

Cities and Urban Spaces / The image of the city

As cities are built by and for human civilisations, thus socio-economic and cultural changes in society leave evidence of their impact on the forms and types of public and private spaces contained within them. These sites, individual buildings and their connections # the streets, squares, parks and gardens # embody messages about the life of individuals as well as the collective community. As centres for the dissemination of knowledge and science and where culture, trade, commerce, power and poverty are diffused, the density of sites for worship are concentrated more in urban formations than they are in rural settlements. The period spanning the 19th century to the early 20th century is a milestone in Arab#Ottoman and European interaction: as a fast-changing modern Europe was emerging, so methods, materials and techniques from there were introduced to the Arab and Ottoman world. This encounter significantly changed the appearance of Arab and Ottoman cities; in some instances creating so-called colonial architecture built by European architects employing their own architectural languages, or architecture built by local architects that absorbed a selection of local traditions and interpreted Western architectural vocabulary to suit the local tradition. In line with this, an indigenous architectural modernity was introduced to Arab and Ottoman cities that applied Western styles and techniques to local traditions.



Working Number:	LB 104
Name:	Photograph of Bab Idris street
Holding Museum:	Beirut Municipality
Date:	1919
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	The presence of a new-style housing structure is significant, as are the additional city gates and the modern tramlines.



Working Number:	IT1 097
Name:	Alexandria: The Consuls' Square Rebuilt
Holding Museum:	Italian Geographical Society (SGI)
Date:	First years of the 20th century
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	The square is testament to the building activities of Isma'il Pasha under whose patronage residences for foreign consuls were built around the square. The square became the heart of Ottoman diplomacy with Europeans and a hub of Alexandria's trade (the Bourse). Focusing on the square's European-style arrangement and residences, it was designed by a French architect to evoke the style of Europe and the statue in the background is by a French sculptor.



Working Number:	LB 102
Name:	Postcard of Khan Antoun Bey Square
Holding Museum:	Al-Mashreq – Levant
Date:	1889
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	This square is a significant example for the West's encounter with local life and traditions: the offices for trade were located on the ground- and first floors near the harbour; foreign consulates were accommodated on the upper floors and were able to make use of an inner courtyard, which in the style of

the traditional khan-system, they could use for parking their carriages and resting their horses.



Working Number: TR2 020
Name: Dolmabahçe Mosque and Square
Holding Museum: Pera Museum
Date: Late 19th century
Materials: Albumen Paper
Curator Justification: A European-style square where tramlines and carriages, landscape architecture, European-style buildings and a mosque are all evidence of the historic-cum-modernist vocabulary of public space.



Working Number: TN 086
Name: Statue of Cardinal Lavignerie
Holding Museum: Institut Supérieur d'Histoire Contemporaine de la Tunisie
Date: 19th century
Materials: Paper
Curator Justification: A European-style figurative statue stands prominently in a public square. The buildings around the square suggest how the traditional Arab#Ottoman architectural style was absorbed by the contemporary European style.



Working Number: LB 045
Name: The Tell Clock Tower
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1906
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The clock tower, which was a new addition to the skyline in Arab and Ottoman cities, symbolically marked the importance of the daily routine in the ever-burgeoning, more industrialised world of trade and commercial activity.



Working Number: SA 001
Name: Al-Madina al-Munawwara Station
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1908
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Railways and railway stations were the focal point of transport networks and the city.



Working Number: LB 064
Name: Tripoli railway station
Holding Museum: -
Date: 1911
Materials: -

Curator Justification: Tripoli Railway Station comprises elements that are familiar in the local architectural tradition and others that are borrowed from modern European architecture.



Working Number: TR2 008

Name: The Istanbul Main Post Office

Holding Museum: -

Date: 1903–1909

Materials: -

Curator Justification: The Post Office became the landmark of the new era. Istanbul's main Post Office was designed by local architect Vedat Tek in the First National Style of Ottoman architecture and was constructed between 1903 and 1909.



Working Number: LB 061

Name: National Evangelical Church of Beirut

Holding Museum: -

Date: 1848

Materials: -

Curator Justification: Christian places of worship are important elements in the structure of Arab and Ottoman cities. The style of this church belongs with the European Gothic Revival, but refers symbolically to the era of the Crusades.
