New Islamic Urbanism
Maneval, Stefan

Published by University College London

Maneval, Stefan.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/81894.

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Since the dawn of the oil era, cities in Saudi Arabia have witnessed rapid growth and profound societal changes. As a response to foreign architectural solutions and the increasing popularity of Western lifestyles, a distinct style of architecture and urban planning has emerged. Characterised by an emphasis on privacy, expressed through high enclosures, gates, blinds, and tinted windows, ‘New Islamic Urbanism’ constitutes for some an important element of piety. For others, it enables alternative ways of life, indulgence in banned social practices, and the formation of both publics and counterpublics.

Tracing the emergence of ‘New Islamic Urbanism’, this book sheds light on the changing conceptions of public and private space, in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, in the Saudi city of Jeddah. It challenges the widespread assumption that the public sphere is exclusively male in Muslim contexts such as Saudi Arabia, where women’s public visibility is limited by the veil and strict rules of gender segregation. Showing that the rigid segregation regime for which the country is known serves to constrain the movements of men and women alike, Stefan Maneval provides a nuanced account of the negotiation of public and private spaces in Saudi Arabia.

Stefan Maneval holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from Freie Universität Berlin. He is co-editor of *Muslim Matter* (2016), a photo book documenting the diversity of everyday Muslim life and material culture, and author of several articles on Saudi Arabia. Living in Berlin, he holds a research position at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His current research project focusses on contemporary theology from Lebanon.