



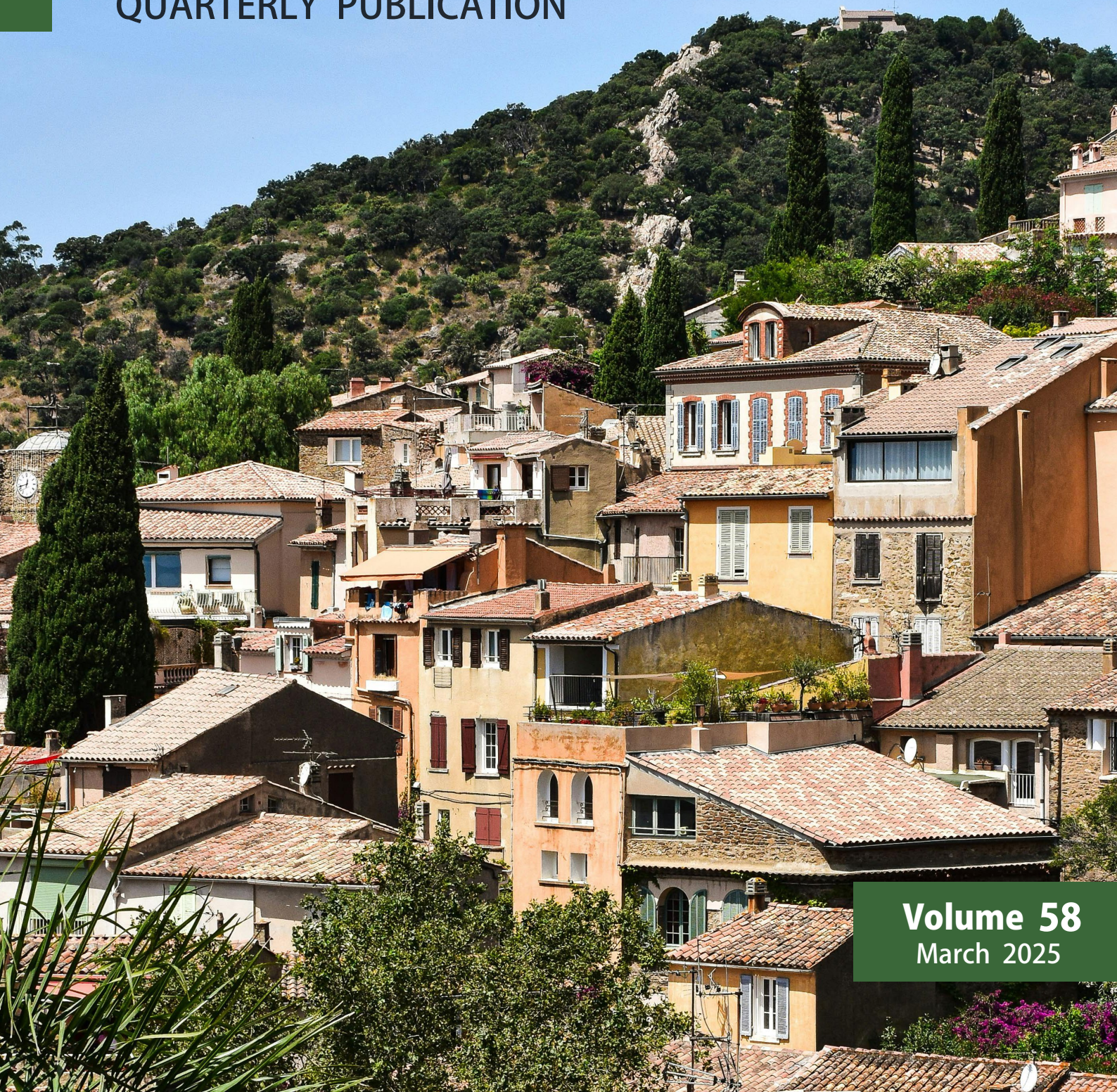
ICOMOS CIAV

International Committee
on Vernacular Architecture

International Council on
Monuments and Sites

CIAV NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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Earth-built heritage resilience in Morocco ©University of Liverpool’s Heritage Institute
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EDITORIAL

Hossam Mahdy

President of CIAV

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Dear colleagues and friends,

Warm greetings from CIAV Bureau and from myself.

The CIAV Web Café series made a great start of the year 2025 by a very interesting talk by CIAV expert member Giamila Quattrone with the title “Supporting Earth-Built Heritage Resilience in Southern Morocco”, which also mentioned Heres, the open access digital construction manual that Giamila and her team co-created with earth building practitioners in M’Hamid Oasis and the Terrachidia project. If you did not manage to attend, the recording will be made available soon on CIAV YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@CIAV-fy6pm>. Many thanks to Giamila and to Marwa, CIAV Vice President, for the wonderful organization and moderation of the event and for all those who actively attended with great interest and enriching interactions. The aim of the CIAV Web Café series is to add a platform for discussions and exchange of ideas and expertise among CIAV members and all colleagues who are interested in the field of built vernacular heritage. Please do participate in CIAV Web Café series by discussions and proposing topics and speakers for future ones.

I would like to urge CIAV Emerging Professionals to take a more active role in our work and activities. As you may know, we are working on amendments to CIAV By-Laws to create four extra CIAV Bureau positions, with a priority for EPs to occupy them. I am delighted to report to you that our discussions with ICOMOS Scientific

Council and ICOMOS Board are going on with the hope to receive the approval for the proposed amendments in the near future. The importance of active EPs cannot be overemphasized to ensure that the work of CIAV will continue in the future and also to bring in CIAV’s activities the ideas, skills and aspirations of the younger generation of CIAV members.

Two main CIAV events took place since the last issue of CIAV Newsletter. CIAV Annual Meeting took place online on 12th January 2025. And Africa24 conference took place in Mombasa, Kenya from 25 to 29 November 2024 at Swahilibothub, which is a local NGO and a grassroots centre working with the youth in Mombasa. The conference was streamed online. I believe it was a great success, with more than 130 participants and many side events, including a meeting of African National Commissions to UNESCO. The opening was made by Ms. Marie-Laure Lavenir, the Director General of ICOMOS International. The Keynote speaker was Ndoro Sebber, former Director General of ICCROM. The Advisory Committee of the conference is reflecting on the experience and is considering Africa24 to be the starting event of regular ICOMOS conferences in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two CIAV EPs were instrumental in the planning and organization of the conference: Tinhinane BACHIR-CHERIF from Algeria and Tsholofelo G. Kenathetswe from Botswana. Warm thanks to both.

During 2025 CIAV is supporting and will participate in two important conferences. Unless

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CIAV Bureau receives an invitation to hold our annual conference and meeting elsewhere, some of us will be attending one or both conferences:

1. Heritage2025 in Valencia, Spain (10 – 12 September 2025) <https://heritage2025.blogs.upv.es/>

This will be the second time that CIAV supports and participates in this series of conferences in Valencia, with great collaboration from CIAV expert members Fernando Vegas and Camilla Mileto.

2. First International Network for Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI) International Conference (25 – 26 October 2025) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2712>

The collaboration with ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Intangible Heritage (ICICH) is progressing with the leadership of Gisle Jakhell and with the great opportunity that Shaoyong, CIAV Vice President, is coordinating to organize the first camp in China. By the time you read this issue of CIAV Newsletter the call for participation would have been circulated for “International Yunlong-ICOMOS Workshop on Tangible and Intangible Culture of Vernacular Heritage 2025” from 11th to 23rd October 2025. The output of the workshop will be showcased and discussed in the UHC-HEI Conference on “Reshaping Heritage Conservation In Higher Education: What, How, For Whom?” As you know, the final aim of the initiative is to produce a

toolkit for documentation of the built vernacular heritage. Any proposals and invitations for the second camp after the China 2025 camp are most welcome.

I would like to draw your attention to an event that is highly relevant and super important for us all: “The 14th Terra World Congress 2026”, which is planned to be held from 13 to 16 April 2026 in Al Ain, UAE. The congress website is already live <http://terraalain2026.ae/> and the call for abstracts is issued. I strongly encourage you to attend this very important event if your circumstances permit. CIAV Bureau is discussing with the Congress Advisory Committee potential presence of CIAV.

I am writing this address from Cairo during the holy month of Ramadan. I wish a happy Ramadan and Eid for CIAV members who are observing the fasting.

With my best wishes.

Yours,

Hossam Mahdy

CIAV President

EDITORIAL

Hossam Mahdy

Presidente del CIAV

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Estimados colegas y amigos,

Les envío un cordial saludo desde la Oficina del CIAV y de mi parte.

El ciclo de Web Cafés del CIAV comenzó el año 2025 con una charla muy interesante a cargo de Giamila Quattrone, miembro experta del CIAV, titulada "Apoyando la resiliencia del patrimonio construido con tierra en el sur de Marruecos". En la charla también se mencionó Heres, el manual de construcción digital de acceso abierto que Giamila y su equipo cocrearon con profesionales de la construcción con tierra en el oasis de M'Hamid y el proyecto Terrachidia. Si no pudieron asistir, la grabación estará disponible próximamente en el canal de YouTube del CIAV: <https://www.youtube.com/@CIAV-fy6pm>. Muchas gracias a Giamila y a Marwa, vicepresidenta del CIAV, por la excelente organización y moderación del evento, y a todos los que asistieron activamente con gran interés y enriquecedoras interacciones. El objetivo del ciclo de Web Cafés del CIAV es crear una plataforma para el debate y el intercambio de ideas y experiencia entre los miembros del CIAV y todos los colegas interesados en el patrimonio vernáculo construido. Les invitamos a participar en el ciclo de Web Cafés del CIAV participando en debates y proponiendo temas y ponentes para futuros ciclos.

Me gustaría instar a los Profesionales Emergentes del CIAV a participar más activamente en nuestro trabajo y actividades. Como ya saben, estamos trabajando en la modificación de los Estatutos del CIAV para crear cuatro puestos adicionales en la

Oficina del CIAV, priorizando a los Profesionales Emergentes para ocuparlos. Me complace informarles que nuestras conversaciones con el Consejo Científico y la Junta Directiva del ICOMOS continúan, con la esperanza de recibir la aprobación de las modificaciones propuestas próximamente. La importancia de los Profesionales Emergentes activos es fundamental para garantizar la continuidad del trabajo del CIAV y para incorporar a sus actividades las ideas, habilidades y aspiraciones de la generación más joven de miembros del CIAV.

Desde la publicación del último boletín informativo del CIAV, se celebraron dos eventos importantes del CIAV. La Reunión Anual de la CIAV se celebró en línea el 12 de enero de 2025. La conferencia África24 se celebró en Mombasa, Kenia, del 25 al 29 de noviembre de 2024 en Swahilibothub, una ONG local y centro de base que trabaja con jóvenes en Mombasa. La conferencia se transmitió en línea. Creo que fue un gran éxito, con más de 130 participantes y numerosos eventos paralelos, incluyendo una reunión de las Comisiones Nacionales Africanas ante la UNESCO. La inauguración estuvo a cargo de la Sra. Marie-Laure Lavenir, Directora General de ICOMOS Internacional. El orador principal fue Ndoro Sebber, ex Director General de ICCROM. El Comité Asesor de la conferencia está reflexionando sobre la experiencia y considera África24 como el evento de inicio de las conferencias regulares de ICOMOS en África Subsahariana. Dos PE de la CIAV fueron fundamentales en la planificación y organización

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de la conferencia: Tinhinane BACHIR-CHERIF, de Argelia, y Tsholofelo G. Kenathetswe, de Botsuana. Nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a ambos.

Durante 2025, el CIAV apoyará y participará en dos importantes congresos. A menos que la Oficina del CIAV reciba una invitación para celebrar nuestro congreso y reunión anual en otro lugar, algunos de nosotros asistiremos a uno o ambos congresos:

1. Heritage2025 en Valencia, España (10-12 de septiembre de 2025) <https://heritage2025.blogs.upv.es/>

Esta será la segunda vez que el CIAV apoya y participa en esta serie de congresos en Valencia, con la destacada colaboración de los expertos del CIAV Fernando Vegas y Camilla Mileto.

2. Primera Conferencia Internacional de la Red Internacional para la Conservación del Patrimonio Urbano-Rural en Instituciones de Educación Superior (UHC-HEI) (25-26 de octubre de 2025) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2712>

La colaboración con el Comité Científico Internacional del ICOMOS sobre Patrimonio Inmaterial (ICICH) avanza con el liderazgo de Gisle Jakhell y la gran oportunidad que Shaoyong, vicepresidente del CIAV, está coordinando para organizar el primer campamento en China. Para cuando lea este número del Boletín del CIAV, se habrá publicado la convocatoria para el "Taller Internacional Yunlong-ICOMOS sobre Cultura Tangible e Intangible del Patrimonio Vernáculo 2025", que se celebrará del 11 al 23 de octubre de 2025. Los resultados del taller se presentarán y debatirán en la Conferencia UHC-HEI sobre "Redefiniendo la Conservación del Patrimonio en la Educación Superior: ¿Qué, cómo, para

quién?". Como saben, el objetivo final de la iniciativa es crear un conjunto de herramientas para la documentación del patrimonio edificado vernáculo. Cualquier propuesta e invitación para el segundo campamento, después del de China 2025, será bienvenida.

Me gustaría llamar su atención sobre un evento de suma relevancia e importancia para todos: el 14.º Congreso Mundial Terra 2026, que se celebrará del 13 al 16 de abril de 2026 en Al Ain, Emiratos Árabes Unidos. El sitio web del congreso ya está disponible (<http://terraalain2026.ae/>) y se ha publicado la convocatoria de resúmenes. Les recomiendo encarecidamente que asistan a este importante evento si sus circunstancias lo permiten. La Oficina de la CIAV está negociando con el Comité Asesor del Congreso la posible presencia de la CIAV.

Les escribo desde El Cairo, durante el mes sagrado del Ramadán. Les deseo un feliz Ramadán y Eid al-Adha a los miembros de la CIAV que están ayunando.

Con mis mejores deseos

Atentamente,

Hossam Mahdy

Presidenta de la CIAV



President's Report 2024

Introduction

This is my first annual report after the election of the CIAV Bureau for the cycle 2024 – 2026. The CIAV Bureau members from the previous cycle were re-elected:

- Mr. Hossam Mahdy, President;
- Ms. Marwa Dabaieh, Vice President;
- Ms Shao Yong, Vice President;
- Mr. Ivan Enev, Secretary General and Membership Manager

1. CIAV annual conferences and meetings

a. Annual conference 2024:

CIAV Bureau has invited seven other ICOMOS ISCs and WGs to work together to organize a conference in Sub-Saharan Africa. The conference was held in Mombasa, Kenya under the name Africa24 at Swahilibothub, which is a local NGO and a grassroots centre working with the youth in Mombasa. The conference was streamed online. I believe it was a great success, with more than 130 participants and many side events, including a meeting of African National Commissions to UNESCO. The opening was made by Ms. Marie-Laure Lavenir, the Director General of ICOMOS International. The Keynote speaker was Nodoro Sebber, former Director General of ICCROM. The Advisory Committee of the conference is still reflecting on the experience and is considering Africa24 as the starting event of regular ICOMOS conferences in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is unfortunate that very few CIAV members have attended Africa24. Accordingly, CIAV Bureau decided not to hold CIAV Annual Meeting at the venue as usual and to hold it later online.

b. Annual conference 2025:

CIAV is supporting and will participate in two important conferences. Unless CIAV Bureau receives an invitation to hold our annual conference and meeting elsewhere, some of us will be attending one or both conferences:

- Heritage2025 in Valencia (10 – 12 September 2025) <https://heritage2025.blogs.upv.es/>
- First International Network for Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI) International Conference (25–26 October 2025) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2712>

CIAV 2025 Annual Meeting will be held online at the end of the year to ensure that as many members as possible could attend and also to follow ICOMOS policy of reducing long distances travels whenever possible.

2. Collaboration with ICOMOS ISCs and WGs

As mentioned earlier, the Africa24 conference was organized in collaboration with seven other ISCs and WGs. The planning went on for more than two years.

Another collaborative initiative is working with ICICH (ISC on intangible heritage) to develop

a toolkit for the documentation of both the tangible as well as the intangible attributes of built vernacular heritage. A working group is established under the leadership of Gisle Jakhell. The work is progressing very well. A documentation camp is tentatively planned to take place in China under the leadership of Shaoyong. The idea is to test methods and approaches by different camps in different geographic and cultural settings. The first camp is expected to take place during the two weeks before the First International Network for Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI) International Conference (25 – 26 October 2025).

Regarding ICOMOS Working Groups:

- Samir Abdulac is CIAV's representative at the Syria/Iraq WG;
- Naima Benkari who was CIAV's representative at the Sustainable Development WG has been appointed as the ICOMOS Focal Point for that WG;
- Deirdre McDermott and Mr. Cernansky are CIAV's representatives at the Climate Action WG.
- CIAV is seeking representatives for the following WGs:
 - Emerging Professionals WG
 - Our Common Dignity - Rights-Based Approach WG
 - WG on Indigenous Heritage

3. Support of ICOMOS TSP and other ICOMOS activities

CIAV will support and align activities with the identified themes by ICOMOS:

CIAV's Vice President Marwa Dabaieh is planning and moderating "CIAV Knowledge Café Series", with a focus on climate change. The last two knowledge cafés focused on the ongoing genocide, urbicide and intentional destruction of cultural heritage that are still going on in Gaza, Palestine for more than one year.

4. CIAV Newsletter

Shaoyong, CIAV Vice President, is the Editor in Chief of CIAV Newsletter. Shaoyong has formed

an editing team of volunteers who are helping her in the planning, design and issued of the Newsletter.

Erin Guerra, CIAV former representative at EPWG (Emerging Professionals Working Group) is the proof-reader for CIAV Newsletter.

All previous issues are available on CIAV website.

All members are encouraged to contribute to the contents of the Newsletter.

5. CIAV visibility

Marwa Dabaieh, CIAV Vice President has created a CIAV YouTube channel and uploaded on it the previous two knowledge cafés that she has planned and moderated.

The bureau would like to call for volunteers to help with developing a strategy, then to implement it for the presence of CIAV in social media platforms and for more accessible means for CIAV's visibility.

6. Adapting to the "new normal"

CIAV Bureau has requested advice and comments from ICOMOS Board the amendments that have been proposed to CIAV By-Laws to enlarge the number of Bureau officers and to invite higher participation from Eps. The amendments propose the creation for four new roles:

a. Membership Officer:

The Membership Officer's role will be to do the bulk of work under the directions of the Membership Manager, including analysis and innovative ideas in encouraging members to be active in CIAV's activities, such as initiating regional WGs.

Priority for this position will be for EPs.

b. Communications Officer

The Communications Officer's role is to plan and implement visibility on social media and communications with other ISCs & WGs for collaboration and coordination on different event, such as the current collaboration on Africa24 Conference initiative with 7 other ISCs

and WGs. S/he should assist the Editor in Chef of the CIAV Newsletter if and when requested. Also reaching out to NCs for possible collaborations and support regarding any built vernacular heritage issues and coordinating with their national CIAV Committees.

Priority for this role will be for EPs.

c. Emerging Professionals Leader:

This role is to represent CIAV at EPWG, manage EP members of CIAV and the introduction of EP's approach and ideas to the Bureau's work in general.

This is an EP role!

d. Events Officer

The Events Officer's role is to organize regular webinars/web cafes, the CIAV Annual Meeting and any other events that CIAV organizes or contributes to. This role will work under the guidance of CIAV Vice President responsible for scientific activities.

Priority for this role will be for EPs.

Once the Bureau finalizes the amendments, invitations will be circulated to CIAV members who wish to stand for elections for the new positions.

7. CIAV membership

Ivan Enev, CIAV Secretary General is the Membership Manager. His annual report includes all activities for the year 2024.

Efforts started as follows:

- Emerging Professionals (EPs) are encouraged to join CIAV and to assume duties and tasks supporting the CIAV Bureau in order to prepare future leaderships for CIAV. Also, mentorship arrangements are under discussion with the relevant taskforce from EPWG for CIAV to test models of mentorship between expert members and emerging colleagues.
- Geographic balance of membership representations in CIAV will be sought by

encouraging memberships from under-represented regions. One of the main objectives of Africa24 conference is to invite colleagues from Africa, as the most under-represented region, to join CIAV.

- Engaging all CIAV members will be sought by inviting and encouraging members to take part in different CIAV activities and discussions and in initiating activities that build on their expertise and knowledge in the field of vernacular heritage.

8. Outreach outside ICOMOS

One of the objectives of the Africa24 Conference is to reach out for relevant African institutions and to work with them on the documentation, conservation, management and presentation of the built vernacular heritage.

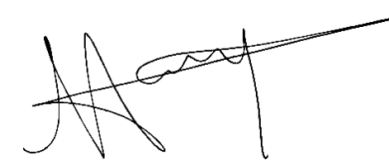
The collaboration with ICOMOS ICICH on developing a toolkit for the documentation of the tangible and intangible attributes of built vernacular heritage is a great opportunity to collaborate with Tongji University, Shanghai, UNESCO category 2 centre WHITRAP and other universities and institutions in China and elsewhere.

Other initiatives to reach out for relevant institutions outside ICOMOS are underway through interested CIAV members.

The annual program of webinars will be used to approach institutions and individuals to contribute and to start discussions on the different aspects of built vernacular heritage and the potential of future collaborations.

Hossam Mahdy, CIAV President

January 01, 2025




Mapping Vernacular Terrains Conference Successfully Held in University of South Australia and University of Adelaide

5–6 December 2024 | Australia

The *Mapping Vernacular Terrains International Conference* took place on 5–6 December 2024 at UniSA's Pridham Hall in Adelaide, co-hosted by the University of South Australia's Vernacular Knowledge Research Group (VKRG) and the University of Adelaide's Centre for Asian and Middle Eastern Architecture (CAMEA). This event marked a significant milestone, as it was the final conference before the upcoming university merger in 2026. It also represented the first VKRG conference in Australia to explore the "vernacular" through a cartographic perspective, shedding light on this underexplored field at a key moment in time. The theme of the conference was inspired by the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World* (2025), edited by Marcel Vellinga from Oxford Brookes University, who also served as a keynote speaker.

The conference invited papers that explored the notion of 'terrains' through cartographic tools to both evaluate and expand the boundaries of vernacular studies. In addition to this, the conference organizers sought to propose a framework for understanding the vernacular

from topographical, philosophical, cultural, and spiritual perspectives, offering new avenues to challenge traditional assumptions about the vernacular.

Papers were grouped into five main themes, each offering different cartographic approaches to examining the vernacular. These themes included *Mapping Time + Traversal*, *Boundaries*, *Currents/Counter-currents*, *Cartographies/Mappings*, and *Ethnographies*. The conference was structured to foster interaction and feedback, with sessions starting at 8:00 am each day to accommodate the 30 selected papers. The schedule also included a grand finale on Day 2, which featured Paul Memmott's Honorary Doctorate ceremony from Oxford Brookes University and a full-day *Ngadjuri* Cultural Tour in Burra on Day 3.

Keynote and Presentations

Professor Abidin Kusno from York University, Toronto, delivered a compelling keynote that explored the intersections of the vernacular with state formation, globalization, and subaltern

survival strategies. Using Indonesia as a case study, Kusno examined *Nusantara* as an ideological framework for building Indonesian architectural knowledge. He also discussed the role of the ocean/sea (*Bahari*) as a site for cross-cultural exchange and how daily life in the *kampung* (village) connects to the broader vernacular narrative.



Figure 1: Professor Abidin Kusno's [York University] Keynote Presentation. Photography courtesy Simon McClure.

Ethnographies Panel

The *Ethnographies* panel began with Ha Minh Hai Thai and Maud Cassaignau's paper, which investigated how mapping can serve as a subjective tool for urban research to better understand the spatial dynamics of diasporic communities in Australia. Muhammad Rizki Ridhatullah, Izziah, Cut Dewi, and Mirza Irwansyah offered an ethnographic cartography of the vernacular buildings in the Gayo highlands of Aceh. Erna Meutia Ramli, Kemas Ridwan Kurniawan, and Yulia Nurliani Lukito examined the social and cultural implications of the *Yub-moh* (underneath space) in Acehnese houses, revealing how its modifications threaten the preservation of this typology. Jacqui Altmann, Akhila Beena Asokan, and Brigitte Benker explored Indigenous and non-Indigenous interpretations of Mundoo Island, South Australia, through drawings and interviews. Another paper with an Acehnese ethnographic focus included an investigation into 17th c. "*Rumoh Aceh*" by Muhammad Naufal Fadhil, Aji Sofiana Putri, and Mush'ab Abdu Asy Syahid, which was read by Nurul Fakriah.

Cartographies and Mappings Panel

Pan Jiang presented a genealogical mapping of vernacular buildings in Luxian, Sichuan, China, offering a new lens for understanding their cultural significance. Natalie Lis explored the relationship between Tibetan monastic

architecture and mandalas, examining the connection between intellectual spaces of meditation and physical space. Madeline Nolan, David Kroll, and Katharine Bartsch discussed how the global shipping trajectories behind colonial woolstore buildings in Port Adelaide reveal important aspects of industrial vernacular. Thana Chirapiwat addressed the ecological conservation challenges in Northern Thailand, proposing a mapping framework for sustainable land-use practices.



Figure 2: L-R Julie Nichols, Susan Avey, Marcel Vellinga in front of the VKRG 'Aceh Method' exhibition. Photography by Simon McClure.

Boundaries Panel

The *Boundaries* panel demonstrated how boundaries in vernacular traditions are often fluid rather than fixed. Pedro D'Alpoim Guedes traced the spread of oyster-shell glazing from Portuguese practices in India to the Philippines. Julie Nichols and Quenten Agius explored the entwined vernaculars of colonial Burra while emphasizing the importance of *Ngadjuri* Nation histories that are often overlooked. Elita Nuraeny and Julie Nichols examined the veranda as a conceptual threshold for the *Betawi* ethnic minority of Jakarta. Tri Angraini Prajawrdhi's paper explored Chinese influences in Balinese spatial planning in the 12th century.

Mapping Time & Traversal Panel

Margaret Allen and Heidi Ing presented an insightful archival exploration of Adelaide's "mobile white settlers" during the 1930s and their 'Tour of the East,' highlighting the colonial power dynamics that paralleled the suffering of First Nations peoples. Bill Pascoe's paper on the Time Layered Culture Map (TLCMap) addressed the violence of the Australia Wars. Mush'ab Abdu Asy Syahid, Muhammad Naufal Fadhil, and Aji Sofiana Putri examined the role of the 19th-century Bazaar in Jakarta as a site

for intellectual engagement and mitigation of colonial power structures. Nurul Fakriah, Julie Nichols, Chris Thornton, and Muhammad Naufal Fadhil discussed how the unique Acehnese village *Meunasah* typology remains overlooked in historical mapping.

Day Two Highlights: Keynote and Currents/Counter-currents Panel

Day 2 began with Professor Marcel Vellinga's keynote, "Vernacular Architecture: Time to Reboot," which discussed the role of digital records and the potential of digital tools to transform the study of vernacular architecture. He highlighted how digital methods are reshaping our understanding of the vernacular and suggested exciting possibilities for future research in this field.

The *Currents/Counter-currents* panel featured David Beynon and Ian Woodcock, who explored diasporic architecture and challenged political assumptions in post-colonial Australia through atypical mapping approaches. Nirodha Kumari Meegahakumbura Dissanayake and colleagues analyzed the mismatched vernaculars in Sri Lanka's *Mahaweli* re-housing project. Anna Leditschke addressed the ethical implications of data management in working with First Nations cultural property in mapping projects.



Figure 3: David and Ian's innovative mappings. Photo Courtesy Simon McClure.

Ethnographies Panel (continued)

On Day 2, Era Nopera Rauzi, Cut Dewi, Muhammad Heru Arie Edyatia, and Julie Nichols revisited the theme of *Ethnographies* by mapping the sources for studying the Acehnese house. Mairi Gunn's presentation on the co-created "Common Room" XR experience with *Māori* Aunties provided an innovative approach to socially engaging remote audiences. Julie Nichols and her colleagues presented their work on co-design methods for community engagement on *Nukunu* Country.

Cartographies/Mappings Panel (continued)

Julie Collins discussed the history of self-help builders' clubs in South Australia and their strategies to address post-war housing shortages. Michael Queale and Susan Avey presented cartographies of South Australian German/Prussian immigrant communities. Joshua Nash explored the linguistic and cultural vernaculars of Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands, focusing on the connection between language and place.

Closing Ceremony and Ngadjuri Cultural Tour

The conference concluded with Paul Memmott's presentation on Austronesian migratory patterns and vernacular structures, followed by the presentation of his Honorary Doctorate from Oxford Brookes University. To close the event, attendees participated in a cultural tour of *Ngadjuri* Country, led by Elder Mr. Quenten Agius, offering a powerful reflection on Australian vernacular terrains.

Conclusion

The *Mapping Vernacular Terrains* conference successfully advanced our understanding of the vernacular through a cartographic lens. By engaging with diverse perspectives on space, place, and cultural expression, the conference underscored the importance of mapping not just physical environments, but also the intangible histories, ideas, and identities embedded in vernacular architecture. The event set the stage for future research that bridges traditional and digital methodologies to explore the evolving nature of vernacular architecture worldwide.



Figure 4: Professor Paul Memmott's Presentation. Photography Courtesy Simon McClure.

News from:
Julie Nichols



Supporting Heritage Resilience: Digitally Aiding the Transmission of Traditional Earth Building Crafts in Southern Morocco

The traditional earth building crafts of Southern Morocco are at risk of extinction. Aridification, migration, dwindling interest in traditional life, changing requirements and shifting aspirations, coupled with over-reliance on modern construction methods and a lack of formal training, are key factors in the relentless loss of traditional earth building know-how and skills.

Traditional earth building craftsmanship has historically enabled the construction, maintenance and repair of ksour (sing. ksar), the fortified settlements that dot Morocco's pre-Saharan regions such as the Middle Draa Valley, of which M'Hamid is the southernmost oasis. Recent work undertaken by a team of researchers from the University of Liverpool's [ArCHIAM Centre](#), led by Dr Giamila Quattrone, addresses the need to go beyond preserving fabrics to safeguard the traditional knowledge, competencies and skills that make their creation and recreation possible. Earth building crafts have been traditionally passed down from generation to generation through word of

mouth and hands-on learning. Nowadays, with the youth migrating to major urban centres after better life prospects and losing interest in traditional lifeways, intergenerational knowledge transfer in rural Morocco must be supported using novel methods.

Taking M'Hamid Oasis as a case study, and focusing on Ksar Ouled Driss, the researchers used digital means and technology-enhanced methods to document and aid knowledge transfer in traditional earth building crafts of Southern Morocco. A unique participatory research approach allowed them to engage with the local community of earth building practitioners in knowledge co-creation and validation activities.

Working with craftsmen in M'Hamid Oasis, Morocco, thanks to a longstanding partnership with Terrachidia and a recently established one with Association Ouled Driss de développement et de préservation de patrimoine matériel et immatériel, the team developed [Heres](#), a digital,

interactive, multimedia construction manual. Aimed to counter the loss of know-how and workmanship, more broadly supporting earth-built heritage resilience in the face of social, economic and climate change, Heres documents the local traditional earth building methods and casts light on the socio-cultural and religious practices associated with their execution as well as the hidden and often-overlooked contribution of women.

During the project, which was funded by the University of Liverpool in 2022-23 and by Research England in 2023-24, the researchers observed and video-recorded practices, sketched and photographed equipment, and gathered information on the four main earth building techniques – mud bricks, rammed earth, tadelakt and mud finishings – including materials and tools involved through in-depth interviews with building masters. The field data were analysed and used to develop Heres as a bilingual – English and Moroccan Arabic – flipbook-type e-publication that can be navigated offline on touch screen devices, thus minimising reliance on internet access. The manual provides step-by-step guidance to each of the construction methods through captioned videos. Three-dimensional animations and pop-up windows illustrate and describe the tools required. A catalogue of key technical details assists the repair of the most common failures in local earth construction, thus helping improve practice and skills and making structures more apt to withstand the test of time, change and natural events. A glossary of terms complements the information provided throughout the manual. At the end of June 2024, community workshops were held with master craftsmen to verify the content of the flipbook and test its technical capabilities.



Interview with master craftsman in mud bricks making, Ksar Ouled Driss, M'Hamid Oasis ©ArCHIAM



Recording of the making of a rammed earth wall and associated equipment, Ksar Ouled Driss, M'Hamid Oasis ©ArCHIAM



Workshop with earth building practitioners, Ksar Ouled Driss, M'Hamid Oasis ©ArCHIAM

Designed having in mind craftsmen, professionals as well as earthen building enthusiasts, Heres is expected to broaden access to knowledge of traditional earthen building of Southern Morocco, support and complement on-site learning, assist the design, execution and repair of earthen architecture, develop and enhance skills as well as revive interest and revitalise crafts.

Heres was presented at the first CIAV webcafe of 2025, on 22nd February, moderated by Vice-President, Dr Marwa Dabaieh. A recording of the session will be uploaded soon to CIAV YouTube channel.



Watch the video about Heres on: <https://vimeo.com/1005459736>

News from:
Giamila Quattrone



Reminder: Yunlong International Workshop on Tangible and Intangible Culture of Vernacular Heritage 2025

Date : 11th - 23rd October 2025

Venue: Yunlong County , Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province & Shanghai, China

Application Deadline :
May 8th , 2025, 23:59 UTC+8

Acceptance announcement: May 30th, 2025

Please send the application materials to:

uhc_ciav@163.com;

tianzhang100258@gmail.com

For More Information:

<https://www.whitr-ap.org/>

Introduction

CIAV-ICICH Working Group (WG) (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture-ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Intangible Heritage) was established in October 2022 through a joint initiative of expert members from the two ICOMOS committees. The principal motivation and overall aim of the group is to contribute to preserving vernacular built heritage for future

generations, and by including the intangible dimension make way for a holistic and balanced approach to cultural heritage as such. More specifically, the group aspires to develop a toolkit/manual for documentation of both the tangible and the intangible elements of cultural heritage when studying and preserving a vernacular heritage site. In the context of World Heritage Sites, a long-term aim of the project is for the tool kit/manual to be used in documentation of OUV (Outstanding Universal Value) and HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment). The Yunlong International Workshop is one of the pilot activities of this joint initiative.

The workshop venue, Yunlong County, located in the western part of Yunnan Province within the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, boasts a rich history spanning over 2,100 years. Historically renowned for its salt production, the county was once home to eight major ancient salt well clusters. The salt was transported to regions such as Tibet, Lijiang, Tengchong, also neighboring countries such as Myanmar and India via the ancient Salt Horse Road, making Yunlong a crucial stop on the Southern Silk Road.

Yunlong is celebrated for its vibrant culture and extensive historical heritage. The county is home to 64 intangible cultural heritage items recognized at the national, provincial, prefectural, and county levels. Notable cultural expressions include the "Erzi Song", "Chuichuiqiang" and "Ligegao" which vividly reflect the unique mountain Bai ethnic culture. Additionally, Yunlong hosts three national key cultural protection units: the "Nuodeng Bai Ethnic Vernacular Architecture Group", the "Bijiang Ancient Bridges Group" and the "Shundang Cremation Tombs Group". The county is also honored with titles such as "Hometown of Chinese Chuichuiqiang Art" and "World Museum of Ancient Bridge Art".

This workshop is a pre-activity of the International Conference "RESHAPING HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: WHAT, HOW, FOR WHOM?", which will be held on 25-27 October in Shanghai, and as the 1st conference of International Network for Urban-rural Heritage Conservation in Higher Education Institutions (UHC-HEI). Established in 2023 by the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) at Tongji University and WHITR-AP Shanghai, UHC-HEI aims to reshape educational practices and contribute to the global dialogue on the role of heritage in development processes, particularly within the contexts of culture, education, and development.



More information for the conference:

<https://www.whitr-ap.org/index.php?mod=news&classid=1461&newsid=3719&t=show>

Expected Outcomes

Participants are expected to :

- Have the opportunity to work with 10 experts from ICOMOS CIAV-ICICH, Tongji University, and other cultural heritage

institutions, to explore the concepts and methods of documentation and research of vernacular heritage and intangible cultural heritage;

- Have the opportunity to learn about Yunlong's rich and diverse natural and cultural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including vernacular architecture, traditional handicrafts, cuisine and so on;
- Have the opportunity to attend 1st International Conference "RESHAPING HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: WHAT, HOW, FOR WHOM?" from October 25th to 27th, 2025;
- Receive the certificate of completion of the workshop jointly issued by the organizers.

Application

Please send the following application materials to uhc_ciav@163.com; tianzhang100258@gmail.com :

- Your CV;
- A statement of interest: please explain why you are applying for this workshop. Please describe the connection between tangible and intangible cultural heritage and their documentation (maximum 1000 English words or 500 Chinese characters);
- Previous experience in similar workshops;
- 1-3 achievements in mapping and documenting built heritage or intangible cultural heritage (included drawings, videos and other forms).

Host: Tongji University, China; World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the Auspices of UNESCO (WHITR-AP); International Committee for Vernacular Architecture, ICOMOS (ICOMOS-CIAV) ; International Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS (ICOMOS-ICICH); ICOMOS China

Organizers: World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the Auspices of UNESCO, Shanghai Center (WHITR-AP Shanghai); College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University; Tongji-Dali Heritage Conservation and Cultural Innovation Institute; Yunlong County, Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province

Supporters and Sponsors: Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute Co., LTD ; National Foreign Expert Program (Category H); Tongji University Key Foreign Expert Recruitment Program 2025 ; Tongji University Europe-America International Student Summer School Program

News from:

SHAQ Yong

Hala Asslan, Winner of Tamayouz Excellence Award for Women in Architecture and Construction for 2024 as the best architect in Near East and North Africa

Tamayouz Excellence Award is proud to announce the 2024 Women in Architecture and Construction Award winners, celebrating the exceptional contributions of women in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. As part of the broader Tamayouz Excellence Award programme, this prestigious recognition highlights leadership, innovation, and public service. The awards are divided into two categories: The Rising Star category, which honours emerging talents, and the Women of Outstanding Achievement category, which recognises established leaders making a significant and lasting impact in the field.

Dr. Hala Asslan, ICOMOS-CIAV Member, Architect and Academic, Syria, becomes the winner of Rising Star Category. "Winning the award is not only a privilege for me at a personal level, but it is also an affirmation of the role of Syrian women in the process of rebuilding our country after the devastation that befell it over more than 14 years, in addition to highlighting the damaged cultural heritage in Syria and the Arab region in the Near East and North Africa emphasize the role of women and young women in advancing society and playing a positive role in shaping it after a long period of turmoil." Hala Asslan mentioned.

Jury Comment

Dr. Hala Asslan is recognised for her exceptional work in heritage preservation, particularly in rehabilitating conflict-affected sites like Aleppo. Her extensive experience with international organisations such as the UN and ICOMOS and her strong profile position her as a key figure in architectural conservation. The jury is impressed by her dedication to preserving Syrian heritage and would love to see her expertise culminate in a comprehensive book or article on the rehabilitation of Syrian sites since 2011—a much-needed resource for the field.



MEET Hala Asslan

This interview features Dr Hala Asslan, a Syrian architect and researcher who is an expert in heritage preservation. Her career has been dedicated to protecting cultural sites, particularly in conflict zones. She holds a PhD from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and has worked with international bodies such as ICOMOS and the United Nations Development Programme.

Here, Dr Hala Asslan will discuss her work in heritage preservation in conflict zones, particularly in Syria, addressing the challenges of post-conflict restoration, the impact of her projects on communities, her collaboration with international organisations, and her strategies for engaging local populations, while also sharing insights for young professionals in architecture.

Could you give us a brief introduction to yourself and your work?

As a Syrian academic, I specialize in the rehabilitation of historical Islamic buildings. My work, fueled by a deep passion for preserving Syrian cultural heritage, particularly in the aftermath of war-induced destruction, has made a significant impact. I've been fortunate to contribute to various rehabilitation projects and share my insights at international conferences in the Middle East and Europe, inspiring hope for the future of our cultural heritage.

JCI has recognised my work as a TOYP (Top Ten Young People) winner for Leadership and Academic Achievement, and the Arab Archaeologists Union has recognised my scientific excellence. As founder and CEO of al-Turath Studio, I've managed key rehabilitation projects, such as Souq Al-Maqbi in Deir Ez-Zor, and served as a consulting architect on the restoration of Souq Al-Saqatiyya in Aleppo, which won the ICCROM-Sharjah International Award for Best Practices in Cultural Heritage.

Throughout my career, I've focused on safeguarding Syria's cultural heritage while empowering local communities and promoting the role of women in the reconstruction phase.

Tell us more about your current role and key responsibilities.

Currently, I lecture at the Syrian Virtual University, where I teach master's students and supervise postgraduate theses, particularly in Building Information Modelling (BIM). My focus is on introducing and promoting HBIM (Historic Building Information Modelling) as a crucial tool for Syria's post-war reconstruction, ensuring future architects are equipped with modern,

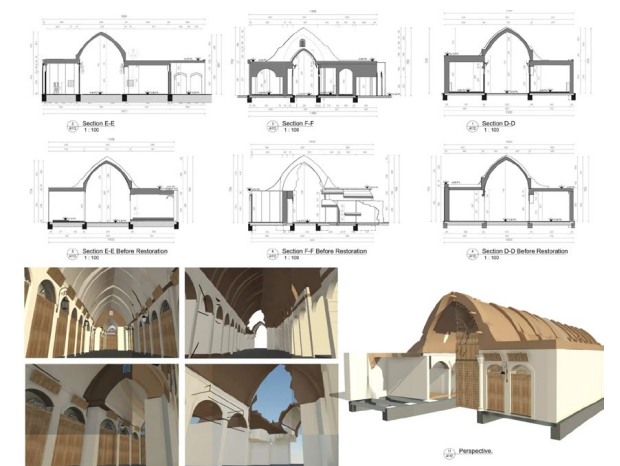
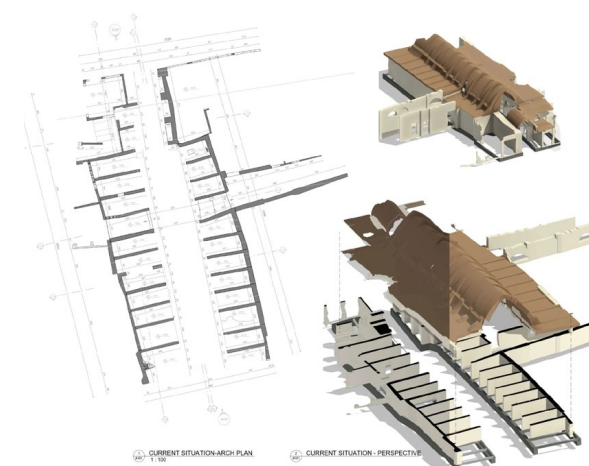
efficient methods for heritage conservation. I also contribute as a member of the BIM Arabia Journal of Engineering Sciences editorial board.

As a consultant architect for the Syrian Engineers Syndicate, I oversee numerous architectural restoration projects. I am the Executive Director of al-Turath Office for Syrian Cultural Heritage, leading restoration projects for sites like the Sultan Ibrahim Adham Mosque and the Church of Our Lady in Latakia. In this capacity, I manage teams, coordinate with local authorities, and ensure the use of authentic materials and techniques to preserve the historical integrity of these buildings.

In my work with ICOMOS, I act as a consulting expert on World Heritage Sites, providing evaluations on the "Outstanding Universal Value" of nominated properties. I am also an active member of the Vernacular Architecture and Historic Towns and Villages committees, offering expertise on cultural heritage preservation across various regions.

As the Project Manager for the UNDP rehabilitation of Souq Al-Maqbi in Deir Ez-Zor, I am responsible for leading the entire rehabilitation process, from conducting historical and social studies to developing 2D and 3D architectural plans, preparing financial BOQs, and ensuring full cooperation with local authorities. I also coordinate the project's timeline, manage resources, and ensure the implementation of modern technologies alongside traditional methods.

In all my roles, I strive to blend modern conservation practices with traditional methods, ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage while meeting contemporary needs.



Your work on post-conflict heritage preservation is highly recognised. How do you approach the challenges of these restoration projects, and how do you measure their long-term success in architectural preservation and community revival? Can you also share a project that has had a lasting impact on the community?

Post-conflict restoration is a complex task that requires not only architectural rehabilitation but also social and economic revival. One of the most significant projects I led was the rehabilitation of Souq Al-Saqatiyya in Aleppo. This market, part of a network of historical souks, was moderately damaged during the war. The project was a pilot for post-war recovery in Aleppo, and it involved a collaborative, bottom-up approach, ensuring that historical accuracy was maintained using original materials and traditional building techniques.

Architecturally, we restored the tangible elements—the structures and designs that reflect the souk’s historical value. However, the project’s long-term success cannot be solely measured by the physical restoration. The socio-economic revival of the market has been slow. Many shopkeepers and business owners have not returned due to financial constraints or the broader destruction of surrounding neighbourhoods. The souk has lost

a considerable portion of its clientele, such as tourists and residents from nearby towns.

That said, Souq Al-Saqatiyya has gained a new symbolic significance, becoming a representation of hope and resilience; as the first market was restored after the conflict, it set an example for future restoration projects in Aleppo. This pilot project highlighted the challenges of revitalising a historical commercial zone within a more extensive recovery process.

The societal impact was notable. The restoration received positive public responses, with many viewing it as a first step in the broader recovery of the Old City. The restoration of the souk also encouraged more projects to follow, building momentum for the restoration of Aleppo’s commercial heart.

Ultimately, such projects’ long-term success depends on architectural preservation and community revival. While restoring the market’s historical essence was crucial, the efforts to bring back economic activity, foster a sense of belonging, and re-establish the souk as a vibrant social hub are equally important. Integrating modern infrastructure, such as energy-efficient systems, with preserving historical aesthetics ensured that the market is adaptable for contemporary use while maintaining its heritage.

We have also been using Historic Building Information Modelling (HBIM) and digital mapping tools to document the changes and assess the impact of these restoration efforts. This technology preserves the site’s history and is valuable for ongoing monitoring and future conservation projects.

How do you balance academic research with on-the-ground conservation work?

Balancing academic research with on-the-ground conservation is challenging and rewarding. These two aspects complement each other: Research provides the theoretical framework, while practical work refines and enhances academic understanding.

Since 2018, I’ve focused on vernacular architecture and mud buildings in northern Syria, presenting my research at various international conferences, such as the University of Valencia in 2022 and Malmo University in 2021. My academic work at the Syrian Virtual University, particularly in supervising theses on Historic Building

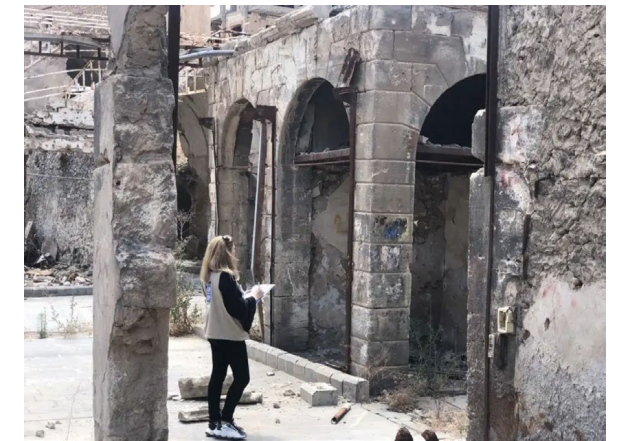


Information Modelling (HBIM), has played a vital role in projects like rehabilitating Deir ez-Zor’s historic markets.

In Deir ez-Zor, my project focused on reviving traditional building styles that were on the verge of extinction, particularly mud structures, which are highly sustainable. The project included restoring “Nawamir” techniques for manufacturing white and black plaster, preserving a craft that has existed for over 5,000 years. This approach helped protect the heritage and created job opportunities for local artisans.

Additionally, we studied the site’s impact on the Euphrates River and climate change. This research allowed us to identify structural vulnerabilities and develop targeted rehabilitation strategies. Combining traditional craftsmanship with modern HBIM tools provided a comprehensive, sustainable method for preserving the site’s historical and environmental integrity.

Public engagement is a critical component of heritage preservation. What strategies have you found most effective in mobilising local communities to participate in conservation



efforts, and how do you measure the success of these initiatives?

Engaging local communities is essential for the long-term success of heritage preservation. Effective strategies ensure the local population feels a sense of ownership and responsibility toward their cultural heritage. Over the years, I have found several approaches that successfully mobilise communities and create lasting impacts:

- Inclusive community outreach: Reaching out to diverse groups, including residents, businesses, schools, and community organisations, is key to building trust. Listening to their concerns and incorporating their input strengthens their commitment to the project.
- Participatory planning: Involving the community in decision-making through workshops, surveys, and focus groups ensures preservation efforts align with local priorities and values.
- Collaborative partnerships: Partnering with local governments, non-profits, and



2016

Souk al-Saqatiyya

2019

- businesses brings invaluable resources and expertise, enhancing the scope and sustainability of the efforts.
- Storytelling and education: Raising awareness about the cultural significance of heritage sites through tours, lectures, exhibitions, and workshops helps foster a deeper connection to the heritage and encourages community ownership.
- Volunteer opportunities: Offering hands-on opportunities, such as restoration projects or community clean-ups, empowers residents to participate actively in the preservation process.
- Social media campaigns: Using online platforms to raise awareness, provide updates, and invite community members to share their stories and photos enhances engagement and visibility.

To measure the success of these initiatives, I rely on the following metrics:

- Community engagement: Monitoring the number of event participants, volunteer activities, and social media interactions.
- Preservation outcomes: Assessing the completion rate of restoration projects and whether preservation goals are met.
- Economic impact: Evaluating growth in

tourism, job creation, and the revitalisation of local businesses.

- Community perception: Conducting surveys to assess public attitudes towards preservation efforts and satisfaction with the results.
- Partnership effectiveness: Reviewing the strength and contributions of collaborations with local stakeholders and organisations.

By applying these strategies and measuring their outcomes, we can ensure that community-driven heritage preservation efforts are impactful and sustainable.

What are you most excited about pursuing in the next few years?

I'm eager to pursue several projects aiming to balance academic and professional roles despite the challenges posed by the war. My primary goals include advancing research on cultural heritage preservation and developing strategies for protection, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on World Heritage Sites.

One key project is documenting the damaged inscriptions and blazons in Aleppo's Old City, dating back to the Ayyubid, Mamluk, and Ottoman eras. This involves collecting plans, photos, and historical drawings, assessing post-conflict damage, and establishing a foundation

for future restoration efforts. The findings will be published for academic and educational use.

Another project involves completing my research on mud architecture in northern Syria and exploring its potential for sustainable tourism development. Using HBIM tools, I will create a comprehensive reference for researchers, available online and in print.

Lastly, I plan to develop a social media programme that introduces the region's architectural heritage through oral narratives, engaging young people and challenging traditional stereotypes of heritage promotion.

Can you share a challenge you overcame that highlights your persistence?

In our daily work, we encounter numerous professional challenges, especially when working amidst war and its aftermath. Traveling between Syrian governorates poses a direct threat to our lives. As a working woman, I also face unique challenges. Balancing the roles of wife, homemaker, and mother to three young men studying medicine in a war-torn country has been incredibly difficult. Raising and educating them amid poor security and limited resources was a daunting task. However, I always strived to instill in them a love for their homeland and to nurture hope for a better future. Despite the long nights of anxiety and fear, I am immensely proud to see my children on the path to becoming successful doctors and contributing to the rebuilding of a better Syria.

News from:

Hala Asslan

[TAMAYOUZ ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD 2024 | Tamayouz Excellence Award](#)

[MEET OUR FINALISTS: WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION 2024 – DR HALA ASSLAN - Tamayouz Excellence Award](#)



Hamdy EL-Setouhy, For Humanity: A Narrative of a Journey Recognition

This article presents a retrospective on key accomplishments from the past year, building upon the foundation of prior years' efforts. These successes are attributable to the contributions of my team and the unwavering support of various communities and organizations, detailed below. 2024 yielded significant local and international achievements, encompassing awards, projects, and positions, all unified by a common thread: humanity. I recall my first competition, where, despite not winning, I maintained a positive perspective while my colleagues experienced frustration. I viewed awards and recognition as blessings with predetermined timing, emphasizing the importance of consistent, dedicated effort.

2024 marked the culmination of years of dedicated effort and achievement, resulting in significant personal success. This accomplishment is a testament to the collective vision and tireless work of everyone involved.

This article highlights three key achievements this year: winning the State Award for Excellence in the Arts; receiving the ICOMOS Cultural/Natural Heritage Award; and being appointed Assistant to the Minister of Culture for cultural and artistic projects, concurrently leading the Cultural Development Fund.

1. The State Award for Excellence

The Arab Republic of Egypt bestows state honors upon distinguished individuals across diverse creative fields. These awards, presented in arts, literature, and social sciences, serve to promote excellence. This year, I received the award in the arts category, following submission of works encompassing three key pillars:

Firstly, EGY-ARCH book:

The inaugural edition of *EGY-Arch*, published by Universal Publisher & Distributor in Lebanon, showcases around thirty significant architectural



Figure 1 : Arch. Hamdy EL-Setouhy

projects completed between 2000 and 2020. The publication also features analyses of prominent architectural competitions held during this period and a tribute to the esteemed architect Ahmed Mito, whose substantial contributions and untimely passing in 2015 at the age of 59 deeply impacted the field.

Secondly, the Abu Simbel 50 Campaign:

I established this initiative with colleagues to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Abu Simbel temples' rescue, a pivotal event in the creation of the World Heritage Convention. Since its inception, we have conducted numerous cultural and educational programs, including international seminars, workshops, and exhibitions, while simultaneously compiling and documenting the rescue operation.

The campaign has significantly impacted various

cultural sectors -music, art, and development- and most importantly, has demonstrably benefited the Abu Simbel community.

The campaign prioritized a knowledge-based approach to highlight the multifaceted value of the temple relocation project and underscore the pivotal role of human solidarity in its success. Key initiatives included introductory seminars, cultural and artistic programs such as the "Abu Simbel in the Eyes of Artists" symposium, and extensive media coverage through various newspapers and magazines, complemented by commemorative events. Equally important was recognizing the contributions of all participants and ensuring the long-term preservation of the monument itself.

The Abu Simbel events significantly fostered a community-engaged, visitor-interactive developmental knowledge movement.



Figure 2 : Simulation of lifting the face of King Ramses

Thirdly, Honors and Awards:

My architectural and cultural contributions have garnered recognition from numerous local and international organizations, signifying their appreciation for my sustained body of work. Guided by the principle that architecture transcends mere construction and embodies expressive philosophy, I have received several awards that reflect this commitment. My projects have showcased innovative ideas and philosophies, leading to the receipt of numerous local and international accolades, including:

2017 | Award of the Academy of Scientific Research in Architecture and Urban Planning (Dr. Abdel Baqi Ibrahim Award).

2010 | Nominated for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2008-2010 session)



Figure 3 : The State Award for Excellence

2018 | Winning the first prize of the African Union of Architects (AUA) in the cultural and artistic projects category.

2018 | Selected on the final list for the Arab Architects Award.

2019 | Winning the first prize for the Human Heritage Award in the Mediterranean, organized by Habitat World.

2019 | Winning the second prize in the first category of the Baku Award organized by the International Union of Architects.

2022 | Selected on the final list for the Arab Architects Award.

2022 | Nomination for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2020-2022 cycle)

2024 | Winning the State Award for Excellence in the Arts

2024 | Winning the ICOMOS Natural/Cultural Heritage Award



Figure 4 : The first prize of the "Mediterranean Heritage of Humanity" award

Fourthly, The Al-Nazlah Revival Project:

The project garnered international and local acclaim, achieving second prize in the first category of the International Union of Architects' Baku Prize. Furthermore, in 2019, it was selected as one of the world's 40 best projects at the Barbara Biennale in Italy and shortlisted for the Arab Architects Awards 2022. It is also a nominee for the current Aga Khan Award for Architecture. In an unprecedented achievement, the project has been added to the register of valuable buildings, representing the youngest structure

to receive this designation in Egypt, having been completed only four years ago.

Fifthly, Cultural/Artistic Activity:

Recognizing the interconnectedness and dynamic interplay of various artistic disciplines, my multifaceted cultural and artistic endeavors have explored the expression of identity through diverse art forms. These activities have showcased integrated artistic visions and fostered learning through direct engagement



Figure 5 : Al-Nazlah Revival Project

with artists. This work comprised two key initiatives: the Balance Group experiment and a series of cultural evenings honoring creators across diverse artistic fields.

1- The Balance Group experiment:

The Balance Group consists of 4 clarinet players and a percussionist, in addition to myself, being responsible for the directorial vision and live performance.

This initiative centers on providing an interactive journey into the musical composition, allowing the audience to experience the composer's intent and the work's emotional context, thus fostering a deeper appreciation by integrating the visual and auditory elements.

I develop the artistic vision for our concerts, creating and presenting live visual shows synchronized with the music, in which I perform. Furthermore, I contribute to the conceptualization of new works specifically commissioned or adapted for the ensemble.

Founded in 2010, the ensemble has performed extensively at prestigious venues including the Egyptian Opera House, the Egyptian Academy in Rome, the Cairo Creativity Center, and EL-Horrreya Centre for Creativity in Alexandria.



Figure 6 : The Balance Group experiment

2- The initiative to revitalize icons of creative talents:

This series showcases a diverse range of established artists across various disciplines. The unconventional programs are unified by a cohesive artistic vision, exemplified by:

Salah Jahin:

Celebrating the anniversary of Salah Jahin's birth, this program presents a journey through his poetry, illuminating our shared human experience. Poetry recitation by director Abeer Lotfy, and featuring architectural interpretations by Hamdy EL-Setouhy, the evening offers a unique blend of poetic recitation and visual art.



Figure 7 : Celebrating the anniversary of Salah Jahin's birth

Youssef Chahine:

In collaboration with the Cultural Development Fund, we commemorated the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the passing of renowned international director Youssef Chahine. The first tribute took place in 2018 at Al Hanager Cinema, and the second in 2023 at Cairo's Artistic Creativity Center.

Abu Bakr Khairat:

In 2017, the Conservatory Institute, in collaboration with the Architecture, Music, Ballet, and Choral Committees of the Supreme Council of Culture, commemorated the 107th birthday of architect and composer Abu Bakr Khairat, the originator of the Academy of Arts concept.



Figure 8 : The Balance Group experiment



Figure 9 : The tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the passing of renowned international director Youssef Chahine

Tharwat Okasha:

In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, we commemorated the centennial of Dr. Tharwat Okasha, Egypt's inaugural Minister of Culture. The event took place in 2021 at Cairo's Artistic Creativity Center.

Ahmed Othman:

In 2020, the Alexandria Museum of Fine Arts commemorated the 50th anniversary of the passing of Dr. Ahmed Othman, founder of the Alexandria Faculty of Fine Arts and visionary behind the preservation of the Abu Simbel temples through a complex process of dismantling, relocation, and reconstruction.

Hussein Bikar:

In 2018, Al-Hanager Cinema in Cairo hosted a celebratory evening marking the 105th birthday of plastic artist Hussein Bikar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture's Cultural Development Fund.

Aziz Al-Shawan:

Celebrating the 99th birthday of the musician Aziz Al-Shawan, in cooperation with the Egyptian Opera House of the Ministry of Culture, the evening was held in 2015 at the Cairo Opera House.

2. Natural/Cultural Heritage Award from ICOMOS

The ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize is awarded in 2024 in order to acknowledge and reward



Figure 10 : Celebrating the 99th birthday of the musician Aziz Al-Shawan

remarkable initiatives recognising and promoting the interconnections between cultural and natural heritage. The Prize is bestowed to a project currently under implementation, which makes a significant contribution to understanding culture-nature connections in the heritage field in an innovative and effective way.

The project I proposed aims to link tangible and intangible heritage with nature, relying on a distinctive methodology, which can be summed up in developing a vision that has a network through which small projects and cultural activities are implemented, Through hands on preservation of surrounding landscape.

A cultural development nucleus is produced that allows the local community to participate effectively in all steps, under the name of democratic development planning.

I submitted a project holding two integrated training workshops:

1- Training on conservation and preservation region's cultural heritage, on heritage construction method, and historical pottery manufacturing method. The workshop product will be part of the landscape, contain a platform that links the agricultural area with the potters' area.

2-Training on growing the rare (moon flower) plant that the area is historically characterized by, and how to extract oils from it and develop agricultural methods and preserve it from extinction.

Then implementing an experimental agricultural area to grow the rare (moon flower) plant,

adjacent to the landscape part implemented in item.

The award's success is primarily attributable to the project's prioritization of humanity, its societal origins, and its significant contributions to societal value.

3. Assignment to the position of Assistant Minister of Culture

I have extensively considered the multifaceted nature of "culture" and the significant responsibilities inherent in its stewardship. Culture is intrinsically linked to and dynamically interacts with society, serving as a powerful expression of societal identity. Its well-being is directly correlated to societal well-being; conversely, its neglect diminishes societal value. My appointment as Assistant Minister of Culture for Cultural and Artistic Projects, and head of the Cultural Development Fund, presents a significant challenge. Can I effectively collaborate with colleagues to advance cultural development and ensure that societal benefit is prioritized, thereby maximizing culture's positive impact? This understanding underscores my profound sense of responsibility toward both culture and society.

In conclusion, I can wrap up this article by shedding light on my dream which has come true. Cultural preservation, architectural integrity, and dedicated heritage campaigns crucially have been all anchors of humanity's prosperity. This was my main aim and from which the breakdown of projects, initiatives, events and agendas have stemmed, looking up to the overall well-being of humanity. These anchors foster a sense of identity and belonging, enriching communities and promoting social cohesion. Protecting historical structures and cultural practices provides valuable insights into the past, informing present actions and future development. By understanding our shared heritage, we can cultivate empathy and respect for diverse perspectives, fostering global understanding. Investing in these areas contributes significantly to a more vibrant, resilient, and interconnected world.

News from:

Hamdy EL-Setouhy



Figure 11 : Natural/Cultural Heritage Award from ICOMOS



EWAP Conference and “Knowing the Vernacular” Conference Successfully Held at Oxford Brookes University

25-27 October 2024 | Oxford, UK

EWAP Conference

On Friday the 25 October 2024 the Endangered Wooden Architecture Programme (EWAP) hosted a day event to highlight and to celebrate many of the projects it has funded. The event brought together many EWAP grantees and also other participants interested in wooden architecture. Focused on EWAPs open access database, the day was packed full of interesting presentations and concentrated on three themes: the scope and nature of endangerment of the world's wooden architectural heritage; issues of ethics and community engagement; and the merits and limits of various recording techniques.

Prof Marcel Vellinga, the Director of EWAP and Dr Arthur Dudley from Arcadia launched the day welcoming everyone and highlighting the aims of EWAP and Arcadia. The first session of the day was chaired by EWAP Advisory Board member

Prof Trevor Marchand. Three presenters discussed the nature and scale of the endangered wooden buildings they are working on. Dr Ayako Fujieda, Kyoto Seika University gave a presentation on "The Cultural Significance and Conservation of Traditional Wooden Architecture in Fiji". This paper highlighted the diversity and unique qualities of the village structures and the link with resource availability and the local environment. The second talk explored "Documenting the Heritage Churches of Chiloé" and was presented by Dr Berni Devilat and her team from the University of Nottingham, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Chile and Fundación Iglesias Patrimoniales de Chiloé. Here they presented the techniques they have used to digitally document these buildings to provide a virtual platform for future conservation. The final talk in this session was on "Poverty as Medium of Preserving Traditional Knowledge of Urhobo Vernacular Architecture" by Emily Akpomedaye, Akpo re Ufuoma Development Initiative. This



Emily Akpomedaye (c) EWAP, 2024



Farida Ghaffar (c) EWAP, 2024

talk highlighted how poverty is contributing to the continuation of traditional building methods whilst those who can afford it are building and moving into more modern and durable houses.

The second session explored the cultural context of wooden buildings more specifically and was chaired by EWAP advisory Board member Prof Jorge Tomasi. The first talk by Prof Magda Minguzzi and Lucy Vosloo, Nelson Mandela University, explored an "Indigenous Methodology in Working with the First Indigenous Peoples of South Africa", in Baviaanskloof. Their talk focused on the benefits of creating a strong relationship with and receiving involvement from the First Indigenous Leaders and community members in the process of their investigation. Prof Jigna Desai and Saatvika Pancholi, from the CEPT Research and Development Foundation, led the next talk on "Reconsidering the term 'Vernacular'

in the context of Wooden Havelis of Gujarat", exploring their cultural context.

The next talk by Prof Akemi Hijioka, Federal Institute of São Paulo Registro Campus with her team discussed the houses of Japanese immigrants in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil. They explained that by visiting and hearing from the maroon communities in the region and master carpenters from Nagano (Japan), they were able to gain a deeper understanding of the material sourcing, construction processes and the tools used to build the residences. Prof Anila Naeem and Dr Farida Ghaffar, NED University of Engineering and Technology, took us to Pakistan to look at the "Last Surviving Cluster of Indus Houseboats of Mohanna's floating village", located in Manchar Lake. Through an ethnographic approach of community interactive documentation, including interviews of the local



Q&A session (c) EWAP, 2024



Yulia Nurliani Lukito (c) EWAP, 2024

community, the project gained valuable insights on the past grandeur and painful realities of their current struggles.

The final session explored how projects have been recording wooden architecture and was chaired by Elizabeth Lee, CyArk. For the first talk Carlos Castillo Levicoy, Corporación Memoria Austral, presented the analysis and understanding of vernacular constructive forms and the inhabitation of the territory of Aysén in Chile. Here he focused on how technology and a trans disciplinary approach is helping to provide a rich record of these buildings. Dr Yulia Nurliani Lukito, Universitas Indonesia, led the following talk on "Documenting Vernacular Architecture of Wae Rebo Village, Manggarai, Indonesia: Using 3D Scanning Technologies for Preservation". This talk explored the potential of 3D recording technologies, specifically image-based photogrammetry and UAV photogrammetry, in documenting and preserving Wae Rebo's vernacular architecture.

Next Tubi Otitooluwa, Associate Director of James Cubitt Architects, discussed the Implementation of "Building Smart Data Dictionary" for Wooden Heritage Buildings, highlighting the need for a data dictionary specific for heritage wooden buildings that standardizes and reports pre-defined object attributes. The final talk of the session was from Dr Hrvoje Tomic, University of Zagreb on the challenges of documenting



Tubi Otitooluwa (c) EWAP, 2024



Carlos Castillo Levicoy (c) EWAP, 2024

traditional wooden architecture in the Banovina/ Banija, Pokuplje, and Posavina regions (Croatia). Here they discussed some of the challenges in recording endangered buildings and how they adapted technological methodologies for better efficiency and coverage.

The event was a unique opportunity for many EWAP grant holders to come together, meet one another, exchange knowledge and even plan future collaborations. Overall, the event was a huge success, with presentations that focused on some rare architectural heritage and the communities who own it, along with lively Q&A sessions and conversations in the breaks.

"Knowing the Vernacular" Conference

On October 26-27, 2024, the "Knowing the Vernacular: Critical Reflections and Future Directions" conference brought together a group of international experts, academics, and practitioners at the John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University. Convened by Marcel Vellinga, Professor of Anthropology of Architecture from Oxford Brookes, the conference explored vernacular architecture's role in preserving cultural identity, fostering community, and inspiring future sustainable design.

Speaking about the conference, Marcel commented, "The conference provided a great opportunity to have a conversation across generations and disciplines, to see what we already know about the subject, what else there is to know, and who else, outside of academia and the architectural profession, knows about it".

Vernacular architecture refers to traditional, locally specific building forms that have been crafted without the involvement of formal architects. Rooted in community, place, and cultural heritage, these architectural styles embody generations of practical knowledge and

sustainable building techniques. This conference, part of the British Academy Conferences series, examined the pressing need to reassess our understanding of vernacular architecture, especially considering modern sustainability goals and the impacts of globalisation.

Speakers included leading scholars such as Professor Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen), Dr Charmaine 'Ilaiu Talei (University of Auckland), and Yasmeen Lari (Pakistan Heritage Foundation), each bringing perspectives that spanned cultural and geographical contexts. Topics ranged from the preservation of regional architectural heritage to modern applications of vernacular knowledge in urban settings. Notable discussions also emphasised the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation and climate change, which threaten traditional building techniques and materials.

An exhibition showcased the contents of the unique Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Library collection housed in the Oxford Brookes University Library. The collection contains images, notebooks, correspondence, books, drawings and other materials collected by Paul Oliver MBE over a period of more than five decades.

News from:

Marcel Vellinga

<https://ewap-brookes.blogspot.com/2024/11/ewap-conference-25-october-2024.html>

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/news/news-from-2024/11/reflecting-on-the-vernacular>

Recommended Book

ARCHITETTURA RURALE LA MEMORIA DEL PAESE



**Beatrice Messeri
Marta Casanova
Valentina Cinieri
Federica Pompejano
Maria Vitiello**

The International Conference on “Rural Architecture. The Memory of the Country,” promoted by the National Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture, established within the Italian National Committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), was held remotely from May 21 to 22, 2022. This conference is part of a series of scientific meetings aimed at fostering international interdisciplinary dialogue, necessary to meet the continuous updating needs of academics, technicians, experts, and specialists in the conservation of cultural heritage and landscapes.

The contributions collected in the volume “Rural Architecture - the Memory of the Country”, edited by Beatrice Messeri, testify to the comparison of experiences and disciplines – ranging from anthropology to geomatics, from restoration theory and philosophy to archaeology, from construction techniques to satellite monitoring of georeferenced sites, and planned maintenance and integrated management actions.

The presentations by numerous speakers illustrated developments in research in the field of rural architecture, strictly relating it to the context in which it was created. Vernacular

architecture demonstrates, through its construction skills, the traditional knowledge of local communities, highlighting the best use of available materials, showcasing the capabilities and creativity in utilizing local materials, sometimes extremely simple and modest, but executed with profound competence and expertise.

Interesting suggestions and tools emerged in various sections, including the one dedicated to rural architectures and environments, even with “20th-century experiments,” collecting the debate on their reuse and conservation in respect of restoration discipline, interpreting the recommendations of the HUL (Historic Urban Landscape) and the need to increasingly resort to the principles of HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment).

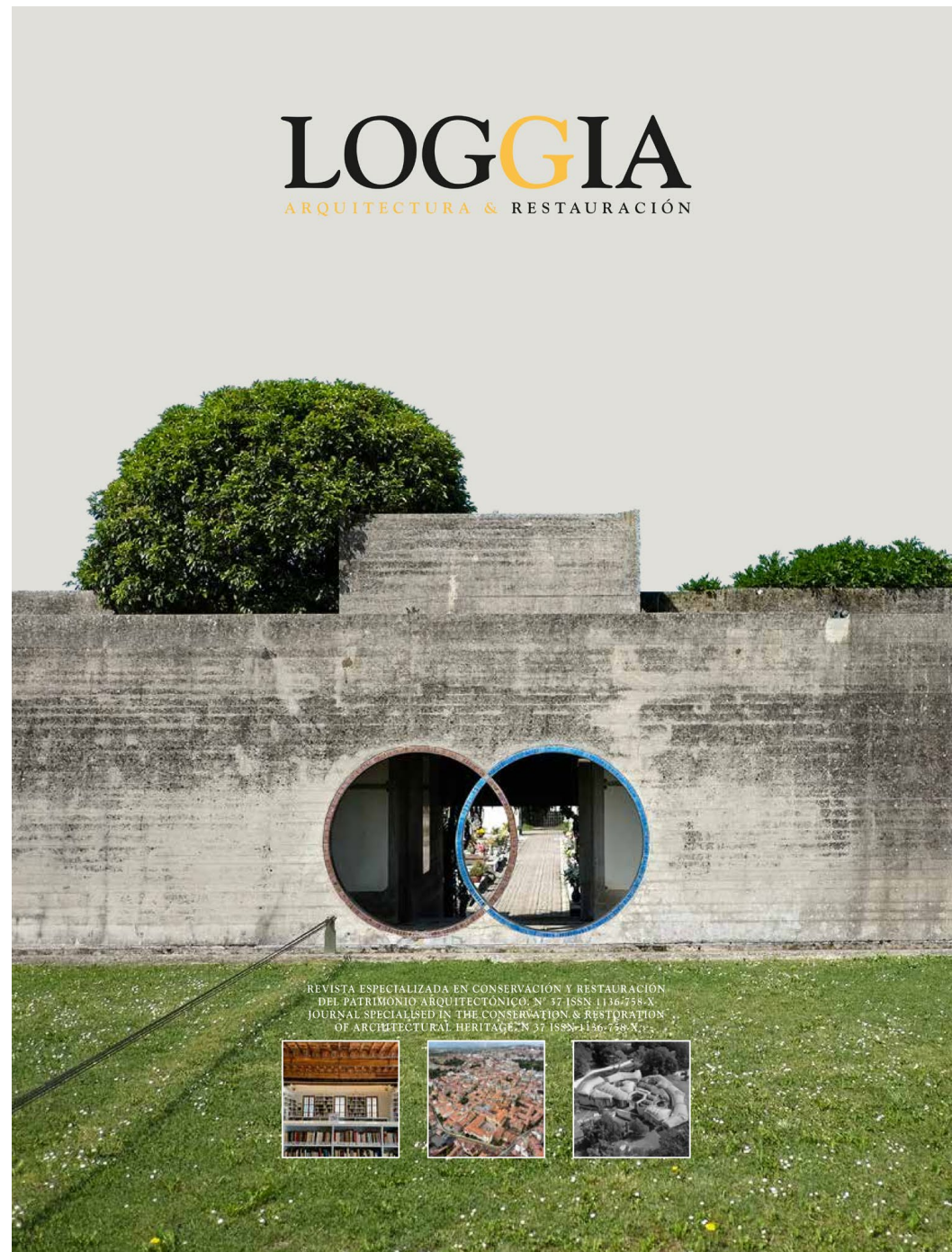
The awareness of the vastness of the topic and the varied construction techniques and characteristics of vernacular architecture, from cave houses to underground constructions, from earth buildings to stone houses, fueled the discussion on innovative conservation and safeguarding practices increasingly prompted by climate change and anthropic risks, highlighting the urgency of completing the territorial



Casa colonica ubicata a Castellina in Chianti, SI (ph. Beatrice Messeri, 2021).

Recommended Book

LOGGIA ARQUITECTURA & RESTAURACIÓN



Fernando Vegas and Camilla Mileto

The journal Loggia, edited since 1996 has recently published the issue 37. This Q-2 indexed journal is dedicated to the discipline of architectural restoration, conservation and adaptive reuse, as well as the related fields of pictorial, sculptural and archaeological conservation. The journal addresses works, theories, methodologies and techniques for intervention on historic architectural heritage with the intention of promoting systematic and periodical conservation and restoration works and creating an opinion forum. The journal strives to cover two facets, informative and critical, and to that end its structure contains four sections: theoretical articles, articles concerning restored works, technical articles and a cultural agenda. It is intended for architects, architectural technicians, surveyors, restorers, conservators, historians, art historians, philosophers and all sorts of craftspeople, technicians and companies engaged in construction and restoration works, as well as common people interested in heritage preservation.

From its beginning, it has shown a special interest in traditional vernacular heritage conservation, alternating articles on monumental conservation with articles with vernacular conservation, giving them the same value and treatment. The issue n. 37 shows some best practices made by the Urban Space Management Team in the United Kingdom, both in industrial and vernacular heritage, as well as an interesting reflection on the visible and invisible adaptive reuse from the point of view of Heidegger philosophy and the proposal of a HBIM-GIS model for the pathological diagnosis of architectural heritage, that may be also applicable to vernacular heritage. Furthermore, this issue faces the reuse of abandoned spaces of worship, the conservation of the historic walls in Oviedo, Spain, the interesting conservation of the Brion Tomb complex designed fifty years ago by the Italian architect Carlo Scarpa and the conservation of the Roman Theater at Medellin, Badajoz, Spain.

The journal Loggia is frankly open to receive proposal from the ICOMOS CIAV members on the conservation of traditional vernacular architectural heritage, that very often, which very often goes unnoticed internationally due to its humble status. Let us help to promote these actions of restoration, conservation and adaptive reuse that may serve with the power of example.



The wide façade of the Spitalfields old Fruit and Vegetable market (pict. by USM).



Woodbridge (Suffolk) is an historic riverside town at the head of the river Deben estuary, about 10 miles from the North Sea; in the picture, the Woodbridge Tide Mill, today a museum (pict. by A. Squassina, 2023)



Merton Abbey Mills before and after intervention: though being now a general public and family attraction, the location has retained its previous craftsmanship-orientated character (picts. by USM)

BUILDING REHABILITATION AS A DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND INTERACTIONS

Catarina P. Mouraz, Tiago Miguel Ferreira and J. Mendes Silva



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This article presents part of the paper entitled "Building rehabilitation as a driver for sustainable rural development: policies, strategies and interactions", by Catarina P. Mouraz, Tiago Miguel Ferreira and J. Mendes Silva, published in International Congress on Engineering ICEUBI2024 (https://iceubi2024.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/LIVRO-DE-ATAS_FINAL-07_01_2025-1.pdf).

1 INTRODUCTION

The pursuit for sustainable development is a global objective for nations and societies. The impact of territorial cohesion on sustainable development has been gradually brought to the discussion, highlighting how both rural and urban environments should be equally considered in the pursuit of prosperity, competitiveness and progress. However, urbanisation and the consequent process of rural desertification comprehends a global framework that calls for innovative approaches that support integrated territorial development, bringing rural development and its challenges to the discussion (Yin et al., 2019).

Construction is one of the sectors to tackle when discussing sustainable development. Goals such as decarbonisation and energy efficiency have been recognised as fundamental in changing the paradigm in construction, contributing to more resilient, low-emission and carbon-neutral built environments. Interventions in existing buildings, namely rehabilitation, has been proven to be a vector towards this goal, since it promotes economic and environmental savings, improves technical performance and strengthens social cohesion and wellbeing (Mouraz et al., 2023). Nonetheless, deeply exploring the role of these interventions in rural development, analysing whether they can play a role in creating more sustainable territories in a broad sense, remains a highly unexplored area of research, in which studies have been few.

The aim of this paper is to identify whether operations in existing buildings, especially rehabilitation, can actively contribute for various dimensions of rural development, analysing interactions between policies and key-drivers. First, strategic documents related with future

action in existing buildings are analysed, identifying key aspects to be pursued. Then, documents dedicated to rural sustainable policy are analysed and synthesized, pointing out drivers that contribute to the development of these regions. Finally, an exploratory exercise crossing these drivers with key aspects on policies for existing buildings is presented.

2 EXISTING BUILDINGS: POLICIES AND LINES OF ACTION

Operating in existing buildings is key to the decarbonisation of building stock. Interventions such as rehabilitation, refurbishment and retrofit actions have been proven to contribute towards this goal, given their role in extending the life of the building whilst improving performance, minimising resource consumption and fostering efficiency and resilience (Mouraz et al., 2023; Sing et al., 2019).

Policymaking is a crucial instrument to support these goals. Creating documents that lay foundations to more informed changes while defining commons goals and clear lines of action are required to achieve progress in the construction sector. Moreover, adapting international directives to national contexts is equally important. Developing national strategies based in international documents must consider economic, environmental, and social factors that are particular of each country, reflecting on different pathways towards the same global target of decarbonisation and energy efficiency (Zhang et al., 2021).

An example of an international document that shaped the way towards more informed action in buildings is the "Global ABC Roadmap for buildings and construction 2020-2050" (GlobalABC/IEA/UNEP, 2020). It was prepared by the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) with the goal of creating a common vision for zero-emission and efficient built environment for eight areas of action, including existing buildings, until 2050.

This roadmap stands out by defining policy targets that are in line with previous concerns. These targets are divided in six key policies for driving performance in existing buildings, namely: 1. **Energy retrofits** and **building refurbishments**: despite comprehending different degrees of action, both types of intervention are outlined as fundamental towards

improving performance and increasing lifetime; 2. **Codes**: creating standards for existing buildings that ensure interventions which balance performance with cost-effective potential is defined as a priority, considering different types of buildings and depths of interventions; 3. **Building passports** and **building labelling**: fostering knowledge in existing buildings contributes to more informed decision-making processes. Stating basic information through passports and creating labels for efficiency should increase information and awareness of various stakeholders; 4. **Incentives**: either non-financial or financial, incentives are key to boost action in existing buildings.

As an example of national documents that define relevant strategies for existing buildings, we can outline the Long-Term Strategy for Building Renovation in Portugal (LTRS PT) defined by the Portuguese Government in 2021 (Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 2021). Aiming at meeting European directives and goals of carbon neutrality and energy efficiency in existing buildings, the LTRS PT establishes a roadmap with measures, progress indicators and targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050. This roadmap is divided in seven areas of action adapted to the Portuguese context, which are in line with key-drivers for existing buildings defined in the Global ABC document, which underlines the coherence between international and national documents for achieving common goals.

The importance of renovation, retrofit or refurbishment, which for the purpose of this paper will be considered rehabilitation actions, is highlighted in both documents, stressing their recognition in both international and national contexts as a pathway to sustainability in the building sector.

3 STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

The definition of strategies dedicated to improving the existing building stock in national contexts doesn't usually delve into nuances of territorial development that are relevant for the effective implementation of policies, namely considering urban and rural environments.

The existing disparity between urban and rural territories raises important questions in meeting sustainable development and territorial

cohesion (Mouraz et al., 2023). Urbanisation and the consequent abandonment of rural areas is a real conjecture that remains overlooked in several areas of knowledge, counteracting the concept of territorial cohesion and negatively impacting sustainable development (Yin et al., 2019). Addressing rural territories as catalysts for change, mitigating territorial inequalities and looking into challenges they entail, is vital for achieving goals defined on a national basis.

Investing on structured policies and strategies for rural territories is key for promoting change. The following sections present a set of paramount documents that define strategies for rural territories, namely on international and national levels. Then, these documents are synthesized into key-aspects that must be considered in a future sustainable development.

3.2 Documents and strategies on rural policy

Three documents representing paramount approaches on the definition of rural policy were identified and are presented below, considering both international and national (Portuguese) contexts.

- “A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas - Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040” (European Commission, 2021)

This document recognizes the need to improve quality of life, promote balanced territorial development and stimulate growth in rural

areas, especially considering EU's goal on green and digital transitions and the experience of the pandemic. Rural territories are acknowledged as active players on tackling these challenges, calling for a new paradigm in the way they are perceived by stimulating new opportunities.

Four complementary areas of action are identified (Figure 1), embodying the goals of connected, stronger, resilient, and prosperous rural areas by 2040. In terms of stronger rural areas, attention is drawn to the importance of fostering vibrant and informed local communities, who act in decision-making processes. These people need to access essential services that ensure rural areas are attractive places to live in and represent a qualified way of life. Also, innovation is key in reinforcing attractiveness.

Development also relies on counteracting isolation, both physical and digital. Maintenance and improvement of transportation means and infrastructures are key, promoting relations with other rural and urban territories. Digital connectivity contributes to engaging these areas in digital transition, promoting their attractiveness as hub for the development and deployment of new solutions and ways of life. Promoting resilience to climate change, natural hazards and economic crises is also highlighted. Also, the coexistence of different economic activities is essential for the benefit of these areas and their communities. This diversification also supports prosperity, creating new sectors

affecting employment based on sustainable local strategies.

- “OECD Principles on Rural policy” (OECD, 2019)

More than 20 years of OECD's work on rural developed culminated on these principles, formally adopted in March 2019. They are based on a set of premises for place-based policies, namely: delivery of well-being to all, preparation of rural areas for demographic, technological and environmental changes, diversity of challenges and opportunities these areas face, importance of multi-level governance and community-led development, and information deriving from evidence and data in appropriate scales.

The 11 principles include, as examples, the following: *maximise the potential of all rural areas (principle 1); leverage the potential of rural areas to benefit from globalisation, trade and digitalisation (principle 4); Support entrepreneurship to foster job creation in rural area (principle 6); Strengthen the social, economic, ecological and cultural resilience of rural communities (principle 8)*. This set of principles targets both high levels of governance, such as governments, as well as subnational levels and stakeholders involved in rural policy. They are intended to provide guidance on how a functional approach to development can contribute to social, economic, and environmental dimensions of rural areas.

- Portuguese National Spatial Planning Policy Program (PNPOT) (Assembleia da República, 2019)

PNPOT is the Portuguese top instrument of territorial management, defining objectives and strategic options for territorial development (Direção Geral do Território, 2023). It serves as the reference framework for other programs and plans, as well as a guiding instrument for territorial strategies. It is composed of three figures regarding the territory: diagnosis, strategy and model, and agenda (or action program). The agenda defines 10 compromises for territories, along with 50 measures for territorial policy, including “Boost active policies for rural development” (measure 3.2). This measure is subdivided in 11 operational goals, such as promoting economic and sustainable development of rural territories, improve the quality of life in rural areas, create new economic activities to value and regenerate local assets, or boost collaborative rural innovation networks.

PNPOT intends to act as a vector to cast increased attractiveness of rural areas in Portugal, create cooperation networks for the transfer of knowledge and innovation, minimise situations of demographic loss in rural areas, foster of new economic initiatives, and increase value of endogenous resources and assets with potential for tourism.

3.3 Key-aspects and future lines of action

The documents presented above call for change in several areas that impact development of rural territories. There are common ideas and goals to all documents, such as economic diversification of activities, digital connectivity, or resilience, highlighting common ground on future actions for rural territories. Considering these documents and their underlying principles and suggestions for action, nine key-aspects on future strategies for sustainable development of rural territories were identified. Table 1 indicates how each of the analysed documents and the measures they entail contribute to each of the key-aspects, which are synthesized below:

- **Local governance, adapted policies and monitoring:** it is crucial to implement rural policies attending to current needs and constraints that are tailor-made to each territory. This process should combine effective governance structures that operate at local level with the need to engage diverse stakeholders, enabling individuals to participate in decision-making processes and fostering **empowered and informed communities**;

- **Effective access to services, transports, and mobility** is key to assure rural areas are attractive places to live and work, guaranteeing water, sanitation, healthcare, energy, transport means or, when required, adequate adaptations. Reducing population pressures the provision of these services, which calls for **innovation** in practices and approaches.

- Ensuring **connectivity** must be tackled in numerous perspectives. Firstly, making the most of digitalisation investing in infrastructure and technologies that improve attractiveness is key. Secondly, improving access to these settlements, as well as exploring functional relationships with surrounding rural, peri-urban and urban territories;

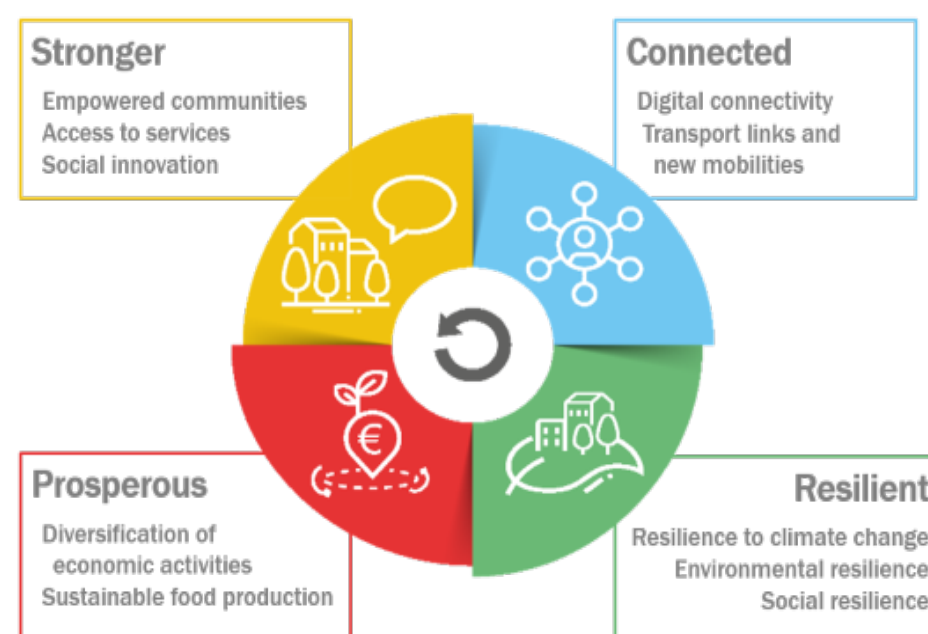


Figure 1. Areas for action and respective drivers shaping the future for rural areas (source: European Commission (2021))

- The importance of **diversifying economic activities** and fostering entrepreneurship is clear in all documents. This can be achieved through innovation and value-added activities in emerging and established sectors. Also, fostering mechanisms to support entrepreneurs accessing capital, as well as supporting access to training opportunities, is crucial. Besides promoting new sectors, which have positive effects on employment and improved added-value, activities such as agriculture, should be preserved, creating demand for local products through environmentally sustainable strategies;
- **Resilience to climate change and environmental hazards** can be achieved through actions such as restoring natural

landscapes, use of renewable energy sources, sustainable agricultural practices, or preservation of natural resources. Also, practices that value and maintain **culture, heritage and natural landscapes** play a crucial role in strengthening social and cultural resilience of rural communities.

4 EXISTING BUILDINGS AND RURAL SUSTAINABLE POLICIES: INTERACTIONS

Section 2 presented examples of policy documents which establish guidelines for future action in existing buildings. The GlobalABC roadmap, for example, establishes six key-drivers which include building retrofits and refurbishments as a necessary line of action

Table 1. Synthesis on key-aspects for rural sustainable policies

		Key aspects on rural sustainable policy							
		Empowered communities	Services and mobility	Innovation	Connectivity	Diverse economies	Resilience	Governance monitoring	Culture, heritage and landscape
EU Rural Vision	Empowered communities	1							
	Access to services		1						
	Social innovation			1					
	Digital connectivity				1				
	Transport and mobility		1						
	Diverse economic activities					1			
	Sustainable food production								
	Resilience to climate change						1		
	Environmental resilience						1		1
OECD Principles on Rural Policy	Social resilience					1			
	Adapted policies							1	
	Effective local governance	1						1	
	Cooperation rural-urban							1	
	Vision for rural areas							1	
	Globalisation, digitalisation				1				
	Job creation and entrepreneurship					1			
	Public services		1						
	Resilience						1		1
PNPOT	Government awareness							1	
	Engagement in policies							1	
	Monitoring							1	
	Economic and sustainable development					1			
	Quality of life	1							
	New economies					1			
	Young rural entrepreneurs					1			
	Rural innovation processes			1					
	Maintenance family farming								
	Local development strategies							1	
	Local food systems								
	Landscapes and culture								1
	Rural innovation networks			1	1				
	Partnerships for services								

to pursue in the future, which highlights the importance of rehabilitation actions towards goals of energy efficiency and carbon neutrality in building stock.

On section 3 we explored and identified key drivers on sustainable rural policy considering three documents that establish guidelines on the matter. This synthesis enabled the identification of nine key-aspects that can positively influence rural sustainable development.

However, given how the role of building rehabilitation actions in sustainable rural development remains highly unexplored, this section presents an exploratory exercise in which levels of interaction were defined between policies for existing buildings, namely the ones present on GlobalABC roadmap, and key-drivers for sustainable rural development obtained on section 3 (Table 2).

Focusing on the first column of Table 2, dedicated to building rehabilitation actions, strong interactions were found with several key-drivers for rural development. First, improving performance in buildings and providing them with new functionalities, either in construction

elements or technical installations, boosts connectivity and digitalisation. Also, developing or improving infrastructure grants access and increases attractiveness in these territories.

High interactions were also found regarding the impact of rehabilitation in improving resilience. At building scale, resilience can be defined as its capacity to “withstand changes (functional as well as structural) throughout historic periods” (Dabija, 2021), which is coherent with the main goal of rehabilitation interventions. Furthermore, improving vernacular buildings, which are typical of rural areas, and which embody a sustainable and resilient response with local environment, climate and culture are fundamental aspect to consider in these territories (Widera, 2021). Promoting holistic rehabilitation actions in rural buildings in general, and vernacular rural buildings in particular, combining the improvement of technical performance with maintenance of heritage values, should become a priority.

Also, the impact of building rehabilitation in social development should not be overlooked, given how these interventions improve quality of life of **communities and their**

Table 2. Interactions between policies for existing buildings and drivers for sustainable rural development

Drivers for sustainable rural development	Policies for existing buildings			
	Rehabilitation (e.g. retrofits, refurbishment)	Codes and standards	Building labelling and/or passports	Other incentives
Empowered communities	2	1	3	2
Services and mobility	2	1	2	3
Innovation	3	2	2	2
Connectivity	3	2	2	3
Diverse economies	2	3	2	3
Resilience	3	3	2	2
Culture, heritage and landscape	2	2	2	3

Levels of interaction: 1 (Low); 2 (Medium); 3 (High)

empowerment, fostering social cohesion, well-being and integration. By allowing new building uses and thus stimulating the inclusion of **diversified economies and new services**, the role of rehabilitation in enhancing economic development, fostering **innovation** and generating value is also highlighted as a significant synergy.

Interactions between the remaining policies on existing buildings and key-drivers for rural development were also found. As examples, adapted standards and codes can contribute to more qualified interventions, and investing on building passports and labelling can contribute to more informed building users.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REMARKS

The need for changes in the construction sector towards sustainable development is clear. Improving existing buildings through rehabilitation actions is a vector towards this end, given how it contributes to environmental, economic and social perspectives. However, the impact of rural settlements in a global perspective of change remains highly uncharted. Developing research which explores drivers for rural development and crossing them with interventions in existing buildings, looking into interactions and synergies, is key.

This paper aimed at shedding light on the previously stated problem, delving into the role that building rehabilitation can have on sustainable rural development. Aspects such as promoting resilience in existing buildings while allowing for new uses and functionalities were identified, fostering innovation and improving connectivity. Improving the existing building stock in rural territories can also lead to stronger communities whilst valuing cultural and heritage values, highlighting significant interactions in a variety of dimensions, namely the ones that compose sustainable development.

Future works should deepen research on the identified key aspects to understand which should be further explored, contributing to bridge the gap between rural and urban development. Also, other policies related with existing buildings and their improvement should be investigated, examining further interactions and their impact in rural territories. Furthermore, finding effective ways to communicate these advantages and how to effectively accomplish them, disclosing information to the various

stakeholders, should also be pursued as tools for awareness towards this complex problem and its mitigation.

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AlUla, Oasis of Civilizations

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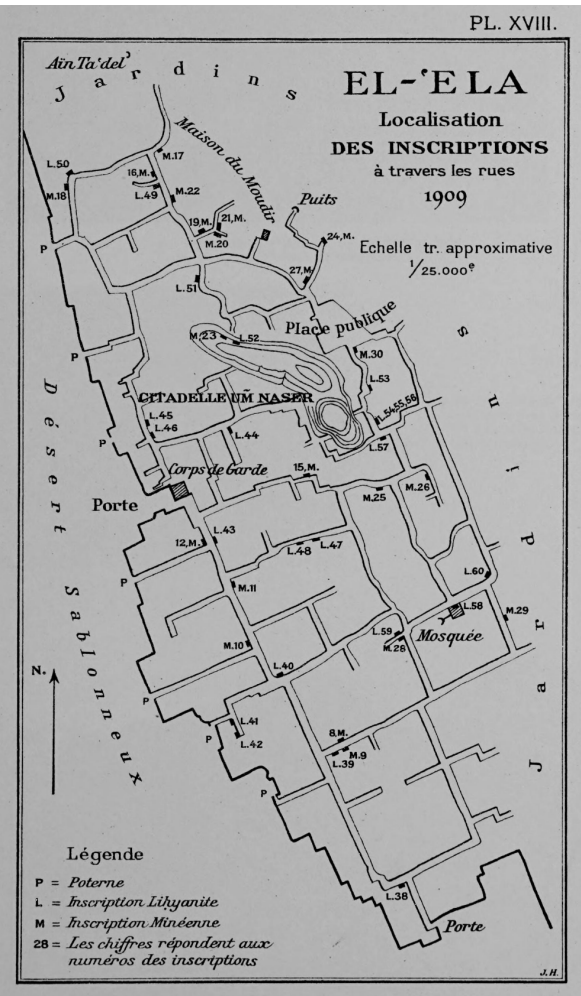
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AlUla, a historic oasis located in the heart of a desert valley, is the capital of a governorate that spans nearly 23,500 km², at the foothills of the Hijaz Mountains, in western Saudi Arabia. It is located approximately 340 km northwest of Medina, 290 km southeast of Tabuk, and 1,100 km from Riyadh. AlUla stretches along the ancient Wadi AlQura, a valley that has served as a vital corridor for human civilizations since antiquity. Today known as the AlUla Valley, it offers a remarkable landscape where cultural heritage and natural beauty come together. Its landscape, characterized by a lush oasis and spectacular sandstone mountains, reflects several millennia of history and human adaptation.

At the heart of these desert landscapes, the city of AlUla developed within an oasis with fertile

soils and abundant water. Inhabited from prehistoric times to the present day, the region is home to several major sites, including Dadan, Mada'in Saleh (Hegra), Al-Mabiyat and the Old Town. AlUla thus represents a region of outstanding natural and historical significance, now promoted as a living museum and a must-visit cultural heritage destination. While Dadan and Hegra have revealed significant archaeological remains from antiquity, Al-Mabiyat, the Old Town and the Oasis illustrate the Islamic era. These two closely interwoven elements form a unique entity.

- The Old Town was the center of habitation and commercial activities.



- The Oasis was dedicated to agricultural activities and seasonal dwellings, primarily used during the summer.



Figure.02: View of the palm trees in AIUla's oasis, 1909 © Antonin Jaussen and Antoine-Raphaël Savignac

This urban and agricultural settlement model is arguably one of the most emblematic examples of vernacular architecture in Saudi Arabia. Situated at the crossroads of continents, Saudi Arabia has long been a meeting point of civilizations, leaving behind a rich cultural heritage. AIUla stands as a striking symbol of this: for centuries, the oasis served as an essential stop for caravans traveling along the Incense Route, connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. Once called Dadan, this oasis city successively came under the control of the ancient northern Arabian kingdoms (Dadan, followed by Lihyan), the Nabataeans who founded the ancient city of Hegra 20 km away and the Roman Empire before the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in 630 CE. Each of these civilizations left an indelible mark on the region, contributing to its exceptional heritage.

During the Islamic period, AIUla experienced significant growth due to its strategic position along the pilgrimage route from North Africa, Egypt, and the Levant. This role facilitated the expansion of the Old Town, which was intensively built during this era. In the 13th century, inhabitants repurposed stones from the ruins of the Dadanite and Lihyanite civilizations to construct what is now known as the Old Town. In 1907, French archaeologists Father Antonin Jaussen and Antoine-Raphaël Savignac embarked on an expedition across northern Arabia. Their journey led them to an in-depth exploration of AIUla, Hegra, and the ancient cities of Dadan and Tayma. Through meticulous documentation including photographs, illustrations, and maps they conducted the first systematic archaeological study of AIUla, paving

the way for modern research on this fascinating region.

AIUla: A Landscape Shaped by Heritage, Nature, and Culture



Figure.03: Traditional water structures in the oasis of AIUla © Author

The oasis of AIUla is a testament to expert resource management and ingenious adaptation to an arid environment. Its development was driven by water mastery, made possible through a sophisticated hydraulic system that ensured agricultural self-sufficiency and effective territorial planning. This system optimized natural resources while securing settlements and gardens, shaping a distinctive cultural and natural landscape. The integration of urban planning, hydraulic management, and environmental adaptation reflects the ingenuity of successive civilizations.

Since the Bronze Age, Wadi AlQura has been a continuous settlement hub, spanning the Dadanite, Lihyanite, Nabataean, Roman, and Islamic periods. Among the major sites in the AIUla governorate are:

- Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site (2008).
- Dadan, the capital of the Dadanite and Lihyanite kingdoms.
- Qurh (AlMabiyat), a medieval Islamic city.

As a crossroads of civilizations, AIUla is a crucial site for studying the Arabian Peninsula's history. Ongoing archaeological research aims to deepen the understanding of its historical evolution and the role of the communities that shaped this unique environment.

The Old Town of AIUla: A Unique Architectural Heritage

The Old Town of AIUla is a remarkable testimony to Islamic habitation in northern Arabia. Located on the western bank of Wadi AlQura, at the intersection of caravan routes linking southern Syria to northern Hijaz and the Arabian Desert, it was a strategic point along trade and pilgrimage routes, particularly the Tariq al-Hajj al-Shami.

Also known as Al-Daira, it is distinguished by a dense urban fabric built at the foot of a cliff topped by the Musa bin Nusayr Citadel. Its layout features a complex network of narrow alleys, covered passages (tayarahs), and small squares that promote ventilation and thermal regulation. The town covers 67,286 m², with over 1,000 dwellings and five historic mosques, connected by 3,135 meters of alleys and 260 tayarahs. The town is structured into two main districts:

- Al-Halaf, located south of the Musa bin Nusayr Citadel.
- Al-Shqaiq, situated north of the citadel.

The architecture of the Old Town is based on the use of locally sourced materials carefully selected for their resilience to the arid climate:

- Adobe bricks, handmade or molded from local earth mixed with plant fibers.
- AIUla's red sandstone, used for foundations and ground-floor walls, bonded with earth mortar.
- Palm and tamarisk (athl) wood, employed for structural elements and doors.
- Palm fronds (jarid), used as a covering material and for thermal insulation in floors.

This construction technique, inherited from antiquity and preserved through the Islamic and modern periods, ensures optimal adaptation to the region's climate. The Old Town is also characterized by several distinctive features of local vernacular architecture:

- Tayarahs: These covered passages, emblematic of the urban landscape, provide shade for the alleys while enhancing ventilation. They create a play of light and shadow, further emphasized by manwars (light wells between Tayarahs).
- Mural paintings: Found at house entrances,

in Majlis areas, or cafés, they are applied on white lime plaster and decorated with geometric patterns, often created for weddings.

- Traditional doors: Crafted with athl wood for the frames and palm wood for the panels, these finely decorated doors are a distinctive feature of local architectural heritage.

To preserve the site's authenticity, restoration and adaptive reuse projects prioritize traditional materials sourced from Wadi AlQura, ensuring the continuity of this unique heritage.

Historic settlements like AIUla were shaped by environmental, social, and cultural factors, resulting in a spatial organization that prioritized climate adaptation, community interaction, and functional efficiency. These settlements typically exhibited organic growth patterns, where narrow, winding alleyways (Suq) and clustered buildings created compact urban forms that enhanced thermal comfort by providing shade and minimizing heat gain.

Multi-story constructions were common, allowing for vertical space optimization to accommodate a growing population without expanding the built footprint. Public spaces, though limited in number, played a significant role in the city's social and urban organization. These included markets, mosques, schools, cafés, and a few communal gathering areas. The main market was in the eastern part of the Old Town, serving as a central hub for commercial activity and social interaction.

The city also had a public bathhouse, Hammam Al-Jenina, situated in its northeastern section. For a long time, this bathhouse was the only accessible water source for the residents. It was only later that a benefactor, Salah bin Ibrahim Hajaj, commissioned the excavation of a well in the central part of the city to improve water access. This well, named Beer Hajaj in his honor, became a vital resource for the community.

The result was a well-integrated urban fabric where spatial design harmonized with nature, culture, and human needs, creating sustainable and resilient communities that have endured for centuries. The traditional house in AIUla is generally composed of two levels. The ground floor, locally known as Asfal (the lower part), includes the main entrance, called Al-Ab, a door made of palm wood, secured with a traditional lock and key. This level contains a large

multifunctional hall used for various domestic activities. One part of the space is reserved for animals, while another corner features a grindstone (rahā') used for milling grains. Two rooms open onto this hall, each referred to as a Qā'a. One serves as a living and sleeping area during winter, and the other is used as a storeroom for household supplies and family belongings. Access to the upper floor is provided by a staircase called Daraj, built from stone and mud. The first floor is organized around a central space called Sahn, located directly above the main hall. This area is used for sitting during the day in summer and at night in winter, depending

on the season. It is surrounded by several rooms, typically one, two, or three, depending on the size of the house. Each room is known as a Tayyārah and serves both as a bedroom and family sitting area. There is also an open-air space known as the Marbad, used for sitting during the day in winter to benefit from the sun's warmth. In summer, a Dawwārah a circular mat made of palm fronds is laid out in this area to dry harvested dates, allowing them to soften and gain a glossy texture from the sun. Finally, small spaces are arranged for the kitchen and the toilets, often placed side by side and open directly onto the Marbad.

Unit 311

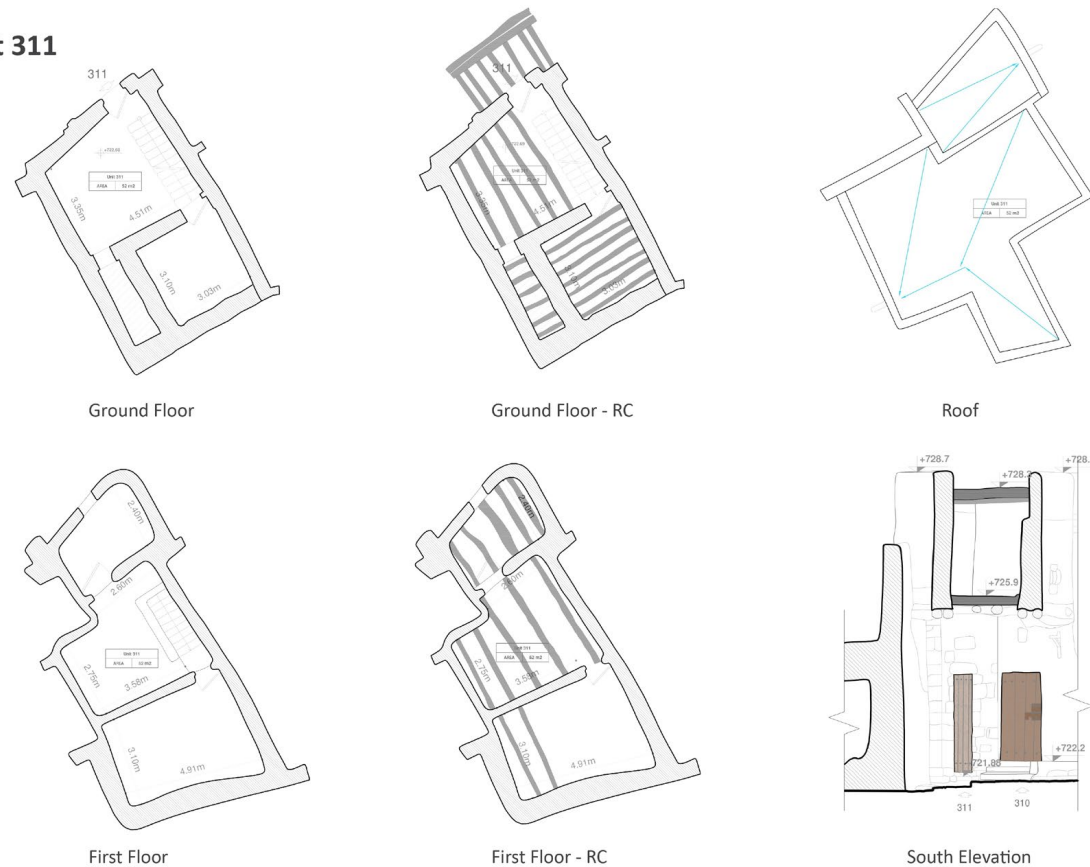


Figure.04: Architectural plans of a typical house in AIUla's Old Town © Author

Summer Farms, Gardens, and Water Management in the Oasis of AIUla

The oasis of AIUla stands as a testament to ancient ingenuity in agriculture and water management, sustaining communities in arid conditions through a sophisticated hydraulic system and a well-structured farming approach. Summer farms, connected to the Old Town by a network of paths, were enclosed for protection and irrigated via gravity-fed canals that distributed water from a single source. Although the transition zone was disrupted by

the construction of Route 375 in the 1980s, the traditional layout of the gardens remains largely intact.

Farms typically included terraces, annexes such as the majlis, and bathing facilities, meeting the daily needs of the inhabitants. Agriculture followed a three-tiered agroforestry system: tall date palms provided a protective canopy, an intermediate layer consisting of fruit trees, and vegetable gardens thrived in the shaded soil below. This method maximized space, conserved resources, and ensured sustainability.

For centuries, wells, springs, and underground canals efficiently supplied water to the gardens, with artesian springs providing natural irrigation. However, the introduction of electric pumps in the 1960s caused a drop in artesian pressure, leading to the drying of wells and, eventually, the abandonment of many farms due to water

scarcity. This hydraulic heritage embodies invaluable ancestral knowledge, underscoring the importance of preservation and sustainable water management solutions. The oasis of AIUla remains a living testimony to how ancient societies thrived in the desert, offering important insights for addressing today's water challenges.



Figure.05: Images from the restoration project of the Heart of the Oasis in AIUla, undertaken in 2022 by the HMS team as part of the preservation of oasis heritage © Author

Defensive Systems

AIUla's oasis was strategically designed with defense in mind, utilizing its naturally narrowing valley for protection. Positioned between topographical barriers on its eastern and western flanks, the settlement-controlled access to the northern and southern entrances of Wadi AlQura through fortifications placed at key passage points. These defensive structures, constructed from stone and mud, included protective walls and watchtowers that secured residential areas, farmlands, and trade routes.

Unlike Dadan and Al-Mabiyat, AIUla's Old Town was established on the western bank of Wadi AlQura, taking advantage of a high-ground position at the base of a rocky escarpment, overlooked by the Musa bin Nusayr Citadel. The city's layout followed a west-to-east slope, creating a structured gradient from its urban core at Al-Daira to the agricultural lands below.

Defense was also integrated into the city's urban morphology, featuring a dense, maze-like street network designed to hinder intrusion and a system of fourteen fortified gates that were closed at sunset to regulate access. The Musa bin Nusayr Citadel, perched above the Old Town, played a vital defensive role, offering a commanding view of the oasis and enabling early threat detection. These interconnected fortifications highlight AIUla's strategic significance, ensuring its security and sustaining its role in trade and socio-economic development within the region.



Figure.06: Kal'at Beer Outif: an iconic watchtower integrated into the defensive system of AIUla's oasis ©Author

Cultural Landscape and Social Life

The traditions of AIUla's inhabitants are deeply intertwined with the Old Town and its gardens, shaping the cultural landscape of the oasis. Beyond its historical significance, natural surroundings, and vernacular architecture, AIUla's identity is rooted in the seasonal nomadism of its people, who move between winter and summer settlements.

This rich intangible heritage is passed down through generations in various forms, including folklore and oral poetry that preserve historical narratives and shared values, local gastronomy that reflects culinary adaptations to the oasis's resources, and traditional festivities such as wedding celebrations and feasts marking the return from Hajj, which strengthens social bonds and cultural continuity. While modern influences have introduced changes, many traditions remain, reflecting the resilience and deep-rooted connection of AIUla's communities to their heritage.



Figure.07: Women of AIUla and the Weaving Art ©Author

The Creation of the RCU and Alfalula: A New Vision for the AIUla Oasis

AIUla is at the core of an ambitious development and conservation initiative led by the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) in collaboration with its French partner, Alfalula. These two organizations are key in preserving, revitalizing, and transforming the region into a leading cultural, tourism, and economic hub while honoring its ancient history and delicate ecosystem.

Established in 2017 as part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) is dedicated to preserving and developing AIUla as a global cultural tourism destination. Its mission includes protecting archaeological sites such as Hegra and Dadan, rejuvenating the oasis through sustainable agriculture, and integrating modern infrastructure with historical heritage. The "Journey Through Time" plan guides AIUla's transformation into five cultural districts, seamlessly blending heritage, ecology, and modernity to establish a world-class destination. Community involvement is central to AIUla's restoration, ensuring that local residents benefit from training and employment in heritage, agriculture, and tourism. Initiatives like "We Are AIUla" foster entrepreneurship, while specialized courses teach traditional restoration methods.

Residents actively contribute to the revitalization of historic buildings, the restoration of irrigation systems, and the implementation of sustainable farming techniques that honor AIUla's agricultural legacy. By reintroducing traditional water management systems and preserving native crops, they support the oasis's long-term ecological sustainability. Cultural traditions such as pottery, weaving, and local gastronomy are safeguarded through workshops, festivals, and tourism initiatives celebrating AIUla's rich identity. Furthermore, programs supporting artisans and local businesses ensure the continuation of traditional craftsmanship while fostering economic opportunities. Culinary experiences showcase the region's distinctive flavors, offering visitors a deeper connection to AIUla's heritage through food and storytelling.



Figure.08: On-site meeting with the local committee in the AIUla oasis ©Author

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New Member

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Education Background

Advanced Certificate on Integrating Industry Four Dot Zero Competency and Twenty First Century Skills in Educational Institutions, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, India (2024)
Postgraduate Diploma in Education, University of Botswana (2015)
BA in Humanities (History and Archaeology,) University of Botswana (2009)

Working Experience

Teacher, Tutume McConnell College, October 2023 - Present
Teacher, Ralekgetho Primary School, June 2022 - September 2023
Teacher, Lehututu Junior Secondary School, June 2020 - December 2021
Teacher, Madiba Senior Secondary School July 2017 - November 2018
Assistant Programmes Officer, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports & Culture Development: Botswana50 Unit, February - December 2016
Public & Corporate Affairs Graduate Intern, Debswana Diamond Company - Jwaneng Mine, August 2011- July 2012
Research & Marketing Graduate Intern, Department of National Service and Internship, June 2010 - August 2011

Projects

Title: Afria24 Conference
Date: 25 - 29 November 2024
Theme: Conservation of Built Heritage in Africa
Location: Swahili Pot Hub, Mombasa, Kenya

The Africa24 Conference was organized by various ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and Working Groups, including those focusing on vernacular architecture, earthen architectural heritage, cultural tourism, cultural landscapes, intangible cultural heritage, energy and sustainability, rights-based approaches, and emerging professionals. The aim of the conference was to support African local communities and professionals in heritage conservation, promote the preservation of traditional

built heritage, and address issues like education, gender inequality, and sustainable development. The conference incorporated a comprehensive program of activities including workshops, field trips, and presentations that align with the conference's objectives. The Africa24 Conference featured sessions on climate change, risk management, post-colonial approaches to heritage preservation, and the role of youth and technology in conservation efforts.



A 3-D model of Fort Jesus World Heritage Site, captured during one of the Africa24 Conference site visits

New Member

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Education Background

I hold a Ph.D. from Université Paris Sorbonne Cité (2019) in Architecture, Urbanism, Heritage, and Landscape, specializing in colonial-era public gardens and buildings in Algeria.

I completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Iram-Ausonius, Bordeaux (2021–2022), focusing on AIUla's built and living heritage.

I also earned a master's II in Civilizations, History, and Heritage from the University of Poitiers (2014) , an Architectural Engineering Degree from Badji Mokhtar University (2012) and an Architecture Degree at the University of Annaba.

I received Heritage Conservation training at the National Institute of Heritage in Paris.

Working Experience

I am the Director of Heritage at HMS Construction in Saudi Arabia, where I have led and currently oversee a total of more than 30 conservation and restoration projects, including in Diriyah, Jeddah, the Old Town and Oasis of AIUla, as well as in Unaizah, Khaybar, and Tayma.

Previously, I was Deputy Project Director at HCC Heritage Conservation Consulting, co-leading AIUla Old Town's Architectural Survey and Conservation Guidelines.

I've also worked on the AIUla Cultural Oasis for Archaios and as an Architect for FNPOS and AREES in Algeria.

I hold the "Architectural Engineer Qualification Certificate for Heritage Preservation and Conservation" from the Algerian Ministry of Culture (2023).

Projects

Old Town AIUla architectural survey and conservation guidelines (2019/2021)

Combining 3D laser scanning, architectural and hydrogeological studies, and preventive conservation, this project in AIUla Old Town addressed site deterioration. Given the scale and number of unstable buildings, it brought together conservators, architects, engineers, and archaeologists to test methodologies and establish intervention protocols. A pilot area of 30 houses, Blue Street, and two mosques focused on the most vulnerable structures. The goal was to document, conserve, and restore the site while ensuring AIUla's sustainable heritage preservation and historical authenticity.



AIUla Oasis Trail (Pilot Area, Zone 1) (2022/2023)

This project, the first of its kind in AIUla Oasis, focused on preserving 21 summer farms. It involved comprehensive site studies, 3D scanning, archaeological cleaning, and architectural and heritage analysis with the local committee. Conservation targeted garden walls, hydraulic structures, and summer farms. Three units, including a mosque, were restored and adaptively reused. Alongside landscaping, these efforts activated the site, opening it to visitors while ensuring the long-term preservation of AIUla's cultural landscape.



Khaybar Heritage Site Activation (2022/2023)

This project combined the study of Ain Al-Jameah historical source park with the restoration of Matal Al Rawan units, built from black basalt stone and earth, materials emblematic of Khaybar's vernacular architecture. These structures, strategically located, offer panoramic views of the oasis, known for its traditional hydraulic system and historical water sources. The project integrated conservation, restoration, and landscape enhancement, preserving both the built environment and cultural landscape, while highlighting Khaybar's historical significance through its iconic fortifications and agricultural heritage.



Souk Abo Alhassan Conservation Project (2022/2023)

The conservation of 41 units and the restoration for the adaptive reuse of 5 units were key focuses of the project in Souk Abo Alhassan, one of AIUla Old Town's most important historic streets. Once a major east-west axis leading to the gardens, the project aimed to protect the street and its architectural ensemble. It preserved the surrounding units, elevated chambers known as "Tayara," and the architectural and decorative elements reflecting AIUla's vernacular heritage.



