

**Monitoring according to Paragraph 169
of the Operational Guidelines**

**State of Conservation Report
Old City of Jerusalem and its walls
Update: January 2016**

Executive Summary of activities during the year 2015

(The Report and the Summary relate only to areas inside the Walls

– Intra Muro sites – as per the UNESCO declaration)



Presented to

The World Heritage Committee

Planning

Plan 195990 the Jewish Quarter cleared compliance with threshold requirements of the Regional Planning committee in March 2015.

Plans 166249 and 166256 Residential Blocks are deposited at the Regional Committee. A professional summary of the research done has been published.

Scheme 11053 - The Liba (core) House is now awaiting validation.

Scheme 62950 - Tifferet Israel received statutory validation.

Scheme 193482 for an addition to an existing residential building has been objected by the Local Planning.

Scheme 105536 for the expansion of an existing housing unit has been submitted (2014).

Scheme 188995 for approving a building deviation in an existing residential unit is being discussed before deposition at the Regional Planning Committee.

Scheme 201657 for the enlargement of an existing residential unit has been submitted (2014).

Scheme 246777 for replacing a residential unit which has been destroyed was filed.

Scheme 152215 for a new residential unit has been filed.

Scheme 171645 for the addition of 200 sqm built space has been filed.

Development

The extensive work along *Hagai (El Wad) Street* is ending. In 2015, a special pilot was carried out on Via Dolorosa to achieve easier travel than on pavement. At *The Christian Quarter* a detailed plan has been prepared for the Muristan plaza. Streetscape improvement plans *The New Gate and Damascus Gate* have been finalized and awaiting execution. *Galicija roofs complex* has undergone careful treatment of maintenance and upkeep. The plan for *the Armenian Patriarch street (Armenian Quarter)* has been completed and a tender for execution of the first stage is expected. Plans at the *Dung Gate* include regulation of traffic and parking bays and widening of pedestrian sidewalks; traffic alternatives are being considered. The first stage of improvement at *Gan HaTekuma* includes the installation of playground facilities.

Water sabeels at the Lions' Gate and the Shalsholet street are being restored. *Wooden doors* in the Damascus Gate, Lions' Gate and the entrance to David Citadel have been ordered for rehabilitation. *Storefront Upgrading* is ongoing at the New Gate, Damascus Gate and the Christian Quarter.

"*The Right of Way*": The Streetscape Design Manual for the Old City of Jerusalem" was translated into Arabic and is freely accessible on the Web:

<https://www.jerusalem.muni.il/ar/Business/Cityplanning/cityplanning/Pages/OldCityPlanningGuide.aspx>

The Old City *Lighting masterplan* was implemented around the Dormition Abbey on Mt. Zion and in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Christian Quarter. A pilot was carried out around the Jaffa Gate area. *Interpretation and Orientation Signage* has been added along main routes.

The four-year contract *Maintenance and Site Management* was renewed. A special project is continuing for deploying central garbage collection spots throughout the old city. *Six dangerous structures* were identified and their owners notified. Two new parking lots intended for tourist buses are planned for development outside the Old City for easing *Traffic and Transportation*. *Accessibility improvement works* emphasized compounds rather than on streets, mainly in the Latin Quarter, Lions' Gate and Damascus Gate. Further local improvements took place in *Via Dolorosa* and on *HaMal'ach street* in the Armenian quarter. The accessibility map is expected to come out in early 2016.

Archaeology and Conservation

On Temple Mount, preservation of dome mosaics and marble tiles cladding in the inner walls is conducted on *Dome of the Rock*. Ongoing conservation work of the complex was conducted in *Solomon's Stables*. The *police checkpoint* was restored. *Paved surfaces* in the compound were repaired. The *Golden Gate* was cleaned and graffiti removed.

Conservation Activity at The Western Wall Compound included structural works in *Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue* in one of the most complex and expensive conservation projects to have been undertaken in Israel. Salvage excavations continued in *Strauss building*. In *room 22*, *Western Wall tunnels* cleaning works were carried out. On *Western Wall southern part* cracks were sealed. Conservation works also took place at *the tunnels*. In *the Main Hall* cleaning and excavation of the large Mameluke pool was completed.

Conservation Activity at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher included works of construction, restoration and maintenance in the *St. Abraham convent* and in the *Prison of Christ*. The front and the wall frescoes in the *Chapel of the Franks* underwent cleaning. Documentation and engineering inspections were carried out at *the Rotunda* and strenuous conservation, restoration and mapping works were carried out in the *Coptic Chapel*. Works were carried out also at *The Chapel of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste*.

Conservation Activity along the Old City Walls included development works in at *the promenade and garden, south of the Walls* and graffiti cleaning in the part between Zion Gate and Dung Gate. *The Bet Shalom Promenade* between Zion Gate and Dung Gate was maintained.

Other conservation work in the Old City included preliminary conservation actions at *the Steps Pool* in the Jewish Quarter. Close supervision of upgrading works took place in *Bab Huta* neighborhood and on *Hagai (el-Wad) Street*. In *The Citadel "Kishle"* supervision over the development of the visitors' center took place. At the *Hamam beneath the Jaffa Gate* minor maintenance works were carried out. Restoration works took place on a dangerous

structure in *Haldiah-el Kirmi*. Restoration and conservation works in *Turbat Seadia* were completed. Ongoing conservation works of the old fountain took place in *the Mahkamah building*. Works on *Sabeel Hamam el Ain* were completed and the sabeel has been put in use. salvage excavations and conservation were carried out in *Birkat Torah Yeshiva*. At *46 Maalot Hamidrasha Street* conservation work is currently taking place. At *Othmania Madrassa* restoration and conservation works is carried out. At *Tiferet Israel synagogue* conservation works were carried out upon completion of the archaeological digging. Restoration and conservation works took place in *Turba el Kalinia*, at the *Jewelers' Market*, at *Hamam el-Ayin* and *Hamam a-Shifa*. Various new *sabeels* were put in use.

Archaeological Excavations in the Old City and along the Walls included research excavations in the *Jerusalem Archaeological Park at the Western Wall foundations* and at *The Western Wall Tunnels*. Excavations commenced at *Strauss Building*. Salvage excavations at *the Herodian Hall* were completed. Excavations also took place in *Wilson's Arch*.

In the Jewish Quarter, Salvage excavations were undertaken prior to the planned reconstruction of *Tifferet Israel Synagogue*. Excavations beneath dwellings' basements took place in *Ararat road* and in *Chabad road*. At *Birkat Torah Yeshiva* salvage excavations were carried out.

In the Moslem Quarter, excavations took place at *Kirmi road*, at *60 Saraya road* and at *the Catholic Armenian Church* following some damage done to antiquities. On *Ash Shawish 18* salvage excavation took place to document damage caused by unauthorized digging.

In the Christian Quarter, salvage excavations were carried out at *the Church of the Redeemer* as part of preparing the planned museum. At *Station Seven, Beit HaBad st.* salvage excavation were carried out in order to expand the visitors' area. At *Saint Charalambos monastery* salvage excavation took place in a dwelling. At *St. George st.* salvage excavation designed to document damage made to antiques above the western walls of the Hezekia's Pool. At *As-Sayyida* excavations took place in a dwelling owned by the Franciscan Order. At *St. John's Church, Muristan*, salvage excavation took place due to damage done during unauthorized works.

In the Armenian Quarter, at *the Christian Visitor Centre* salvage excavation took place in the basement, as part of the renovations carried out by the Franciscan Order.

Tourism and Cultural Events

'Light in Jerusalem' event (Jerusalem Festival of Light) in 2015 was linked to a two-day event in Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design as part of the UNESCO's Official Activities Program for the International Year of Light 2015 (UNESCO ILY2015). *'The Sounds of Jerusalem'* drew some 100,000 visitors. *'Open-House' event* saw new sites in the Old City added. Many outdoors events take place in the Old City over four consecutive *'Hamshushalayim'* weekends. During *Jerusalem International Film Festival* three sites within the Old City hosted special screenings. Finally, *local festivities* were held in cooperation between the Jerusalem Municipality and the city's inhabitants during the Ramadan nights and Christmas.