



**Sidon: A Mediterranean City with
A Testimony of History**

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Sidon is distinguished with its extended historical civilization. Moreover it is the homeland of the three monotheistic religions, and because of its strategic location between the three continents ,it was the transformation spine of old Syrian civilization with the Babylonian , Sumero- Akkadian and Assyrian civilization in the East and the Egyptian civilization in the South-West to the people of the universe.

The study provides a brief review on the rapid urban growth faced by the Historic city of Saida. The historic city of Sidon is, in fact, a group of towns built at successive historical times.

The Urban heritage is the true presentation between the human being and the surrounding environment, the handicrafts and the artistic value, which had been improved with the contributions of Sidon citizens, out breaking the balanced meaning and form of the Heritage, integrated with the loyalty for traditions and habits; that all had given the urban heritage in Sidon its distinguished identity in the formation of the urban tissue with designs expressing the scientific knowledge and artistic skill, which gave the heritage this unique identity.

The outbreak of civil war in Lebanon in 1975 had multiple consequences for the city's economic, demographic and physical character, whose impact can still be felt today.

The development of the old city of Sidon represents an important model of the ancient urbanization and civil planning in Lebanon in particular and the east in general.

The development must be followed side by side with the process of conservation of cultural heritage in order to resuscitate life on full scale to the historic area of Sidon which constitutes a true conservatory of civilizations of the Mediterranean and has always promoted and enriched the minds and souls of mankind all over the world.

Keywords:

Coastal centre- Mediterranean civilization- Sidon Architecture -Unique identity.