

AcE-Bs2014Seoul  
Asian Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies  
Chung-Ang University, Seoul, S. Korea, 25-27 August 2014  
*"Environmental Settings in the Era of Urban Regeneration"*

## Redefining the Proactive Role of Egyptian Architects

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### Abstract

During the last decade, major changes took place in understanding the role of the architect, especially in Egypt. A gap appeared creating a dilemma between conflicts facing the country and the built environment architects produce. The paper adopts a qualitative methodology which addresses two main axes. First is the literature review of proactive visions adopted by a selection of international architects. Following that the paper will present an analysis for the contemporary work of Egyptian architects in order to analyze their reactions to different dynamics. Finally, the paper presents a framework for rethinking the role of the architect in Egypt, whether on the institutional, educational or professional levels.

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Peer-review under responsibility of Centre for Environment-Behaviour Studies (cE-Bs), Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia.

**Keywords:** Proactive Architect; futuristic visions; revolutionary architecture; globalization

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### 1. Introduction

The aim of the research paper is to shed light on one of the important roles of architects, which is providing proactive visions to serve the needs of their countries. This is studied in contrast to the Egyptian case, where architects tend to produce either representations of historic architecture or to follow international globalized trends even if irrelevant to context and economics. Thus, the methodology is based upon a qualitative approach, exposing Literature review of three proactive architects' roles, followed by analysis of the Egyptian case and ending by the recommendations in the conclusion as shown in the following figure, (fig.1).

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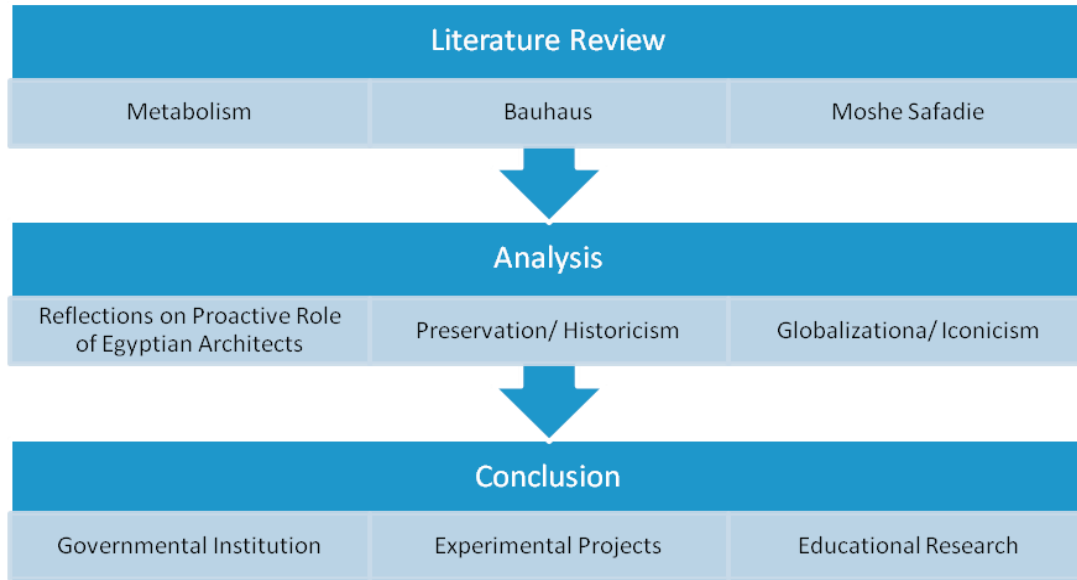


Fig. 1. Paper methodology

## 2. Literature Review: Proactive Architects' Philosophy and Projects:

This part aims to explore international architects' proactive visions to address solutions for problems affecting their countries. The three selected cases are Metabolism, Bauhaus and the work of architect Moshe Safadie.

### 2.1. Metabolism emergence

According to Worrall (2012), Metabolism movement emerged in Tokyo in the late 1950s. It was a movement dedicated to reshaping Japan's buildings and cities. The members who were young Japanese architects gathered around the iconic figure of Kenzo Tange. Their most influential manifestation was at the World Design Conference of 1960. The Metabolism group presented a manifesto entitled 'Metabolism 1960: Proposals for a New Urbanism'. Example of their proactive work is shown below in (table, 1) which represents the proactive approach they adopted to generate a new vision for Japanese architecture. Most notably, Arata Isozaki worked as a theorist, loosely associated with Japanese Metabolism to create such critical projects as his 'Ruin Future City' and 'Clusters in the Air'.

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