

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

**State of Conservation Report 2016
Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (148)
Update : January 2017**



Executive Summary of activities during the year 2016
(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 11053 The Liba (core) House , a local plan for the construction of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation administrative building received statutory validation.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Two of the wider public projects in the Old City were concluded this year: Public Infrastructures renewal and streetscape improvement along Hagai (El Wad) Street and the Installation of Interpretation and Orientation Signage through the Old City .

Next comprehensive public space improvement projects are *The New Gate* and *the Armenian Patriarch street (Armenian Quarter)* projects. This year, tender issued and a contractor chosen. Work is expected to start in 2017.

Extensive work to improve Old City's streetscape were carried out through 2016. work involved residential area as well as commercial streets. In the Christian Quarter the project encompassed the Maronite *Convent street, Al Gabsha, HaShlichim, The Churches* and *A-Sayyida* Streets. In the Muslim Quarter, the project included works on the Streets of *A-Saraya, Al-Hakkari, Al-Karmi,* and *Haladiyya*.

Plans for the *Dung Gate* includes new traffic and parking arrangements and widening of pedestrian sidewalks; plans are being coordinated with related planning authorities and public infrastructure bodies.

Management and maintenance activities in the Old City has expended. new solutions for waste management implemented: refurbishment of vacant alcoves and utilize it as waste storage rooms. these were created in *Bab Huta Street, HaShlichim Street, New Gate Street, Sheikh Reichan* and *Maalot HaPrachim Streets*. Architectural elements were designed to secure and conceal garbage bins. 22 units were installed . Renovation of 12 public restrooms was carried out across the Old City. Washing facilities were installed to allow Muslims to use the facilities before prayers.

Accessibility improvement works in *Shaar Barzel Street, the Muristan - Suq Aftimos, the Bab Huta neighbourhood, the Copts, St. George* and *David Streets* were conducted and completed through 2016.

ARCHEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Ongoing conservation and repair work **On Temple Mount** is conducted by the Islamic Waqf and supervised by Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). A conservation of the structural beams in the *Dome of the Rock*, and preservation of *Cotton Merchants Gate* were conducted during 2016.. Ongoing conservation work of the complex was conducted in *Solomon's Stables*.

Conservation Activity at The Western Wall Compound conservation works undertaken at the Archaeological site beneath the "*Ohel Yitzhak*" *Synagogue* ,and *the Liba House* building site , preparing the site for visitors reception.

Jewish Quarter -rescue excavations and structural reinforcement carried out in *Beit Strauss*, *the western wall tunnels* and *Birkas HaTorah Yeshiva* in the Jewish Quarter As part of the renovation works in the Yeshiva compound, preservation work was also carried out.

Conservation Activity along Old City Walls - supervising the accessibility improvement and renovation works at *The Old City Walls Promenade*, removal of Graffiti from the walls.

Conservation Activity at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher international experts team carried out the conservation and reconstruction of the Edicule .

Other conservation work in the Old City - Archeological remains exposed in several sites during construction were restored and preserved in order to prepare the site for visitors - at the *Gradual Pool* in the Jewish Quarter, in the *Kishle Citadel* and the "*Franciscan Museum*".

Conservation of ancient public facilities enabled to put in use Ottoman Sabeels : *Lion's Gate Sabeel*, *the Overseers Sabeel (HaMajlis)*, *the El-Khalidi Library Sabeel* and *the Chain Gate Sabeel* and Mamelukan Hammams: *Hammam al-'Ayn* and *Hammam al-Shifa*.

A unique marble carvings in *The Machkame* was preserved and reinforced, a fountain was carefully removed and restored.

Preservation and construction works were carried out in *Turbah al Quilania* compound, repairing damages to the vaulted ceiling of the monument. During the course of preservation and construction work carried out in *Madrasa al Hanbaliyya*, a Mameluke historic building IAA documented the building and discovered new spaces. Unpermitted construction in *Khan Tankiz* removed and renovation work on the compound was carried out.

Renovation of the façade of *Madrasa Mazhuriya*, a Mamluke historical building, was carried out as an initiative of the Islamic Waqf . Preservation and restoration works were carried out on **Vaulted ceilings along *Mawlawiyya Street*** as a safety measure. *A-Tachiya* is an historic monument documented during building works carried out in the Dar al-Aytham School.

Archaeological Excavations in the Old City and along the Walls included research excavations in the *Jerusalem Archaeological Park* revealed Umayyad period building. Excavations took place in *Wilson's Arch* revealed a medieval storage cistern.

In the Jewish Quarter, Salvage excavations were undertaken in *Plugat HaKotel Street* revealed pits and structures from the Mameluke and Ottoman periods. A rescue excavation *Chabad Street* was carried out in a residential building. Artifacts were dated from the Second Temple to the Medieval period.

In the Moslem Quarter, excavations took place at *Hakkari street*, at *Hosh ek Muwaqqat* and at *Sultan Khan* and *Sha'ar HaShalsholet Street, 1* in the course of construction of an electric transformer room and other building activity caused damage to antiquities. Remains of buildings were discovered from various periods among these, underground compound of rooms with vaulted ceilings which dated from Crusader period

In the Christian Quarter, salvage excavations were carried out at *St. Nicholas* revealed a mosaic floor covered with debris from the Byzantine period. *Dar Consul* is a wide underground compound , a property of Custodia di Terra Sancta , intended to be used as a cultural center. During e remains of building from the medieval period was revealed and documented in its entirety.

In the Armenian Quarter, at *St. Mark Street* , Rescue excavations were carried out due to damage to antiquities. The excavation revealed the remains of a broad wall which were identified as the Second Temple period.

TOURISM AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Jerusalem Light Festival 2016 was dedicated to contemporary multimedia works of local and foreign artists, who displayed 40 works and installations with the theme of light in central locations and hidden corners of the Old City of Jerusalem. *Sounds of the Old City Festival* , an International Music Festival was held for the fifth year in the Old City of Jerusalem. Music concerts were performed in various sites and spaces across the Old City, offering new ways to experience the site.

A visitor's guide to the Old City is designed for the independent tourist and can be accessed as a mobile telephone application. The application offers 21 audio tours across the Old City in four languages (Hebrew, English, French and Russian). All tours are offered in audio transcription for the deaf. Five tour routes are adapted and accessible for people with physical disabilities.