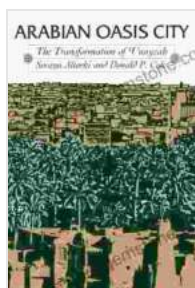


The Transformation of Unayzah: A Case Study in Modern Middle East Urbanism

Unayzah, a city in central Saudi Arabia, has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent decades, from a traditional oasis town to a modern urban center. This transformation has been driven by a complex interplay of factors, including the region's oil-fueled economic development, the influence of modern architecture and planning, and the changing social and cultural dynamics of the city.



Arabian Oasis City: The Transformation of 'Unayzah (CMES Modern Middle East Series) by Soraya Altorki

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 286 pages



This article examines the transformation of Unayzah as a case study in modern Middle East urbanism. The article explores the factors that have shaped the city's development, and discusses the implications of these changes for the future of urban development in the region.

Oil-fueled economic development

The discovery of oil in Saudi Arabia in the mid-20th century had a profound impact on the country's economy and society. The oil-fueled economic boom led to a rapid increase in urban development, as cities such as Unayzah grew and expanded to accommodate the influx of new workers and residents.

In Unayzah, the oil-fueled economic development was particularly evident in the construction of new infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and schools. The city also saw a boom in the construction of new housing, as well as the development of new commercial and industrial areas.

Influence of modern architecture and planning

The transformation of Unayzah was also influenced by the of modern architecture and planning principles. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Saudi government hired foreign architects and planners to design and develop new cities and towns throughout the country. These architects and planners brought with them modern design ideas and planning principles, which were reflected in the new buildings and urban spaces that were built in Unayzah and other Saudi cities.

One of the most striking examples of modern architecture in Unayzah is the city's new mosque, which was built in the 1970s. The mosque is a massive, concrete structure with a distinctive minaret that dominates the city's skyline. The mosque is a symbol of the city's transformation, and it represents the influence of modern architecture on the development of Unayzah.

Changing social and cultural dynamics

The transformation of Unayzah has also been shaped by the changing social and cultural dynamics of the city. The oil-fueled economic boom led

to a rapid increase in the city's population, and this influx of new residents has brought with it a diversity of social and cultural values. The city has also become more connected to the rest of the world, and this has led to the adoption of new ideas and lifestyles.

One of the most significant social changes that has occurred in Unayzah is the increasing role of women in the city's workforce. In the past, women were traditionally confined to the home, but today they are increasingly taking on roles in education, healthcare, and other fields. This change is a reflection of the changing social and cultural values of the city, and it is a sign of the city's progress.

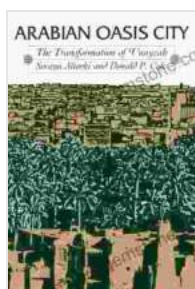
Implications for the future of urban development

The transformation of Unayzah has important implications for the future of urban development in the Middle East. The city's experience shows that it is possible to modernize a traditional city without destroying its cultural heritage. Unayzah has managed to retain its unique identity while also embracing the benefits of modern architecture and planning. This is a model that can be replicated in other cities in the region.

The transformation of Unayzah also shows the importance of involving local communities in the planning and development process. The city's residents were actively involved in the design and construction of the new mosque, and this helped to ensure that the mosque was a reflection of the community's values and needs. This is a model that can be replicated in other cities in the region, and it can help to ensure that urban development is sustainable and inclusive.

The transformation of Unayzah is a story of progress and change. The city has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a traditional oasis

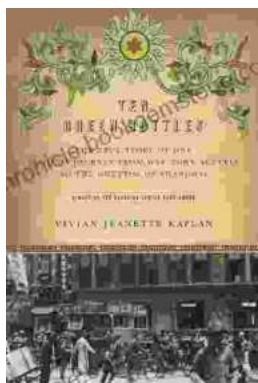
town, and it is now a thriving modern urban center. The city's transformation is a testament to the power of oil-fueled economic development, modern architecture and planning, and changing social and cultural dynamics. It is a model that can be replicated in other cities in the Middle East, and it can help to ensure that the region's cities are sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous.



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