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## **Comparative study of Thomas More's utopia and Farabi's utopia by emphasis on architectural and urban Design spaces**

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### **Abstract**

Utopian thoughts have precedence as old as human history. Islamic civilization utopian thought owes its progress to the Farabi's utopian concept and expansion and academic study of utopian term in west owes to the Thomas More Utopia book. Theoretically, Farabi's utopian thoughts influenced development of utopian system in both Islam and Western civilizations. By emphasis on Farabi's Utopia as an example of utopian ideas in Islamic civilization, and Thomas More's Utopia as an example of utopian though in the western civilization, this research tries to investigate the commonalities and differences of these utopias. The architectural and urban building spaces of these examples were studied in the conceptual viewpoint. Thomas More Utopia consists of fifty four similar cities. All of the cities have been constructed well according to the same plan as possible as. The nearest cities have approximately twenty four miles distance, and the furthest ones are not so far from each other; so that the people can travel less than one day. Because of similarities in the cities, only one of them has been referred in the "Utopia"; this city is Amaurot. Each city sends three wise old men to Amaurot every year to negotiate on their common affairs. Amaurot is the main city of the island and it is near the center of the island. "The opinions of the Utopians" and "The Policy of the City" are two books of Farabi. He expresses the political and philosophical systems of Utopia comprehensively. He divides communities qualitatively and in addition, there are cities in contrary to Utopia. He pays attention to the quality of communities from perfectionism and auspicious perspective. In other words, the goal of the city determines type of the city. Farabi likens utopia to a creature that has independent existence beyond the members of the city. The comparison of the architectural and urban building spaces of Farabi's utopia and Thomas More's utopia showed that both of the cities are placed in the defined space from urban structure perspective; both of them have defined volume and level, and the difference is that Thomas More's utopia is located in an islands and Farabi's utopia is universal. The More's city has a defied localization but Farabi's city does not posse this characteristic. Farabi has referred to the market space and transaction regarding to the urban micro spaces; while Thomas More has referred to passages, hospitals, market and hall and other specification, situations and services. More has not explained the social and geographical divisions, but Farabi divides his utopia into complete and incompetent city and offers subcategories of human communities. Thomas More has emphasized on the urban divisions on streets and fragmentation of the city and also has referred to details like type of material, material used and entrance of city; while, in Farabi's utopia has no references to the details of the architectural spaces and he has emphasized on educational and social goals.

**Key words:** *Utopia, Thomas More, Farabi, architectural space, urban space*

## Introduction

Utopian ideas have had oldness as human history. Utopian idea in Islamic civilization owes to the concept of Farabi's utopia and expansion and codified and scientific study of the Utopia word in the West is debtor Thomas More's Utopia book. Theoretically Farabi's utopian ideas in Islamic civilization and Moore in Western civilization, the greatest impact on the development and expansion of utopian system in both Islamic civilization and the West have played. The present study focuses on the two patterns, Farabi's Utopia example of utopian idea in Islamic thought and Moore's Utopia as an example of utopian idea in West civilization, trying to examine the similarities and differences points of these two ideas. In terms of concept also under studied architecture and urban spaces in both Utopia samples has been analyzed. Research Methodology as content analysis of books written of Thomas More and Farabi about the Utopia and in analytical - descriptive way and with library studies tools has been done. Despite numerous philosophical studies conducted, in the field of utopian ideas of these two thinkers, a comparative study with focus on architectural spaces and urbanism of Farabi's Utopia and Thomas More's Utopia has not taken place.

### Thomas Moore

This humanism young in the period of the exploration of continent America, with studying the logbooks of Amerigo Vespucci (Italian explorer) and by positioning in the vicinity of the University of Oxford when the Colet, Erasmus, Linacre and Groeyn, were student and his close friends, had lived. All these led that Moore in his "Utopia" book to portray the freedom of thought and reason oriented and a list of their expectations from the ideal society (Oramel Hertzler, 2013, 127). Moore, on a journey that had in May 1515 to the port of Bourget in Belgium and by familiarity with other cities of Belgium and with literary, culture and politics friends, has begun to writing the "Utopia" book. This book was published

in 1516 at Leuven (Moore, 2008, 10).

### The overall shape of utopia of Thomas Moore

Utopia is a crescent-shaped island that by Utopos, king of that land had been made. This land changed the nature for the benefit of human and made civilized the rural residents and ill-educated of that country. Utopia narrator, a tourist man named Hythloday that means "gasbag" which, along with his friends visits the island and its capital city the Amaurot means imaginary and unknown. This city has the special features in the areas of sociological, economic, political and cultural that can respond to the ideals and aspirations of human (Ramin, 2010, 60). Utopia Island in the section of middle, which is the largest sector of it, has two hundred miles length and accepts of two your head nowhere, is not so much narrower than this. These two head, which have made a five hundred mm curved, have given to island the crescent-shaped. Between two head of the crescent, this is separated from each other about eleven miles, the sea entered, and spreads in the large bay (Moore, 2008, 67). Thomas Moore utopia consists of fifty-four identical cities. All cities, big, beautiful building and where the location situation allows, have made with a map. The nearest towns to each other at least twenty four miles away from each other, and are not too far the farthest that no one can goes from one to another in a day. Each city once a year, three people of their wisest elders sent to Amaurot to vote on their common affairs. Amaurot is the main town of the island and is located near the center of the island, as the easiest place to gather elders (Moore, 2008, 68).

### The overall shape of Utopia cities:

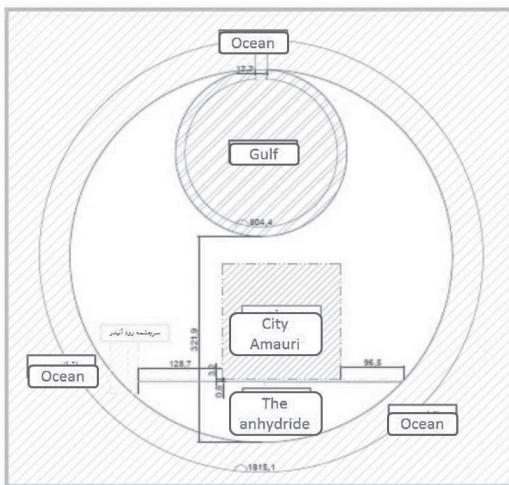
Given the high resemblance Utopia cities to each other, in "Utopia" book only to one of its cities has been referred; That this city is also Amaurot, and its reason also is capital city being island and the most familiarity of Rafael due to stay there for 5 years. Amaurot is located on a hill with a gentle slope and is



▲ Figure 1. First image of “utopia” from the publishing in the city of Leuven in 1516 (Bruce, 1999, 130)



▲ Figure 2. Image of the “Utopia” in the editing book in the city of Basel in 1518 (Bruce, 1999, 131)



▲ Figure 3. Image of the island of Utopia based on the writings of Thomas Moore's Utopia book (from the authors)

approximately 4 corners. City begins a little lower than the hilltop and two miles up to bank of the Anyder River comes down and in the bank of the river up to a distance more pulled its domain. The cities, long and thick wall with towers and ramparts has surrounded well as three side of town the broad and deep and dry ditch has engulfed with a wall mass of

the thorn bushes. River is the fourth side. The streets so that the wheels easily pass through them and also be prevented of the wind. Their buildings by no means ugly and continuous row of houses facing each other in the length of streets throughout the city have queued the street wide is twenty feet. In throughout the city the large gardens behind their houses have engulfed them. Every house has a door to the street and a door to garden. The doors have made from the government, to easily open and to close automatically, and anyone leave that enters (because there is no private ownership). Every ten years homes with a lottery are changed. Are promoted to their gardens (Moore, 2008, 70-72). Each city has been divided into four segments, and in the middle of each section is a market for every product. Bring products of the each household to here and warehouse. In these warehouses each commodity has its place. And each household without paying of these goods are enjoyed (ibid. 80). Each street has a large public hall. Halls put in equal distance of the each other

and each is a famous name. The servants of the any hall at a certain time to provide food go to the market. In the food division, Utopia people at first care the patients that in public hospitals nursing them. Each city has four hospitals are often made outside the fences and are so large that are similar to settlements. These hospitals are highly arranged and are equipped all means and from the patients care with compassion and kindness and patients are continually under supervision of most qualified doctors (ibid. 81).

### Architectural space in Thomas Moore's Utopia

In architectural spaces mentioned in the book Utopia (Utopia), Thomas Moore, the architecture features houses have been mentioned. They say all cities the King of Utopos has planned, but its arrangement, the life of a person not allowed to do, has left to the latter folk. History to carefully adjust all they keep returns to year of 1760 means taking the island. From this history would appear that their homes at beginning have been small, such as peasant Ricks and cottages, that from types of beams with mud walls and Gali cover roofs, have made. But now their houses are three floors with stone facades, concrete, or brick and among walls are filled with rubble. By an inexpensive and fireproof veneer has been covered that against the air is more stable than lead. To prevent wind their windows with glass is covered. Also linen cloth soaked in oil and apply gum into the sun, but prevent the wind (Moore, 2008, 70-72). Around the villages houses have made all with good design and outfit adorned of agriculture. Citizens living in these houses that are houses to turn on them. Rural households have no less than forty women and men, in addition, two strapping servant. Each household are headed by a village chief and a goodwife hardworking and experienced. Every thirty households are under the supervision of a sheriff. Twenty per household per year, after spending two years in the village, return to the city. Instead they sent other twenty people

out of the city, to those who have been in the village for a year now and have found more or less skills on work, learn work and cultivation. They also have to those who come later, teach. New arrival because if they are unaware of the cultivation and novices, with their ignorance will destroy the product. Displacement of farmers draw on inputs because they have no one to their liking against more than two years of hard work pay, but many of them keep asking for more, because of their natural joy farmers (Moore, 2008, 70 69).

### Abu Nasr Mohammad Farabi

Farabi life in period of unrest Islam that involved disputes and sectarian disputes and was philosophical theology. At that time range of social unrest and cultural and intellectual anarchism, political integration of the Muslim world was destroyed, at the same time as the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad, the Umayyad's in Andalusia and the Fatimids they each claim to the caliphate in Egypt and hence, he paid to life and his time to philosophical critique. He does not set policy and character chose to step down of the power, but tried to return to the principles, fire of this crisis, off. The result of these efforts was the explanation the city of Utopia that in case of its design, Migration is necessary to Utopia (Mohammadi monfared, 2008, 41). Farabi two books that as highlight dealt to the political system and philosophy utopian "The views of the people of Medina virtuous »and« the policy of Medina»".

Variety of human societies In terms of Farabi Farabi in the division of communities in terms of quality, in addition to Utopia, the cities that are in front of utopia, states. In this classification, quality communities in perfectionism And the pursuit of happiness, is concerned. In other words, the goal is of Medina, Determines the type of Medina. In this section we will review the types of utopia and Non-utopia and the characteristics of each type are analyzed. Names of the Humane Society of in term of Farabi are as below:

Farabi's Utopia and the general form

At sight of Farabi, society the basis of social cooperation to meet the diverse needs of human beings and Utopia, is a society where the cooperation in order to achieve happiness is achieved and a nation that will stand on this important, nations knowledgeable are considered (Khodabakhshi, Ebrahimi Ghozlu, 2012, 5).

Some believe that the foundation of utopia spiritual affairs and beliefs variety to the principles and spiritual principles are constituted. But Farabi in discussion of principles of utopia had based on the adaptation of cosmology and epistemology view of his age, and to explain it deals In general creatures in six times the nature of God and wisdom, intellect, soul and matter it category and then how the human mind and chairman of Utopia will pay. Farabi utopia of "living creature" is likened, which is beyond the individuals forming the community has an independent existence. Current sociologists this is same about society (Khalighi, 1975, 189). As the body are primary and secondary components, that every member of the human body can function to all your vital tasks to do, house and the city and country that is also. As every member of the major or minor of body their work do not performed general disorder existence and lives of

body is achieved, while members and household members, including executive or non-executive, in performing their task of home and country destroys. So should all members and members of the family and their cooperation with each other to the home and the city their work done efficiently, Survive and to their own happiness, and the goal of self that are perfection be achieved; As If member of the human, was sick and failed to do its job should be treated, and treatment by special physician should be done; And may have to be amputated limb to the other members to continue life and their survival. Home situation and the city and classes and individuals it is in this such way perverted and sick people should be treated in it and their treatment by the attending physician that same the city is resourceful and property. And perhaps if people were perverse and wrong to degree of disease that is not curable, it must be destroyed to obtain a healthy society, and the disease does not spread to other people and other people not covered corruption and deviation. It is the duty of directors and first boss and resourceful Medina (Farabi, 2000, 40). in body is the organ who's boss and it is heart and organs are that their degrees are close to heart and their works do so that the nature of things, are tar-

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Variety of society					
Utopia		Non-Utopia			
1	Utopia	1	Medina ignorance or ignorant city	Zaruriyah - essential city	
				Bedaleh - city turned perfors	
				Khest - City of skin and misery	
				Keramat - dignity city	
				Taghlibyeh - City domination	
				Jamayeh - city common	
				Fasegheh - City sinner	
				city transformed	
				city astray	
		2		Diminutive Medina	
		3		SwapMedina	

▲Table 1. Variety of human societies from the Farabi (from authors)



Title		Description	
Locations of Utopia		Crescent-shaped and has the same 54 cities and good construction (Moore, 1923, 42-41)	
Characteristics of physical of the city		The distance of cities is not less than 24 miles and maximum distance between them is also in the extent their residents walk in less than 24 hours can be travel among them (Moore, 1923, 42). Around each of the city 10 miles for planting has been considered (Moore, 2008: 68).	
Number of parts		Four sections (ibid. 80).	
Small city spaces	Pathways and streets	A width of 20 feet so that the wheel the easily pass of it, from wind is prevented, Rows of houses continuously covers both sides of the street (ibid., 71).	
	Market Services	Among each section (ibid. 80).	Given the number of sections can be concluded that the city contains 4 market (ibid., 80).
	Hospital Services	Providing any goods required household (ibid. 80).	Has been built outside the city fence (ibid. 81).
Hall	Location	Medical Services (ibid. 81).	In general, each city has 4 hospital, from the extent is size of a small town (ibid., 81).
	Services	The end of the street (ibid. 81).	Central to meeting and eating lunch and dinner (ibid. 81).
		Hall is public space that in same distances from each other in city have spread (ibid., 81).	

◆ Table 2. features table and characteristics of urban space in the Utopia book (Utopia), Thomas Moore (Moore 2008; Moore 1923, from authors)

Space	Type	Building Type	Input	Materials			Descriptions
				Wall	window	roof	
Home	Rural	Old scheme	Cottages and Rick peasant (ibid., 72)				Outfitting of Agriculture (Moore, 2008, 69)
	Urban	New scheme	(storey buildings ibid., 72)	has 2 inputs, one to the street and another to the garden behind the house (Ibid., 71)		Earthen (Ibid., 72)	
					View: Stone, concrete, brick (ibid., 72)	Galli wearing (Ibid., 72)	

▲Table 3. features table and characteristics of architectural space in the Utopiabook(Utopia), Thomas Moore (Moore 2008; from authors)

get organ boss to provide, and organs which are located in second grade, they do their work according to target organs of first degree, and other organs that their work according to target other organs are that do their work according to the second target organs. Then likewise, this hierarchy will lead to organs that do not serve and never headed. The city is same that in it is human who's boss and others are that their level is close to him and his purpose and order is fulfilled him, and in lower level them, are groups that do their work according to the

aims of those positions, and in the lower of them still others are that things do according to goals second grade. Then likewise, parts of the city will organize to lead those who serve and to others they are not serving. The difference here is that organs have normal people and their delegations, natural forces, but the citizens, but they are also normal. And are molded mingled with more or less different that because of them each person of them has working competence apart from anything else, but missions and the queen that their work

Title		Description			
Locations of Utopia	Universal (Farabi, 1962, 161).				
physical Characteristics of Medina	Physically to a certain body has not been mentioned. In terms of existing hierarchy In the body Similar healthy human body (ibid., 256-46).				
name		Location			
Full community	Azmi	Total land area (ibid., 253).	Consists of nations and peoples (Ibid., 252).		
	Middle	inhabited part of the land (ibid., 253).	Consisting of a nation (ibid., 252).		
	Minor	Medina (ibid., 253).	People who live in a in city and part of a community residence (ibid., 253).		
Community incomplete	Rural		Medina servers (ibid., 253).		
	District	Part of the city (ibid., 253).	Imperfect society that in this society there is no possibility of achieving happiness (ibid., 252).		
	Cui	Part of the district (ibid., 252).	Imperfect society that in this society there is no possibility of achieving happiness (ibid., 252).		
	Home	Part of the campus (ibid., 252).	The most imperfect society that in this society there is no possibility of achieving happiness (ibid., 252).		

▲Table 4. features and characteristics of urban space in the minds of people Farabi's Utopia book (Farabi Abu Nasr Muhammad in 1962, from authors)

with them are done, are not normal, But are intentional that for them, such as kinds of arts and so on are provided (Jamshid nezhad avval, 2009, 146).

**Architectural space in Farabi's utopia**  
Farabi's ideas people of Utopia book to the architectural space has not been mentioned.

Utopia ideas (Farabi)		Utopia – Utopia( Thomas Moore)		
Location and characteristics of Utopia	The total area of land inhabited (Farabi, 1962, 253).	Is a crescent-shaped island that its middle part is the widest part and has 200 miles length and about 11 miles apart is of the crescent 2 heads (Moore, 1994, 67)		
Volume and deployment level of Utopia	Vast worldwide (Farabi, 1962, 253).	Limited form in volume of 54 city similar to island (Moore, 1994,)		
Communication statute, governing the two Utopia	Complete relationship between urban space (partial and complete) and residents (first president and servant) (Farabi, 1962, 46).	Limited communication between the cities so that the farthest city not away so much that nobody can go to a day from one another and the nearest town at least 24 miles away from each other (Moore, 1994, 68).		
How to manage, utopia	Comprehensive likened to a human body that everyone has the dignity and ability and is at the top of affairs the first president and all terms of their ability is in service the first president (Farabi, 1962, 256).	Village	town	
		Is in head of rural sheriff And at least 40 households govern- ance (Moore, 1994, 69).	To neighborhood of 30 households is di- vided Which is admin- istered by Sifogrates (Moore, 1994, 81).	
How to communicate economy	Everyone has free offers and deals to its ability to free economic activity (Farabi, 1962, 254).	Like initial communes in which competition is not enough incentive for development (Moore, 1994,80)		
How to barter (trade)	People according to their abilities in various fields to production and action surplus product with barter to trade to maintain justice undertakes (Farabi, 1962, 254).	Trading limited between the city's residents In which the no obligation and money, do not pay and whoever in terms of need takes of the market (Moore, 1994,80)		
Artistic and cultural issues		Special attention to music and reading has been in the language and culture all cities are the same (Moore, 1994, 102-80).		
Architecture		Village (Moore, 1994,69)	city (Moore, 1994,72)	
		With good and el-egant design (Moore, 1994,69)	Old design	Scheme
			Little cottage	Large and 3-storey building
Ideology of two authors	With idealistic point of view and under the influence of Islamic law	With materialist view and under the influence of primitive communism		

▲Table 5. comparative comparison ideas people Farabi's utopia book and Thomas Moore's Utopia (utopia), Source: Farabi Abu Nasr Muhammad 1962, Thomas Moore in 1994, from authors

		Title	Thomas Moore	Farabi	Common point	distinction point
Urban Space	Characteristics of physical aspects of urban	✓	✓	•		
	Volume and level of Utopia	✓	✓	•		
	Position of city	✓				•
Urban Space	Small urban spaces	Passages	✓			•
		market	✓	✓	•	
		Hospitals	✓			•
		Hall	✓			•
	Position of small urban spaces	Passages	✓			•
		Market	✓			•
		Hospitals	✓			•
		Hall	✓			•
	Services provided	Market	✓	✓	•	
		Hospitals	✓			•
		Hall	✓			•
		Divisions		✓		•
		Physical division of city	✓			•

▲Table 6. comparative comparison of urban space of Farabi's Utopia and Thomas Moore's Utopia

title		Thomas Moore			Fara-bi	Common point	distinction point			
Architectural space	Structural type	Rural	Urban							
			New	old						
Input	Materials	Wall					•			
		Win-dow					•			
		Roof					•			

▲Table 7. comparative comparison of architectural space of Farabi's Utopia and Thomas Moore's Utopia, Source: Farabi Abu Nasr Muhammad 1962, Thomas Moore in 1994, from authors

### Conclusion and Summary of comparative comparison of architectural and urban space, Moore's Utopia and Farabi's Utopia

According to the material presented above can be presented differences and similarities of these two Utopias as follows:

The results of Table and comparative analy-

sis of the Architectural space and urban space of Farabi's Utopia and Thomas Moore's Utopia:

1. In terms of urban physical have considered both specific spaces.
2. Both the volume and their ideal level have identified, with the difference that Thomas Moore's Utopia at extend of an island and Farabi's Utopia is universal.

3.The position of the city to each other by Thomas Moore has been exactly specified, but in this case has not mention Farabi.

4.In the case of small urban space in the writing of Farabi to market space and how to business, with an emphasis on the concepts of wisdom, a philosophical meaning in the market, and biological spaces, in ideas based on the Islamic ideas has been mentioned, While Thomas Moore to passages, hospitals, market and halls and property and the location and services offered in terms of physical spending on them has dealt.

5.In the case of social and geographic divisions of Thomas Moore had not been made no mention but Farabi completely divide the Utopia, into two completely of incomplete and integrated and about human society and each of society has divided into the following sets.

6.Thomas Moore, about the division of the city in term of physical spending much has argued and entered as far as about city street system and segmentation has discussed. Thomas Moore, In terms of architecture also about small details such as the type of construction, materials used and the input has discussed. Thomas Moore's emphasis is on the material aspects of human life.

7.Farabi emphasis has been on city and environmental spaces and architectural ideas include content semantic field based on legal ideas derived from the Islamic civilization.

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