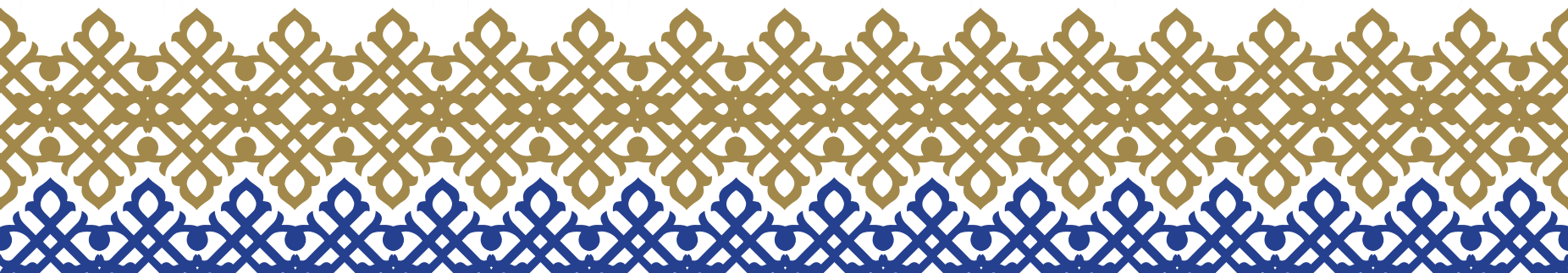




2017





HRC

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ANNUAL REPORT

2017



The Addition of the Old City to the World Heritage List: A Report on the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee's Efforts and Achievements





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Introduction: Letters from the Head and Director of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee

When we talk about the Old City of Hebron, we are not just talking about an integral part of the city; but rather about the heart of Hebron and its cultural center. The Hebron Municipality pays great attention to the Old City, improving its living conditions and protecting its cultural heritage.

I am honored to present this report, which includes the achievements of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee during this historic year. We witnessed the success in the registration of Hebron on the World Heritage List after seven years of cooperation between Hebron Municipality, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, which promises the Old City a tourist future worthy of its historical importance and supports the direction of the city of Hebron and its policy of reviving the Old City as an economic and cultural center.

The rehabilitation and restoration work carried out by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee over the past years has proved that this town is viable and full of civilization connecting the past with the present, and has helped preserve the history and identity of the Palestinian people.

It is a process that continues with the joint cooperation of Hebron Municipality and HRC so that the comprehensive development of the Old City can be realized with a view to return it to its previous era, a city full of residents, free of the Israeli occupation and Israeli settlers.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all the donors and supporters who have played a major role in accomplishing these achievements and objectives aimed at preserving and reviving the historical and cultural heritage of this historic town. I also thank the staff of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee of all administrative and technical levels. The inhabitants of this historic town, however, who have proved their steadfastness and stamina, are truly the main drivers in preserving the Old City as an Arab Muslim city.

Mr. Tayseer Abu Sneineh
Hebron Mayor
HRC Head

This year has witnessed a historic event in the city of Hebron and Palestine. After more than 20 years of continuous efforts to protect the cultural heritage of the ancient City of Hebron, this historic city was crowned the World Heritage List in recognition of its Palestinian and Islamic identity.

This decision gives us a great responsibility to intensify efforts to protect the cultural heritage of this city. Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has been playing this role since 1996. It has restored life to the mountains and alleys of the Old City as part of a comprehensive plan for its conservation and rehabilitation in a way that would achieve integral social and economic development.

At the same time, this year has marked another historic achievement for the Old City of Hebron at the local level, which represents an end to decades of suffering. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee succeeded in cooperation with the Municipality of Hebron in implementing the infrastructure rehabilitation project in the Kasbah neighborhood and Khan Shahin. This project put an end to the suffering of the Old City due to the collection of rainwater in winter. It used to cause damage to heritage buildings and public property, and impede the movement of visitors, salespeople and shop owners.

Here, we would like to extend our deep thanks to the main donors of this project, namely the Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA through UNESCO for the first phase and Oredo Qatar through Wataniya Mobile. In addition to this great achievement, this year witnessed the continuation of the implementation of many development projects in all vital sectors.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the staff of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee for their continuous efforts in all fields that contribute to the development of the Old City and the preservation of the heritage of our forefathers.

Mr. Emad Hamdan
HRC Director General



Hebron Rehabilitation Committee: An Overview

Vision: "Preserving Old Hebron and its Palestinian identity"

Mission: The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee seeks to rehabilitate and renovate the historic buildings in the Old City of Hebron in order to circumvent the settlement outposts, limit their expansion, preserve the ancient historical buildings, ensure the social and economic revival and connect the Old City with the rest of the city's fabric. It also seeks to improve the standard of living of marginalized groups by planning and implementing vital programs to ensure the economic, social and cultural revival of marginalized groups.

Values: Equality and justice in access to public services, originality, excellence, respect for human rights, transparency, and professionalism, building domestic and international partnerships and sincerity.

Strategic Objectives

- Reviving the Old City by renovating its buildings, re-using the abandoned ones, rehabilitating its infrastructure, preserving its cultural heritage and elements of the structural unity of the buildings, preserving the urban fabric and its historical and civilization identity.
- Improving the living conditions of the population through the renovation of residential houses and linking the Old City with the new, and providing various social services that contribute to the development of housing and work conditions, and improve the environment to become attractive to the population.
- Revitalizing the trade and economic movement, increase the local and external tourism movement, and provide vital projects for employment of the population.

World Housing Award 2013: An international award periodically given by London - Based Building and Social Housing Foundation in support of sustainable housing and creative development projects. HRC was awarded this award in culmination of its building project in the Old City. It was considered the best among 238 housing projects submitted by different countries around the world to combat unemployment and poverty.

Yasser Arafat Achievement Award: In 2008, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee won the Yasser Arafat Achievement Award, a prize awarded to individuals or institutions that carried out innovative creative works that had positive effects on the development and advancement of society.

The Aga Khan Award: In 1998, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee won the Aga Khan Award for International Architecture, in recognition of its achievements in the reconstruction of the Old City. The award is one of the highest international awards recognizing impressive architecture in the Islamic world every three years.





A Special Thanks to the Leaders of HRC




The decision of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO to include the Ibrahimi Mosque and the Old City on the World Heritage List on July 7, 2017 in the Polish city of Karakov is a culmination of years of hard work and determination.

In order to prove the identity of this historic city and to emphasize its Arab and Islamic sanctity, the Municipality of Hebron and its reconstruction committee worked together with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to prepare the registration file and made great efforts in drafting, reviewing and directing it in a manner worthy of the importance of this historic city and its unique architectural heritage.

This registration is incredibly important because it ensures the protection of this historic town and its high cultural and heritage values, which have long been a national priority. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has made extraordinary efforts to rehabilitate the Old City and return its residents to protect it from the plans of the Israeli occupation authorities. These plans aim at seizing, Judaizing or obliterating Hebron's Islamic features through diverse practices, including the targeting of its historical buildings.

Israel destroyed many of Hebron's old buildings and established colonial outposts on top of the remnants of important parts of Hebron's urban fabric, distorting its beauty and purity. Because the Old City and the Ibrahimi Mosque are now recognized World Heritage Sites, the protection of these sites has become an international responsibility and holds the occupation forces legally accountable in the event of causing any damage to any of the heritage values of the Old City.



Additionally, the registration of the Old City on the World Heritage List provides an opportunity to encourage tourism in the Old City and to promote its historical and architectural features. This will improve its economic situation and lessen the economic suffering resulting from the measures of the Israeli occupation, including restricted access to Old City streets, roads, and markets.

The registration file that nominated the Old City of Hebron to the World Heritage List was an integral document composed of seven chapters:

The first chapter includes a statement of the boundaries of the registration area, represented by the Ibrahimi Mosque and the surrounding urban fabric (old center area), in addition to defining an area of rebound within the boundaries of the overall plan of the Old City.

The second chapter includes a description of the site in terms of architectural and urban style, morphology, factors influencing its development, and the history of the Old City during various historical periods. A large part of this chapter is dedicated to the Ibrahimi Mosque. It highlights its history, its architecture and its social importance, and the historical and heritage values that characterize this historic landmark.

The third chapter considers the reasons for the Old City's exceptionally high value as a heritage site. Most notably, Hebron hosts the famous Ibrahimi Mosque, a unique landmark that explains an important part of human history. The Old City is also characterized by its urban fabric, which has maintained its continuity from the Mamluk era to the present day. The work done to restore and preserve the Old City for future generations was an important factor in determining its exceptional value.

The fourth chapter discusses the current state of restoration and preservation to restore life to the Old City. All the achievements made are presented in this context. Chapter 5 reviews the database of the Old City, and Chapter 6 contains a vision of the mechanisms of implementation in heritage management. The seventh chapter includes a collection of documents and pictures. The letter of the nomination is attached to the book detailing the comprehensive plan for the preservation and revitalization of the Old City of Hebron and the guidebook for the renovation work.



The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee's participation in the UNESCO session in which Hebron was declared a World Heritage Site.



HRCs Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage Sites





**Restoration
of
Ibrahimi
Mosque**

Since its establishment in 1996, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has given the Ibrahimi Mosque special attention in terms of restoration and preservation because of its exceptionally high religious, historical, and symbolic value in its association with the Prophet of God. Additionally, the Ibrahimi Mosques structural character adds architectural and aesthetic value.

The continued preservation of this important landmark is conducted at a high level of accuracy and attention by a number of professional specialists in this type of restoration in order to retain the original image left by our ancestors long ago. Therefore, we focused on restoration work to maintain this landmark without any interventions that would affect its elements and original features with generous funding from the Saudi Fund for Development.



Restoration work at the Ibrahimi Mosque

In regards to the restoration of the Ibrahimi Mosque, the year 2017 witnessed a series of works and achievements contributing to the steadfastness of this monumental edifice that distinguishes the city of Khalil al-Rahman:

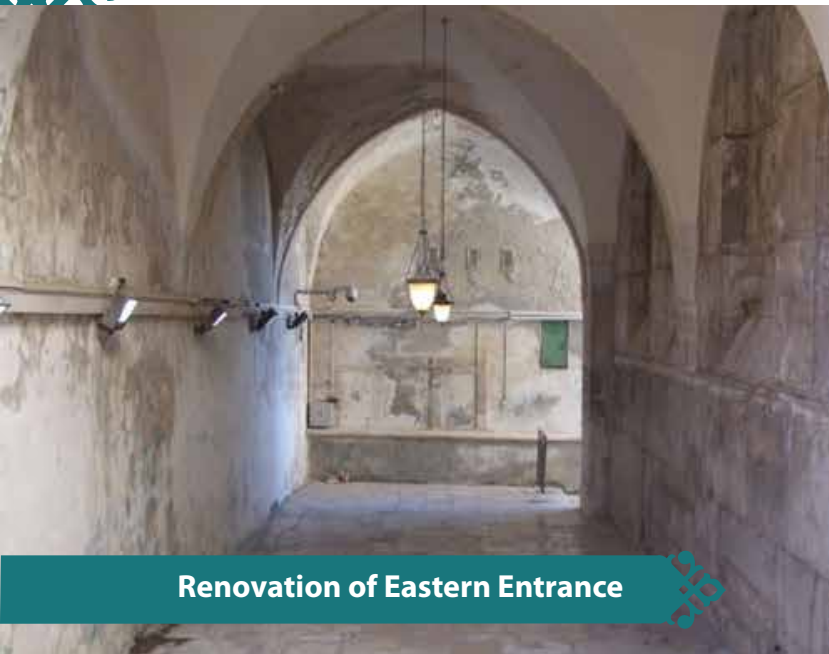
- Detailed scrubbing of the western façade of al-Ishaqiya, and renovating and dotting its stones.
- Covering the roof with lead sheets.
- Full renovation of the eastern entrance of the Ibrahimi Mosque.
- Maintenance of ablution spaces in the Ibrahimi Mosque.
- Rubbing of the walls, and cleaning and dotting of the stones of al-Usifia.
- Detailed scrubbing of the walls, and cleaning and dotting the stones of the podium.
- Painting the Uisfia and Anbar.
- Renovating the stairs of the western entrance.
- Dotting and renovating the stones of the exterior wall.
- Renovating the decorated wall of the eastern entrance.
- Painting and repairing the windows and doors of Al-Jawlia.



The walls of al-Ishaqiya before and after scrubbing



The walls of Al-Malkia after scrubbing



Renovation of Eastern Entrance





Renovation of Al-Malkia



Scrubbing the stones of Usifia



Maintenance and restoration in the Ibrahimi Mosque faced exceptional challenges because of the Israeli occupation army practices. The project faced many obstacles, including:

- Control by the Israeli occupation of all matters, including entry and exit of materials into the Old City. It took workers days to enter some materials before they are inspected by the Israeli forces.
- Israeli occupation prevented admission of tenders or increasing in the number of technicians. Employing every new worker required heavy security measures.
- Arrest of technicians during work in several areas under security pretexts. This caused much delay in completing activities.
- Deliberate sabotage by the Israeli occupation and its settlers of property in the Old City. They destroyed the panels on the roofs causing leakage of water; they also caused destruction to some decorations in Ibrahimi and Yaqoubi rooms.





Infrastructure Rehabilitation





Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation of infrastructure is a very important factor in the preservation of the old buildings. Because it provides the foundation for these building, the infrastructure significantly affects their functional performance. It plays an important role in the revival of the Old City, which is an attraction for citizens and visitors. Because of this, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee sought to rehabilitate its infrastructure, including providing public services in historical buildings. Necessary drinking water, sewage, electricity, telephone, fire and road networks and corridors are provided.

Walls, doors and windows are also restored. Trees and plants are planted. Eyesores are removed. Stone tiles in the downtown areas are added to suit the character of the Old City while cement tiles are used in the streets and roads outside urban areas.

Infrastructure rehabilitation also includes the utilization of squares and adjacent spaces, turning them from neglected spaces to spaces used as parks and playgrounds for children. The grounds are paved with necessary public equipment, such as waste receptacles and guiding signs. HRCs infrastructure rehabilitation also dedicates many squares and public places for families and children, and a green environment in downtown areas are provided.

The year 2017 witnessed the largest infrastructure rehabilitation project since the creation of the Reconstruction Committee in Hebron. The work included infrastructure rehabilitation in the Kasbah quarter and the old commercial center with the participation of the Municipality of Hebron. The Municipality played a very important role in the planning stages in addition to coordination and consultation.

Project Overviews

Infrastructure rehabilitation in Al-Kasabah neighborhood and Khozk Al-Far area:

This project focused on rehabilitating underground pipes and is unique because it contributes to a

fundamental solution to the problem of sewage and rainwater flooding in Khozk Al-Far and Al-Qasabah in the Old City of Hebron annually. The water floods a large part of the shops and residents' houses extending from the gate of the Old City until Khozk al-Far. It needed full rehabilitation due to the inefficiency of the sewage network there. It consists of two sections: the old Turkish tunnel which is damaged in some areas and has not been handled, and the other consisting of plastic pipes in different diameters. These pipes don't absorb the rainwater and sewage flowing in this region. The rehabilitation of the pipes were integral to the project to improve environmental conditions and create jobs for the people of the area.

This work was started on 26/7/2017 and is expected to end on 2/1/2018. The project was funded by the Aridu-Qatar Group and Wataniya Mobile.



Annual rainwater floods in the Kasbah neighborhood due to lack of proper infrastructure



Project Site

The project was implemented in the middle of the Old City (the market). This area is the first entrance and the main gate of the Old City. The visitors of Hebron must pass through this area and the courtyard as a vital area. Visitors and residents can find all their daily needs in the shops there.

Rationale

This area had been without rehabilitation work for many years due the reasons mentioned previously. It had no drinking water or sewage disposal lines. It suffered water floods in winter because of the lack of a drainage system. Very few rehabilitation or maintenance activities were carried out by the owners or the tenants.

Project description:

The project was aimed at rehabilitating the infrastructure of the area. It included the following elements:

1. Installing (2) sewer lines 50mm in diameter.
2. Installing drinking water lines in different diameters.
3. Installing sewerage services and household connection to all houses and stores.
4. Installing electricity network pipes and lighting units.
5. Installing plastic pipes for the telecommunications network.
6. Installing interlocking stone tiles and standard stone tiles.
7. Other construction works, excavations and coarse.

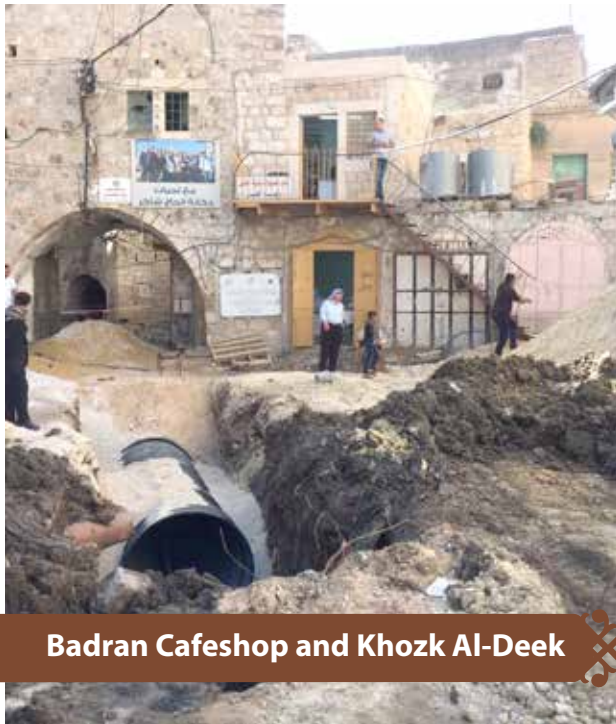
**The length of the street is about 200 meters and a total area of 1200 m².



Excavation work

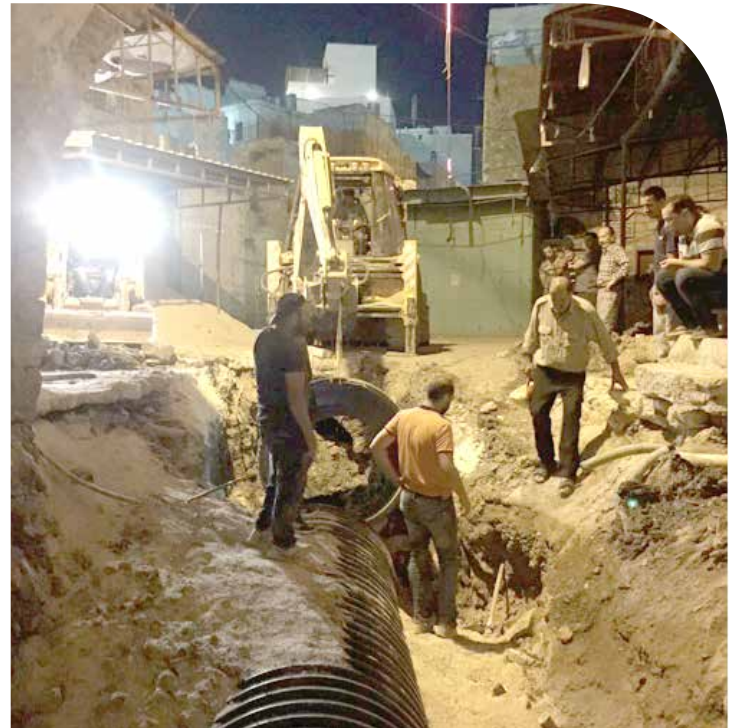


Infrastructure work

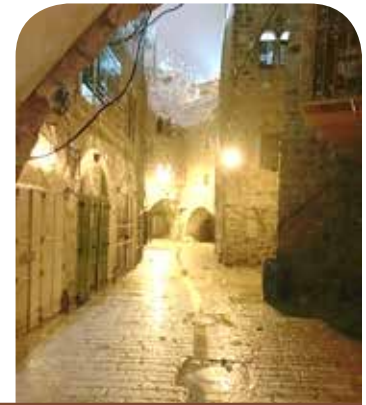
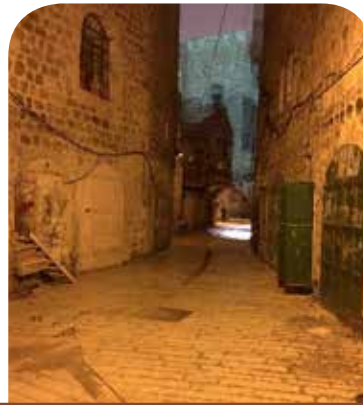


Badran Cafeshop and Khozk Al-Deek





Final stages of implementation



Road paving

Post infrastructure rehabilitation

Completing Infrastructure Works Project at Khan Shahin

The infrastructure reconstruction project in Khan Shahin, which began on May 8th, 2016, was finally finished during the year 2017. This project was officially completed on August 31st, 2017 and had a major impact on the rehabilitation and restoration of the area after it was almost deserted. The project faced many obstacles, including:

- The location of the project is a sensitive area (market center) and needs coordination with the Israeli side. The entrance from Al-Shuhada Street is closed by a concrete wall and the other entrance on Al-Sahla Street is also closed by a cement wall. The area is covered with a metal cover next to the Sunni mosque. It was difficult for the machines and the workers to move in that area.
- The inability of the Hebron Municipality and the Palestinian Civil Liaison to coordinate the opening of one of these entrances. It was difficult for the contractor to enter its machinery for drilling, entering the necessary building materials and removing dirt. The contractor was forced to use the narrow entrance from the Municipality Square.
- The project's area has no space to absorb the waste resulting from drilling. It was obligatory to have collection points to discharge the mounds of soil and gravels at later stage.
- Drilling depth: Due to the depth of drilling and the impossibility of introducing large machinery, small machines were used. The drilling area was expanded to more than 240 cm to enable the machines to enter the tunnel. Thus, the size of the stones and dirt to be disposed of increased.
- Extracting soil and dirt mechanism: due to the very narrow space, small vehicles were used to move the dirt from the excavation area. This increased the effort and cost of work.
- The entrance of the market suffered some damage since it was used by trucks. The tunnel went down, and so there was need for a metal bridge. This increased time and cost of the job.
- Some shop-keepers and salesmen protested at work during daylight since it was difficult for them to open their stores. As a result, the contractor was forced to work at night.

- The wires of the telecommunication and electricity network were installed in an improper way.
- The existence of metal stalls where owners opposed their removal. This hindered the work for a long time pending procedures required by the Municipality of Hebron to remove them in a legal manner.
- While installing the main sewer line, a water well was found under the stores. It hindered the installation of the line.
- Al-Qazazin Pool: while installing the sewer line, Al-Qazazin pool was found outside the perimeters of the mosque. It hindered the installation of the sewer line.
- Many buildings were in a bad situation, and so there was need for sheeting and reinforcement.
- Water and sewage flood in the market.
- Flood of Al-Qazazin Mosque pool caused damage to the project and hindered entry of vehicles.
- The Municipality of Hebron failed to complete the project it was implementing from Abu Reish Checkpoint until the cement wall on the side of al-Sahlah Street (beside al-Suniah Mosque).
- Old Turkish Path: It doesn't have the capacity to absorb water and sewage floods, and so it was difficult for the vehicles to enter. They used the market path as an alternative.



Infrastructure works (Khan Shahin)



Infrastructure works



Implementation Project



Before and after project implementation



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الوطنية موبايل

مشروع تجميل واجهات المباني في منطقة حي القصبه

تمويل: مجموعة اريد-قطر وشركة الوطنية موبايل

إشراف: لجنة إعمار الخليل

إسم المقاول: شركة العقاب للمقاولات والتعهدات العامة

تاريخ مباشرة العمل: 2018/1/21

مدة العمل: 100 يوم

تاريخ إنتهاء العمل: 2018/5/2

Al-Qasaba Neighborhood Buildings' Facades Beautification Project

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has started a project to improve and beautify the exterior of the street, the historic buildings and the shops located from the old Bab Al-Baladi Square area to the Square Al-Souk area. This area is the main entrance to the Old City and the Haram Al-Ibrahimi Al-Sharif.

Beautification of the Old City Project

This project is considered one of the most outstanding projects undertaken by the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in terms of its importance the scope of its objectives. The project is especially important because it was implemented in the same area of a prior HRC infrastructure project that fixed the sewage and rain-flooding problem in Khozk al-Far and al-Qasabah in the Old City of Hebron.

Rationale

Approximately 600,000 dollars has been allocated and used to rehabilitate the infrastructure in the area, to showcase its beauty, and to highlight its architectural elements. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee decided to fully realize this goal by creating this project to improve the view of the area. The problems the area faced before the implementation of the project are listed below:

- The flooding of the market with sewage and rainwater in the winter every year. This eroded historical buildings and made them vulnerable to destruction.
- The Israeli occupation army prevented the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee from completing the renovation work of some residential houses and shops, endangering the houses and pedestrians.
- Damage to the exterior facades of historic buildings, failure to carry out maintenance work over previous years, and failure to conform to the established rehabilitation standards.
- Building on areas allocated for roads hinder the movement of shoppers and visitors of the Old City.
- Installing vegetable stands in front of stores in a random manner.
- Absence of standardized architectural design of metal umbrellas. Shop-keepers installed metal umbrellas and painted them in a random manner, causing facades and entrances to be visually unappealing.
- Random colors on shop doors and old metal umbrellas.
- Feeding lines for drinking water were installed on external facades randomly and without a deliberate plan to highlight the architectural elements.
- Random installation of cables and sub-power network. Failure to adopt a plan to adapt to the narrow corridors and alleys.
- Random installation of cables and main lines of the communications network serving the Old City. Failure to adopt a plan to adapt to the narrow corridors and alleys.

Project Site

The project was implemented in the middle of the Old City (the market). This area is the first entrance and the main gate of the old town. Every visitor of the Old City has to pass this vital area. Shoppers and the customers find all their daily needs in these shops and markets.

Project description

The project is to beautify the exterior facades of historic buildings by replacing damaged paint, removing all infringements on the facades and the street previously mentioned, and removing the cables and lines of electricity and communication networks by installing plastic pipes under the tiles to pass these cables. Installing galvanized metal cabinets to feed homes and shops with electricity.

Installation of metal umbrellas for shops was designed to fit the urban fabric of the city and highlight its architectural elements. Architectural and construction plans were prepared after the adoption of the designs for all the works that will be implemented during this project. The project aims to solve the problems and encourage traders to open their closed shops, helping to stimulate trade and tourism movement and highlight the architectural elements of the Old City.

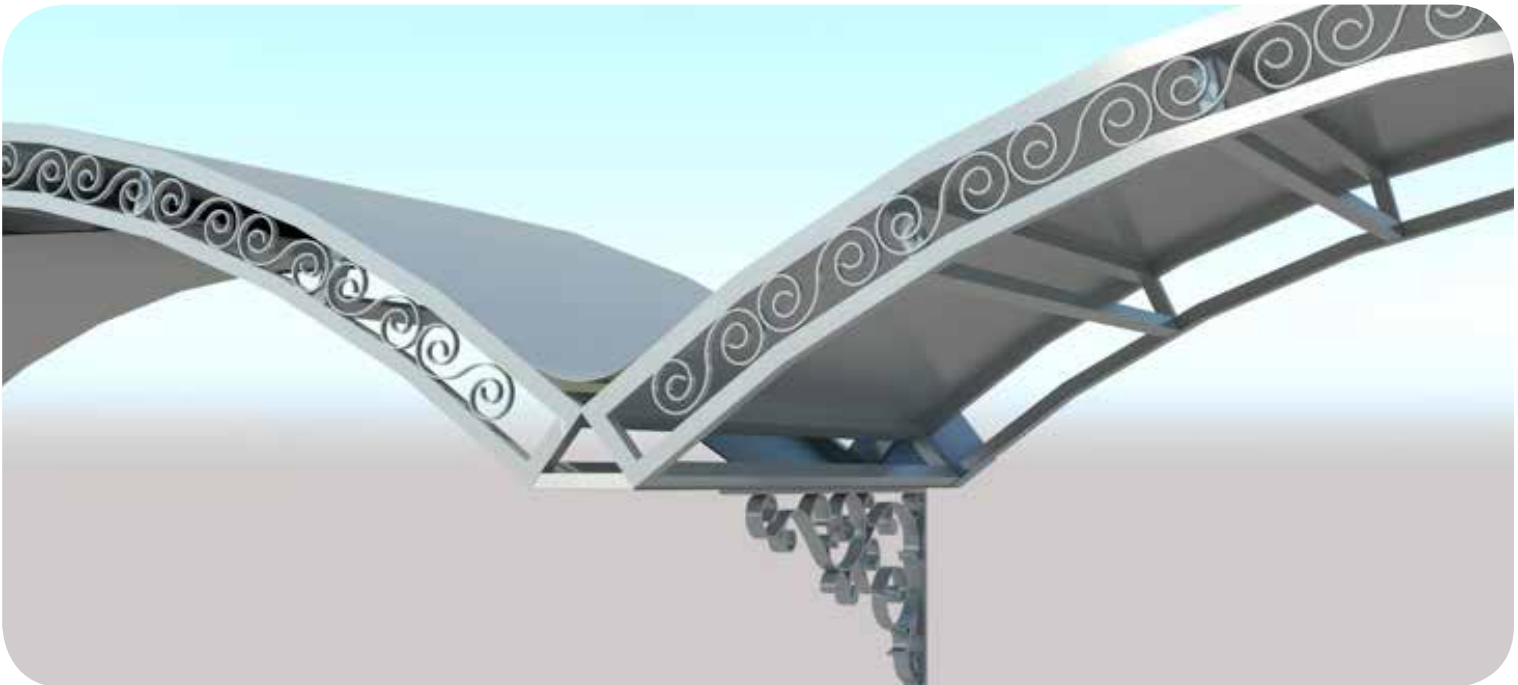
The design phase has been started and the project plans have been prepared. The project is funded by the Oredo Group, and will be implemented from 15/1/2018 until 2/5/2018

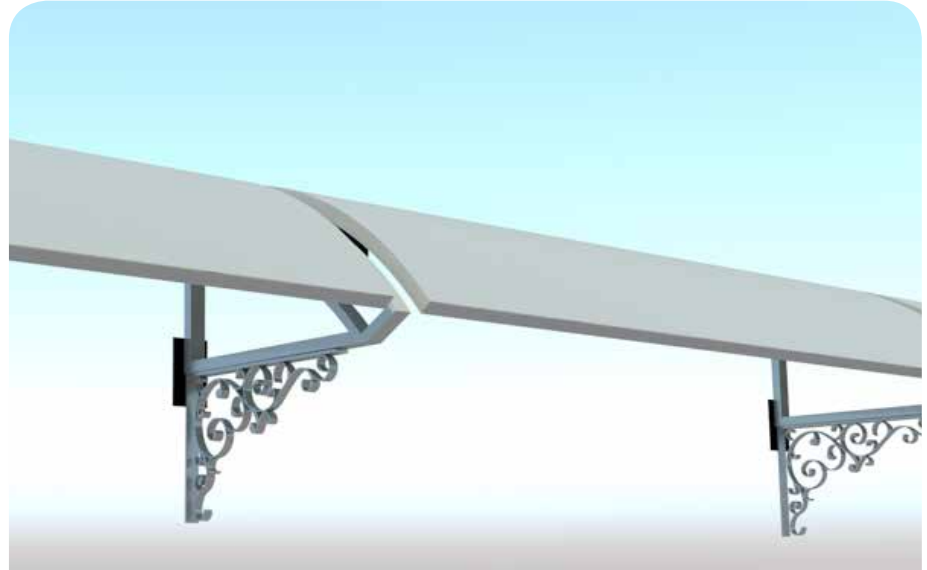
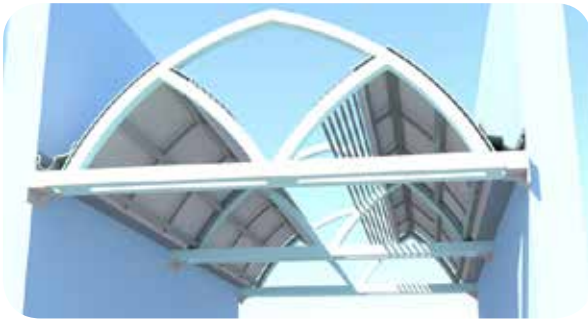
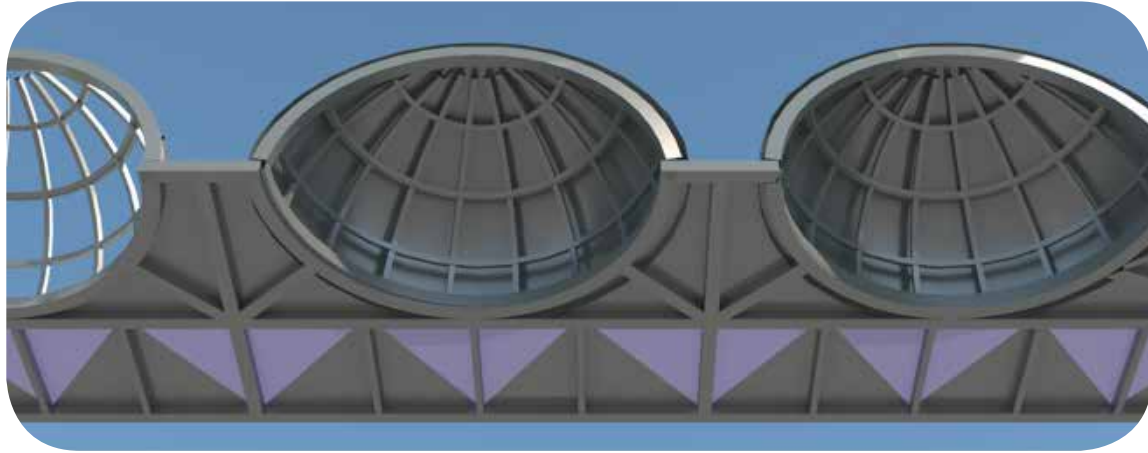
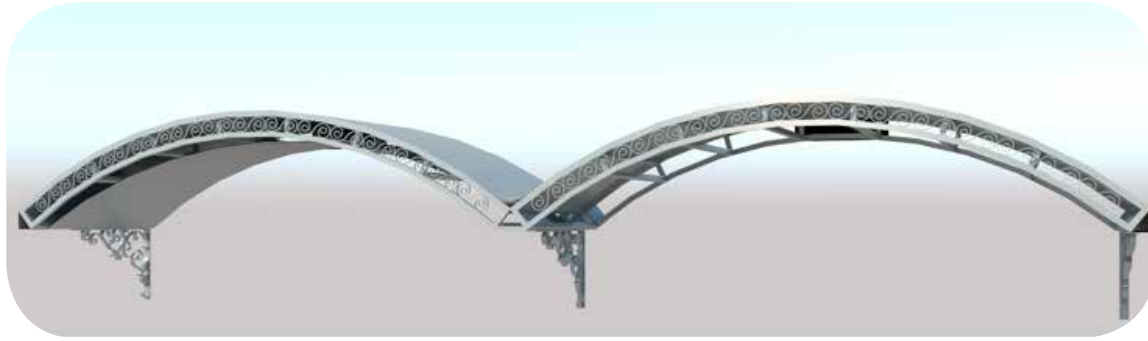


Al-Kasaba facades before the implementation of the project



Randomly designed shade posts and their impact on the general image of the road





Street Umbrella Designs

**Maintenance
and
Repair
of Housing**



Maintenance and Repair of Housing

The restoration and maintenance of housing is the foundation for the management and preservation of the cultural heritage in the Old City of Hebron. It originated as a residential city, yet still has residential uses.

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has worked for 20 years to preserve Hebron's old houses through rehabilitation and reuse using traditional materials and methods, all while ensuring the required accommodations of modern life.

Given the nature of the historic buildings and factors such as moisture, leakage and residential damage, the need for restoration and maintenance projects was very clear. It was also clear to HRC that these restorations needed to ensure a decent life for residents as well as preserve the cultural heritage of the building itself. And so, it started a maintenance plan based on the social, political and geographical status of the area within the framework of a comprehensive rehabilitation project.

The year 2017 saw several housing restoration and maintenance projects:

Restoration of buildings from the Khozq Al-Far area to the Market Square:

This project included the maintenance of a number of apartments in the center of the town and in Tel Rumeida, as well as the maintenance of some government institutions including the governorate building, ministerial offices and post office. It also included the National Authority Office and some commercial and tourist facilities. Due to its scope, several groups benefited from this project, including Old City and Tel Rumeida residents, owners of shops, employees, and government institution beneficiaries.

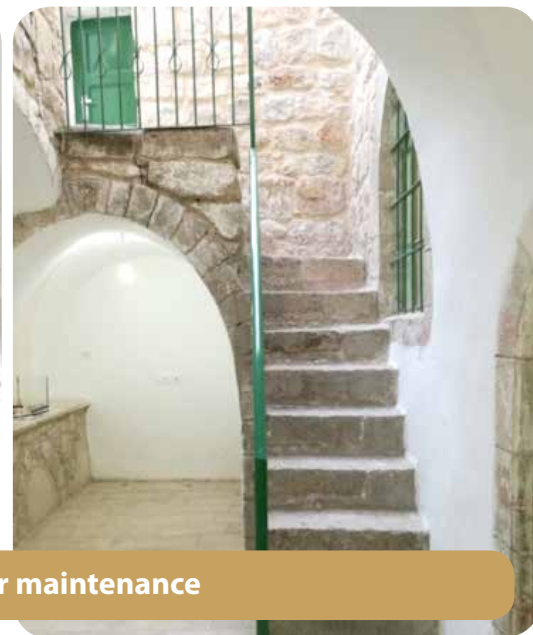
This project was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and was implemented on 24/5/2017. It is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2018.

The project lies within the objectives of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in preserving the buildings of the Old City and preparing houses for use. It also seeks to maintain the headquarters of the institutions that provide services to the Old City, such the Municipality building, the Ministry Offices, and the municipality's Public Services Center. Additionally, the project seeks to revitalize tourism and economic activity in the old city by restoring shops and establishing a traditional glass factory.

The main obstacles to the project were entering materials and workers onto the worksites, the fact that the apartments under maintenance were inhabited, and the occupation authorities' practices, especially in the Tel Rumeida area.



Before and after maintenance



Before and after maintenance

Maintenance of buildings in the market area of the Old City - 2nd Phase

This project involved the maintenance of a number of residential buildings distributed in the Kasbah neighborhood and some market stores. The project was financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), and was launched on 13/11/2016 and completed on 13/11/2017.





Before and after maintenance

Maintenance of buildings in the Old City Market Area - Phase III

This project is a component of periodic housing maintenance of houses that were previously restored through HRC. Through this project, HRC maintained 18 apartments in the market area and other neighborhoods in the Old City. This project which was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Kuwait, and was started on 7/8/2017 and completed on 14/2/2017.

The project aimed to preserve the historical heritage of the Old City, strengthen the steadfastness of its citizens, create job opportunities for craftsmen and workers, and enable its residents to hold on to their homes.

One of the obstacles encountered in implementing the project was the difficulty of introducing materials to some sites and the difficulty of working inside inhabited houses.

Restoration and rehabilitation of buildings in the Haram Al-Ibrahimi and Al-Sahla Street - Phase 5

During this project, a number of apartments were renovated and maintained in the vicinity of the Ibrahimi Sanctuary and Al-Sahla area, with the hopes of improving living conditions and adding stability to an area that is targeted by the Israeli occupation army and settlers.

One of the most important obstacles to this project was the Israeli occupation army prohibiting citizens from entering necessary materials and prohibiting workers from entering the area. This was a huge impediment because the area is closed by military barriers. The occupation army arrested workers many times and confiscated equipment.

Renovation and maintenance of buildings in Tel Rumeida and Al Shuhada Street:

The aim of this project was to renovate and maintain buildings in sensitive and highly vulnerable areas in the Old City of Hebron. The targeted buildings are located in the Shuhada Street and Tel Rumeida areas, which are closed by Israeli occupation forces. Its population is subject to assaults by Israeli settlers and occupation forces. In light of this situation, this project aimed to preserve historic buildings and return people to abandoned buildings.

The number of apartments benefiting from the project reached 45. Work on the project lasted from 20/7/2016 to 27/3/2017, and was funded through the Ministry of Local Government by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

This project faced a number of challenges due to the area's difficult conditions. Some of these challenges include difficulties in entering and exiting a closed military zone; difficulties in entering the materials; and restrictions on workers by occupation forces, using security as an excuse.



Before and after maintenance



Before and after maintenance



Before and after maintenance

Community participation in maintenance projects:

Maintenance projects provided the opportunity for residents to participate in the process of preservation and restoration of their own homes. Over the years, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has made great efforts to promote this type of participation. It was able to raise the level of participation to include consultation and information-sharing through meetings, workshops, and presentation of designs and plans. A component of this collaboration is the distribution of the burdens of the restoration project between the institution and the beneficiary. The inclusion of HRC in this collaboration provides the necessary materials to ensure that the implementation of restoration work is in line with restoration standards.

Community participation ensures the sustainability of restoration projects. It is natural that people will care more about their own projects. It also increases residents' capacity and skills to do tasks assigned to them. This type of participation increases cooperation between the people and HRC, and positively impacts the restoration process and heritage preservation.

Abu Daraan, Jamjoom and Askafi's Neighborhood Restoration Project:

This project aimed at preserving the traditional layout of an alley in the Old City of Hebron by reusing the internal yard while adapting it to meet the requirements of the modern family. The area was divided into three apartments with provision of basic services, while taking into account the preservation of the unique combination of traditional habitats and its architectural elements. The project was implemented with funding from the Aridou-Qatar Group and the Watanya Company. It started on 4/6/2017 and is still underway.

Project description:

The project consists of rehabilitating four main entrances and six uninhabited residential apartments:

First Entrance:

The first entrance has two apartments belonging to Iskafee family and consists of three levels. It will be

restored and all the spaces, squares and surfaces shall be handled. Electricity networks shall be installed. The kitchen and the bathroom shall be restored to make the apartments inhabitable.

The second entrance:

The second entrance has one apartment and is owned by the family of Abu Daraan Natshe. It consists of three levels that will be fully restored with the installation of facilities and appliances, including kitchens and bathrooms.

Third Entrance:

The third entrance has one apartment owned by the Saban Laban family and consists of three levels that will be fully restored.

Fourth Entrance:

The fourth entrance contains two apartments, one belonging to Ju'bi family and one belonging to the Jumjum family. It will be restored and reused for housing after the restoration of all the spaces and inner squares.

Activities carried out under this project include:

1. Construction and support work.
2. Surface treatment and insulation work.
3. Establishing kitchens and bathrooms.
4. Developing electricity and sewage networks.
5. Minor work, including brushing and painting.
6. External and internal tile work.
7. External dotting work.



Neighborhood befor and after restoration



Neighborhood after restoration

**HRC
Housing
Section**



The Housing Section of HRC has to consider both the uniqueness of the urban and social reality of the Old City and the political reality imposed on it. The work is carried out within a clear and specific guideline, which contributes greatly to the preservation of the buildings of the Old City and the return of life after the abandonment of its inhabitants, a result of the bitter reality imposed by the Israeli occupation.

In this section we translate the entire process and discuss the important role of HRC's Housing Section's work on the ground. It works continuously in an organized manner to follow-up on everything related to buildings and people through daily communication. This approach ensures smooth operation without any failure. It opens its doors to the citizens to help solve their problems and provide them with necessary services.

The Housing Section ensures integrity in their work in cooperation with the other sections of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee. In cooperation with the Technical Department, it provides information on the ownership of buildings in order to ensure the execution of the works in a consistent manner with no overlap. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee provides it with proprietary information obtained from the field in addition to coordination with the owners. It also facilitates the process of communication with the legal unit, which in turn follows up the procedures related to the property issue.

The Housing Section opens its door to the citizens who inquire about the process for applying for housing in the Old City without cost. The process of housing is in line with specific conditions that cannot be violated.

The safety of the applicants must be ensured before they move in, particularly because housing is primarily given to families. The procedure for ensuring safety is completed by means of social search; gathering information to ascertain the need and seriousness of the housing; renting them a suitable building and making them pledge to preserve it to ensure the preservation of the property rights of the original owners.

The relationship between the inhabitants and the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee does not end after handing over the apartment. Rather, it is the beginning of a relationship involving a follow-up and the provision of the services they need. This is done through the first visit by the Housing section to the inhabitants to ensure that they have no residential problems.

The Main Achievements Accomplished by the Housing Section in 2017:

- 28 new families were settled in the Old City.
- 83 health insurance plans were granted to the residents of the Old City, bringing the total number of health insurance plans granted to (1605).
- Integrating GIS data.
- Housing was facilitated to citizens through the provision of electricity and water services. (13) new electricity and water subscriptions were made in addition to the collection of contributions that are transferred to the inhabitants there. The total number of water and electricity subscriptions is (450).
- 446 residents were granted residency permits to facilitate their treatment and assistance from institutions and services such as health care, the Red Cross, the Governorate Office, taxes, the municipality, social affairs, the Education Office and the Polytechnic University.
- The owners of shops and the population of the Old City are given annual tax exemptions (136 exemptions)
- The Housing Section makes visits to the buildings and the population to identify problems and solve them in cooperation with other departments.
- The Housing Section monitors the apartments that are evacuated, and renovates them for housing.
- Housing Section follows up on violations of building rules made by residents in cooperation with the town police.
- The Social Research Department established a Residence and Education Office to assist residents in the Old City in finding employment.
- The Social Research Department assists all Tawjihi students from the Old City and those with less than 65 proofs of accommodation to be admitted to universities to complete their university studies.
- The Housing Section works in cooperation with the GIS department of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in order to follow up the archiving of the data of the Section and its inclusion in the database of the Old City.



Daily follow-up with residents



**Rehabilitation
and
Restoration
of Public
Buildings**



Rehabilitation and Restoration of Public Buildings

In addition to its interest in residential buildings and occupancy, Hebron Rehabilitation Committee seeks to renovate and rehabilitate some buildings to provide various services to the population / educational, health, social, administrative and other services.

Rehabilitation and Restoration of Al Khuraisha Building

The Al Khuraisheh Building has been renovated and rehabilitated as a municipal office for the benefit of the public. The building is considered one of the distinctive buildings in the Old City for its unique architectural character as well as its location in the center of the market, which makes it easier for citizens to obtain services.

The restoration process was carried out with the support of the Aridu-Qatar Group and Al-Watanyeh Company and was completed by the end of 2017.



Before and after restoration



Completed Project

Restoration of Amr Palace

Before the launch of this project, Amr Palace was the only building that has not been restored in the Bani Dar neighborhood. The palace features a unique architectural design and a large number of spaces with distinctive architectural elements. It suffered damages due to lack of maintenance and restoration. Because of its unique architectural elements, HRC launched the restoration works funded by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency.



Support and cleaning stage



Main façade of Amr Palace

Because the master plan of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee emphasizes the need for basic schooling, HRC decided to restore the building to use it as a school. It has many elements that qualify it for this purpose, most importantly the availability of a large yard in front to be used as a playground for students. It also has a large number of rooms that could be re-employed as classrooms.

The importance of the project lies in improving the education sector and the living conditions of the population of the Old City by providing the necessary educational services in a safe manner without having to pass through the barriers posed by the Israeli occupation army. Using this building as a school will revive this part of the old city and restore life to it. Additionally, reuse of historic buildings is the best way to preserve their architectural heritage.

Implementation of the project started on 10/12/2017, and is scheduled to be completed on 01/7/2018.

By January, the documentation and architectural design, as well as the consolidation and cleaning of the site, were completed.

The project witnessed quality evolution in architectural documentation, using digital methods. Facades and other sections of the building were documented by scanning to accurately document the decorative elements of the building.



Support and cleaning stage



Rehabilitating Tourists Attractions



Rehabilitating Tourists Attractions

Tourism is directly linked to the cultural heritage, and is one of its most important elements. In fact, the elements of cultural heritage and its values may be historical, architectural, artistic or symbolic in and of themselves. If the cultural heritage resources are exploited and invested in accordance with tourism development requirements, heritage tourism can be an effective tool for economic development.

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee looks forward to achieving this goal. For this reason, a tourism development plan was developed. It included the creation of a tourist route within the Old City that includes sites and heritage buildings. The contents of this track were dealt with in two main directions:

The first includes restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings such as Ibrahimi Mosque, Mosques, monuments, olive presses, sesame chambers, and agencies.

The second includes the provision of necessary tourism services and facilities (such as hotels, parking lots, health units, information center, drawing of road signs, rehabilitation of streets and roads, providing tourist guides and awareness of the local community in dealing with tourists).

The restoration of the following tourist sites has translated the aspirations of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee into reality. It revitalized the tourist movement in the Old City in line with the resources of the Old City. Such progress in tourism development shows off the cultural heritage of the Old City and improves the economic situation of its population.

Project Overviews

Restoration of the Glass Factory

As part of its plan to encourage tourism and revive the economy in the Old City, as well as to preserve traditional crafts and prevent their destruction, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee rehabilitated the Dweik Hall in the Askafiya market to be used as a glass factory. The glass industry is one of the most traditional crafts in Hebron. The project was completed by the end of 2017.



Before and after restoration of the Glass Factory hall



Additional before and after restoration of the Glass Factory hall



Completed Project

Internal Renovation of the Ibrahim Al - Khalil Bath



With funding from the Municipal Fund of the Italian Government, the Ibrahim Bath was rehabilitated as part of HRCs plan to improve touristic and economic development. The renovation also included the addition of a Visitor's Center to the Turkish Bath. The project started in mid-2014 and was completed at the end of 2015.

In 2017, HRC launched a project funded by the Municipal that aimed to improve the environment and atmosphere of the Bath. The project was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Tourism, the Polytechnic University of Palestine, the Municipal Fund in Jerusalem, and some international partners, including the School of Crafts Artsu, the European Restoration Center, and the Municipality of Artsu.

The work was started on 21/09/2017 and was completed on 31/10/2017.

Project Objectives:

The project aimed to preserve the cultural heritage of the Old City by preserving one of its oldest historical buildings. It also aimed to provide solutions for handling rising humidity and moisture within the spaces.



Strategy:

Initially, the idea of the Turkish bath project was to rehabilitate the main hall and to maintain the cold, medium and hot rooms for visitors.

Upon initial operation, the following improvements were made:

- Three AC units were installed in the cold hall, two in the hot hall and three in the hallway in addition to one in the corridor and another in the middle hall)
- Operating new heating units (five units in the cold room)
- Ventilation system is distributed as follows (cold room 1, hot hall 1, entrance 1)
- Insulate the surface of the Turkish bath
- Place guiding boards.

In the meantime, architectural and electrical plans were completed to improve the Visitor Center. Work was divided into nine areas controlled from the main hall.

During the implementation process, a minimalist intervention approach was adopted in the building and its architectural elements, with emphasis on the use of traditional materials.

Action Plan:

Four bids and proposal requests were made, including:

- Tender to establish AC units and purification units for the Turkish bath
- Turkish bath heating units
- Insulation materials and glass for Turkish bath
- Installation of guide boards and platforms for the small museum.

While these requests were being processed, the installation of indoor signs, platforms and dome glass were completed. Surface insulation has not yet been installed because the Israeli army prohibited it.



Guiding signs



Lighting signs

Parking Lot Leasing

This parking lot has been rehabilitated as part of the proposed tourism route to increase tourism in the Old City. In 2017, it was leased to provide parking space for incoming tourist buses and a public health unit.



Completed parking lot

**Training and
Capacity
Building**





In recognizing the importance of technical and professional development in the field of heritage preservation in Palestine, HRC and the Old City Reconstruction Program in the Old City of Jerusalem organized a training course in restoration and management of heritage and historical sites in the Old City of Hebron. The course was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and in partnership with the International Center for the Study of the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property. The course lasted from 20 March to 25 May 2017.

The course aimed to establish and develop technical expertise in the fields of restoration and preservation of the architectural and historical heritage in Palestine. It also aimed at 1) acquiring the scientific knowledge needed in the documentation of architectural preservation; 2) the nature of the materials used in the restoration and its characteristics; 3) how to deal with the problems with stone, and 4) how to manage historical sites. The participants were trained by international and local experts in the field of restoration and preservation of architectural and historical heritage.

The course included 15 to 20 participants from different disciplines of architectural conservation and restoration (architects, engineers, archeologists).

The course included theoretical lectures and practical training in the sites of restoration projects in the Old City of Hebron. The students studied the Abu Khalaf family building, a very historic building in the Old City of Hebron. At the end of the course, the participants discussed a restoration plan for the Abu Khalaf building in a special panel discussion with a group of international and local experts concerned with the preservation of cultural heritage.



Students studying the Abu Khalaf building and discussing the final project

International World Heritage Site Management Workshop

In the year 2017, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee participated in a workshop on the management of heritage sites. The workshop was facilitated by the Ramallah UNESCO office in Amman, Jordan for two consecutive days, from March 21st to March 22nd. It was held in the presence of international experts in the management of heritage sites and restoration, municipalities and universities. It was funded by the Swedish International Cooperation Agency.

The workshop aimed to develop local capacities in the management of heritage sites. It included several sessions in which specialized groups were organized to study the challenges of restoration and management of the cultural heritage in Palestine. These groups were also updated on the international principles and practices of cultural heritage management.



Amman Workshop

Activities and Events





Activities and Events

The activities of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee are varied. They include all the themes that support development and revitalization of the Old City and preservation of its cultural heritage.

The purpose of these activities is to target all age groups in the local community, including children, women and men. These activities are chosen based on the needs of the local community and the requirements of the development and preservation of the Old City. The following are the most important activities implemented in 2017:

1. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and the Ibrahim Khalil Path celebrated the launching of the path of Ibrahim, accompanied by many events and exhibitions of products of women's association



2. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee participated in the musical festival organized by the producers of the Friendship Park in the Old City. The festival was attended by dozens of residents.




3. Participation in the opening of a handicrafts workshop in the Old City, where the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee supports initiatives by the residents and shop owners to develop their projects, abilities and competencies.



4. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosted H.E, the Archbishop of the Anglican Church. He was accompanied to the Ibrahimi Mosque to learn about the restoration process carried out inside and outside the Mosque to preserve its religious and historical status. He also learned about HRCs plan to revive the economy in the Old City and to create a tourist route that attracts visitors and pilgrims.

5. Organized a chess training course, in cooperation with the Palestinian Club for Development and





Youth, and the Hebron Chess Committee. The course targeted dozens of young people. Through this course they were able to demonstrate their potential.

6. HRC hosted the British Consul and the Norwegian Refugee Council. They were briefed on the political situation and the circumstances of the inhabitants of the Old City. The meeting discussed the legal efforts of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee to document Israeli violations and follow up on the cases with the relevant authorities. They met with families benefiting from the legal unit.

7. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosted a delegation of Swedish diplomats accompanied by WE EFFECT. They were accompanied in a field tour that included the lanes and alleys of the Old City and the Ibrahimi Mosque.

8. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and the Cooperation Foundation organized a graduation ceremony program for specialized courses in the restoration and management of heritage and historical sites.

9. Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and Temporary International Presence in Hebron sign several agreements for small projects in old Hebron.


10. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosts a student delegation from the Archeology Faculty of Birzeit University. Old Hebron has many archaeological, historical and religious sites that attract the attention of archaeologists.

11. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and the Palestinian Civil Liaison Committee meet to discuss the issues of the Old City. This was promoted after Israeli settlers attacked the Old City in July and Israeli forces increased military checkpoints, posing danger to people and workers there.

12. Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosted students of the Faculty of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, Birzeit University.

13. British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs visits the Old City of Hebron.





14. The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Palestine visits the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee accompanied by representatives of the Municipality of Hebron.

15. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee receives a delegation from the Red Cross Society, informs them of the political situation in the Old City and accompanies them in a field tour of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque and Al-Shuhada Street.

16. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee held a legal workshop to discuss ways to deal with the new barriers erected by the occupation in the historic areas of Tel Rumeida and Wadi al-Husain, in addition to the other checkpoints controlling the Old City and isolating its surroundings. This closure system includes fingerprint detectors to impede residents from entry into their homes.

17. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee organized a medical day in cooperation with the Palestine Relief Society. It received dozens of patients who suffer from the conditions of spinal surgery, cleft lip surgery, open palate, burns, jaw, bones, joints, prosthetic limbs, urology surgery and neurosurgery.



18. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosted representatives from Europe, Latin America and Asia to discuss the implications of the decision to establish a municipal council for Israeli settlers in the heart of Hebron. Israeli army minister issued a very serious statement authorizing Israeli settlers in the Old City to establish a settler council supported by the Israeli government.

19. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Hebron Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee organized a shopping festival for grape products. This festival brought life back to the Zahid area, the northern entrance of the old city.



20. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee revived the activities of the Palestinian heritage in the Old City. These events included folk dances, theatrical performances, poetry, and exhibitions of hand embroideries, handicrafts and popular food.



21. Participation in olive picking in Tel Rumeida.

22. Visited the schools in the Old City and its surroundings to check on the staff and students.

23. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosted a delegation from the Swedish Council of Churches. The delegation was welcomed into Hebron and the Old City by the Director-General. He stressed the importance of such a visit and briefed them on the political reality and the conditions experienced by the residents of the Old City. He updated them on the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation in the area.



24. A diplomatic delegation from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee to discuss the political situation in the Old City and the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the freedom of movement and the obstacles to the lives of the citizens.

25. Because the Italian Cooperation helped the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in the restoration and maintenance of the Turkish Bath and its Visitor's Center in the Old City, a group of Italian experts visited HRC and participated in the final works before its opening.

26. The Director-General received a high-level delegation from the Norwegian Consulate, headed by Ms. Hilde Haraldstadt, in order to discuss and explain the status of the Old City and its historical position.

27. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee received the Turkish Parliamentary Friendship Committee, chaired by Mr. Hassan Tauran.

28. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee hosts a delegation from the German representative to view the projects carried out by the Commission with funding from the German government.

29. The Ministry of Tourism and the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee organized a workshop on activating the tourist route in the Old City.

30. The Ibrahim Khalil Foundation, represented by its Chairman and members of the Administrative Committee visited the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee to thank HRC and its Director General and to present them with a shield of appreciation for their work.

31. The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and Doctors without Borders organize a meeting on community psychosocial awareness, including psychological discharge.



32. The participation of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in the mass and national rallies organized by the factions of the national forces.



33. A Qatari delegation accompanied by representatives of Wataniya Mobile visited the Old City. It was updated by Hebron Rehabilitation Committee on the infrastructure project.

34. HRC visited local universities in the city of Hebron in order to consolidate relations and develop a plan to utilize the potential of student volunteers and trainees.

Legal

Unit



Legal Unit

The legal unit of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee was established in 1996 to monitor settler attacks against Palestinian citizens in the occupied part of Hebron and to form the appropriate legal authority to respond to the Israeli authorities violations of laws and agreements. The legal unit staff consists of a number of lawyers.

Legal Unit's Objectives:

- Reduction of settlement expansion in the Old City - Hebron.
- Confronting Israeli military practices, including closures and assaults on historic and religious property, confiscation of Palestinian property and prevention of restoration activities.
- Raising the awareness of Palestinian citizens about their human rights and how to confront assaults committed by the Israeli army and settlers.
- Documenting violations of Israeli occupation authorities and settlers against Palestinian citizens and their property and expose their practices at the local, regional and international levels.
- Providing protection for Palestinian citizens and their property using the legal mechanisms available at the local and international levels.

Legal Unit's Responsibilities:

1. Documenting Israeli violations: The Legal Unit documents the attacks committed by the Israeli army and settlers against Palestinian citizens and their property. The legal unit monitors these violations and makes daily field survey in all areas of the Old City to communicate with the people and identify their problems.
2. Complaints to the Israeli Police: The Legal Unit raises legal awareness among citizens about the need to file a complaint with the Israeli Police immediately after they are attacked. This is a necessary step to follow-up such cases before the various judicial authorities.

3. Submission of petitions: The Legal Unit submits petitions to the legal advisor of the Occupying Power against military order to illegalize these orders. The intended purpose is to obtain written responses from the legal advisor of the occupying state. These responses prove Israeli racist policy against the Palestinians and violation of the international law.

4. Motions and litigation: The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, through its lawyer (the holder of the Israeli citizenship) and in cooperation with the legal unit's lawyers, file petitions and legal proceedings against the attacks committed by the Israeli army and settlers.

5. Legal Aid: lawyers provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations in the Old City. The cases of arrests of Palestinian citizens are monitored until they are released from Israeli prisons. With regard to cases that require special legal follow-up from an official or civil authority, the lawyers of the Legal Unit direct the affected persons to the appropriate authority.

Achievements of the Legal Unit for 2017:

1. Freeing a gas station belonging to the al-Jabari family from Israeli settlers

Through its petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, the legal unit succeeded in freeing a gas station from Israeli settlers. This station, which belongs to Ahmad Jabari, was closed by Israeli forces for 16 years.



The yard of the Gas Station after Israeli settlers vacated



Israeli settlers' encroachment of Jabari Gas Station

2. Evacuating Israeli settlers from a Palestinian building in Shuhada Street in Old Hebron

On the basis of the case submitted by the legal unit in cooperation with the owners against the Israeli settlers, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court issued on 2 January 2017 a decision to evacuate Israeli settlers from the house of Al-Dweik on Shuhada Street within sixty days from the date of the decision.

The Al-Dweik building is located in a very sensitive location as it is adjacent to the Beit Hadassah (Dabuya) settlement center. The decision to evacuate Israeli settlers from this house has achieved the main objective of the legal unit activity: thwarting Israeli settlement plan aimed at seizing and controlling the building. This building is considered to be the most important historical and heritage one in Al-Shuhada Street. It has always been the focus of the settlers.



Dwek Building freed from Israeli settlers

3. Removing dirt from Dabi' Neighborhood

Based on legal follow up by the legal unit following the Israeli court's decision to remove the dirt heaped by Israeli settlers in Palestinians' lands, the decision was implemented on 1-7-2017. Israeli settlers were trying to build a road across Palestinians' lands to connect settlement outposts.



Lawyer of Legal Unit making sure of enforcement of court's decision

4. Freeing detainees from the Old City

During the first six months of 2017, the legal unit documented 97 cases of arrests of Palestinian citizens. 55 cases were released. The remaining cases were referred to the relevant Palestinian official and civil authorities.



Legal Unit's Lawyer (Tawfeeq) follows up on detention cases of the Old City's project workers by Israeli forces.

5. Evacuating Israeli occupation army from the stores of Salah Abu Rajab

The legal unit was able to evacuate the occupation army from the stores of Salah Abu Rajab through a petition submitted to the Israeli legal advisor against the military order to seize the stores and turn them into military barracks.



Salah Abu Rajab under Israeli occupation army control

6. Filing complaints with Special United Nations Rapporteurs

The legal unit has prepared numerous complaints for submission to several United Nations special rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967, the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, In addition to the Special Procedures Division of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNOHCHR) regarding the Israeli violations in the Ibrahimi Mosque as one of the most important Islamic sanctuaries in Palestine. It represents the heart of the city of Hebron, established more than two thousand years ago.

7. Evacuating Israeli occupation army from a Palestinian building

After the Israeli occupation forces stormed the Shweiki building in Qaitoun neighborhood in the Old City of Hebron on July 23, 2017 and turned it into a military barracks, the legal unit succeeded in evicting the Israeli army from it by submitting a petition to the Israeli legal advisor with the help of the building owner. The building is used as a warehouse and a glass factory.



7. Evacuating Israeli occupation army from a Palestinian building in the Old City

The legal unit was able to evict the occupation army from the house of Yousef Arfa'a after they stormed it on 29/7/2017 and turned it into a military barracks. The legal unit submitted a petition to the legal advisor against this infringement, indicating that the house is inhabited and that the army forces turned it into a military barracks. It was able to evacuate them on the morning of Thursday 3/8/2017, after they caused large damages to the house.



Archeological building inhabited by Yousef Arfa'a, stormed by the Israeli army

8. Removing the candle installed on the roof of the Ibrahimi Mosque

On the basis of the legal proceedings carried out by the legal office of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee in the Israeli courts and in cooperation with the Islamic Awqaf Directorate in Hebron, a large candle was removed by the Jewish settlers on 13/12/2017 on the roof of the Ibrahimi Mosque.



The candle installed by Israeli settlers on Ibrahimi Mosque





Old City

Database



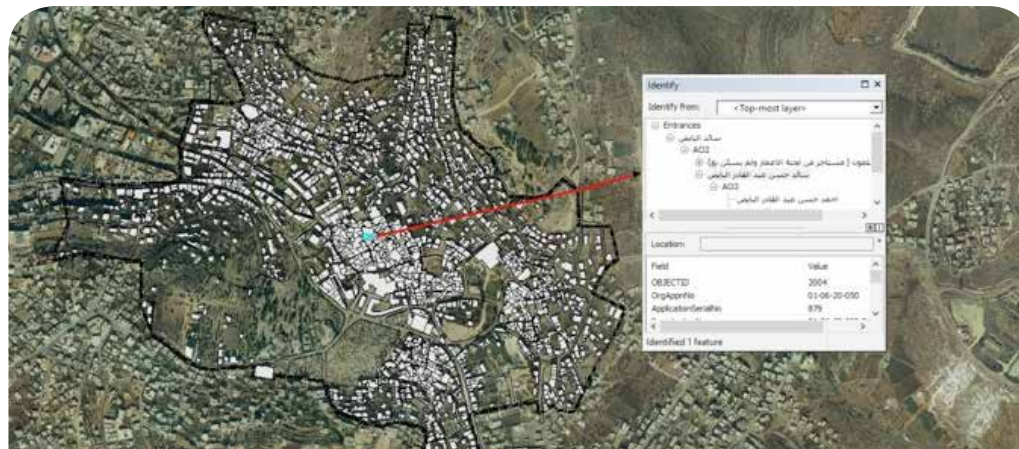
Old City Database

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee has a rich database, documenting the status of buildings in the Old City and focusing on social and economic conditions. This database was established during the first phase of the preservation plan of the Old City of Hebron in 1999. It was provided with data through a comprehensive field survey of the old town's buildings and families.

It should be noted that these data were updated twice; the first in 2008 and the second in 2014. During the last update, the development of this database included data with images of the buildings. These images are obtained through the survey of the buildings of the old town.

The survey covered both the architectural and social aspects of the buildings. It was implemented in three main stages: counting, recording and analysis of data. During the counting period, the buildings were given specific numbers based on a unified system of serial numbers. The serial number includes the city number, the Old City number, the bloc number, the piece of land number, the apartment number and the floor number on which the apartment is located. This process aims to facilitate the collection of information and to make it possible to link a building to its location. Various models of questionnaires were used to collect information and register buildings. They were designed by architectural and social specialists. A team of field researchers were trained on how to deal with the questionnaire and the population. Plans were designed to facilitate the survey as well.

Boundaries of Old City's Blocs



Electronic data on the building

The questionnaires included extensive and detailed architectural and technical information. Data were collected on the number and occupancy of both old and modern buildings, the types of construction, the additions to old buildings, the construction materials, the current uses of old and modern buildings, the structure of buildings and their connection with each other, the construction status of old buildings, and the number of floors of all buildings.

In addition, the questionnaire included general information about the building in terms of location, ownership, date of construction, type of use and the registration of items of architectural value that characterize these buildings. Thus, the database was built with detailed information and a precise description of the buildings.

On the social side, a comprehensive survey of the households in the Old City was carried out by specialized social researchers. This questionnaire included information on the dwelling, its usage and contents, as well as personal information about individuals, their age, level of educational attainment and occupation.

To analyze this data, the database was linked to geographic information systems (GIS) to take advantage of the large potential of this program to extract data at record speed and in the form of high-resolution schemes.

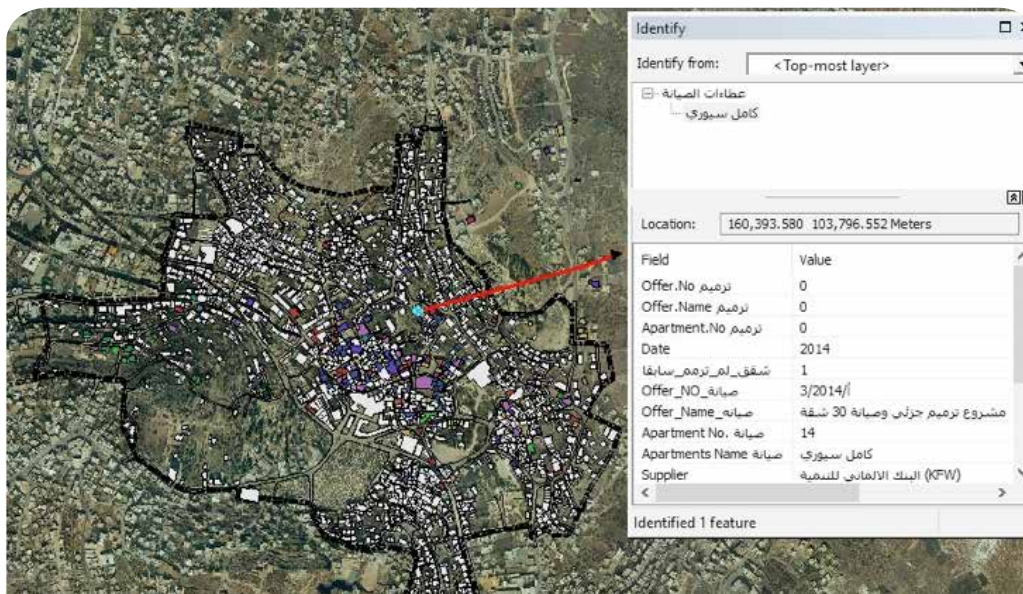
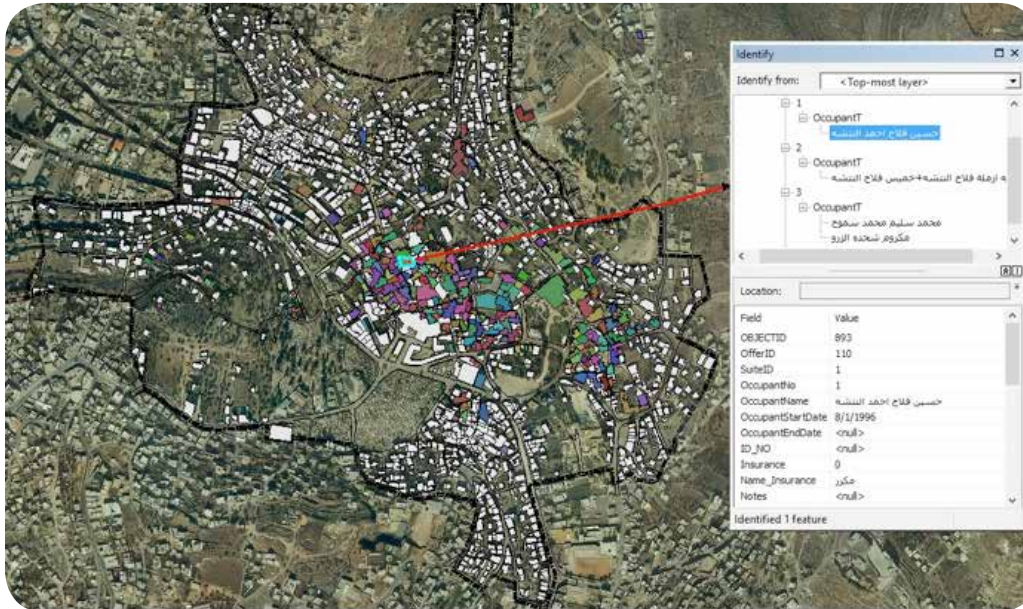
In the past, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee adopted a manual archiving system. With the development of the organization's work and the increasing volume of data and files used, HRC was keen to document and preserve all documents based on the computerized systems. The database has been developed to include the tender data being implemented by the HRC:

First: tender for restoration

It covers information about the apartments, which have been restored from 1996 until now. This information is about bids from contractors, financiers and supervisors, as well as from residents living in the renovated apartment.

Restoration tenders archiving

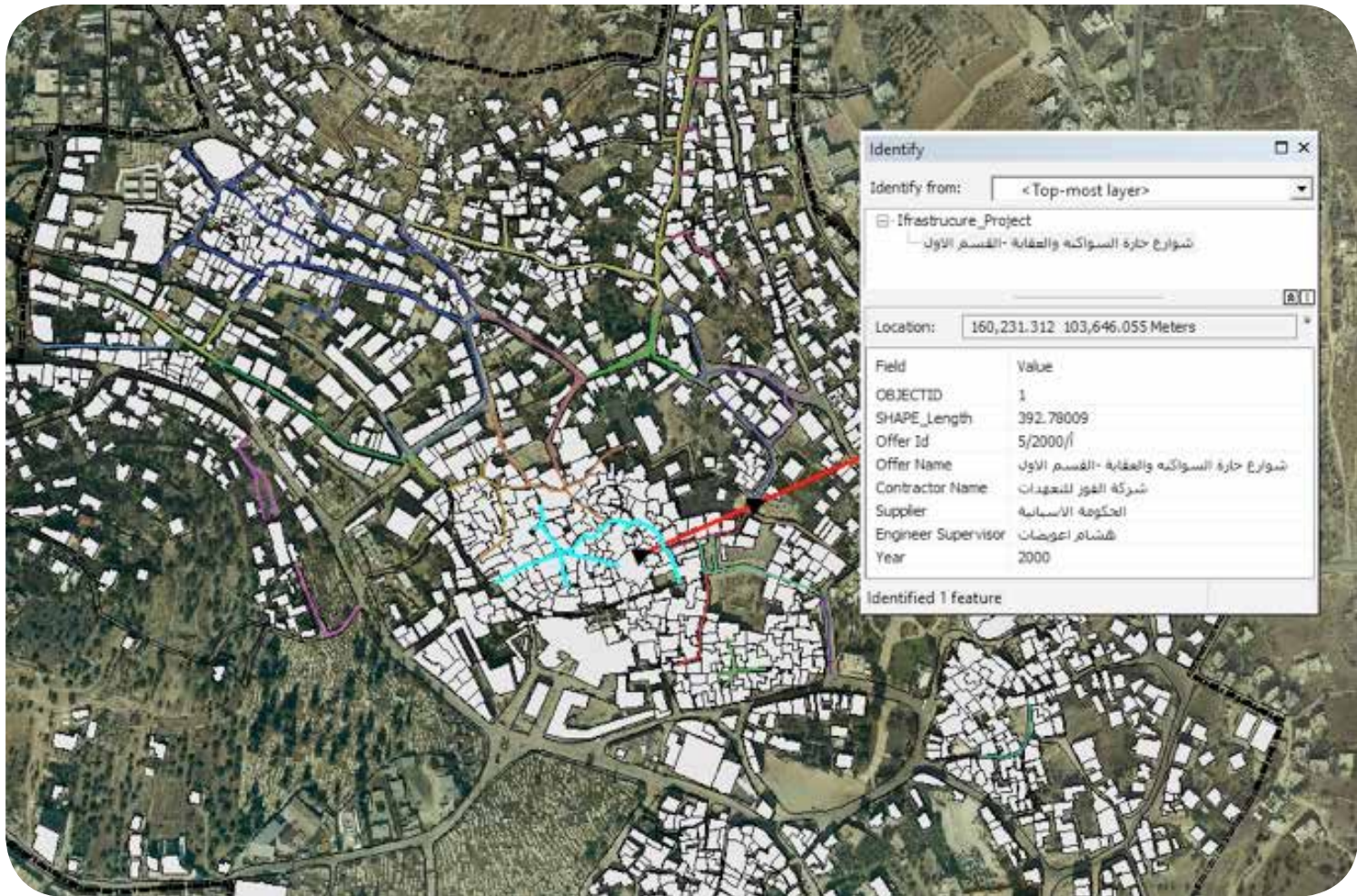
Second: Maintenance Tenders - Includes apartments in maintenance projects




Maintenance tenders archiving

Third: Infrastructure projects

All infrastructure projects have been signed in the correct geographical location according to the periods in which they were implemented, in addition to the information of each project.



Infrastructure projects' tenders archiving



The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee also considers this database as a tool for organizing the work among various departments. In addition to saving time and effort, the database helps to archive, facilitate information, share among relevant departments, and facilitate the process of accessing information.

Archiving all the data from different departments of the HRC was necessary so that it can be easily read and dealt with. The numbering system was adopted in the master database. Upon completion of this process, all the data of tenders, residents and houses, the legal unit, public relations and other data will be stored into one system.

The database is the basis for the work of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee. It is characterized by the existence of a large number of organized data in a way that enables an individual to access it easily and quickly. It is a documentation database for historic buildings and its residents. It is also a reference for researchers and scholars in the various fields of the Old City. The database is constantly developing and fed with various new data that serve the development and preservation of the Old City.



Challenges

and Obstacles





Challenges and Obstacles

The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee works under exceptional circumstances. The Old city lacks security and safety because of the Israeli occupation forces assaulting and harassing workers. They are subject to danger during work and travelling. Furthermore, settlers' attack them by throwing stones and other objects at them.

The Israeli occupation authorities strictly prohibit entry of Palestinian residents into large parts of the Old City, including the old vegetable market, the Khan al-Shaheen neighborhood, Khan al-Khalil, al-Kail street, Ein Askar street, the old bus station and al-Shuhada Street.

Israeli occupation forces obstructed restoration activities in various ways:

Preventing entry of materials, such as stones, cement or sand through the military checkpoints erected in the vicinity of the Old City.

Preventing or obstructing the entry of tools necessary for the repair work, including electricity equipment and manual instruments.

Stopping restoration in many houses, shops or public buildings without giving reasons. Israeli forces prevented workers of the reconstruction committee from restoring the mosque in Al-Baraka in the market area, or Beit Sinokrot in the neighborhood of Salaima.

Prevent the entry of vehicles into the areas closed to Palestinian vehicles by the occupation authorities! They forced the workers of the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee to enter these materials by horse-drawn vehicles or hand carts.

Prevent removal of the remains of stones and bricks out of the old town, forcing workers to transport them by horse-drawn carts and through rough and far-off roads.

The workers were subjected to physical and verbal attacks by Israeli settlers, especially those working in houses close to settlement outposts. This was the case with the work on the Samir al-Sharbati house in Qantara al-Hamam, where stones were thrown by settlers several times from the roofs of neighboring houses.

- Forced to stop renovation of many houses or shops under the pretext of the lack of prior coordination. The Israeli army obstructed work in the Beit Hashim and Hisham al-Azza houses.



Photos illustrating the blocking or obstructing entry of materials for restoration work:









**Thank you to all donors and supporters
of the preservation of cultural heritage
in the Old City of Hebron**