THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) AND URBANIZATION OF MADINAH

This book identifies and examines some principles of Islamic urban planning and development which the Prophet (pbuh) under the aegis of revelation bequeathed to the subsequent Muslim generations. Central to the book are some vital city planning and development issues as advanced by the Islamic perceptions of life, truth, the world, man, space and time, and which the young Muslim mind was then intensively acquainting itself with. The issues discussed are: the philosophy of the Islamic city; the mosque institution; provision of communal facilities and services for all; the relationship between spirituality and development; peaceful co-existence with the environment; housing; the marketplace; and open spaces. By exploring these subjects, the strength and soundness of the fundamentals of the first Muslim community clearly come into sight, as does the visionary disposition of the Prophet (pbuh) to development, leadership, sustainability and management.

Dr. Spahic Omer, a Bosnian currently residing in Malaysia, is an Associate Professor at the Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia. He studied in Bosnia, Egypt and Malaysia. His research interests cover Islamic history, culture and civilization, as well as the history and philosophy of Islamic-built environment. He can be reached at spahico@yahoo.com; his blog is at www.medinanet.org.
To My Wife, Children, Parents, and Parents-in-law

Contents

Introduction.................................................................................................................. vii

Chapter 1

Some Observations on the Phenomenon of the Islamic City (Masjihah).......................... 1

From Jurabeh to Medinah.............................................................................................. 1
The Islamic City: A Microcosm of Islamic Civilization.................................................. 6
The Islamic City, A Place for Total Submission to God.................................................. 9
The Islamic City and Spiritual Indolence....................................................................... 11
The Islamic City and the Societal Dimension of Islam................................................... 14
La al-akhir wa la Dinar (There is Neither Inflicting Nor Returning of Harm)............... 18
What Makes a City Islamic?......................................................................................... 24
The Islamic City and the Notion of Ensuring Good and Forbidding Evil (al-burah fi al-ma'rif wa al-halaq an al-Mahsul)............................................................... 29

Chapter 2

The Mosque Inclination as a Community Development Center................................. 35
The Need for the Mosque............................................................................................ 35
Spirituality and the Creation of Mosques...................................................................... 44
Some Advantages of the Original Design of the Prophet's Mosque........................... 49
Function-form Relationship......................................................................................... 51
The Significance of the Prophet's Mosque.................................................................... 55
The Main Roles and Functions of the Prophet's Mosque............................................. 68
The Prophet's Mosque as a Centre for Religious Activities....................................... 68
The Prophet's Mosque as a Learning Center............................................................... 71
The Prophet's Mosque as the Seat of the Prophet's Government............................... 75
The Prophet's Mosque as a Welfare and Charity Centre............................................ 80