

**VISUAL EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS FAÇADE IN OMAR
AL-MUKHTAR STREET OF TRIPOLI CITY**

By

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**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the degree requirement for the Master of
Science in Built Environment in the Faculty of Architecture and Built
Environment**

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Environment

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This study aimed to examine the historical buildings façade, particularly in the Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, a historical district, constituting a core component of the city image. The historical district has many visual elements, among them being the façade, which expresses the architectural features of the building. The issue in building façade is the evaluation of portrayal of visual environmental characteristics. Hence, evaluating the building façade in a historical district and its direct impact on the historical images is crucial. More specifically, a historical area located in Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, in Tripoli, Libya was the focus of this study. The study addressed the issue of lack of harmony among the shapes, colors, decorations and architectural styles of the historic buildings façade that influenced the image of the historical district. In particular, the first objective was to examine the evaluation of the public of the building façade representing the historical images of the location chosen. The second objective aimed to investigate the architectural elements and characteristics influencing the evaluation of the public of the historical images based on the façade of buildings located in the Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, Tripoli, Libya. The third objective aimed to identify the visual elements influencing the historical images based on the building façade of Omar Al-Mukhtar Street from the perception of the public. This study employed a questionnaire-based survey for data collection. The respondents comprised of visitors who frequently visit the area and those who are inclined to complete the questionnaire. Both content analysis and inferential analysis were

conducted to analyze data. Based on the results, facades that obtained the top mean scores, were deemed to be representatives of the historical images and such facades are harmonious arches, columns, pilasters, ornament and bright-colored materials. Added to the above, other factors that were found to enhance historical image of facades were found to be cleanliness, employment of suitable architectural details, legibility, coherence and the harmony in using repetitive elements. Also, architectural elements namely, architectural style, color, shape and material of facades and urban elements namely, the historical and modern building harmonious combination along with street furniture affected the evaluation of the images of historical building façade. The study findings are expected to help urban designer and planner circles to keep the evaluation of the public of historical building façade into consideration.

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APPROVAL

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I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations that have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur or at any other institutions.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Presently, the image of the city, particularly their façade has attracted consideration with the renovation and development of a city. It seems that the image of the city is developed based on the assessment of the public concerning the graphic architecture and city characteristics in façade construction. The façade of Libyan buildings, specifically those that are located in historic areas have unique traits in terms of their varying designs, form, material, future that is characteristic of Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, Tripoli. Based on public assessment, the present study explains the architectural and urban components impacting the appearance of the city. Previous quantitative studies of this calibre used construction landscapes and city imagery to determine and measure public evaluation of the city image using a questionnaire. According to the results, design, architectural style, color and shape are significant components of the city's image and they should be considered in the future development and renovation of the historic areas.

1.2 Background of the Study

This study is focused on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street, in Tripoli. It aims to examine the public evaluation of historical building façade in the mentioned street. Robust building façade that featured both positive and adverse historical images are noted and explained based on the public assessments. The research also aims to determine the architectural and urban elements that impact the historical image's façade. The urban elements consists of distance between buildings, harmony between historical and modern buildings, building's purpose, street furniture, sculpture usage, street measurement, neighbouring shop design, signage, information plaque and traffic. This research indirectly pursues the dream of Tripoli city of developing historical districts

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