

# 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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## **THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY IN ISLAMIC HOUSING: SOME OBSERVATIONS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper briefly examines some aspects of the relationship between the Islamic spirituality and the phenomenon of the house. The issues raised and discussed in the paper revolve around the following three themes: 1) the importance of the house in Islam; 2) the factors that make a house Islamic; and 3) the role of the house in creating a healthy and productive social environment. The paper concludes that in Islam the house is a place to rest, relax the body and mind, and enjoy legitimate worldly delights. Within the house realm we also worship, teach, learn and propagate the message of Islam. The Islamic house is a microcosm of Islamic culture and civilization in that individual and families bred and nurtured therein constitute the fundamental units of the Islamic community. Central to the standards by which a house may be categorized as Islamic are the holiness and purity of its philosophy, vision and utility, accompanied by convenience, efficiency, safety, awareness of the surroundings, and anything else that Islam reckons as indispensable for living a decent and accountable family life. The overall physical appearance is therefore inferior and matters only when it comes into complete conformity with the said criteria. Thus, designers, planners, builders and final users alike, ought to perceive the house phenomenon as a sheer means, an instrument, a carrier of the spiritual, not a goal itself. Certainly, it is the tawhidic spirit of Islam (the idea of God's oneness) that serves as the sole force that furnishes the Islamic house with both its essence and identity, integrating itself with and visibly holding sway over a number of indigenous and newly emerging geographical, climatic, social, economic and technical factors and features.

*Keywords:* The House, Islam, Muslims, the Functions of the House, Islamic Teachings