The role of mosques in the urban design of Islamic cities

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The mosque is considered as the cornerstone in the formation of Islamic cities, on which the planning of the city, the distribution of its sectors, and the uses of the land in it depend. The research dealt with a group of Islamic cities in different eras from the beginning of Islam to the present time. The sample chosen for the purposes of the study was diverse in terms of Islamic countries. It took into consideration the types of urban planning, its relationship with the mosque, and the importance of the mosque from the physical and ideological aspects. The most important variables adopted in the analysis were the date of the establishment of the mosque, the urban planning of the city affiliated with it, the type of land uses around it, the number of its visitors and users, their type, the size of the mosque, its shape, and its design characteristics. The research discussed the importance of the role of mosques in each of them, and the research adopted an analytical comparative approach. It aims to extract indicators for evaluating the role of the mosque in Islamic cities. The results of the study indicated important connections between society and the urban fabric based on the establishment of the mosque, and that there is a relationship between Islamic beliefs and the distribution of land uses in the urban sectors around the mosque. The research concluded that there are several types of influences imposed by the presence of the mosque on the basic design of Islamic cities, some of which are pivotal at the level of the city as a whole, some of which are at the level of the urban sector, and some of them are affected by modern urban planning, and the reason for this diversity is due to cultural, social and economic aspects of the Islamic communities in these cities.