

# Bedouins Permanent Accommodation Planning

Research proposal for final project in Mid - Master of Industrial Design

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## Purpose of the Study

This proposal aims to construct a set of guidelines for planning permanent residential environment that will best serve the Bedouin population in accordance with their contemporary everyday life and traditions. It is well established that the current situation in the seven towns that were created for the Bedouins over the past two decades in Israel, have failed to meet the basic needs of an urbanizing population (Lithwick H. 2000, 2002). This concept plan is to be based both on general literature and field excursions review of the bedouin culture, with a methodical particular focus on the culture's accommodations and relevant customs. Two sets of guidelines, in different scales are proposed; The first one is an architectural and interior design set of guidelines. The second one will focus on the community scale, in an attempt to form a translation of conceptual elements from the tent encampment to a settled built environment. The translation and integration of these elements will enable designing and planning a permanent accommodation environment that will be compatible with the current lifestyle and hierarchy of the bedouin society, and will enable the middle eastern bedouins to benefit from the advantages of modern housing.

## Premise of the Study

A basic assumption of the present research proposal is that the Bedouin population which resides in permanent structures does so by choice, and with will, while still attempting to preserve their cultural identity and lifestyle. This assumption, though taken as a premise, will be demonstrated and established in the course of the work.

The geopolitical issues over the bedouins' territories with the state of Israel is not a motivative aspect of this work, and this work is not an attempt to promote bedouins to abundant the diaspora. It is also not attempting to regard the disfunctional state of the existing bedouin towns in Israel.

This research dose not presume to gouge, criticize, support or generate a change in the bedouin society, but to enable it to embrace modern housing and to optimize it to it's customs and needs.

## Methods and Methodology

The methodology is based on the principle that the better the background research and the researcher's understanding of the bedouin terminology and customs, the more precise and established the conclusions will be. In accordance, the terminology and the relevant terms will be detailed and illustrated as a substantial body of evidence in the report. Literary research along with documented observations and interviewing should establish sufficient understanding of the different elements in the tent encampment and structure. The literary research will include academic research texts along with demonstrations of elements from travel literature and bedouins tails. The interviewing and documented observations will be conducted in the Israeli Negev and in east Jordan. Only after detailed documentation of these elements, a discussion can be conducted. Conducting the field research in the two neighboring countries will revoke some of the geopolitical and economical influences and will support a more accurate discussion.

Some of the background research that will be presented in this work, as well as figures and explanations, were collected for several years. This report could not have been proposed without me having personal interest and familiarity with the culture of the bedouin society.

## Project Format

This proposal is conducted and submitted in English with the intension to publish the research as an article in an academic journal. Hopefully, publication of the proposed project will result in practical impact that will benefit the middle eastern bedouin society.

## References

- Lithwick, Harvey, 2000. An Urban Development Strategy for the Negev's Bedouin Community. Center for Bedouin Studies and Development and Negev Center for Regional Development, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- Lithwick, Harvey, 2002. Making the Bedouin Towns Work. The Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.