

## **World Heritage Sites of Islamic Cairo and Thebes with its Necropolis**

### **MISSION REPORT**

*by Cezary Bednarski (consultant architect)  
and Véronique Dauge (WHC/ARB)  
(29 April to 4 May 2007)*

### **Introduction**

Following an urgent request from the Supreme Council of Antiquities asking for expertise related to the building of a business complex adjacent to the Citadel of Cairo, a mission was organised in order to assess the project and make recommendations for impact mitigation. In addition, as a follow-up to the 2006 mission to Thebes and its Necropolis and in order to report to the World Heritage Committee, it was agreed that the mission would take this opportunity to go to Luxor. The mission that took place from 29 April to 4 May 2007, consisted of an architect, Cezary Bednarski, and Veronique Dauge from the World Heritage Centre. The ICOMOS representative in Cairo, unfortunately, was out of the country and could not join.

The terms of reference of the mission were to:

1. Assess the design of the business centre being built close to the Citadel in Cairo and discuss with the stakeholders involved, notably by informing on the requirements of the World Heritage Convention in relation to the project;
2. Study, in consultation with the Egyptian authorities concerned, mitigation measures and/or alternative solutions to the project;
3. Visit and assess the on-going developments in the World Heritage site of Thebes and its Necropolis;
4. Submit a mission report, including the evaluation of the projects and their impact on the values of the properties and make recommendations in this respect.

## **1. Historic Cairo**

### **1.1 Cairo Financial Centre ( CFC) Project**

#### **1.1.1 Background information**

During the World Heritage Centre mission to Luxor in July 2006, the mission members had the opportunity of paying a flying visit to the CFC project site and subsequently commented as follows: “the granting to the developer of a permit for construction has to be considered very unfortunate given the location and size of the project, which will have serious adverse impacts, both physically and visually, on the existing heritage values”. Considering that “a point of no return has been passed”, the mission suggested that in order to “mitigate impacts and not to jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value of the Citadel, the project should take several strict rules into consideration to minimize visual disturbance”. These included height, design, materials etc. While the developer agreed to revise the design of the complex, the new design did not prove satisfactory as to its height, design and impact.

This is the reason why the Supreme Council of Antiquities requested the World Heritage Centre to carry out a project-specific mission, which would assess this project in detail and offer recommendations regarding its continuation.

#### **1.1.2 Mission Findings**

The development project in question (CFC) is located between the Cairo Citadel and the Mohamed Ali fortress in the ancient quarries of Cairo, adjacent to the World Heritage property boundary. The revised proposal consists of a number of buildings (a hotel, offices, a mall, etc.) placed on a common base and occupying a site of some 61,000m<sup>2</sup> (the exact site area is impossible to ascertain from information provided thus far). The maximum building height, taken from the developer’s information pack, is some 59,5m, i.e. some 51m above the Salah Salem road running along the Citadel (the exact heights are impossible to ascertain from information provided thus far). The architectural language of this very large complex is mainly that of very basic non-site and non-culture specific commercial architecture. It does not appear to take into account the particular historic context of this site, its landscape or environmental conditions. It not only does not respond to its setting, it also fails to draw benefit from it.

From information provided thus far it would appear that this project would have a significant adverse impact on the visual integrity of the Citadel and its setting. Such impact would be impossible to reverse.

The controversy raised by this project suggested that the issue was very sensitive and this is why the mission listened to presentations by both parties –

the developer and the objectors, among them local architects, urban planners and archaeologists.

The developer provided the mission with a CFC project presentation pack, which did not contain any scale drawings. Some information contained in this pack seemed to be inaccurate: for example a sheet entitled *Architectural Mass of Old Design and of New Design Concept* shows the top of the Citadel wall at the level +45m, and the top of the CFC building at the level +59.50m, some 14.5m higher than the Citadel wall but the top of the CFC building has been drawn as if it were at the same level as the top of the Citadel wall.

The mission had to conclude that neither the developing company's power point presentation nor the computerised drawings presented allowed an accurate assessment of the project. In order to be able to offer a measured and measurable opinion, and one that is based on facts, the mission members requested that detailed architectural plans, sections, elevations etc, be made available, all printed to a measurable scale. Thus far such drawings have not been received, but instead another set of presentation computerized drawings.

Considering the nature of the surrounding landscape and structures, which are very varied and rich in sculptural terms, it is impossible to arrive at a full understanding of visibility lines etc on the basis of drawings alone. This is why the mission also recommended that a scale model of the proposed scheme, showing the surrounding areas, the Citadel and other structures, be made as a basis for evaluation. The mission underlined that a project located in such a sensitive and tectonically complicated location would need to be developed through an analysis of site-specific study models, and that the final scheme should be assessed through a fully detailed model, essential to measure the impact of the project and to make a professional assessment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The "Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture – Managing the Historic Urban Landscape", adopted by the States Parties to the *Convention* at the 15th General Assembly in 2005, is attached in annex 1, and constitutes an integral part of this report.

## 1.2 Islamic Cairo

The mission members accepted a kind invitation from the Ministry of Culture to visit a selection of historic buildings in the ancient part of Cairo, although the field of restoration was not in their mandate, nor of their competence. While the levels of construction and restoration skills deployed in the visited projects were very high, three main concerns emerged. One was the extent of the restoration works, in case of some buildings amounting to a total rebuild. The second the fact that thus far there appeared to be no coherent strategy which would link the restoration projects of individual buildings with urban strategies for Islamic Cairo as a whole, including socio-economic concern for the inhabitants. The third was the apparent lack of strategies for new uses for the restored objects.

Walking from Al Tanbakshiyya Street the mission visited a number of historic buildings in Al Mui'z street, being repaved, and in An-Nahhasin street. The area is well endowed with Islamic heritage structures that have been restored, the concern was maybe that this concentration of monuments in a small area may lead to it losing its authenticity as a living urban organism and turning into a tourist destination. The mission also noted ongoing construction of high-rise blocks of flats that appeared in contradiction with planning laws for historic Cairo.

The following are among the monuments visited:

- *Wekalat Bazar'a (No 398)*

Located in Al Tanbakshiyya Street this 17<sup>th</sup> century Wekala Caravansary has been brought back to its former state, with its stonework and woodwork restored. The building is vacant at present but the mission was advised that it would be used as a hotel.

- *Museum of Egyptian Textiles (The Sabil and Khutab of Muhammed Ali Ismail (No 402) – Nasharin Madrasa)*

The mission briefly visited this yet to be opened museum, which will display a collection of textiles from Pharaonic period to the time of Mohammed Ali. It is located opposite the Madrasa and Khanqah of al-Zair Barquq, still undergoing restoration. Extensive reconstruction work has been carried out behind an existing façade. Some new elements of the museum are of contemporary design, like the lift shaft and stairs, in an 'international high-tech style'.

- *Al Amir Taz Palace (No 267)*

The mission was offered a guided tour through this magnificent Mamluk palace resurrected to its full splendour as a result of many years of painstaking restoration. It is an important complex of buildings, now used as a cultural centre where various cultural events, lectures, musical galas and expositions take place.

- *Dar As-Sadat (No 463)*

The mission was shown this project as an example of restoration in progress, nearly reconstruction in reality. Extensive dewatering and waterproofing works have been carried out since 2004 and structural works were in progress. The only reasonably well preserved part of this building was its musharabiyeh and some other woodwork on the upper story of the main building.

- *Ibn Tulun Mosque*

At approximately 26,318 square metres in plan, this is the third largest mosque in the world. It is also the oldest mosque in Egypt that has survived in a fairly original form. Its recent restoration is probably among the most analysed and debated. Some experts objected to the wholesale restoration of this monument, recommending 'preventative maintenance'. During the mission visit the building appeared under-used and somewhat soulless.

- *Beit El-Harrawi*

El-Harrawi House was built in 1731 by Ahmed Ben Youssef El-Serafi and is considered to be one of the finest examples among the Islamic houses of the Ottoman era. The restoration of this house began in January 1986 and was completed in 1993.

Among the remarks made by the latest ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Cairo, the following are still accurate today: "The restoration projects are concerned with monuments and less attention are being paid to the interrelationship between the building and the immediate surroundings. The feeling of the building and the harmonious relationship to the place requires a very sensitive analyse of the historic development of the site, if authenticity shall prevail", and "there is still a need of precaution with respect to keeping the quality of patina and sign of age as a part of the authentic feeling of a monument, rather than complete renewal".

## **2. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis**

The mission to Cairo also offered an opportunity to visit the World Heritage site of Thebes with its Necropolis, in order to assess works carried out since 2006. The mission noted that despite previous World Heritage Bureau recommendations regarding Gurnah and the main recommendations of the 2006 mission, the following still appears to continue:

- a) The design of a Plaza between the entrance to the Temple of Karnak and the Nile was continued according to the original plans without, it seems, global consultation or competition. A new visitors centre and a shopping mall were built following architectural criteria which do not take into account the historic values of the area;
- b) The project to erase a portion of the city of Luxor in order to excavate the Alley of the Sphinxes and make it into a “promenade” is in progress;
- c) Most of the houses of Gurnah were demolished without prior historic or ethnographic survey, and the inhabitants were moved to a new village to the South;
- d) A project to build a large marina for cruise boats and various associated tourist infrastructure on the West Bank close to the new bridge is still being proposed.

The mission had the opportunity to briefly visit the following projects and sites in and around Luxor:

### ***Gurnah and Al-Taef***

The mission visited some of the remains of the Gurnah village, which is being demolished, and two uncovered tombs in the area, which were being investigated by archaeologists. In addition the mission also visited a new housing estate of terraced houses into which the residents of the old Gurnah are being re-housed. The new settlement consists of a number of long terraces of small houses. It was difficult to see any attempt at creating community type architectural and urban solutions, more environmentally and socially inspired, that would draw from the long tradition of handling the extreme climate of Luxor, not least as shown by Hassan Fathy in his work. However, unlike old Gurnah, the inhabitants will be provided with all modern facilities, as well as social infrastructures.

### ***River Boat Marina and Tourist Centre on the West Bank***

The mission was presented with images of this project and visited the proposed site of the new Nile tourist boat marina and tourist centre with hotels and associated facilities proposed adjacent to the new bridge on the West Bank. Besides being concerned about the designs of the proposed buildings, the mission is of the opinion that this facility should be located on the East side of the Nile and that no new structures should be established on the West Bank. It

recommends that the design process be started again, on the basis of a thorough environmental and historic impact study, with a design competition that would result in the best design for this facility being selected.

### ***New Visitors Centre at the Valley of the Kings***

The mission was able to see the new centre, recently opened at the entrance of the Valley. While its central display, a model of the Valley of the Kings, is excellent and very clearly explains the site, the architecture of this facility does not seem to have been inspired by its setting or the local climate. In addition, its limited size and some aspects of its functionality do not guaranty an ability to handle, and to inform, very large numbers of visitors.

Leaving the Valley of the Kings, visitors have to pass through a narrow alley to the side of the visitor's centre, with no opportunity to re-enter it, exposed to the heat of air conditioning units placed on the back wall of the centre. It is foreseen, in the near future, to remove all market stalls and to confine this trade to a new 'shopping area', consisting of an alley of shops which do not take sufficiently into account the local climate (for example the absence of such a simple traditional device like cross ventilation to the shop units). Also, the external lighting, of suburban design, looks out of place in the impressive mountain setting of the Valley.

### ***Temple of Hatchepsut at Deir El-Bahari***

The mission members noticed that in order to reach this magnificent structure visitors have to go through parked and moving coaches and cars. As the temple is unidirectional, what the view from the top of the processional staircase and terraces is also asphalt, cars and coaches. This situation is unsatisfactory and results in a compromised setting for this monument. The mission would like to recommend that the parking facility be moved out of sight.

Last but not least, the mission had the privilege to visit the tomb of Queen Nefertari in the Valley of the Queens, outstandingly beautiful, recently restored with the assistance of the Getty Conservation Institute.

### ***Esplanade adjacent to the Luxor Temple***

This area has been transformed into a large hard surfaced open space, which does not seem to have any specific function. The design of the space appears rather inadequate in the context of the local climate. Of concern is also the type and installation of lighting devices which creates light pollution impacting on the temple. The mission members hope that further work to this area will be undertaken to turn it into a comfortable and shaded public place, to enjoy and to socialise, rather than an inhospitable, open space exposed to the sun.

### ***The Alley of the Sphinxes, Luxor-Karnak***

The mission was shown a newly excavated section of the proposed reconstituted Alley of the Sphinxes. An extensive, 80 metres wide cutting in the terrain, with sloping sides, reaches down to the level at which stand the Sphinxes. Landscaping is still to be done and it looks like remains of a canal, which has dried out. Neither details of urban, functional or social agendas nor any long term plans for the alley seem to have been defined yet. The foreseen project is to demolish a whole area of the modern city of Luxor, in order to expose the antique 3-km long ceremonial avenue. The upper sides of the slopes would become a “promenade” with small bridges.

The mission members consider it critical that, should the project be continued, a comprehensive urban, social and environmental strategy is developed, in order for the alley to become a part of the living fabric of Luxor, for locals and visitors alike. There is a clear risk that this project could become another example of a living city being ‘injured’ in the name of archaeology. On the other hand here is an opportunity to seamlessly merge antiquity and the present by way of a lively linear park. As stated elsewhere the extent of the proposed alley has to be reviewed in light of the current needs of Luxor and its inhabitants and work should concentrate on those areas which are not built-up.

### ***Plaza between the Nile and Entrance to the Temple of Karnak***

Following extensive clearing, the site in front of the temple has already been vacated to make space for the proposed new plaza, and a visitor centre building, as well as a series of shops, of which the shell has been finished. The general impression was that there seemed to be no overriding urban or architectural rationale to this project, and that its designers perhaps did not fully apprehend the heritage dimension of the area. The mission members were worried that this space could end up as another bland hard landscaped environment, somehow out of scale and out of place in design and contextual terms.

The visitors centre building displayed rather commercial aesthetics as well as climatic inappropriateness. Its whole central part has been covered with a glass roof, which will turn it into a hothouse unless considerable amounts of electricity are used for air conditioning. This in turn would mean the need for significant mechanical plant, with the associated noise and hot exhausts. Such plant would be difficult to conceal in this building as by its nature and location, it has no ‘rear wall’ but four equally treated main facades.

The scope of this project includes also demolition of the so called “French village” buildings, which constitute a valuable element of the recent heritage of Karnak, and the architectural quality of most of them is without question. The possibility of retaining some of these buildings should be considered as they could be put to a new use, for example as information centre, or a catering facility on the banks of the Nile.



### ***Hassan Fathy's Village of New Gurnah***

The mission has also visited the remains of a mud-brick village on the West Bank designed in the forties by Hassan Fathy, a Union of International Architects Gold Medal winner. Some of the buildings in the village, including Fathy's own home, are in a state of advanced decay. These buildings are an outstanding testimony to the genius of the most important Egyptian architect of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and one of the figureheads of world architecture. They should be restored and preserved before they perish forever. A pilot project could be launched as a training exercise both for the inhabitants and young architects, under the guidance of an architect who either closely worked with Fathy or has studied his work and philosophy in depth.

### ***SUMMARY***

In summary the mission members felt that while restoration efforts, as far as the ancient heritage was concerned, were generally to be highly commended, a number of the contemporary urban and architectural interventions that they were shown were not up to the expected standards in design, artistic and functional terms, especially for projects adjacent to critically important monuments of humanity. In addition, the impact of some of these interventions on large areas of living urban organisms and communities might not be as positive as it could have been.

The mission expressed its concern regarding contemporary interventions, combined with irreversible removal of the more recent heritage. It recommended, in particular the need to keep in mind, at all stages of planning and design, the outstanding universal value of the property for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to maintain the essential balance between the antiquities, the successive layers of history to date and the living communities.

## Annex 1: The Vienna Memorandum

WHC-05/15.GA/7

### I. Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes

#### **The General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*:**

Noting that the issue of contemporary architectural interventions in and around World Heritage properties is increasingly a cause for concern among policy makers, urban planners, city developers, architects, preservationists, property owners, investors and concerned citizens;

Acknowledging that an international conference on “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape” took place in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 14 May 2005, following a request by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003) (**Decision 27 COM 7B.108**);

Considering that an important set of guidelines for the conservation of historic urban landscapes<sup>1</sup>, the “Vienna Memorandum”, was discussed during the international conference in Vienna and welcomed by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) (**Decision 29 COM 5D**);

Recalling that guidelines and orientations for the conservation of historic areas are included in several international Charters and Documents, such as the 1964 “International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites” (Venice Charter), the 1968 “UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property endangered by Public or Private works”, the 1976 “UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas”, the 1982 ICOMOS-IFLA “International Charter for Historic Gardens” (Florence Charter), the 1987 ICOMOS “Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas” (Washington Charter), the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity, as well as the HABITAT II Conference and Agenda 21, which was ratified by Member States in Istanbul (Turkey) in June 1996;

Further considering the scope of UNESCO’s *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, 1972)* and in particular its Articles 4 and 5, striving for international cooperation and the need to integrate the economic, social and human development of the cities inscribed on the World Heritage List into comprehensive planning programmes;

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1. The historic urban landscape, building on the 1976 “UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas”, refers to ensembles of any group of buildings, structures and open spaces, in their natural and ecological context, including archaeological and palaeontological sites, constituting human settlements in an urban environment over a relevant period of time, the cohesion and value of which are recognized from the archaeological, architectural, prehistoric, historic, scientific, aesthetic, socio-cultural or ecological point of view. This landscape has shaped modern society and has great value for our understanding of how we live today.

Further recalling that properties inscribed on the World Heritage List have Outstanding Universal Value and that preservation of this value should be at the centre of any conservation policy and management strategy;

**Adopts the principles expressed by the Vienna Memorandum on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes as follows:**

1. Continuous changes in functional use, social structure, political context and economic development that manifest themselves in the form of structural interventions in the historic urban landscape may be acknowledged as part of the city's tradition, and require a vision of the city as a whole with forward-looking action on the part of decision-makers, and a dialogue with the other actors and stakeholders involved.
2. The central challenge of contemporary architecture in the historic urban landscape is to respond to development dynamics in order to facilitate socio-economic changes and growth on the one hand, while simultaneously respecting the inherited townscape and its landscape setting on the other. Living historic cities, especially World Heritage cities, require a policy of city planning and management that takes conservation as a key point of departure. In this process, the historic city's authenticity and integrity, which are determined by various factors, must not be compromised.
3. A central concern of physical and functional interventions is to enhance quality of life and production efficiency by improving living, working and recreational conditions and adapting uses without compromising existing values derived from the character and significance of the historic urban fabric and form. This means not only improving technical standards, but also a rehabilitation and contemporary development of the historic environment based upon a proper inventory and assessment of its values, as well as the addition of high-quality cultural expressions.

In view of the challenges to the preservation of the historic urban landscape, the General Assembly:

- a. **encourages** policy makers, urban planners, city developers, architects, preservationists, property owners, investors and concerned citizens to work together to preserve the urban heritage, while considering the modernization and development of society in a culturally and historically sensitive manner, strengthening identity and social cohesion;
- b. **further encourages** the enhancement of quality of life of historic cities by improving living, working and recreational conditions and adapting uses without compromising existing values derived from the character and significance of the historic urban fabric and form;
- c. **emphasizes** the need to properly contextualize contemporary architecture in the historic urban landscape and **stresses** the importance of undertaking Cultural or Visual Impact studies when contemporary interventions are being planned;

- d. **invites** States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* to integrate the principles expressed in the Vienna Memorandum into their heritage conservation policies;
- e. **encourages** States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* to integrate the concept of historic urban landscape in their nominations and in the elaboration of management plans of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List.

## **Annex 2: Recommendations of the International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Islamic Cairo (Cairo, 16-20 February 2002)**

### ***Introduction***

An International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Islamic Cairo was organized by the Ministry of Culture of Egypt in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, from 16 to 20 February 2002 at Cairo. Attended by several world experts, both Egyptians and foreigners, on conservation of historic cities and Islamic architecture, the meeting included site visits, four thematic sessions on subjects related to the conservation of Islamic Cairo, as well as technical workshops on specific projects among those currently being implemented by the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The present conclusions summarize the outcome of the Meeting and the main deliberations of the participants.

### ***Recommendations***

The Participants in the Symposium,

- Noting that Historic Cairo suffered in the past from severe environmental hazard, neglect, earthquakes and other major causes of deterioration;
- Having recognized the strong commitment shown by the Government of Egypt for the safeguarding of the site, and especially the great amount of work carried out in the recent years in response to the urgent situation;
- Noting with satisfaction the generalized use of an overall methodology of conservation and some initial promising results;
- Having appreciated the large extent and very high level of organization of the documentation assembled, and the good use of Information Technology, which may become an essential tool for educational initiatives and sharing of information;
- Emphasizing the importance of the social context within the framework of a policy for the conservation of Islamic Cairo;
- Taking into account the large number of restoration projects being presently carried out, and planned for the immediate future within Historic Cairo;
- Noting the efforts deployed by the Supreme Council of Antiquities in disseminating information on its activities, through both publications and street signs;

Have recommended the following<sup>1</sup>:

1. That the Institutional framework and coordination mechanisms among the various concerned authorities for Historic Cairo be strengthened, taking into account the special character and complexity of the site;

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<sup>1</sup> These recommendations are based on the reports of the rapporteurs of the various sessions, herewith annexed, as well as on the contributions of the experts presented during the Symposium.

2. That Islamic Cairo be designated as Special Planning District, including buffer zones, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
3. That a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of Islamic Cairo be prepared, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Historic Cairo;
4. That particular attention be paid to ensure the vernacular character of the built stock, and that special emphasis be put on its rehabilitation;
5. That the Authorities continue their present efforts to improve the water supply, sewerage and road surfaces networks, whose dilapidation was recognized as a major cause for the deterioration of the historic city;
6. That the Governorate and other concerned agencies pay special attention, in its planning for the old city of Cairo, to its status of World Heritage site and to the prescriptions contained in the Convention and its Operational Guidelines;
7. That the trend, emerged recently, whereby appropriate and compatible functions for non-religious historic buildings and future management mechanisms are determined, in consultation with all concerned parties, before starting any restoration work, with the exception of structural damage and other emergency situations, on a monument, be institutionalized;
8. That adequate resources be invested in capacity building and training in the area of architectural conservation and traditional craftsmanship;
9. That periodic monitoring and follow up to these recommendations be ensured in the form of regular meetings among Egyptian and International experts on current projects and overall policies for the conservation of Historic Cairo.

### Annex 3: Programme of the mission and persons met

29 April	PM	Arrival in Cairo
30 April	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting at the UNESCO Cairo office with Mr Gerard de Puymege, Culture officer and Ms Costanza di Simone, consultant archaeologist</li> <li>• Meeting at the Supreme Council of Antiquities with Dr Zahi Hawass, Secretary-General, Dr Sabry Abd El Aziz Khater, Head of Egyptology Sector, and Dr Mustafa Kamel El-Ghamrawy, Al Azhar University</li> <li>• Visit of the work site of the Cairo Financial Centre and presentation of the project by Mr Mohamed Nosseir, owner and developer of the project, and his team.</li> <li>• Meeting at the Cairo Citadel with representatives of the association "National Egyptian Heritage"</li> </ul>
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit of the Citadel and of the Mosque Mohamed Ali</li> <li>• Meeting with Dr Zahi Hawass</li> <li>• Meeting with Mr Ayman Abdel Moneim, Supervisor of the Historic Cairo Development Project</li> </ul>
1 May	AM	Visit of the historic core of the old city of Cairo and of restored buildings and monuments
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departure for Luxor</li> <li>• Meeting with the Governor of Luxor province, Mr Samir Farag</li> <li>• Visit of some areas of the city of Luxor</li> </ul>
2 May	AM	Visit of the West Bank with Dr Sabry Abd El Aziz Khater, Dr Abdel Hamid Koteb and Dr Mansour Burayek: Memnon colosses and Amenophis III temple remains; temple of Hatchepsout at Deir el-Bahari; Gurnah; entrance of the Valley of the Kings; tomb of Nefertari in the Valley of the Queens.
	PM	Visit of Karnak: new plaza, temple, on-going excavations, new visitors centre, Alley of the sphinxes.
3 May	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to Cairo</li> <li>• Meeting with Mr Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture</li> <li>• Meeting with Dr Zahi Hawass</li> <li>• Visit of other areas of the old city of Cairo</li> </ul>
4 May	AM	Departure from Cairo