

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

**Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (148)
Nominated 1981**

State of Conservation Report 2013



**Presented to
The World Heritage Committee**

Introduction

The monitoring of the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site is an obligation that follows inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Local authorities and agencies carry out initiatives which are consistent with the principles and policies set out in the Strategic Plan for revitalization and conservation of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Actions performed through 2013 can be described as a continuous challenge to promote an inclusive improvement of the living fabric and the tourist infrastructure in compliance with sustainable safeguarding of the Outstanding Cultural values, authenticity and integrity of the Old City.

This Annual monitoring report relate only to new actions taken or ongoing processes in the areas inside the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem – Intra Muro sites – as per the UNESCO declaration.

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1. TOWN PLANNING

1.1. Local Plans

a. 13538 Local Plan for the Old city

This Local Plan , a derivative of the strategic plan and previous planning initiatives, determines the methods and terms of preservation and restoration of the Old City monuments and of the public realm. The plan lays out instructions for conservations and rehabilitation according to AM/9 as well as for infrastructure and public works. The Plan recommends to list 600 Monuments in the Old City, and to establish a professional team to examine applications submitted in the Old City and to advise the local authorities on their approval.

The Local planning committee, recently re-appointed, is resuming its discussion of the plan, with a view to consolidate municipal opinions regarding filed depositions.

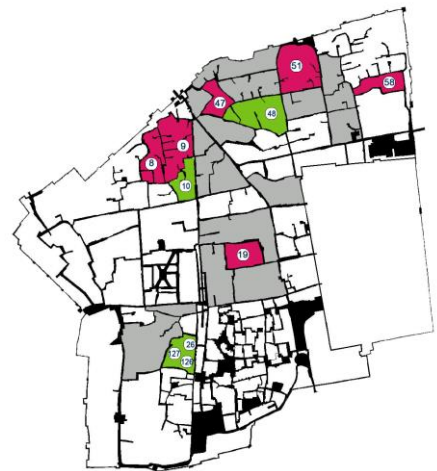
b. Residential Block Plans

23 residential blocks exist in the Old City, excluding the Jewish quarter.

Local plan AM/9 for the Old City of Jerusalem adopted in 1976 is still valid in most parts of the Old City. The plans provide tools of management, conservation and development of the urban fabric and allow the issuance of building permits for local residents.

Six residential blocks were selected for the first phase of planning. The plans implement policies and guidelines for the safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Old City, the conservation and rehabilitation of historic assets, and facilitate the issuance of building permits in these blocks.

Two residential local plans (blocks 8 & 9) are being prepared for submission to the planning committees.



c. New Scheme for the Jewish Quarter

A new Comprehensive Local Plan for the Jewish Quarter in the Old City is being developed, intended to set guidelines for the preservation and development of the Jewish Quarter. The main goal of the plan is to enhance the value of its cultural, historical and archaeological assets and turn it to a distinctive and attractive urban environment for both residents and tourists.

The plan will update land use allocations and accommodate future infrastructure needs .

The programmatic brief for the plan was approved, and presently, several spatial building alternatives are being produced to be presented to the steering committee in the coming months.

1.2. Detailed Schemes in the Old City

a. Scheme 11053 - The Liba (core) House

The Regional Planning Committee discussed the objections to the Plan which were filed, and confirmed its adoption on 14.2.13.

b. Scheme 62950 - Tifferet Israel

The Scheme was discussed in the Local Planning Committee and is now deposited for public review by the Regional Planning Committee.

c. Scheme 5306a

Rehabilitation of an Armenian Church in the Christian Quarter:

The plan has been deposited for public review. The Regional Planning Committee will shortly review the objections filed to the deposited plan.

d. Scheme 152215

A Scheme for the addition of housing units to an existing residential building was submitted.

e. Scheme 159749

A Scheme for the expansion of two apartments has been submitted.

f. Scheme 163667

This is a Detailed Scheme for the 'Dar el Cabira' complex in the Christian quarter. The Scheme sets guidelines for conservation and restoration to enhance the significance of heritage assets, and allows expansion of existing units and incorporation of sanitary improvements.

g. Scheme 145250

This is a Detailed Scheme for 'Dar el Consul' complex in the Christian quarter. The Scheme sets guidelines for conservation and restoration to enhance the significance of heritage assets, and allows expansion of existing units and incorporation of sanitary improvements.

h. Scheme 171645

A Scheme for the expansion of an existing housing unit has been submitted.

i. Scheme 173112

A Scheme which accommodates an existing building has been submitted.

j. Scheme 193482

A Scheme for an addition to an existing residential building has been submitted.

2. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - DESIGN AND EXECUTION

2.1. Upgrading of Infrastructure

a. Bab Huta neighborhood

The residential neighborhood is undergoing infrastructure improvement. The first phase of the project included the replacement of underground infrastructure; street lighting and furniture; pavement and provision of accessibility. Special care is taken to preserve the authenticity and integrity of the neighborhood and to minimize obstruction of daily activity throughout the works.



Before Renovation



After renovation

b. Hagai (El Wad) Street

Infrastructure Improvement works are progressing, proceeding to the last segment of the street. The work along one of the main commercial and touristic streets crossing the Old City is conducted with special attention to minimizing disturbance to daily activity and through dialogue with the local residents and shopkeepers. Work includes installment of underground infrastructure, new paving, accessibility improvement and conservation of two Sabils of the Mamluk period, which appear on the list of the Old City Monuments.



c. The Christian Quarter

A streetscape improvement plan for the Christian Quarter, including the Muristan plaza and the routes to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is in the final design stage. The plan integrates new traffic arrangements, renewal of street paving, furniture and lighting, replacement of underground water utilities and improvements in accessibility.

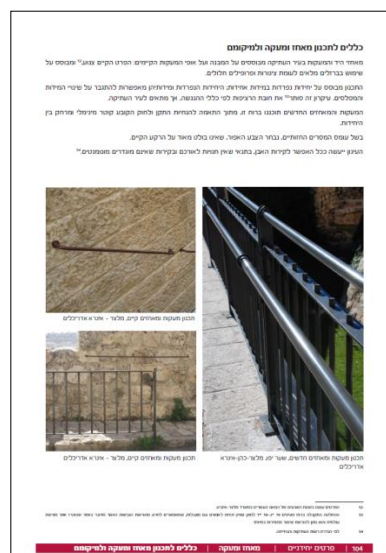
d. Storefront Upgrading

A manual for the orderly upgrading of storefronts is currently being prepared. The manual is based on a similar procedure done in the center of Jerusalem and adapted to the special terms and requirements of the Old City. Special attention was given to maintaining the unique character of the market streets.



e. Streetscape design manual for the Old City

The manual was completed in 2012, and published in Hebrew and English, and an Arabic translation is nearing completion. The manual received a national design award, and was commended on its integration of safety and accessibility requirements while maintaining the authenticity of the ancient fabric.



Streetscape design manual for the Old City published on 2013

f. Lighting

Implementation of the Old City Lighting master-plan is continually conducted, enhancing the appearance of cultural heritage landmarks in the old city and its vicinity. Installation of lighting infrastructure is incorporated in the street improvement projects. The Monuments' lighting project is carried out under collaboration with the stakeholders. The Lutheran Church of the redeemer, the Benedictine Abbey of The Dormition, and the Franciscan Custodia are few of the stakeholders with whom mutual agreement to illuminate their assets has been arrived at.



g. Old-City Street Lamp

The lighting improvement scheme recommended the design of a unique light fixture for the Old City. A tender for the design and manufacture of exclusive Old City street lamp was published, and is currently at the stage of submission's assessment.

h. Interpretation and Orientation Signage

Interpretation panels at tourist sites, wayfinding and orientation signage contribute to the enrichment of the tourist experience. Other goals of this project are to provide unify signage language and reduce the multiplicity of street elements.

The process for the design and deployment of a system of wayfinding and orientation signage in the Old City has been completed. A tender for the installation of the signage was recently published, and is currently at the stage of the submissions' review.



2.2. Maintenance and Site Management

- a. A new local governance unit for public participation in East Jerusalem was established. This unit will coordinate the public engagement process and mediate between Old City's communities and the authorities with regard to projects and initiatives are taken.
- b. Enhanced cleaning and maintenance services in the Old City is provided through an outsourcing contract. The four-year contract has been renewed lately.
- c. A GIS based database for the Old City was established. The database facilitates access to the rich, multidisciplinary data collected in the course of planning, renewal and preservation initiatives in the old city, and allows viewing, questioning and analyzing of information. The database contains maps, documents, plans, management tools, planning alerts and more.

2.3. Dangerous Structures

In the course of 2013 engineers identified structures that carry a potential risk to public safety and have declared 31 buildings within the Old City as dangerous structures. The owners and tenants were notified of the measures required to eliminate the danger.



2.4. Traffic and Transportation

A new traffic scheme intended to minimize vehicular movement through the Lions Gate and the New Gate is being prepared.

An operation of a new regular public transportation service will begin on 2014. A shuttle circulating the Old City will operate daily, departing from "park and ride" facilities.

2.5. Accessibility for the Disabled

The accessibility master-plan for The Old City, published in 2011, determined the key projects being implemented around the Old City today, and its guidelines are integrated in the variety of urban improvement projects. initiatives to improve accessibility in the public domain were conducted in the following areas:

Along the route of the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Armenian and Jewish Quarters St. James , Or Haim St. , Chabad St. , Barkai St., hayehudim St , David St. (partially) , Muristan Plaza, Avtimos Market (partially) Salhiya, Burj- el- Lakak and the Jaffa Gate Plaza (up to Kishla station) , the Latin Patriarchate , St. Peter , Khuwalidi, Tanner's ,

Brothers Ferrer , St. Francis , Casanova St. , the Greek Patriarchate St., Demetrius, the Catholic Patriarchate market .

Accessibility improvement works and installation of directional signage for accessible routes will continue through 2014 in the following regions:

the trumpets St. , Via Dolorosa (phase II) , King Faisal St. , Bab Sinner , New Gate Street , El Omari , Muazzam St. , King Issa St. and Hagai /Al - Wad (Phase II - to the intersection with Beit Habad st.) .

Each action is pre-coordinated with the IAA and every measure is taken to protect the authenticity and integrity of the treated sites.

Presently, planning of five accessible tourist routes is being prepared and will be carried out in the coming months.

Plans for the refurbishment and adjustment of seven public restroom facilities compliant with accessibility requirements for the disabled, is in preparation.

3. ARCHEOLOGY Archaeology on Temple Mount

- a. Dome of the Rock: Ongoing conservation works continued through 2013. Preservation of dome mosaics and of marble tiles cladding in the inside walls is conducted by Waqf employees.
- b. Al Omariya School: located at the northern face of Temple Mount complex. Stabilization and reconstruction of the walls of the school are carried out to eliminate danger. Works are done under IAA and engineering inspection.
- c. Digging for the repair of fire hydrants and leaking water pipes was conducted under IAA supervision.
- d. Solomon's Stables: Ongoing conservation work of the seventh and eighth vaults in the complex was conducted under IAA and engineering supervision.
- e. The Eastern Wall: Conservation works on the eastern side of the Wall were completed under IAA and engineering supervision.
- f. The Eastern Wall - Restoration work of the eastern wall resumed, including the replacement of worn stones, under IAA and engineering supervision.
- g. The installation of a fence surrounding an electric generators complex was completed in 2013 under archaeological and engineering supervision.
- h. One of the wooden doors of the Al-Aqsa Mosque was replaced by the Waqf.

3.2.Conservation Activity

This chapter describes the conservation works done in the Old City by the Israel Antiquities Authority or under its supervision during 2013. All work is done by IAA unless otherwise specified.

a. The Western Wall Compound

- a. Archeology site underneath Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue - the vault structure located east of the synagogue is dated to the medieval age. The structure was threatened by water and sewage seepage. The structural works done were required to stabilize the piers of the structure. Towards the end of 2013, the floor casting was completed. The temporary support structure was substituted by a permanent one.
- b. Strauss building- rescue excavation was conducted at the construction site of an additional wing.



b. The Western Wall Tunnels

- a. The “Secret Passage”: Ongoing conservation and structural stabilization work was undertaken in several rooms along the passage. The installation of wood platforms enables the use of the northern rooms.



- b. The Mahkamah building: Ongoing Conservation works at the building, bordering the Western Wall plaza includes treatment of deteriorated stone and structural stabilization.

c. Restoration and Preservation Of The Old City Walls

The Walls conservation project has been carried out for several years. The conservation and structural works on the Warrior Cell above the Lions Gate facade has completed this year.

3.3. Conservation works in the Old City

- a. **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** - Various works of construction, restoration and maintenance were carried out in St. Abraham convent, in the eastern wing of the Church, and on the rooftop, all conducted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchy in Jerusalem.
- b. **Alexander Nievsky church** (The Russian Church) - Works of stone conservation, infrastructure improvement and roof sealing were completed, accompanied and supervised by the IAA.
- c. **House of the Maghreb heritage**, Via Dolorosa - In the course of 2013 the conservation work was completed. Reconstruction, conservation and repair of the large arched space were accompanied by the IAA, including comprehensive archaeological documentation of remains found in the building, some of which are part of the Roman Decomanus of Jerusalem.
- d. **The Steps Pool**, the Jewish Quarter - Remains of a Miqwe ,dated to the Second Temple Period, exposed in the 1970s are incorporated in the basement of a modern building. Intending to develop the space as an information center, a preliminary conservation actions were conducted. Ongoing works include stucco stabilizing, removal of risk elements and sampled archeological excavation.
- e. **Bab Huta neighborhood** - The upgrade of the infrastructure systems in the neighborhood is carried out under close inspection of the IAA.
- f. **Hagai (el-Wad) Street** - The vast infrastructure upgrade project along Hagai (el-Wad) street stretching from Damescus Gate to The Western Wall plaza has been closely inspected by the IAA.
- g. **Sabil Hamam el Ain** - Conservation work conducted as part of Hagai (el Wad) street infrastructure upgrading project was completed in the course of 2013. The work involved cleaning and stabilizing components of the architectural monument.
- h. **Sons of Alquds community centre** - The development of an outdoor sport fields was finalized in 2013. With the aim of avoiding any damage to the Old City walls, works were conducted under archaeological and engineering supervision .
- i. The Citadel - removal of the evacuation spoil continued into 2013, coordinated with, and inspected by, the IAA.

- j. **The Citadel , the southern dike** - Landscape development had begun: pathway and hand rails meeting accessible design specification were installed. Recently, replacement of existing footholds carried out to ensure protection of the excavation were carried out under archaeological supervision.
- k. **Hamam underneath the Jaffa Gate** - This impressive site was excavated in the 1990s, revealing remains of a Byzantine bathhouse, a major road and a row of shops. The site was cleaned and cleared, and options for the site's rehabilitation are being considered in coordination with the IAA.
- l. **Zedekiyah's Cave** - The purpose of the project is to meet essential safety requirements including provision of an emergency exit through the rock and stabilizing dirt cuts inside the cave.
- m. **Haldiah -el Kirmi dangerous structure** - A Mamlukian Madrasse currently used for dwelling. In September 2013 new cracks appeared in the surrounding walls. Immediate measures were taken and temporary retaining buttresses and metal beams were constructed. The Waqf, under professional supervision, is preparing a structural and conservation plan for the compound.

3.4. Archaeological Excavations in the Old City and along the Walls

a. Research Excavations in Jerusalem Archaeological Park

- a. **Herodian drainage canal:** Excavation of the drainage channel continued in 2013. The excavation concentrated on cleaning the section of the canal beneath the Herodian street at the foot of Robinson's Arch. It was ascertained that the canal, along its north-south segment, was built above earlier structures and facilities such as a huge water pit dated to the first temple period and a series of Hasmonean period ritual baths.
- b. **Western Wall foundations:** an excavation along the foundations of the Western Wall, based on bedrock, revealed ruins of earlier facilities.
- c. **The Ophel:** A new archaeological excavations season has commenced, directed by archeologist Eilat Mazar from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The excavation in the southeastern area of Ophel was partially excavated in the past, and continues to a second stage with the progression of the Archaeological Park . Excavations exposed remains of the city's fortifications from the First Temple period, Second Temple period facilities such as ritual baths as well as structures from the Roman and Byzantine fortifications systems .

b. Salvage Excavations in the Old City

In the course of 2013, several rescue excavations were undertaken prior to implementation of civil infrastructure and rehabilitation works. All excavations were managed by archaeologists from the IAA unless otherwise noted.

- a. **Tiferet Israel Synagogue** - The synagogue was demolished in the course of the War of Independence (1948). Salvage excavations were undertaken prior to the reconstruction of the building. The excavations, conducted under the direction of IAA, exposed a unique underground system of ritual baths and remains of medieval walls. These archeological findings will be preserved and integrated into the synagogue building.
- b. **"Musa Affendi residence"**, Muslim Quarter - Salvage excavations began in 2011 inside a residence exposing remains of a large architectural complex from the Mamluk period .
- c. **"Theodor House"** Christian Quarter - Last phase of IAA excavations for Custody of Terra Sancta has been completed. The excavations uncovered remains from the medieval and Ottoman Empire periods .
- d. **"Hadad family residence"** Rasa St. building enforcement act lead to the discovery of a hewn space with remains from the Roman - Byzantine period. A limited salvage excavation was conducted by the IAA .
- e. **Damascus Gate St. #20** - Salvage excavation carried out by the IAA exposed monumental flooring, assuming part of the ancient Damascus Gate plaza . The remains were covered over according to conservation principles.
- f. **"The Grand Bazaar"**, David St. - A salvage excavation carried out in the eastern area of the monument site revealed remains of a Crusader hospital . With the discovery, the entrepreneur, in coordination with the IAA, is examining ways to integrate the remains and the historic narrative in the site program. The work was conducted by the entrepreneur accompanied by the Israel Antiquities Authority.

c. Construction Works in the Archaeological Park

At the Northwestern corner of the archeological park a platform was installed to expand the plaza for the benefit of prayers. The platform is made of lightweight materials and was installed with no damage to antiquities.



4. Tourism and Cultural Events

a. Knights in the Old City

For the fourth year running, during Autumn the public is invited to enter through the Jaffa Gate to a newly restored ancient world, to meet typical characters from the past, to delight in faraway sounds

and to enjoy dance performances, acrobatics and theater. The journey takes visitors from Jaffa Gate to the Muristan square and back to Jaffa Gate on a circular route.

b. 'Light in Jerusalem' event (Jerusalem Festival of Light)

The successful project has taken place this year for the fourth time, drawing some 300,000 visitors, the majority of them being from outside Jerusalem.

The project, which like others is carried out with great caution regarding the authenticity and integrity of the Old City, is especially sensitive to the needs of the inhabitants and the merchants in the markets as extra effort is made in order to avoid excess disturbance to daily routine.



c. 'Old City Nights'

The project aims at opening cultural arenas on weekday nights, twice weekly. Some of the planned events are repetitive and some are more provisional.

d. 'The Sounds of Jerusalem'

A successful initiation of the festival will hopefully support an annual tradition to evolve. Musical concerts are performed in various sites and spaces across the Old City, offering new ways to experience the place.



e. 'Open-House' event

During this autumn weekend Jerusalem opens up venues, including private houses, urban villas, unique synagogues, architecturally significant public buildings, curious construction sites, plazas and gardens. During the weekend, the public can visit, explore and discuss these sites. New sites in the Old City are being added annually, courtesy of institutional and private proprietors.

f. 'Hamshushalayim'

During the winter, over 'Hamshushalayim' weekends, outdoors events take place every evening which are open to the public in several locations throughout the city, including within the Old City Walls. "Hamshushalayim" proves a successful event mainly for the local residents involved in hospitality.