In the past, buildings often reflected the culture of a society but today all modern buildings look alike and cities throughout the world are becoming more and more similar.

What do you think is the reason for this, and is it a good thing or bad thing?

Every city should have its own characteristics due to its culture, climate or local materials. However, in this day and age, we all witness that different cities have similar materials to each other and buildings do not reflect the character of the city anymore.

To start, in most large cities all around the world we face ~~the~~ land scarcity ~~scarce problem~~ which leads to soaring land prices ~~the price of lands~~ and therefore, tall buildings may be ~~are~~ the proper approach to this problem, in order to provideing a considerable number of floors which are ~~is~~ affordable for people to buy. Those skyscrapers are made of concrete and steel. Thus, local materials such as timber and stone for buildings are no longer useable, but prefabricated materials are preferred by builders. Consequently, when you see a picture from downtown of a city you are not able to distinguish whether the photo has been taken in Berlin, Tokyo or New York.

Although we should not stand in the way of progress, I concur that the cities should stick to their individuality. A clear example is Paris, where ~~in Paris~~ builders are not allowed to use irrelevant materials to town especially in downtown and the municipality has ~~is~~ banned skyscrapers to be built lest skyline of the city should ~~would~~ spoil.

On the other hand, some of those skyscrapers are considered to be a landmark in a town, for instance the Twin towers in Kuala Lumpur. A landmark not only is a sign of a city, but also has the potential to be an economic hub for tourism~~it~~.

By way of conclusion, I opine that it is regrettable that modern cities look ~~resemble~~similar/alike. However, an ~~it is~~ unavoidable consequence of overpopulation in metropolises is over-resemblance. Even if structures of buildings have no other ~~not another~~ alternatives, the face of cities can maintain their own character to value their cultural diversity.