

"SPATIAL PLACE STRATEGIES FOR NEW CITIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THEIR PROSPERITY (BISMAYA CITY AS A MODEL)"

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Abstract

The location chosen for a new city is thought to be one of the most significant factors that directly affect that city's prosperity, as the location is reflected in several fundamental aspects, such as infrastructure. The city's location influences the possibility of developing its transportation network, as locations near urban centers or the transportation network facilitate access to economic development. Additionally, strategic locations support economic opportunities, such as cities near ports or industrial areas, which encourage job opportunities and attract investments. Finally, quality of life is affected by the impact of new city locations on the surrounding environment and climate, and as a result, this is reflected in

Keywords: New cities, urban planning, location, prosperity, Bismaya city

Research problem: Selecting sites for new cities without an integrated standard planning methodology, and without a prior study of the urban structure surrounding these sites, which causes problems in the urban prosperity of these cities and their failure to perform the expected role.

Research objective: Selecting sites for new cities within a studied methodology is reflected in the prosperity of new cities.

Research hypothesis: There is a relationship between selecting sites for new cities and their advantages and the prosperity of new cities.

The research includes the following:

1. The most important theoretical concepts

1. The concept of new cities

New cities, as several definitions have appeared for them (new urban city, new community, new town), are urban clusters that are established in small cities on land with little or no housing, and is in the form of a circle or a star according to the extension of the plan of this city, and that new cities are planned on the basis of government decisions, and in a directed manner so that their residents have no role in the planning process, the goal of establishing new cities is to accommodate the population increase, and create new practical opportunities, in addition to reducing population pressure on city centers and major cities, while the French urban and statistical planner (Pierre Merlín) sees that the new city is that planned city that is established according to the framework of the regional planning policy so that it is self-sufficient in terms of providing job opportunities, housing, services, infrastructure and activities.

(Pierre Merlin, 1988, p 203)

The process of establishing or creating new cities is done according to planning foundations that integrate all social, economic, environmental and urban levels, as they represent a model that provides basic services that achieve a comfortable life, including social services represented by health, education and infrastructure, so that the new cities are like that local community that is established according to comprehensive and integrated planning foundations for all economic, social and natural aspects, so that they attract residents to them with the aim of achieving a more advanced economic and social basis than what exists in current traditional cities. The goal of establishing new cities is to raise the social level, develop and advance human resources, and create and develop economic activities.

1. Planning factors for new cities There are a group of factors that must be available when planning to establish a new city, and these elements complement and interact with each other, as shown in Figure (1) below:

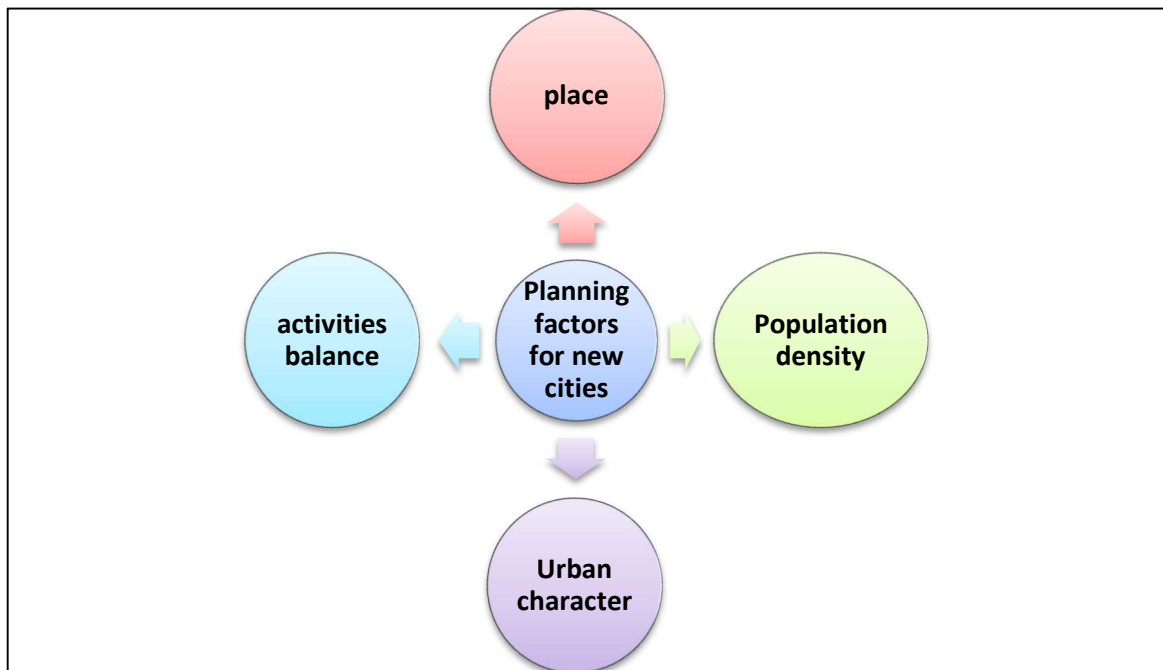


Figure (1) New city planning factors

Kafkoulas K. (2009), New Towns, International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, p428

From Figure (1), the factors affecting the planning of new cities can be explained as follows:

- Place

The process of selecting a site to establish a new city is a basic rule, especially in empty areas. This process is considered a development and activation of empty areas far from city centers, which in turn leads to creating balance and stability at the level of those areas, and on the other hand, reducing the pressure on major cities as a result of the expansion of city centers with population. The process of selecting empty sites to build new cities comes according to planning mechanisms and a prior study of available resources and capabilities, as empty lands contribute to the establishment of a new city that is organized and balanced at the level of structural plans by containing various land uses and services,

including residential, commercial, educational, and health uses, in addition to recreational and green activities, taking into account the organization of the distribution of land uses, services, and activities and strengthening them with a transportation network to connect the city to its various parts, while economic activities represented by factories are established away from housing to reduce environmental damage, as empty sites are important in preserving agricultural lands and an opportunity for the presence of green spaces within population centers. (Kafkoulas, 2009, p 428)

- **Population density**

It means the density rate that new cities attract, which achieves sustainability in the rights of future generations, as the French planner (Pierre Merlin) sees that determining the number of residents is considered the second problem in relation to the problems facing new cities after the problem of location, "where the number of residents in the new cities around the British capital, London, which was proposed by the Abercrombie plan to relieve congestion and pressure on it, was determined between (20,000 - 60,000) people based on the Reith report in 1946 AD. As for the new French cities, they are distinguished by their large population range compared to British cities, as it ranges between (100,000 - 700,000) people." (Pierre Merlin, 1988, p 210)

- **Urban character**

The urban character is defined as a space within which the possibilities are balanced at their various levels, economic, social, and environmental, and what that space provides in terms of employment and housing opportunities (Asatekin, 2001, p 58)

Any gathering of a number of people in a space cannot be considered as new cities unless the criteria, requirements and reasons for their establishment are met, as is the case in rural areas that lack urban components of infrastructure compared to centres, services and activities, in addition to industries that attract the workforce, as creating an urban centre that achieves diversity of jobs and activities raises the standard of living of the population and achieves their well-being in the new city.

- **activities balance**

The new city works to create a functional balance between the economic, social, and environmental levels in relation to the available and accessible potential within the spatial area of the new city. It is a center where the various factors interact, which include the social aspects of housing, work, and entertainment. It is the economic basis followed in achieving industrial balance, attracting the workforce, and encouraging investments in new cities to achieve their functional tasks. The new city is a relationship between housing, work, and services. To achieve the goals of the new city, there are a set of basic elements: the economic basis, self-sufficiency, land uses and activities, and the type and nature of the population. (Bin Ghadhbani, 2014, p. 61)

- **Prosperity**

The prosperity that prevails in society within cities is a reflection of the interconnectedness and integration between the different systems of society. When one area of society is strengthened, this is positively reflected in the rest of the areas. Also, increasing the contributions of non-profit organizations in society leads to the prosperity of society and improving the quality of life of its residents. (Rice, 2017,

p 47)

The concept of prosperity is defined as the success in achieving a large amount of money, and for this reason this concept has been limited to focusing on economic growth only, and as a result its scope has become narrow, although the concept should be the opposite, as it should include interest and expression of quality of life, infrastructure, suitability, environmental sustainability, and the Legatum Institute's Prosperity Index represents a unique vision of how prosperity occurs, while prosperity is measured by measuring the economic level expressed by the level of income of individuals, and regarding the concept of prosperity, most opinions agree that prosperity is more than just an accumulation of financial wealth, but rather a feeling of complete happiness and the ability to build a better life in the future, by building a foundation to achieve income and well-being and thus achieve the satisfaction of the population with life.

(Claire, 2012, p 5)

The following figure shows the indicators that fall under the term prosperity in cities, as follows

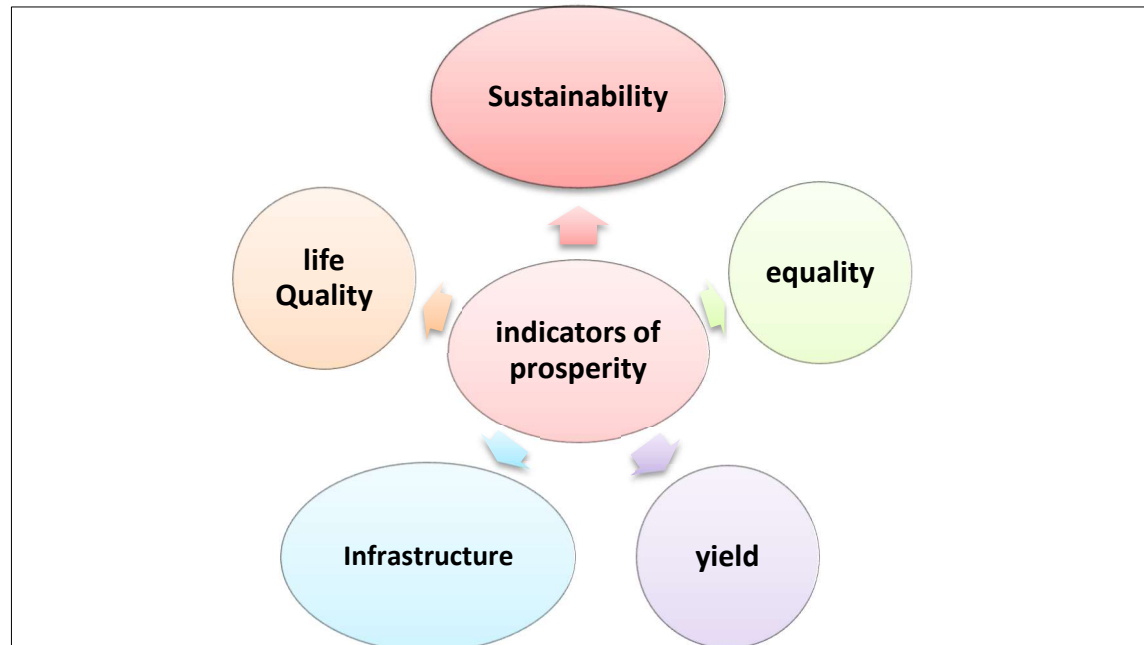


Figure (2) A chart showing indicators of urban prosperity

Claire Provsot (2012), UN Stresses Positives of Urban Growth with new tool to track City Prosperity Through the diagram shown in Figure (2), it is clear that there is a link between the importance and success of the prosperity of cities and society and the importance of setting standards to measure it, in addition to clarifying the factors that affect it, so that this concept has clear goals reflected on a wide range of the city to include services, activities and sustainability. Among those indicators that are included in measuring the prosperity of cities is following the development that occurs through five axes, including (productivity, infrastructure, quality of life, equality and environmental sustainability), and according to a report issued by the United Nations Habitat Program in September 2012, this report proposes following the design of a tool to measure the prosperity index in cities, in addition to relying on a matrix called the wheel of prosperity. The report also calls for the need to strengthen public property

and adopt it as an important means for the purpose of expanding the scope of the concept of prosperity in light of sustainable use. From here, the Cities Prosperity Initiative emerged, which is a strategic policy initiative to follow the concept of prosperity in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner, with a commitment to providing the necessary resources and efforts towards achieving prosperity. (O'Connor, 2017, p. 477)

b. Practical study

1. Site Location

Bismaya city is one of the cities affiliated with Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, as it is located in the southeastern part of it at a distance of approximately (10) km from Baghdad city and its area is estimated at about (1,830) hectares. It is one of the projects designed by the Korean Hanwha Company. It was implemented in 2013 and consists of 8 sectors, each sector contains several neighborhoods, each neighborhood contains a number of residential units in the form of a ten-story vertical residence (kootstra, 2020)

See Figure (3) which shows the location of Bismaya city relative to the borders of Baghdad city

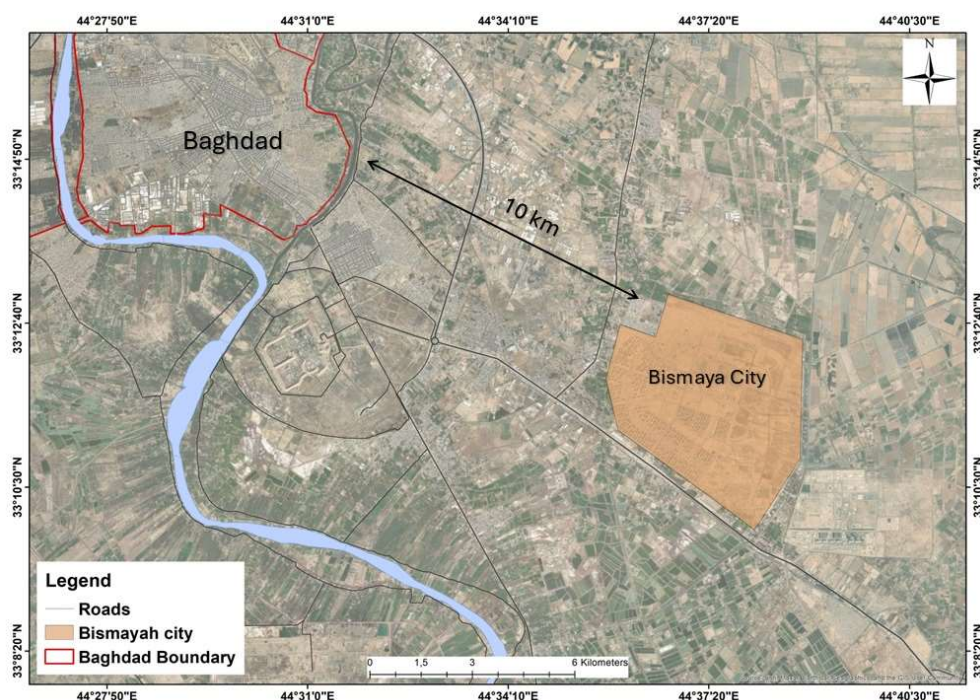


Figure (3) A map showing the location of the city of Bismaya relative to the borders of the city of Baghdad

Source: Author based on geographic information systems, field survey data, and the borders of the Baghdad Governorate Municipality

The following is a chart showing the distribution of land uses in the city of Bismaya

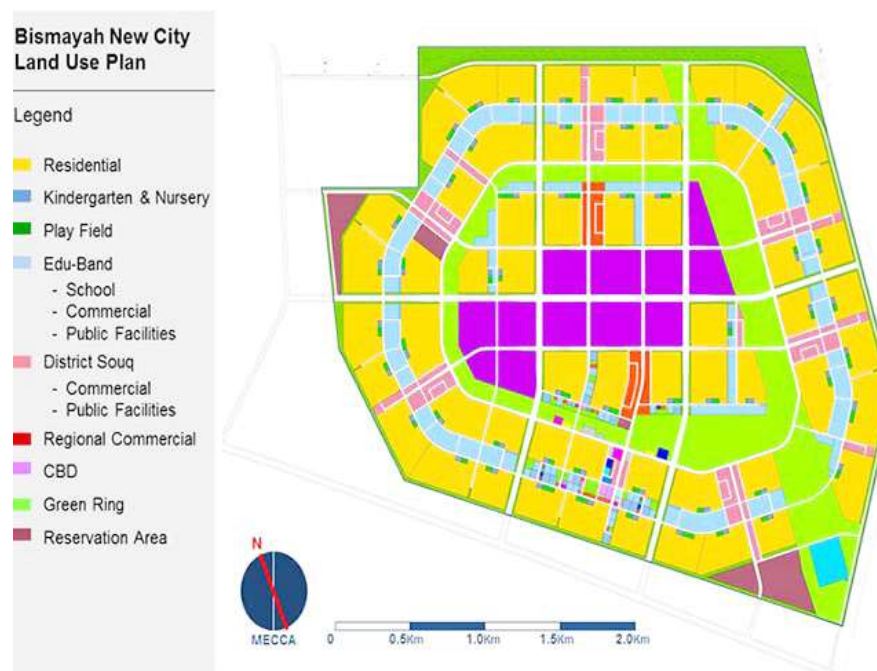


Figure (4) A map showing the land use plan in Samaya

Source: The researcher based on <https://araburban.org/en/infohub/projects/?id=3611> Visited on September 20, 2024

From Figure 4, which shows the land use plan for Bismaya City, it shows how land is distributed and used in the city, and reflects the urban planning vision. There are some main points that the plan may include:

- Residential uses: Determining areas designated for housing, including various residential units such as villas and apartments.
- Public facilities: Determining the locations of schools, hospitals, and public parks, which reflects the importance of providing basic services to residents.
- Commercial areas: Determining areas designated for commercial activities and markets, which contributes to strengthening the local economy.
- Industrial areas: Allocating areas for industrial activities, which enhances job opportunities and reflects economic planning.
- Roads and transportation: Clarifying the road and transportation network, which facilitates movement and mobility within the city.
- Green areas: Determining areas designated for gardens and parks, which enhances the quality of life and the environment.
- Sustainability: Focusing on sustainable environmental design, which reflects the interest in sustainable development.

In general, the land use plan for Bismaya City aims to achieve a balance between different uses

and achieve comprehensive urban development.

As follows in the table that shows the percentages and areas of land uses:

Percentage	Area (hectare)	Land use
40%	732	Residential
6.20%	113	Educational
7.30%	113	Public services
4.90%	90	Commercial
9.80%	180	Business centers
19.20%	333	Green area
13.70%	250	Infrastructure

Table (1) Proportions and areas of land uses in the Bismaya City Plan

Source: Baghdad Investment Commission data, 2024.

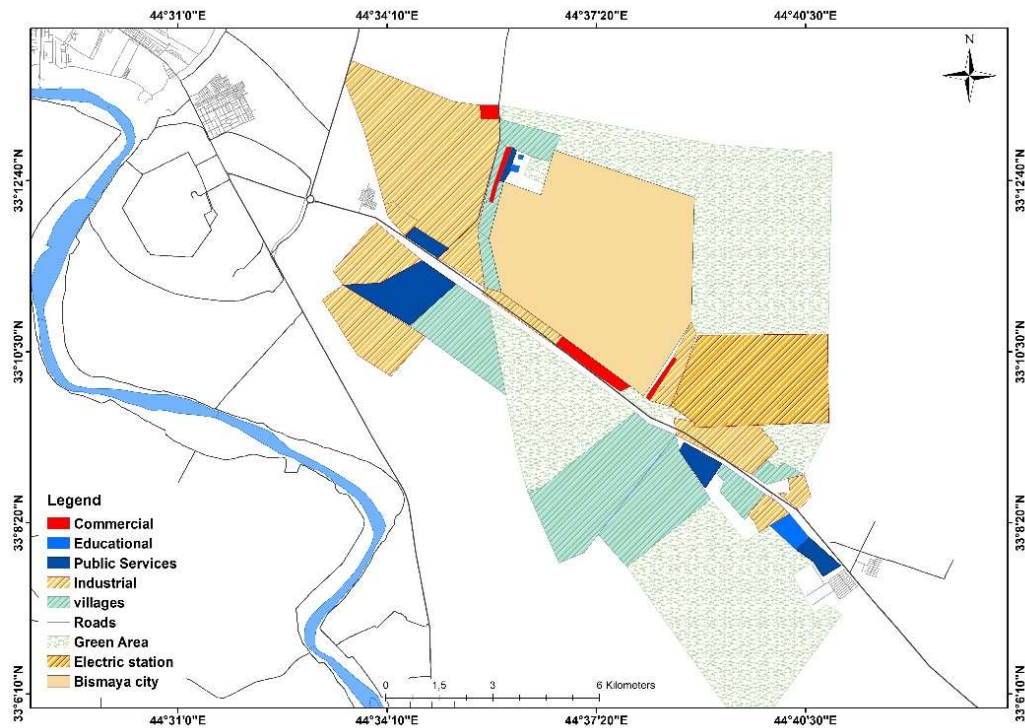


Figure (5) A map showing the locational determinants adjacent to the city of Bismaya. Source: The researcher based on geographic information systems, field survey data, and the borders of the .Baghdad Governorate Municipality

Land uses surrounding the residential city of Bismaya, including the green areas surrounding the Bismaya complex and public services, in addition to villages and neighborhoods, all of which are located outside the borders of the city of Baghdad. We note through the site analysis that the city of Bismaya has a variety of land uses in addition to the diversity of the features of the site within which it is located, various features and natural characteristics, such as villages and green areas, which are

considered development potentials relative to the site

conclusion

The site is linked to many features that contribute to the prosperity of new cities. Bismaya City is a model for new cities affiliated with Baghdad and linked to it by a transportation network, with the aim of accommodating the surplus population and relieving pressure on Baghdad and providing them with housing according to the adoption of the concept of prosperity that achieves the presence of necessary infrastructure for housing in addition to the diversity of land uses and services that meet the needs of the population, in addition to the diversity of characteristics that distinguish the lands adjacent to the city's site, such as green spaces, villages, and infrastructure that connects the city to other cities. All of these features can be used to benefit from the resources available spatially in order to create an economic foundation and provide job opportunities that are consistent with the location characteristics and attract workers, and achieve the prosperity of the city.

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