

The conservation of Mediterranean Arab cities **In the context of the management plans**

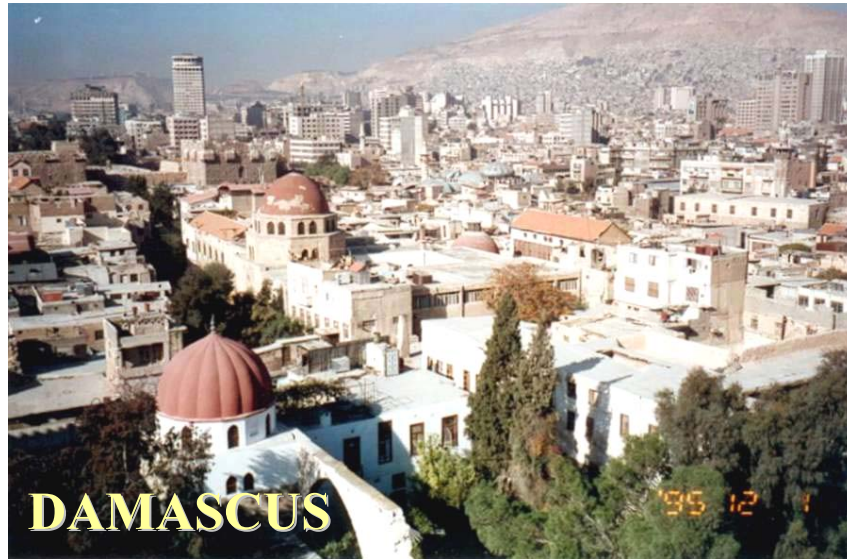


Introduction:

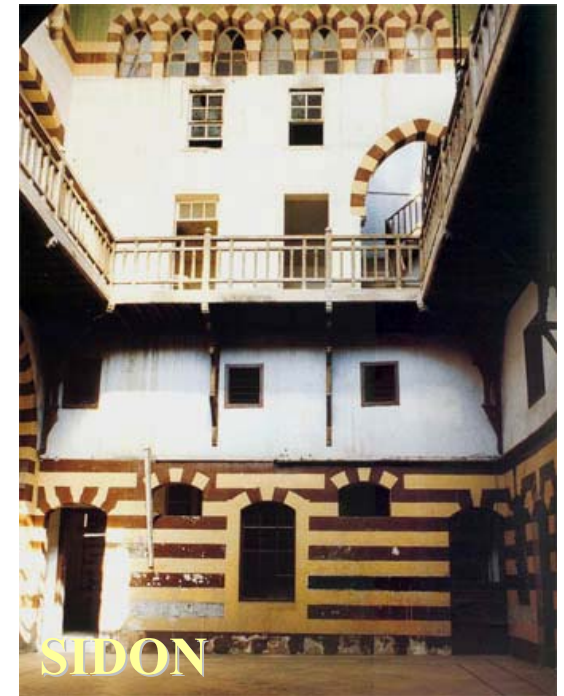
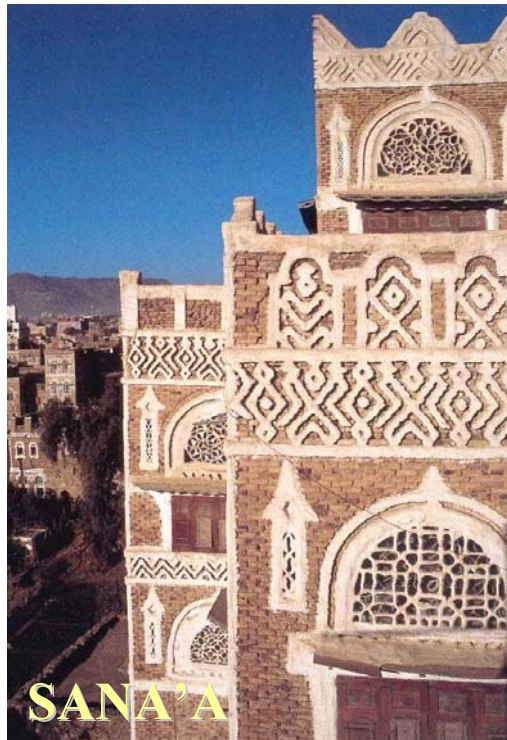
The Arab region is characterized by a long history of civilization. In addition to the fact that it was the cradle of holy religions, it has been a center for conveying the cultural and civilization influences among the nations of the world due to its strategic site between the three continents.



In the Arab region the civilization of ancient Syria existed side by side with the Sumerian and Babylonian civilizations in the East and the Egyptian civilization in the Southwest.

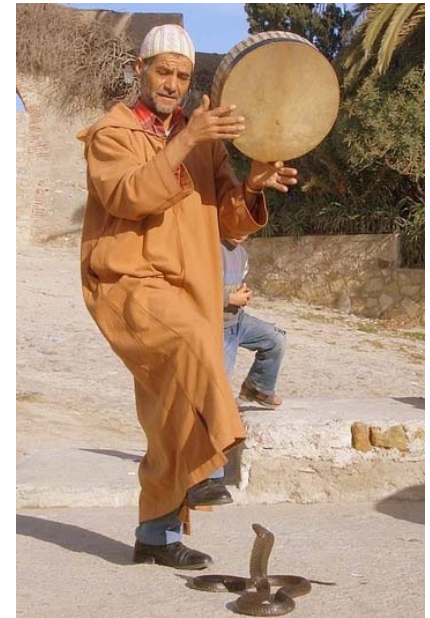


Since the very early ages of history, Arab urbanization and architecture had a very distinguished character that has been a manifestation of the originality of its peoples and the deeply-rooted affiliation to the national soil and featuring their peoples' traditions and customs and physically linked to their environment.



The urban heritage, with the cultural – tangible and intangible – and natural heritages contained therein, is an invaluable property that is irreplaceable not only for the Arab nation but also for mankind as a whole.

The existence of an urban heritage site inside the city constitutes a source of splendor and pleasure for citizens through the recollection of history, enhancement of the feeling of affiliation and manifestation of character not only by devoting attention to archaeological sites and historical buildings but also to buildings and simple spaces having no special artistic values along with the allies and cul-de-sacs that add special urban flavor to the building style of the city.



Tanger



**Egypt -Darawish dance
Islamic Folkloric dance**



**Saints' day festivals-Saiyyid
al-Badawi , Tanta, Egypt**

The establishment of regulations and identification of the values of urban heritage play a key role in designing the general framework for the sustainable development process in order to preserve the cultural resources.

This urban heritage is the genuine expression communicated between man and the surrounding natural environment, the craftsmanship and the artistic authenticity that grew up with the integration of the Arab citizen in whom it sparked a balanced perception characterized by keen devotion to customs and traditions, which gave to this urban heritage a distinguished character in the formation of the shell of the urban structure with designs genuinely revealing scientific know-how and craftsmanship in artistic and technical creativity that gave to this heritage a unique character.



Tunis



Meknes



Marrakech

2. Characteristic urban elements of the Arab City:

Since the inception of urbanization and settlement, the Arab city acquired a distinguished character of its own that created harmonized integrated urban structure in terms of form, shape, color and character.



Tunis



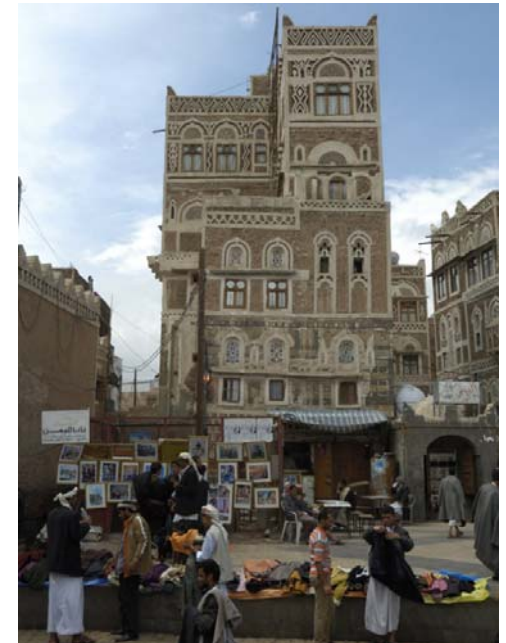
Damascus



Aleppo



Fez- Morocco



Sana'a

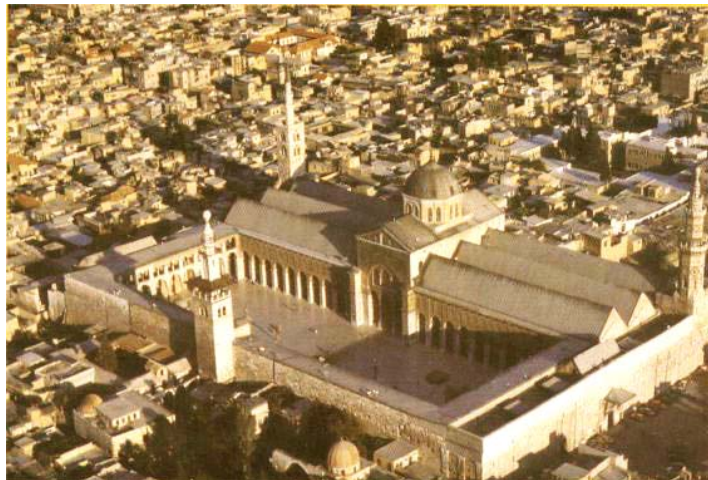
While the mosque symbolizes the unity of the nation and the dissolution of man into the group, the house is the center of the individual relations where every person is independent and has his own individuality and recovers himself back from the group.



**King Hassan II mosque
Morocco**



**Grand Mosque
Meknes**



**Umayyad Mosque
Damascus**



**Kairaouine Mosque
Fez- Morocco**

The façades of the residential architecture chooses not to reveal the identity since the urban system became so linked to the slogan of non-individualism in a society preaching justice and equality.



Saida (Sidon)



Sana'a



Cairo



Cairo



Jeddah

The facades in the city's urban structure is the veil protecting the inhabitants while the passage, cul-de-sac and ally are the impartial spaces between the architectural examples where the individual integration into the group in a way similar to the integration of the mosque into the conscience of the nation and the market into its function and thus the general image of the Arab city, integrates altogether.



Tripoli



Essaouira



Aleppo



Jerusalem

3. Multidimensional facts for conservation of urban heritage:

This is why there is an urgent need for setting a management plan for the conservation of the urban heritage in its comprehensive sense; that is, not only the conservation of the archaeological and historical buildings, the courtyards, routes, allies and cul-de-sacs but also the social, economic and environmental dimension and the special human relations very unique of the Arab urbanism, taking into consideration the international conventions and recommendations made by UNESCO and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the regional and national regulations in connection with the cultural heritage tangible and intangible, i.e. the intimate relation between man and built environment.



Suq - Tripoli



Suq- Tunis



Suq- Meknes



Suq- Sana'a

Before setting up an urban conservation plan, we have to identify the risks and challenges facing the urban heritage in the Arab historic cities:

3.1. The demographic growth and rural-urban migration and their consequent impact on the social structure and the deterioration of the historic centers and the alteration of the original uses and overcrowding of inhabitants in old houses.



**Demographic growth and Urban migration
Cairo**



**Urban footprint encroaching on the shoreline
Tunis**

3.2. The increasing movement of traffic crossing the heritage areas and the pollution caused to the environment.

3.3. The change of the skyline in the historic cities due to the increasing height of the new buildings.



Essaouira Skyline



Traffic- Cairo



Traffic - Damascus



Matrah Skyline



Sana'a Skyline

3.4. The deficiency in conducting maintenance to the urban heritage and the people's lack of appreciation for the functional or cultural values thus worsening the condition of urbanism in general. As a matter of fact we have to point out to the poor cultural awareness of the urban heritage in many Arab countries. However, we should not blame people alone but also those working in the field of urban planning, as it is quite noticed that no appreciation is devoted to the cultural value of the historic centers by building wide criss-crossing thoroughfares and constructing buildings that have no correlation with the cultural roots or the local environment.



Improvement of Cultural awareness



Promotion of cultural awareness

3.5. The change of the patterns of commercial and industrial processes in the areas of urban heritage.

3.6. The introduction of new functions to replace the old ones in the urban heritage areas and the consequent loads imposed on the infrastructure.



Inlaid silver- Damascus



Handicrafts - Fez



Zilling design



Stone carving- Sidon



Arabesque- Sidon



Handmade glass - Cairo

3.7. Last but not least, the transformation from the handicrafts techniques to the industrial process that requires larger areas and consequently more traffic inside the areas of urban heritage to cope with the new manufacturing trend.

Then, we have to start to identify the targets and goals before we go ahead with setting up the action plan for the conservation of the urban heritage bearing in mind that each and every area has its own conditions and there are no conventional solutions that can be applied since every site of urban heritage has its own social, economic, environmental conditions and demographic relationships, as well as taking into consideration the values attached to this heritage.



Essaouira



Tunis Handicraft



Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to review together some regeneration projects in the Arab World to investigate if these projects had encompassed the basic principles behind heritage and cultural policy and how it can contribute to the economy and society and if the topics of cultural tourism development, funding strategies, site management, sustainable development as well as the integration of heritage and cultural in today's life have been taken into consideration within the conservation master plan .



Essaouira



**House al-Bannani
Meknes**



**Traditions Museum
Damascus**



**Mu'izz street
Cairo**

What has been achieved in the Arab World is a successful urban rehabilitation projects but the work is mainly concentrated on the conservation and restoration of the tangible heritage as well as enhancing the infrastructure, forgetting the intangible heritage and the role of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage to innovate incentives to promote cultural tourism as well as in its role in providing economic and social profits for the inhabitants and enhancing the cultural tolerance with the main objective to achieve a sustainable development as a corner stone in urban regeneration and to fulfill the different needs of the citizen.



Old Sidon



Old Cairo



Old Aleppo



Old Sana'a

The public active participation is highly appreciated and should be encouraged & will promote the public awareness which will help them to understand, share & care for both the heritage values & the necessary conservation measures including restrictions they might impose on their daily life. The inhabitants of the historic towns & historic area are the key actors in the urban conservation process.



During the last two decades and even recently, while I was carrying out missions for UNESCO and ICOMOS, I was engaged in dialogues with officials with responsibilities in field as well as with citizens of historic towns in different Arab countries, and I am sorry to confirm that most of the regeneration projects, if not all, had not considered such topics within the conservation process. Therefore, I have to highlight the following principles and strategies, which should be taken in consideration while planning the urban regeneration project as a core of the sustainable development process.

4. Principals and Policies:

Urban planning is the science of assessment by professionals and analysts of projects, programmers, strategies or plans shaping the physical, social, economic and environmental structures within the city. It should be based on the balance between growth and conservation and the achievement of sustainable development.

Accordingly, studying the development of urban cultural heritage must be dynamic; that is, it should have linkage with the daily life and satisfy future needs and must anticipate the rates of change and not just focus on tourism activities and to be enrolled in sustainable development process.



Souq Tunis



Souq Damascus



Essaouira



Souq Damascus

The concept of sustainable development refers to a process in which economic activities meet today's needs while protecting and enhancing the human, cultural and natural resources that will be needed in the future. Sustainable development, being a concept that encompasses all aspects of life for present and future generations.

The action plan adopted by Stockholm Conference 1998, urges states to “design and establish cultural policies or review existing ones in such a way that they become one of the key components of endogenous and sustainable development”. It also requested them to “promote activities designed into account cultural factors in the process of sustainable development”.

For a sustainable development, dynamic cultural interaction should be taken in consideration as it serves to stress the proximity and solidarity between the inhabitants.

Governmental bodies and private sector should recognize that investing in cultural heritage can bring social and economic returns as well as promoting and enhancing creative experience for communities.

Everywhere, cultural heritage is on the ascendant in public awareness, but it has low priority in the development policies of the Islamic World and this is reflected in the level of resources accorded to it.



Promote Cultural interaction

In many Islamic countries, government expenditure on cultural heritage should be increased to provide dynamic resources for successful development.

It is recommended to establish a sustainable cultural tourism programme, which ensures the safeguarding of the cultural heritage in close connection with the local communities.



**Madrasa Bou Inania
Meknes**



**Debana palace
Sidon**



**Soap museum
Sidon**

This programme should be based on sustainable tourism strategies between cultural heritage and local authorities and intergovernmental bodies and in the same time to put a mechanism for funding in relation to number of visitors, maintenance cost to upkeep the sites in good shape.

**Khan el-Khalili
Cairo**



**Sustainable Tourism
Tripoli**



**Long term strategy- AKDN for
cultural service- Cairo**

So, the comprehensive conservation, i.e. the conservation of the cultural properties, the inherited values and modern needs, depends so much on the comprehensiveness of the study of all contents as a whole: that is, the study of the historic values with all its components together with the current way of life which is in conflict with the old urban fabric which was provided mainly for the movement of pedestrians and animals.

Hence, an integrated conservation plan calls on all politicians and cultural experts as well as various specialists to find a management plan that fulfills all society's needs. Such plans must be regularly revised in order to make the modifications required and, therefore, the plan must be characterized by sufficient flexibility.



Urban fabric- Old Cairo

5. Surrounding context is paramount:

The areas of urban heritage within cities are parts of multiple functions having many residential, social, political and economic activities and, therefore, an appropriate administrative system must be designed and be compatible with the spirit of the urban character. These historic areas should be studied within the surrounding context in order to identify the hazards facing them and, hence, make the appropriate planning for them and specify the goals and the optimal arrangement and be responsive to many questions confronting the planning team for the enhancement of these areas.



**Rome Bank
Tripoli**



**Surrounding context-market
Sana'a**

**Surrounding context-market
Tunis**

In addition to the planning steps stated earlier such plans should additionally include:

- 1. Identification of the present situation;**
- 2. Forecasting the future events and taking the necessary measures in anticipation thereof;**
- 3. Setting a perception of the future tests that might arise;**
- 4. Conducting a feasibility study for all prospect tests;**
- 5. A comprehensive study for all prospects;**
- 6. A practical experience and action programme taking into consideration the legislation, financial and administrative aspects;**
- 7. A periodical review of these solutions based on the situation in practice.**



**Bab al-Asharqi
Damascus**



**Present condition
Jerusalem**



Accordingly, the principle of identifying areas with various specific uses is not the optimum solution for areas rich in culture and of diverse social aspects.

Therefore, the urban planning of heritage areas must not be conducted in isolation of the existing facts on the ground and thus the public contribution is a major cornerstone in the planning operation. Article (27) of the World Heritage Convention refers to:

1. The State Parties to this Convention shall endeavor by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention.
2. They shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage and of the activities carried on in pursuance of this Convention.”



Jerusalem



**General
view
Essaouira**



Meknes



Therefore, the concerned authorities must organize public meetings to explain the facts details, size of works and costs required for this undertaking. Also, flyers must be circulated and exhibitions be held to make it possible for the people to get in-depth knowledge of the problem. The public awareness can be promoted by means of mass media, school classes and lectures at universities to explain the philosophies, strategies and techniques for understanding the conventional subjects.

Cultures and cultural activities enrich the inhabitants and have become ever more powerful vectors of identity and communication; they help to shape societies developing understanding of themselves giving them a sense of pride.



Promotion of public awareness by lecture



Promote of public awareness by Mass media program



6. On- boarding of Citizens is a key success factor:

There is a great need to promote the public awareness on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, which until now has been approached from the viewpoint of cultural tourism and quick economic benefits.

The inhabitants should be involved in better understanding of their cultural heritage and they becoming themselves the right guardians of their cultural heritage; it is an additional value of understanding and link to their cultural heritage, which will be later on a cultural asset.



Tangible heritage
Courtyard house- Essaouira



Cultural tourism - Tunis



Tripoli



Tunis

Accordingly, one of the goals of the planning project is to establish contact with the owners of the buildings in the areas of urban heritage and to build a committee whose function is to help the owners and explain the dimensions of the problem and find solutions and ways for action in order to conserve the buildings located within the historic urban fabric. Thus, guidelines for the conservation and maintenance works must be made so as to keep the buildings in good shape.

The satisfaction of physical, social and emotional needs can only be established and promoted through an open dialogue between official management and the citizens.

Therefore no single action of management must be taken, if the consequences of that decision extend beyond those citizens and that level which is meant for.

Also citizens are entitled to be consulted over all major projects affecting the future of the community.

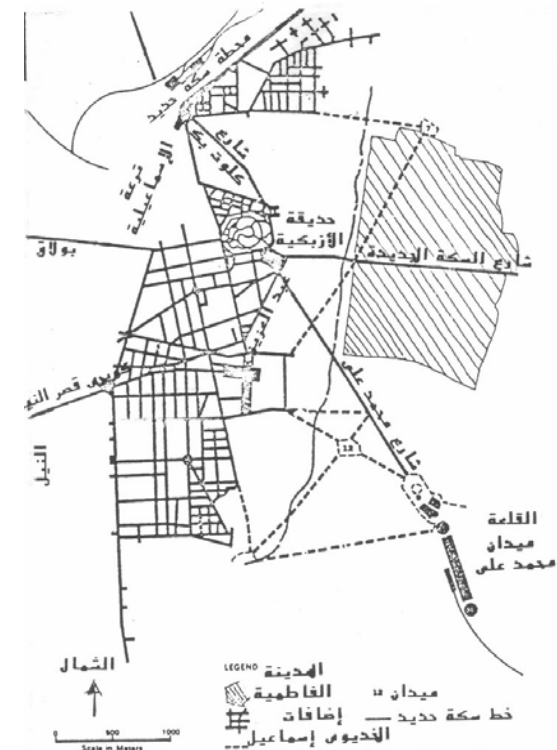


After fulfillment of all these stages, there comes the stage of setting an action plan which must perform the following tasks:

1. Make detail maps of the city showing the sites of the historic area.
2. Make maps showing the public and private properties and the current use thereof.
3. Conduct a historic analysis showing the phases of growth and the historic periods;

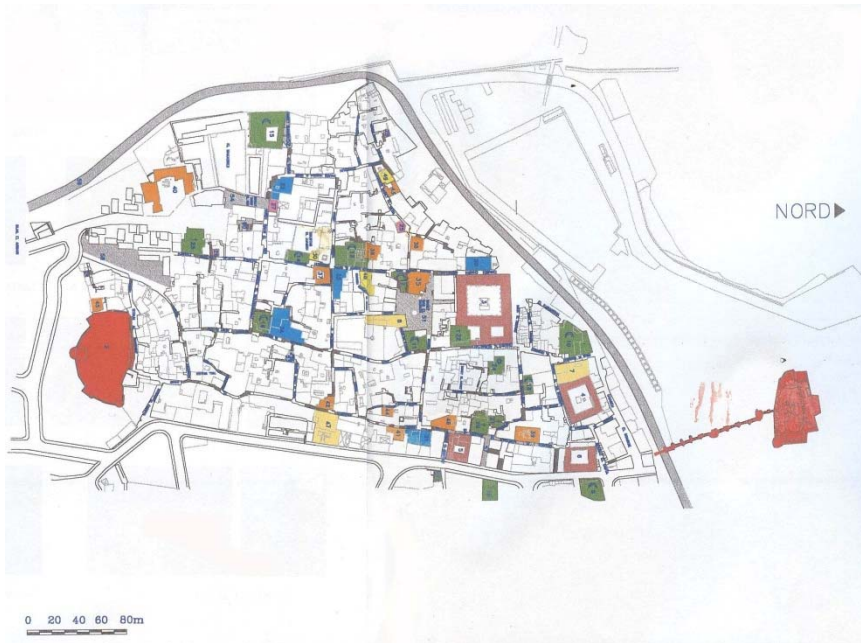


Urban development at present- Cairo

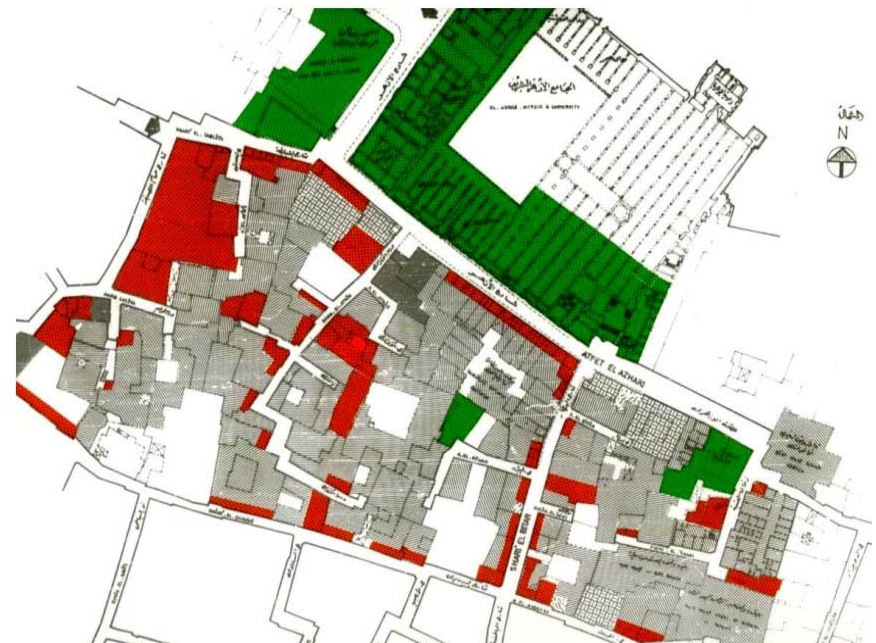


Urban development- Khedive Ismail 1870

4. Conduct architectural, structural and functional survey of the buildings, public and private courtyards and analyze the urban landscape using several disciplines.

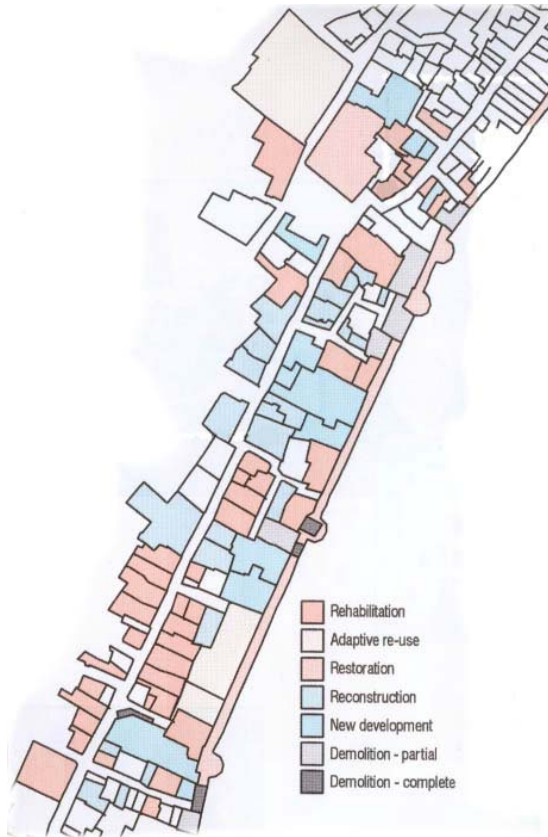


Historic Buildings- Sidon

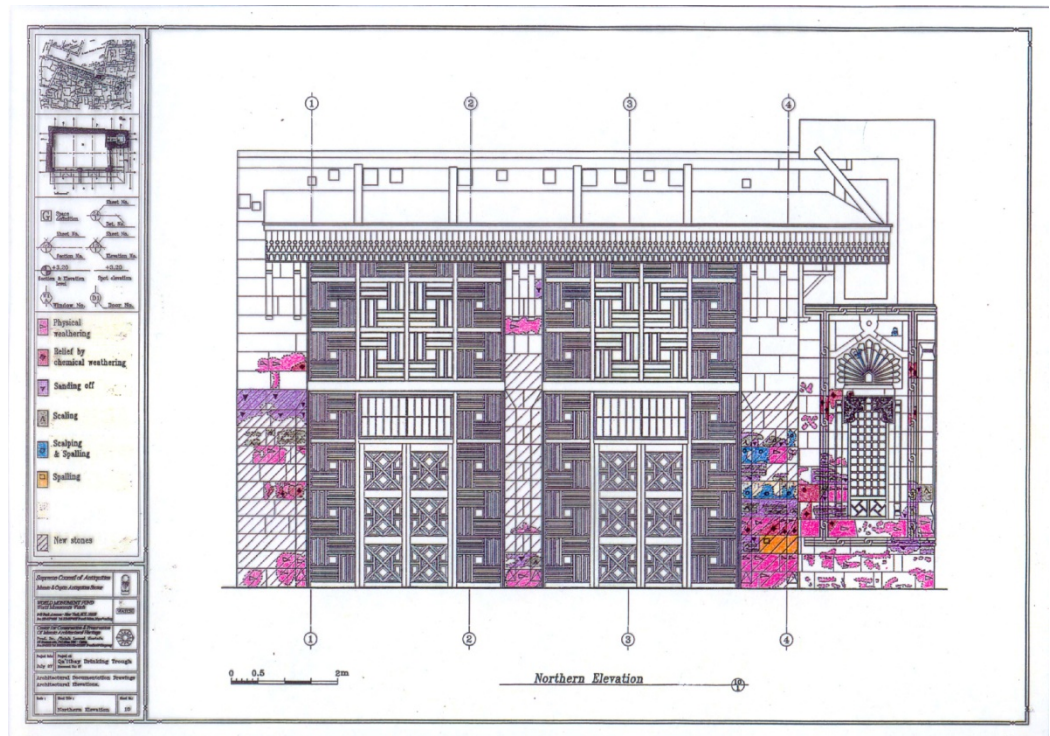


Batiliyya area- Land Use map- Cairo

5. Assess the physical condition and identify and outlines of the infrastructure.
6. Make plans showing the aspects of deterioration and the means of treatment.
7. Devise an intervention plan and set the intervention levels. Plans must be regularly revised in order to make the modifications required and, therefore, the plan must be characterized by sufficient flexibility.



AKDN project for Adarb Al-Ahmar
Proposed plan for intervention



Stone visual deterioration map of the existing condition

8. Specify all types of maintenance works and the maintenance programme (immediate programme; rapid programme; mandatory programme; periodical programme) and identify the maintenance technical entity and the tasks of the maintenance entity staff.
9. Identify the rehabilitation and restoration works and secure that the restoration works be so closely adhered with the authenticity as provided by the World Heritage Convention of 1972 “the authenticity of the material, the authenticity of the craftsmanship, the authenticity of the design and the authenticity of the site”, bearing in mind that the purpose of restoration is to reveal the original condition among the materials available at the site and, hence, it is different from the old conception, viz. restoring the building to its original state by building the missing elements.



Akaddin Sabil after restoration -Cairo



Traditions museum-Aleppo



Street – Old Aleppo



**Traditional façade vocabulary
Meknes**

The goals of the action plan must be emphasized in identifying the emotional, cultural, social and economic values present in the cultural properties and that these values be indicated by priority; therefore, the message of the heritage site must be respected and maintained.

In this respect, we would like to stress what has been provided in the UNESCO Document on Authenticity (NARA 1994): The diversity of heritage and cultures in our world is an indispensable source for the spiritual and intellectual enrichment of all mankind and that the cultural and heritage diversity in our world must be enhanced, in an effective way, as an important element of human development.

The University of Cultural Democracy is embodied in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also the regeneration of historic site can not be concentrated on the preservation of historic buildings only, but also should be expanded to conclude the revitalization of the intangible heritage to bring back the spirit and memory of the place (UNESCO, Documentation on Intangible Heritage, Nara 2004).



Historic building- Old Matrah

The management plan is not only confined to these limits but includes the establishment of a system for the management of urban heritage and specifies the responsibilities of the management entity while emphasizing that there should be no multiple supervision in order to reduce the contradiction of attitudes and expedite the process of decision taking. The management programme must be improved periodically to cope with the process of the appropriate use of the urban heritage areas and it should provide answers to all questions.



Old Matrah- Oman



Essaouira- Morocco



Meknes- Morocco

The regeneration of historic towns and historic areas should be combined with developing a comprehensive urban environment policy, managing waste, monitoring water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, reducing noise pollution and by taking protective measures in the event of natural disasters.



Rehabilitate the Chouarra tanneries by turning the area of the pits into public space

Urban Development in Fez-Morocco

7. Conclusion:

The conservation and adaptable reuse of cultural heritage needs to envisage a programme that rationalizes the use of the cultural properties in spirit of cooperation between governmental bodies and private sector.

Al- Mu'izz street
Cairo



Musical concert at Khan El- Efrang-
Sidon - Lebanon

Reuse of Sit Wasīla house-
Cairo



Al-Ghuri wakala- Cairo

Negative effects could be avoided, through devising a tourist and cultural management plan, which involves local inhabitants, the private sector, local authorities and the representatives of the tourist industry.



Commercial activity-Fez



Al -Fana square- Morocco



Commercial activity-Kairouan



Commercial area- Tripoli

The balanced promotion of cultural tourism by local authorities can have a beneficial effect on the communities; such as:

Improving local employment prospects.

Increasing prosperity.

Increasing the mutual knowledge and respect of different cultures and communities.

To improve and enhance crafts a soft-loans credit should be established by local, regional and international institutions and encourage private entrepreneurial initiative; in this respect the World Bank social agenda is encouraging a more proactive approach in its lending, incorporating the cultural dimensions into its development objectives. The mobilization of resources, especially from private sector and the community, for investment in cultural heritage activities will require incentives.



Traditional handicraft – Sana'a



Traditional handicraft- Marrakech



Traditional handicraft - Tunis

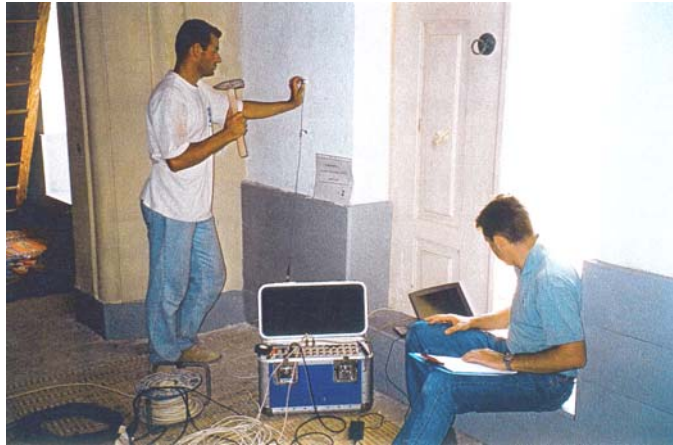
The management plan must reveal a five-year financial plan and identify the sources of financing since the issue of planning and programme preparation and budgeting is an integrated one that must always be taken into consideration and be upgraded in order to cope with the plan and the work process

Legislation regulations and the establishment of a legislative body with special organizational structure as well as the identification of the requirements of each position is an important part of the structure of the urban heritage conservation body.

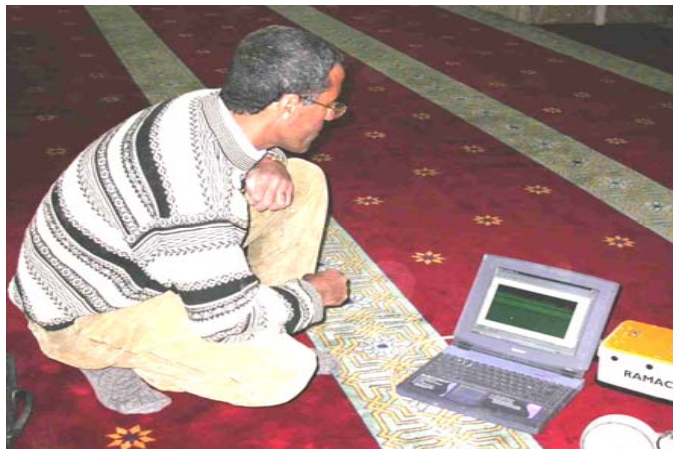
Last but not least, a plan for information management has to be designed with the objective of indicating the determinants of the work process in the data bank so that information can be used with ease at the national or international level.



We have to compile all information, data, minutes of meetings, researches, publications and books in accordance with the well-established scientific standards (Unisist System); scholars and students interested in cultural, urban, natural and intangible heritage should be allowed access to the data bank. Also, the data bank should be provided with technical staff to keep it supplied with up-to-date information. Full protection must be secured in such facilities (document and information preservation facilities) and a back-up copy be made and kept elsewhere in a secure place.



Sonic Test



Ground penetrating Radar System

Data entry form for environmental data



Arial photos for North Saqqara Site

Today, heritage and culture have to meet the requirements of the citizens-, in providing educational opportunities-,justifying public spending-, enhancing and promoting handicrafts-, demonstrating their role in healthy cities and increasing tolerance and understanding between the mankind.

In brief, heritage can only be preserved within its urban context considering the multidimensional social, touristic, economic, architectural...aspects.



Tripoli



Sana'a



Riyadh



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND ATTENTION**