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Anwar Ahmed Baeissa
Faculty of Engineering & Petroleum, Hadhramout University

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Preservation of the Urban Development and Architectural Heritage of the Clay Buildings in Hadhramout Region, Yemen through Public Participation of the Region's Residents

Anwar Ahmed Baeissa*

Abstract

The archeological heritage is considered the roots for civilization and development for any nation that maintains its development and flourishing. Therefore, if such roots were eradicated or exposed to destruction, this nation will be lost and lose its constituents of growth and flourishing. This study deals with the value concepts and policies to preserve the architectural heritage within the context of sustainable development system. The study was carried out through reviewing the concepts of heritage and heritage value (historical, artistic and functional). The aim of this study is to discuss the most important reasons behind the deterioration of urban areas that have architectural value, in addition to the levels and different types of archeological heritage deterioration. Moreover, the study presents different methods for archeological heritage preservation. Besides, the study highlights the public participation approach in heritage preservation and sustainable development by the citizens of those areas through the intellectual analytical model of communication and public participation process and its most important components. Further, the identification of the levels and the types of this communication and public participation are discussed in this study. Taking into consideration the unique architecture heritage Hadhrami cities have which dated hundreds of years and exposed to negligence and deterioration, consequently there is a need for carrying out a practical study as to identify the most important features of urban and architectural heritage of the cities in Hadhramout region. Besides, spotting the most important heritage areas in Hadhrami region is required. The present study adopted multi-level public participation approach (public, official, academicians) due to its positive outcomes to identify the most important threats of the urban and architectural heritage of the cities from the public's point of view, in addition to identifying the obstacles that inhibit heritage preservation from the executive officials' viewpoint. Finally, this study seeks to come up with the most important and urgent and delayed recommendations to preserve the heritage of the Hadhrami cities through the participation of specialized academicians in the same field.

Key Words: Preservation, Urban Development, Architectural Heritage, Clay Buildings, Public Participation.

Introduction :

The deterioration of urban heritage areas is considered one of the prominent features of both developing and modern countries in the world. Although there are differences in physical, social and economic problems of those countries, we find that most of those deteriorating regions met in a series of problems. These problems include: the deterioration of the architectural conditions, wasting many real estate wealth with distinct features, neglecting the maintenance works that aim to preserve the civilization feature of those areas. Other problems include: overlapping uses and the unsuitability of the urban fabric heritage status to the development of transportation and the poor environmental, economic and social conditions for some residents of those areas. Further, the rising costs of maintaining, upgrading and the inadequacy in the sustainable development of those areas, programs, operations are considered among other problems. Preserving the architectural and urban heritage has become a humanitarian

responsibility to contribute in maintaining the past landmarks for the future generation. This is due to the fact that this architectural and urban heritage is a living embodiment of the history of civilizations and the development of human thought, which highlights communication among different cultures. With the continued invasion of Western civilizations in the third world, maintaining the cultural identity can be attained through the preservation of architectural and urban heritage which is considered an essential objective [4]. The present study highlights the concept of evolution and sustainable development in the deteriorating heritage regions as to preserve them through public participation which is considered one of the most important basic approaches to achieve and maintain positive protection of those regions and tackling the various urban, environmental, social and economic problems in those areas. Consequently, this concept may make it easy to deal with all the components of the heritage buildings in those regions and the urban environment and the community in a comprehensive and integrative way.

Problem of the Study:

Although all agree on the importance of preserving the architectural heritage of civilization, the

* Department of Architecture & Environmental Planning, Faculty of Engineering & Petroleum, Hadhramout University of Science & Technology. Received on 1/9/2019 and Accepted for Publication on 19/10/2020

attempts to preserve the architectural heritage might be hindered as to face the modern urban development needs. Hence the economic cost of second alternative projects to preserve the architectural heritage is being selected by officials, especially in the third world countries. Consequently, maintaining the architectural heritage might be considered a barrier in the way of progress and upgrading for the living conditions of the community members. However, the focus on the present humanitarian needs at the expense of the heritage is considered one of the biggest mistakes made by man in many areas.

The only way for civilization is through the integration of past unique heritage with the contemporary present status. Further, the concept of preserving the architectural heritage in its narrow and direct sense is based on dealing with the historic buildings as an urban protected and isolated region. Thus, transferring the urban development operations to the new neighboring region may cause a rift in the urban fabric of cities and turn it into two contradictory neighboring regions. One of these regions would be an ancient city and the other would be a more modern lively city. Consequently, the ancient historical heritage areas which are full of heritage buildings would turn into mere a public contaminated obsolete area, although it is rich for its antiquities. Thus, such consequence might invites us to deal with such situation in more considerable way through the public participation to achieve sustainable development in the historical heritage area and to promote it from a poor area into a more contemporary area with an identity that stems from its expanded history. Therefore, the people's participation would help the interaction between the local community and communication projects, and thus such projects would not be isolated from the interacting with the surrounding community.

The Objective of the Study:

The aim of the study is to highlight the role of public participation in the sustainable development and the preservation of urban and architectural heritage. This aim would be achieved through the presentation of a practical experience in the Hadhrami Cities.

The Method of the Study:

The methodology of the study is based on the theoretical concepts of architectural value and methods of preserving the urban and architectural heritage, in addition to studying the most important factors of the deterioration of areas with architectural value. Further, the study has examined

the practical process that adopts the multiple-levels method of public participation as an effective approach for sustainable preservation for the urban and architectural heritage in the Hadhrami cities. This is to come up with the most urgent and forward recommendations to preserve the heritage of Hadhrami Cities through the participation of academics who are specialized in the same field.

Concepts of Value and Preservation Policies of Urban and Architectural Heritage:

During the last century, the world has witnessed many wars that revealed the weakness of the urban public and architectural heritage. Consequently with the destruction of many heritage buildings during the Second World War, the officials in Europe started to be aware of the importance of preserving such buildings from being destroyed. Therefore, some parts of European cities have been rebuilt according to its own unique architectural design. Thus, the architectural and urban heritage elements are considered as the most important elements of attraction for international and domestic tourism in an era wherein the tourism industry is viewed the world's most important industries. Such industry is considered as a big interest to all the world countries for its direct and indirect economic recovery through the encouraging for foreign investment. Despite the impact of time and natural erosion and the impact of natural disasters such as earthquakes among other reasons, there is a considerable effect of human heritage on the architectural urban heritage. Further, the modern technology has negatively affected the architectural heritage in addition to the effect of the industry in increasing environmental pollution of air and water together, the thing that has a direct negative impact on the heritage. Consequently, the preservation of the architectural and urban heritage has become a human responsibility as to contribute to retaining the ancient milestones in order to be seen by future generation. Thus such architectural and urban heritage is considered a living embodiment of the history of civilizations and the development of human thought, which highlights communication among different cultures. With the cultural invasion of Western civilization in the Third World, the preservation of cultural identity through the preservation of architectural and urban heritage has become an essential objective [4].

The Concept of the Heritage Value:

Not all old material productions contain a heritage

or conceptual value. Therefore identifying the level of the heritage value for any production necessitates the achievement of the objective cognition (not the personal cognition) for the encapsulated values of the underlying element or the total textile and direct level for that element. This idea has been adopted by European countries since the late eighteenth century as a result of the increased public awareness of the concepts of heritage values. Consequently, those countries have performed a series of documentation and evaluation of their cultural heritage in various fields, including their urban and architectural heritage. Moreover, they have achieved a series of practical procedures for the purpose of preserving, restoring, and reviving this heritage and then invested it through tourism at the local, national and international level. Thus such countries have achieved high rates of incomes through local and foreign tourism. The environment with its own urban and architectural levels is considered the most important resource for the culture and civilization of its community. Consequently, the great awareness of heritage values expressed in this constructed environment should focus on accurate and broad information base that includes numerous areas of knowledge such as history and arts of all kinds as well as sociology. For example, in the United States, buildings and areas of architectural value are identified and documented according to an institutional concept which is called (Historic Registrar). This registrar performs a documented and a research institutional role to determine and record the financing and legal proceedings possible and necessary for each individual case. Besides, the activity of this registrar includes the environment, whether it is natural or constructive with all its levels of urban and architectural value that have either historical, recent or functional value [4].

References of Determining the Heritage Value:

Depending on the former concept of the heritage value, the architectural and urban heritage value can be determined depending on the historical, artistic, functional, social and economic references.

The Historical Reference:

It is a time-reference based on identifying a certain period of time that has a certain nature or it reflects a period in the history linked to a historical distinctive event. This can be attained through the accumulation of eras, provided that there should be authenticity of materials that

reflect the history of the building construction. The extent of the scarcity of building model in comparison with both its direct vital surrounding or the whole area in which the building is constructed is considered a factor that increases its historical value (Micro & Macro Contexts).

The Artistic Reference:

This type of reference is relevant to the standards of creativity and schools of design (based on expressing the intellectual content of the material product) and the standards of construction and architectural styles.

The Architectural Styles:

These are such as the ancient models of antiquity (Pharaoh- Babel- Indianan- Chinese-Roman- Byzantine models) and medieval styles (romantic, Gothic, Islamic) and the nineteenth century models (Classic, Romantic, Victory) and the twentieth century models (the New-Classic, -Collective-primary- international- expressive- modernist- post-modernist - Cubical, Deconstructive).

Functional Reference:

This type of reference is based on the function of the building, which reflects the social or economic patterns. These functions are taken into consideration either they have been existing until present day, or existed at any time. Buildings can be classified according to the extent of continuity of their original function [4]. Below is a classification of the buildings according to the aforementioned reference:

Living Heritage Buildings:

These Hadhrami buildings are still used or can be used according to its functional original purpose, and thus reflect the quality of the heritage buildings on the social or economic patterns which were prevalent at the time of their construction. Such quality helps to double their investment by being buildings that reflect the nature of society in an earlier historical era and at the same time provide social or economic and contemporary activity (such as Archeological Islamic mosques, paths, etc.), [3].

Non-living Heritage Buildings:

These buildings' original function have been disappeared (such as Archeological Pharaoh buildings, most of which belonged to the funerary installations and extinct religious temples) and therefore, they are classified as shrines of cultural tourism, (Figure 1).

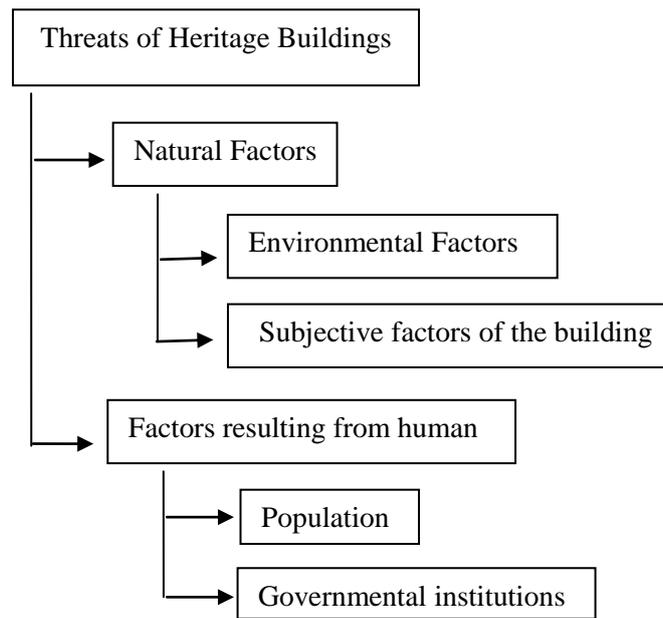


Figure 1: Diagram of The Threats Factors of Heritage Buildings

The Deterioration of value-urban areas of factors:

Through the review of deterioration cases of a number of areas with modern valuable buildings, whether these areas are cities or old villages such as Tarim, Shibam and Sayion historical cities and through the review of previous studies in this respect, it is possible to summarize the factors that lead to the deterioration of the architectural and urban heritage area in Hadhramout region as follows:

Social Factors:

These factors include: the increased rates of migration of rural people to the cities, especially the poor areas and historical centers, also the population explosion, which led to congestion and the traffic jams in these heritage areas. The absence of the consciousness concept of preserving the architectural and urban heritage among the majority of Community associations (non-governmental) is another social factor.

Cultural Factors:

These factors include: the lack of cultural awareness among the users of the heritage buildings, and the lack of belonging to the local and cultural values and overlooking the Arab and Islamic values as a model for the sustainable development.

Political Factors:

Such factors include the nature of the laws and regulations that organized the architecture and urbanism, as well as the regulations relevant to the preservation of heritage and the multiplicity

of agencies responsible for legislation. Other factors might be the inability to monitor the implementation of those laws and regulations, limiting the concept of preservation of heritage to the archaeological restoration of buildings without taking into account their general vital urban surroundings as to expand in the regions and cities to meet the urgent requirements for housing. The thing that make the preservation process of ancient cities and their historical centers last priorities.

Economic Factors:

These factors include the deterioration in the f infrastructure for the historical areas in cities and the lack of systematic economic plans to measure the costs of preservation process of the historical cities and follow-up operations. Further, the lack of economic feasibility studies for projects of re-using heritage buildings is considered another economic factor.

Natural Factors:

These factors can be divided into environmental factors and other factors related to the building itself:

Environmental Factors:

Such factors include: the high levels of groundwater, sometimes, in the crowded cities as a result of the lack of sewerage centers or their being worn out. Another factor is the increasing levels of the groundwater pollution, sometimes as a result of the deterioration of the sewers. Furthermore, the high levels of air pollution as a result of the growing number of cars in addition

to the occurrence of global warming are considered as environmental factors.

Climate Factors:

Factors of climate include: heat, sun, rain , and wind. All these factors might affect the building materials used for constructing these buildings.

Ground-waters:

Ground-waters play a vital role, especially when their level is high in the mud cities with the sewage resulting from the lack of a sewage centers. The thing that is considered one of the most important factors for the deterioration of the urban areas with heritage valuable buildings.

Administrative and Organizational Factors:

These include the lack of competent bodies to record and document the architectural and urban heritage. Another factor is the absence of making best use of advanced information technologies, in addition to the lack in the coordination between the various parties for the integration of preservation processes within the overall integrated development system at various levels: locally, regionally and nationally).

Hadhrami Architectural Style:

The oldest skyscrapers of clay building (Figure 2) as wonderful examples of human conduct in their positive interaction with the environment is considered. The Hadhrami architects with all ingenuity and capability. They took into account many aspects such as the plain and the mountain levels, and they raised the buildings from clay, stones and reeds,[6].

The Hadhrami architects took the interest in the interior space and function and treated them in different ways, and they found out solutions, which improved the buildings. They also indicate that they progressed in conformity with the traditional methods accumulated cognitively and culturally over the years. Also she notes that the Hadhrami architects gained transcendent ability that qualified them to deal with time and place variables. Also she notices that they had the way to form the functional spaces that were more convenient to the environment (Figurep3,4) (the nature and the society), [2].



(Figure 2 : Illustrate General View of Shibami Houses (oldest skyscrapers in the world
Source: Google Earth



Figure 3:: Illustrate Bugshan Palace in Khailat Bugshan in Douan Valley
Source: Ganewi



Figure 4 : Illustrate Splendor of the Clay Palaces in Tarim City
Source: Author

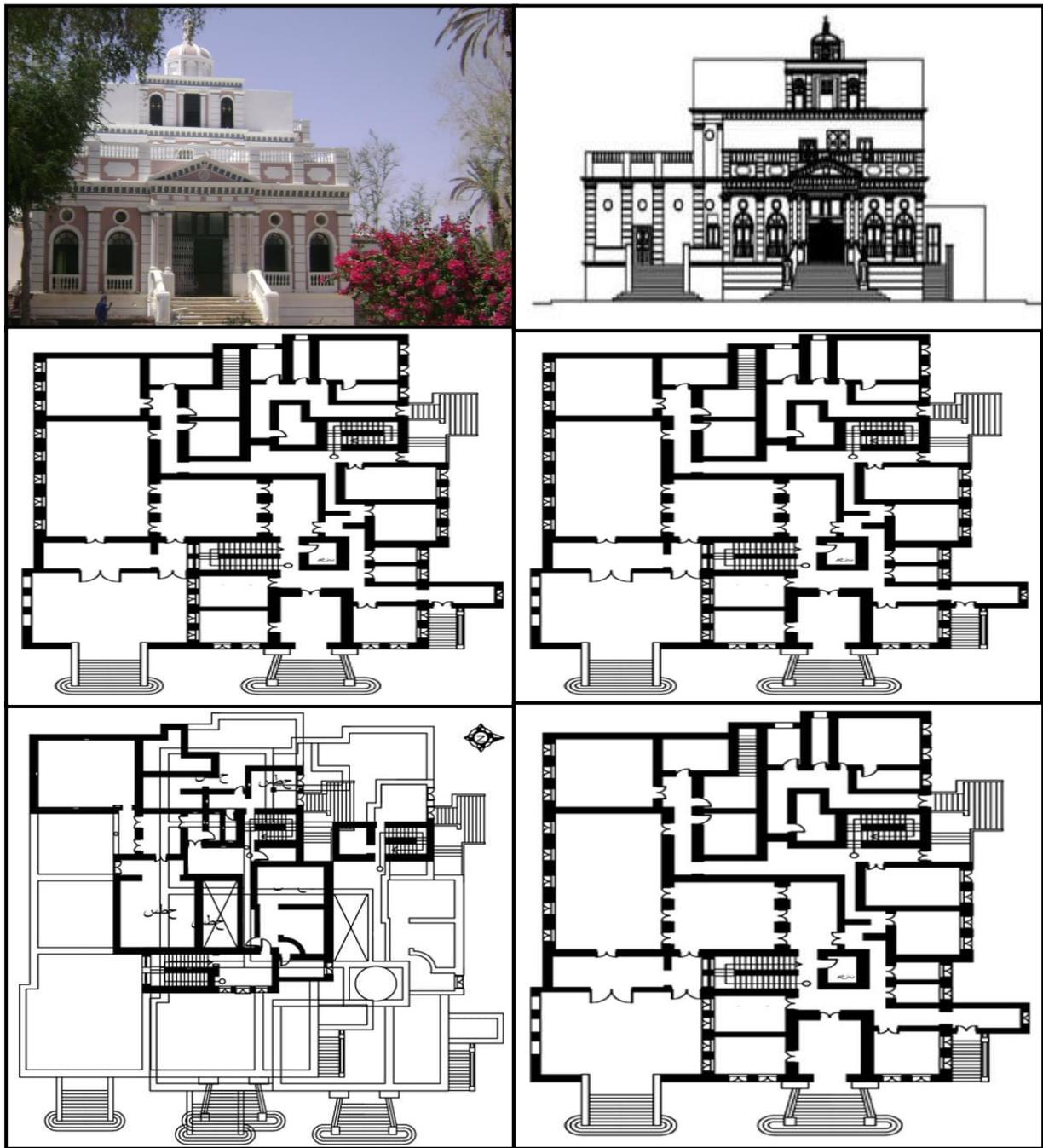


Figure 5: Clay Palace (Al-Qubah) in Tarim City
Source: Author

Styles of Preserving Architectural and Urban Heritage in Hadhramout Region

Preservation procedures may vary depending on the variety and the case of the impact or the architectural heritage. They ensure the following methods [4]:

- 1- Reconstruction (Rebuilding) of heritage buildings in almost the same state they were built in the past.
- 2- Restoration of the pieces and buildings to bring them to the state they were in the past (Figure 6).
- 3- Renovation which involves the use of modern materials to bring the heritage building to a state close to that of its construction time (Figure 7).

4- Revitalization is to revive the areas, urbanely, socially and economically in order to improve the level of those areas by adding activities that were not present before. These activities should be commensurate with modern requirements.

5- Rectifying and upgrading of the region's urban socially and economically in order to improve its level as well as performing activities that were not present before and which commensurate with modern requirements.

6- Reusing: includes the use of the heritage building in the same purpose it is originally established for, or for the economic viability social development suitable for the region as a whole. The thing that ensures a great deal of social acceptance and bring it permanence and prosperity.



Figure 6: Styles of Restoration Architectural and Urban Heritage using Local Materials
Source: Author



Figure 7: Styles of Renovating Architectural and Urban Heritage using Local Materials
Source: Author

An Overview on the Public Participation in Heritage preservation and Sustainable Development:

The concept of participatory planning has become an important technique in making planning decisions. Thus various forms of the planning approach through participation have been encouraged and adopted by many institutions as well as introduced in the agenda of the development projects. However, these institutions differed in the form of application and the degree to allow participation of local citizens-the beneficiaries-and stakeholders. Besides, the participation differ in terms of its application form with regard to the process of re-distribution of power and balancing among the beneficiaries and owners of interests and marginalized communities [1]. It has become clear and stable now in the thought and literature review of development that the commitment to the approach of deepening communication and community participation can boost the overall effectiveness of community management. Thereafter, it can achieve the following:

- Rationality of decision-making processes at different levels through pluralism and self-correcting mechanisms.
- Mobilizing the best community, material and human resources in the development process.
- Development returns will be better and more sustainable if all effective parties participated in the different stages and procedures of development.

Participation

It refers to (a degree of communication and participation used in scientific research) a higher degree of both the exposure and exploration and it implicitly includes both. Besides, it is characterized with that the main party initiates to allow some of the other concerned parties to carry out specific, previously-designed, and courageous roles both in the decision-making or the execution processes. This is done based on the fact that the participant party has an internal conviction that these roles are necessary and important to varying degrees for the success of the development project or the proposed decision. Or otherwise, to ensure a minimum level of efficiency of the development project, the process guarantees the main party to achieve its vital interests.

Partnership:

This idea is theoretically based on the effective partnership to overcome the negative and the static participating to progressive degrees of positive

partnership and effective dynamism. The issue of passive participation is related to a core conviction implied that the parties responsible for the development (the effective and beneficiaries parties to varying degrees, directly or indirectly) fall within a sort of a relationship, whether this relationship is organized through clear and specific institutional and organizational forms or through indirect, and non-specific forms of medias, or it is clearly recognized (the press, traditional means of transmitting information..etc). Further, they are all without exception represent all a system whose different components or parts exchange various relationships of affecting and being affected due to their presence within one same setting.

Consequently, within this context, Partnership could be defined as (the involvement of all parties responsible for the development based on their awareness of the issue and the interests of the various parties in an ongoing negotiation for the decision-making-taking process), the process upon which consequent kind of specific agreements for the distribution of all agreed roles among the involved parties are made. This process is done taking into consideration the insurance of the employment of all available local resources. Partnership may begin with the initiative of more than one party. However, it takes its real and complete shape with a high degree of social awareness and the development of social institutions, in addition to its internal organization and the development of the information society. Therefore, the following automatic initiative for all parties becomes a sort of sustainable techniques for negotiation as well as a sort of integration of roles among the parties. The thing that reflects the cooperation and either the convergence of interests or incongruity of them. Further, it incorporates -as a whole-the democracy of the development process and the politically-matured society.

Recommendations and Proposals for Development:

The most important recommendations resulted from the public participation to preserve heritage buildings with the architectural value can be summarized in certain themes. Recommendations have been divided into several categories as follows:

Urban Design:

- Implementation of specific awareness programs of hygiene and establishment of a mechanism for collecting solid waste.
- Removing the additions which are incompatible with the nature of the region, such as bulletin boards and the quality of lighting columns and

replacing them with more suitable ones.

- Emptiness of the areas surrounded with the heritage building from the incompatible activities and turning the dirt floors into to stone floors.
- Preventing motor vehicles from crossing n the areas with heritage buildings and finding other alternatives tracks for them to move in the archaeological areas.
- Preparing a pilot model for the heritage buildings that could be reused and reconstructed so as to conduct different activities in them. well as studying the paths and trends of movement and transportations .
- Proposing requirements and guidance concerning construction especially for the new buildings in the archaeological cities. Such requirements and guidance deal with the size, dimensions of the outer profile of the building, the openings, colors and, construction materials and finishes.

Styles of Preservation and Restoration for the Archaeological Buildings:

- Making a documentary survey by photos and applying for the architectural work, taking into consideration that it should integrate all historical and archaeological aspects, in addition to recommending the use of modern techniques in the scientific documentation processes.
- The Necessary for coordination between the authorities concerned with the effects of endowments (*Awqaf*) and the Local Council in the evacuation of the archeological buildings from the residents and the restoration and re-development of those buildings, in addition to the provision of alternative places for the residents.
- The Replacement of the typical style in restoration work with a comprehensive scientific method that includes the precise documentary for

all the constituent elements of archeological buildings as well as all the remaining parts of them.

- Studying the possibility of replacing the old materials with modern raw materials that fit with old ones because of the lack of the materials that were used in ancient times, and the necessity for developing scientific solutions to this problem.
- The Revival of all the old crafts that serve the archaeological restoration operations (such as builders-carpenters - blacksmiths), all of which were popular in the old cities.
- Establishing an a association for the Archaeological Buildings Lovers included the people of ancient historical cities in order to activate the role of civil associations and non-governmental organizations in the concern of preserving the wealth of heritage of the ancient cities.

The Environment (ground-water, sewage and solid and liquid waste):

- Enhancing the Completion of the establishment of the plant used for sewage purification special treatment
- Conducting a study for the establishment of a safe sanitary landfill along with conducting a study for the assessment of the environmental impact for the project as well as the evaluation of the proposed site.
- It is advisable to make a periodic groundwater analysis to determine the extent of its contamination as a result of the sewage when arriving to it.
- Putting a whole plan for the region of the ancient heritage, and making priority for Tarim and Shibam cities, with constructing a campus for the ancient heritage buildings.
- Developing the entrances for the archaeological street to create an optical extension.

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الحفاظ على التنمية العمرانية والتراث المعماري للمباني الطينية بمنطقة حضرموت، اليمن من خلال المشاركة العامة لسكان المنطقة

أنور أحمد باعيسى

المخلص

يعد التراث الأثري والمعماري لأي أمة بمثابة الجذور لحضاراتها ونمائها التي تكفل لها استقرار هذا النماء والازدهار، فإذا اجتمعت تلك الجذور أو تعرضت للفناء أو الدمار أو الإهدار ضاعت معها تلك الأمة وفقدت أسباب النماء والازدهار. تتناول الورقة البحثية مفاهيم القيمة وسياسات الحفاظ على التراث العمراني في إطار منظومة التنمية المستدامة وذلك من خلال مراجعة لمفاهيم التراث والقيمة التراثية (التاريخية والفنية والوظيفية). ويستعرض البحث أهم عوامل تدهور المناطق العمرانية ذات القيمة المعمارية بالإضافة للمستويات والأشكال المختلفة لتدهور التراث العمراني والمعماري، وأخيراً يعرض البحث الأساليب المختلفة للحفاظ على التراث العمراني والمعماري والأثري كما يستعرض البحث مدخل المشاركة الشعبية من قبل المستوطنين في الحفاظ على التراث والتنمية المستدامة من خلال الفكر التحليلي لعملية الحوار والمشاركة وأهم مكوناته بالإضافة لتحديد مستويات وأنواع الحوار والمشاركة الشعبية. ونظراً لما تدخر به المدن الحضرمية من تراث معماري فريد يعود إلى مئات السنين يتعرض للإهمال والتدهور، نتيجة لذلك ظهرت الحاجة من خلال القيام بدراسة تطبيقية للتعرف على أهم ملامح التراث العمراني والمعماري لمدن إقليم حضرموت مع رصد لأهم المظاهر الأثرية والتراثية بالمدن الحضرمية. وقد تبنت الدراسة مدخل المشاركة الشعبية متعددة المستويات (العامة والمسؤولين التنفيذيين والأكاديميين) لما له من جوانب إيجابية عديدة في تحديد أهم مهددات التراث العمراني والمعماري بالمدن من وجهة نظر العامة ومعرفة المعوقات التي تمنع الحفاظ على التراث من وجهة نظر المسؤولين التنفيذيين مع تحديد أهم التوصيات العاجلة والأجله لحماية تراث المدن الحضرمية من خلال مشاركة الأكاديميين المختصين في المجال نفسه.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الحفاظ، التنمية العمرانية، الإرث المعماري، المباني الطينية، المشاركة العامة.