



## A STUDY OF HOUSING IDENTITY IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS IN JORDAN: AL-WAHDAT REFUGEE CAMP AS A CASE STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

Amman, the capital of Jordan, shares the third world phenomenon of urban growth characterized by spontaneous settlements. Jordan's migrants, however, include refugees from the 1948 and 1967 conflicts in official and unofficial camps as well as rural-urban migrants and former nomads drawn to the capital. The mixture of settlements resulting is made up of one-quarter of the houses in Amman containing half of the total population.

The poorest of these settlements are illegal, either because they have no land title, or because the structure is unauthorized or they are outside the control of the authorities and therefore receive no services. The houses have been built largely by squatters themselves, their illegality cannot be resolved and enforce their impermanence.

The approach for treatment is to improve conditions by introducing technology to construction, and improve design. Architects are more concerned with the values of the response over the last ten years shows the need for a different approach.

We believe that housing the urban poor can only be considered through the people's experience, and by taking a total view of people's relationship to their environment, and their social, culture, and economic developments.

The study investigates the effect of cultural influences of the informal settlements, especially the refugee camps, upon the identity of Amman city, and how these settlements evolve from temporary squatter houses to contemporary homes. It follows the evolution of camps' migrants through recording the statistical information and analyzing a case study for one of migrant's settlements, East-Wahdat camp, in Jordan's capital, Amman.

This contained the hypothesis that housing is an environmental issue related to the society in a human scale of settlement in which the community can control its environment, develop its housing conditions, and evaluate its needs.

**KEYWORDS:** Housing identity, Refugee Settlements, Jordan, Amman, Refugee Issues