

NILE HANDICRAFT CENTER ASWAN - EGYPT

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Abstract

Egypt is a country famous for its handicraft. Aswan is a town in the Nile River, the southern part of Egypt, known for its Nubian handicrafts produced by the local community. At present, there is no proper facility for these local communities to market their handicrafts. Thus, this work has aimed to address the issue by presenting the development of Nile Handicraft Center in Aswan, Egypt. In this work, three case studies related to village concept handicraft center were examined. Based on the analysed case studies, for the Nile Handicraft Center, the estimated gross floor area is 18748.8 m². Moreover, the center includes few significant zone, which are main entrance, educational zone, social zone, administration zone, commercial zone, logistic, outdoor area and services. The Nile Handicraft Center will be developed at a site, which is located next to the Al Nile Museum in Aswan. In terms of architectural design, the Nile Handicraft Center was designed with a variety of circular shapes that have a unique and contemporary design. With the development of the Nile Handicraft Center, the social economic status of the local community is expected to improve and the heritage of Nubian handicrafts can continue at international level.

Keywords-- Handicraft, Nubian, craft, art, community, Aswan, Egypt

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INTRODUCTION

Handicraft is the first craft that human beings have produced since their creation on earth [1]. Handicraft is defined as an activity done in order to produce hand-made designs of different decorative objects [2]. Each country has its own craftsmanship and the materials that have characterized it. Moreover, handicraft are unique work represents the country's traditions, heritage and culture, and are a large part of the home accessory market [3].

Furthermore, studies have stated that handicraft as part of national culture or as part of an ethnic group that is a key component of socio-economic life [2,3]. Most rural and agricultural communities depend on their craft skills during the natural crisis such as drought and flooding as a source of income for their daily lives [4]. These artisanal products are made entirely by hand, using hand tools or ordinary machines. Famous types of handicraft include pottery designs, wooden designs, glass designs, silk products, primitive crafts, fashion accessories, gift items and decorative goods [5].

Ancient Egyptians were well known for their crafts [6]. They used textile work, needlework, sculptures, pottery designs, papyrus shapes, wood work, manufacture of carpets on their own, design of clothes and textiles, design of glass by blowing in, design of stamps and silver designs [6]. In Egypt, people depend on craft as their main income. Most citizens in each city participate in annual festivals to present their craft and spread it to other places [6]. At first, they worked on the essentials of daily life, then expanded their talents to start manufacturing each item using their hands and primitive tools [6].

Aswan is a city in the Nile River, the southern part of Egypt. Aswan is prominent in its Nubian handicraft, which is produced by the local community with various colorful designs [7]. The Nubians have special artisans consisting from reeds and palm leaves. They are exquisitely crafted with geometric designs that captivate every traveler to the handicrafts of Nubia. They are also produced in various colors and are appealing and prominent with international tourists [8]. At present, however, the crafts in

Aswan have become less demanding, as there are no proper facilities available to market these crafts. There is also a need for a suitable facility or center that can be used by the local community to sell such handicrafts. Hence, this work presents the development of Nile Handicraft Center in Aswan, Egypt.

CASE STUDIES

In this work, two case studies related to village concept handicraft center were examined. The information of each case study is presented as follow:

- DilliHaat
- Aldar Central Market
- Ramses Wissa Wassef

Dilli Haat

Dilli Haat is located at Janakpuri, New Delhi, India (Figure 1). It was designed by a team of architects from India. This center has an area of 16000m². The concept of the Dilli Haat is the conversation between the past and the present, the recognition of the traditional and its adaptation in contemporary times, in concept and in construction. Dilli Haat consists of 100 typical craft kiosks, 74 open platform shops, 46 commercial shops, 14 food kiosks from all over India to show Indian food to visitors and 15 food kiosks to sell food from other countries around the world. Each craft kiosk plays a major role in representing the historical culture of India in the modern era. The exhibition hall is 960 m² for the presentation of crafts.

It is composed of exhibition rooms and seminar rooms. Furthermore, there is an auditorium and it accommodates 800 people. In addition, there are four basket towers, which are divided into a café, a museum, an information center and a music centre. It has an outdoor amphitheater with 820 seats for visitors to take part in various events. It also has a dormitory with 80 beds. Next, the car park consists of 240 car spaces with 3 bus spaces on the ground floor and 55 car spaces and 120 scooters in the basement with disabled parking spaces. The space distribution of Dilli Haat is comprised of auditorium (28%), amphitheater (29%), exhibition hall (34%), kiosk (5 %) and other facilities (4%).



Figure 1. DilliHaat

Aldar Central Market

Aldar Central Market is located at Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates (Figure 2). It was designed by architects from Foster and Partners. This market has an area of 11000 m². The project is located in a significant area where the tower provides an overview of the sea and the whole project benefits from the breeze of the sea.

The concept of the project is to reflect the concept of the "souk" old traditional markets. It is designed with maximum natural ventilation. The project was designed with a roof garden. In addition, the design includes courtyards, alleys, integrated balconies and columns. Colored glass was used on the large ornamental windows on the façade. The façade is decorated with Islamic wooden designs that help to bring natural light into interior spaces with respect to their culture. The facade of the three towers reduces the need for dust maintenance. The space distribution of Aldar Central Market is comprised of booths (80%) and offices (20%).



Figure 2. Aldar Central Market

Ramses Wissa Wassef

Ramses Wissa Wassef is located at Al Haraniya, Cairo, Egypt (Figure 3). It was design by a group of architects from Ramses Wissa Wassef. This center has an area of 16000 m². The center was designed and built to create a harmonious place for living, working and displaying artwork. The center was built as a weaving school and then added to it workshops and showrooms, a pottery and sculpture museum, houses and farm buildings to become a craft center.

The design is made of mud brick because it was the local building material available in Egypt. The vaults and domes are constructed of mud bricks, influenced by the Paranoiac, Coptic and Islamic cultures. The space distribution of Ramses Wissa Wassef is comprised of exhibition hall (33%), workshops (50%), and residence (17%).

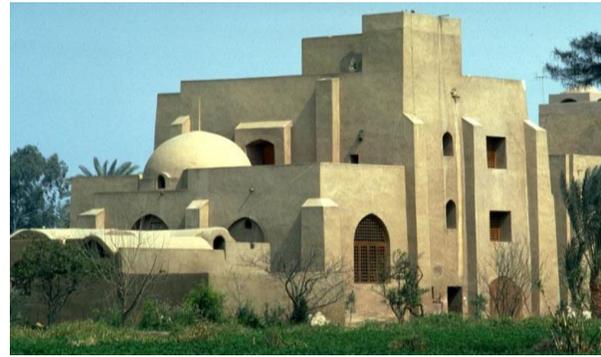


Figure 3. Aldar Central Market

PROGRAM ASSUMPTION AND SPACE DETAILS

In this work, for the Nile Handicraft Center, the estimated gross floor area is 18748.8 m². Based on Table 1, the center is comprised of several key zones, which are main entrance, educational zone, social zone, administration zone, commercial zone, logistic, outdoor area and services. The details of gross area for each zone is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Space details

Zone	Gross Area (m ²)
Main entrance	3024
Educational zone	1555.2
Social zone	1305.6
Administration zone	768
Commercial zone	7194
Logistic	828
Outdoor area	1800
Services	2274
Total	18748.8

PROPOSED SITE AND ANALYSIS

The proposed site is located in the ancient city of Aswan. It is considered to be the southern gate of Egypt. It is located on the eastern river bank of the Nile. Project site is located next to the Al Nile Museum in Aswan, Egypt (Figure 4) . It's a famous historical museum that tourists used to visit. Citizens used to organize handicraft festivals inside the museum. Aswan is characterized by a topographical land that helps to integrate the project into the location and helps to provide a partial view of the Nile River from the south-west direction. Furthermore, the site is easily accessible from the main roads connecting Luxor and Aswan and the Nagaa Al Karour – Aswan road on the other side. The climate is a desert climate, and most likely there is no rainfall in the city. The temperature in Aswan is 16.9 ° C in January, which is the lowest temperature, while the temperature in Aswan is 34.2 ° C in July and August, which is the highest temperature in Aswan. The average annual temperature of Aswan is therefore 26.8 ° C.



Figure 4. Proposed site

PROJECT DESIGN

The design concept for the Nile Handicraft Center in Aswan, Egypt, is to be a one-stop handicraft center for the local community, where visitors can learn about these crafts from its workshop and rekindle the Nubian culture. In terms of architecture, the center is designed with a variety of circular shapes that have a unique and contemporary design. Furthermore, double roofing system that incorporates passive cooling system has been used. This will reduce the heat gain to the building interiors. Furthermore, it will facilitate natural ventilation to the interior to achieve thermal comfort. Moreover, building is fitted with cavity wall and overhang that filters the sun rays that enter the space to avoid the glare. The project is a multi-functional center. It has included the main exhibition hall for glass, pottery, textiles, wicker and ceramic crafts, indoor and outdoor craft workshops, classrooms, administration, library, shopping booths, business offices, restaurants and small dormitories. The architectural design of the Nile Handicraft Center is shown in Figure 5 to Figure 8 respectively.



Figure 5. Bird eye view of Nile Handicraft Center.

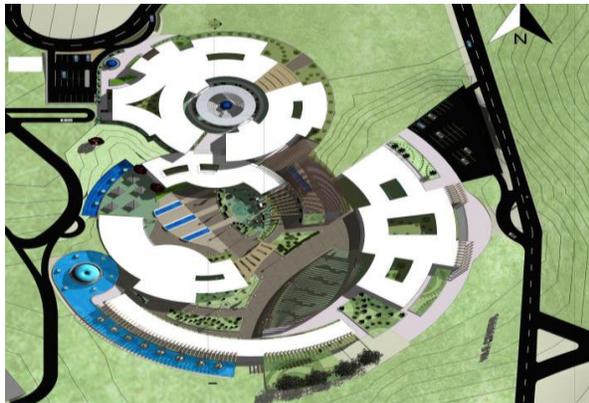


Figure 6. Top view of Nile Handicraft Center.



Figure 7. Main elevation of Nile Handicraft Center.



Figure 8. Outdoor of Nile Handicraft Center.

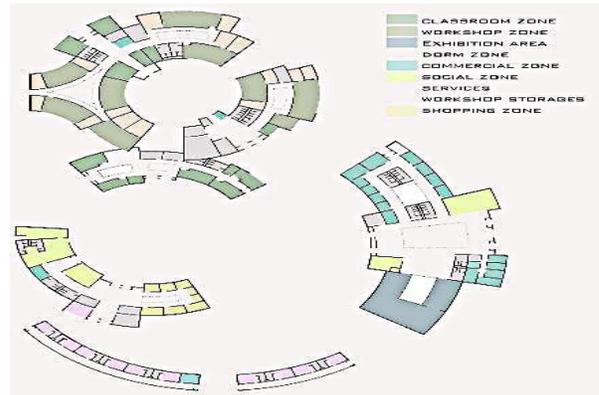


Figure 9. Zoning of Nile Handicraft Center.

CONCLUSION

This work has presented the development of Nile Handicraft Center in Aswan, Egypt. In this work, the estimated gross floor area of the center is 18748.8 m². In addition, the key zones of the handicraft center is main entrance educational zone, social zone, administration zone, commercial zone, logistic, outdoor area and services. The Nile Handicraft Center is expected to enhance the socio-economic level of Aswan by providing the local community with an opportunity to market their crafts and spread their talents around the world.

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