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Investigating the Impact of Gender Identity on the Architectural Character of the Housing Buildings in Jordan

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Abstract

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, and in parallel with the increasing number of practitioners in the field of architecture, the number of women's architectural firms in the world in general and in Jordan in particular has increased. Although the launch of the Jordanian women's movement was more than half a century and more late than the start of the Western women's movement, the Jordanian women's movement and the currents of modernity in Jordan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries played a major role in promoting and empowering women in Jordanian society, which has resulted in an increase in the number of girls studying higher education and an increase in the number of women studying or practicing architecture. With the increasing number of women joining the architectural sector, and the difference in the architectural character between men and women, there was a difference in the architectural approach in housing buildings in Jordan depending on the gender variable. Accordingly, this thesis focuses on the last decade of the emancipation of women in Jordan, and aims to reveal the different methods which could be exposed to the new generation of female-based architectural practices in housing projects in Jordan.

Key words: Female architects, Architectural Identity, Housing buildings in Jordan



1.0 Introduction

Women at home and men at work; this will lead to the formation of spaces and organization the city to suit only one category of men, or in other words the formation of a male environment. Due to the close relationship between the cultural identity and the architectural identity, the psychology of the Arab society is more apparent in the architectural character of housing buildings than in the Western world. Architecture in patriarchal societies is a material product of political ideology: it is accordingly a result of inequality between male and female members in these societies.

The origin of the Jordanian feminist movement dates back to the beginning of the twentieth century. Before that, women in Jordan had faced discrimination in law and practice in a society that is dominated by conservative, patriarchal, and tribal rules which prevented them from learning and working (Pratt, 2015). However, after a long period of struggle, the Jordanian feminist movement achieved significant gains in 1989, with the establishment of the General Union of Jordanian Women, where Jordanian women succeeded through this period in achieving equality, combating gender-based violence and achieving higher emancipation in the Jordanian education and the work market (Al-Amarneh, 2018).

Although the launch of the Jordanian women's movement was more than half a century and more late than the start of the Western women's movement, the Jordanian women's movement and the currents of modernity in Jordan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries played a major role in promoting and empowering women in Jordanian society, which has resulted in an increase in the



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number of girls studying higher education and an increase in the number of women studying or practicing architecture particularly (Pratt, 2015). The number of girls enrolled in Architecture increased at the university, and female architects continued to empower their prominent role in this profession until the number of architectural women registered in the Jordanian Engineers Association reached to 8058 compared to 6917 for males by 2019 (Jordan Engineers Association, 2019).

Women's emancipation in non-western countries demonstrated the need to change city planning to suit the culture and needs of renewed societies. It also highlights the importance of respecting women's needs in the architectural space due to blurring the strict lines that predefined between the private and public spaces in non-western societies and in particular in those of Muslim ones (Abbas, 2008; Wilson, 2001). Therefore, it has become imperative for professionals and decision-makers in the field of architecture to understand the new pattern of women's use of different buildings and facilities across cities, and to reconsider the view of women in general in various aspects of building design (Wilson, 2001).

In Jordan Nabila Al Asmar was the first woman architect registered in the Jordanian Engineers Association in 1986, the time that was a turning point in constituting a transformation point of Jordanian architecture and affected the style and architectural identity of the buildings due to the entrance of women architects to the architectural profession in this society. Hence, this study aims to focus on the developments in architecture from the last decade of twentieth century onward in order to show the active role of gender in shaping housing buildings in modern Jordan via questioning how women's architectural practices have affected the architectural character of housing projects in this country.



1.1 Problem Statement

The role of gender has been discussed in a professional setting in the architectural environment for a long time; it has been found that gender differences have implications for all aspects of spatial planning and the design of the built environment, from the micro-scale in interior design of housing to the macro-scale in planning of entire cities. Specific gender roles lead to women using the built environment differently from men, with distinct needs and expectations regarding urban structure, housing design, and planning policy (Singha, 2018). However, the problem that still exist and is not clear is, how does the female gender affect the architectural character of buildings design? How can gender identity be used in the service of architecture? What is the necessity and importance of gender mainstreaming as part of the design and architectural planning process, and what is its role in meeting a wide range of user needs and creating greater inclusiveness in the design process?

Many researchers have studied modern Jordanian architecture (Rjoub, 2016; Baglioni, 2015; Matrouk & Goussous, 2011); yet most of these researchers do not focus their studies on gender issues and their implications for shaping the architectural character of housing buildings. The study of gender in Jordan is still a new frontier; hence this study will be one of the first of its kind in Jordan, as it focuses on the impact of gender identity and its contribution to the formation of the architectural character, specifically the architectural character of housing buildings in Jordan.



One of the most prominent issues that contributed to the orientation towards conducting this study is the acceleration in the loss of features in the architectural field in Jordan. With globalization reaching Jordan, the country suffered an identity crisis. Cultural and the concept of gender and traditional gender roles have changed in modern Jordan. The diversity of cultures has caused a lack of clarity in the Jordanian architectural character. This emphasized the importance of investigating the impact of gender identity on the formation of the architectural character specifically of housing buildings.

Accordingly, the main problem of this research lies in the main question, which is: “Is there an impact of gender identity on the architectural character of the housing buildings of Jordan?” The answer to this question, one must first answer the relevant sub-questions that ask about the impact of modernity and the educational and professional emancipation of women in Jordan on the participation of architects in Jordan, and how this was reflected in the architectural character of buildings in Jordan, especially housing projects.

Consequently, this paper seeks to study the role of gender in the composition of residential homes in modern Jordan, given that the situation of women in architecture has actually improved, due to the improvement of the educational situation of women, and the elimination of sexual discrimination in various fields, where Jordanian society has become less prejudiced sexually and less elitist.



1.2 Study Objectives

There are several goals and objectives to be achieved in this paper, as it aims to highlight the role of gender issue in shaping the architectural character of housing architecture. The study explored how woman as a practitioner of architecture influence the identity and culture of societies, and explore the effect of gender identity in the service of the architectural character.

Moreover, among the important objectives of this study is to highlight the concept and importance of architecture for residential buildings and to highlight the necessity and importance of gender role mainstreaming as part of the residential building design process, in order to meet a wide range of user needs as well as to create greater inclusiveness in the design process. In addition, it aims to lay the foundations and standards for the use of gender identity on the architectural character. Ultimately, it seeks to be the beginning to explore the distinctive architectural feminist identify and its effect on architectural character.

1.3 Study Significance

The significance of this study stems from its nature and adoption of gender analysis. Gender analysis is vital to the ability of the built environment to respond to the needs of all those who experience planned spaces. Understanding the role of gender can be useful in the process of developing gender-sensitive planning and designing strategies. It is now recognized, more than ever, as cities grow and develop at an enormous pace, that determining gender equality, along with subsequent strategies, is imperative in absorbing change in the workplace and



social demographics. Increasing the number of women in the workplace enhances the urgency of this task.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Gender and Architectural Character

The architectural character can be defined as a "natural result of several common and interacting factors that are embedded in the crucifixion of the full use of the building, the methods of construction and construction materials, the nature of the region, and traditions and customs, as well as social, economic, cultural, political and spiritual factors and the level of local wealth" (Wali, 2016). The only point that can be raised with this definition is that architectural character of spaces and places and our senses of them (and such related things as our degrees of mobility) are distinguished between the genders by and through them. Moreover, they are distinguished between the genders in countless different ways, which differ between cultures and over time. This gendering of space represents and in turn affects back the ways in which gender is constructed and comprehended in the societies in which they live and hence the architectural character of the buildings they construct (Wali, 2016).

The gender impact in the identity and architectural character of buildings is evident by noting that female designers tend to have greater sympathy for diversity and that women have a softer design approach than men, while male practitioners have a greater tendency to focus on technologies, structures, and construction (Siegel, 1994). This largely reflects assumptions regarding the nature of women, being the role of the governess, and the role of men as the traditional "bread winner".



The reproduction of women in the professional field challenges these traditional views, and while the female agenda has become accepted, sometimes invisible, some men who control design and planning perpetuate old values through unconscious practices and procedures (Lein, 1979; Rendell et al., 2002).

In the history of modern architecture, there is no essential role for female clients as design collaborators or as catalysts for architectural innovation. This failure of attention, coupled with the overstatement of the male architect as an innovator, contributed to the "star system" and distorted our understanding of the design process. Moreover, by neglecting the role of the convention and gender ideology in shaping architecture and social relations, historians not only exaggerate the focus on male creativity but also perpetuate the mistaken notion that buildings should be valued primarily as isolated artifacts. The reintroduction of gender factors into the historical survey leads to a remarkably different account of conventional architectural surveys (Rendell et al., 2000).

2.2 Rethinking the Architectural Character of Housing buildings in terms of Gender and Feminism

Housing architecture remains the biggest concern for women in architecture, as house design must take into consideration the woman's perspective of the household and its needs, especially since women are most interested in achieving familiarity in the family and maintaining its unity. Thus finding a common main definition of the household family perspective is of great importance for women in all countries of the world, which contributed to the development of the meaning of "housing building" in all countries of the world (UN-Habitat, 1995; Hayden, 2002).



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Housing architecture has defined an exclusion of women and a lack of recognition of their role in designing homes since the seventies of the last century in Western societies, which appeared in the works of Kerr (1864), Hayden (1980), Scott Brown (1989) and Wigley (1992). However, the situation looks worse for Arab women and home design in the eastern Arab community. Although women in the Arab world in the seventies considered the house only its main place, and that she should be devoted to housework only, nevertheless she did not interfere in the design of the house, and her viewpoint in the design work was ignored, but rather was designed in a way that isolates men from females. Home designers were very sensitive to the principle of separating the sexes in the eastern houses, and they took great care in designing the entrances to men's buildings, women's entrances, men's and women's councils, sleeping and restrooms, and so on (Al-Tawayha, 2011).

This can be found in the design of the old houses, where it can be found that the main door of the house is reserved for men while another small side door opens for women to enter, or the entrance is winding in order not to reveal the properties of the house, just as the men's council is usually next to the main door that has windows overlooking the alley, while the women's council is inside close to the interior of the house and the walls of the inner courtyard are high to obscure the view of those outside. Also, the windows do not open on the alleys to the outside except in the men's councils, and the draa or mashrabiyya are placed on the edges of the roof overlooking the outer alleys so that they allow air to enter at a time when it is forbidden to see who was at the bottom of the one above, in addition to other things such as the small size of the windows, and sometimes replace them by



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opening a skylight or groups of them above the wall of the room, and the lack of wide areas in front of the house (Al-Tawayha, 2011).

For Western society, the perception of women and their integration into the design of homes began to change, as evidenced by the publication of several books in the late 1990s, such as Friedman's book. According to Friedman, the unconventional conditions of these women as bets challenged architects to reconsider the traditional spatial divisions between females and males, society and individuals, both private and public. The six homes met one additional standard, set by Friedman: each was a "creative invention" of the architect (Friedman, 1998).

However, for the eastern society, until now there are no Arab or Jordanian books or studies in particular that discuss feminism and gender as a scope for architectural study and design, which shows the scarcity of studies in this field, and the lack of a comprehensive view of this topic in the Arab world and shows the importance of carrying out the current study.

2.3 History of Jordanian Women's Movement

Since the establishment of the contemporary Jordanian state, the conditions of Jordanian society have been constantly evolving, including the various aspects of life in the new state, including the conditions of Jordanian women, who went out intensively to the seats of education and then work, so they contributed to building various economic and social sectors. They also contributed from an early age in building Jordanian civil society through their organizations and associations, which have been established in succession since the mid-1940's, which has been termed the Jordanian women's movement (Pratt, 2015).



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Despite the delay of the Jordanian feminist movement to the beginning of the twentieth century compared to Western feminism, the Jordanian feminist movement has gone through three major and radical stages that clearly contributed to empowering and promoting women in Jordanian society, each under the influence of various internal and external factors, especially those related to “political transformation, the economic crisis, the changing patterns of women's lives, and international attention to women's issues” (Al-Atiyat, 2003).

The first phase of women emancipation in Jordan in 1944-1973, witnessed the establishment of the first women's organization in 1944. During this period, women's work focused on providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, specifically to Palestinian refugees (Al-Atiyat, 2003; Al-Yasin, 2016). Moreover, the second phase 1973-1989 witnessed a change in the level of women's organizations and their work, and women became more able to enhance their efforts. However, the third phase, post-liberation, began in 1989 and can be considered the most important one with regard to the advancement of women's rights in Jordan. At this stage, more doors were opened for various changes in the level of women's interests and actions (Al-Amarneh, 2018).

During this long struggle, the Jordanian women's movement made major gains in achieving equality, combating gender-based violence and increasing participation in political and public life. Many legal restrictions imposed on women such as participation in public life, education and work have been removed (Lowrance, 1998). However, this progress did not fulfill the aspirations of the women's movement to reach full equality in rights and duties. Women continue to suffer discrimination in law and practice in a society still characterized by conservative,



patriarchal and tribal norms, "where restrictions on women's empowerment come from within the family and communities, including community leaders" (Dababneh, 2005).

2.4 Women Architects in Jordan

At the local level, and in spite of the feminism movement and the liberation it witnessed, feminist architecture and the incorporation of feminine character in its buildings is still little and largely neglected. For instance, despite the increasing number of female architects since architecture has been taught at the University of Jordan in 1975-1976, women's role in architects have not yet been recognized in Jordan. For example, the annual report of the Jordanian Engineers Association for the year 2016 indicated that the number of Jordanian engineers affiliated with the association has reached 132571 male and female engineers, but that the Jordanian female engineers made up only 25% of them, while the female representation in the association in that year also was limited to one member who is Linda Al-Hammod (Jordan Engineers Association, 2016).

With regard to the number of female architects in that year, the Architecture Division came in at a lower level than the number of its registered women, reaching only 5632, which is a very small percentage that does not exceed the 4% of the percentage of engineers enrolled in the association. It can be said that architecture field in Jordan, despite all the development, still does not consider women as an effective element for it, and there is still a lack of appreciation for the female component in it (Jordan Engineers Association, 2016).



This scarcity of numbers of female architects, especially in the number of female architects who got professional ranks during the year 2016, which amounted to one female engineer compared to 9 male engineers who obtained the rank of an associate engineer, and only seven female engineers received the rank of a comparable professional engineer compares to 43 male engineers, the same is true for the rank of counselor obtained by only 8 female engineers compared to 107 male engineers, show the poor participation of architects in decision-making sites. This prompted the Jordanian Women Solidarity Institute, to recommend allocating 30% of decision-making sites to female engineers, including planning and management councils, and in a way that contributes to overcoming the personal, societal and cultural barriers that prevent women from taking decisions (Jordan Engineers Association, 2016).

3. Research Method

Each study has a systematic examination of a particular issue in order to discover answers to its questions. In order to achieve the goals and objectives of this study, the qualitative descriptive approach was adopted where five face-to-face interviews were conducted for 30 minutes with the President of the Jordanian Architects Association and a group of four female Jordanian architects at the Jordanian Architects Association, to obtain in-depth, detailed information about their architectural experience in Jordan, and how they contributed to the development of housing building architecture in Jordan.



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Moreover, this paper relies on a gender thematic analysis framework to explain the progress of feminism in the fields of design and professional planning, and to highlight the importance of the feminist component in highlighting the architectural identity of residential buildings. Therefore, the paper will also rely on concepts from a number of different frameworks, especially through a theoretical review of literary works and previous precedents related to this field, to come up with the largest sum of information that would benefit the researcher in understanding the impact of gender on the architectural character of house design in Jordan

4. Results and Discussion

Five architectural women registered as members in the Jordanian Architects Society have been interviewed individually for approximately 30 minutes and not exceeding an hour during this study. All participants have a Bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering, and their age is varied from 26 to 43 years old.

Their experience in the field of architecture ranged from 3 to 20 years, and they occupy good positions in the field of architecture, the least of which is designer and the highest is the head of the design department, which enabled the researcher to obtain a wide range of responses compatible with the problem of the current study and ensure that the given answers are a result of awareness and experience of these architectural women. The results of the qualitative thematic analysis of the interviews led to four main resulted themes, which are discussed below:



4.1 Results regarding Modernity and Women Emancipation in Jordan

With regard to the first question of this study about the viewpoint of the interviewees towards modernity and feminine activism that began to appear in the first decades of the twentieth century in the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular, and how this affected equality and the participation of women in various political, economic and social activities; the five participants agreed that the role of women has become clear and important in all over the world, and that this has left a positive impact on everyone, not only on women, so there was more openness as women were oppressed in all countries of the world in the past, and now they have a prominent role in all fields, which contributed to the promotion of the development and technology movement, making life, education and so on easier.

Moreover, it was very clear from interviewees' replies that modernity and feminism in the late twentieth century had a very positive impact on the education of Jordanian women and their competences to enter the labor market and compete vigorously, especially in the field of architecture, just as for example, interviewee No.2 said: *"modernity played a big role in increasing the number of Jordanian educated women enrolled in universities, and they even reached numbers exceeding the number of male students registered in some disciplines, such as architecture"*. This was also affirmed by the Jordanian Engineers association's data that indicates that since 1958 to 1963, there was no presence of any woman architect registered in the Engineering Association, and in 1986 the first architect, Nabila Al-Asmar, was registered, after which Jordanian women continued in learning and registration until they reached a number greater than the registered men as it was previously shown.



Accordingly, this indicates that modernity and feminism have had a great positive role in empowering women to learn, work, build their future and highlight their role in the various engineering, scientific, economic and political fields in Jordan, especially architecture, and perhaps this conclusion supports the saying of one of the architects interviewed who said: *“Just as I support every person to do so, I would simply support every woman to stand for her dreams and simply achieve.”*

4.2 Results regarding Modernity and Women Emancipation in Jordan

Regarding Jordan, the women's empowerment and freedom case were as other countries, as women began to appear in the Jordanian educational and labor market in late twentieth century, especially in the field of architecture. So, in order to emphasize this point, the researcher directed different sub questions to interviewees in order to elaborate this theme "women in architecture in Jordan."

This can be proven again through the Jordan Engineers Association statistics that indicate that the number of architectural women registered in the association is more than the number of men, which is what the architectural women emphasized when asked about their prediction to the number of women registered in the association compared to men, so they all confirmed that the number of women registered in the association exceeds men, but without giving any accurate numbers. So, by referring to the website of the Jordanian Engineers Association, it was found that the number of women reached 8,058 while the number of men is 6,917, which indicates the progress of the field of architecture in Jordan and the openness that Jordan currently faces, resulted in high percentage of Jordanian women Pioneers in the science of architecture.



Moreover, regarding the women situation in architecture in Jordan specifically, and in other countries generally, the researcher asked the interviewees about their opinions regarding whether there is still a gender disparity in the perspective of the architecture profession that has entrenched a decade or more ago. Four of the interviewees agreed that there were no such differences, and one of them even indicated that this was in the old days and now this issue has been overcome by saying: *“There may have been gender disparity and discrimination in the past, but since the beginning of the twentieth century to this day, we freed ourselves from these restrictions and overcome this issue. Now there is no longer a difference, even in the field of employment. HR managers now only care about personality and experiences when they want to recruit an architect”*.

It can be noticed that the opinion of interviewee one agrees with a study of Jaschick (2006) who showed that the most prominent thing that architectural women faced was a bias in career advancement, salaries, and other quantifiable measures. He explained that sexual discrimination was translated in the form of women who did not promote to the higher ranks in their professional fields, although they performed their responsibilities better than men. In addition to the salary bias, where men were more likely to receive extra salary ranges. These and other gender disparity activities have translated into women earning on average less than men, with women “articulated feelings of invisibility and marginalization that grew worse as they moved into the tenure ranks.” (Jaschick, 2006, p.1).



4.3 Results regarding Architectural Practice of Women in Jordan

In the last years of the twentieth century, Jordan witnessed a comprehensive development that accompanied the expansion of urbanization in most Jordanian cities and a wide openness to international architectural trends, which led to transformations in the urban environment and the emergence of strange architectural styles and new types of buildings and the neutralization of traditional architectural styles resulting from the integration of Jordanian women in architecture and their entry into the field of design strongly.

Therefore, in the fourth part of the interview, the researcher sought to discover the architectural practice of women in Jordan. In the first question, the researcher presented one of the long traditional methods of practicing architecture, which is the couples' style of practicing architecture, Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry, Alison and Peter Smithson, etc. as examples and then asking the interviewees to explain how Jordanian women practice architecture and do they prefer to work as an architect in an architectural partnership between males and females (for example: working in cooperation with their husbands) or not.

Accordingly, the responses varied between the positive and the denial of working with the partner, and the opinions of those interviewed varied between the desire to share their husbands with work according their belief that their experience is not enough and that the presence of the man will be a complement and an essential element for them in the work. This was confirmed by Rendell et al. (2000), who indicate in their book that for many women, this model of cooperation and partnership often provided them with a consistent pattern and a high level of



practice. It can be said that the male partner facilitates the architectural women's access to the male professional elite and provides the necessary continuity to maintain the practice while raising their children.

As for the nature of buildings practiced by architectural women in Jordan (educational buildings, housing projects, etc.), the interviewees differed in their answers, as they mentioned different types of buildings, but they have greater agreement on two types of buildings, which are educational and housing buildings. This can be seen from Interview No. 4, who explained this preference by saying: *“Architectural women prefer to work in residential projects and educational buildings, and do not prefer dealing with hospitals, for example, because they have many design restrictions and standards.”*

Given the places in which Jordanian architecture prefers to work, whether ministries, municipalities or private institutions more, and the reason behind this preference, most of the architects who were interviewed agreed that working in private offices is better for them in terms of gaining experience and creativity, given the diversity of projects in these offices. But at the same time, interviews No. 1 and No. 3 drew attention to an important issue, which is that the choice of women in particular to work in these places depends on their social status, as married women prefer to work in government places (ministries and municipalities), for example, because the working hours are shorter so that they can manage family affairs and work more easily than working in private offices with long shifts. This gives an indication of the existence of some obstacles that may affect the work of architectural women and highlight the distinction between them and men again.



At the end of this part, the interviews shed light on the achievements of Jordanian architectural women and their role in architecture in Jordan from the beginning of the twentieth century until now, by presenting some examples of the distinguished projects undertaken by women architects and the names of some well-known architects in Jordan. Accordingly, the interviewer No. 1 and 2 gave an example of one of the most famous women in the field of architecture in Jordan, namely: *“Saja Nashashibi who designed the capital bank building recently”*. The other two interviewees, 3 and 4, agreed on the architect, Maisam Bataineh who designed Ittihad Bank and other successful projects in such as the Petra Museum in Jordan and won various local and international awards.

It can be said that women architects and planners can also provide role models for aspiring students in the future, to serve as an inspiration for students to participate in future designs and positive project results from a perspective that deviates from the prevailing trend and shows that women have their place in this field similar to men, which helps to perpetuate the prospects of feminism from the initial stages of planning and developments in design and construction, and changes the perception of women in this field.

4.4 Results regarding Architectural Practice for Women in Jordan

With regard to the feminist image of women's practices for architecture and whether their architectural practices are really different from men in Jordan, the researcher directed a set of questions to the participants about that, and their responses were positive and they agreed that women have a different sense of beauty and a sense of place and time, and this is evident in the answer of



interviewee No.3 who said: : *“women architects have different ways of looking at the projects in the same team which surely will strengthen design concepts and implementation and women have their own sense for sure, different points of view in seeing a space and creating a vision which consequently gave her works and designs a special identity.”*

Moreover, all interviewees have shown that architects have a feminine touch and details that appear involuntarily in their design work even if we try not to distinguish between them and male architects, and the reason behind this is maybe due to their biological structure and automatic feelings, for example women are able to pay attention to details that men do not notice due to the nature of their physical composition and their feminine ideas. For instance, interviewee No.4 explained this difference providing the following example from her life experience: *“I noticed in a place in the university there was a ramp and a stairway where the ramp way was easier and short, and most prefer to use it. However, for women who wear long dresses and skirts, it was difficult for them to use the ramp. Accordingly, they were confused and afraid of being stumbled in front of people, and therefore they headed to use the stairs despite the difficulty of its utilization, but it is better than stumbling in long clothes from their point of views. Most men did not experience such as this issue, but women live different experiences than men and therefore they are better able to provide designs to suit everyone in comparison with men, which consequently shows the importance of diversity in the architectural environment.”*



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However, despite the demands made by different architectural women not to distinguish their works from men and despite societies' modern direction not to differentiate between male and female architectural works, which started when Rosaria Piomelli, an architect in 1975, wrote about an architectural exhibition held in New York, when the women's [architectural] work began to come, an exhibit of models showed that women's work was not at all different from the work of the men. As Paul Goldberger of the New York Times said, "The buildings displayed tend to suggest that neither imagination nor the lack of it is a sexual characteristic" (Singha, 2018).

Therefore, this recognition by the evaluators of the profession may mean (we felt) an end to gender discrimination in architecture field, and that the exhibition demonstrated and proved that women can do like men. However, it can be noticed that in the evaluation of architectural works later to this day, and although the work may be gender-neutral, some works are still attributed to it, "female traits," for example, Zaha Hadid is referred to as the "queen of curves" despite she designed many of the linear buildings, which demonstrates the impact of gender identity on the architectural character involuntarily, and which was confirmed by the interviewees in their discussion about the small details and distinctive touches that women add to the designs.



5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men - norms, roles and relationships between groups of women and men. On the topic of gender, gender, architecture, and gender identity are often confused. Discrimination between the sexes in the field of work in general is one of the old phenomena that the world has witnessed in general and Jordan in particular.

It was found in this study that the different needs of women must be taken seriously when formulating architectural planning and design policies, in order to provide an urban environment that takes into account the diverse lifestyles that women live and their special needs in the community services that help them achieve them. Their multiple responsibilities, especially those related to caring for children and the elderly.

In addition, there was a consensus among women that modernity and women's activism had a positive impact on the lives of Jordanian women and their empowerment in all fields such as education, politics, economics, etc., and that the liberation of the twentieth century on the freedom of Jordanian women had a great and positive impact in giving women the opportunity to complete their education, and even Receiving postgraduate studies, as well as occupying senior job positions and developing their interest in the academic and professional field in a manner similar to, if not more, than men. The number of females in Jordanian universities exceeds the number of male students enrolled in some disciplines such as architecture, which indicates the positive role it played by modernity in empowering women.



The study also showed that working side by side with men may not be beneficial for women architects, and many assume that the role of women is related to the internal and decorative aspects of the design only or to implement the plans developed by the male partner. The study also found that working in private offices is better for women in terms of gaining experience and creativity, and that the nature of the buildings that are often practiced by architectural women in Jordan are educational and residential buildings.

Eventually, the study recommended the necessity of encouraging Jordanian female architects to conduct specialized studies and research in the fields of design and architecture, adopting methods to integrate their values and meanings into the educational and professional process of architecture, as well as organizing Jordanian architectural competitions aimed at encouraging local and foreign female architects to participate and honor the winners and participants.

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