhood by meeting their different needs of services, such as educational, health, religious,...etc.

Below is a detailed analysis of the available services in Ras Al-Ain with their percentages as well as the ideal standards to be met based on the current situation.

Ras Al-Ain Main Services:

The graphical table (4.2) below shows the distribution of the different types of building services in the neighborhood, as it can be deducted, there is a clear excess in some types of services on account of others. There is 8 Mosque buildings forming 30% of all services in the area and distributed all over the neighborhood in Ras Al-Ain, Al-Ma'moun, 24, Ksheikeh, and Al-BashaStreet. The other 26% of services belong to a total of 7 different school buildings, three of them are public schools for girls, and other 3 are public schools for boys, and one is a private mixed school. Table (4.3)

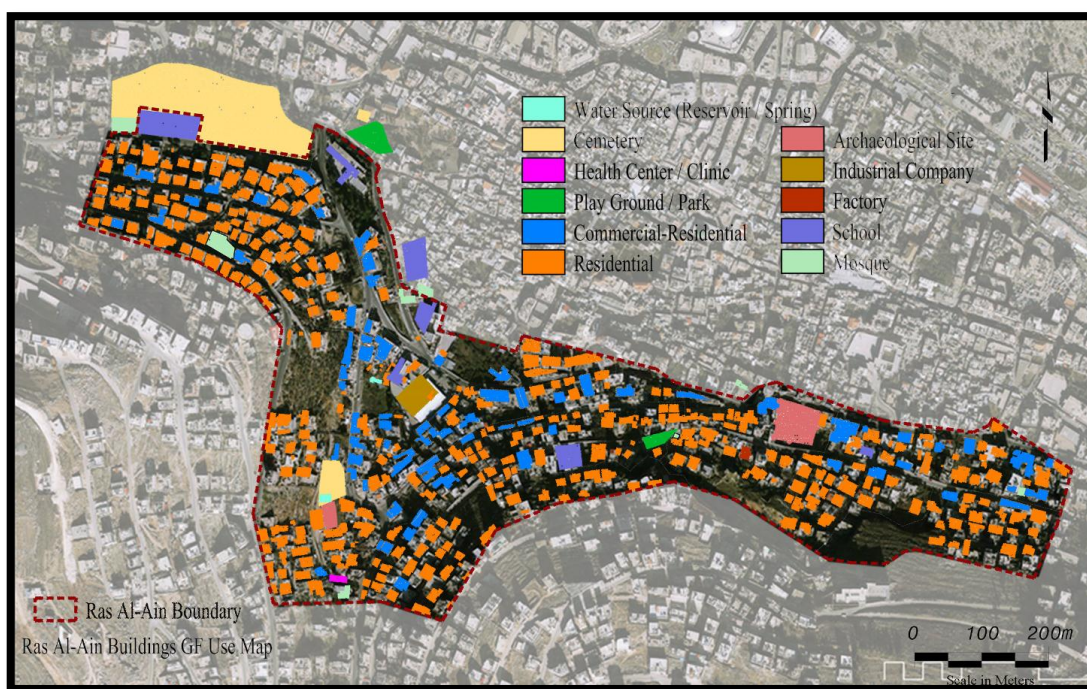
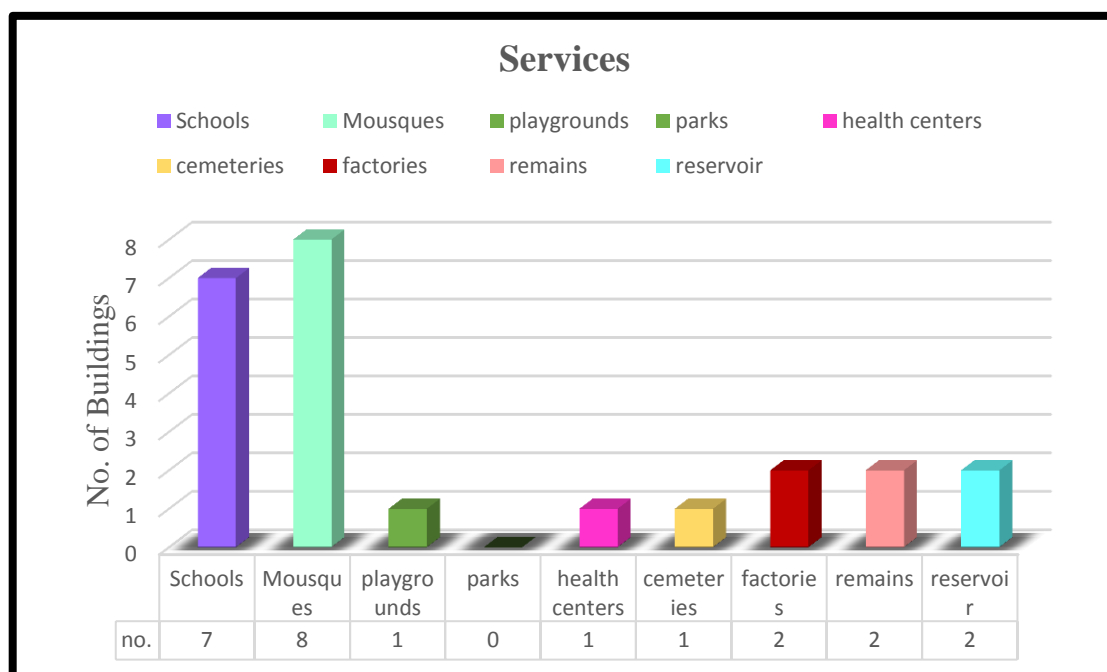


Figure 4. 26: Ras Al-Ain Ground Floor Use Map. Source: Site Survey, 2018.

Table 4. 2: Ras Al –Ain Services Analysis. Source: Site Survey, 2018



The other 44% of the services are distributed between other different types of services, such as cemeteries (The Samaritan cemetery in the west), Roman remains in the eastern part of the neighborhood and a small plot land under archaeological examination in the west, water reservoir, two factories (the electricity factory in Ras Al-Ain St. and a marble factory in Ksheikeh St.) and one public health clinic in the southern-west near Salah Addin Mosque, and only one small playground in Ksheikeh street. Figure (4.27)

Table 4. 3: Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood Schools. Source: Site Survey, 2018

Name of the School	Type of School Public/Private	Type of School boys/ Girls/Mixed	Location
Abdel Mugheeth Al-Ansari	Public	Boys	Al Basha St.
Al Ghazzaliyeh	Public	Boys	Ras Al-Ain St.
Ali Bin Qaraman	Public	Boys	Ksheikeh St.
Al Imam Ali	Public	Girls	Al-Ma'moun St.
Jamal Abdel Naser	Public	Girls	Ras Al-Ain St.
Abdel Lateef Hawwash	Public	Girls	Al-Basha St.
Riyad Al Saliheen	Private	Mixed	Ksheikeh St.

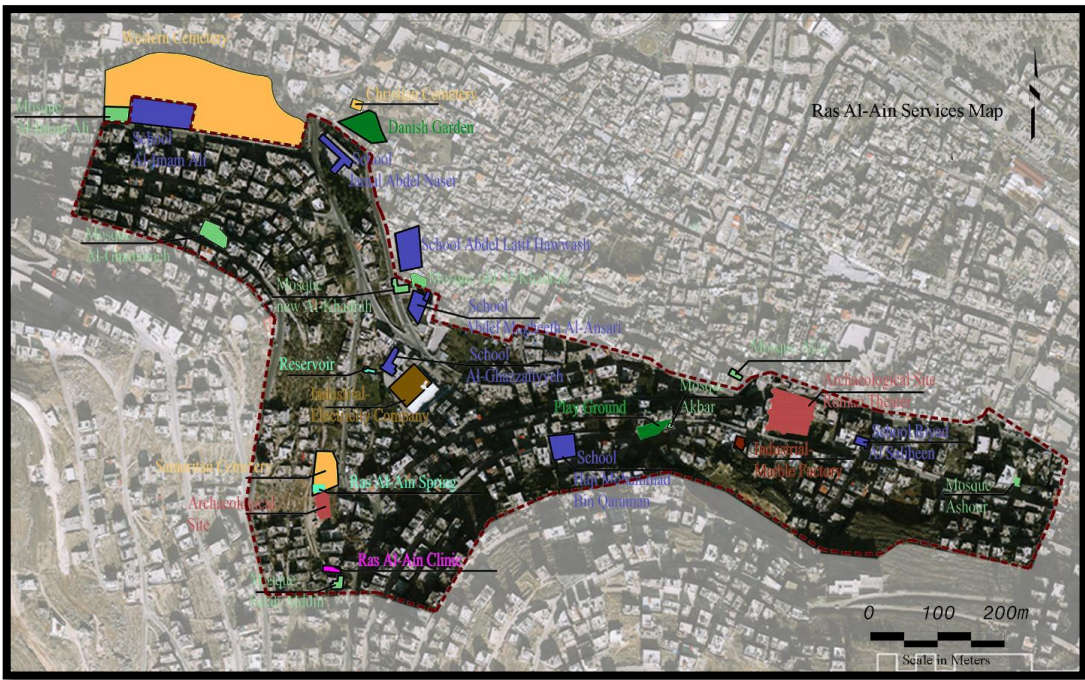


Figure 4. 27: Ras Al-Ain Available Services Map. Source: Site Survey, 2018

This different types of building heights and uses are correlated with their different typologies as discussed in the following section.

Building typologies

As mentioned before, the physical structural pattern of buildings in Ras Al-Ain has a typological relation with land plots different from the street/plot pattern of the old city of Nablus, and based on the regulatory laws related with the land classification type.

For example, the large existing buildings on large plots differ in their structural pattern from the small ones, as they are usually not residential, but rather are public buildings with distinguished patterns from the residential ones, such as mosques, schools, and public health centers. As shown in the figures below.

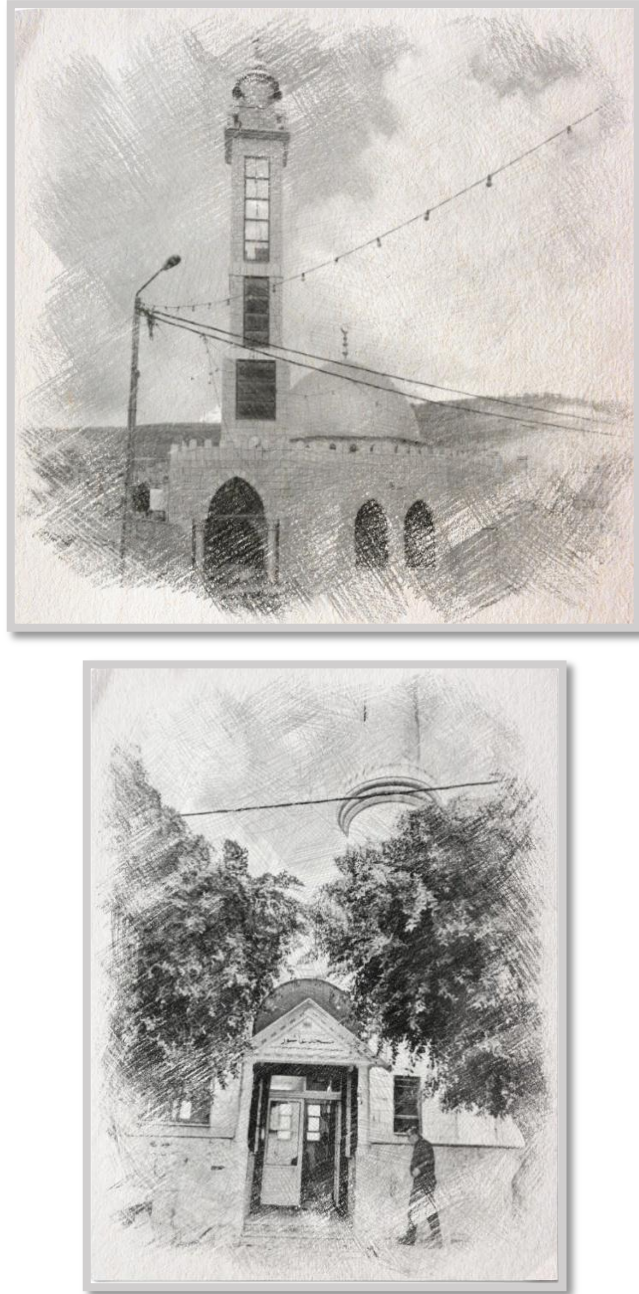


Figure 4. 28: Right: Aj'aj Mosque, Left: Ashour Mosque In Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey, 2018

Figure (4. 28) shows how Mosques typology are characterized with having one/two maximum Floors height, where they lay on a large size of land plot area facing the main street with no setbacks, and with Islamic architectural pattern.

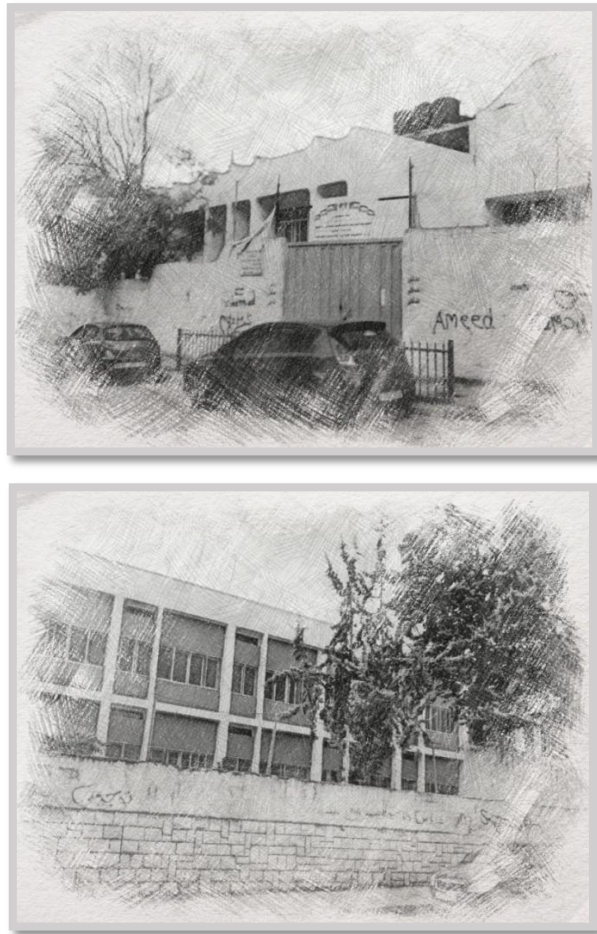


Figure 4. 29: Right: Hawwash School, Left: Jamal Abdel Naser School In Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

School Buildings are characterized with being built on a large sized land plot, with 2/4 floors height, exterior playgrounds, and symmetrical architectural scheme, with walls surrounding the building plot from all directions and a main gate. Figure (4.29)



Figure 4. 30: Ras Al-Ain Public Clinic. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

Ras Al-Ain public health clinic is characterized by being a public building with Islamic character as it's divided into a Mosque (Salah Al-Addin) in the upper floors, and used as clinic in the ground floor, with a total of 3 floor plans built on a large sized plot and with off-street parking. Figure (4.30)

Regarding the Residential buildings in Ras Al-Ain and as it is all classified to be residential zone of type C as explained previously, the floor numbers varies accordingly with the building age as old residential buildings tend to be single story houses rather than multi-story residential blocks. Below are some examples of the different residential building typologies in the neighborhood.



Figure 4. 31: Traditional Residential Single Houses in Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

1. Existing traditional one floor old residential buildings in good conditions
2. Dilapidated old residential buildings. Figure (4.31)



Figure 4. 32: Old And New Residential Buildings In Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Site Survey, 2018)

3. Old multi-story residential buildings adjacent to new residential buildings expansion.
4. Old residential buildings with new building additions on the upper floors. Figure (4.32)



Figure 4. 33: New Residential Buildings In Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

5. Multi-Story modern residential single houses (Villas)

6. Multi-story modern residential blocks (apartments). Figure (4.33)



Figure 4. 34: High Residential Blocks In Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

7. High residential blocks with more than 4 floors height, especially located climbing on the higher topographic levels towards Jerzim Mountain. Figure (4.34)



Figure 4. 35: Mixed Use Buildings In Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

7. Mixed use old and new buildings with ground floor used as commercial shops, or different workshops, and the upper floors as residential. Figure (4.35)

4.3.2 Urban Development and Metrological Analysis

Buildings Age

Being a neighborhood emerged on the southern borders of the old city of Nablus, Ras Al-Ain still has some old traditional buildings from the Ottoman Period specially in the northern part of the neighborhood near the old city, in addition to the Roman theater Remains in Ras Al-Ain Street, however the general physical identity of the buildings in the neighborhood

has a modern scheme since its appearance was during the British Mandate period.

The urban expansion of the neighborhood took a longitudinal direction towards both the east and west, along with the main streets of Al-Basha and Ras Al-Ain, and reaching to Al-Ma'moun St. near the western cemetery in Nablus, then, between the period of (1948-1967) the expansion of the area head towards the south starting to climb the mountain of Jerzim, this vertical expansion continued in the next periods till the present day where the building activities spread more in all directions, in addition to the urban expansion in between buildings filling the available plots all over the neighborhood area, whether by the rehabilitation of the existing buildings, existing buildings expansion, or the addition of new buildings, as shown in figure (4.36) below.

This physical identity of the Ras Al-Ain is marked by bringing together the traditional and the modern.(AL-Fanni, 1999)In the next section a metrological analysis is presented with some building examples from each period of time passed through, the British mandate period (1917-1948), the Jordanian Rule period (1948-1967), the Israeli Occupation period (1967-1994), and the Palestinian Authority period (1995-Present).

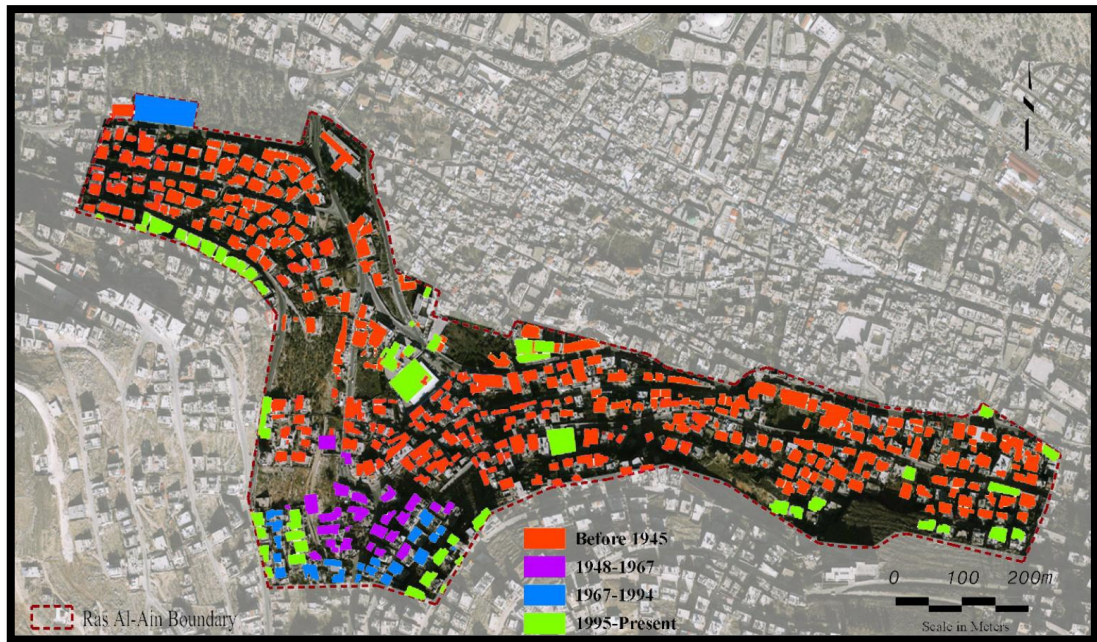


Figure 4. 36: Ras Al-Ain Buildings Age. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

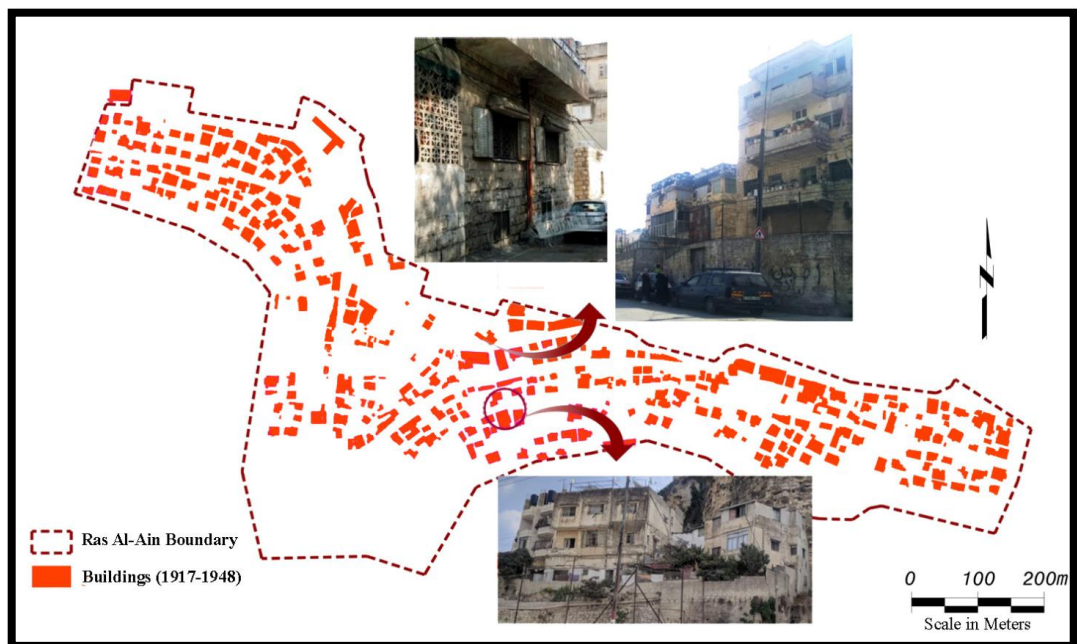


Figure 4. 37 : Ras Al-Ain Building Examples From The British Mandate Period (1917-1948). Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

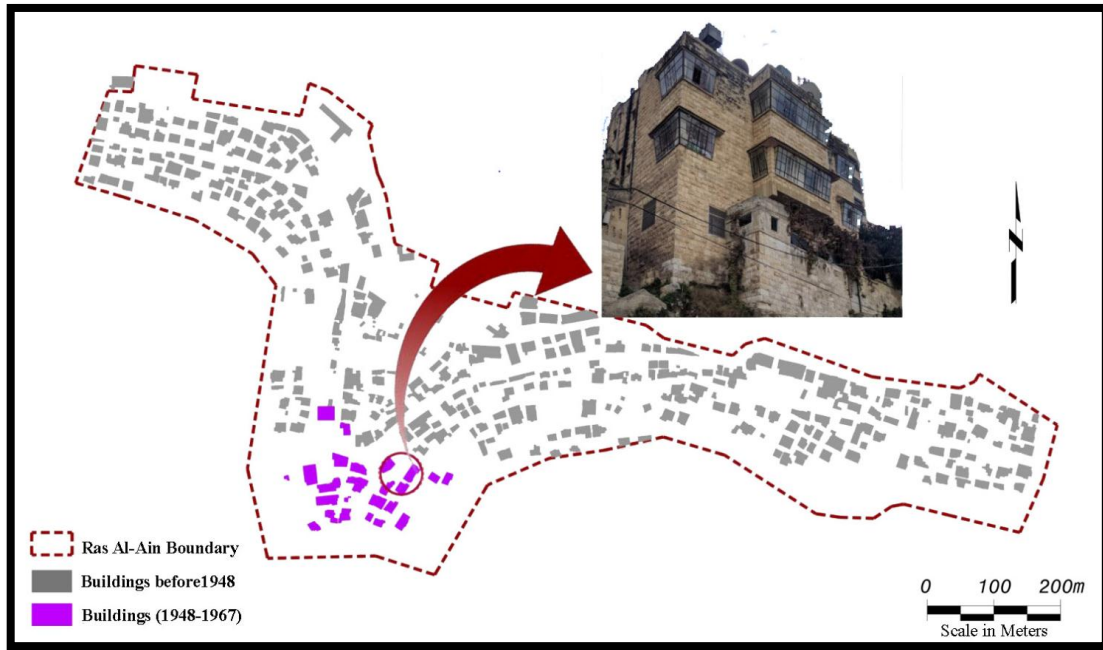


Figure 4. 38: Ras Al-Ain Building Examples From The Jordanian Period (1948-1967). Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Site Survey, 2018)



Figure 4. 39: Ras Al-Ain Building Examples From The Israeli Occupation Period (1967-1994). Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Site Survey, 2018)



Figure 4. 40: Ras Al-Ain Building Examples From The Palestinian Authority Period (1995-Present). Adapted by the researcher from source (Site Survey, 2018)

4.4 Social Activities Analysis

After conducting the morphological analysis of the case study of Ras Al-Ain, the social activities of the neighborhood are analyzed in order to fulfill the main goal of the study of reaching a clear understanding of how the previous morphological changes on Ras Al-Ain urban landscape affects the inhabitants' social activities.

This type of analysis is important as the main direction of this thesis complies with what the sociologist Henri Lefebvre articulated, that the social life and activities manifested in an urban space form part of the production of that space, rather than being as an element merely existing in a space. He stated that “*social space is a (social) product.*” Preventing the space from being just a space that is being filled with different activities,

instead it defines space to be produced through the social interactions within it.(Anderson, 2011)

Parameters are examined and criteria analysis is conducted to gauge the status of the morphological structure of the area and how well it supports and enhances the social activities that should or must occur in the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain, and how well these conditions combine to form a successful and vivid neighborhood with a rich healthy society and environment.

4.4.1 Ras Al-Ain Urban Spaces Conditions and People perceptions.

There are several main criteria and physical elements that should be available in order to have a successful urban space where people can manifest their different activities.

The first one is the availability of Walkable streets in the neighborhood, thereby, Ras Al-Ain suffers from a clear lack in this respect. Although the main streets of the neighborhood are planned to have appropriate widths according with its land classification building regulatory as explained previously; but in fact, deficit in some urban elements beside people behaviour and miss use of the urban space, turn these streets to be improper for walkability. For instance, the lack of sidewalks in the majority of the streets of the neighborhood restrict the people walkability and use of streets, as shown in figure (4.41) below.

On the other hand, people encroachment of the available sidewalks in the area, such as vendors putting their shop goods on the front sidewalk of their shops, obstacle the flow of pedestrians, in addition to the phenomena of parking cars on both sides of the streets obstacling as well the pedestrian rout and narrowing the available street width and increasing the traffic consequently. Figure(4.42)

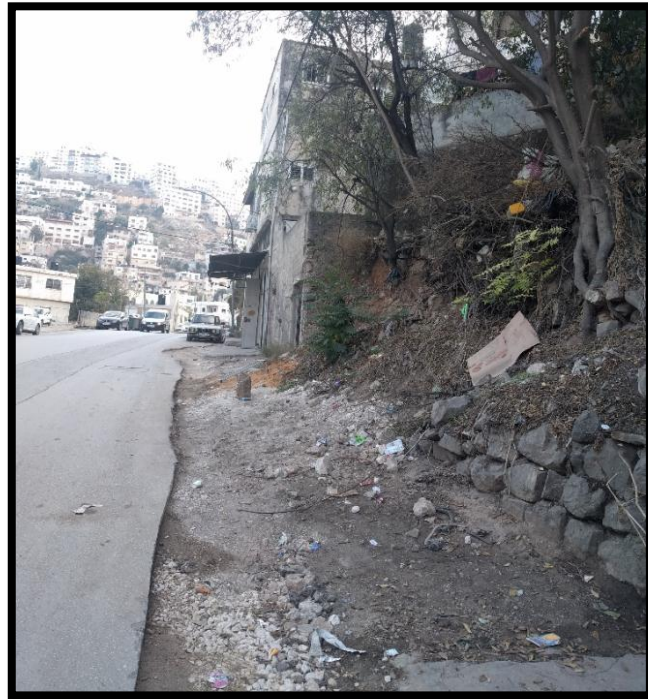


Figure 4. 41: Photo Of Ras Al-Ain main Street Lacking Sidewalk. Source: Site Survey,2018



Figure 4. 42:Photos Of Obstacles Narrowing the Streets Of Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey, 2018

The second criteria, is the human scale blocks, which is somehow available, as Ras Al-Ain is a completely residential zone, with maximum average building heights of four floors, which makes the human scale present especially with the advantageous topography of the neighborhood that contributed to the strengthening of the visibility criteria of buildings by incorporating the high buildings with the topography, thus, reducing the sense of heights and integrate the human scale instead.

The third parameter, is the availability of usable public spaces, which Ras Al-Ain lack off significantly. Being a residential zone made the availability of public spaces difficult as the majority of urban spaces are private. Moreover, the limited public spaces available are limited to a small playground in Ksheikeh street that only children of that area reach and use, in addition to a small public space available near the Samaritan cemetery which is not properly used, as the residents turned it to a lost space for parking their cars, prohibiting by that its use as public space for social gathering, public park, or as a playground for children. (Refer to figures (4.19,20,21) in the previous section 4.3.1).

Vitality and Sense of Place

From site observations and semi-structured interviews conducted with inhabitants of Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood, it can be noticed that there is compatibility between the urban characteristics of the place and some of people needs. Being a residential neighborhood with livable mix-use main street, as shown in figure (4.43) below, played a major role in responding

to the values of publicness and diversity, where there are different kinds of services provided for the inhabitants, from shopping, schools, and mosques that are at the same time, reachable as they are reasonably situated near each other, increasing by that the spirit and sense of life of the place.

Children use to go to their near schools by walking on foot, increasing by that the chancement of socilizing and interaction with other children on their way to school. Furthermore, the strategic location of Ras Al-Ain near the city center of Nablus, made it easy for inhabitants to commute daily to their work in different parts of the city. Figure (4.44)

Moreover, this mix-use character did not only provide services for inhabitants, but also encorage the interaction with people, as vendors or workers of the local shops available in the area belong to the inhabitants of the neighborhood, therefor, they know each other, extending by that their degree of social interaction.(Adults & interview, 2018) For exaample, you can find shopkeepers sitting with neighbors and people on the frontage of their shops, or socializing during doing their daily shopping, as shown in figures (4.45) and (4.46)

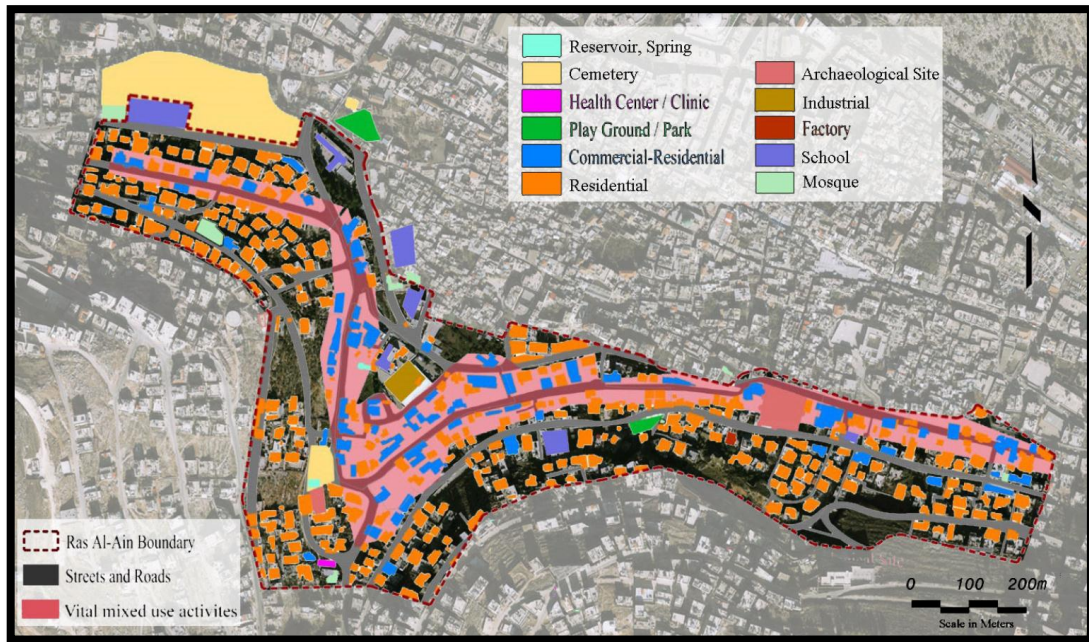


Figure 4. 43: Ras Al-Ain Ground Floor Use Map Highlighting The Main Street Of Rasa-Ain As A Vital Mix-Use Hub. Adapted by the researcher fromsource (Site Survey, 2018).



Figure 4. 44: Girl Walking Back From School In Ras Al-Ain As A Daily Nesessary Activity. Source:(Site Survey, 2018)



Figure 4. 45:Some people socilizing in the frontage of a local shop in Ras Al-Ain. Source: (Site Survey, 2018)



Figure 4. 46: People Doing Daily Nesessary Activities Like Grocery Shopping In Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey,2018



Figure 4. 47: Women Walking And Socializing In Ksheikeh Street In Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey,2018

In addition to the fact that the majority of inhabitants are originally from the old city of Nablus or from near neighborhoods, increased the integration of people with their neighborhood and their sense of belonging, where inhabitants of Ras Al-Ain have extended family members from the adjacent areas.(Adults & interview, 2018) As such, women from Ras Al-Ain use to visit their families frequently, due to the ease of family gathering.Figure (4.47) As found from the interview with some women living in the neighborhood, they practice daily social visits with their family members or friends who live in the neighboring area or in the old city of Nablus, the majority of women turned out to know each other, or have frequent social connections with other women living in the neighborhood.(Adults & interview, 2018)As a result, the social structure of Ras Al-Ain is characterized to be composed from extended family members distributed and living in the same clustering area.

More clearly, the majority of residents in Halawa street in Ras Al-Ain belong to Halawa family, while in Ksheikheh street the majority of the residents are from Ashour family, this social composition consolidated the social network between neighbors and enhance the chance of increasing interactions between them. thereby, frequent family gatherings are held to celebrate different social occasions in the different family courts (Diwan) located in the neighborhood. for example the Diwan of Halawa Family in Halawa Street shown in figure (4.48) below.



Figure 4. 48: Diwan Halawas' Family In Halawa Street, Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey,2018

Relevance

The relevance of an urban space reflects its morphological and physical pattern and capacity appropriateness with the user behavior. In Ras Al-Ain there is a clear lack of relevance as a result of the high dense population living in the neighborhood that increases continuously through years. This population growth causes the overcrowding of the urban pattern of the area affecting the capacity of the neighborhood to cater with the needs of its inhabitants, as shown in Table (4.4) below, based on the site survey and morphological analysis in the previous section, it can be noticed the lack of health services as the only available clinic in the area is a public clinic that provides only the simple and very basic health services, led people to get to the city center to attend the required health care services they need. There is also a clear shortage in the availability of recreational places like parks and green areas, as the nearest park available is the Danish park near the western cemetery of Nablus which only serve a small portion of the inhabitants as it is located outside the area of Ras Al-Ain, and although it's a public park but it provide restricted availability and access since it doesn't open all time for residents use. Figure (4.49)

Regarding the availability of playgrounds or playing fields, where children can play and spend their free time meeting their friends, the only available playground is a small one in Ksheikeh Street with an area of only 668.5m² while the needed area according to the standards of livable neighborhoods and the neighborhood total population number should be no less than 30216m². (Refer to figure (4.19) in the previous section 4.2.1)

This affected the children of Ras Al-Ain and made them play in the streets of the neighborhood between traffic and buildings frontages, Figure (4.50)(Children & Interview, 2018)and spend their time in unhealthy inappropriate and dangerous conditions.

Table 4. 4: Inhabitants Of Ras Al-Ain Actual Services Needs In Light Of The Current Situation. Source: adapted by the researcher from (Site Suvey, And An-Najah National University Department Of Urban Plannin, 2018).

Services	Ave. Area m ² /person	Available area in Ras Al-Ain	Ave. Area needed according to pop.	New Area Needed
Educational (Schools)	2	25236.42	15108	-10128.42
Social (Centers)	0.3	—	—	—
Health (clinics)	1	337.14	7554	7216.86
Religious (Mosques)	0.4	4221.945	3021.6	-1200.345
Recreational (Parks)	7	1626.1	52878	51251.9
Sports (Playgrounds)	4	668.52	30216	29547.48

■ Less than Needed
■ Above Need

Actual People Needs in Ras Al-Ain in light of the current situation



Figure 4. 49: The Danish Garden To The West Of Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood. Source: Site Survey, 2018

its also evident from the previous table, that there is a lack in social centers in the neighborhood, on the other hand there is a large nuber of Mosques spread all the the neighborhood of Ras AL-Ain and accesible to all the inhabitants from different areas, sadisfying the spiritual and religious needs and activities of population.



FIGURE 4. 50:Children Of Ras Al-Ain Playing On The Frontage Of Slah Al-Deen Mosque.
Source: Site Survey,2018

All of this perceptions were described by children of Ras Al-Ain through their mental maps drawn during the interview as they were asked to translate their conception about their neighborhood and how they perceive their living place, and what are they daily activities and places that they use in the neighborhood.

It can be noticed from the children mental maps as in figure(4.51) below that there is :

1. High traffic density of the streets prohibiting children from play and move safely
2. Poor invironmental condotions, reflected in the distributed waste diposal containers in the streets and the waste dump in different vacant lands
3. The avilability of consistant regioulous activities, as praying in mousques, result of the availability of mosques all over the area.
4. The problem of parking lots and congested cars in the neighborhood.
5. No proper playgrounds and fields for children to play and interact.



FIGURE 4. 51: Children Mental Map about Ras Al-Ain landscape and urban spaces perceptions. Source: Children interviews,2018

Children demands for a playground in the converted vacant land near the Samaritan cemetery to parking, where they used to play before; where also

reflected in some of their mental maps as shown in the figures (4.52,53,54) below

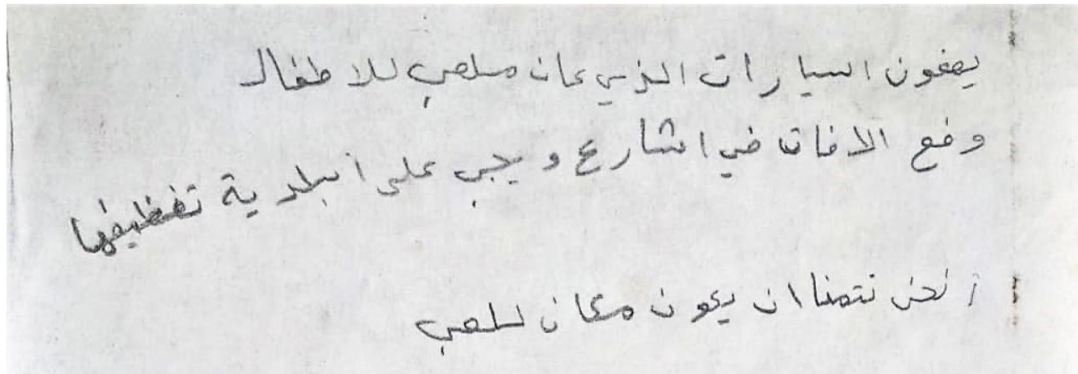
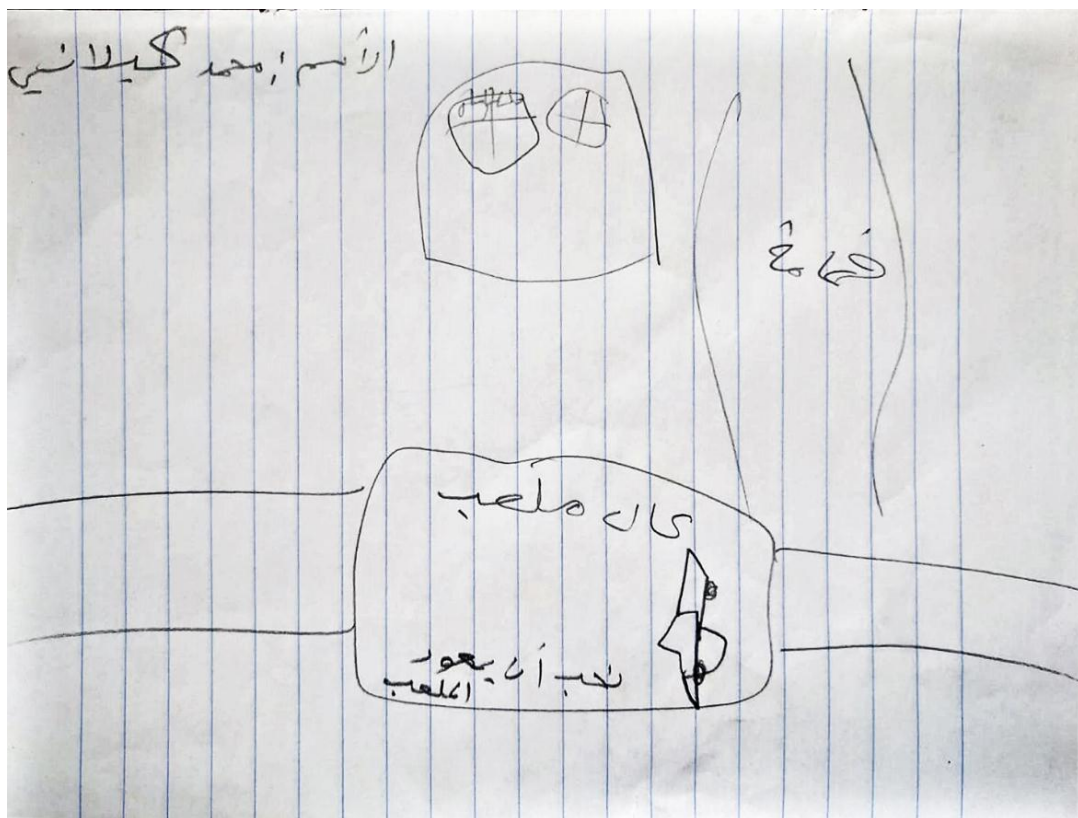


FIGURE 4. 52: Children demands for a playfield in Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site interviews with children, 2018



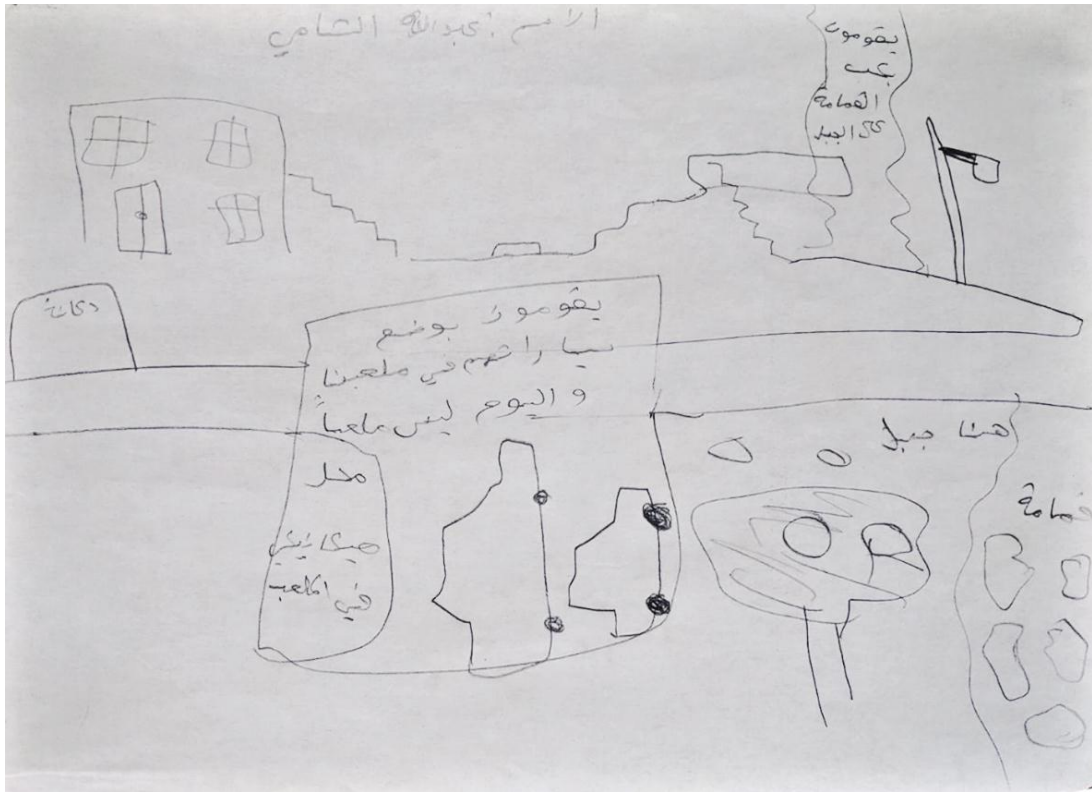


FIGURE 4. 53 : Ras Al Ain Children mental maps about the actual conditions of the open space. Source: Site interviews with children, 2018.

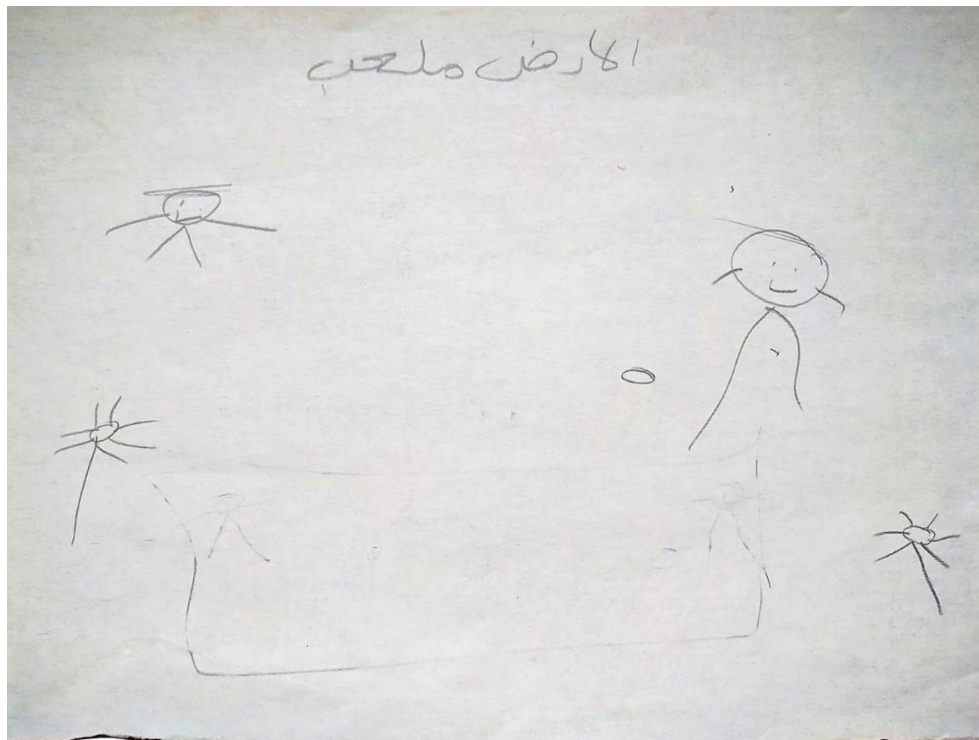


FIGURE 4.54 : Ras Al Ain Children mental maps about their demanded playground. Source: Site interviews with children, 2018

Accessibility and Control

The accessibility and control of an urban space means the ability to access a certain space and practice activities by monitoring and controlling people movements in that space. In Ras Al-Ain the urban accessibility to the different near areas is considerably high as discussed in the previous section (4.3.1)

However the problem of traffic and poor streets conditions in addition to the absence of open spaces made it impossible to control the inhabitants flows between spaces due to limited available options. The bad urban and environmental conditions affected people behaviour as they felt unsatisfied with the environment they live in and unconfident in spending time outside their houses, (Adults & interview, 2018) because of the visibility and sound environmental pollution in the streets, as shown in figures (4.55) and (4.56) reflecting some environmental deficits in the neighborhood. Furthermore, during interviewing some adults, a large number of inhabitants were not satisfied from the urban environment of Ras Al-Ain to the point that they were considering to move out of the neighborhood to another area with a healthier environment.



Figure 4. 55: Environment Pollution And Waste Dump In The Streets Of Ras Al-Ain. Source: Site Survey,2018



Figure 4. 56: Bad Environmental Conditions In The Public Urban Space Available Near The Samaritan Cemetery In Ras Al-Ain Source: Site Survey,2018.

4.5 Conclusion

Based on the previous analysis it can be noticed that as the neighborhood of Ras Al-Ain developed through time, the landscape of Ras Al-Ain developed to turn out as a crowded residential neighborhood that lack from many services, especially the recreational ones that led to confine the inhabitants to conduct their daily necessary activities like going to school and work in a poor urban quality, and limiting them from enhancing their other additional recreational and social interactions.

In the next chapter, the results of the analysis are discussed further, followed by some improvement recommendations and suggestions for Ras Al-Ain neighborhood actual landscape, and finished by some concluding remarks of the study.

Chapter Five

Results and Recommendations

5.1 Results

After the analysis process of both morphological and social aspects of the urban environment of Ras Al-Ain, findings indicate differences between socializing patterns and structure of social networks. Being a considerable high density area, Ras AL-Ain shows to have small but strong social networks. Detailed investigation shows that much of this can be attributed to, among other physical factors: the location of public spaces, “visibility from and to these spaces, visual links between neighborhoods”, typology and physical form of development rather than density alone. This means that some of the negative urban morphological impacts found within high-density urban development might be rectified through better optimizations to the design of neighborhoods. It is clear that through time the quality of the landscape of Ras Al-Ain has been deteriorating as the population growth and urban construction increases. That is because of the clear lack in key functional urban spaces, which affected negatively the social ties and activities of the inhabitants as the residential buildings converted gradually from single houses with common spaces to high multi-story buildings separating people. In addition to the congested traffic and bad condition of the urban spaces joining buildings aroused. Figure (5.1)

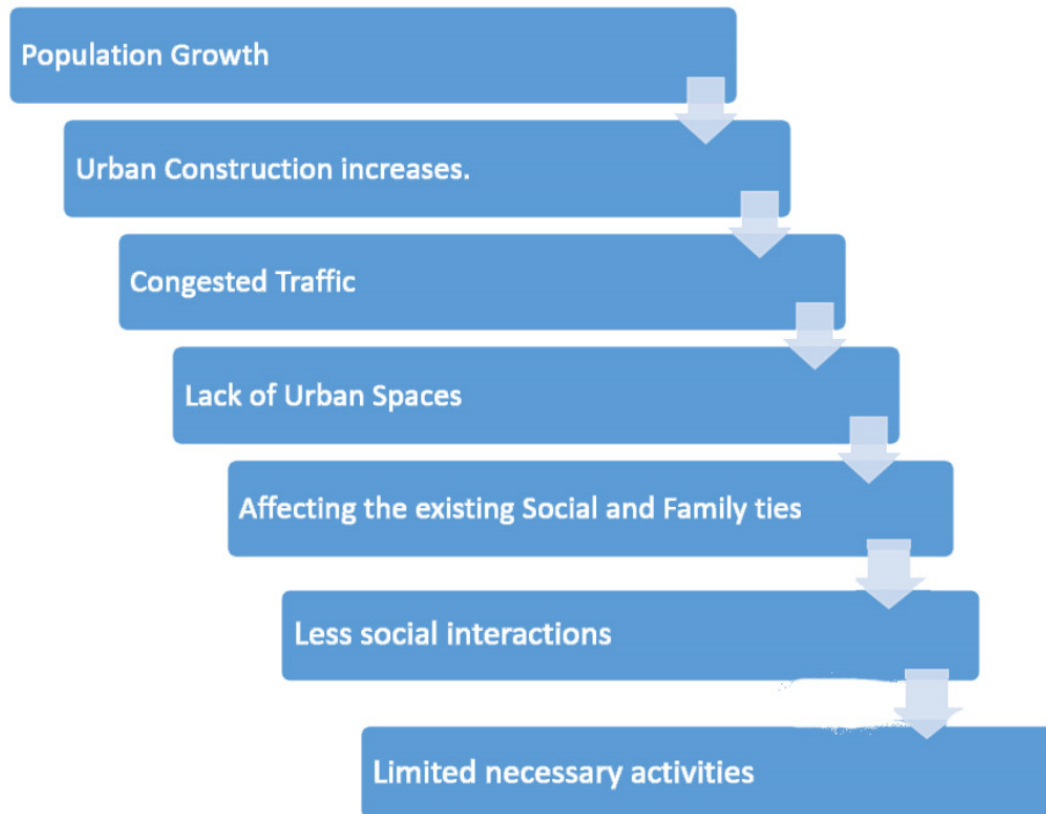


Figure 5. 1:Thesis Results. Source: (the researcher,2018)

5.2 Recommendations

After obtaining the results through comprehensive evaluation of the potentials and shortcomings that Ras Al-Ain neighborhood is characterized by, this study tries to present some recommended actions that could be taken in order to improve both the physical and the social quality of the studied area.

These actions should be applicable and achievable on the ground, hence this section presents these recommendations falling under two types. The first aspect is the optimization of the area of Ras Al-Ain, and the second is the integration of the neighborhood within the surrounding areas. Through

regulatory actions and legislations, besides urban and spatial organization and planning.

- First, it is necessary to reduce building clustering through enforcement of the construction legislation and commitment to the set-back laws imposed by the municipality, and controlling that through periodic site monitoring.
- It is also important to impose laws and regulations that preserve the environment, to reduce the phenomena of waste disposal on the streets and vacant lands causing both environmental and visual pollution.
- The major problem manifested in the heavy traffic in the main streets of the neighborhood due to the lack of regulatory traffic laws and signs, needs attention to organize the safe flow of vehicles and pedestrians, in addition to solving the problem of double-line parking on both sides of the road that narrows the streets and increases the possibility of traffic jams. Figure (5.2)
- convert some streets from two ways to single way to reduce traffic jams
- Solving parking problems and lack of parking lots by checks and enforcement laws that relate to the availability of parking spaces, to connect the number of floors and residents in a building with the compulsory number of parking spaces provided by that building within its perimeters. and convert the lost public spaces into regulatory parking spaces in for the inhabitants as shown in figure (5.3)

- Landscape improvements design such as adding greenery and trees to be used as urban image development and at the same time trees can be considered as barriers to protect pedestrians and reduce traffic conflict when planted on the streets sides. Figure (5.4)



Figure 5. 2: Recommended improvements for the streets and sidewalks of Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the resercher from source (Site survey,2018)



Figure 5. 3: Lost space amendments and conversion into parking lots. Adapted by the researcher from source (Site survey, 2018)



Figure 5. 4: Sidewalk and invironment quality improvmnts recommendations. Adapted by the resercher from source (Site survey, 2018)

- Add sidewalks with adequate width to provide comfortable shopping window and to avoid walking on the main streets, in addition to the organization of the commercial ground floor buildings and shops facades in the neighborhood providing adequate conditions for people to shop and socialize. According to figure (5.5), (5.6) below.

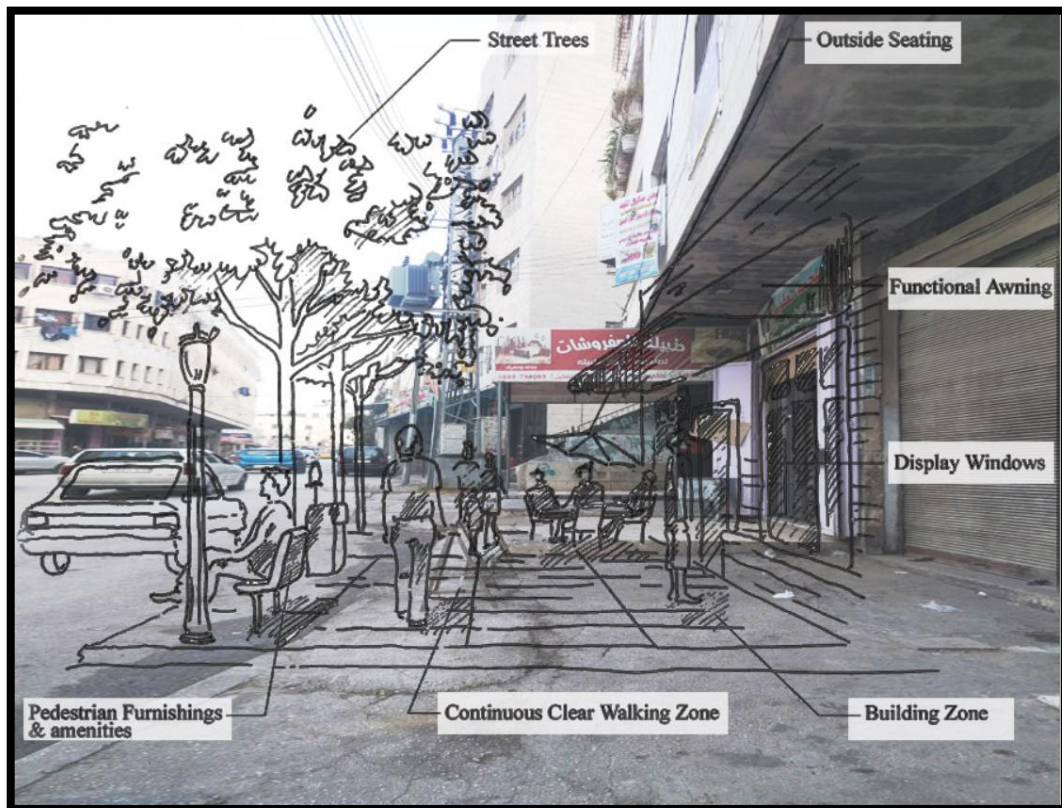


Figure 5. 5: Sidewalk shopping windows improvements. Adapted by the resercher from source (Site survey,2018)

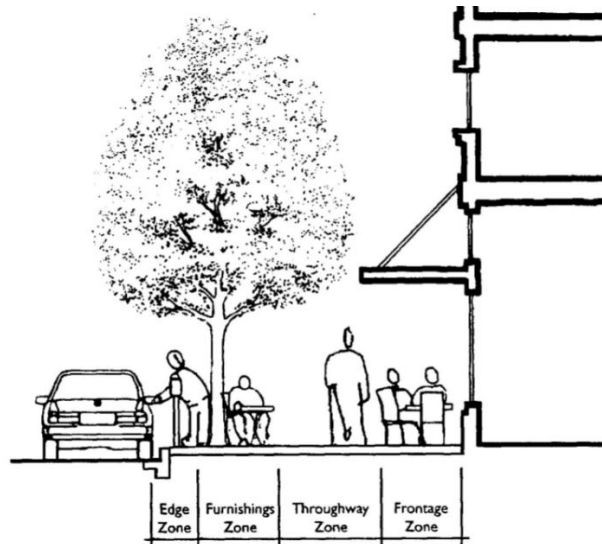


Figure 5. 6: commercial sidewalk design standards. Source: Commercial Development Design Guide,2017

- Provide shaded paths and street furniture such (benches, sculptures, fountains, shades, etc. Figure (5.7)

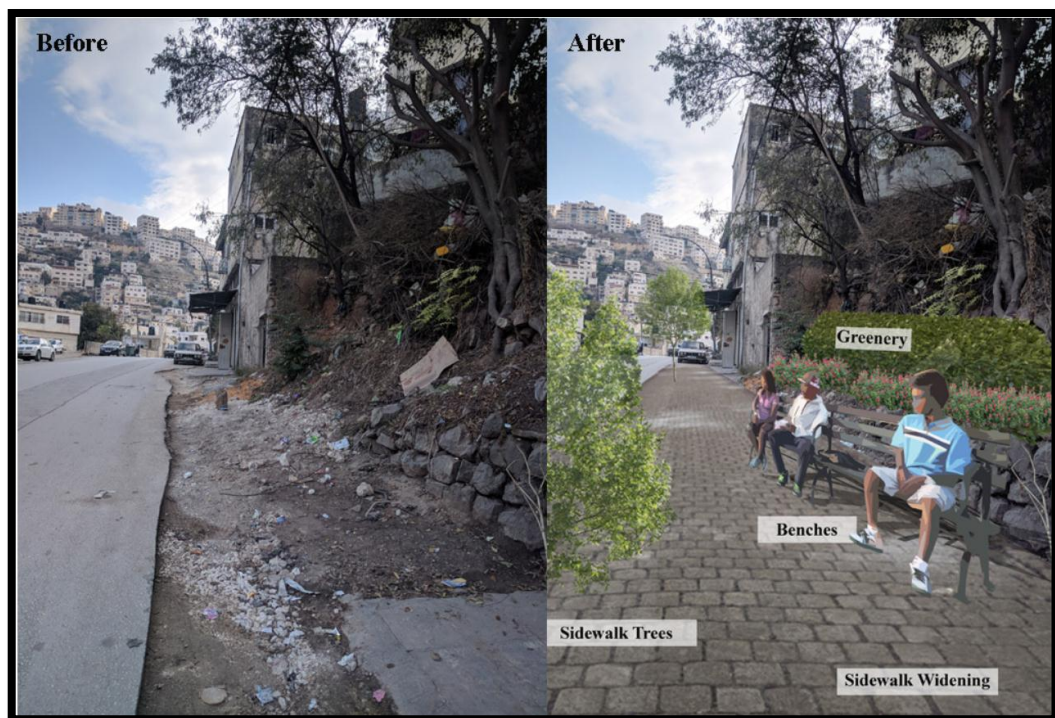


Figure 5. 7: Street Furniture recommendations for the Sidewalks of Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (site survey,2018)

- Rehabilitation and development of the existing historical Roman theater in the neighborhood located in Al-Basha Street, which can serve efficiently the inhabitants after its reorganization as an important hub for social and cultural events that will flourish the area and encourage cultural, musical, social events and activities to be held, at the same time, help the historical sites to maintain their importance and historic heritage and foot print in Ras Al-Ain. Figure (5.8)

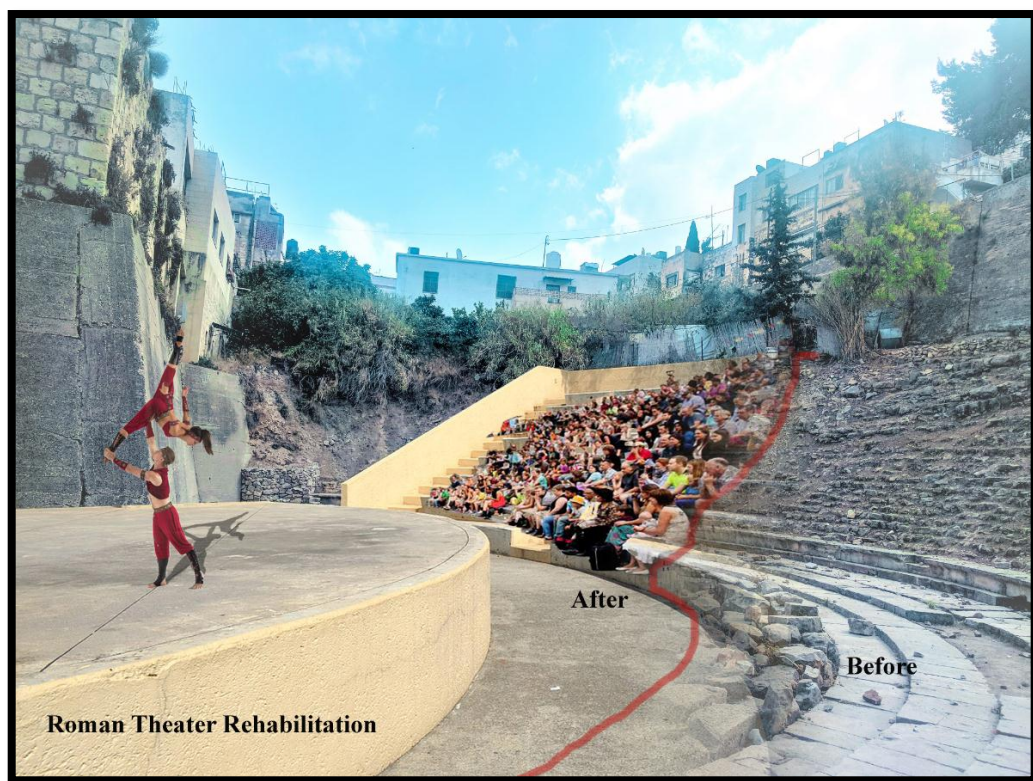


Figure 5. 8: Roman Theater rehabilitation in Ras Al-Ain. Adapted by the researcher from source (site survey, 2018)

- Using existing buildings in Ras Al-Ain as multi-services could be efficient, for example, opening schools playground in the evenings for children to play in can solve the lack of vacant public lands to play.

- Convert the Vacant land near the Samaritan cemetery in Ras Al-Ain into a proper and healthy playground and field for children, Figure (5.9)

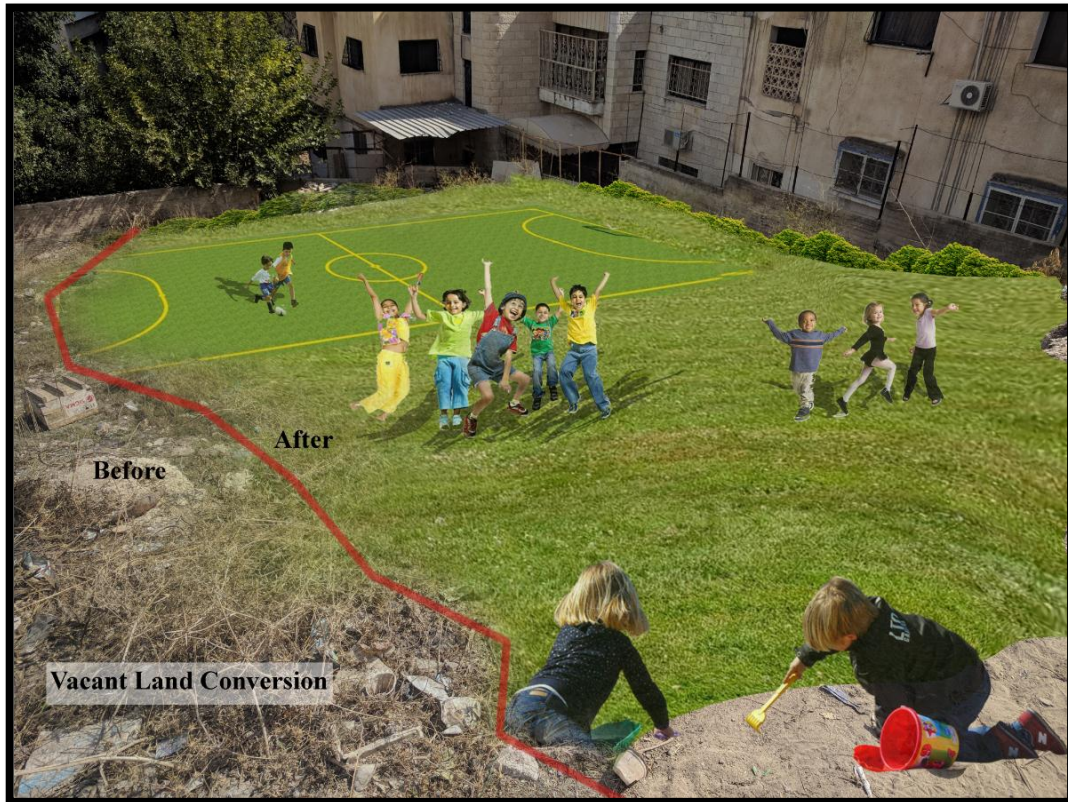


Figure 5. 9: Vacant Land conversion into playground. Adapted by the researcher from source (site survey, 2018)

- Being a high populated neighborhood with limited vacant public land, Ras Al-Ain should be integrated with the surrounding areas to meet the residents' needs and demands. For example, the absence of parks playground, and recreational centers for children can be solved through the analysis of the surrounding potential sites availability that could be converted into parks, or the work towards consolidation and integration with the existing services that are available in the surrounding areas and are accessible to the inhabitants of Ras Al-Ain. For example, the Danish park located on the northern borders of Ras Al-Ain should serve the

inhabitants more efficiently. The insufficient health services can be solved by good urban communication with the city center where there are many health centers and clinics, etc. Figure (5.10)

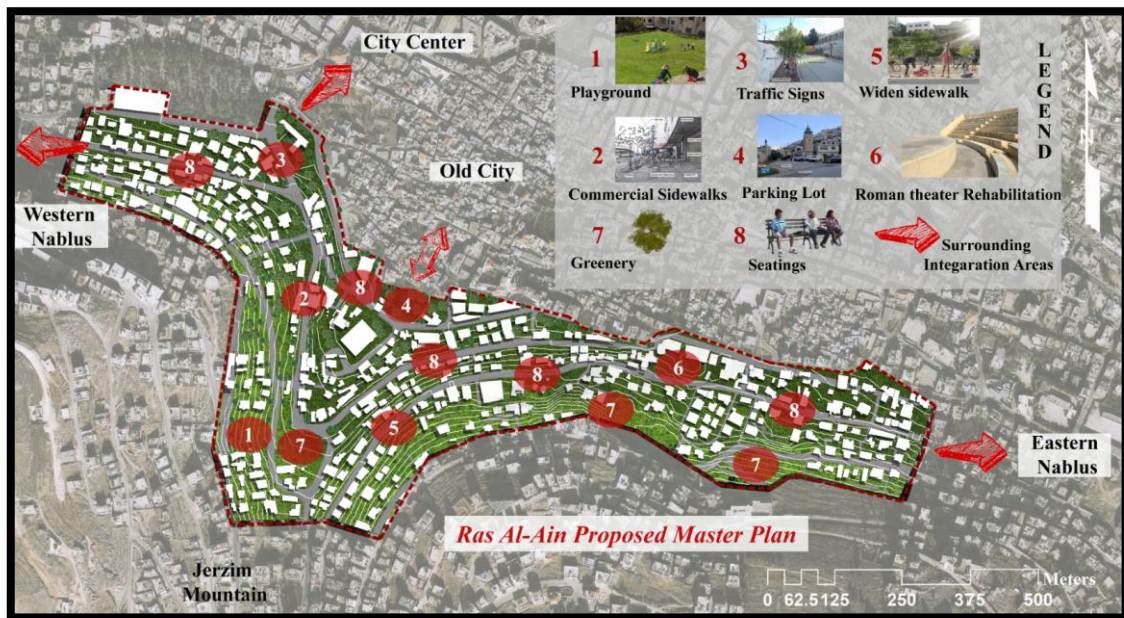


Figure 5. 10: Proposed New Master Plan for the Optimization and Integration of Ras Al-Ain Neighborhood. Source: (The researcher,2018)

5.3 Conclusion

The underlying theme of this thesis has been the effects of changing urban landscape on social activities, it has been noted that the inhabitants of Ras AL-Ain neighborhood suffer from low--levels of satisfactions towards the urban characteristics of their neighborhood. As it lacks of the main important element for the enhancement of people societal behavior and interactions between each other.

Being a stranded residential neighborhood, Ras AL-Ain lacks of the necessary urban spaces where people can manifest their different types of

social activities, enriching by that not only the societal aspect of their environment but also affecting in the urban improvement of and development of a livable healthy and successful neighborhood.

This problem increased over time as the urban expansion increased in the city of Nablus in general, in order to respond for the population growth needs led to build more urban blocks and buildings at the expense of urban spaces.

To study the relation between the urban landscape environment of Ras Al-Ain and its inhabitant's activities, means to highlight the main criteria needed for a successful urban space, and study how well it apply to Ras Al-Ain. In this context, the main conditions required for a vivid neighborhood were analyzed in regard to the current urban morphological pattern of Ras Al-Ain, and how their presence or lack, affected the different types of people daily activities.

In conclusion, the concept of urban socio-spatial dialect demands more attention and investigation especially in the Palestinian context, as this thesis attempted to shed the light on this respect in order to be considered as a step forward.

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Appendices

Appendix 4.4:

1. Questions of the semi-structured conducted interviews

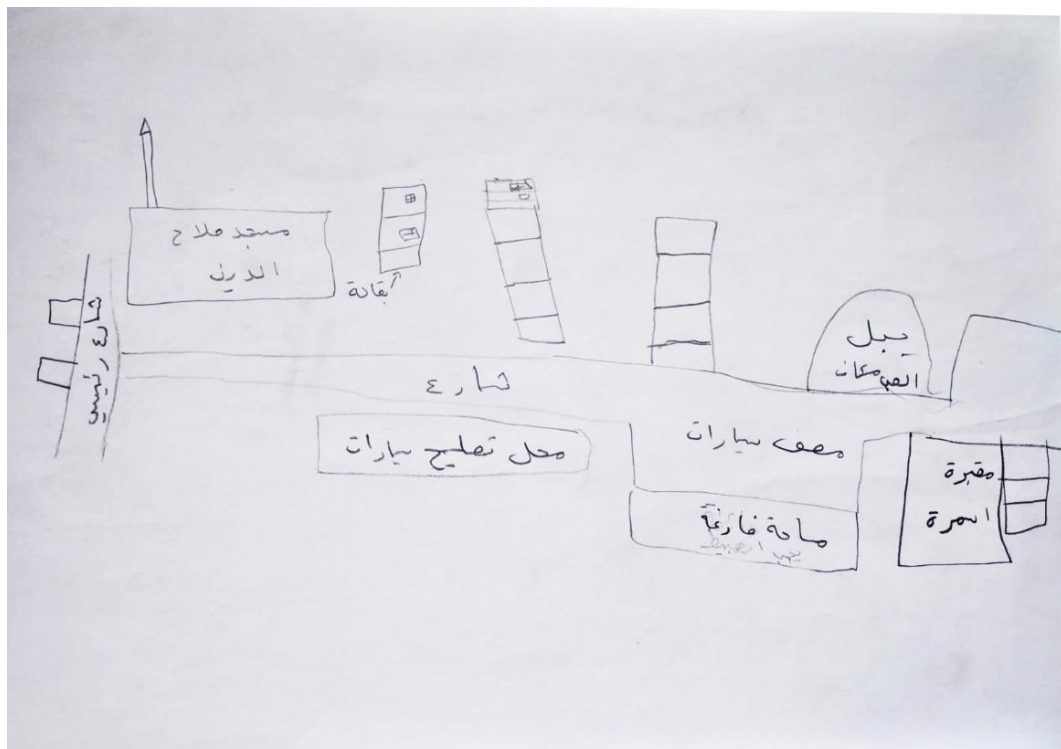
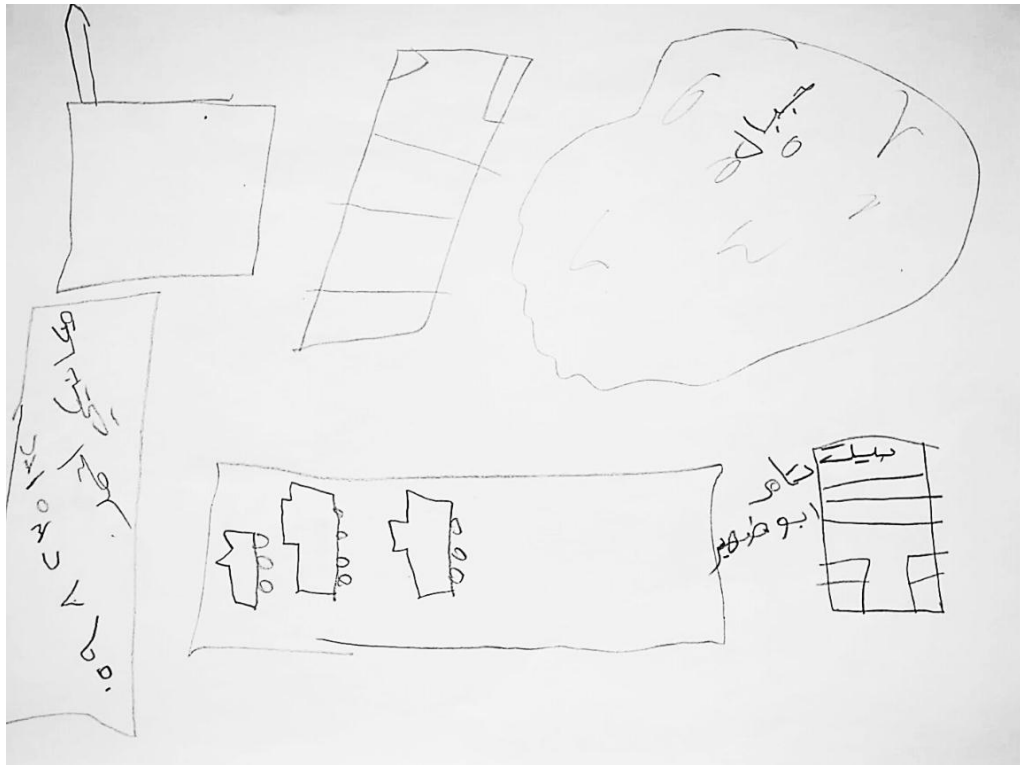
Questions for the children:

- Could you possibly describe the neighborhood, the street that you live?
- What would you like to change in your neighborhood?
- What are the problems facing you neighborhood?
- How many friends do you have in your neighborhood?
- Where do you play with your friends in your neighborhood?
- When do you play and why?
- Which street games do you know?
- Do your parents allow you to play on the street?
- How do you go to school? (By car, walking...)
- How do you spend your spare time? What do you do?
- Could you possibly draw what kind of neighborhood you would like to live in?

Questions For adults:

- What are the places you frequent to cover your daily needs?
- What are the places you frequent to cover your recreational needs?
- Where do children play?
- Do you have personal knowledge and social relations with your neighbors and other inhabitants?
- Where do you originally come from?
- What is your relation with the old city of Nablus?
- Do women work?
- Do you have a strong belonging with Ras Al-Ain?
- Is your home rented or do you own it?
- How many family members you have?
- How and when you move to live in Ras Al-Ain?

2. Children Mental Maps of Ras Al-Ain





تغير آثار المشهد الحضري على الأنشطة الإجتماعية
(حالة دراسية لحي رأس العين - نابلس)

إعداد

"ليلى باتريسيا" حسين أبو عياش

إشراف

د. زهراء زواوي

قدمت هذه الأطروحة استكمالاً لمتطلبات الحصول على درجة الماجستير في هندسة التخطيط الحضري والاقليمي، بكلية الدراسات العليا، في جامعة النجاح الوطنية، نابلس - فلسطين.

2018

ب

تغير آثار المشهد الحضري على الأنشطة الإجتماعية

(حالة دراسية لحى رأس العين - نابلس)

إعداد

"ليلى باتريسيا" حسين أبو عياش

إشراف

د. زهرا زواوي

الملخص

تتميز كل بيئة حضرية عن غيرها بسبب خصائصها الهامة التي تحدد هويتها، وهذه الخصائص لا تقتصر على الجانب المادي للفراغ الحضري، بل تمتد لتشمل الصفات المجتمعية للسكان وأنشطتهم اليومية التي يستطيعون ممارستها وتعزيزها في بيئتهم المعيشية.

تحاول هذه الدراسة فهم وتفسير الخصائص المورفولوجية للبيئة المبنية في أحد أحياء نابلس، والتي تعتبر مميزة كواحدة من أقدم الأحياء الناشئة في المدينة أثناء فترة الانتداب البريطاني، حيث ظهرت كتوسع طبيعي نتيجة النمو السكاني خارج حدود البلدة القديمة في نابلس. الهدف الرئيسي من هذه الرسالة هو تحليل كيفية تطور الخصائص الحضرية لهذا الحي عبر الزمن، مما أثر على أنشطة السكان الاجتماعية.

إن النهج المتبع في هذه الدراسة يعتمد على البحث النوعي والكمي، من خلال مناقشة المعايير المادية للمنطقة الحضرية (الخصائص المورفولوجية) وكيف أثرت على نوعية الحياة الاجتماعية للبيئة. تضمنت الطرق المستخدمة لجمع المعلومات ما يلي: الملاحظات الشخصية والمقابلات شبه المنظمة مع مجموعات عمرية مختلفة (الأطفال والبالغين) ومسح الموقع وعلوم الكمبيوتر والتحليل العمراني.

ولتحقيق فهم متعمق، تم اختيار دراسة حالة حي يقع في موقع استراتيجي مجاور لمدينة نابلس القديمة ويسمى حي رأس العين. حيث تبدأ الدراسة بتحليل التطور الحضري المترولوجي للمنطقة بما يتماشى مع التوسع السكاني والحضري في مدينة نابلس. ثم تقوم بدراسة المستويات المختلفة

للشكل الحضري (الكثـل/ قطع الأرضي، وأشكال المباني والارتفاعات، وأنماط الشوارع، واستخدامات الأرضي)، من أجل الوصول إلى رؤية واضحة حول إمكانات المناطق الحضرية المتاحة للتفاعل الاجتماعي والمشاكل التي تؤثر على تعزيز الأنشطة الاجتماعية للسكان.

تكشف الدراسة عن الاحتياجات الحقيقية للناس الذين يعيشون في حي رأس العين، وتقدم بعض الخرائط الذهنية المرسومة من قبل أطفال الحي والتي تعكس مطالبهم نحو تحسين ظروف المساحات الحضرية وتوفير أماكن مناسبة للعب. ومن ثم تختتم الرسالة بتوضيح الظروف الحضرية القائمة في رأس العين ومن ثم ترجمتها إلى إجراءات مقترحة واقعية يمكن تحقيقها وحلول عملية لتحسين ظروف حي رأس العين الحضرية وتكاملها، من أجل الحصول على بيئة حضرية متميزة تشجع الناس على الحياة الاجتماعية والتفاعلات في بيئة جيدة.

