

SAMPLE TEXT

...The urban transformation plan for Abu Dhabi forecasts a population of 3 million in 2030. According to Davidson, the current strategy of urban development is supported by a public investment of over 200 billion dollars (p. 106). According to Easterling (2009), “The Structure Plan expects hotel rooms to double within the first five years, reaching 21,000 units” (page 6).

The islands surrounding Abu Dhabi have been assigned tourism related functions. Urban development is supposed to be guided by ten policy statements in the Abu Dhabi 2030 Urban Structure Framework Plan. For instance [1.].

Financial functions and government offices should be concentrated in the Central Business District and in the Capital District, where it is explicitly mentioned that the use of international iconic and branded architecture is to express local identity. Even if the Plan includes land use regulation statements, it does not have any statutory power. Amin (2010, p. 77) finds that each map in the document contains the following note, “Under no circumstances should these plans be construed as final directives for specific sites or areas.” In the meantime, referring to infrastructural and environmental invariants, urban development simply happens by dividing the land into precincts with general use, density and typology features and assigning them to a few developers. Nevertheless, Adhan (2008) argues that:

((The mega-development master plans are juxtaposed according to specific interests and, in fact, contradicting the statements about new urban expansions to be gradual and continuous with existing areas, some of these are destined for disinvestment.))

In this temporary development framework, a unitary vision is missing. [2.].

The actual planning process leaves little influence to the planning powers, established by Decree 23 in 2007 (Peterson & Smith, 2009, p. 5). The Urban Planning Council (UPC) has the mission of fostering a public–private dialog regarding the urban vision. However, the number and dimension of the dozens of ongoing megaprojects has been an overwhelming workload for the one hundred officers. After particular parcels are designated to key players in the real estate market and relevant basic development principles are deduced from the Structure Framework Plan [3.].

The UPC negotiates directly with developers...

References

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