

# Readings in Contemporary Construction Technology and Management

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Muhammad Abu Eusuf



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# READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Edited by:

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# ISLAMIC DOMESTIC COURTYARDS AS AN AVENUE TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

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## ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of Islamic domestic courtyards is a cultural, environmental, structural and, above all, religious one. This is so because it is the message of Islam that presided, by and large, over the inception and proliferation of what later became known as the Islamic domestic courtyard. Indeed, there were many other factors at play, however, Islam with the hierarchy of its standards and morals was the sole force that furnished the Islamic domestic courtyard with both its essence and identity, rendering the indigenous geographical, climatic, cultural and other inherited factors and features rather ancillary. This paper discusses the notion of Islamic domestic courtyards as a field for realizing a peaceful coexistence between the environment and the users of Muslim courtyard houses. The paper concludes that Islamic domestic courtyards play a great role in enforcing right at home the remarkable position of Islam on preserving and sustaining the environment. Once realized at home, the same environmental strategies can easily be transferred outside the house boundaries to the rest of life's segments. Principally, the paper focuses on the four following issues: 1) Understanding the concept of the Islamic domestic courtyard; 2) Islamic domestic courtyards as a source of environmental awareness; 3) Bringing nature to Islamic domestic courtyards and integrating it into the latter's functions; and 4) Domestic courtyards and Muslims' interaction with space.

*Keywords:* Islamic Domestic Courtyards, Islam, Muslims, Environment

## INTRODUCTION

The following underlying factors: Islamic emphasis on the subject of privacy: the right to it and respect for it; Islamic remarkably delightful and optimistic view of reality which not only is man advised but also with divine guidance asked to enjoy; the