



World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Institution of Supervisor:

Faculty of Architecture/Tishreen University

■ Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

Walking between historic buildings and remaining ruins send our minds back in times, and makes us wonder: How did people live in these spaces? How did the buildings change during different periods? What happened?. Time might take from buildings their original functions, but it adds a deeper meaning, which makes them an authentic part of our heritage that demands protection. It is rare to find a continuously inhabited heritage, with many potential that offer many reasons to focus on the physical, aesthetical, social, economic and historical factors, which promote the revitalization of this architectural heritage and its neighborhood.

Al-Khawabi Citadel was my choice for this study. And I had to start by asking myself: Is it an architectural research or project? What is the starting point? What is its finality? What can I do for this site as an architect, and how?. But this “romantic” view of the project confronts some questions: How to realize all that with the lowest impact on structures and inhabitants? And how can we make changes, which reflect our era today, and respect the past?

If we chose to backdate these structures to a certain period, by removing all of the later changes (Restoration); we will lose that mysterious character of the blend. And if we keep the site exactly the way they are now (Preservation); then we will get a building frozen in time. But in order to keep the mix for future generations to appreciate, there is a third solution: Rehabilitation. The philosophy of rehabilitation seems to be the most appropriate for Al-Khawabi Citadel, because the goal is preserving the overall character of a place, as evolved”. Yet, portions of the historic place are respectfully updated to serve new and continuing uses. The history of Al-Khawabi Citadel needs to be reflected in the project, with no emphasis on original/ bigger/older as being better than other times. We need to reflect all times, than add to in our generation, just as future generations will also make their marks.

The aim of this project is not making a full historical record of this architectural complex, but finding solutions for its functional and aesthetic problems, by using new conservation methods and techniques, making compatible and meaningful modern designs; which respect the original and existing features and functions. The idea is neither to demolish everything, nor to reconstruct everything. But to preserve, add to and accept all times, to broaden our sense of humanity, rather than narrowing it in a focus on one period, or one time.

The challenge is managing new strategy to profit from the different values of the historical site in a modern way to create a sustainability and a self-sustainability which deal with several sectors of development for Al-Khawabi Citadel and its village - a strategy which might be adopted for other historical sites-, taking into account the current and future needs of the residents and the neighborhood, through short and long term procedures.

■ Thematic Structure (max. 5)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Routes and Itineraries, Linear Heritage (Routes, Canals, Railways, Rivers, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Built Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Heritage and Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthen Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geological Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Centres and Cities, Historic Urban Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forests
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military / Defence & Maritime Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deserts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial, Technological, Astronomical & Scientific Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biodiversity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernacular Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marine and Coastal Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern and Contemporary Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountain Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Landscapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock-Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	Underwater Heritage / Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research on Materials Conservation and Mechanics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Museums, Museology & Moveable Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, Youth and Volunteers

<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Tourism & Ecotourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oral & Intangible Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heritage Legislation (National and International), Conventions, Charters and Declarations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Languages and Toponymy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate Change Impacts on Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genealogy and Heraldry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:		