

RURAL TO URBAN TRANSFORMATION – KARIMABAD, HUNZA

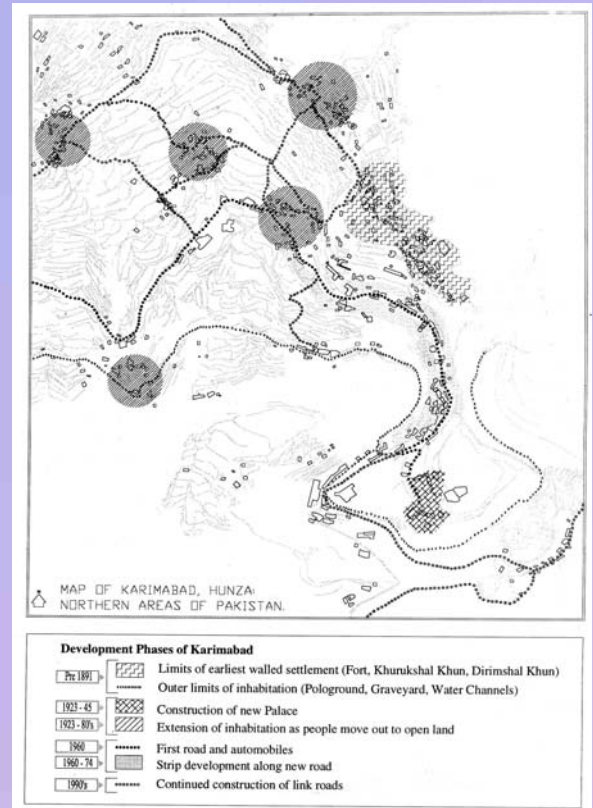
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ABSTRACT

Developments of the modern age have resulted in deterioration and destruction of traditional values. This is evident from the rapidly disappearing traditional environments.

The Northern Areas of Pakistan comprise of a region dominated by rugged mountainous terrain. Due to the geographical and physical constraints, the settlements here have developed mostly as isolated units. But in the recent past, development of a road network opened up these areas to the rest of the world, making them vulnerable to foreign influences that are rapidly penetrating into the life and norms of the people.

Change is inevitable in any growing community and it reflects on development of the physical form of built environment. This study aims at understanding the character of existing traditional built-environment, of the historic settlements in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, evaluate and analyze their evolution, identify the forces of change and finally reach to conclusions and propose determinants necessary for the survival of the traditional fabric. Karimabad, the most important and largest town of Hunza valley, is taken here as a case study.



EXCERPT FROM THE TEXT

A feature of the landscape is the terraced slopes where agricultural fields are marked by low rubble stone retaining walls. These walls are constructed by placing rounded field stones meticulously graded for size, with large boulders at the bottom and cobbles at the top. As agricultural land was precious, settlements tended to be very compact, tightly built and concise. Due to this fact the distinction between settled area and open farmlands was quite clear.

This environmental quality of Karimabad, is governed by vast green expanses, with small pockets of compact settlements in between. This dominant feature of terraced landscape gives the town its aesthetic appeal, which is a pleasure for the visitor.



Open ended and sprawling agricultural lands