The Value of Less and Small
Transforming Metropolitan Doha into Connected, Human and Resilient Urban Settlements

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Introduction

• Approaching the Post Carbon Paradigm.
• Qatar realized the vitality of the transformation from resources to knowledge economy.
• The study sheds light on different urban planning strategies and policies adopted:
  – Deconstructing the Metropolitan.
  – Stop creating a mega city with an image which resonates with typical global cities.
  – A more sustainable, resilient, knowledge-based and decentralized urbanity.
Small is Beautiful (1973)

A more sustainable economic model.
The legacy of Small is Beautiful is that it continues to shape attitudes to natural capital.
The Concept of Small States with Huge Aspiration and Influence

Size Doesn’t Matter

QATAR
SMALL STATE, BIG POLITICS
The Narrative of Qatar: Qatar’s Context and Territorial Background

An aerial photo captured in mid-forties showing Doha’s waterfront, AL Jessra Area, the cemetery and Al Khat East (Source: Ministry of Municipality and MME).
The patterns of accelerated growth in Doha linked to uncontrolled urban sprawl which created a major challenge for the city's urban future.
The iconic development in the real-estate sector which characterized the pace of development in the beginning of the third millennium as a reflection of globalization.
New Paradigm in Doha’s Urbanism Emerging
Less is Beautiful: Strategies to move beyond the Metropolitan
Deconstructing the Metropolitan: Introducing Hierarchical Urban Centers
Towards a Holistic Urban Planning Framework

Qatar national spatial strategy 2032 where Metropolitan Doha is subdivided using the concept of hierarchical urban centers (Source: QNDF, MME).
The Spatial Strategy Concept 2032 indicating the location and hierarchy of urban centers.
The Transformation from Car-dependent Sprawled Urbanity to Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

The post-oil urbanism suggests a paradigm shift towards walkability and transit-oriented development in Doha. Metro is introduced as a main form of transportation in future Doha.
A Move Towards Transit Oriented Development

- Reducing traffic congestion.
- Reducing carbon footprint.
- Promoting healthy lifestyle.
- Encouraging walkability.
- Based on mixed uses.
- Enhancing social life.
- Best community interaction.
The Greater Doha Bicycle Network is based on three categories of Bicycle movement; Green: recreation, Blue: major street transportation and Red: local street transportation (Source: Ministry of Transportation).
Encouraging Walkability and Livability
The Urban Design Level
Qatari Cities from Car-oriented to People-oriented Contexts
Scenarios for Connectivity

The relation between metro stations and mixed use urban centers as a strategy to decentralize Doha and move towards small and compacted form of urbanity.
The different levels of connectivity which allow for an integrated and not fragmented urbanism.
Smart Revitalization: Msheireb, Doha
Creating Pedestrian friendly environments to encourage the shift towards walkability and vibrant public spaces (Source: Msherib Properties).
Doha as a Network of KBUD Centers

The new cultural centers help Doha in establishing a new form of Knowledge-based Urban Development (KBUD); the case of Museum of Islamic Art and National Museum of Qatar.
Balanced KBUD: The Case of Education City
The Dream and Psot-Dream: FIFA 2022
The Supreme Committee for Delivery & LEGACY
Stadium as a Catalyst for a Decentralized Urban Development
Inclusive Urbanism: Cities for All

The city spaces are planned to accommodate the different social groups and emphasize the social cohesion.
Conclusions

The Future plans of Doha are articulated to create a **paradigm shift in city’s urbanity**.

The shift is based on introducing **qualitative changes and new perceptions** about the role of the built environment, historical urban areas, mixed use development, car-free planning and knowledge based urban development.

The Planning of future Doha manages to adopt comprehensive inclusivity, which made the **city for all** a reality in all of its connected spaces.

It is a success story, which resulted from adopting alternative planning approach, considering the environment, and more importantly allowing local communities and stakeholders to participate and gain an endless ownership.
Thank you

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