

RASHA EMAD EDDIN RAHME

**POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION IN THE CONTEXT OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CASE STUDY:
THE OLD CITY OF HOMS ‘KHAN AL-JAMAL’**

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**Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias
Escola de Comunicação, Arquitetura, Artes e Tecnologias da
Informação**

Departamento de Arquitetura e Urbanismo

Lisboa

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Resumo

A guerra e o conflito armado são a mais séria ameaça às estruturas sociais, económicas e culturais dos países que passaram por esse tipo de circunstância. Infelizmente, o que realmente fica visível sobre a destruição pós-guerras são os danos arquitetónicos e urbanos, particularmente em edifícios históricos que representam a identidade do lugar. Os edifícios históricos assumem diferenças particularizadas, existindo várias abordagens para lidar com cada um dos exemplares, atendendo ao tecido urbano envolvente, à importância do edifício no seu valor histórico e arquitetónico, assim como tendo em consideração os recursos disponíveis para a intervenção.

A Síria é um dos países que sofreu com um conflito armado desde 2012. Além do sofrimento humano e de como a sociedade síria foi moldada, esse conflito armado afetou negativamente as infraestruturas de muitas cidades em todo o país. Homs, a terceira maior cidade da Síria, sofreu cerca de três anos de guerra, numa destruição em grande escala em quase todas as partes do território urbano consolidado.

Esta pesquisa apresenta um estudo teórico de edifícios históricos no contexto da conservação do espaço urbano. Além disso, procura desenvolver a ideia de preservação do património cultural e como isso pode constituir uma ferramenta positiva, não apenas para recuperar o ambiente urbano e histórico, mas também desempenhando um papel importante na fase de recuperação pós-guerra, na reconstrução e eventual reconciliação.

O estudo inclui a apresentação de alguns edifícios historicamente importantes na cidade antiga de Homs, que foram danificados devido ao conflito armado e recriam uma conexão visual entre eles, no sentido de recuperar as características urbanas e originais da cidade antiga. Além disso, tomando 'Khan Al-Jamal' como um exemplo de um edifício histórico destruído, que precisa de um plano de reconstrução e reabilitação de baixo custo, procura-se traçar diretrizes para os projetos pós-guerra. Por fim, esses planos representam impactos sociais, culturais e económicos profundos no ambiente urbano, que podem atender à necessidade de continuidade da melhoria de qualidade de vida, além da conservação histórica e da preservação da identidade da cidade.

Palavras-chave: Edifícios históricos, Conservação urbana, Reconstrução pós-guerra, Preservação histórica, Centros históricos.

Abstract

Wars and armed conflicts represent the most serious threat to nations that have been through these kinds of circumstances because they negatively affect their social, political, economic and cultural cohesion. Unfortunately, what really stays to tell us about the destruction following the wars is the architectural and urban damages, particularly historic buildings that represent the identity of the place. Historic buildings have many differences, accordingly, there are various approaches to deal with each historic building considering the urban fabric in the surrounding environment, and these approaches depend on the importance of the building, its historical value and the available resources.

Syria is one of the country that suffered from an armed conflict since 2012. In addition to the human suffering and how the Syrian society was shaped, this armed conflict affected negatively the infrastructure and many cities all over the country. Homs, the third biggest city in Syria, suffered about three years of war, and after the war, a large-scale of destruction over almost all parts of the old city was left behind.

This research presents a theoretical study of historical buildings in the context of historic and urban conservation. Moreover, it seeks to enhance the idea of cultural heritage preservation and how this could be as a positive tool, not only to regain the historic built environment but also it can play an important role in the recovery phase following a period of wars, for social reconstruction and eventual reconciliation.

This study includes presenting some historically important buildings in the old city of Homs, which have been damaged due to the armed conflict and recreate a visual connection between them to regain the city's old features. In addition, this study draw guidelines for post-war reconstruction plans for 'Khan Al-Jamal', an example of a destroyed historic building, which need reconstruction and rehabilitation plans with the best attempts to have a low-cost plan. Finally, those plans could have social, cultural and economic deep impacts on the urban environment, which can fulfil the need of continuity, modern-day demands, and better quality of life along with historic conservation and preserve the identity of the city.

Keywords: Historic buildings, Urban conservation, Post-war reconstruction, Historic Preservation, Historic centres

Abbreviations

UNDP-United Nations Development Program

UNESCO- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ICOM- The International Centre of Museums

ICOMOS- The World Conservation Council for World Heritage Sites and Monuments

ICCROM- The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

BCD- Beirut Central District

DGAM- Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums

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1. Introduction

“A country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent; and a city without old buildings is like a man without a memory.” British architect and planner Graeme Shankland

The city of Homs is the third biggest city in Syria, with an urban history of more than 5000 years. Therefore, it is well known for its rich heritage character, which increasingly has lost many of its historic features and cultural property throughout the years due to the different causes. The cultural property could be exposed to neglect and lack of consciousness and appreciation most likely due to the lack of financial resources especially in the less developed countries and not due to lack of interest. (Eagen, 2001)

Moreover, one of the most serious threats to cultural properties and historic sites is Wars and armed conflicts where these elements in some cases are the main targets to one of the conflict's parties against the other like in Syria. Many historic buildings and sites have left destroyed, a large amount of destruction all over the country particularly in the Homs city, many neighbourhoods are completely destroyed in addition to a massive destruction in the old city which included many historically important building in the city. Historic buildings are the main elements that make up the bulk of an urban environment, in order to their withstand for all kinds of decay and deterioration. However, historic buildings are different from most other cultural properties. One of the most challenges that face the architectural conservation is preventing historic building's destruction either this destruction is happening by natural causes, human activities, or wars.

Furthermore, protecting the cultural properties is recognized as a public duty as early as the fifteenth century, which initially appeared in Western history (Eagen, 2001)

The German writer Hans Werner Richter wrote in 1947

“The sign of our times is the ruins. They surround our lives. They line the streets of our cities. They are our reality. In their burned-out facades, there blooms not the blue flower of romanticism but the daemonic spirit of destruction, decay, and the apocalypse. They are the outer symbol of inner insecurity of people of our age. The ruins live in us as we in them. They are our new reality which is asking to be reshaped.” (M. Diefendorf, 1993, P: 13)

Nevertheless, preserving cultural and historic properties and resurrect them after wars and disasters reveal inadequate results in post-conflict plans if not combined with preservation plans of their urban environment. Therefore, post-war reconstruction plans must include both buildings and their surrounding which directly affects the daily life aspect for the city's inhabitants.

New forms and traditions of which had previously been obsolescent should strongly be emphasized in post-conflict plans. (Stanley-Price & International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property, 2007)

Generally, cities are resilient, many cities in all over the globe have been destroyed and they have risen again from ashes, such as, Warsaw, Dresden, Mostar, Beirut and many other cities. Lawrence J. Vale and Thomas J. Campanella wrote in their book 'The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster':

“Although cities have been destroyed throughout history, sacked, shaken, burned, bombed, flooded, starved, irradiated, and poisoned, they have, in almost every case, risen again like the mythical phoenix. Cities such as Baghdad, Moscow, Aleppo, Mexico City, and Budapest lost between 60% and 90% of their populations due to wars, yet they were rebuilt and eventually rebounded.” (Vale & Campanella, 2005)

People tend to live in cultural cities, for instance, they like to live in cities that have an opera house not necessarily because they like to go to the opera house but they like the status of being in a city that has an opera house. As Jane Jacobs said, “new ideas require old buildings” Historic preservation has positive impacts on the city's economic status, which go beyond the touristic value. (Allison & Peters, 2011)

Therefore, post-war reconstruction plans should consider the historic preservation as a significant tool that can make major contributions to sustainability and economic development, because old buildings have a high level of energy efficiency where most historic buildings are built of the foot-thick masonry walls. Thus, recreate a liveable city and regain its historic features through the adaptive reuse and rehabilitation, which can produce spaces that provide opportunities, jobs and activities for the local communities. (Allison and Peters, 2011, p: 9)

Richard Florida wrote about historic building:

“Historic buildings provide the authenticity, the credibility, the sense of community, the sense of history that bind people in a fast-moving, 24/7 ever-changing world. They ground us. They provide a sense of self, a sense of identity in this creative age that we are moving into.” (Ibid)

Historic buildings differ from one to another and each case has its differences in terms of its age, physical situation, estimated damage, the historical value and the importance of their urban environment. This research will provide the main topics that are related to historic buildings and historic preservation in the context of urban conservation in order to end up with a set of recommendations that can be compatible with the reconstruction plans. and propose an adaptive reuse in the historic building 'Khan Al-Jamal' by creating a public space that links three of the most important landmarks in the city through a visual connection, hoping to replicate this proposal in other historic areas and thus regain the lost features of the old city.

Consequently, resurrect the city from devastation to a liveable city that respects the past and fulfils the need for continuity.

1.1. Research objectives

After the armed conflict in the city of Homs, much of its built environment has been heavily damaged, this destruction has comprised most of the city's neighbourhoods including the historic part of the city. Thus, many historic buildings that have lived for hundred years and belong to different historical eras had been partially or completely damaged.

Therefore, this research will be as a contribution to post-war reconstruction plans by presenting a theoretical proposal for the reconstruction of one of the historic buildings in the old city 'Khan Al-Jamal' and which is not yet on the list of the reconstruction plans in the city. Unlike other historic buildings which will be highlighted in this research, where reconstruction plans have already undertaken in coordination between the government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In addition, the proposal of this research will be as an attempt to achieve urban conservation and historic preservation through reconstruction, in order to improve the urban environment and preserve the civilizational identity of the old city.

1.2. Research theory and questions

The aim of this research is to have answers for followings questions:

1. What is the possibility of preserving the historic sites and archaeological buildings after the enormous devastation in the old city of Homs?
2. What are the potential methods which can be used to protect the historic heritage?
3. What kind of treatments could be applied?
4. Is it possible to take advantage of the occurred destruction in the historic centre of Homs to improve the urban environment and avoid the past mistakes?

1.3. Difficulties, problems, and challenges

- The absence of guidelines for reconstruction plans of historic areas during the current circumstances, as many sites in old Homs, have been exposed to complete or partial destruction.
- Lack of post-war reconstruction plans, in terms of preserving the historic features, and regain the civilizational and cultural identity of the devastated city.
- Problems may arise due to the lack of consideration of the new construction plans and how to link it to the old part without destroying the architectural fabric of the city.

- The challenge of any reconstruction plans is to meet the aspirations of the place and population equally.
- Post-war reconstruction plans should imply plans that can achieve more sustainability goals and economic development, hence, protect not only the city's history but also its future.
- One of the important factors to take into consideration, who is going to lead the process of reconstruction, In order to avoid the Lebanese experience , where post-war reconstruction can be as a continuity of the war but in another way,.
- Reconstruction strategy should avoid the fallacy of the Marchal plan by using huge resources to rebuild the infrastructure and the buildings in early terms. (Atlantic Council)

This research aims to show guidelines and suggestions that can help in post-war reconstruction plans by learning from global experiences in the reconstruction field after wars and disasters and the possibility of applying them, as an attempt to regain the features of the old city. In addition, suggesting a reconstruction plan that can maintain the city's particular character during the current circumstance, by collecting information, and through the results of this research.

1.4. Research Methodology

The methodological approaches in this study are based on the following:

- Inductive approach
 - Through reading and considering books, researches, reports, and articles that are related to the case of study, in an attempt to reach a complete illustration and better understanding of the subject.
 - Through studying books and researches of post-war reconstruction and historic preservation.
 - Through examining articles, reports, and researches, which include the International Agreements that appeared for preserving the cultural heritage in the event of wars, and armed conflicts.
- Historic and comparative approach
 - Through studying previous experiences in the field of post-war reconstruction.
 - Through studying, some global models of reconstruction like in many European cities after the Second World War, and hence, develop a critical thinking that helps in developing this research.

- Analytical approach
 - Through using the analytical approach to study the current reality, collect, and analyse as much information as possible based on the theoretical background in the field of reconstruction in addition to the previous experiences.
 - Introducing some of the historic buildings in Homs city in terms of history, current situation, amount of destruction, current and future plans.

- Applied approach
 - Through drawing guidelines for reconstruction plans in the historic centre of Homs, which can reduce the distortion and the abuse of urban heritage and achieve urban conservation.
 - Propose a reconstruction plan for 'Khan Al-Jamal', which is important for both its historic value and its location, moreover, link it with important historic locations in the old city through a pedestrian walkway, which from this research point of view, will have positive impacts on the urban environment in the studied area.
 - Conclude this research with suggestions and recommendations based on previous studies and analyses, hoping that one day, this proposal can take a place in the reconstruction plans.

1.5. The structure of this research

This study will be divided into three main chapters.

1.5.1. General concepts, Intervention strategies in historical areas and historic buildings

This chapter examines general concepts related to this research such as historic buildings, historic buildings preservation. In addition, present a list of international agreements, and agreements of historic buildings preservation in the event of armed conflicts. Furthermore, the research examines the archaeology law in Syria.

The second part of this chapter examines the reasons of historical buildings deterioration in historic centres particularly where buildings have exposed to massive destruction in order to political causes or armed conflicts. Hence, present a study of the consequences of this destruction on the historic fabric of the city, and search for the best solutions to give it the needed protection. What have been mentioned above will be the access point to the case study of this research in the old city of Homs.

1.5.2. General concepts of reconstruction in historic areas according to global experiences

This chapter presents general concepts of reconstruction by studying the factors that influence the reconstruction process of historic buildings, which have affected negatively by armed conflict. In addition, it examines an overview of the various trends of reconstruction.

Moreover, the research examines some of global experiences around the world on both levels, buildings and historic centres. Thus, take advantage of these case studies to draw a conclusion that includes how to deal with historic properties aftermath and obtain a guidance for reconstruction proposal for this research case study 'Khan Al-Jamal'.

1.5.3. Post-war reconstruction in the old city of Homs, Syria: research proposal

This chapter presents a study of some historic landmarks of the old city of Homs in terms of location, history, current situation and the amount of damage that have happened over the past years. In addition, recreate a pedestrian connection between them and presenting a theoretical proposal to reconstruct and rehabilitate the historic building 'Khan Al-Jamal' in order to restore the building and preserve its historic value by taking advantage of its destruction to reuse it as a cultural public space accessible for all.

Finally, the results and recommendations of this research will lead to develop answers to deal with historic centres and historic buildings that have been damaged by the armed conflict and were neglected before the war. This research aims to draw fundamental principles that can lead to a successful reconstruction process and preserve the cultural identity of the city.

Chapter 1: General concepts, Intervention strategies in historical areas and buildings.

Historic preservation is not only a local priority but also a global one. All countries seek to preserve their architectural heritage and culture in particular after all kinds of disasters, which ruin the urban and architectural fabric of cities.

Urban and historic conservation are the best way to prevent cities decay thus protect the ancient civilizations that are mainly represented by urban and architectural elements, which must be unharmed to tell the history to next generations. Historic Sites preservation has different levels of interventions. It can be determined according to the physical situation, causes of deterioration, and predicted future environment for the cultural resources. (M. Feilden & Jokilehto, 1998, P: 13)

The consciousness for the need of architectural preservation had started after the industrial revolution. After the World Wars and because of the enormous devastation that had left in cities, more demands for architectural preservation had risen, where people have realized that, their lives and souls have bonded strongly with the environment where they live, and which provide the foundation of their cultural identity (Ibid).

1.1. The theoretical concepts to deal with historical buildings and historic areas

At the beginning of the 20th century, Europeans started to show more attention to the historic buildings because of its heritage value, however, after the world wars, the need to protect the heritage became broader, in order to revitalize and reclaim the ancient centres in the destructed cities. Furthermore, from the early of the 20th century, this attention of protecting the cultural heritage has extended to all the world's regions including not only European countries but also America, Asia and Africa (Jokilehto, 2011b, P:2)

Many architectural methods and planning's ideas were proposed for the development of historic areas, also policies were produced to deal with each building in term of type and size of destruction that has afflicted the building as well as its historic and heritage value.

1.1.1. General concepts of Historical buildings and historic areas

Bernard M. Feilden defined historic buildings in his book 'Conservation of historic buildings'

"A historic building is one that gives us a sense of wonder and makes us want to know more about the people and culture that produced it. It has architectural, aesthetic, historic, documentary, archaeological, economic, social and even political and spiritual or symbolic values; but the first impact is always emotional, for it is a symbol of our cultural identity and continuity—a part of our heritage. If it has survived

the hazards of 100 years of usefulness, it has a good claim to being called historic.”
(Bernard M, 1982/2004)

Historic buildings constitute a part of the architectural heritage of any place, and carry historical values obtained by its architectural and aesthetic criteria, its long life, or its association with important events in the region where it exists, those events might be political, religious, social or economic. The classification of historical buildings can extend to buildings that are older than 50 years as in the Italian law, for example. (Atma, 1994, p: 13).

According to the Syrian law No. 222, the age of the materials that used in the building must exceed 200 years to consider the building as a historic heritage and to be eligible for protection; however, exceptions require an approval from archaeological authorities only in few cases related to historic or artistic reasons. Moreover, any building had lived for more than 100 years consider as an archaeological building. (Article 1^o of the Syrian archaeological law).

1.1.1.1. Historic buildings and Historic areas according to international charters

- Athens Charter 1931

Historic monuments are tangible evidence of the past; therefore, they must be respected, and preservation is the only response to their destruction with full respect to any period the monuments have lived in. Conservation of historic buildings is the continuity of their presence in the past and hence, it is important to use them for various purposes with the respect to their historic character. Although Athens charter advocates the use of modern materials in restoration, it is necessary to preserve their historic style. (The Athens Charter, 1931).

- Venice Charter 1964

Venice's charter for the preservation of monuments and historical sites approved in article 1 the following definition:

“The concept of a historic monument embraces not only the single architectural work but also the urban or rural setting in which is found the evidence of a particular civilisation, a significant development or a historic event. This applies not only to great works of art but also to more modest works of the past which have acquired cultural significance with the passing of time” (Venice Charter, 1964)

- The International Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas (1976) of UNESCO:

This recommendation gives in (art.1) the following definition:

“Historic and architectural (including vernacular) areas’ shall be taken to mean any groups of buildings, structures and open spaces including archaeological and

palaeontological sites, constituting human settlements in an urban or rural environment, the cohesion and value of which, from the archaeological, architectural, prehistoric, historic, aesthetic or sociocultural point of view are recognized” (Jokilehto, 2007)

The recommendation asserts the importance of considering historic areas and their surroundings as a coherent whole, which are composed of harmonious elements that can contribute to achieving the balance in the urban environment and which includes both buildings and human activities. Moreover, no matter how modest the building is; it should be taken into consideration as a significant part of its surrounding. (Ibid)

- The first ICOMOS Brazilian seminar about the preservation and revitalization of historic centres, Itaipava 1987:

It is important to highlight some of this document's principles regarding the preservation of the urban historic sites

1. Urban historic sites may be considered as the spaces where culture's evidences have been generated through the history. (Ibid)
2. Urban historical sites are considered as a part of the city's entity that includes both built and natural environment, as well as all experiences who's the city have been witnessed throughout the history, and that gives any space a significant value however the period they belong to. Because those evidences shaped the history of the place through a successive transformation process. (Ibid)
3. Cities add more than subtract, thus the built environment is produced due to the social processes, and its replacement is only justified when proven inadequate cultural and social efficiency. (Ibid)

In short, historic buildings and urban historic sites are defined as the elements that have lived for a period determined by each country and which have historic, cultural, artistic, religious or political value, or have witnessed important events or they have an evidence of ancient civilizations. Historic buildings and sites are the connection to the past.

1.1.2. The significance of historic places and buildings

- Historic areas and historic buildings are the essential parts which constitute the features of cities and give them beauty and authenticity and hence give the areas a historic and cultural value. (Al-Maliki, 2004)
- Historic areas represent the past, which formed them, they provide the generations down the ages with tangible evidence of the diversity of cultural, religious, social, and political activities. Their presence and integration in a contemporary society are

considered as a significant matter, particularly to preserve social cohesion alongside the cultural and historical values.

- Historic buildings and areas represent the schools of architecture and planning that they belong to, which could be an inspiration for contemporary plans in terms of efficiency of the functional and aesthetical exploiting of space. In addition to enhancing the use of local building materials, as well as their models, which reflect the harmony between man and the surrounding environment.
- The functional role that historic buildings can play in the contemporary life in term of their important location in cities, and the possibility of adapting these buildings or part of them with new functions proportionate to the needs of each era.
- Historic areas play a significant role in enhancing tourism in any country, this role is emanating from the authenticity and the uniqueness of each historic area and thus their preservation will return with economic and social benefits. (Ibid)

1.1.3. Historic buildings classification according to their importance

At the beginning of the last century and after the conclusion of the Venice Charter for Architectural Conservation, the concept of the historic building extended to include all buildings that have architectural, aesthetic or cultural value, and are no longer confined exclusively to religious monuments and palaces. In this sense, the historical buildings that must be preserved in terms of importance are classified as two main sections:

- **Historic monuments:**

Defined as the significant buildings, which have shared the place social and human values over the years. However, the preservation of these monuments can only be by returning them to their original state; this is usually the case of monuments and buildings, which have a distinctive architectural style, such as, Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque in Homs, Syria Fig. (1). (Kousa, 2015, p: 4)

- **Historically documented buildings:**

They are less important than the historic monuments because it is easy to find more than one of them in the same square, particularly in the historic centre of the city. Mostly represent the traditional type of houses, which belong to specific periods of history like in the old city of Homs (Ibid). Fig. (2)



Fig.1: Khalid Ibn al-Walid Mosque-Homs, Syria. Before the destruction.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?m=276&id=45&img=197



Fig. 2: Al-Agha House, Homs, Syria.

Photo available at: www.zamanalwsl.net

In Syria currently historic buildings are divided into four categories as the following

- Neglected buildings, unused. Fig. (3)
- Old buildings in good functional and physical conditions. Fig. (4)
- Heavily destroyed buildings, Fig. (5)
- Partially destroyed buildings. Fig. (6)



Fig.3: Abdullah Farkuh' house, Homs,Syria.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy



Fig.4: Department of Antiquities, Homs, Syria.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy



Fig.5: Al-Zahravi Palace, Homs, Syria.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy



Fig.6: Al-Sarraj Bath, Homs,Syria

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy

1.1.4. Historic buildings preservation

Preserving historic areas of any city means preserving the values it contains such as architectural, historical, archaeological, social, spiritual, economic, and political values.

Feilden points out in his book 'Conservation of historic buildings' to the main three values of any historic property as the following:

"Emotional value, cultural value, use value"

These values can help to determine whether the building has the priority to be preserved or not. (M Feilden, 1982/2003, P: 6)

1.1.5. The evolution of cultural preservation concepts

The awareness of cultural preservation can be divided into the following phases:

- Before the World War I

The awareness of the need for cultural preservation became known in the Italian Renaissance era. Although most regulation during the Renaissance era had a very little effect on cultural preservation field, this consciousness had a remarkable effect later.

Since 1794, Abbe Gregoire a member of the French government during the revolutionary year advocated the idea of preservation of ancient monuments and asserted that this idea is not only a governmental task but also a public duty. (Eagen, 2001).

The concept of preservation of historical heritage first appeared in the nineteenth century, architect Giuseppe Valadier used it, during the restoration of the arch of Titus in the Forum Romanum in 1821, and he used the travertine stone, which is different in colour from the original marble of the arch and slightly simplified. These details show the distinction between the original and the new interventions. Furthermore, this manner kept the original work dominates.

Valadier's work in the arch of Titus has the respect for the original form of the historic building, and later this work has laid to modern principles in historic building preservation. (Jokilehto, 1999/2011a, P: 85). The initiating idea of restoration was born in 1931 in France; Ludovic Vitet was the first architect who had practiced a modern restoration. (Jackson 2006, p: 8)

- In 1854

The French architect, Viollet-le-Duc who started to share his theories about architectural preservation and restoration. Viollet asserted in his theories about restoration and preservation that the architect or the restorer must have the complete knowledge about the building, all details such as the school of architecture that the building belongs to, the architectural style,

its age, the interventions in each building through the centuries all strongly matter in restoration work.

"Each building should have independent consideration and follow a set of principles. These principles pertained to both the restoration architect and the restoration itself". More importantly, the architect should always have substitutional plans in case one plan did not work (Ibid). According to Viollet, no place, for guessing in restoration projects, in addition, he asserted that any additional restored part of any historical building should stay recognizable from the original restored parts (Jackson 2006, p: 10).

- In 1879

A contrary movement led by John Ruskin and William Morris emerged. They created an association to protect ancient buildings, whose main objective was to assert that restoration must give all the historical stages of any old building equal value (Jackson, 2006, p: 16).

Ruskin saw restoration as "the most total destruction which a building can suffer: a destruction out of which no remnants can be gathered; a destruction accompanied with false description of the thing destroyed." (Ibid)

- In 1883

The Ottoman government issued a system for the preservation and maintenance of ancient antiquities, in addition to enhancing the excavation. This system consisted of (37 articles). (Fahd, 2010, p: 41)

- In 1886:

A critical approach was formulated by the Italian architect and engineer Camillo Boito represented by a theory which considered as 'intermediate way' in restoration between no-restoration theory by John Ruskin and the stylistic restoration by Viollet-le-Duc. In addition, Gustavo Giovannoni was an ideal follower for this approach later, although there were similar approaches in their theories, there were many differences as well. However, two issues are more critical in their different approaches to restoration "the problem of contemporary additions to monuments and an interest in the historic fabric of the city".

According to Boito "Additions or renovations must be made in our contemporary style, possibly preventing, in the appearance envisaged, the new forms from clashing with the look of the old building". (PANE, 2017)

- In 1888

The first specialized laboratory was established to examine archaeological materials using X-rays and ultraviolet rays in Berlin 'Staatliches' Museum. Later in 1891, a laboratory was opened to examine archaeological materials in Vienna, Austrian. (Ibid)

- In 1903

Alois Riegl who was an Austrian art-historian and philosopher, adopted a new concept, his theory of restoration differed greatly from the restoration methods of the nineteenth century. For Riegl dealing with historic monuments essentially start with conservation and hence restoration has to be an exceptional solution in order to keep them as pure as possible. Riegl divided monuments in his work "The Modern Cult of Monuments" according to their value into two categories:

- Age value

"Accepting the historic relevance of a monument, we have to assume that everything which history has changed is irreversible and as such has become part of the monument". (Neuwirth, 1987).

"The category of monuments of age-value embraces every artefact without regard to its original significance and purpose, as long as it reveals the passage of a considerable period of time". (Forster & Ghirardo, 1903/1982).

- Historical Value

Which includes artistic, architectural and aesthetic values. however, every human activity or historical events may increase the historical value of any building, as well as the less quantity of interventions, in the sense of considering these values as a historic document that must be preserved original and pure as much as possible. (Ibid).

The main difference between both values that the historical value of the ruins increases as long as they are preserved, conversely for the age value, which diminishes.

- In 1921

A laboratory was established to examine and restore archaeological materials in Britain, followed in 1930 by the establishment of an archaeological laboratory in Boston, and another in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

- After the World War I

The Europeans incurred a great loss that destroyed a large number of their buildings and historic monuments. Those who were interested in heritage had the consciousness of the necessity to preserve and restore them, especially with the insufficient knowledge of the methods of restoration that ensure their safety and continuity.

An international conference was held in Athens, Greece in 1931, many architects were participated in the conference, and as a result, the Athen charter was established. It included the basic principles for preservation and protection of historic buildings. These principles contributed to the development of many international institutions such as UNESCO, the International Centre of Museums (ICOM), and the World Conservation Council for World Heritage Sites and Monuments (ICOMOS).

Which all approved the main principles of conservation and restoration of architectural and urban heritage:

1. Respect the aesthetic and historical value of buildings without neglecting any architectural style belongs to any age.
2. Preserving historical buildings in a way that ensure their continuity or reuse them for purposes that respect their value.
3. Assert the need for public institutions in each country to determine the standards for preserving its heritage.
4. New plans and constructions in the old cities should respect the composition and the architectural character in historic centres.
5. Remove all the interventions that cause a visual pollution and polluting industries.
6. The possibility of using modern materials (concrete) to reinforce old buildings in a way that preserves the character of the building and in places that are not visible as possible.
7. The importance of the cooperation between specialists (archaeologists, architects) to find the best ways that can be applied in different situations.
8. The need for accurate analytical studies before the implementation of maintenance procedures for buildings. Furthermore, the need for experiences exchanges among countries in the field of preservation of archaeological and architectural heritage. In addition to increasing public awareness of the importance of heritage preservation.
9. The significance of having records for the historic buildings that have a national importance within a country-specific archive, in addition to the documentation and publication of all works that have been preserved. (Qasab, 2001).

- Post-World War II

After the end of the World War II, a great number of European cities were devastated. The Europeans found themselves in the grip of a great disaster, the centres of their cities and important buildings had been destroyed by the war. The movement to rebuild the historical buildings aimed to re-establish the familiar aspects of their lives before the disaster on one hand, and the reconstruction of what had been destroyed on the other.

The historic buildings and monuments after the war had to be re-evaluated because it was better to treat the used monuments in a different way than the unused ones. Hence the use value sprang up, thus the authenticity value which meant regain the origin of the building, by preserving the same building materials, any signs, paintings, writings in addition to the age value and historical value. (Fahd, 2010, p: 45-46)

The concept of historical elements has expanded to include "every urban or rural site which has an evidence of a particular civilization, an important evolution, or historical event. This applies not only to great historical works of art but also to the modest works. (Ibid)

In the wake of the increased awareness of these problems, many conferences were issued and led to present documents as a complementation of the Charter of Athens, in particular, the Venice Charter of 1964, which included all the theoretical references related to the concept of preservation. (Jokilehto, 1998, P: 231)

In 1966, Aldo Rossi asserted in his book the 'Architecture of the city' that the city without a memory is a city without identity. "A monument's persistence or permanence is a result of its capacity to constitute the city its history and art, its being and memory". (Rossi & Eisenman, 1982). Rossi also created the movement 'La Tendenza' that mainly rejected the utopian ideas and supported realism and rationalism, in addition to advocating a return to more historical and classical forms. (Gordini, 2012)

Moreover, with the growth of interest of cultural development, charters and strategies have emerged and adopted by ICOMOS, to preserve the architectural heritage of historic cities, which show the official standards and recommendations for the preservation of historical heritage and related cultural tourism besides Venice charter such as:

- Historic Gardens (Florence Charter 1981)
- Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (Washington Charter 1987)
- Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage (1990)
- Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage (1996)
- International Cultural Tourism Charter (1999).
- Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (1999).

- Principles for the Preservation of Historic Timber Structures (1999)
- ICOMOS Charter – Principles for the analysis, conservation and structural restoration of architectural heritage (2003).
- ICOMOS Principles for the preservation and conservation/restoration of wall paintings (2003).
- Guidelines on Education and Training in the Conservation of Monuments, Ensembles and Sites (1993).
- Nara Document on Authenticity (1994).
- Principles for the Recording of Monuments, Groups of Buildings and Sites (1996).
- Stockholm Declaration (1998).

1.1.6. Criteria for selection the historic buildings according to their outstanding universal value

Many historic buildings and areas are exposed to different kind of deterioration thus, it is important to have criteria to choose which buildings must be preserved and hence, their preservation can contribute to improving the quality of the urban environment. Therefore, any historical property meets one or more of the following list, should be Nominated to be on the historic preservation list:

- The building represents a distinctive masterpiece.
 - Represents an important span of time, which had witnessed an interchange of human values, including the evolution of many life's aspects, in the architectural style, town planning, arts, and technology.
 - Bears an exceptional evidence or more of a civilization, or it has witnessed a cultural tradition, also if it represents a special type of building or a special architectural style, which reflects a significant stage in the history.
 - Represents a notable example of an interaction of human activities with the environment.
 - Be an outstanding example that has witnessed important events, traditions, beliefs, literary works and artistic works, or an example that contains an aesthetic importance.
 - Represents a significant stage of the geographic and geological development of the earth.
- (UNESCO & WTC, 2012)

Furthermore, there are other aspects might affect the selection operation such as:

- Cost of the restoration and Maintenance operations.
- The possibility of implementing the restoration and maintenance actions without adversely affecting the value of the historic building.
- The accurate and available information, data, and documents of the building and its urban environment, which will facilitate the process of preservation or restoration. (Kousa, 2015, p 13)

1.1.7. Intervention policies in conservation projects

Conservation projects justified in order to safeguarding the historic buildings for the future and these interventions are determined by the physical conditions of the building, according to Feilden something we should always bear in mind "the minimum effective intervention is always the best" (Feilden, 1982/2003, p: 8).

Feilden identified in his book seven types of intervention policies in any conservation project:

- Prevention of deterioration (or indirect conservation)

This action aims to protect the historic building or the monument from the deterioration of its physical situation, by regular maintenance procedures and inspections, particularly by controlling their surrounding environment, thus protect them from all kind of potential decay, pollution, or physical influences that may adversely affect them or their urban environment. (Ibid)

- Preservation

The main objective of this process is to maintain the cultural property in its historic form, ensure retaining the same materials, with regular maintenance works, and repair the damaged parts without doing any new constructions. Furthermore, avoid adding new additions in the sense of considering them as a vandalistic work to the origin of the historic property, the idea of preservation of cultural property entails the retention of the historical urban fabric as well as the historic form (Weeks &Grimmer, 1995).

- Consolidation (or direct conservation)

Is defined as the process of adding supportive materials to the historic property, which are no longer sufficient to stand in the future, in order to enhance its physical lasting, with full respect for the historic fabric and the original structure. Although, using the original and traditional materials is required, in some cases when traditional methods and materials are not applicable or prove inadequate_sufficient for achieving conservation of the historic property, using modern methods is advisable according to former experiences (Jokilehto, 1998). As Feilden mentioned in his book:

"First understanding how a historic building acts as a whole as a 'spatial environmental system' is it possible to introduce new techniques satisfactorily, or provide a suitable environment for objects of art, or make adjustments in favour of a new use".

However, in some cases using short-lived materials could be as a temporary solution in conservation projects, because the future might bring evolving techniques (Feilden, 1982/2003, P: 9).

- **Restoration**

Is defined as the process of replacing or reconstructing the destructive or lost parts, by using new materials convenient to the original building materials with preserving its archaeological value, and respect the original materials, consequently safeguarding the cultural property in the same original form. However, the restoration, accurately depicting the history of the building without neglecting any additions from any period, thus any replacement or new construction should be distinguishable in a close look from the origin in order to safeguard the integrity of the past and the historical evidence. Moreover, not only replacement acts are considered as a form of restoration but also cleaning the historic property. More importantly, some historic buildings contain superimposed layers of works, which belong to different periods, if this is the case; it is not allowed to reveal the underlying works unless there is a strong justification (Ibid, p: 9).

- **Rehabilitation/ Refurbishment**

This policy concerns both historic buildings and their environment, in terms of reviving the building, as well as providing it with the facilities and services to activate its functional purposes. Whether reused it for the original purpose or for a new one, because the best way to preserve a historic property is to keep it in use. According to Feilden "the original use is generally the best for conservation of the fabric, as it means fewer changes". Furthermore, this method ensures that the building remains in good condition due to continuous maintenance acts (Ibid, p: 10).

- **Reproduction**

It is a process of copying an extant artefact to compensate the damaged or missing parts of the building, mostly the decorative parts, in order to preserve the aesthetic and artistic value. However, if a part or more of the building is being exposed to decay and destruction irreversibly or is threatened by its environmental climate. In this case, the best thing to do is to move this part to a suitable place and make a reproduction of the decayed parts to use them instead of the original parts in order to maintain the origin form. "For example, Michelangelo's 'David' was removed from the Piazza della Signoria, Florence, into a museum to protect it from the weather, and a good reproduction took its place." (Ibid, p: 11)

- **Reconstruction**

is defined as the process that concerns the historic buildings and the historic centres as well, generally, this process entails reconstructing the historic buildings after wars, fires,

natural disasters particularly concerns the functional dimension and economic value of utilizing the cultural property by using new materials depending on accurate documentation about the building and never rely on conjecture.

Moreover, there is another type of reconstruction, which entails moving the historic property to another place in order to protect it from decay, this form of reconstruction must be strongly justified by a national interest; nevertheless, it might expose the building under an environmental hazard in the future. (Ibid, p: 11).

1.1.8. Guidelines for selecting an appropriate treatment for the Historic Building

“Level of significance”

Preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation are mostly used for dealing with historic buildings, particularly for buildings that have a distinctive national value. On the other hand, reconstruction is less used because there are limited resources for accurate documentation, which can lead to regain the original fabric of an historic building or a historic centre. (Weeks& Grimmer, 1995)

“Physical condition”

In case the historic building is in good physical conditions, its materials and its form still represents the historic value, preservation is the best solution. However, rehabilitations will be the best treatment if the historic property entirely or partially were damaged and hence requires some replacement, additions, or repair works, as well as if it is no longer suitable for the original use and there is a need for substituted functional use. (Ibid)

“Proposed use”

Undoubtedly, when there is a proposal for new use of a historic property, major changes might happen, in order to accommodate the new function, these changes could lead to loss in integrity while conveying the history as well as falsify the archaeological and historical evidence. (Ibid)

“Code and other regulations”

In addition to the significant of choosing the treatment, follow a strict regulation is required, because without them a massive deterioration could happen to the historic property and its historic character. In this since, some treatments and proposed uses might have a negative impact on historic properties Therefore, they must be unaccepted if they would not contribute to the preservation of the historic buildings from all kind of decay and destruction. (Ibid)

1.2. The impact of historic preservation on the urban environment

Since Historic preservation of buildings is essentially associated with increasing the value of any place, thus preservation outcomes are huge to any country that has the consciousness of its importance.

- **Historic outcomes:**

Which represents by preserving the cultural, Historic identity of the inherent civilizations, which once lived. In addition, cultural and historic properties help to understand and explain how people had lived before and hence the next generations could form their cultural and architectural identity depending on the achievements that have occurred in the past. (Eagen, 2001).

- **Aesthetic and artistic outcomes**

Which can be drawn by giving cultural and historic property adequate interest and appreciation, moreover, safeguard the monuments from being neglected and isolated by exploiting them in new uses. In other words, keep them aesthetically in good shape for the next generations as symbols to learn from the past; in addition, the continuous research for the right solution to link the historic centres with the contemporary architecture in cities in order to preserve the beauty of the place. (Kousa, 2015, P:6)

- **Economic outcomes**

- Economic exploitation of architectural historic elements by using them instead of building new constructions and thus save a portion of material and human resources.
- Enhance the tourism as an important resource for the country.
- Creating job opportunities through the implementation of conservation programs, and the need of using a trained staff. (Morris, 2012)

1.2.1. The Concept of urban and architectural preservation in historic areas

Preserving urban and architectural heritage in cities is one of the most complex issues, due to the differences in opinions about it as well as the necessity of dealing with political, social and economic aspects. International organizations and governmental and non-governmental institutions held many seminars, international conferences and workshops to have the attention to the danger that is facing historic cities and buildings. (Kousa, 2015).

Many charters have been issued which mainly considered as a reference for all countries in order to establish and develop the appropriate legislation related to the urban and architectural preservation in each country.

All international charters have provided a broad outline of the main concepts related to auspices, maintenance, and respect of the historic elements; thus, protect them from any doing that would diminish their historic and artistic value. Additionally, international charters have set general definitions concerning historic preservation. However, these charters do not discuss the specific details of each building individually, its historical structure, its physical situation, its surrounding environment ...etc. Moreover, each historic building requires particular interventions at various levels, in addition to the use of different techniques, and necessarily the ability to make right decisions based on an accurate study that leads to successful urban and architectural preservation work. Usually, the lack of financial resource is one of the main obstacles to cultural preservation especially in less developed countries like in Syria. (Ibid)

1.2.2. Conservation in the urban domain

Urban conservation in historic centres concerns one building, a group of buildings, streets, blocks, gardens, environment, landscape, and other urban features, which have a special historic significance.

In some cases, conserving one building does not have a highly significant as conserving a group of buildings that might have together a special significance. In addition, it is important to have the flexibility of reusing them in new uses, but in a way, that guarantees their conservation and enhance their pertinence to the area.

1.2.2.1. The concept of urban conservation

The concept of conservation in the urban domain is a complex issue, and therefore, it is an important matter concerning cities as a whole, it includes:

“Built artefacts, that is, architectural and urbanistic structures, the townscape, the landscape and/or the urban environment. This concept also can be expanded to include the urban culture and lifestyles of the people, the uses of spaces, the technical procedures and the building construction techniques, among other cultural subjects.”

The concept of conservation in the urban context extends to include natural or /and built elements which create the urban fabric of the place and which have a historic and cultural value. “Conservation thus seeks to maintain the urban environment together with the cultural practice of its use.” (Zancheti & Jokilehto, 1997)

According to the Washington Charter for the conservation of historic towns and urban areas, “The conservation of historic towns and urban areas is understood to mean those steps necessary for the protection, conservation and restoration of such towns and areas as well as their development and harmonious adaptation to contemporary life.” (Washington Charter - 1987, 1987)

1.2.2.2. Justification for Urban Conservation

Conservation plans are not limited to one building or one site, but it expands to include the whole ambience that comprises a historic significant. (Yusof, Mui, Lik Meng, & Sook Fern, 2007)

In addition, the Importance of urban conservation can be as the following:

- Urban conservation has economic impacts on communities, in terms of reusing the buildings instead of constructing new buildings and hence reduce urban sprawl and provide job opportunities.
- Urban conservation is important to communities because it helps people to have better knowledge and appreciation of their history.
- Urban conservation can increase the value of historic properties in any place.
- Urban conservation is important because historic centres are more attractive for tourists.
- Urban conservation plans provide spaces with efficient use in the city. (Ibid)

1.3. Historic areas in Syria and the impacts of the armed conflict

Historic areas and the inherited heritage are the main elements that convey the message of the history in order to the fact that they have witnessed many changes by either human activities or natural reasons down the ages. Therefore, they highly deserve attention, patronage, and an adequate consciousness of their importance.

In the case of Syria, historic areas have faced massive destruction due to the war in many cities. Therefore, huge efforts have to be considered to safeguard our heritage for the next generations.

In this sense, it is important to highlight the different causes of deterioration of historic buildings and their surrounding areas particularly the deterioration caused by war.

1.3.1. Causes of deterioration in historic buildings and areas

Many factors can negatively affect the physical state of the building as the following:

- Deterioration due to environmental conditions
 - Interactions between chemical components might affect negatively the building.
 - Changeable conditions of the climate such as wind, rain, snow, and frost might contribute to buildings deterioration.
 - Polluted atmosphere could lead to building deterioration especially in industrial areas.
 - Thermal movements, which can cause Contraction and expansion of materials.

- Moisture due to leakage of rainwater to the roofs and walls, and in some cases water leaks to the foundations of buildings and cause a moisture leakage into their walls.
- The salt proportion in the soil could affect the foundations of the building.
- Natural disasters: fires, earthquakes, floods, volcanoes.
- Dust consider one of the serious environmental problems that every build is exposed to, as it gets into every small space in walls and roofs (Fielded, 2003, P: 92-118). Fig (7)

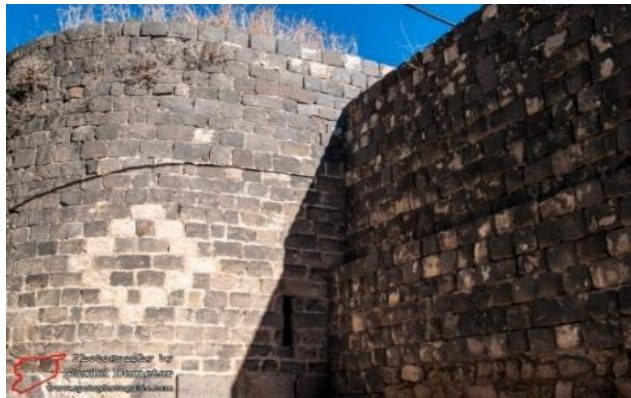


Fig.7: Homs-Citadel and walls, deterioration due to natural conditions.

Photo available at:

<http://www.syriaphotoguide.com/home/homs-citadel-city-walls>

▪ **Deterioration due to human activities**

There are many human activities can cause the deterioration of buildings such as:

- Lack of public awareness of the importance of historical buildings and areas and the faulty use of them or inadequate maintenance works.
- The overcrowding in historic centres can result difficult living and health conditions, thus in some cities, historic centres have become a living area for the poor. (Kousa, 2015, p:18)
- Inappropriate interventions such as added elements, small or major changes in the shape or the use, or faulty restoration work. (Ahmed AlMahari, 2017, P:142)
- In some cases, the complex ownership, public or private of many buildings in the historical areas, contribute to losing the direct responsibility for those buildings and areas thus leaves them increasingly neglected, or faulty used. (Al-Maliki, 2004). Fig (8-9)



Fig.8: Part of the old centre in Homs city, deterioration due to human activities.

Photo available at: <http://www.discover-syria.com/>



Fig.9: Al-hamidya neighbourhood, deterioration due to human activities.

By: Waad Tarabishy

- Deterioration due to political conditions

The political situation could cause a massive destruction in the historic parts of the city, such as the armed conflict in Syria, where historic centres and buildings were tangibly impacted.

The historic centre in the old city of Homs have been exposed to massive destruction because of the repeated clashes in these areas. Fig. (10-11)



Fig.10: Ancient souk, Homs, Syria, deterioration due to political conditions

Photo available at: <http://www.discover-syria.com/>



Fig.11: Neighbourhood in the old city of Homs, Abi Al-Fadael mosque, deterioration due to political conditions

Photo available at: http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?m=276&id=39&show_gal=1

1.3.2. The Impacts of wars on the urban environment

Wars and cities have been always associated particularly in the modern history in order to the high density of population centralized in urban areas besides the accumulation of wealth in these areas, which all have increasingly effective impacts on cities. Thus, such places will be

an appropriate environment for conflicts. (Grünewald, Groupe URD, & La Fontaine des Marins, Plaisians, France, 2013)

As seen in Syria, armed conflict has centralized in the main cities such as Homs Fig (12),



Fig.12: A deserted street in the old city of Homs.

Photo available at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/05/syrias-city-of-homs-shattered-by-war/100735/>

Aleppo and many other cities. In this sense, it is significant to understand the impacts and losses on the urban environment because of wars. As such, a better understanding of the level and scale of destruction and losses will contribute to the better determination of the required interventions in the reconstruction process. These impacts can be divided into the following:

- **Structural losses**

The most visible impact of wars and conflicts on the urban environment is the damage to buildings, infrastructure, public facilities and urban structure.

- **Economic impacts**

Armed conflict and other disasters have a tangible influence on the economic status where they lead to industrial, agriculture, and trade losses, in private and public sectors.

- **Cultural impacts**

During wars and disasters, historic places could be exposed to damage and destruction as an indirect result of disasters or as a direct result of armed clashes such as in wars time, because historic places and monuments are considered as attractive targets in order to their important value of conveying the history and the identity of the place. However, this

cultural destruction involves not only the buildings and the historic monuments but also traditions and customs. (Brosché, et al., 2016).

- Social impacts

Wars and disasters directly affect inhabitants when they occur in their cities and around them. Hence, push them to live in cellars and face difficulties to get water or other supplements. In accordance with those facts, many social disruptions will spring up in terms of serious social and psychological problems, poverty, deteriorating of living conditions. (Grünewald, Groupe URD, & La Fontaine des Marins, Plaisians, France, 2013)

- Political impacts

Disasters and wars are mostly accompanied by unstable political conditions. In addition, instability lead to severe weakness or collapse of governments at various levels Local, regional or national. However, the situation differs from one government to another according to the power of these governments, and their elasticity, readiness, and ability to deal with emergency conditions, to restore life and reconstruction, and more importantly, political stability is the most important factor in the success of reconstruction. (UNITED NATIONS, 2009)

1.3.2.1. The impact of armed conflict on historic areas and buildings in Syria

The armed conflict in Syria has affected all aspects of the Syrians life. This violence led to great damage in the city of Homs as many other Syrian cities Fig (13). Particularly the destruction of the old city where historic buildings and their urban environment were equally targeted. Fig. (14-15)

Syria has a diverse and rich heritage; however, physical, structural, touristic, economic losses have occurred, in addition to the disappearing and looting of some artefacts where have become a commodity in the black market due to the absence of law and lack of security.

The loss of any country's cultural heritage is an inseparable issue from losing identity, because of its great value as a tool to discover the past. Thus, it considers as a legacy for not only countries where cultural heritage has destructed but also a legacy for all humanity. Therefore, UNESCO has revealed a big interest in protecting and preserving this heritage in the areas where they have experienced conflict like in Syria. (Shadi & Bashar 2015)

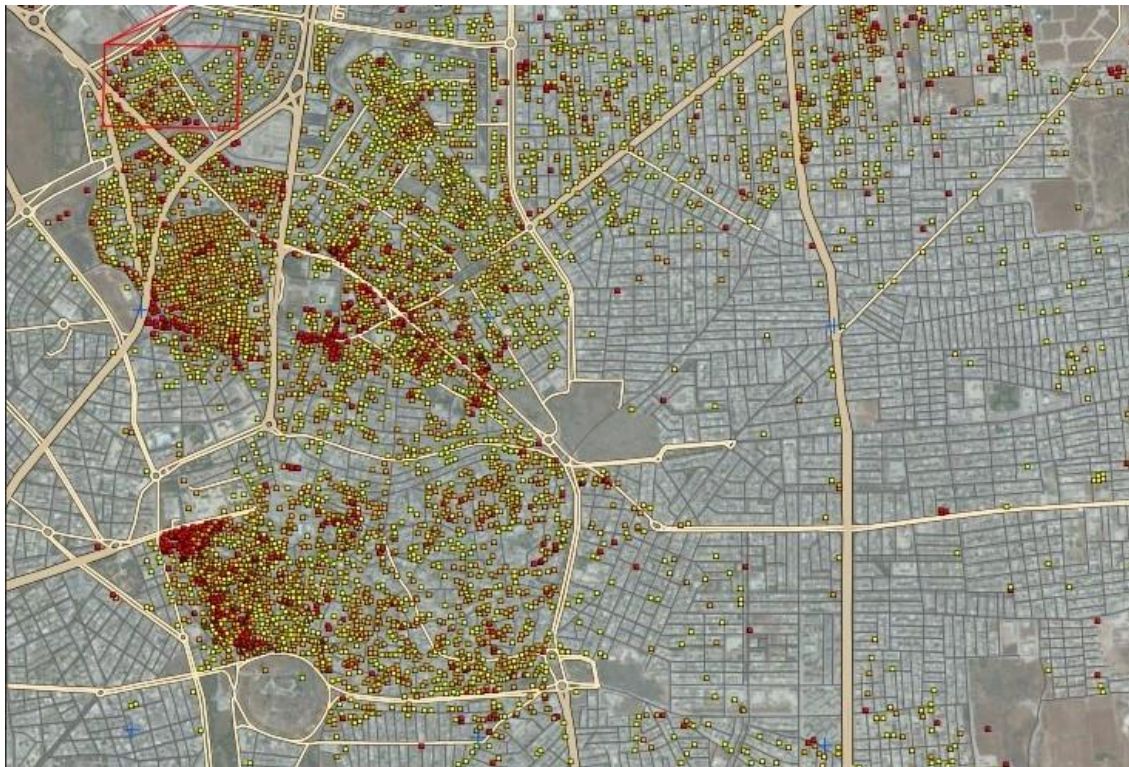


Fig.13: Damage assessment of Homs, Syria.

Photo available at: http://unosat-maps.web.cern.ch/unosat-maps/SY/CE20130604SYR/UNOSAT_A3_Portrait_CE20130604SYR_Homs_20141106.pdf

- Destroyed Structure
- Severely Damaged Structure
- Moderately Damaged Structure



Fig.14: Destroyed neighbourhood in the Old City of Homs.

Photo available at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/05/syrias-city-of-homs-shattered-by-war/100735/>



Fig.15: Destruction of Al- Hamidiyeh neighbourhood in the old city of Homs.

Photo available at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/05/syrias-city-of-homs-shattered-by-war/100735/>

1.3.3. Protecting the cultural heritage during the armed conflict.

Regarding the great value of cultural heritage in representing the identity of any place and its inhabitants, its protection is an obligation inextricably linked with the respect for the integrity of our past. Armed conflict is one of the most serious threats that negatively affect the cultural heritage.

1.3.3.1. International conventions regarding the protection of the cultural heritage

As has been mentioned before, wars and armed conflicts could cause a massive destruction of the cultural heritage, in addition to the vast loss of cultural properties, artefacts and masterpieces, which are in most cases irreplaceable. Although the practices for the protection of cultural property have existed since the ancient times, the challenge nowadays is becoming bigger because of the increased amounts of destruction in cultural and historical sites since the intensive use of the long-distance weapons and aerial bombing. ('The 1954 Hague convention and its two Protocols', 2008)

Therefore, it was necessary to improve and develop many conventions for this purpose in the event of armed conflict, particularly as the internal and ethnic conflicts have increased. These conventions primarily emerged due to the massive devastation that the World War II brought to many cultural sites. However, the first convention that directly dealt with the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflicts was Hague 1954, which contains the following message:

"Damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world." (Ibid).

- **Hague convention**

Includes the protection of all types of historic and archaeological objects, either movable or immovable. (Ibid)

- **The first protocol of Hague convention 1954**

This protocol has mainly emerged to deal with movable cultural objects. Hence, in the event of wars and armed conflicts it is acceptable to move the cultural property to other states in order to safeguard it as long as the war is going on, but in a way that guarantees all states to reclaim their cultural property to situate them in their original place once the war is over (Ibid).

- The second protocol of the Hague convention 1999

The Second Protocol entered into force on 9 March 2004. Since most of the conflicts nowadays are internal or ethnic conflicts, which indeed have much more destructive impacts on the cultural property than any types of warfare, because each side of the conflict seeks deliberately to destroy the cultural identity of the opposing group. Therefore, these contemporary challenges since the 1980s have led to the emergence of the second protocol, which has emphasised the following points:

- Protect and respect the cultural property during the armed conflict.
- "Enhanced protection" for cultural property.
- Violent actions toward any cultural property consider as criminal actions, thus sanctions should be imposed on perpetrators. (Ibid)

- The 1949 Geneva Conventions and its two additional protocols 1977

The convention of Geneva 1949 proved inadequate for dealing with the vandalism that might happen during an armed conflict. Therefore, a conference was held hosted by the Swiss authorities and includes two additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions 1949. ('Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions o1949', 2010)

- Protocol I

This protocol concerns "Protection of cultural objects and of places of worship" (Ibid)

- Protocol II

This protocol also concerns "Protection of cultural objects and of places of worship" particularly in article (53):

"Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954, it is prohibited to commit any acts of hostility directed against historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples, and to use them in support of the military effort" (Ibid)

- The Blue Shield

The Blue shield is an international committee founded in 1996 and it can briefly identify as:

"The Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross and the protective emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention which is the basic international treaty formulating rules to protect cultural heritage during armed conflicts. The Blue Shield network consists of organisations dealing with museums, archives,

audiovisual supports, libraries, monuments and sites". ('Blue Shield statement on Syria.' 2011)

The main objectives of the Blue Shield:

- Facilitate the international response in case of emergencies.
- Facilitate the communication between the blue shield networks and the national committees.
- Facilitate the cooperation between the UNESCO and the conflicting parties in order to create a database of specialist.
- Enhance training for experts and peacekeepers. (Pasikowska-Schnass, 2016).

1.3.3.2. International and local legislation regarding the protection of the Syrian cultural heritage

Protecting the Syrian cultural heritage need wide collaboration on all levels. It is a complex action to be undertaken, because, in some cases, the heritage debate could be different from one community to another and hence could lead to more fragmentation and stimulate the conflict. (Brosché, et al., 2016)

However, Syria has suffered from armed conflict for years; therefore, it was necessary to take steps toward protecting its cultural heritage, sites, buildings, and monuments. However, Syria has been part of Hague convention since 1958 and part of world heritage convention since 1975. In this sense and according to the conventions, the state of Syria has the obligation of protecting its cultural property because "Any loss of Syrian cultural property would greatly impoverish the world's collective memory" (Blue Shield Statement on Syria, 2011)

The Blue Shield's mission is to call on all conflict's parties in Syria to comply with these obligations and to safeguard the cultural heritage sites in Syria (Ibid).

Moreover, Syria is not a party to Protocol II of the Hague Convention of 1999, but according to article 32, paragraph 2, of this Protocol, which contains the following: "A Party to the dispute which is not a Party to this Protocol but it may accepts and applies its provisions in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 2, and request appropriate international assistance from the Committee". ('Second protocol of Hague Convention of 1954 for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict', 1999)

In addition, The UNESCO has established a project, which was officially launched on 1 March 2014, called "The Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage project", its main objective is to restore and protect the Syrian cultural heritage and prepare post-conflict actions to restore the stability, cultural identity, social cohesion, and sustainable development in Syria. (UNESCO)

Moreover, the local efforts in Syria to protect the cultural heritage suffers from:

- Lack of legislation, which are related to the protection of cultural heritage.
- The absence of coordination mechanism with other relevant bodies.
- Lack of human and financial resources. (Kousa, 2015, p 28)

1.3.4. Cultural heritage recovery aftermath of war

In the time of wars where death and destruction are prevailing, people come first. Although, provide shelter, food, and health conditions consider as a priority, preserving the cultural heritage should be considered as a part of the recovery phase following the armed conflict. People's ability to recover from such kind of situations is strongly related to their cultural resilience.

Cultural heritage preservation can also play an important role in social reconstruction and eventual reconciliation after years of conflict. (Stanley-Price & International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property, 2007)

The most visible evidence of a war is the devastation of buildings and historic monuments. Therefore, and due to lack of international effective policies until 2005, nine approaches were set to link the theoretical approaches with practices, in addition, to reach a developed discourse for the protection and recovery of cultural heritage and post-war reconstruction:

1. The integration of cultural heritage into the social, physical and economic responses.
2. Consider the quality of the recovery process as a priority over the speed process of recovery.
3. Take into account different visions in the recovery process.
4. Expand the participation of the civilians in the recovery process.
5. Take into account the relationship between conservation and replacement approaches.
6. The continuous need for political and financial support.
7. Respect the different beliefs and religious within post-war societies.
8. Develop people and institutions' capacity.
9. Practical thinking of the implementation of conservation codes and legislation.

(Ibid,p:27)

1.4. Conclusion of chapter 1

It has been noticed that the importance of preserving the historic centres of cities can be drawn from their historic, artistic, aesthetic, cultural, social, economic value. Moreover, its protection is a public duty from all kind of deterioration, particularly in the time of war.

The concepts of preservation of historic buildings have been evolved mainly after the world wars as a response to the massive destruction in order to reclaim the cities features as it was

before the wars and rebuild them again. Although wars and disasters can cause great damage to the historic urban environment of cities, in some cases, the occurred destruction after wars and disasters could provide opportunities to find new approaches and strategies to preserve the historic centres and buildings in order to improve the urban environment.

Many intervention policies might be applicable in historic preservation projects. They are associated with the physical situation and the special nature in addition to the type and amount of damage that inflicted the buildings aftermath of war, and these interventions should be based on the codes and legislation that have been drawn by the international charters for the protection of the world heritage.

Chapter 2: Post-war reconstruction of historic buildings and Historic centres, General concepts and global experiences

2.1. Post-war reconstruction in historic areas

Unfortunately, contemporary wars bring great danger and threats to the cultural heritage all over the world, because of the massive use of the long-distance weapons and aerial bombing, and one of the important methods to maintain the historic areas and buildings or regain their original appearance aftermath of armed conflict is reconstruction. However, "reconstruction has always been one of the controversial issues for those with an interest in the material evidence of the past" (Stanley-Price, 2009, P: 32).

2.1.1. General concepts of reconstruction of historic buildings

Reconstruction is one of the methods that can apply to historic buildings aftermath of a disaster to regain their original appearance depending on accurate documentation and never upon conjecture. Reconstruction is one of the methods, which needs a high level of cooperation among architects, archaeologists, historians, and preservationists in order to achieve the aim of cultural preservation.

According to Anne E. Grimmer:

"Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes" (Weeks & Grimmer, 1995)

However, even moving the historic buildings from their original place to other sites is a form of reconstruction and it is only justified by national interest, nevertheless, without neglecting the consequences of this action particularly the vast loss of the cultural value and contribution to more environmental risks (Feilden, 1982/2003, p: 12).

2.1.1.1. Reconstruction of historic buildings according to international charters

- Venice charter:

"All reconstruction work should however be ruled out a priori. Only anastylosis, that is to say, the reassembling of existing but dismembered parts, can be permitted. The material used for integration should always be recognizable and its use should be the least that will ensure the conservation of a monument and the reinstatement of its form" (Jokilehto, 1998, P: 233).

- International Committee for Monuments at UNESCO:

In 1949, UNESCO held a meeting involving a group of international experts to discuss the protection and the preservation of historic sites and monuments, Roberto Pane was one of the participants who published a report in the “museum journal of UNESCO” which involved a summary of some restoration works before the World War II. From Pane's point of view, it was necessary to accept a new critical approach which called ‘restauro critico’, i.e. restoration based on critical judgement”. (Jokilehto, 2011b, p: 8). Pane added:

“In the countries heavily bombed during the war, it is now impossible to keep restoration within rigid limits owing to the wide range of individual problems. Restoration for the purpose of conservation or simple consolidation must now give way to the reconstruction of important parts of a building, or to something midway between restoration and the construction of a new building”

Moreover, what worth to be mentioned that the experiences of the past led us to the fact that reconstruction should not be applied on a historic building if this application is merely an imitation of the old version. Although the remaining parts of a historic building must be preserved respectfully, a blend of the old and new is acceptable only if the new portions are in harmony with the old ones and they should be distinct from the original parts, in addition, each historic building or site should be treated on its own merit. (Ibid)

- The Charter of Krakow 2000

The charter of Krakow proposed a list of principles regarding the restoration and conservation of the built heritage and one of them related to reconstruction aftermath of war or disaster. the charter asserts that the reconstruction of small destructed parts is acceptable in some cases where these parts having an architectural value or having a special interest, depending on accurate documentation, in addition, the contemporary architecture should have a strong presence in the reconstruction projects for using the building properly.

Moreover, reconstruction of an entire building is not acceptable except for some cases where the building reflects a significant cultural and social value. (De Naeyer, Arroyo, & Blanco, 2000)

- The Declaration of Dresden 1982

Thirty-seven years after the destruction of the city of Dresden, a symposium was held in Dresden from November 15th to 19th, 1982 on the subject of the “Reconstruction of Monuments Destroyed by War”.

The declaration of Dresden is concerned with the reconstruction of historic buildings and monuments after wars and armed conflicts, it emphasizes the significance of

documentation to protect nation's heritage during the war, asserting the need of cooperation between nations to share the experiences in this area. ('Declaration of Dresden on the "Reconstruction of Monuments Destroyed by War" (1982)', 1982)

Some principles of the declaration of Dresden regarding reconstruction can be summarized in the following points:

- The historic monuments have spiritual values, Therefore, the desire of having a great knowledge about them and the efforts to protect them led to initiating reconstruction actions.
- People after the wartime has influenced by the great destruction of the historic monuments, their desire to reconstruct has increased in order to protect the historical evidence by preserving the substance of the monuments.
- Reconstruction actions have opened the door to intensive studies and research by means of archaeology in order to achieve accurate documentation, moreover, the documentation of individual monuments and the stock of monuments are considered urgent in case of armed conflicts and other disasters.
- Several techniques have been developed in the reconstruction of historic buildings which destructed by armed conflicts, and hence each case should have special treatment regarding different influential factors. Conservation works can range from restoring the monument itself to the restoration of its urban landscape.
- In the restoration, it is very important to trace back all stages of historical development of any monument as well as any additional elements, which have been added in a responsible manner.
- The reconstruction of historic buildings can lead to new objectives in the way of using the building.
- The big legitimate desire of people to restore the destructed monuments has highly contributed to arise a "meticulous scientific methodology", as well as various skills in the different specialization in this field. (Ibid)

▪ The Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, 1999

The charter of Burra has defined reconstruction in the following articles:

Article 1.8.

"Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric."

Article 20.1.

“Reconstruction is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place.” (Stanley-Price, 2009, p: 34)

2.1.2. Influential factors in reconstruction process

Many factors can affect the reconstruction of historic areas and monuments, which include both positive and negative perspectives, some perspectives tend to justify reconstruction, and others argue against it.

2.1.2.1. “Justifications for reconstruction”

Dr Nicholas Stanley-Price points out in his book ‘The reconstruction of ruins’ to a group of justification for reconstruction:

- The building represents a national symbolic value because of its important role in the country's history, or it was associated with significant persons.
- Reconstructed buildings can be used for the same previous function or for new uses.
- Reconstruction can be an important tool in the field of education and research, where each step in the reconstruction process such as searching, reading, collecting information about the building could contribute to better understanding of the country's history.
- Reconstructed buildings can be an attractive destination for tourists and hence this can increase the public or the private incomes.
- Reconstruction projects can contribute to site preservation and hence this can reduce the development challenges, and support the use of what already exists. (Stanley-Price, 2009, P: 35-36)

2.1.2.2. “Arguments against reconstruction”

Dr Nicholas Stanley-Price points out in his book ‘The reconstruction of ruins’ to a group of arguments against reconstruction:

- The destructed building might represent a stronger testimony of the past than the reconstructed building.
- The reconstructed building considers as a new building because it is almost impossible to achieve authenticity.
- Reconstruction process must be based on accurate documentation otherwise, it will misguide the publics.

- Some reconstruction projects might fail in protecting the original evidence. (Ibid)
- Some reconstruction projects do not take into consideration the surrounding environment.
- In the complex sites which have a long history, reconstruction projects can fail in conveying their various historical periods. (Ibid).
- Reconstruction projects might require a high cost to finance them. (Stanley-Price, 2009, P: 37)

2.1.3. The concept of reconstruction in Historic centres

In the beginning, the attention was focused on reconstructing and restoring the individual buildings without giving adequate attention to the surrounding areas and their need for maintenance or restoration. However, the growing attention to the historic neighbourhoods or historic centres in cities have turned into increased attention to buildings and their surroundings and thus, increase the consciousness toward maintaining the historic environment of the neighbourhood and the urban fabric of the historic district or historic centre. (Shaath, 2006)

The restoration process in cities has become more complex as it has become more comprehensive, it extends to include all the city aspects like history, archaeology, art, economy, sociology, population, in addition, the infrastructures such as roads, water, sewerage system etc. The main purpose of the maintenance and reconstruction in the Old City is to preserve the city with its inhabitants, its dwellings, and its economy, and hence preserve the identity of cities and maintain them alive and full of creativity. Nevertheless, every restoration and reconstruction process must have the vision of preserving the city by respecting all its components and link the historic centres harmoniously with the new parts of the city. (Ibid)

The attitudes toward the preservation of historic centres differ among people, some of them do not have the interest of protecting their historic cities and centres and tend to build the new and thus, historic centres are exposed to the danger of disappearing particularly, where urban expansion and reinforced concrete are dominating cities. Hence, this undoubtedly helps to break the link between the past and the present. (Ibid)

On the other hand, some people consider the present as an extension of the past, and the destruction of the past necessarily leads to the destruction of the present and the future. (Ibid) Moreover, to demonstrate the importance of historic cities or ancient living quarters in the world which many of them were destroyed during World War II, especially in Eastern Europe, considerable efforts were made to rebuild the destroyed historic centres, such as Warsaw, Prague and others, rather than take advantage of their destruction to remove them and build

new modern cities. Conversely, they insisted on the reconstruction of the historic centres to restore their pre-war condition. (Ibid)

2.1.4. Intervention strategies and guidelines in Post-war Reconstruction plans

- Intervention strategies

- Collect and preserve the rubbles.
- Restore the infrastructure.
- Collect the remain parts of construction materials and protect them in order to re-use them in reconstruction projects.
- Demolition of constructions, which are threatened with collapse. (Kousa, 2015, p:36)

- Guidelines for reconstruction

- Documentation

An accurate documentation is required to justify reconstruction and never base upon conjecture. (Weeks & Grimmer, 1995)

In any reconstruction process, documentation is essential "before, during and after any intervention" (Feilden, 1982/2003).

All used techniques and material should be recorded in reports and accompanied with drawings and plans. (Ibid)

- Archaeological research

Identifying the remain parts of the historic building or site require an archaeological research in order to use these documents in the replication of materials, plans and design in the historic areas. (Weeks & Grimmer, 1995)

- Preserving extant historic features

In reconstruction plans, it is essential to maintain all historic or archaeological pieces and materials of a building or site that have an evidence of the past and have been documented, in order to use them again during the reconstruction process if feasible. In addition, to diminish changes around the buildings in order to preserve the urban fabric as much as possible. (Ibid, p: 228)

- Accessibility and Life Safety, Natural Hazards, and Sustainability

Reconstruction projects should be as sustainable as possible and should be prepared on bases that minimize the negative impacts of natural hazard, without affecting the reconstructed appearance of the building or the historic site. (Ibid, p: 228)

2.1.5. The impact of reconstruction on cities

Assuming that urban space can contribute to shaping collective behaviour and can be shaped by it, in this case, the urban partition could have social impacts.

Therefore, these divisions in the urban environment have social impacts. Moreover, Traditional urban planning proves inadequate ability in facing the ethnic disputes, no matter how the city is healthy; the city is exposed to division where "urban contract is broken". Divided cities have shared comparable circumstances, and hence this could be as a guidance to urban managers and influential reconstruction plans to avoid physical fragmentation like in Beirut city. (Kabbani, 1992)

"Reconstruction plans must achieve the balance between the economic recovery and rebuild the society in a long-term vision, and this can be achieved through continuously debating and changing post-war plans course and thus contribute to achieving the public demands in a true democracy" (Ibid)

2.2. Global Post-war reconstruction experiences

A comprehensive Study for global experiences is essential for better understanding for the reconstruction process in the old cities, reading about this subject and study some examples around the world in details will firmly help in applying the best reconstruction plans, where bad experiences can be as a lesson to avoid mistakes. Whereas the good examples can form a guidance for successful post-war reconstruction plans in the old city of Homs, Syria.

2.2.1. Post-war reconstruction in Lebanon: Case-Study: Beirut historic centre

Whilst talking about post-war reconstruction, there is an important example to examine, Beirut, Lebanon.

Syria and Lebanon have shared not only the borders and the history alongside but also the bitterness of sectarian and political conflicts.

Beirut's history can be traced back to 5,000 years, the country affords down the years many wars, the Lebanese civil war from (1975-1990), which left the Lebanese torn apart emotionally, physically in the space, and politically, and the 2006 Israeli summer war on Lebanon.

The same has happened in Syria since 2011. Therefore, adopting the Lebanese experience in reconstruction is important to avoid the mistakes that had happened in Lebanon, which not only led to more fragmentation in urban space but also further social division.

In Beirut, which was an open and liberal city, politics have played a major role in post-war reconstruction plans (Randall, 2014). However, this role was as domination over the urban space by political powers.

Unfortunately, reconstruction in Beirut was as a distribution of sovereignty over urban spaces. Each power seeks to impose its domination geographically and politically. Post-war reconstruction involved two main projects the first one is ,the central of Beirut after the civil war by 'Solidère' the private company founded by Rafik Hariri former Prime Minister. And the second projects is, 'Haret Hreik' a part of 'Dahiyya' in southern Beirut, after the conflict with Israel 2006 by 'Al Wa'ad'. (Ibid).

- Reconstruction in Beirut Central District (BCD)

The traditional centre of Beirut is located on the waterfront of the city, because of its location as a coastal city, which has developed through the years from the port side.

The centre of the city had been destructed during the civil war (1975-1990). Moreover, the city was divided from north to south by boundary called Green line (between Muslim west Beirut and Christian East Beirut, and reason of calling it Green line, because of the natural growth of plants along the dividing line, in addition, people were not able to cross or use it). Thus, the city was partitioned to Eastern Beirut and Western Beirut. As for the traditional city centre was considered as a buffer zone for both conflict parties. Fig (16-17).

Lebanon has a complex social, sectarian and political composition, in this sense of diversity; the Lebanese state does not have sovereignty over its cities (Fragonese, 2012). Therefore, this lack of sovereignty, particularly after the civil war has formally ended, gave the green light to many political powers to intervene in the post-war reconstruction ventures. (Randall, 2014)

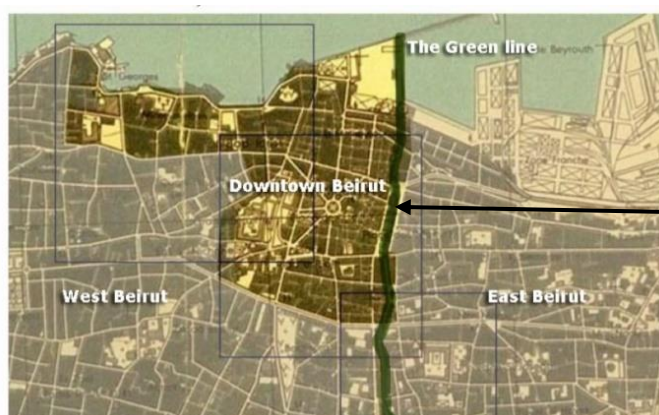


Fig.16: The Green Line divided Beirut from north to south, Beirut, Lebanon

Photo available at:
<http://www.makingofcities.org/journal/raze-and-repeat-masterplanning-modern-beirut>

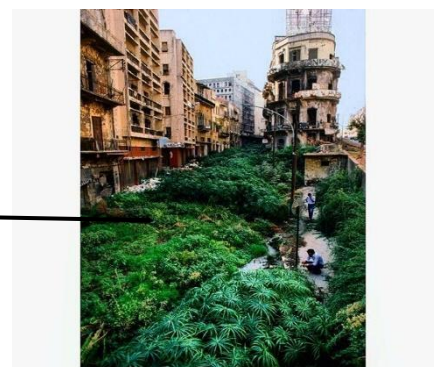


Fig.17: the Green line divided Beirut to Eastern Beirut and Western Beirut

Photo available at:
<http://www.lebanoninapicture.com/pictures/beirut-1982-beirut-1982-the-green-line->

- Solidere project

The centre of Beirut has a wide diversity of architectural styles which represent different periods such as Ottoman, Colonial and early modern architectural style. (Kabbani, 1992)

In addition, it represents the core of the city culturally, economically and politically, before being demolished during the civil war. At the end of the war, the result was a massive destruction in the city centre, almost all buildings were partially or completely destroyed, the damage evaluated at 80%, particularly was concentrated along the demarcation line. (Nasr & Verdeil, 2008)

In 1994s, the private company “Solidere”, which has reconstructed 191 hectares initiated reconstruction project in Beirut downtown (Ghandour & Fawaz, 2010)

However, an aerial look at Beirut historic city centre today can explain clearly that Solidere reconstruction project of Beirut downtown has turned it into a separate island “tabula rasa” inside the city surrounded by a network of highways and severed from the rest of the city Fig (18). (Ibid)

However, the venture of Solidere included building new areas such as the Saifi village and the Souk, redrawing new urban landscape. In addition, improving the infrastructures, preserving parts of the city centre, which considered as archaeological sites, restoring historical buildings and including them in the new plans of the city centre because of their architectural value and thus, this has reinforced trading and touristic aspects in the area (Ibid). Moreover, the project razed many of the damaged buildings to the ground. (Randall, 2014).

Although Solidere was a project that aims to revive and reclaim an intact city, it was private company supported by external powers “the Gulf power”. Therefore, its main goal was to make Beirut as an attractive destination in the Middle East for international capital and investors, thus acquire monetary gains for the interests of the company and its partners in the Gulf. (Ghandour & Fawaz, 2010).



Fig. 18: An aerial view of Beirut's city core.

Photo available at:

<http://projectivecities.aaschool.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Yas-img01.jpg>

- **Project's Strengths**

The project was a turning point in the Lebanese state after the civil war economically and politically. It was as an embodiment of the neoliberal phase. (Ibid)

Despite Solidere has turned Beirut into an exile, its distinguished architectural projects, and tax incentives were an attractive factor for many international investments, which in hence helped Lebanon to recover financially. In addition, post-war reconstruction helped Lebanon to become an excellent tourist country widely known for its huge market in the Middle East.

- **Project's Weaknesses**

Solidere was not only a project to reconstruct the post-war city and build the demolished areas, but also re-create the historic core of the city with new urban interventions, consequently, the old downtown was converted into a detached entity from the rest of the city. (Larkin, 2010, P: 428-429). Unfortunately, reconstruction's efforts served more division, which principally happened during the civil war, and sought to detach the core of the city from the surrounding areas. Instead of preserving the old downtown as a meeting point, where all neighbourhoods can be linked, where spaces can be shared among all dwellers for all kind of activities in the heart of the city. The downtown turned into a place for specific people from specific social classes and thus the city has lost its urban fabric and its cultural identity. (Ghandour & Fawaz, 2010). Furthermore, the impacts of the civil war were drawn permanently in Beirut's present because of Solidere's reconstruction project. Hence, a transformation from the military violence in the battle's land has turned into another form of violence, by enhancing the spatial separation, and creating consumerist spaces inaccessible to all Lebanese, rather than restoring spaces filled with meaning and identity. (Ibid).

Finally, Solidere project rebuilt Beirut city centre, as a place that got everything but without people.

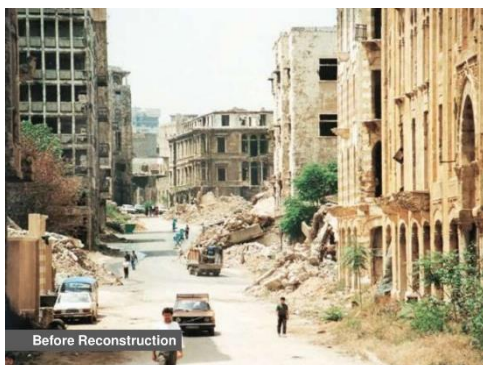


Fig.19: Beirut city centre before reconstruction.

Photo available at:

https://www.slideshare.net/LSE_MEC/slideshow-14764191



Fig. 20: Beirut reconstructed city centre.

Photo available at:

https://www.slideshare.net/LSE_MEC/slideshow-14764191

2.2.2. Post-war reconstruction in Europe

Many cities in Europe had experienced a heavy destruction during the World War II by either long bombing campaigns or ground forces. Hence, many historic urban centres, historic monuments, buildings, streets, and infrastructure in the bombed cities had been reduced to rubble. The most destruction was concentrated in German cities where few urban centres had survived. In 1945, some observers who had witnessed the formidable destruction expected "that it would take generations to rebuild". (Diefendorf, 1990, p: 1) the most significant and complex task aftermath of WWII was urban reconstruction. Diefendorf highlighted in his book many questions, which are fundamental to any reconstruction process:

"How would the rubble and debris be cleared, and who would pay for it? How would building material and labour be allocated, and who would finance reconstruction? Was it now possible to engage in urban renewal during reconstruction? Were new streets needed? New social amenities? Should historic cities be rebuilt in a way that retained or recaptured their traditional character? If so, did that mean that all, or only some, historic buildings should be rebuilt as they had been? Who would make the decisions - private individuals, town authorities, or regional and national authorities?" (Ibid)

From this research point of view, the former questions are fundamental at the beginning of any reconstruction work.

2.2.2.1. Post-war reconstruction in Poland: Case-Study: Warsaw historic centre

- The destruction of Warsaw

Warsaw's history can be traced back to 700 years ago and has been the capital of Poland for 400 years in addition to being Poland's industrial, cultural and scientific centre. (Jankowski, 1990). The city of Warsaw has experienced destruction by several disasters and wars through the years and it came back to life every time, but the greatest amount of devastation had occurred after the WWII when the Germans systematically destroyed the city, most of the city was razed to the ground. In 1945, only 5 % of Warsaw's buildings survived (Kuznicki, 2013), moreover, 85% of Warsaw's historic centre was devastated. Fig. (21)



Fig. 21: The historic centre of Warsaw after the Second World War

Photo available at: <https://www.quora.com/Why-wasnt-the-Great-Synagogue-of-Warsaw-rebuilt>

- Post-war reconstruction in Warsaw

The reconstruction plans of Warsaw were planned to be done between 1949-1953, although the rebuilding of the old town continued until 1960 and it was completed with the reconstruction of the Royal Castle. Fig. (22-23)



Fig.22: Aerial view of the Old Town of Warsaw after reconstruction in 1960.

photo available at: <http://www.e-conservation.org/images/Issue1/Kuznicki/4/Figure09.jpg>

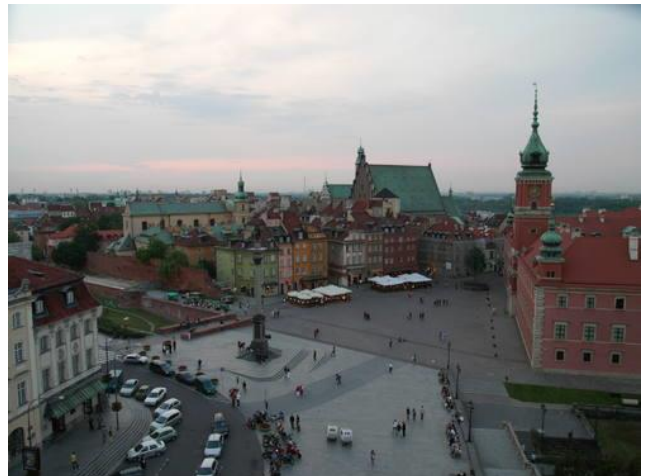


Fig. 23: The Old Town market square, Warsaw

Photo available at: https://whc.unesco.org/uploads/thumbs/site_0030_0008-500-375-20160810112616.jpg

Many architectural elements were discovered under the ruins, it was essential before the beginning of the reconstruction works to collect all remnant materials. (Ibid)

According to the Polish author Wiktor Gomulicki, although it was not easy to complete the entire image of a building and its surrounding for accurate reconstruction, every building in Warsaw was rebuilt depending on records, photographs and drawings. (Adolf & Stanisław, 1962)

- Reconstruction strategies in the historic centre of Warsaw

Two main principles were essential in the reconstruction process:

- Use the available accurate documents in rebuilding the city.
- Reclaim the city's late 18th-century appearance. (Historic Centre of Warsaw, UNESCO)

The reconstruction process started with removing the rubbles, and during this phase, many elements were found belongs to the medieval century. Thus, it was logical to use the medieval plan to rebuild the old town in order to incorporate the old part of the city with the modern city around it; accordingly, the old city became a mixture of three architectural styles, Gothic, Baroque and Neoclassicist styles. Furthermore, conservators refused to reconstruct the houses, which were built in the courtyards in the 19th century in order to create more public spaces in the town. (Kuznicki, 2013). Additionally. Interior designs in some buildings were recreated in order to be for public use. Whereas interior layouts were preserved in other residential buildings to meet the required standards at that time. (Historic Centre of Warsaw, UNESCO)

Warsaw's reconstruction project included the old town market, significant religious buildings, houses, the city walls, and the Royal Castle. (Ibid).

The reconstruction of Warsaw had achieved the following values:

- Integrity

The reconstruction in Warsaw city revealed that the integrity in rebuilding a destroyed city is possible. Thus, the original medieval urban plans were preserved utterly as it was before the war, not only in the old town but also in the new districts and the Royal route, which "in effect created a sense of historical and spatial continuity within this urban complex". To achieve the integrity during the reconstruction, it is quite significant to apply the principles that ensure the preservation of tangible and intangible elements in the complex urban fabric. Integrity had been achieved by maintaining the spirit of the old city as a residential area in addition to be a venue for significant social, spiritual and historical events. (Historic Centre of Warsaw, UNESCO). Fig (24-25-26)



Fig. 24: The Royal Castle before the Second World War

Photo available at: <https://fotopolska.eu/foto/373/373433.jpg>



Fig. 25: The rubble of the Royal Castle after the Second World War

Photo available at: <http://www.e-conservation.org/images/Issue1/Kuznicki/2/Figure6.jpg>

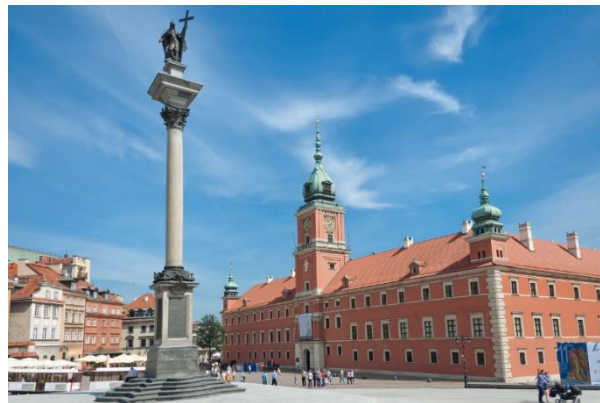


Fig.26: The Royal Castle after reconstruction

Photo available at: <https://warsaw-citytours.com/tours/royal-castle-tour/>

▪ Authenticity

Post-war reconstruction in Warsaw has managed to reclaim the old city features and revive the spirit of its historic identity. Although several changes in the urban plans have been applied, the old town remains in the heart of the living city, serving its previous functions as a residential area and other traditional functions which used to serve over the years, where the city has been rebuilt exactly as it was including all details, streets, gardens, houses, monuments..etc. These applied principles of reconstruction have strongly influenced the revival of the city and preserve its identity, and this distinct preservation was drawn by the great willingness of Warsaw's inhabitants of restoring their city's history, identity, and collective memory and hence

the old city centre has preserved the authenticity through preserving its nature and function. (Kuznicki, 2013) Fig. (27-28)



Fig.27: The destroyed Old Town market square in 1945

Photo available at: <http://www.e-conservation.org/images/Issue1/Kuznicki/3/Figure7.jpg>



Fig.28: The reconstructed Old Town market square in 2013.

Photo available at: <http://www.e-conservation.org/images/Issue1/Kuznicki/5/Figure11.jpg>

- Historical eclecticism

During the implementation of the reconstruction in Warsaw, certain historic layers were restored which makes the old town of Warsaw a mixture of Gothic and Baroque styles combined with Neoclassicist style, which was important to preserve the spirit of historical eclecticism. (Kuznicki, 2013)

- Detecting the historical layers

During the cleaning of the rubble, historical layers "Gothic, Baroque and Neo-classicist styles" were discovered in the constructions and the historical urban fabric which was not visible and had disappeared under the finished facades or under the buildings. Hence, the main aim of reconstruction was to restore the historical layers to regain the historical spirit that has lived in the city. (Kuznicki, 2013)

- Providing basic amenities

Although best efforts were made to rebuild the old town, in terms of applying the original historical facades, and preserve the identity of the place, some adjustments had to be made in order to keep abreast of the modern lifestyle and provide buildings with modern facilities such as central heating, electricity supplies, bathrooms and so forth. (Ibid)

2.2.2.2. Post-war reconstruction projects in Germany

Germany left in a complete chaos after the end of the World War II in May 1945; the reports have shown that the large cities were exposed to a huge destruction, precisely western and northern parts of Germany.

Because of the urgent demands for quick reconstruction, many mistakes have been made in the first place to accommodate the displaced people, 30% of the historical buildings were erased in order to establish the new. (Leick, 2010)

Jeffrey M. Diefendorf argued in his book "In the Wake of War", that in 1945, German planners found themselves in the confrontation of a massive task when Germany fell down into ruins; they mostly showed an opposition toward rebuilding the cities the way they were before the Second World War. This was not unexpected, in order to the critiques that planners had shared about the old cities plans. The critiques included the uncontrolled growth of cities, which led to huge densities of population and to extend the cities without being planned. Therefore, post-war planners saw that reconstruction actions should transfer the bombed cities into modern cities with preserving the historic features of any city (Diefendorf, 1993)

Moreover, many historic buildings in different German cities were destroyed during the war and had been reconstructed such as the Frauenkirche church in Dresden and The Neuse Museum in Berlin. Both the Frauenkirche church and Neuse Museum are considered as outstanding examples in the field of reconstruction nowadays.

▪ The reconstruction of 'Frauenkirche' church in Dresden, Germany

The church of Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) one of the most important examples of post-war reconstruction projects in the recent German past. The aims of this project were to restore the authenticity and the beauty of this work as an architectural masterpiece of European Baroque architecture, in addition, this project played a major role in the revival and development of the area "Newmarket" surrounding the church. (Harrmann, 2006)

"The church is not just of architectural and religious significance, but also a symbol for social and political struggle since the war, both in the GDR and in the reunited Germany" (Ibid)

The city of Dresden and the ruins of the 'Frauenkirche' were a symbol of the cruel war; however, for more than 45 years the ruins of the church were retained as a war memorial. (Ibid)

After the fall of Berlin's wall, the reconstruction project of Frauenkirche first started in 1992, the work began with clearing the rubbles according to archaeological principles, using original plans of Georg Bähr in the 1720s, taking into consideration all information and drawings of the church and its surrounding whose were fundamental in the rebuilding process. In addition, the best efforts were made for using as many original stones as possible to rebuild the church,

however, some new elements had to be added thus they had to quarry the required stones from the site, in addition and contrary to Venice charter, the newly added stones are not recognisable from the original ones. Many adjustments during the reconstruction project had to be made in order to avoid any future failure. For example, it was impossible to use the same materials in the Dome due to climatic reasons, the stairs had to be wider, include an elevator in one of the church's tower, and new materials such as the Portland cement had to be used in the mortar to achieve a high-level of durability. Moreover, the main intention of the project was to fulfil the requirements of historic preservation and to follow the contemporary building codes. From a technical point of view, it was impossible to have an exact copy of the original building; nevertheless, the result was as close as possible to the original work. The reconstruction of the 'Frauenkirche' the Dresden's landmark was completed in 2005. (Harrmann, 2006). Fig (29-30).



Fig.29: The ruins of Frauenkirche church, 1958

Photo available at:
http://www.iccj.org/ICCJ_2017_Conference_Reforming_Rereading_Renewing.5492.0.html?



Fig.30: The Frauenkirche church after its reconstruction in 2005.

Photo available at:
http://www.iccj.org/ICCJ_2017_Conference_Reforming_Rereading_Renewing.5492.0.html?

▪ The reconstruction of the Neuse Museum in Berlin, Germany

The Neuse museum is located in the Museum Island in Berlin City; The Island became part of the UNESCO world heritage list since 1999.

The museum was built in 1840, by the architect Agust Stuler and suffered from enormous destruction during the WWII. However, the Neuse museum was reconstructed by the British architect David Chipperfield and reopened again in 2009. (Souto, 2010).

The restoration of the museum was a successful example of a minimal intervention in a reconstruction project, Chipperfield restored the building to be reused, and continue its original function. Moreover, the building stood as a witness on many different periods of German history “a royal commission, a museum destroyed during WWII, a ruin untouched in Eastern

Berlin, a symbol of reunification", and this was readable through its scars and gaps and damaged walls (Ibid). Fig. (31)

For Chipperfield, the reconstruction of Neuse museum was not an attempt to restore the original work of Stuler, rather it was an attempt to restore the accumulated layers of events and many stories the building has witnessed through its history. Hence, convey the truth of each event that has left an impact on the building and its appearance like the scars of the Second World War.

The approach of Chipperfield includes using new building materials such as concrete, timber and metal combined with the old materials, in addition to the intentional preservation of scars in the walls, the destroyed sections and new architectural addition, Briefly, Chipperfield described his project as "a project carefully placed between de-historicised reconstruction and monumentalised preservation". (Ibid)

Moreover, the project of Chipperfield has been criticised and described as "Fuddy-duddy restoration" (Niesewand, 1997)

Finally, the project of Chipperfield was a new approach in the field of reconstruction and it proved that the minimal amount of intervention in the reconstruction process and preserving the remnant elements and structures could not only protect the historic building but also save it as a memorial of the history. Fig (32-33)



Fig. 31: the Neuse Museum, Berlin Germany after reconstruction, the scars of the war is obvious on the walls and columns.

Photo available at:
<https://divisare.herokuapp.com/projects/368557-david-chipperfield-architects-celia-uhalde-neues-museum>



Fig. 32: The Neuse Museum after destruction, Berlin, Germany.

Photo available at:

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk>



Fig. 33: The Neuse Museum after reconstruction, Berlin, Germany.

Photo available at:

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk>

2.2.3. Conclusion of chapter 2

The studied experiences above indicate that there are many tendencies in Post-war reconstruction differ from place to another according to the history of the place and the type and causes of destruction in the urban fabric or according to the building itself and its surrounding environment.

Many factors could control the reconstruction process, cost, and participation of the civilians in the reconstruction process, the existed documentation and their accuracy, the level of destruction, the universal value of the historic property or the historic area.

Some reconstruction plans are based on ignoring the history and if controlled by political powers they might contribute to the loss of the historic identity and the sense of authenticity like in Beirut city. Whereas some reconstruction plans are based on reclaiming the pre-war style and if controlled by the willingness of people and good leadership and a great participation of all the city dwellers they can achieve authenticity, integrity, and the sense of spatial and urban continuity along with preserving the historic identity of the place like in Warsaw.

One of the reconstruction methods is to keep the ruins of historic buildings as a war memorial as in the 'Frauenkirche' church. Although the ruins of a destructed building after wars could be as a symbol to remind people of the cruel wars, it cannot be always justified except for maybe in a few cases; otherwise, cities will turn to places without life.

Some reconstruction projects are based on the minimum intervention in the building, in a way that allows all historic layers that are associated with important events and belong to different eras to be readable on the building, in addition to the use of new building material combined with the old ones like in the Neuse Museum. Finally, from this research point of view, reconstruction should achieve the balance between the former approaches by preserving the historic identity of the city, and allow the use of new elements, which can achieve harmony with the old fabric of the city.

Chapter 3: Post-war reconstruction in the old city of Homs, Syria - Applied study

3.1. The city of Homs: history, Location, old city

- Brief history of Homs city

The history can be traced back to 5,000 years ago; it always has an important role through its long civilizational history, especially in the era of the Roman Empire. Moreover, the city was home for some of prophet Mohamed's companions, as Khalid ibn Al-Walid who lived and was buried in it.

The preliminary plans of the city indicate that it was built within solid walls, which was used to protect the city. Most likely that these walls were built in the era of the Umayyad Caliphs because the current city plan is an Islamic plan, whereas the Roman walls were buried beneath the old city. It seems that the remain parts of the walls and their gates belong to the era of Al-Mansur Ibrahim (who was from the Ayyubid dynasty and the governor of Homs from 1239-1246). (Asaad, 1984) and were made of sculptured solid stones, and these remain parts are still until this day (Majed Moussalli, 1984, P: 64).

The architectural style of building in Homs was based on using the black basalt stones polished by fine white threads, Fig. (34-35). However, that gave the city not only a distinctive elegance appearance but also made the architectural style in Homs exceptional.

The remains of the ancient buildings can easily tell us about a high level of social, religious coexistence between all categories of inhabitants with an intellectual and architectural harmony (Al-Zahrawi, 2006).



Fig. 34: The black basalt stones in the one of the oldest churches in the world, the Saint Mary Church of the Holy Belt.

Photo available at:
<https://www.zamanalwsl.net/news/PrinterFriendlyVersion/6076>



Fig. 35: The black basalt stones in Al-Zahrawi palace in Homs old city.

Photo available at:
www.syriaphotoqguide.com/home/homs-qasr-al-zahrawi-

- Location description

Homs city considers the third main city in Syria after Damascus and Aleppo. Homs Situated in the central-western part of Syria Fig (36), and was built on a vast flat hill, which is formed from black basalt rocks, because of its volcanic origin. Therefore, the black basalt stones are the main material that has been used over the years in the city, also because it was built on a volcanic hill, which gives it a rich soil for agriculture. Moreover, the city was built on the banks of the Orontes River, which is known as Al-Asi River. (Al-Sabouni & Scruton, 2016, P: 27)

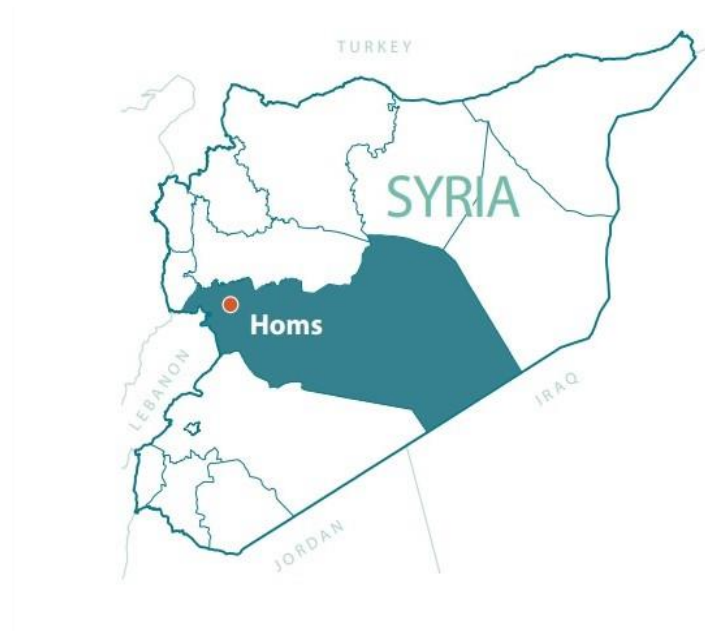


Fig. 36: Homs city location in central-western part of Syria

Photo available at: (City profile of Homs, UN Habitat, 2014)

- The Old city of Homs

The old Homs is the core of the city; it was built inside its ancient walls, which always had been used to protect the city. An urban expansion happened in the city beyond its ancient walls was in 1870 during the Ottomans era, which had an urban impact still reflects the heritage of the past on our present

The city was known during the time of Abbasids for its seven ancient gates, which are, Bab al-Souq (Gate of the Market), Bab Tadmur (Gate of Palmyra), Bab al-Dreib (or Bab al-Deirb), Bab al-Sebaa (Gate of the Lions), Bab al-Turkman (Gate of the Turkmen), Bab al-Masdoud (Closed Door), and Bab Hud (The Gate of Hud). (El Khoury Issa Asaad, 1984).

The buildings in the old city are famous with their courtyards, the main material of buildings is the basalt stones, each building is close to the other one along a narrow alleyway. Therefore,

Homs has lived in a high level of coexistence, and hence ancient mosques and churches were built next to each other, utilizing the same methods of building, and the same materials as well. Moreover, the old city includes nine neighbourhoods in addition to other three adjacent neighbourhoods Fig (37), which used to have high dense residential and commercial buildings before the war.

Important historic buildings have been destructed due to the armed conflict; the UN-Habitat estimated that 37,700 units have been heavily damaged and 66,500 have been partially damaged in the old city. (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

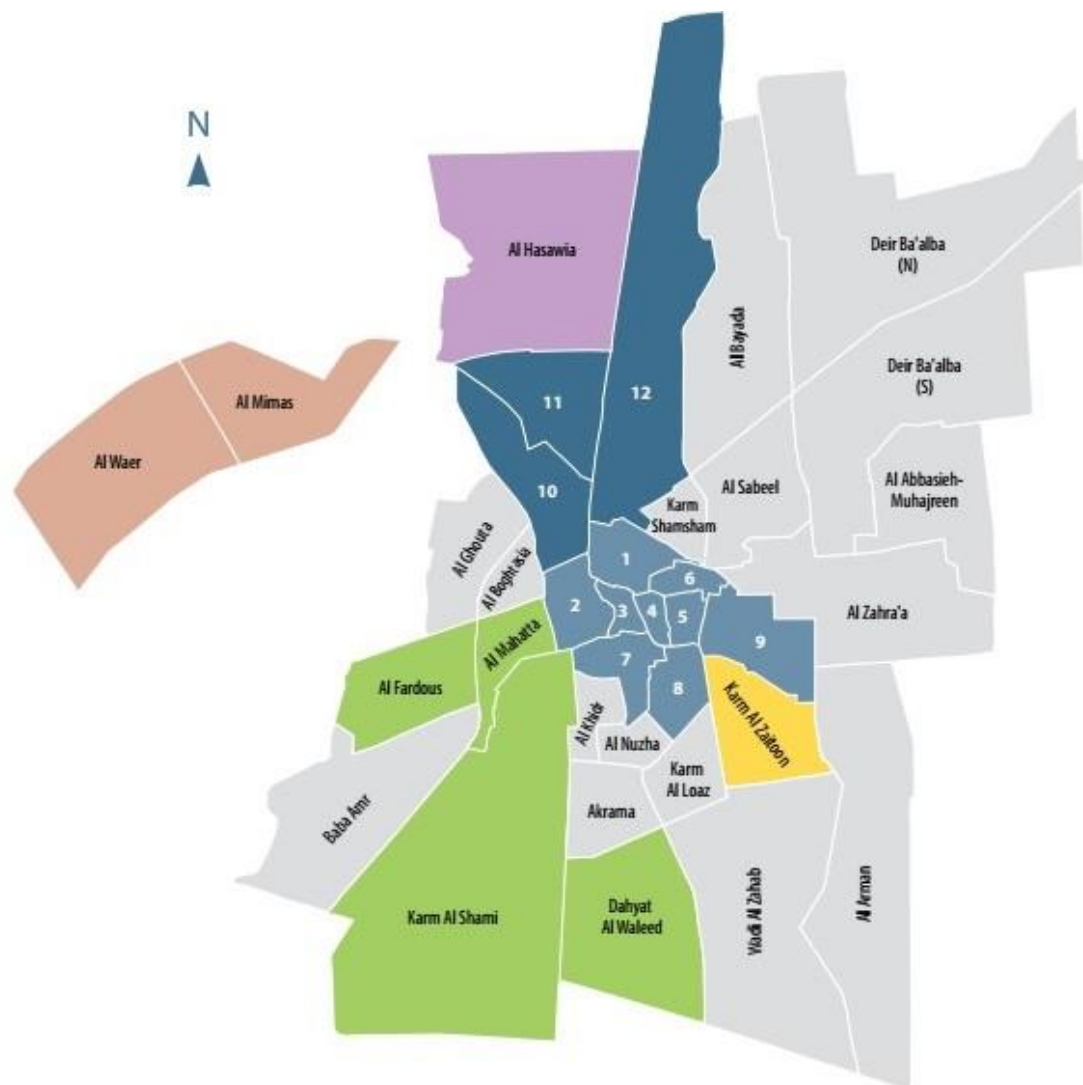


Fig.37: The Old City and the traditional neighbourhoods of Homs

Photo available at: (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

- Building Typologies in the old city

The traditional buildings in the old city have a unique presence where most of them were Arabic traditional buildings and were built with the black basalt stones, however, in the 1980s a great renewal projects had started and several ancient buildings were demolished.

In addition, in 1985 modern projects in the city centre were initiated which hence made the urban fabric dominated by multi-story buildings and commercial shops on the ground floor. (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

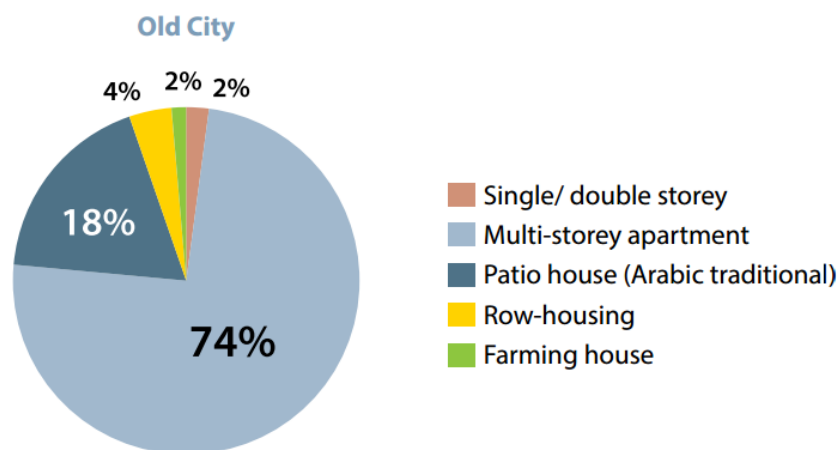


Fig.38: Building Typologies in the old city of Homs.

Photo available at: (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

3.2. The Urban fabric of the old city of Homs

In 1940, the city began to expand beyond its demolished walls and vast construction actions had started back then, and it started with extending the city centre northwards from the end of the souk and its square, forming a new square representing the new downtown of the city. The famous landmarks in the city are the two clock towers, the old one stands at the old square which is the beginning of the old Souk, whereas the new one stands at the new market square at the end of the street and between them less than one kilometre Fig (39-40). Hence, it is noticeable that there is a big hole in the urban environment between the old and the new. For instance, in the old part we can see features of colonial architecture such as the narrow-arched windows and tiled pitched roofs On the other hand in the new section which is really connected to the old city, we see concrete buildings and random additions reflect disharmonious reality, with lack of identity and architectural sense. (Al-Sabouni & Scruton, 2016, P: 28)

The loss of the historic urban fabric of the old city of Homs is obvious to any observer. Currently, only some buildings, which are distributed among the city and not linked together thoroughly, represent the old city and hence this contributed through the years to the absence of the context of "old city" in Homs unlike in Damascus or Aleppo where the old city still occupies strongly a part of the city.

The aim of this research is to restore city's urban historic features through studying a small part of the ancient city, which might contribute to reclaiming the cultural fabric.

Furthermore, create a connection between the historic properties and link them could be one important factor to restore the city urban fabric



Fig.39: Homs main landmark, the new clock tower

Photo available at: <https://www.ar.smex.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/n1415531512.jpg>



Fig.40: Homs main landmark, the old clock tower.

Photo available at: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/91/05/0a/91050aaf3589e860cd8292ba8e3e8e37.jpg>

3.2.1. Urban evolution in the old city in Homs before the armed conflict

The old city of Homs has an urban identity characterized by being an Arab and Islamic city. Furthermore, the ancient city of Homs was a comprehensive place contains the best human activities and lifestyle. Homs got the first masterplan after the end of the French colonialism in 1946s, which was as a documentation for the current state of the city then. Later, the Greek planner Duxiades established the second plan in 1962s. This plan was supposed to serve the city until 1990, but it did not, and most of the old markets and many historical and traditional buildings were neglected. In 1964, the Polish architect Joseph Kogensky had commissioned to modify the plan prepared by Duxiades, which was adopted in 1967 and was supposed to serve the city until 2000. However, the plan was considered weak in terms of the available scale 1/2000, the inadequate knowledge about the city's historic features. (Al-Masri, 2014)

Furthermore, during the last century, no plans had taken place in the old city in order to improve the area. conversely, the lack of interest in the urban heritage continued firmly through the years, as well as the massive use of Reinforced concrete and wide use of the new facilities, all contributed to damage in the urban fabric (Ibid).

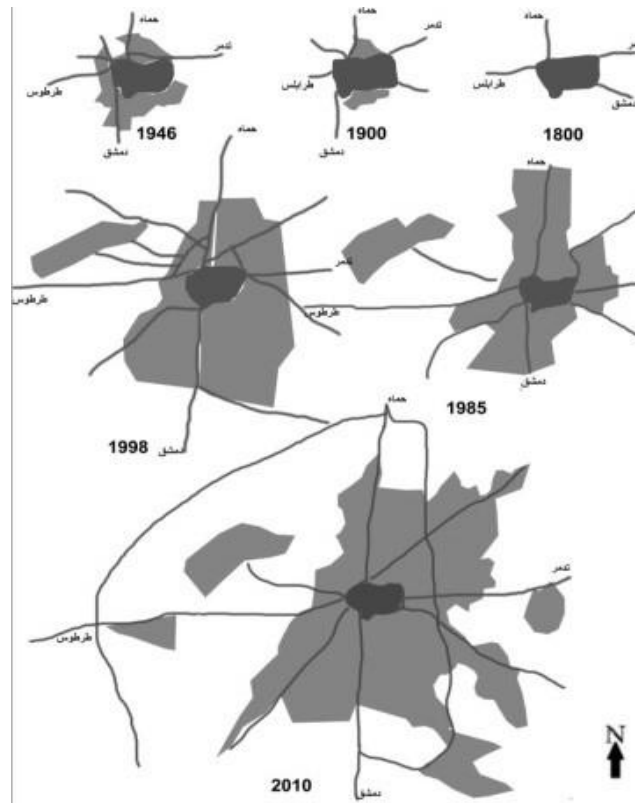


Fig. 41: Urban growth in the old city of Homs 1800-2010

Photo available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bashar_Swaid3/publication/282660994_The_urban_development_challenges_of_the_historical_cores_in_the_Syrian_cities/links/5a01fcd0aca2720df3c77263/The-urban-development-challenges-of-the-historical-cores-in-the-Syrian-cities.pdf



Fig. 42: General View of the Old Homs from the Castle (1912)

(Al-Masri, 2014)



Fig. 43: part of the Old Homs from the Castle, changes in the urban fabric (2011)

(Al-Masri, 2014)

In 2001, a Committee for the Protection of old Homs was formed, consisting of the City Council, Directorate of Antiquities and Tourism, the University of Homs, the local community and some researchers and those who were interested in this field. The committee had agreed on the following suggestions:

- Accelerate the restoration and rehabilitation process of archaeological and heritage properties which are (122 property) and link them to a major axis.
- Improve services by dividing the city into segments.
- Modifying the local legislation regarding the old city.
- Monitoring the use of historic buildings in order to preserve their identity.
- Re-study the traffic in the old city of Homs.
- Encourage the Urban and architectural creativity.
- Working on new strategies in order to revive and improve the economic state.
- Improve the infrastructure system.
- Increase the aesthetic value and overall appearance of the city.
- Emphasise the cultural identity of the old city by encouraging the inhabitants of the city to preserve their old city to elevate the value of the old city, which was neglected during the past decades .

Unfortunately, neither of these suggestions nor better plans were implemented in the old city of Homs. (Ibid).

The city today is living the consequences of the plans which were implemented in 1997s, which has turned the city into segments covered with black and white stones without any legal legislation.

On the other hand, the city council, which is represented by DGAM, has done limited actions like marking the archaeological and cultural properties without any serious interventions in terms of the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of historic buildings. (Ibid)

3.3. Classification of historical buildings in the old city of Homs

Cultural and historical properties in the old city of Homs can be divided as the following:

- Archaeological properties, (37 properties) as well as the markets area, the city ancient walls and the citadel.
- Heritage properties, (64 properties) out of 3506 property that constitutes the old city. (Ibid).

The restoration of the heritage buildings is permitted, under the permission of the Old City Protection Committee and the City Council. Furthermore, it allows the use of those buildings

for residential, cultural, educational and touristic purposes, in addition to some commercial uses to sell traditional products only. Changing the building's function needs an approval by the Old City Protection Committee and other concerned parties.

3.4. The impact of the armed conflict on the old city of Homs

The city of Homs has suffered from the armed conflict since 2011, however, in 2014, Homs was back under the government control, and most of the opposition fighters had left the city. Nevertheless, the city after two years of fighting has left torn apart, and heavily destructed particularly in the old city where the historic fabric has greatly damaged.

Although, the architectural and urban destruction is the most tangible evidence of war, damages on all level have occurred. The old city of Homs functionally divided for residential and commercial uses. As well as, it represents the vital part of the city, where most of the residents in Homs used to head to, either to shop, work, or live. Moreover, the armed conflict has generated very serious problems in the society, consequently, a huge number of citizens are now displaced, many stores and markets are closed and destroyed, and hence many people lost their jobs there. Therefore, not only the old part but also the entire city has negatively affected by the destruction, socially, economically, physically and culturally.

3.4.1. Damage analysis

The destruction in Homs city is concentrated in three main areas, the Old City and the Traditional Neighbourhoods, the North-Eastern informal housing areas, and Baba Amr area in the South-West. However, the massive destruction has occurred in the old city in addition to the great damage to infrastructures and services. Fig (44-45-46)



Fig. 44: Old city quarter after the war, Homs, Syria

Photo available at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/05/syrias-city-of-homs-shattered-by-war/100735/>

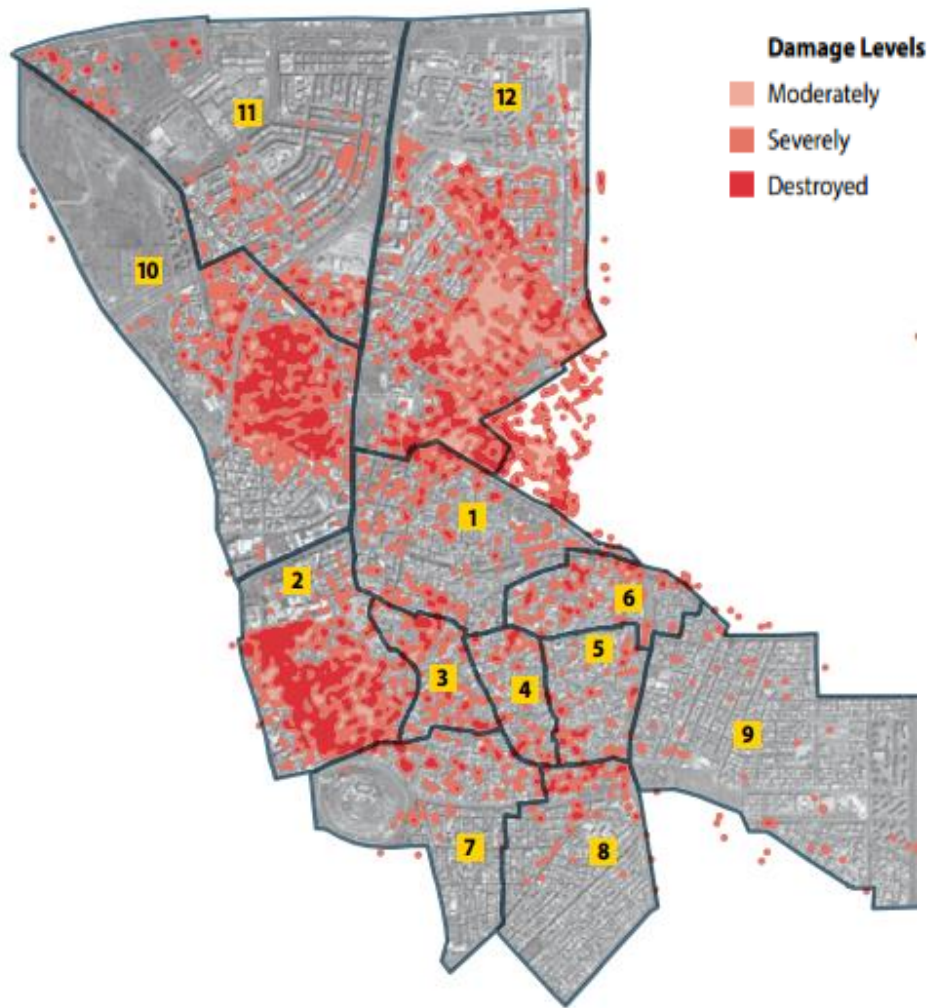


Fig. 45: Distribution and intensity of damage in old city and the adjacent neighbourhoods

Photo available at: (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

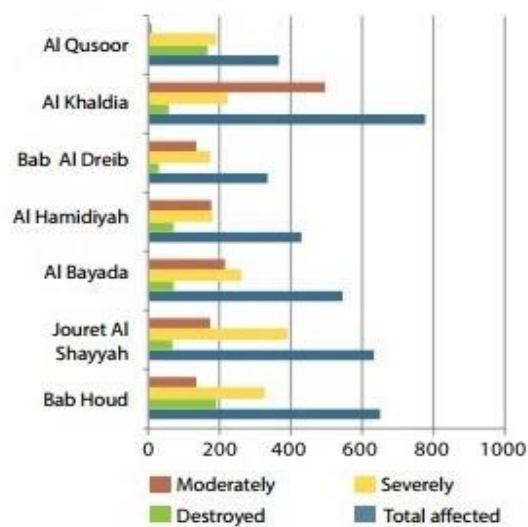


Fig. 46: Mostly affected neighbourhoods in the old city and adjacent areas.

Photo available at: (UN-Habitat, 2014b)

3.5. Ongoing construction projects in the old city

Many important historic sites and historic building were totally or partially destroyed in the old city of Homs during the armed conflict, and hence, architects, planners, researchers and preservationist should work together in order to document, restore, rebuild their destructed cities in terms of reviving the life in them and reclaiming the cultural, architectural, and urban fabric.

However, reconstruction process in the ancient city has already started and undertaken by Homs governorate in cooperation with the united nation development program (UNDP), and all the concerned authorities, shows the reconstruction projects that are taking place in the old city of Homs. Fig (47)

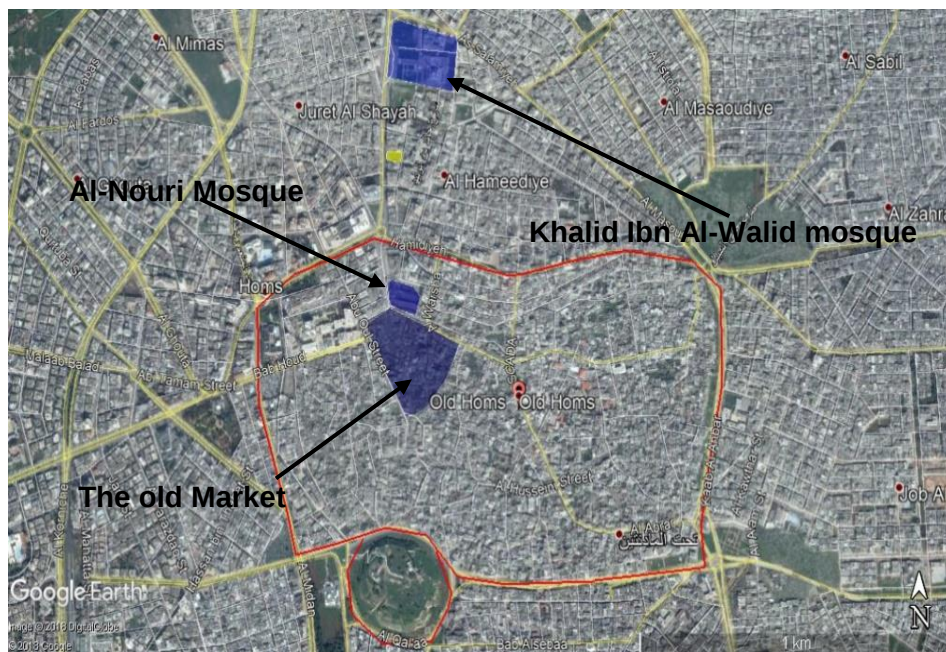


Fig.47: Ongoing reconstruction projects in the old city of Homs.

Google Earth

3.5.1. The old market

The markets bloc occupies the largest part of the Old City; the greatest portion of the market were built in the era of Mamluk and Ayyubid, in addition to some parts, which were built in the Ottoman period (Mosely, 1984, P: 79)

The covered market includes a number of shops adjacent to each other in one line and in two opposite sides and covered by gabled roofs intersect with routes covered by arcaded roofs, made of stones which were replaced in the nineteenth century with iron to avoid the hazard of disasters like, earthquakes or fires etc. (DGAM)

During the war the old Souk (covered market) was heavily damaged Fig (48-49) moreover, the reconstruction process has started in 2014, in coordination between Homs governorate and the united nations development program, the projects includes reconstruction of 800 shops in the old market occupying an area of (45000) Square meters and the plan is to accomplish the following:

- Replace the damaged metal canopy with modern materials which have the same appearance as the old market cover in the 1930s.
- Repair the damaged structures, in addition, rebuild the missing parts, rehabilitate the facades, and rebuilding some of the destructed shops with emphasizing the authenticity of the old market.
- Add new frames, new metal mesh and new signs for all windows and shops in a way that make them suitable for the old style of the market.
- Repair and rehabilitate the existed infrastructure like water, electricity, telephone, sanitation. (DGAM)

The old market



Fig. 48: The old market location in the old city.

Google Earth



Fig. 49: The destruction in the covered market after the armed conflict.

Photo available at:

<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2274>



Fig. 50: The entrance of the covered market after destruction, 2014.

Photo available at:

www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2274



Fig. 51: The covered market during the reconstruction process, 2017.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2274

3.5.2. The Great Mosque of Al-Nuri

The mosque is considered one of the most important mosques that were built in the city of Homs. Opinions diverged about the origin of the mosque, which most likely was a Roman temple, and then the temple was converted into a church where Greek writings from the Byzantine period were found. Moreover, In the Umayyad era, a section of the building was converted into a mosque which was known as the Great Mosque, and later as the Mosque of AL-Nuri, which was named after Nur al-Din al-Zanki who re-built the mosque (1154-1181) Moreover, the current building block of the Great Mosque of Al-Nouri has remained the same since Noureddine's time, except for some adjustments that took place from time to time, such as the renovation of the minaret in 1218 and the renovation of the Mosque's gate in the

Ottoman era. In addition to some reconstruction works which took place recently. (Majed Moussalli, 1984, P: 68)

the mosque with the buildings attached to it occupies an area of \ 5320 \ m² with 4 entrances, the sanctuary takes a rectangular shape, Moreover, the roof of the mosque is more than seven meters high and consists of cross-arches, the building was exposed to many alterations and additions through the years. In 1845, the roof of the mosque and its wooden pillars were renovated, while the Mihrab remained in its old form since the time of "Nur al-Din al-Zanki (Faisal Shaikhani, 2011)

After the war, a massive damage occurred to the building, including 60% structural damage and 80% interior damage (furnishing and decoration), however, reconstruction and rehabilitation works have already started to restore the mosque. (DGAM)

The Great Mosque of Al-Nouri



Fig. 52: The location of Great Mosque of Al-Nuri in the old city.

Google earth



Fig. 53: The great mosque of Al-Nuri before destruction.

Photo available at:

<http://www.esyria.sy/ehoms/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=201305060905012>



Fig. 54: The great mosque of Al-Nuri after destruction

Photo available at:

www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2274



Fig. 55: Reconstruction works of the Minaret of the Great Mosque of Al-Nuri.

Photo available at:

<https://ngosyria.org/Article/2015/7/24/ترميم منذنة مسجد النوري الكبير>

3.5.3. Khalid Ibn Al-Walid Mosque

The mosque of Ibn Al-Walid is the most important landmark in the Homs city and named after the Muslim military commander who is buried under beneath it. it sits at the north-east of Homs. The architecture style of this mosque was built in the style of “Mimar Sinan”, later it was rebuilt in the first Mamluk style. The main building material is the black stone, unlike other religious buildings, the architectural style of this mosque is based on simplicity, and it is not highly ornamented. The mosque contains two white linear limestone minarets and nine overlapping silver domes, the central dome reach 30 meters height. Moreover, its facades are covered with clean basalt with alternate black and white stripes called 'Al-ablaq', which is a typical style in the Islamic architecture. (Al-Sabouni & Scruton, 2016, P: 34-35)

The war has left the mosque with punctured domes and facades and many other damages including %40 structural damage and %80 interior damage. However, reconstruction and rehabilitation works have already undertaken in Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque, where its ancient roof was renovated in addition to renovate the punctured walls and domes. (DGAM)

Khalid Ibn Al-Walid Mosque



Fig. 56: The location of Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque in the old city of Homs.

Google Earth



Fig. 57: Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque before destruction.

Photo available at:

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/b3/47/b7/b347b7df09d240f8acd8582e5c7f6311.jpg>



Fig. 58: Damages to the domes of Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque after the war.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy



Fig. 59: The domes of Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque after reconstruction.

(DGAM)



Fig. 60: Damages to Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque after the war.

Photo available at: www.dgam.gov.sy

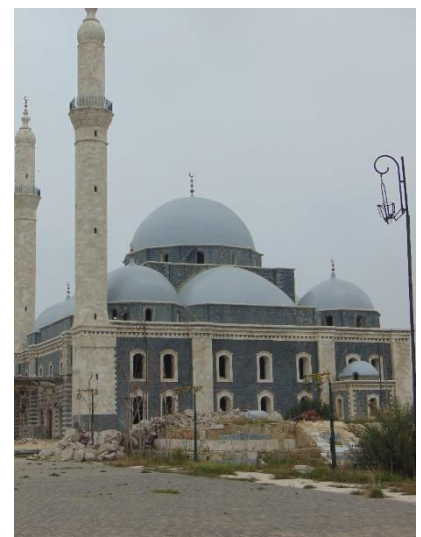


Fig.61: Khaled Ibn Al-Walid mosque after reconstruction

(DGAM)

3.6. Research proposal

▪ Objectives

This study aims to fulfil the following points:

- Improve the urban environment and achieve urban conservation by proposing a pedestrian walkway in the studied area, which can create a visual connection between some of the important historical landmarks in the city, which hence can be an attractive course for local and non- local tourists. The second part of the proposal includes reconstructing the historic building 'Khan Al-Jamal' will be a fundamental embodiment for reviving the historic identity of the studied area as well as the increasing the value of the urban environment.
- Due to the lack of public spaces in the studied area, this project will provide the area with new public space in the historic centre of the city.
- Take advantage of the destruction that happened in the city in order to improve the quality of the life in the studied area, enhance the historic identity of the city by reviving Khan Al-Jamal, and reuse it in a way that serves most of the city's inhabitants.
- Fulfil the need of continuity in the studied area, by restoring the old constructions and reuse them in modern ways that simulate the needs of this era without harming neither the historic identity of the reconstructed building itself or its historic urban fabric.
- Incentivize Cultural Uses in other old buildings in the city.

▪ Site selection

As addressed in the first Chapter, the selection of the historic buildings that are in need to be restored aftermath of war should follow specific criteria. For instance, selecting 'Khan Al Jamal' is based on its age and rarity, in addition, while choosing the appropriate building according to former experiences it is important to indicate that the reconstruction process must positively affect its urban environment.

Moreover, the restoration of a historic building should be a part of urban conservation plans in order to achieve integration and connection between the historical building and its urban environment.

▪ Advantages of selecting the site

- Take advantage of the destruction to encourage the creation of more cultural spaces in order to improve the urban environment.
- Exited infrastructure, which make it easier to adapt the building for new cultural uses.

- Low cost by attempting to collect the remnant stones in order to use it in rebuilding the facades and the destructed parts, in addition, the idea of leaving the first floor the way it is with small intervention to make it accessible will encourage the concerned authorities accelerate the Implementation of reconstruction plans.
- Important location because it is located between important landmarks in the city, such as, Khaled Ibn Al-Walid mosque, Al-Nouri mosque and the old market.

- **Disadvantages of selecting the site**

- Restriction in the design and planning (archaeological building)
- The building ownership (private building).
- The challenge of achieving the integration with the surrounding environment.

- **Project methodology**

The proposal includes two approaches; first, propose a pedestrian walkway in the neighbourhood, which can link several main historic landmarks in the old city.

Second, proposed study for reconstruction the historic building 'Khan Al-Jamal' to be used for cultural purposes (multidisciplinary spaces).

The study's proposal presents conceptual lines for reconnecting the war-torn city by proposing a reconstruction project for a historic building that located in an important site (Khan Al-Jamal), and hence linking significant historic buildings in the historic centre of the city through this reconstruction project. Therefore, the proposal will include, presenting layout plans for the studied area, the existed green spaces, main streets, existed important buildings, proposed linkage walkways, proposed Initial visions of reconstruction 'Khan Al-Jamal'.

Aiming to create the possibility for this approach to be analysed and elaborated in more details in the future in order to be implemented in the selected area of study and the selected building and/or in other parts of the old city of Homs.

- **Materials**

- As addressed in previous chapters, dealing with historic building should be under special conditions including the selected material for the reconstruction. Hence, in this case of study, using the primarily used materials, which are the original stones by collecting the remnant stones and then use the recycled rubble by tracing the original form of the building and its facades depending on accurate documentation. In addition to the little use of some modern building materials such as reinforced concrete and pumice stones (which are

already existed in the building in few places) in hidden places when is needed to strengthen the construction or to create interior needed spaces, and introduce wood in the facades.

- **Targeted people**

The target group is the original residents of the area, the owners of the shops, which are located in the area, all the city's residents because the area is considered a major destination for all Homsis and for the tourists in the future.



Fig. 62: intervention area map



Fig.63: Main streets map

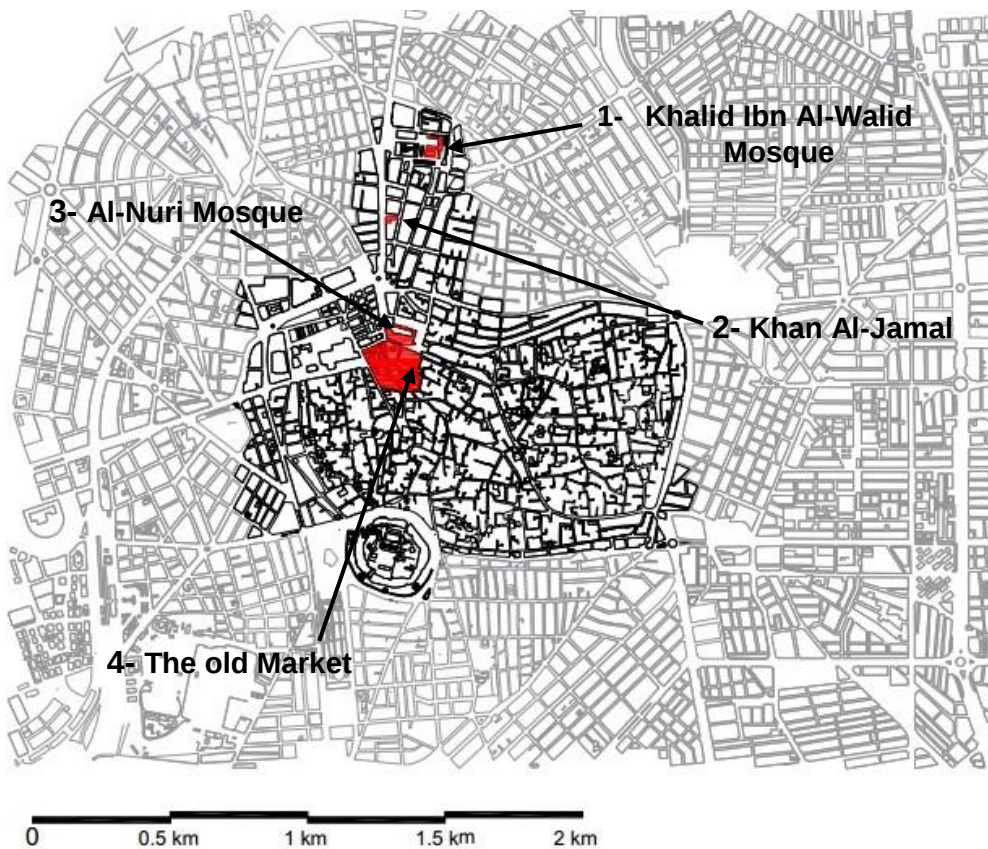


Fig.64: Archaeological buildings and sites in the studied area



Fig.65: Green spaces map

3.6.1. Pedestrian walkway proposal

As have been mentioned before, the old city of Homs has lost most of its historic fabric, which has torn down through the years due to many reasons, and the aim of this research is to make a small intervention in the old city in order to regain its historical identity. Moreover, this research has addressed in the first chapter that the reconstruction works have to fulfil the need for urban conservation, which can be achieved through taking into consideration the urban environment as a whole, which includes one building, a group of buildings, streets, and other urban components. Therefore, it is important to link some of the scattered buildings and sites ('Khaled Ibn Al-Walid' mosque, 'Khan Al Jamal', the great mosque of 'Al-Nuri', and the old covered market) in the old city with pedestrian walkway, which will fulfil the following:

- Create a visual connection between important parts of the old city can highly emphasize their historic presence.
- This visual connection will facilitate the mobility between the important landmarks.
- The linkage between important parts of the old city will be a fundamental step toward urban conservation.
- This visual linkage can elevate the historic value of the old city, not only on the local level but also on broader levels.
- Introduce more green spaces in the old city even with a small use of vertical green plants on the covered walkway. Fig (66-67)



Fig.66: proposed model for a covered pedestrian walkway.

Photo available at:

<https://www.backyardboss.net/walkway-ideas-and-designs/>

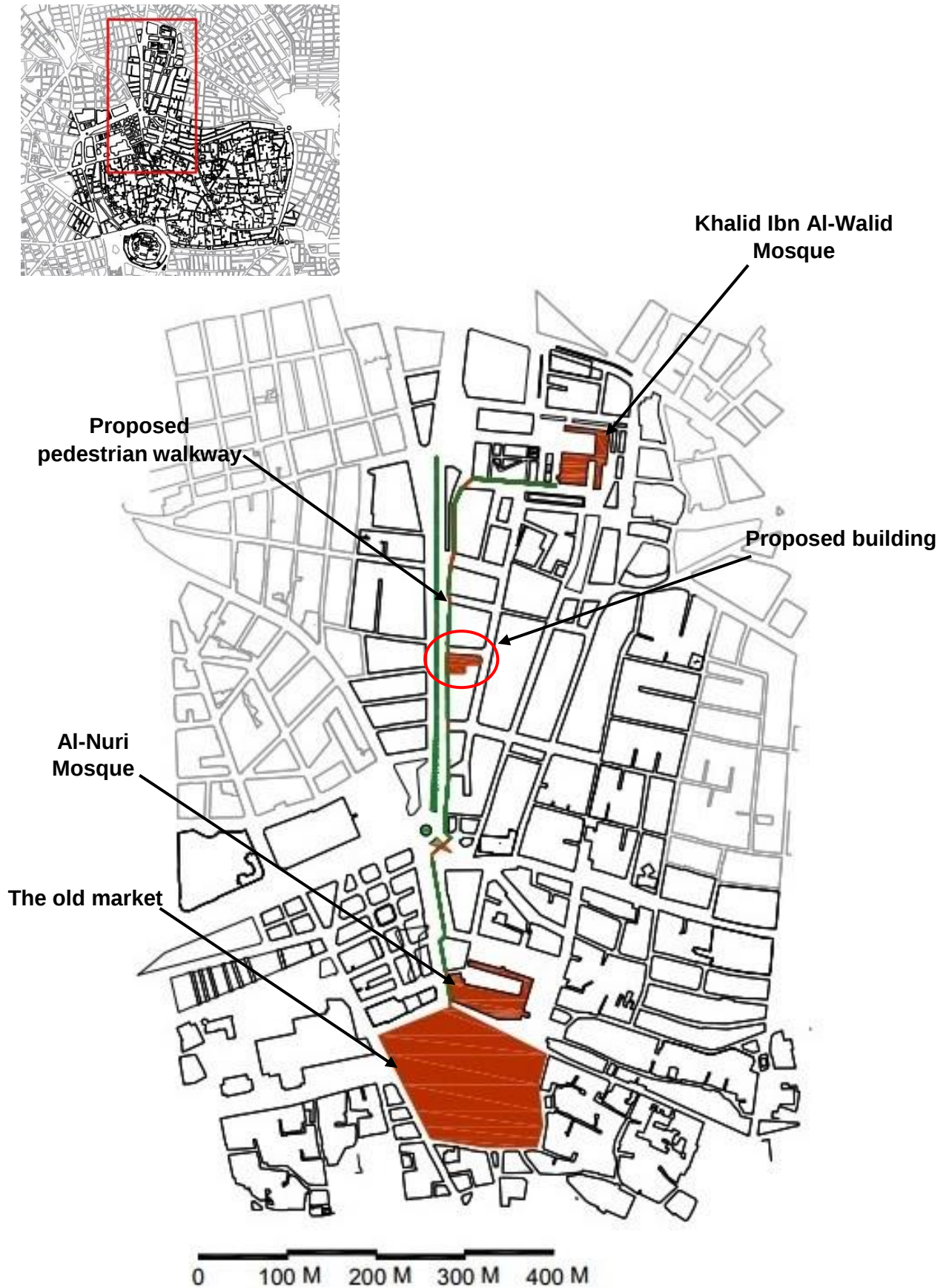


Fig.67: Proposed pedestrian walkway links the important sites in the studied area.

3.6.2. Reconstruction proposal for the historic building 'Khan Al-Jamal'

▪ Brief History

The building was built in 1892 by Al-Sibai family (a big and well-known family in Homs city) and therefore is named after them and was known as Khan al-Sibai, and used as a hotel.

Later, the contractors invested it as a warehouse for vehicles and animals on the ground floor while the first floor had been invested as a hostel for peasants and travellers.

In 1939, the ground floor was used as a warehouse for selling the petroleum; however, the first floor was used for residential purposes. In 1940, the building was burned due to the stored petroleum in the basement, and therefore, it was known with another name aftermath of the fire, which is 'Khan Al-Harika' (means the hotel of the fire).

Later, the ground floor was used as a campus for veterinarians and this continued until the 1970s. In addition, the ground floor was used as a place to sell seedlings in the courtyard, besides various shops in the rest of the floor. Moreover, the first floor is abandoned since the fire, which caused a massive damage to the ceiling.

The architectural style in this building belongs to the end of the 19th century. It was built in the form of a camel structure, (for that, it is known as "Khan- Aljamal" Camel khan), in addition, the main building material is the black stones (Naeem Al-Zehrawi, book).

After the armed conflict in Syria, Khan Al-Jamal has exposed to a massive destruction and damage to the building, including 50% structural damage and 80% interior damage. (DGAM)
Fig. (68-69)



Fig. 68: 'Khan Al-Jamal' Before the war.

(DGAM)

▪ **Proposal Methodology**

As addressed in the second chapter, there are different treatments to deal with historic buildings; reconstruction is usually the best treatment after wars and disasters. Moreover, for reconstructing historic buildings different approaches could be applied. In this research the chosen approach is completely based on the need of creating public cultural spaces in order to improve the urban surrounding areas, with an attempt to link the scattered historic parts of the city whose lost their strong connection before and after the war.

The main idea of this proposal is to create multifunctional space to serve cultural and social purposes and take advantage of the occurred destruction to open the door to post-war reconstruction plans, which can assure preservation, authenticity, and urban improvement in the historical context as well as the need of continuity in the neighbourhood. This proposal is inspired by a project in Damascus city called 'Khan Asaad pasha', an old building which currently used as a multidisciplinary space for different cultural activities. Fig (71-72)



Fig.71: 'Khan Assad Pasha' in Damascus. Paintings exhibition

Photo available at: <http://www.discover-syria.com/photo/ds-mhmsa03.JPG>



Fig.72: 'Khan Assad Pasha' in Damascus. Books exhibition.

Photo available at: <http://www.discover-syria.com/news/16709>

▪ **Proposed interventions**

- According to the available documentation, the building lost its ceiling in the first-floor long time ago due to a fire accident, and since that time, it used to be covered with temporary zinc roof Fig (73). Therefore, this research's proposal is to replace this zinc roofing with temporary wooden net, which can be used for growing vertical plants. Fig (74)

- Removing the inappropriate additions which have been added to the building through the years and led to its distortion like in Fig (73) , and replace it with architectural elements that can be more suitable for its historic nature.
- Give the building new functional use in a way that respects and reflects its historic identity. (mixed-use project). Fig (75)
- It is significant to think of the occurred destruction as an opportunity to fix the past's mistakes, thus, reusing the first floor of the building which was abandoned for years in order to introduce more public spaces to the old city that can be used for different uses by all dwellers. Fig (83)
- Using the original building materials (Black stones), in addition to the use of modern building materials if needed and make it recognisable from the original (Venice Charter) to achieve authenticity. Fig (87)
- Reconstructing the facades the way it was before the war depending on accurate documentation (old photos). Fig (87)



Fig. 73: Khan Al-Jamal, temporary roofing.
(DGAM)



Fig. 74: suggested type for temporary roofing.

Photo available at
<https://www.homify.ae/photo/1522726/lounge>

▪ **Proposed functions in this project**

From this research point of view, As a war torn-city, nothing could put the city's parts back together and activate and strengthen the bond among its inhabitants as the culture and diverse arts, which can be as a reminder of the shared past, history and identity.

Therefore, this project can provide the following:

- This type of projects need a dedicated section for the project management in addition to a space dedicated for the organizations that support artistic and cultural activities, (cultural heritage organization in coordination with government agencies such as the Directorate General of Antiquities and museums and the ministry of culture), and a dedicated section for public utilities. Fig (75)
- A public place can be used for temporary uses such as open cinema, bookstore, book gallery, multidisciplinary arts spaces, live music venues and handcrafts gallery. Fig(76-77-78-79)
- A public space can be used as an industrial place dedicated to creating artistic products, such as paintings, handicrafts, sculpture etc. Fig (80,81,82)
- Spaces can be used as shops to supply the tools for producing creative artefacts.
- A place can be dedicated to celebrating public and/or private cultural events. Fig(84)
- A place can be used for training purposes such as art training, arts education, or a place dedicated to teaching music. Fig (85)

▪ **Justifications for choosing this proposal**

This proposal was driven by the significance of the historic preservation after wars and armed conflicts in addition to the significance of creating cultural spaces and its reflection on the urban environment. Because the presence of cultural spaces could be as Meeting point, which can increase the social diversity, where the historic core of the city can be accessible for all, Without any kind of discrimination in terms of social levels or ethnic differences.(avoid fragmentation, Beirut case). Furthermore, after the armed conflict in Syria which has an ethnic nature, a shared space can contribute to declining the ethnic and sectarian differences and hence reclaim the coexisting which used to be before the armed conflict.

On the other hand, giving the historic property a public cultural use, thus creating a cultural space will definitely increase the historic property value and its surroundings and will protect the city's historic identity. Moreover, historic preservation projects can contribute to sustainability because they are energy saving construction because of their foot-thick masonry walls.

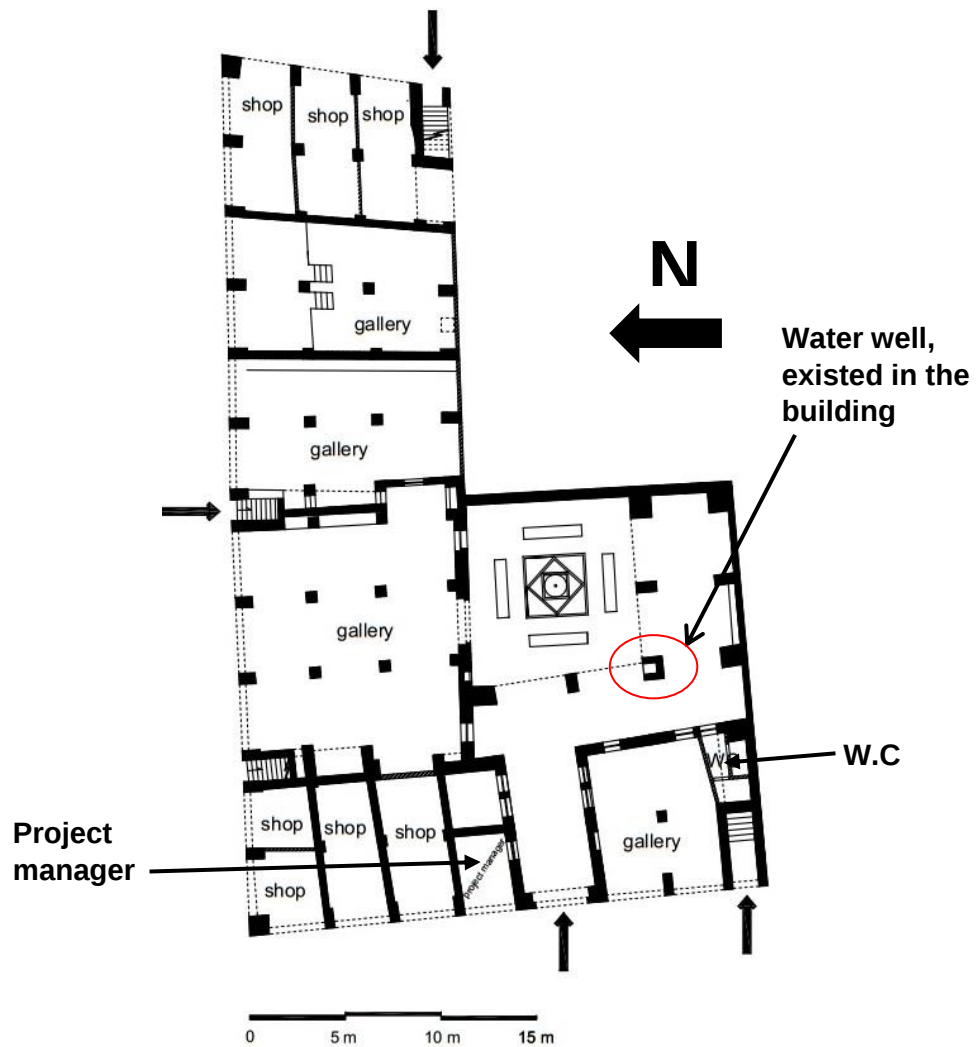


Fig. 75: Proposed plan for the Ground floor of Khan Al-Jamal

- Multifunctional space for cultural uses



Fig.76: suggested use in the ground floor, paintings and sculpture exhibition.

Photo available at:
<http://www.barbaramathesgallery.com/exhibition/dubuffet-and-mir-a-dialogue/installation-view/4>



Fig.77: suggested design for the courtyard.

Photo available at:
<https://clipartxttras.com/download/d512df5f8c05695c80d88f9a92ab60fd045fe3f4.html>

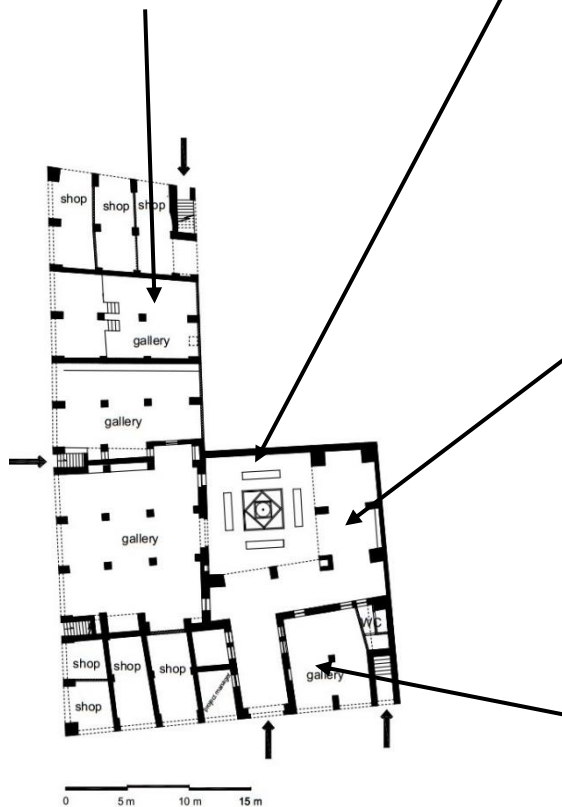


Fig.78: suggested use in the ground floor, Books exhibition.

Photo available at:
<https://www.creativetourist.com/event/international-contemporary-artists-book-fair/>



Fig.79: suggested use in the ground floor, Multi-facility room for poetic evenings.

Photo available at: <http://rrsoc.org/node/1020>

- Multifunctional space for traditional handicrafts



Fig.80: Proposed use in the ground floor, traditional handicrafts model 1.

Photo available at:
<http://www.esyria.sy/ealeppo/index.php?p=stories&category=round&filename=201009220745021>



Fig.81: Proposed use in the ground floor, traditional handicrafts model 2.

Photo available at:
http://islamicartsmagazine.com/magazine/view/muscat_international_award_for_innovation_and_creativity_in_crafts/

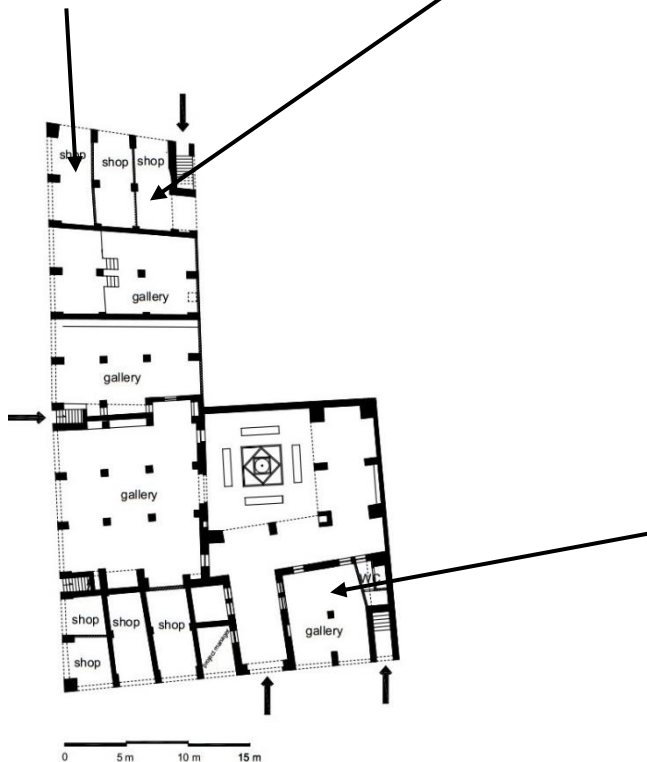


Fig.82: Proposed use in the ground floor, traditional handicrafts model 3.

Photo available at:
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/photo/2016-04/11/c_135265990.htm

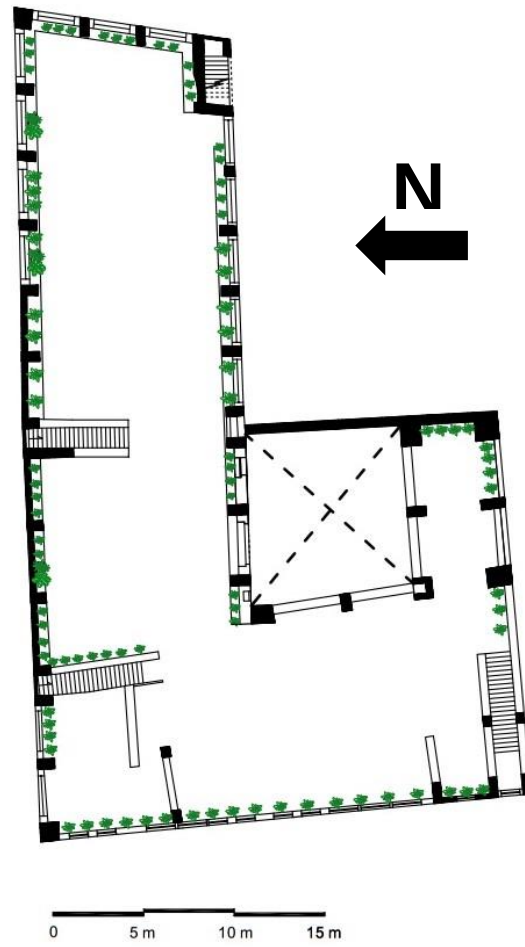


Fig. 83: Proposed plan for the First floor plan

- Multifunctional space in the first floor for various activities



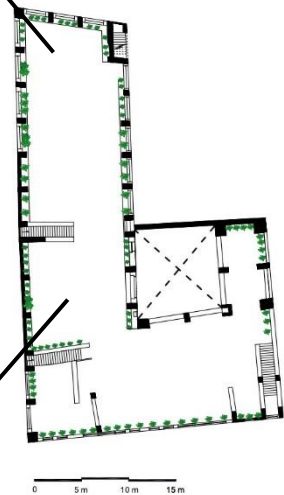
Fig.84: proposed functions in the first floor, model 1

Photo available at: <https://www.hawkinsbrown.com/projects/the-neighbourhood-rooftop-project>



Fig.85: proposed functions in the first floor, model 2

Photo available at: <https://www.hawkinsbrown.com/projects/the-neighbourhood-rooftop-project>



- The Main façade proposal

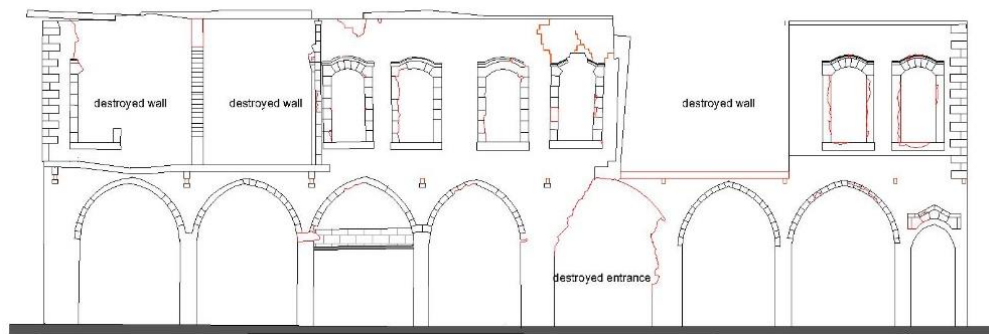


Fig.86: The Main façade, after destruction

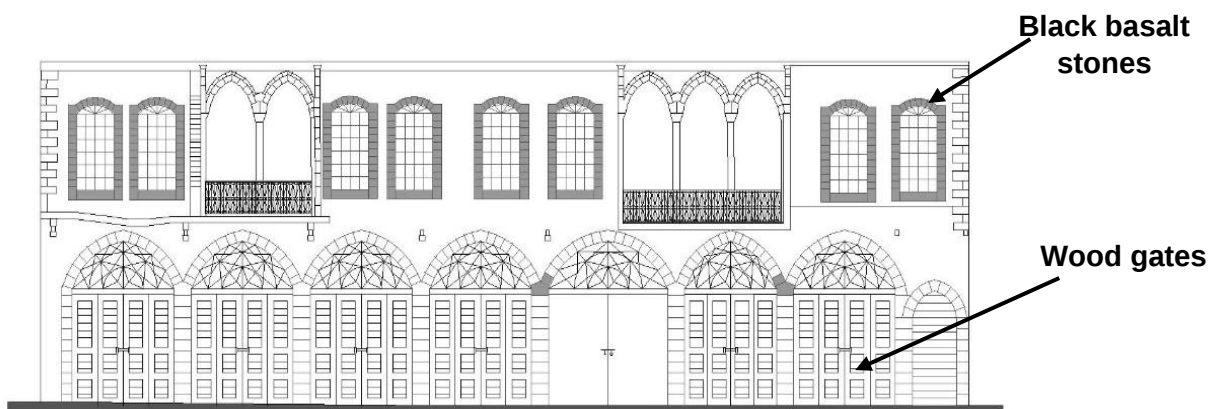


Fig.87: The Main façade, reconstruction proposal

- Interior lighting

Leveraging the natural lights as much as possible by retaining the elements that can provide the building with natural daylight by using glazed doors and windows if possible. in addition, reopening the existed windows or slots that have been blocked for some reason.Fig(86-87)

The interior lighting has to be compatible with the historical character. In this project, the suggested lighting in addition to the daylight is the pendant hanging copper lantern which gives a similar feeling to the natural daylight, and it could be removable or addable according to the need for them.



Natural lighting

Fig.88: Existed slots for Natural lighting.
(DGAM)



Fig.90: artificial lighting model.

Photo available at:
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/guidelines/daylighting.htm>



Reopening the windows or slots in the facades to have more daylight

Fig.89: Closed slots in the facades.
(DGAM)

Conclusion

The importance of buildings and historic areas stems from being a witness to the past, previous civilizations and diverse cultures that once lived in the place. Their presence in cities enhances the sense of authenticity, the city's identity and makes the next generations aware of their history, especially in the field of urban planning and architecture, which can be an inspiration in the implementation of contemporary plans. However, historic preservation after wars and disasters is a public duty. Moreover, demands for architectural and urban preservation have been elevated since the beginning of the 20th-century and particularly after the two world wars, where people had a growing consciousness toward the importance of their history and cultural heritage and the need to reclaim the historic features of their cities.

Concepts and methods in this field have been evolved to achieve urban and architectural conservation. Those methods differ from case to another according to the physical state, the amount of deterioration, and the outstanding value of the historic building and/or the historic area that surround it. In addition, historic preservation is a complex issue because it is associated with political, social and economic aspects. Many international charters have emerged to provide outlines concerning the auspices, conservation, and protection of historical elements. However, studying of some global experiences has led to the fact that each historic building or historic area has special merit, which often limits the type and amount of interventions and therefore, different approaches and techniques should be considered to each case separately to apply the appropriate solution and hence achieving successful urban and architectural preservation projects. Many factors could control the reconstruction process such as cost, participation of the civilians in the reconstruction process, the existed documentation and their accuracy, the level of destruction, the significance of the historic property or the historic area, and in some cases, the dominant power of the reconstruction process can play a major role.

Wars have destructive impacts on cities; maybe one of the greatest witnesses of war is the devastation in the built environment, and particularly the loss of cultural properties. Additionally, armed conflict is one of the most serious threats that can cause a great damage to the cultural heritage. However, understanding its impact on the urban environment, such as cultural, political, economic, and social impacts as well as having the adequate knowledge about the amount of damage can be a great motivation toward urban historic preservation. Therefore, this work is focusing on reconstruction as an essential treatment after the war in Syria, because reconstruction can contribute to urban conservation through dealing with the city as a unit. While preserving historic property can contribute to increasing the value of any

place, this research has focused on the importance of historic preservation after wars, and its positive impacts on the urban environment, which can increase the country's outcomes.

Syria has a diverse and rich heritage, and the loss of this cultural heritage means the loss of identity and the connection with the past. Thus, it is important and urgent to preserving its cultural heritage through a successful reconstruction project. That can play an important role in social reconstruction and reconciliation after years of conflict which is strongly associated with post-war recovery, where peoples' ability to recover after wars is related to their cultural resilience. When the armed conflict comes to end it is essential to take into consideration that people come first, provide dwellings for those who lost their houses is a fundamental issue, however, restoration and reconstruction in the historic sites must be considered as a priority in the future plans. It is also important to have experiences exchanges among countries in the field of preservation of archaeological and architectural heritage because this can enhance the knowledge in this field.

Post-war reconstruction plans should include not only historic building but also should extend to include the urban environment. Historic centres can improve the urban environment through creating more public and green spaces, which can contribute to reducing environmental pollution. Moreover, historic buildings are energy saving construction, because of their foot-thick masonry walls and hence they can contribute to achieve the sustainability in cities.

Intervention methods in historic areas should assure the preservation of the cultural identity of cities with the possibility of applying contemporary architectural plans without harming the historic fabric. Moreover, any new structures and Contemporary architecture must be in a harmony with the old centres. Using modern materials (concrete) to reinforce old buildings is acceptable if it assures the preservation of the historic character of the building and in places that are not visible as possible. In addition, the Intervention methods in the old centres should include all historic elements.

Reconstruction plans in historic areas can enhance the Local and non-local tourism which considers one of the important resources for the country's income. Additionally, in countries that have suffered from sectarian and ethnic conflict, there is an urgent need for reconstruction projects that bring people together and make them more receptive to each other to achieve the coexistence. In the cities that have lost their historic features, it is important to find a way to revive its historic identity through reconstruction or preservation projects, like in the old city of Homs, creating a linkage path, which can link important historic sites, can be a fundamental step toward historic preservation and restore the city's historic core.

The best way to preserve a historic property is to keep it in use and the minimum intervention is always the best. Therefore, this research includes a reconstruction proposal for the historic building 'khan al-Jamal', considering its important location, historic value, age and rarity. It suggests new cultural uses in the building to increase its social diversity and benefit from its historic value to rebuild the identity of the city. In addition to add more public space with the minimum interventions to minimize the reconstruction cost and to reduce negative impact caused by interventions. In addition, taking its urban environment in consideration and because of 'Khan al-Jamal' location in the old city a pedestrian walkway that connect it to three other important historic sites is suggested, so it can be considered as a linkage point that connects important scattered parts of the old city. Finally, the reconstruction plan aims to introduce 'Khan al-Jamal' to the city's historic centre in a way that assure the integration and balance in urban fabric and achieve historic preservation.

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