

## **Abstract:**

The rapid urban transformation of El-Zamalek is dissolving its character and the sense of place of its historical urban landscape. Effective conservation measures are lacking or seem to be insufficient to address the current rapid and diffuse changes in functions and meanings affecting El-Zamalek. There is thus a need for conservation efforts to preserve the specific character of the historic urban landscape of the district. Like many other areas of Cairo, El-Zamalek is not the product of a single historical era but is an accumulative heritage.

These efforts will consequently need to take into consideration the different historic layers of transformation that have produced the distinctive character of the island. To inform these future conservation efforts, the objective of this thesis is to identify the sense of place defining themes of the historic urban landscape of El-Zamalek, taking into consideration the different phases of its historical development. By identifying El-Zamalek urban landscape themes, this thesis hopes to be a valuable first step for future conservation efforts and to provide a basis for a sustainable strategic urban development plan of El-Zamalek.

The research relies on a two phase methodology. First a historical study aims to identify the historical urban landscape themes of El-Zamalek. Then a field study aims to explore the perceptions of community members (residents and frequent users) about the identified themes.

In its conclusion, the thesis synthesizes the findings of the historical and field studies to introduce a set of recommendations for the thematic conservation of the historic urban landscape of El-Zamalek. The conclusion also discusses the significance of the thesis for the conservation of historic urban landscapes in other contexts.

## **Key Words:**

Historic Urban Landscapes, Thematic Conservation, Local Community, El-Zamalek, Cairo.