

Review of: "A Conceptual Review of Discontinuity in Urban Design: The Morphological and Ethical Dimensions"

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The article presents a very comprehensive and rich conceptual review by building on a multi-disciplinary structure and arriving to a synthesis of concepts in urban design. I must admit that this is a very valuable effort, which potentially stimulate a rich debate about the current discourses. Yet, such a broad conceptual review comes with consequences in a rather weak demonstration of the contextual elements. The urban interventions are often the result of reactions to a former political agenda (either breaking from the past to neglect the values or in the form of appropriation to legitimize its action). The article needs to raise strong arguments in discussing the dynamics tapped into current situation. Demonstrating the chronological development of different approaches in the contemporary Arab-Islamic Urban design is indeed useful to provide a historical background and to understand how it changed in due course. As this is the most important part for the readers for bridging theory and practice, the conceptual framework should be applied carefully to support such arguments. As the author(s) explained "successful urban development requires a deep understanding of the city's heritage and existing urban rules before implementing changes that bring about discontinuity in a way that enhances the urban environment". It should enable the reader to understand the city's heritage as proposed, however we are reading the city only on the discursive level which is a limitation. Despite the loss of focus, I believe it is a valuable effort to draw such an extensive conceptualization. As always, there is room for improvement.