



Alexandria University
Faculty of Fine Arts
Architecture Department

MINIMALSIM ARCHITECTURE INFILL IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

The following thesis contributes to the current state of knowledge on the visual fitness of new cotemporary infill buildings with historical context through understanding and applying the aesthetic fitness process. The thesis follows a classic mode of presentation: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Research Findings, Discussion and Conclusion. The process of designing contemporary infill in historical context is a sensitive design issue, as in the professional field it created debate between preservationist and the practice of architecture, about the role of contemporary insertion in historical context and how it could sustain and enhance its heritage values. The main problem understudy is the lack of sufficient guidance due to the absence and deficiency of an explicit objective methodology for designing and evaluating new infill in historical context, since recent literature reveals that the main available guidance for managing the relation between new and old generated from charters established by international organization such as UNESCO & ICOMOS cannot guarantee a balanced compatible relationship between a new intervention and its historic surroundings. Therefore, the thesis proposes to establish a methodology that manage the degree of compatibility and differentiation in building feature to achieve visual harmony between new infill and historical context (aesthetic fitness), through a methodological analysis process, testing the appropriateness of minimalism infill visual aesthetic fitness. In conclusion, the overall findings of this research can give better understanding in formulating the objective frame work toward establishing a design and an appraisal methodology for any contemporary architectural intervention in historical context, which will act as a complementary guidance for architects whom are facing the dilemma of intervention in historical context and strives to build contemporary architecture that reflect the era and respect the heritage of the past.

Key words: infill designs, visual aesthetic fitness, compatibility, differentiation, historic context, intervention, contemporary architecture, Minimalism.