

Architecture For The Poor An Experiment In Rural Egypt

Architecture For The Poor An Experiment In Rural Egypt Architecture for the Poor An Experiment in Rural Egypt Meta Discover a compelling story of architectural innovation in rural Egypt where simple sustainable designs are transforming lives Learn about the challenges successes and valuable lessons from this impactful experiment architecture for the poor sustainable architecture rural Egypt affordable housing community development social impact vernacular architecture participatory design sustainable materials climateresponsive design The relentless sun beat down on the dusty landscape of Upper Egypt Here amidst sprawling fields of cotton and sugarcane nestled humble mudbrick dwellings their faded ochre walls whispering stories of generations past These werent just houses they were the silent witnesses to a life etched in hardship a life where basic needs often outweighed aesthetic considerations This was the canvas upon which a groundbreaking experiment in architecture for the poor was about to unfold Our journey begins in a small village its name almost lost to the relentless sands of time We met Hassan a wizened old man with eyes that held the wisdom of a lifetime spent battling the elements and economic scarcity His home a testament to the limitations of traditional building practices was cramped poorly ventilated and vulnerable to the harsh desert winds It was a typical scenario mirrored in countless other villages across the region This wasnt simply a matter of aesthetics it was a matter of survival Poor housing directly contributed to health issues limited productivity and perpetuated a cycle of poverty The experiment spearheaded by a team of architects and social workers wasnt about imposing Western ideals onto a deeply rooted culture Instead it embraced a philosophy of participatory design recognizing the invaluable knowledge and resourcefulness of the local community The initial phase involved extensive consultations listening sessions where villagers shared their dreams anxieties and practical needs It was a powerful process bridging the gap between abstract architectural plans and the lived realities of the people One striking element that emerged from these conversations was the villagers deep understanding of their environment They instinctively understood the importance of passive 2 solar design maximizing natural light and ventilation to reduce reliance on energyintensive cooling systems This intuitive knowledge became a cornerstone of the new architectural approach The designs that eventually emerged were strikingly simple yet deeply effective Instead of relying on expensive imported materials the project embraced locally sourced resources Mud bricks a timehonored building material were reimaged By incorporating techniques learned from traditional builders and modern engineering principles the team created stronger more durable bricks with improved thermal insulation This resulted in houses that were significantly cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter substantially reducing energy costs The architecture was deeply integrated with the landscape Strategically placed courtyards provided shade and natural ventilation while carefully designed roof overhangs shielded the walls from the intense sun These werent just houses they were cleverly engineered microclimates perfectly adapted to the harsh desert conditions Remember Amina a young mother we met during our visit Her new home built as part of this project was a world away from her previous dwelling The spacious rooms were filled with light and a small garden carefully nurtured by her own hands added a touch of vibrant green to the otherwise arid landscape The transformation wasnt just physical it was emotional Amina spoke of a newfound sense of dignity and pride a feeling of empowerment that extended beyond the walls of her home This experiment wasnt without its challenges Securing funding was a constant struggle Traditional building practices had to be carefully balanced with the need for improved durability and safety And there were inevitable setbacks delays material shortages and the occasional unforeseen obstacle But the dedication of the team the unwavering support of the community and the tangible improvements in the villagers lives served as constant motivation The success of this project lies not just in the beautiful functional homes it created but in the underlying principles it demonstrated It was a testament to the power of collaborative design the importance of sustainable practices and the transformative potential of architecture when rooted in empathy and a deep understanding of the human condition Actionable Takeaways Embrace participatory design Involve the community in every stage of the project to ensure designs meet their actual needs and preferences 3 Prioritize locally sourced materials Reduce costs support local economies and minimize environmental impact by using readily available materials Focus on passive design strategies Optimize natural light ventilation and shading to reduce energy consumption and improve comfort Invest in capacity building Train local builders and artisans to ensure the sustainability of the project beyond the initial phase Promote community ownership Empower local communities to maintain and improve their homes fostering a sense of responsibility and pride FAQs 1 How was funding secured for this project The project relied on a mix of funding sources including grants from international organizations donations from private individuals and local government support A crucial aspect was demonstrating the projects longterm sustainability and potential for replication 2 What were the most significant challenges encountered during the project Challenges included securing consistent

funding coordinating with diverse stakeholders managing material supply chains and overcoming initial resistance to new building techniques from some community members 3 What specific technologies or innovations were employed The project focused on improving traditional techniques rather than introducing advanced technologies Key innovations involved optimizing mud brick production for strength and insulation and employing clever passive design strategies based on local climate knowledge 4 What is the longterm sustainability of the project The projects longterm sustainability hinges on the capacitybuilding component By training local builders the project ensures that skills and knowledge remain within the community allowing for future maintenance and construction Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are also crucial 5 Could this model be replicated in other contexts Absolutely The principles of participatory design locally sourced materials and passive design strategies are applicable in many contexts particularly in resourceconstrained environments The key is adapting the approach to the specific cultural environmental and economic realities of each location The success in rural Egypt provides a blueprint not a rigid template The fundamental lesson is about listening learning and collaborating building not just homes but resilient communities 4

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this volume based on recent fieldwork by distinguished specialists includes information on the changing economic situation in the countryside particularly after the owners and tenants law of 1992 along with the effects of structural adjustment on agriculture marketing and rural life several chapters address the declining trend of rural egyptians to emigrate other chapters examine changes in consumption patterns and health various rural social processes and the new lands being reclaimed in egypt s desert areas representations of the rural population in the media and in statistics and their own changing self image what emerges is a picture of a rural egypt that is full of life dramatically evolving and treading a delicate line between progress and impoverishment although nothing is typical of rural egypt these papers provide a revealing account of the struggles and rewards that characterize the egyptian countryside today contributors mohamed hassan abdel aal lila abu lughod soraya altorki kamran asdar ali kirsten haugaard bach ray bush donald cole nicholas hopkins fran[?] ois ireton sohair mehanna g[?] nter meyer timothy mitchell mohamed m mohieddin detlef m[?] ller mahn hans christian korsholm nielsen malak rouchdy reem saad hania sholkamy james toth kirsten westergaard peter winch ahmed zayed

what emerges is a picture of a rural egypt that is full of life dramatically evolving and treading a delicate line between progress and impoverishment

have you ever wondered 1 who built the pyramids of egypt and who are their descendents today 2 why does the author challenge the great greek historian herodotus by auguring that egypt is more a gift from the fellahin than a gift of the Nile 3 what great event happened in the early 1960s that completely changed the life of the peasants of egypt 4 why did the peasants fellahin of egypt not

engage in a massive revolt in the 1990s when the government allowed landowners to reclaim their land that the peasants had been cultivating for over 30 years 5 do you know the story of the village of dinshaway that precipitated a national crisis and that eventually forced great britain to leave egypt after over fifty years of colonial rule 6 are the villagers of egypt prone to violence or to submissiveness and what does that tell us about the future of egypt 7 which farmers in the world have the highest yields in wheat rice and corn 8 are the villagers of egypt favorable to the islamic extremist or more favorable to some form of democracy based upon moderate islam 9 where do villagers say they want to live if they could live any place in the world 10 why did a friend email the author on september 12 2012 and tell him please tell the american people that the egyptians they see storming the american embassy do not represent the people of egypt they are mostly a misguided minority of people who see the world through clouded glasses of hatred and bigotry provoked and misinformed by extremists who share an agenda that is unislamic violent and destructive for egypt's future dr james mayfield professor of middle east studies since 1967 has been studying the villages of egypt as a student professor researcher trainer manager and consultant for over 40 years this is a very comprehensive multi disciplinary study of the rural egypt this book presents chapters on the history the culture the local government system village schools and health care systems the agricultural systems causes and solutions for extreme poverty the challenge of establishing a civil society in egypt and what prospects there are or democracy in egypt each chapter includes a short narration story that brings the existence and culture of the egyptian villagers to life through short but rich examples of how the egyptian peasants fellahin live work and survive in a world filled with challenges problems but also opportunities and hope for the future

research paper postgraduate from the year 2011 in the subject sociology culture technology nations grade none university of alexandria college of agriculture course rural sociology language english abstract the findings of a sample study of 257 villages in egypt illustrate the salience of social and cultural variables in shaping community level of development existence and efficiency of organizations in egypt ranked at the top of predictors with regard to direct causal effect on village development level these organizations include the local governance unit the social unit including a government directed community development association village bank schools mosques and churches agricultural cooperative veterinary unit youth and women associations also governmentally directed health units or village hospital police unit security organization etc a very small indirect effect is also played by these organizations through their being a small part of a complex titled here social engineering or social technology such complex includes in addition to the above mentioned organizations the degree of organizational coordination proportion of population employed in village organizations and degree of organizational variety

this book joins four papers prepared in the framework of the egypt inequality study financed by the world bank the first paper prepared by sherine al shawarby reviews the studies on inequality in egypt since the 1950s with the double objective of illustrating the importance attributed to inequality through time and of presenting and compare the main published statistics on inequality to our knowledge this is the first time that such a comprehensive review is carried the second paper prepared by branko milanovic turns to the global and spatial dimensions of inequality the objective here is to put egypt inequality in the global context and better understand the origin and size of spatial inequalities within egypt using different forms of measurement across regions and urban and rural areas the egyptian society remains deeply divided across space and in terms of welfare and this study unveils some of the hidden features of this inequality the third paper prepared by paolo verme studies facts and perceptions of inequality during the period 2000 2009 the period that preceded the egyptian revolution the objective of this part is to provide some initial elements that could explain the apparent mismatch between inequality measured with household surveys and inequality aversion measured by values surveys no such study has been carried out before in the middle east and north africa mena region and this seemed a particular important and timely topic to address in the light of the unfolding developments in the arab region the fourth paper prepared by sahar el tawila may gadallah and enas ali a el majeed assesses the state of poverty and inequality among the poorest villages of egypt the paper attempts to explain the level of inequality in an effort to disentangle those factors that derive from household abilities from those factors that derive from local opportunities this is the first time that such study is conducted in egypt the book should be of interest to any observer of the political and economic evolution of the arab region in the past few years and to poverty and inequality specialists that wish to have a deeper understanding of the distribution of incomes in egypt and other countries in the mena region

working into the middle class crisis of supply in every household provocative consumption parasites the resurgence of middle class islam

this book uses both microeconomic theory and social and political analysis to show how the interaction of social classes technical change government policy and the international and state systems

have shaped egypt s agricultural development

johnson s book provides the rich and untold story of the architect behind egypt s inspired and highly successful social reform policies the rural social centers of the german educated ahmed hussein were the cornerstones of his project initiatives and these centers integrated social services through complete community participation his programs flourished and were used as models for rural development projects worldwide after the 1952 revolution hussein s influence waned and he refused to participate in gamal abd el nasir s development schemes abd el nasr s eventual obliteration of hussein s reform projects led to hussein s resignation although he never again became involved in public life hussein created a school of thought in egypt that endures today johnson chronicles current efforts of several organizations to revive hussein s methods and reform agenda

this book examines the character and consequences of egypt s economic reform and structural adjustment programme of 1991 along with the second stage of reforms in 1996 it contributes to the debates underpinning the political economy of economic reform and agricultural reform

disparity in growth rates between upper and lower egypt has been dramatic while national per capita income averaged 3 percent growth annually beginning in the mid 1990s and growth rates in metropolitan areas approached 8 percent upper egypt experienced negative per capita growth rates during the same period by 2001 upper egypt accounted for 37 percent of the country s population but 65 percent of the population lived below the poverty line yet rural development programs under similar conditions throughout egypt recently experienced some significant successes the most notable success was a participatory approach to rural development planning introduced in the framework of the 1994 national program for integrated rural development known as shorouk or sunrise

this volume explores major theoretical and empirical themes in the study of the economic history of the middle east despite the relative neglect of economic history in middle eastern studies this book makes a case for its importance as a discipline of study on the one hand it shows promise in illuminating the economic base of historical trends and events on the other it can elucidate the historical foundations of economic continuity and change the chapters employ an array of theoretical and methodological approaches and ultimately demonstrate how economics and history along with political economy complement each other in studying the middle east among the substantive topics explored are the trajectories of the arab spring institutional change and economic development in the early ottoman empire the destructive effects of the reordering property rights in iraq by the american led occupation authority the evolution of the political economy of the islamic republic of iran and the determinants of movements in the yields of egyptian and ottoman sovereign debt following political and economic crises in the 19th and early 20th centuries the book will be of interest to scholars and students of economic history political economy and the middle east

research report on food policy and the food subsidy and rationing system in egypt considers the origins of the system food security structure commodity marketing channels and principal commoditys subsidised examines food policy decision making and regional level economic administration as well as distributional and nutritional implications in urban areas and rural areas discusses current food policy trends bibliography diagrams statistical tables

part i of this report discusses the short and medium term growth prospects for countries in the middle east and north africa mena the region is expected to grow at a subdued rate of 0.6 percent in 2019 rising to 2.6 percent in 2020 and 2.9 percent in 2021 the growth forecast for 2019 is revised down by 0.8 percentage points from the april 2019 projection mena s economic outlook is subject to substantial downside risks most notably intensified global economic headwinds and rising geopolitical tensions part ii argues that promoting fair competition is key for mena countries to complete the transition from an administered to a market economy part ii first examines current competition policies in mena countries and to promote fair competition calls for strengthening competition law and enforcement agencies it also calls for corporatizing state owned enterprises promoting the private sector and creating a level playing field between them any moves to reform mena economies would be aided by professional management of public assets which could tap into a new source of national wealth

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