

ABSTRACT

Islamabad represents Pakistan's first major postcolonial project, and one of the biggest new town developments in the sub-continent comparable to Chandigarh in India or Brasilia in Brazil. As a city built from scratch, Islamabad is one of the boldest and probably largest in scale Modernist experiments in planning, design, and architecture of the twentieth century.

Islamabad was conceived as an adequate model for capital building in a developing country, which guarantees rapid growth of the city. Scientifically speaking, the 'idea' of the new town is formalized in a plan prepared before the site is altered by the arrival of the first new residents. Once started, they are rapidly built to achieve 'critical mass' within a crucial initial time span.

This process is in sharp contrast to the genesis and evolution of the towns of an 'organic' or agglomerate type which emerge from pre-urban nuclei, and grow by a slow and sometimes disjointed process of uncoordinated actions, which is, mostly, the case in developing countries. To address this problem of urban development, C. A. Doxiadis (Greek Architect / Planner, 1913-1975) developed a unique concept based on the hypothesis that, traditional urban growth is dysfunctional because the core areas of the city must be continually renewed as the periphery expands outwards. Instead of expanding in all directions, cities should expand preferentially in one direction, creating a gradually widening linear city known as *dynametropolis* or **dynapolis**. Such cities, exemplified by the models of Islamabad in Pakistan and Tema in Ghana, facilitate continuing growth without the need to demolish and rebuild existing areas.

The paper intends to explore, generally, the historical development of Islamabad, major concepts of the plan, and its relevance and situation in the urbanistic field. Besides, an analysis is made of the way transformations have taken place. However, *the objective of the paper is to make an attempt at understanding the social structure of the city and, specifically, to comprehend the way cultural landscape of the city is emerging.*