TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Re-reading Urban History, Cosmic Heroes in Traditional Communities.

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present via pre-recorded film (with/a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
This paper discusses the rule of vernacular thinking in urbanism through history. It is the vernacular thinking that creates a unique sense of place that forces the individual to recognize his own space as a sacred one and attaches it to all the physical and nonphysical surroundings. It creates a unique relation between people and land with a fundamental sense of belonging that today’s world severely lacks. It is the duty of an individual within a local culture to “belong” and to “dwell”, on one hand, and to be connected and stay in “harmony” within the nature and a sacred higher being on the other hand. That forms the homogenous settlements the urban world misses today. The paper aims to focus on the rule of “the sacred Hero” through history in working as a center of Urban orientations in traditional communities. How it influences the settlement’s development and how it can be transformed to an urban language that
can be used in the world today. It was noted that in traditional/ vernacular communities, there is a consistently repetitive pattern of mythological/ folk heroes and saints with their astonishing journeys integrate themselves in the urban development. Their tombs/ shrines develop new cultural and social centers where several social and cultural activities take place. They create new centers for all future urban orientations and define the form of the urban settlements and their boundaries. This paper will use an analytical methodology to analyze several case studies from the world vernacular urbanism. Those case studies were selected on the basis that each one of them has folk heritage of a sacred hero that influences its urban form and orientation. It aims to reach urban guidelines in dealing with the urban development in traditional communities today to reach a certain level of cultural sustainability.

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

I am an Egyptian researcher in the field of vernacular architecture who is currently lives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. I had my bachelor’s degree from Architectural Department, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo university in 2003 my master’s degree (2007) and PhD (2014) are from the same university. Both my master’s and PhD theses focus on the vernacular architecture and sustainability. I taught many academic courses for undergraduate architectural students in Architectural Department, Faculty of Engineering, 6th of October University, Egypt and Effat college of Architecture and Design, Effat University, Jeddah Saudi Arabia. I have two published papers on the topic of Vernacular interpretations in world urbanism and one accepted and in-process paper on the concepts of Public Spaces and resilient urban approaches for the less and least developing countries.