

form as a 'microcosm' of the community (see chapter 5).

Throughout I have given special emphasis to the events that took place in the different spatial configurations which made up the village structures (houses, courtyards, quarter, village plaza, mosque, and guest-house). By doing so, the static geometric aspects of these elements are given life and character. The quality of space acquires meaning through the "pattern of events" observed (Alexander, 1979:55), the occurrence of the event, participation and exclusion in the event, and cultural rules governing the event. For example the spatial quality of the village plaza (saha) and guest-house (madafah) was not only defined by the plan and the architectural articulation of the buildings around it, but more crucially by the everyday events and the ceremonial occasions that took place in them. It was through these patterns that places came to have their meanings and character.

Throughout this analysis, both spaces and the events associated with them are seen as culture-bound and governed by the principles of congruence and exclusion. Cultural schemes determined spatial forms and the pattern of events which occurred in a place. A good illustration of this determination can be seen in the location of the village mosque and the orientation of the mihrab (praying niche) within it, where both elements must be congruent with the intended action of prayer. It was the fallah's (peasant's) relationship to God and his conception of the world of the beyond that dictated both geometric qualities and events which took place in the mosque.

The physical spatial quality of a place not only supports the intended event but also excludes the undesired. For example the well-defined boundaries of the saha (plaza), its location next to the sheikh's house and village mosque, its controlled or limited access, the sharp boundaries separating it from the dwellings of the dominant clan (the Barghouthis), all supported and were congruent with the events that were associated with it. It will be clear from my analysis that I do not consider that the geometric qualities of any environment as having a causal relation to events, i.e., spatial qualities do not cause specific events to happen.