

# The Problem of overtaking the basic design of the city of Baghdad (alternative and Solutions)

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## Abstract

*The problem of overcoming the basic design of the city of Baghdad after a year, 2003 is the problem of the times; the research aims to determine if treating it and adapting it through the civil study questionnaire, which is prepared to district the city of Baghdad. The overrun represents the public property of the state and individuals, mostly written and surveyed community services, and road and river taboos. The research determined the research problem is a weakness in planning decisions, the security aspect, economic, social, and housing problems and the absence of awareness among the population the winch exacerbated the problem and multiple questions. The research may consist of the three topics as the first topic dealt with the theoretical framework and the second topic covered basic designs for the city of Baghdad and the role of planners, laws, and legislation to reduce the phenomenon of overtaking. The third topic covered the field study of overtaking, alternatives, and solutions, and the research concluded with the most critical result. The overtaking came due to the poor urban management of the city and the absence of the rule of law, which led to environmental, visual, and the comfort of the community. As for the critical proposal in activity solutions and alternative the comprehensive development project proposals for the year 2030 by the Urban planning department and the municipalities of districts, the city of Baghdad, to reduce the phenomenon of overtaking.*

**Keywords:** Problem of overtaking the basic design, the city of Baghdad, alternative and Solutions.

## 1- Introduction

The basic design is concerned with studying the activities and activities of the city in terms of land uses and its variables, population variables within the urban space, and linear community services networks for the city according to the designs prepared for the city. Iraq, especially the city of Baghdad, which suffers from many cases of abuse of the public and private property of the state, which are green spaces and abandoned military areas that were overridden after (2003) and this problem was not limited to one design, but continued in all the basic designs of the city of Baghdad and resulted in unused land uses It was planned, which led to distorting the city's landscape and losing its urban privacy. The research came to shed light on the reflections of those transgressions that bear the most significant burden on the city's administration in its job performance.

## 2- Literature review

### 2-1 Basic designs for the city of Baghdad

What is the primary design? A framework that deals with the units of time and place with their variables that the city community and its region or regions operate, and the framework is often in the form of time stages that do not exceed a total of fifty years (Al-Ash'ab, 1980).

The study of the basic design of the city of Baghdad is considered due to its importance in the distribution of land use during successive periods, from a previous structural blueprint and another following blueprint. The city of Baghdad witnessed blueprints and designs, namely:

- a- **J-M-Wilson blueprint:** The first initiative was before (1921) when the British architect (J-M-Wilson), designing New Delhi and then entering the garden town, then Baghdad, drafted the master blueprint for the city.
- b- **Broecks & Bronoweinver blueprint:** A blueprint was drawn up, and blueprints were submitted by German consultant Broecks and Bronoweinver (1936) to accommodate (500,000) people but were not adopted, as Baghdad attained this population size before the target year (Ghanem, 2001).
- c- **Minprio Basic blueprint:** The Minprio consultative blueprint was drawn up in (1954) to prepare a basic design for the city and the design was circular and surrounded the city (9) km<sup>2</sup> on the east side of the Tigris River because this riverside is lower than the other side, and the blueprint includes (8) main sectors that are evenly distributed on the riverside, and each sector includes (8) Mahalla, each of which accommodates (10) thousand people (Al-Kinani, 2008).

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**d- The basic blueprint for the city of Baghdad - Doxiads Foundation:** The Development Council contracted with the (Doxiads) Foundation to prepare a basic design for the city of Baghdad in 1959, and developed a rectangular blueprint and drawing straight and perpendicular streets, separating the movement of citizens from cars and the design contains (5) main sectors whose borders are natural contours like a river The Tigris and the industrial highway, and each sector accommodates (half a million people) and includes (14) small and independent housing units that accommodate (50-100) thousand people. It suggested (3) irrigation channels parallel to the Tigris River. That the planning process was imprecise in terms of research, statistics, and analysis.

**e- The basic blueprint for the city of Baghdad - the Polservice Foundation in two phases (1967-1973):** In 1965, the Municipality of Baghdad contracted with the Polish Polservice Foundation to prepare the basic blueprint for Baghdad. The design and the comprehensive development blueprint continued until 1973 to cover the axes and development of the city until 1990. The design of two documents, the first in the form of maps, and the second, written documents in the form of a comprehensive report. This blueprint suggested a population size, and this blueprint suggested a population size for the city of Baghdad until the target year 1990, which is around (3.5-4) million people, and the blueprint suggested dense and vertical housing in the city and the implementation of traffic routes The blueprint considers the Tigris River the main artery for the growth and development of the city, and that the lands on the river are (2-3) km<sup>2</sup>, known as the (Tigris belt) (Baghdad Municipality, 2016)

**f- The comprehensive development blueprint for the city - (Polservice) in the year 2000:** This blueprint was prepared based on some regional indicators that will not affect the city, and as follows: The regional dimension: is the transfer of the surplus population in the future outside the city of Baghdad. The urban dimension: it is a statement of the expectations of the population of the city of Baghdad to (4.3) million people (Baghdad Comprehensive Development blueprint, 2000).

**g- The Japanese Integrated Development blueprint (Jccf) (2015):** The Municipality of Baghdad entrusted the development planning project in 2015 to the Japanese (Jccf) group to control and direct the city's growth (Dagestani, 2009).

The study included this blueprint (three reports): the regional framework for central Iraq, the integrated blueprint for greater Baghdad, updating the basic blueprint, and land uses for the Baghdad Municipality. This study focused on (City Center) (Al-Kanani, 2008).

**a- Urban Development blueprint for the year 2015:** This blueprint is a complement to the integrated development planning for Baghdad 2015, and the study focused on the planning and regional aspects affected by the planning strategies of Baghdad and its region, and the goal of this study is to achieve spatial development, secure environmental foundations, and achieve sustainable development (Baghdad Municipality, Urban Development blueprint, 2015).

**b- The comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad 2030:** The Baghdad Municipality contracted with the Lebanese Company (Al-Khatib) in 2007 to prepare the comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad in 2003. The project includes four phases: (Baghdad Municipality, the Coastal Development blueprint 2030 project)

- The first stage: reviewing the previous experiences of the blueprints.
- The second stage: laying out alternatives for the development of the blueprint and its outlines.
- The third stage: re-drafting the comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad and setting up work blueprints.
- The fourth stage: preparing the final version of the comprehensive development blueprint and preparing for implementation.

#### Summary of basic blueprint for the city of Baghdad

Each master blueprint established for the city of Baghdad has a vision and perception about the size of the city, the population density, and the per capita share of the city.

**Table (1) Summary of basic blueprint for the city of Baghdad**

blueprints	Preparation year	Suggested space	population	Population density	Per capita share in the city
Wilson's blueprint	1920s	10 km <sup>2</sup>	5.2 million	200 people	50 m <sup>2</sup>
Broecks & Bronoweinver blueprint	1936	100 km <sup>2</sup>	0.5 million	50 people	200 m <sup>2</sup>
Minprio Basic blueprint	1954	240 km <sup>2</sup>	0.9 million	37.5 people	267 m <sup>2</sup>
Doxiads's blueprint	1959	500 km <sup>2</sup>	1.1 million	22 people	455 m <sup>2</sup>
Polservice's blueprint	1967	836 km <sup>2</sup>	1.8 million	22 people	464 m <sup>2</sup>
Polservice's blueprint	1973	864 km <sup>2</sup>	2.4 million	28 people	360 m <sup>2</sup>
Jccf 2015 Japanese Integrated Development blueprint study	1987	929 m <sup>2</sup>	3.84 million	41 people	242 m <sup>2</sup>
Urban development blueprint	1998	929 m <sup>2</sup>	4.5 million	48 people	206 m <sup>2</sup>

The comprehensive development blueprint for the Lebanese city of Baghdad, Khatib, and Alami	230	1367 m <sup>2</sup>			
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**Source:** Mohsen, Saeed Jassim, (2002), Urban Land Administration in the City of Baghdad, unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Baghdad, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning for Postgraduate Studies.

## 2-2 The concept of overtaking

There are several concepts of overtaking, which are: Most of the transgressions are within the city or the municipal boundaries of the city as follows:

- 1- Exceeding green and open spaces and private property of people and state-owned lands and using various services.
- 2- Exceeding car garages and abandoned lands within the urban spatial (Al-Da`asim, 1986)
- 3- The excess by individuals and official bodies on abandoned lands belonging to the state from establishing unplanned uses of land within the urban space, which led to distorting the city's view.
- 4- Urban overrun: what individual immigrants do by placing umbrellas on street sidewalks and corridors and closing entrances and exits in city Districts, especially the center, which led to the formation of harmful land uses from the basic design of the city (Mazhar, 2007)
- 5- The overrun by immigrants and city residents on the abandoned areas belonging to the state and the green spaces within the city by creating random housing that is not based on a legal basis that has distorted the city's view, as in Kadhimiya, Sadr City, Rusafa and Ghadeer (Field Study, 2020)
- 6- Bypassing the prohibitions of main roads, railway lines, and Citizen roads inside the markets and altering the housing stock located on the primary and secondary roads by opening the facades of houses using them as shopping stores (Field Study, 2020)
- 7- Overtaking on the edge of the agricultural city.
- 8- Exceeding land for communal services (linear and cadastral).
- 9- The most dangerous overrun is the process of splitting houses through the sale of gardens in homes with areas between (300-400) m or more and building inclusions outside the basic design, which leads to an increase in population density and pressure on community services (Field study, 2020).
- 10- Exceeding the Tigris River (2-3) km and using it for housing and recreational facilities.
- 11- Overtaking the green belt surrounding the city.
- 12- Exceeding historical heritage buildings through architectural and non-architectural modifications (Field Study, 2020).

## 2-3 Reasons for overshooting

are: (Afifi, 2000)

- 1- Citizen's ignorance of the basic design concept.
- 2- Economic and social factors.
- 3- Weakness of the city administration's authority to implement laws against transgressors.
- 4- The lack of awareness of the population in the media about the seriousness of this phenomenon.
- 5- Immigration to Baghdad led to an understanding of this phenomenon.
- 6- The political fluctuations in the country led to an increase in this phenomenon.

## 2-4 Effects resulting from changes in land use in the basic design

are: (Field Study, 2020)

- 1- Social factors represented by abuse of the family when residential land uses overlap with other uses.
- 2- The high prices of land, homes, and apartments in the main streets and commercial centers have led to the migration of low-income families to the outskirts of the city.
- 3- The loss of most of the architectural heritage between the change in land uses and the transformation of heritage housing into service, commercial and industrial uses.
- 4- Distorting the aesthetic of the city due to the interference between the uses of the land, which led to visual, environmental, and noise pollution.
- 5- The psychological change of the individual in the city, with fatigue and mental.

## 2-5 Legislation and laws to reduce the phenomenon of abuse after 2003

Where the excesses of the basic design increased after 2003 due to the loss of the law and the mismanagement of the city and the interventions by some departments and individuals in overriding the basic design of the city, but the Baghdad Municipality (Urban Planning Department) issued laws that have an essential role in regulating land uses and directing the urban movement Future and most important of these laws: (Baghdad Municipality, Urban Planning Department, unpublished data for the year 2020)

- 1- The issuance of Law No. (156) of 2003, in which Law (734) of 1987 was amended, by prohibiting the owners of agricultural land and orchards within the boundaries of the foundation design and permitting the construction of housing.
- 2- A set of decisions were issued to own the violators, namely:
  - a- Resolution No. (397) of 1970, which stipulated the ownership of overtakes at the low price.
  - b- Resolution No. (721) of 1971, which stipulated the continuation of the previous decision.
  - c- Resolution No. (548) of 1979, which stipulated the ownership of transgressors contrary to the design (i.e., non-residential use) at a reasonable price and eliminated the excess.
  - d- Resolution No. (154) of 2001, which stipulated removing the excess that violates the use without compensation for another piece.
  - e - Resolution No. (156) of 2003 stipulating the ownership of transgressors corresponding to their use for housing purposes.

### **2-6 The role of planners to reduce the phenomenon of overshoot**

The planners and the civil administration found significant problems in the basic design of the city, which is the encroachment on the public property of the state and individuals or within the urban space of the city, especially the use of land (linear and cadastral), which prompted the planners to enact laws and legislations to reduce the phenomenon of exceeding the basic design (Abdullah, 2007).

### **3- Methodology**

**3-1 Research problem :** The problem of excesses on the basic design is one of the urban problems that a group of factors contributed to showing this problem, namely the weakness of planning decisions, the security aspect, economic, social, and demographic problems, and the absence of awareness among the population, which exacerbated the problem.

**3-2 Research important:** It is a message for decision-makers to find solutions to the abuses in the basic design of the city of Baghdad and to know this phenomenon, the researcher conducted a field study to determine the effect of the excess on the activities of the city's activities and developed a set of proposals to address these abuses.

**3-3 Research objectives:** The objectives of the research can be described as follows:

- Understand the concept of overtaking.
- Determine the violations of designs and methods of dealing with them.
- The imposition of decisions and legislation by the executive authority by the city administration to limit the phenomenon of abuse.
- Laying down blueprints to solve the problem of transgressions.

**3-4 Research hypotheses:** Represented, including the following:

- Are there violations of the basic design of the city of Baghdad?
- Do these abuses affect the job performance of the city administration?
- What are the proposals to address the problem of overtaking?

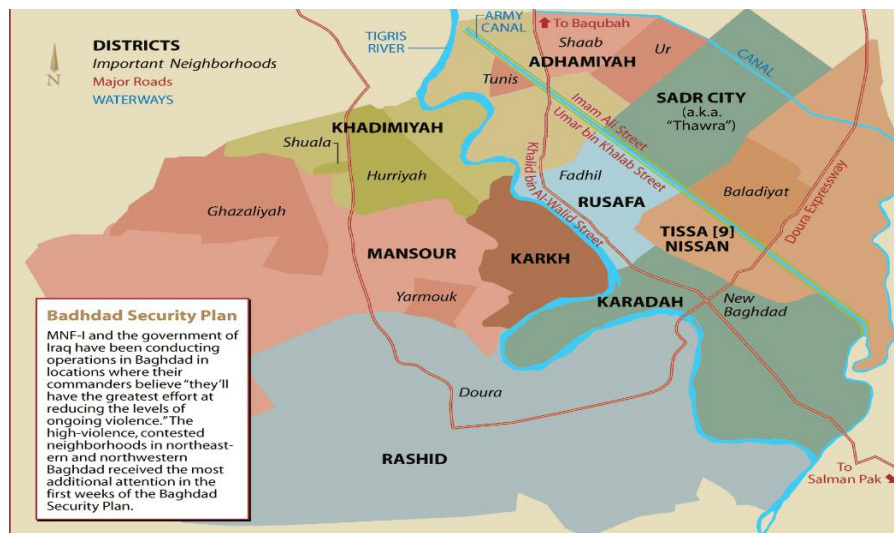
**3-5 Research justification:**

- There are no studies that dealt with exceeding the basic design in a broad way that limits the phenomenon of abuses.
- The city administration is responsible for everything that happens in changes in land use. The research proposed that this issue be addressed to reduce the phenomenon and to develop solutions and alternatives.

**3-6 the limits of spatial and temporal research:**

- **Spatial limits:** The boundaries of the city of Baghdad represent its Districts fourteen that are shown in the base Map (1) prepared in (2020) and which indicated that the area of the city of Baghdad is (4555) km<sup>2</sup>.
- **Temporal limits:** represent the year of research preparation (2020).

#### **Map (1) the city of Baghdad Districts**



Source: Baghdad Municipality, Basic Design Department, Geographical Systems Division, at a scale of 1: 5000, 2019.

**3-7 Research outline :** Researcher research department on three main topics dealt with the first and second theoretical framework: the basic designs of the city of Baghdad and the role of planners in the laws and legislation to reduce the phenomenon of overtaking, methodology and finally addressed the focus of the field study, which addressed the problem of abuses to the solutions and alternatives.

**4- The problem of abuses**

This topic included two axes, namely the field study and alternatives and solutions by the proposals of the comprehensive development project for the year 2030. The following are presented:

**4-1 Field study**

A field study was conducted on the Districts of Baghdad, and the study included the following:

- 1- Personal interviews of some of the officials in the Baghdad Municipality and the municipalities of the Baghdad Districts.
- 2- Visual viewing of the place overridden.
- 3- Questionnaire forms (225) have been distributed; Table (2) included (6) questions. These questions were distributed to the residential units located on the main roads and adjacent to the recreational places in the city centers, and the questions were as follows:
  - a- *The first question:* Where does the family spend their holidays and leisure time? Then (47%) of the sample answered that they spent their rest times at home and answered (43%) of them spend their time in places far from their homes, such as the city of games, al-Zawraa, and the tourist island, due to the lack of entertainment places in the Districts As in Al-Kadhimiya, Al-Adhamiya, Al-Sadr and Al-Karkh Districts.
  - b- *The second question:* Are there community-based (recreational) services in the Districts, and there were (41%) of the sample size. There are no recreational areas in the residential Districts because of the overrun. There are small shops in it, as is the case in Al-Adhamiya, Al-Rusafa, and Al-Ghadeer. The sample size answered that there are (28%) of the small parks that only accommodate (1%) of the Districts' population because there are in those parks service shops for people rented from the Districts municipality case in Al-Shula and Al-Kadhimiya Districts And Al-Karkh. (23%) of the small sports stadiums and green spaces that have been overrun by Districts, residents and immigrants answered the establishment of unplanned land uses (random housing) outside the basic design and not based on a draft law in the Districts of Al-Kadhimiya, Al-Rasheed, Al-Ghadeer, Al-Sadr and Baghdad Al-Jadida.

**Table (2) Distribution of the questionnaire on Baghdad Districts**

Rank	District	Number of forms	%
1	Al-Kadhimiya	24	10,7
2	Al-Karkh	21	9,3
3	Al-Rasheed	27	12
4	Al-Mansour	16	7,2
5	Al-Sadr	28	12,5
6	Al-Adhamiya	25	11,5
7	Al-Rusafa	17	7,5
8	Al-Karrada	21	9,3
9	Baghdad Al-Jadida	22	9,7

10	Al Ghadeer	24	10,6
		225	100

**Source:** The researcher's work is based on the 2020 questionnaire.

- c- *The third question:* Are family members practicing free professions in the District? Answer (21%) they practice free jobs on the main street sidewalks and the district's commercial center to sell various agricultural and industrial goods and other professions, as in Kadhimiya, Adhamiya, Ghadeer, Baghdad Al-Jadida, and Sadr.
- d- *The fourth question:* What do you think of the overtaken areas, so the answer was (85%) of the sample size must be established community services on the overrun areas that belong to the state are (cadastral) and include recreational areas and educational and medical services to serve the residents of the District, as it is in Al-Kadhimiya, Al-Karkh Districts, Al-Sadr, Al-Rusafa, Al-Mansour, Baghdad Al-Jadida, and Al-Ghadeer.
- e- *The fifth question:* What is your opinion about the transgression of heritage buildings? The answer was (55%) the abuse of historical buildings due to economic and service factors, and (35%) of the sample refused to override the heritage because it represents the original Iraqi civilization, as is the case in (Al-Kadhimiya, Al-Adhamiya, Al-Karkh, and Al-Rusafa)
- f- *The sixth question:* Does the district administration hold the transgressors accountable? The answer was (89%) of the sample size to activate laws and legislations to limit the abuse of the District residents (5%) refuse to implement the laws, and (6%) answered that the city administration is complicit with the transgressors.

#### 4-2 Alternatives and solutions according to the comprehensive development project proposals for the year 2030

The Municipality of Baghdad developed solutions due to the violations of the basic design when the population of Baghdad increased, due to immigration, as the population was estimated at (8,146) people, with a percentage of (21%). The study took the following: (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018)

##### 4-2-1 Urban expansion of the city of Baghdad

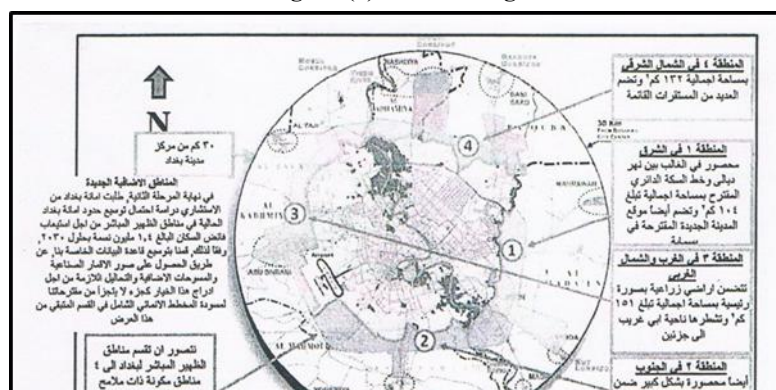
The comprehensive development blueprint for Baghdad for the year 2030 has taken several solutions to end the excess and set alternatives and solutions, namely:

- 1- Expanding Baghdad through vacant lands, massive municipality projects, and housing projects, through sorting plots of land.
- 2- Developing degraded areas and transforming them into areas of contemporary construction.
- 3- Population growth within the boundaries of Baghdad Municipality, which absorbs (%75) of what is expected for 2030.
- 4- Establishing a multi-center urban structure with a center of specialized urban centers and adding a horizontal area is surrounding the boundaries of the (Paul Services) scheme estimated at (528) square meters and building the new secondary centers (the comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad, 2030) (The first stage).
- 5- The proposed blueprint: horizontal expansion outside the necessary blueprint to accommodate the population for the 2030 target year
- 6- The blueprint proposed to override agricultural lands within the basic blueprint and tested some urban settlements extending on the main movement axes of the city of Baghdad from all directions and linking them within the proposed blueprint for the year 2030 and in this way the shape (semi-circular). It is a radical extension to the directions of the main transportation routes.

##### 4-2-2 Multicenter electrodes

- a- The blueprint has created (multi-center) growth poles within the master blueprint of the city of Baghdad and are considered specialized areas that are parallel attractions to the central business district, and these centers will be on the main transportation axes that connect the center of Baghdad with the governorates adjacent to Baghdad (the comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad 2030) the second phase. The blueprint specified that the population surplus of the city of Baghdad, estimated by (Al-Khateeb. and camali) Company, amounts to (1.4-2.4) million and that complexes outside the basic blueprint have been placed for them belonging to the city of Baghdad, through four areas surrounding the city of Baghdad with an area of (528) km<sup>2</sup>. This is called Greater Baghdad, as shown in Figure (1).

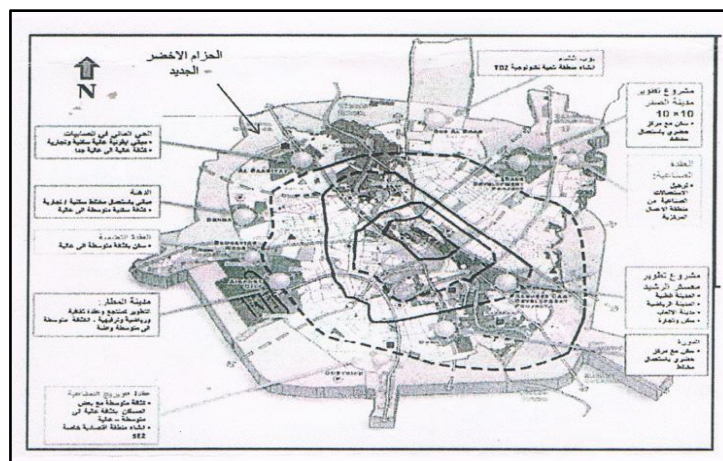
**Figure (1) Greater Baghdad**



**Source:** The comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad, 2003, the third phase.

- b- Laying down the development blueprint for the city of Baghdad (2030), establishing (10) secondary centers, land uses, and different population densities, as in Figure (2) with the removal of the green belt established in the (PolSERVICE's) company blueprint for the city of Baghdad for the year (2000) and the creation of a new green belt that is horizontal. In areas surrounding the basic blueprint of the city of Baghdad in all directions.

**Figure (2) Areas proposed for expansion in the master blueprint for the city of Baghdad, 2003**



**Source:** The comprehensive development blueprint for the city of Baghdad, 2003, the third phase.

## 5- Results

- 1- The overrun came due to the weakness of the urban administration of the city and the absence of the rule of law in the city of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities after 2003.
- 2- The economic factor led to the overriding of the basic design, and the formation of unplanned land uses on state property and other lands within the basic design of the city.
- 3- The companies did not implement most of the blueprints due to the encroachment on the lands allocated to them.
- 4- Through the sample that recreational activities and green spaces in the city of Baghdad do not satisfy the comfort of citizens well due to many violations.
- 5- Exceeding the heritage dwellings and using them for industrial and health services through architectural and non-architectural modifications.
- 6- Most of the excesses led to the emigration of low-income families due to the overlap between residential and other uses and led to an increase in the price of land.
- 7- It showed that the transgressions on environmental, visual, and noise pollution affected the health and comfort of the city community.
- 8- The violations led to many problems related to traffic congestion and the difficulty of reaching citizens due to sidewalks with shaded sheds, which led to distorting the urban scene.

## 6- Recommendations

- 1- Activating solutions and alternatives for the comprehensive development project proposals for the year 2003.
- 2- Enacting decisions and enforcing laws against trespassers on the basic design of the city by the Department of Urban Planning and Districts municipalities to reduce the phenomenon of overtaking.
- 3- Providing housing for transgressors with limited income by providing banking facilities.
- 4- Spreading the cultural awareness of the residents of Baghdad about the danger of this phenomenon and obligating citizens to follow the laws and legislations issued by the city administration.
- 5- Benefiting from the experiences of companies that developed blueprints for Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

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