



*Odessa ~ Cultural Heritage of Odessa
- History and the Present ~*

Cover Photo: Birds-eye view of Primorsky Boulevard

*Review of the 11th World Conference
of Historical Cities in Konya, Turkey*

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WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin
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Cultural Heritage of Odessa

- History and the Present

Odessa City Council, Dept of International Relations

History of Odessa - 1700's

Odessa City - a unique object of national culture, architecture and town planning - was founded in 1794.

The city is situated at the southwest of Ukraine at the shore of the Black Sea along Odessa bay. Geographical coordinates are: in latitude 40 degrees 20 minutes North, in longitude 30 degrees 32 minutes East. The city is extended along the bay with the total length of 30 km. Top width of the city makes 10 km. Area of the city within modern limits makes 13,000 hectares.

There were the settlements of ancient Greek colonies situated at the territory of the modern city during the antique times, and their remains were found at Primorskyy Boulevard, in the area of the Opera House, at Zhevakhova Hill.

The most well-known predecessor of the city - Tatar settlement Khadzhibey - is referred to in XV century during the period of Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The settlement is described as a significant port for export of grain. In the 2nd half of XV century these lands were transferred to the Crimean khanate. In 1764 Turks-Ottoman had established Eni-Dunya fortress - "New Council", with the purpose of strengthening their northern border, and a civilian settlement was actively developing next to it.

During the next one Russian-Turkish military campaign on September 14, 1789, detachment of Vice-admiral Joseph De-Ribas with participation of Ukrainian Cossacks headed by Ataman A. Golovatyy had seized Eni-Dunya fortress. Opportune location of the bay had predetermined plans of harbor construction for rowing flotilla and a settlement. F. Devolan, military engineer of Dutch origin, had provided the first design of that settlement in the form of network of rectangular blocks and in 1794 a decree of Odessa city establishment was issued.

Odessa was distinguished by one more unique characteristic during the first years of its existence. It was populated by compact colonies of different ethnic and national groups. There were separate groups of blocks - colonies formed according to national belonging. In this connection streets of the city were getting correspondent names: Greek, Italian, Arnaut, Jewish, Bulgarian, etc.

Architecture of Odessa City within first 25 years of its existence was notable for severe forms of Empire style that was common all over Europe by those times. A stone (shell rock) that was extracted from underground galleries - catacombs - directly under the city blocks - was the basic construction material.

History of Odessa - 1800's

City's infancy period was almost over by the end of 20's of the XIX century. Bread exporting transactions have made Odessa port number one in Europe by that time. Due to the increasing volume of import turnover the city was given a Porto Franco status in 1819 that lasted till 1859. Investments into



The Count Vorontsov Palace

development of the city had dramatically increased.

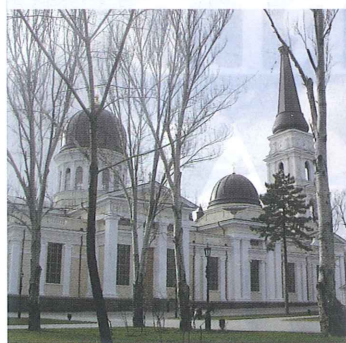
Significance of Odessa as one of the most important city at the south of Russian Empire, a peculiar "window to Europe and Western Asia" had been also consolidated by the administrative status. Remaining in the position of a town, Odessa had got not only the rights of the district center but of the capital of the entire territory. It is exactly the place where the reign of eminent and military figure - prince M. Vorontsov had started that became Novorossiyskyy and Bessarabskyy Governor-General in 1823.

Education, science and culture were rapidly developing. Rishelyevskyy lyceum, Nobel Ladies Institute, male and female gymnasiums, vocational schools and high schools were headed by Odessa educational district since 1830. In the same 1830 a public library, second in the country, was opened. "Agriculture Society of South of Russia" that had played a significant role in the economics development of the district, was founded in 1828. There the city museum of antiquity was opened in 1825 and "Odessa History and Antiquities Society" that had developed the work on research of archeological monuments and history of the entire territory was founded in 1839.

Closely connected with Europe Odessa City had become one of the centers of national liberation of the Balkan people. Bulgarian books were published at Odessa printing establishments, many prominent fighters for freedom of Greece and Bulgaria lived here.

Odessa of middle XIX century had formed as a full-fledged city. Development was notable for the availability of large town-planning ensembles, which basic elements were Primorskyy Boulevard, Theatre Square, Greek, Old bazaars complex and Aleksandrovskeyy Avenue. Odessa had got an expressive artistic look that was attained by functional congruence of the dwelling and production zones, absence of contrast between the center and outskirts, exclusively high architecture level of the dwelling, public and production buildings.

Breathtaking panoramas were opening up from different view points. View of the city from the side of the sea was especially impressive. Coastal strip with port structures



Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral

and development of Primorsky Boulevard over the steep shore slopes was appearing before the viewer in all of its magnificent length. A giant staircase (Potemkin staircase) to the sea was built by the design of the well-known architect F. K. Boffo in 1841, thus completing the look of the boulevard.

Gradual growth of decoration tendency was appearing in Odessa in the second half of XIX century as well as in other cities of Europe. Major part of the buildings in 1860 - 1870's were built in the forms of more strict Renaissance and early baroque, picturesqueness is getting more and more significance within the next decades. Images and motives derived from the architectural heritage of Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Holland and other countries are preferentially varied at this. The stylizations of plastic forms of the Moscow architecture of XVI-XVII centuries were becoming apparent in the mass building as well as in the building of cult structures.

History of Odessa - 1900's

A new style tendency had appeared by 1900 - art nouveau that had spread in its three modifications in the beginning of XX century: early - decorative, mature and late - rationalistic.

Decisive changes of the architecture of public structures have taken place along with active urbanization of the city. New types of buildings like railway stations, passages, covered markets, banks, circuses, etc. have emerged.

City theatre built in 1843-1887 at the place of the old burned down theatre was acknowledged to be a true masterpiece of the world. Austrian architects F. Felner and G. Gelmer have won the competition for the best theatre design.

Construction was performed by Austrian contractors Frei and Cifferer at participation of many architects, sculptors and artists that lived in Odessa. The theatre is by right acknowledged to be one of the best in Europe. Spatial-volumetric composition of Odessa had transformed in the second half of the XIX - beginning of the XX century. City with low-rise harmonic Empire development and ensembles had turned into a large industrial, well beautified center of European civilization. Its scale has changed. Buildings and structures have become more meaningful in their dimensions that had significantly influenced the panoramas and silhouette characteristics of separate districts as well as of the city as a whole.

All large town-planning events connected with development of industrial, transport territories and new residential areas during the Soviet period were developing out of the limits of the historical area of Odessa City. The attempts to penetrate historical center with large town-planning projects had got almost no implementation.

Present Odessa - Measures for Preservation of Cultural Heritage

In 1989 general plan of Odessa City had for

the first time stipulated events on protection of the historical area and it allowed basically preserving the layout of the historical center and its unique development during the last 20 years of the XX century.

Basic zones of and places of historical and cultural monuments concentration had formed at the territory of Odessa as a result of 200 years of the city development. Central part of the City limited by the former Outer Boulevard that surrounded the city and separated it from the outskirts (within the city plan of 1811) is a town-planning art masterpiece.

Central nucleus of the city's historical area that had formed at the background of Primorsky boulevard, Dumskaya Square, Theatre Square and Yekaterininskaya Square ensembles had preserved the authentic development of 1820-1880, and the majority of the buildings here are unique monuments of architecture and are taken under protection of the state by the Government of Ukraine.

With the view of preservation of traditional nature of environment Odessa city is included into the list of historical population centers of Ukraine.

There are 1815 objects of cultural heritage including by the national significance category located in Odessa, well-known for its architectural, cultural and historical achievements: 44 monuments of history and monumental art.

A complex restoration and beautification of Yekaterininskaya Square of Odessa City was performed with reconstruction of its historical appearance with the view of including of this town-planning ensemble to the preliminary list of the World cultural heritage of UNESCO. Monument "To Founders of Odessa" dismantled in 1920 was restored within the framework of these works. This masterpiece of monumental art was included into many art textbooks of those times as an example of talented architectural environment of small-scale city square formation. Major task that we put for ourselves when talking of preservation of the historical center of Odessa City - is securing its further development taking into account maintenance of architectural and artistic originality not going to the limits of making it being a museum. One of the most important and complex tasks in the work on preservation of historical development of Odessa City is maintenance of its well-established humane scale.

Hypothesis that we have offered stipulates use of "golden section" principle at determination of marginal parameters of the new objects of architecture to be placed in the established historical development including the direct proximity to the objects of cultural heritage. Principle of preservation of traditional nature of historical environment, i. e. use of architectural techniques, elements and details typical to the buildings of Odessa of the XIX, beginning of the XX century is also important in designing new buildings within the established historical development.



Image of Yekaterininskaya Square with the monument "To Founders of Odessa" in early 1900's



Restoring Construction of the monument



Yekaterininskaya Square after restoration of the monument (2008)



Yekaterininskaya Square at night

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Review of the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities held in Konya, Turkey from June 10 to 13, 2008

The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities held in Konya has successfully ended. The followings are the the Message from the Mayor of Konya and the conference feedback from the academic advisor of the Conference.

Tahir

Akyurek

*Mayor of Konya
Host City*



Dear Friends,

First of all I would like to thank to all participants for gracing this conference from all over the world with 156 cities, in the universal city Konya at crossroads of civilizations.

I am sure that multi-dimensional manner of analyzing and discussions at 11th World Conference of Historical Cities will greatly contribute to the future studies of World Cultural Heritage.

The importance of the conference can be better understood if we consider the socio-genetic contribution to world peace of all the activities done to understand and protect the historical heritage.

The discussions at this conference which are made under four subtitles: "Living Heritage", "Urban Identity", "Cultural Diversity", "Crossroads of Cultures", increased our sensibility as city administrators on protection of living cultural heritage; also attracted our attention on reflecting the synthesis of modern buildings and historical heritage while planning future urban designs.

11th World Conference of Historical Cities which received the biggest number of attendance of the League until today with wide range of participants from America to Japan, from Africa to Middle East and from Europe to Australia , greatly satisfied us by giving the opportunity of exchange of experiences each other and being friends to these participants of very different geographies.

I would like to thank to all of our guests participated in the conference in Konya , and to declare that we can share our experiences with the next organizer city to see these colorful images again at the future conferences.

Tahir Akyurek

*Host Mayor of 11th World Conference of Historical Cities
Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality*



Mayor Akyurek addresses speech at the opening ceremony

Aysegul

Tokol

*Academic Advisor
for the Conference*



The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities was held in Konya in June 10-13, 2008 with approximately 900 participants including member and non-member Mayors and other local administrators of historical cities of the world, academics, scholars and students from relevant disciplines, and those who are interested in. The theme of this year's conference was "Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities" and the sub-themes were Urban Identity - "Cultural Self"; Living Heritage - "A Path"; Cultural Diversity - "Tolerance"; and Crossroads of Cultures - "A Gateway".

Besides all workshops and roundtables of the conference in which exchange of ideas, applied projects, prospects and actions on historical cities took place there were two new events in Konya. The first one is the final roundtable that is moderated by Mr. Hisakazu Takagi, the Secretary General of the League of Historical Cities, and I where all keynote speakers and moderators made their concluding remarks in evaluating the conference and highlighting the policies. That session flourished various ideas and questions about the future of historical cities of the world and pointed out that the work began on the day the conference was over. The second one was the Youth Forum that held on the second day of the conference where students from different cultures and cities made their presentations and discussed the future of our cities and cultural heritage. At the end of the forum they have written a Youth Declaration beside Konya Declaration signed by the member cities.

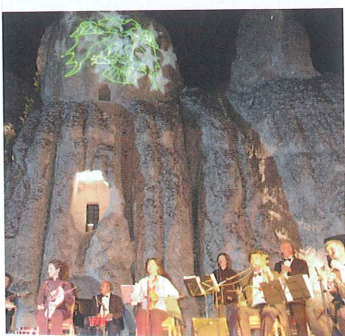
As an overall review of the 11th World Conference I found it quite challenging, well-organized and promising event for the coming meetings and studies.

Aysegul Tokol (Ph.D.)

*Academic Advisor for the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities
Instructor of Bilkent University, Ankara*



Dr. Tokol addresses speech at the opening ceremony



Welcome dinner at Kiristra

The Secretariat would like to draw your attention that 11th World Conference of Historical Cities introduced a new program "Youth Forum". Seven teams from six cities, Konya, Ankara, Istanbul, Mardin, Kyoto and Boston, made presentations and conducted a lively discussion on the theme of "Living Cultural Heritage".

Moderator of the Youth Forum

*Funda Bas Butuner (Ph.D.)
Instructor of Bilkent University*



The 11th Conference in Konya has a particular significance. For the first time a Youth Forum was held and young people of different ages, from different cities and from different disciplines got the chance to express their ideas about historical heritages. So, in the conference, we had an intense session including seven presentations on different cities -Ankara, Boston, Istanbul, Konya, Kyoto and Mardin- and on diverse themes. Some of us presented our experiences and some others discussed the issue in a theoretical framework. However, we all had same concerns; to understand and rethink the values of historical heritages without disregarding contemporary economic, physical and social relations. At the end of the conference, in order to express our arguments, as young participants, we wrote a youth declaration concluding all the ideas, wishes and comments of the forum. I believe sharing our experiences will lead us to new approaches for the prospects of the future and sustainability of historical cities; and also I hope this forum has been a successful beginning for upcoming Youth Forums in the conferences of the League.

Youth Representative from Ankara

*G. Yeliz Kahya
Bilkent University*



It was such an informative and beneficial meeting that discussing and informing about different urban issues about vary cultural heritages of world. At youth forum, we exchanged our knowledge about urban issues. There were excellent presentations about different cultural heritages as introducing cities' historical values and also some urban proposals to develop qualified historical sites. Although all presentation were about different urban issues, there were some common goals that I realized during youth forum. The most important goal, like-minded, was about renovation of historical sites of cities and the important role of architects, urban designers and planners etc. It was highlighted at the forum that we must be aware of both positive and negative effects of new urban forms as integrating them to historical heritages. At that point the most important issue was that encouraging the urban identity of city and living social life of space. I am glad to experience this kind of multicultural organization and share different ideas of people about urban problems. In future conferences I expect that different cities share some worthless and unsuccessful examples of renovation of historical sites that they experienced. I think it will be more influential model for other cities renovation periods.

Youth Representative from Boston

*Kyle Sykes
Milton Academy*



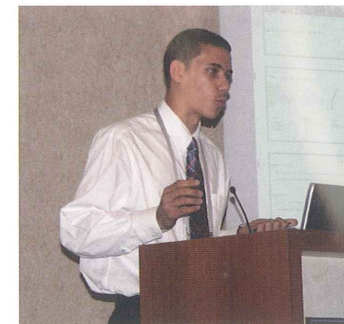
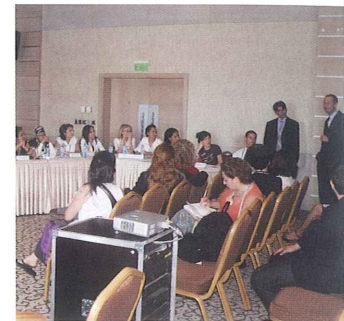
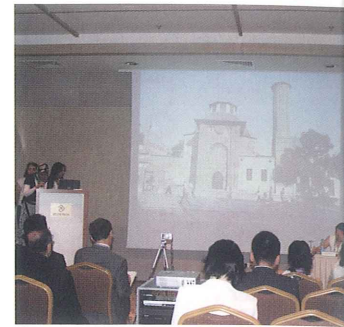
The youth turnout for the 11th Conference was a group of intellectuals and students collected from across the world. Our conference began with a series of presentations demonstrating how each country is "doing their part" to preserve our world heritage with research, projects and competitions. We expanded our discussion to explore the importance of cultural heritage; and in particular, how we as leaders of the next generation must pay attention to our past and the way our future will be affected by it. Each country representative was not only respectful of the global diversity of other races, ethnicities and cultures, but also conscious of how monuments, artifacts and architecture contribute to the diversity of their national histories. The formal declaration that we created together marked the official establishment of the youth program, along with the promise of its continuation at the 12th Conference. When presented to the general assembly the declaration was received with great enthusiasm. I hope that our energy will be carried home to the member cities and lead to an appearance from a wide array youth when we meet again in Nara, Japan.

Youth Representative from Kyoto

*Motoki Imakita, Kohei Shibasaki,
Hana Sekikawa, Keita Emoto
Kyoto University*



We are satisfied that we were able to present the attractions, and also share our original opinions about the case of Kyoto City in front of many people from all over the world. We think that it is important for the youth to learn the results of previous people's researches, but it might be also quite important to show new ideas and to discuss with all generations such this forum has realized. In this point, we think that the Youth Forum was very significant. If we should find a reflection point, we thought that unfortunately there were just few suggestive contents of the presentations. The presentation techniques were high quality, but the original suggestion only by the youth was not found. We hope that we can keep this good opportunity still alive to share and exchange our ideas with others, so that it can also give any advantages to our research. Anyway, even there was a little reflection point, but over all we can assert that it was overwhelmingly good experience. We heartily hope that such good opportunities for the young could be continuously found all over the world in the future.



Voices from the Participants

Looking back on the good memories of 4 days

The Review of the 11th Conference in Konya

City of Budapest

Katalin Kiss
Head of Department for the
Protection of Architectural Heritage



The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities proved to be a good decision to hold the conference in such a venue - a place of deep spirituality which was the cradle of sciences and arts already in the ancient times of human civilization. One could experience the amazing variety of natural and cultural values here which offered a perfect background to the basic idea of the meeting: "Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities". The well-chosen theme and the place formed an excellent synthesis. All these were supplemented by the competent and useful presentations of the speakers.

Due to the professional organization the rich program was personal, relaxing and inspiring. The atmosphere of the meeting made it memorable for a long time.

The League of Historical Cities is becoming more and more well-known among the specialists of the historical cities. It is an organization to whom the World listen. Its increasing significance originates partly from its openness which could be experienced in the Konya meeting, too.

From now on the League will be preparing for the 12th Conference which will be held in 2010 in Nara, Japan. Similarly to Konya, Nara is also a spiritual place of the World. Looking at these venues one starts to think about the connection between spirituality and the preservation of the cultural heritage. What are the criteria of a spiritual place? What shall be the future of these places? I reckon we will have to discuss these questions and Nara will be an ideal venue for the discussion.

Finally I have to thank the Turkish and Japanese organizers for the wonderful Konya conference and I wish a successful work to the organizers of the Nara World Conference.

City of Warsaw

Ewa Nekanda-Trepka
Director of Heritage
Protection Department



In listening to the extremely interesting presentations over the course of the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities, I got the impression that everyone is, or would like to be, the "hub of the world," where an introverted stance is dominant. But the heritage of the world is like a picture made up of puzzle pieces. Each and every city is unique and exceptional just like any single section of a puzzle's composition, while simultaneously being vital to the building of the whole picture. The quest for common qualities, and sometimes problems that should be solved, helps in achieving a lucid and cohesive, though variegated picture of

the culture of our planet.

The meeting in Konya of representatives of so many countries from all continents and the forging of personal ties is undoubtedly the greatest value of this conference. What I missed was the possibility of meeting in smaller discussion workshop groups looking into our common problems and ways of solving them. This lies at the heart of my postulate for the 12th Conference in Nara, Japan for it to be more open to "dialogue" rather than "talking." Only dialogue can allow the finding of those edges of puzzle pieces that match allowing the continued assembly pictures to create a harmonious landscape. We must have an awareness that if any element is missing-a continent, city, culture, or tradition-we cannot put together the entire picture. The fact that every city or region is different and unique is a value. I am very happy to be able to be in a far away place that turns out to be closer and that every such meeting makes possible the putting together of a more complete image of diverse world cultures. I would like to congratulate the Metropolitan Municipality of Konya on their professionalism in organizing the Conference as well as the wonderful atmosphere.

City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters

Susan Howarth
Councillor



The Mayor, Municipality, and people of Konya deserve hearty thanks for hosting a memorable 11th World Conference of the League of Historical Cities.

I greatly appreciated the informative presentations, the networking opportunities, the cultural tours and the impressive historical venues for social events. My congratulations on both organization and operation of the Conference.

I do have two thoughts for consideration by the League.

Firstly, delegates might benefit from more extensive opportunities for interactive discussion and debate about those policies and problems that confront, concern and unify us all. No matter where we are in the world, our heritage is an irreplaceable link to the past. As the current custodians of those links it is important that we share our practical knowledge and experience as fully as possible.

Secondly, I believe the League is well positioned to foster the preservation of our built and cultural heritage worldwide, by further promoting its ideals. As the League grows in numbers the stronger it will become, and the more its beneficial influence will be felt. After all, any city that values its heritage will be a progressive city, with a strong sense of place and community spirit, and thus a better place to live.

Well done Konya! And may the League continue its successful heritage role.



Whirling Dervishes "Sema"

The Secretariat has received the following urgent report from PRIHC Association (Preservation and Rehabilitation of Iraqi Historical Cities) about what has occurred in some Iraqi historical cities. The valuable cultural heritages in the country is in serious danger of being destroyed, although they should be carefully protected and inherited to the next generation. The Secretariat sincerely hope the situation would be better in near future and appreciate if any cities could help this organization.

* PRIHC Association is a part of the Iraqi Committee for Culture (NGO) established in 2005.

The association itself was established in 2008. The main focus of the association is to launch and support the process of preservation and restoration of Iraqi historical cities.

Among prominent members of the PRIHC association are: Dr. Arch. Mohammed Al-Shabander (Consultant Architect/City Planner, Director General of Physical Planning, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works), Mufid Al-Jazairi (Chairman of Committee for Culture, Media and Tourism, Council of Representatives of Iraq, Iraqi former culture minister) and Arch. Maysoun Salem Al-Damluji (Council of Representatives of Iraq, Iraqi former culture deputy minister).

PRIHC Association is now preparing national conference focusing on urgent need of historic preservation and economic revival of Iraqi cities.

< Iraqi Historical Cities Safeguard >

It is understood that Iraq, in its positive approach towards the future, is preparing plans for restoration, rebuilding and growth. Social unrest and political violence unfortunately, are still influencing life in Iraq and consequently, it is difficult to lead the country in this difficult political climate.

The simultaneous and proposed demolition of the large built area of the Iraqi historical cities is a daily reality.

Many traditional houses are deliberately demolished by their owners for speculative reasons. In the Holy Cities of Karbala, Najaf and Samarra the areas slated for demolition are intended to be used for the expansion of the Shrine - believed to be necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in the number of pilgrims.

The representatives of the Iraqi cultural and architectural community, experts in historical preservation and individuals concerned with preservation of the world's cultural and historical heritage - strongly believe that destruction of the historical areas will lead to complete erasure of the important representative Islamic city and cause irreversible loss of traditional architecture and vernacular urban fabric. Destruction of this significant portion of the cities centers will inevitably inhibit the potential for economic revival and will have a detrimental effect on the social conditions in the cities. Moreover in the Holy Cities of Najaf, Karbala and Samarra, the purported goal of the demolition - accommodation of the pilgrims - can be fulfilled with alternative design solutions, which will also regulate circulation and eliminate potential hazards associated with large assemblies of people.

The representatives of the Iraqi cultural and architectural community believe - due to the current security situation, the absence of accurate cadastre plans, the absence of appropriate expert survey and scientific evaluation of the existing buildings, as well as the absence of legislative structure governing the built environment demands - that all irreversible decisions should be delayed until appropriate and objective research can be conducted and effective laws crafted.

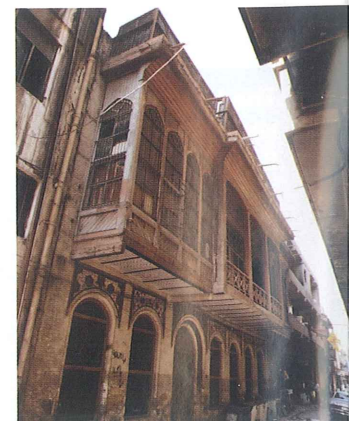
For this purpose the representatives of the Iraqi cultural and architectural community declares strong opposition to any demolition in the historical areas of the Iraqi cities. It is recommend that all future decisions with regards to the historical city centers should be reviewed by an international committee of experts on Islamic architecture, preservation and city planning - specifically assembled for the task.

For the above mentioned reasons national conference is needed to be held as soon as possible. Within the framework of the conference experts on architecture and urban planning as well as cultural and political representatives should focus on strategy for preservation and revitalization of Iraqi historical centers.

We will highly appreciate any kind of professional or political support that will help preserve part of the Iraqi cultural heritage.

Nisan Al Jazairi
Coordinator Assistant
PRIHC Coordination Team Baghdad
(Preservation and rehabilitation of Iraqi historical cities association)

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Iraqi Historical Cities Safeguard

Report from PRIHC Association

(Preservation and Rehabilitation of Iraqi Historical Cities)



Burak Boysan

M. Arch ITU, Local Coordinator /
Coordinator of Restoration Rehabilitation
Projects, Cultural Heritage Development
Program in the GAP Region

'Cultural Heritage Development in the GAP Region Programme' was financed by the European Commission with a total budget of 15 Millions Euro. The Programme was implemented by a Technical Assistance Team (TAT) in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey and GAP Regional Development Administration. TAT had been mobilized by a Consortium led by CEKUL Foundation, a prominent NGO on conservation.

The Programme's geographical area covered the following 9 provinces in the Southeast Anatolia Project (GAP) Region in Turkey: Adiyaman, Batman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Kilis, Mardin, Siirt, Sanliurfa, and Sirnak. The target group was wide, including local municipalities, provincial governorships, related departments of ministries, universities, NGO's, Small and Medium Size Enterprises.

The 48-month service of the TAT commenced in March 2003 and with an extension of 2 months completed in May 2007. However, project activities weren't completed in May 2007. So, from May 2007 to June 2008 experts were employed by the EC Delegation for further monitoring of the projects until November 30th, 2007 - the end date of project activities- and from December 2007 onwards until today for contract closures.

General Objective of the Programme was "Improving the socio-economic conditions of GAP region's residents through supporting cultural heritage development initiatives".

The EC Grant Scheme, the major component of the CHD Programme - the other component being the preparation of an Integrated Strategic Action Plan- made available EUR12.000.000 budget for financing of projects proposed by local initiatives with a view to preserve the cultural heritage and to develop cultural tourism in GAP Region.

121 proposals were submitted to the EC Delegation in Ankara. Following a joint evaluation by the ECD and GAP RDA, 31 projects were selected in 2005. The Commission's financial contribution to each project varied between EUR50.000 - EUR650.000.

Implementation period of the projects was maximum 2 years. Out of 31 projects selected, 12 projects related to building restorations, street/square rehabilitations (utilizing about half of the total grant) while 19 other projects related to training of tourist guides, publication of various audio-visual materials, guidebooks, promotion of handicrafts, inventory development and hygiene (benefited from the remaining half of the grant budget).

The beneficiaries of the twelve restoration / rehabilitation projects were public bodies in general with the exception of one NGO and one SME. Three of them were basically street / square / market rehabilitation projects and nine of them involved restoration per se. Most of the restoration and rehabilitation projects were implemented successfully and were also publicized through articles published in various magazines.

Four of the restored buildings maintained their original function (two of them were religious buildings). Adaptive reuse was applied to the other five.

In spite of success of the RR projects of the CHDP, a few 'lessons learned' should be mentioned here:

" Making historical buildings 'good as new' is unfortunately a common practice in Turkey. In such cases we may talk about 'beautification' or even 'cutification' but not necessarily about restoration. In some projects, it was rather difficult to convince the beneficiaries that, the end-results should be restored buildings, and not necessarily 'good as new' or cute buildings.

" There are many examples of imaginative new uses proposed for historical buildings. Historical buildings can be converted into "boutique hotels" or art galleries or museums. However, this should only be considered if there is a concrete need and its sustainability will be ensured.

Finally, we should all remember the old saying on restoration: "it is better to maintain than to repair, better to repair than to restore and better to restore than to rebuild". In conservation of historical buildings 'less is more'.

Development of Cultural Heritage

Local Coordinator / Coordinator of Restoration Rehabilitation Projects,

Cultural Heritage Development Program in the GAP Region : Burak Boysan

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City of Nara, Japan

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The Great Buddha Temple