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3.3.1 Geometric-Form Layers of the City; 3.3.2 Historical Evolution; 3.3.3 Mega-Nizam and Nizams of the City; 3.3.4 Simultaneous Presence of Nizams; 3.4 Isfahan Perceived from Inside; 3.4.1 Why this Route?; 3.4.2 The Journey; 3.4.3 Revealing but Hiding; 4 Towards a New Terminology; 4.1 'Islamic City' and the Concept of Labyrinth; 4.1.1 Isfahan: a Labyrinth-like City?; 4.1.2 Isfahan: a Labyrinthine City?; 4.1.3 Is an 'Islamic City' Labyrinth-like or Labyrinthine?; 4.2 Complexity in the City; 4.3 Towards a New Terminology; 4.3.1 The term 'Hezar-Too'; 4.3.2 Different Types of Hezar-Too; 4.4 Isfahan, the City of Hezar-Too; Bibliography

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## Sommario/riassunto

Somaiyeh Falahat investigates the spatial and morphological logic of pre-modern Middle Eastern and North African cities, so-called "Islamic cities". She bases her argument on the fact that the city, and consequently its form and structure, similar to other human products, have deep roots in the thought-structure of the people. Thus, to know such places properly, one has to refer to this life-world and use it as a structure to observe the city. This approach aims at opening new levels of understanding of the city by grasping indigenous concepts and structures; it puts forward claims for the possibility of a new method of analysis. The author studies the historic city of Isfahan as the case study and suggests that an indigenous term, Hezar-Too, can explain the complexity of the city, which has been interpreted as labyrinthine and maze-like, accounting for the essence of the city and its form in an appropriate way. Looking at the city from this new point of view can help in observing it in its context and subsequently in discovering its real character.

Contents

The Model of "Islamic City"    The Idea of Labyrinth    Discovering the City    Towards a New Terminology    Target Groups    Researchers and students in the fields of architecture and history of urban development particularly with a focus on the Middle Eastern-North African cities    Architects, historian and planner of urban development    About the Author    Somaiyeh Falahat is a senior researcher and lecturer based at Technische Universität Berlin.

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