



Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register
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www.zmo.de
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Urban Studies Seminar 2012 - 2013

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme: **Cities as Laboratories of Change**

Monday, October 15th, 2012, 5 pm - 7 pm

Architectural Development and Householder's Structure in the 19th Century in Port Suakin (Sudan)

Lecture by Mohamed Elfateh

Architecture in Port Suakin is a reflection of the complex history of this city in the 19th century. D. H. Matthews gave it the name of 'Red Sea Style' in a seminal 1953 article, a category which also encompasses developments in other port cities like Jeddah, Hodeida and Massawa. But this architecture is also the result of the interaction between the local milieu of notables and landowners and the outside world, be it the Ottoman imperial sphere, Egypt or international influences. This is why this presentation considers the changing of style and typology in the architecture of Port Suakin and its significance within a political and social transition process in the later 19th century. This considerable change can be observed in the buildings which relate to the "Post Ottoman" Period after 1865, when Suakin went under Egyptian control. The current results show that there is no clear break between the two historic architectural periods generally named Ottoman and Post-Ottoman. The architecture of the Post-Ottoman houses in Suakin connects influences from the individual buildings culture of each of the householders groups residing in Suakin after 1865, and it retains essentially an Ottoman space program.

Mohamed Elfateh is an architect, studied architecture and town planning in Sudan and he holds a Master degree in architecture from the University of Stuttgart. He is preparing a PhD in History of Architecture, "Historische Baukultur" directed by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Rheidt, and he awarded since 2010 a scholarship from the BTU Cottbus (International Graduate School at the Brandenburgische Technische Universität). He is currently working on the architecture of the Ottoman Empire in Port Suakin and Jeddah in the Red Sea region between the 16th and the 20th century. His research field discusses the Ottoman era architecture in the Red Sea region, contemplating mainly architectural types and styles, besides urbanistic, social, economic, and political factors.