

Conservation and Consolidation works in the Archaeological Site of Byblos

I-Conservation and Presentation works in the Archaeological Site

1^o) Conservation of the 19th century house in the archaeological site and its transformation into a museum:

- Construction of retaining walls similar to the existing walls built during the different restoration phases to solve the issue of unstable soil under the foundations due to the steep slopes left following the archaeological excavations around the house.
- Rehabilitation of the Timber frame and clay tiles of the roof, in addition to the replacement of the windows to ensure a waterproof envelope.
- Restoration of the protective lime plaster layer on the facades to protect the exposed sandstone masonry from weathering agents and disintegration.
- Requalification of the circulation features and creation of new passages to ensure PWD accessibility.

2^o) Rehabilitation of the Ottoman L shaped building:

- Ensuring a more efficient use of the space through the rehabilitation of the rooms.
- Creation of a gathering cultural space at the entrance of the site
- Creation of a cafeteria with indoor (3 vaulted rooms) and outdoor spaces to provide the missing touristic facilities in the site.
- Creation of a gift /book store (2 vaulted rooms) to promote local handcrafts.
- Reorganization of the Directorate General of Antiquities offices to host a conference room, an audiovisual room and a reception space.
- Restore the building's historical aspect through the implementation of several interventions: removing the cement plaster and joints and replacing them with lime based mortars and plaster, replacement of the damaged wood windows and doors with similar new joinery, reorganize the electrical and sanitary networks to blend in with the historical aspect.

3^o) Conservation works of archaeological structures and features in the site:

- Weed control of the site with particular focus and finical treatment for the "Ephedra Procera" type around the affected structures.
- New vegetation management plan is being developed and applied in order to help protect the archaeological structures, enhance visitor experience and conserve rare plants such as the Mathiola Crassifolia with the help of the Nature Conservation Center (American University of Beirut).
- Documentation through full laser scan and photogrammetric and topographic survey of the site following the site clearing and weeding.
- Improving the site security through the replacement of the existing damaged wire mesh fence with plastic coated type.
- Consolidation of selected loose structures.
- Improve the safety of the touristic paths by restoring the unstable wood elements (stairs, bridges, guardrails...)

II- Conservation and Rehabilitation of Two Historical Structures and the Creation of a Center for Restoration and Conservation of Lebanese Cultural Heritage (CRCPL)

Restored in 2017, the center is composed of two buildings with an open air working space. It's a place dedicated to ensure the traditional know how of the conservation of mosaics. Two regional courses on mosaics' conservation in collaboration with the ICCROM and the Getty Foundation were held in the center in 2017 and 2019.