Abstract:
Traditionally, the richness of Jordan consists of its history; ancient civilizations left their testimonial traces in several regions such as; Dead Sea, Petra, Jerasa, Um Kais, Madaba, Ajloun, etc. Nowadays, Jordan has significant role because of its geopolitical position in the Middle East and its economic position as a result of its relationship with Saudi Arabia and Arab Gulf Region.

The rapid urban development due, essentially, to the modern economic models caused serious variation of the historic agglomerations and urban landscape. Local territorial laws and building regulations contributed both positively and negatively in the process of transformation.

This research illustrates some physical aspects of Jordanian historic centers concerning their urban character and architecture; in order to discuss the relationship between traditional and modern planning methodology and building techniques. Particular attention was given to the urbanization impacts on the local community and physical integrity of historic center, the landscape alteration effect in relation with environmental condition and the sustainability of new built environment. At the same time, it takes into consideration land cost, building density, public and standard services, etc.

This research highlights recommendations regarding the importance of introducing the sustainable concept in Jordanian planning strategy and physical historic urban conservation. It also advocates the promulgation of territorial laws and introducing specific guidelines for intervention methodology and building regulation with particular attention to: texture, shape, volumes, heights, morphology, cohesions, sustainable materials (insulation, energy saving, maintenance, etc.).