ABSTRACT

futuristic: of or relating to the future.
manifesto: a public declaration of intentions, motives, or views.

The prediction of the future has always been a topic that has motivated writers, architects, urban planners, filmmakers and artists to generate endless visions of the ultimate cityscape. We move from caves to jungles to villages to towns to cities to metropolises, from soil to wood to concrete to metal and glass. Each stage is a future from the last. And now, what is our vision for the next stage?

From the romantic vision of the futurists, to the metallic, high-tech, systematic vision of the megastructuralists, the image of a futuristic city seems to have deviated as the world ages. The vision of the new futuristic city in our generation is most actively promoted by the sci-fi filmmakers, who project the futuristic city as chaotic, decadent, and dark. (e.g. Bladerunner, Akira, Batman etc.) Some are more realistic than others. Among the sci-fi movies, one movie that has provided an excellent as well as realistic portrayal of the futuristic city is BLADERUNNER.

Accelerated: happened faster than usual or sooner than expected.
Decrepitude: a state of being old and in bad condition.

This paper attempts to study the Bladerunner futuristic city as a city of accelerated decrepitude, whereby the internal process/activities are growing slower than the external development, causing the city to look more "aged" than it actually should. This is also due to the proliferation of urban decay. How does such a city look like? What inspired Scott to create such a city? And why is this city so credible as our next nearest futuristic city? Why is the future a city of accelerated decrepitude? And is this syndrome caused by Technology? These questions form the basis of the discussion for this paper, which presents the Bladerunner city as a futuristic manifesto, examining the ingredients and the rules that make up this futuristic city.

Whilst the future will always remain as a myth and fictitious for as long as we are still living in the present, the Bladerunner futuristic city gains its credibility with its rational incorporation of the past and present in the future portrayed. As with all manifestoes, this paper is a conceptual analysis of this futuristic city. It does not attempt to do a scientific breakdown of the city, but more so, a theoretical breakdown of the city into various elements based on the intoxicating vision painted by the director in Bladerunner. Fiction it may be for now, but one day, we just might find ourselves living in this picture.