

Strategies of Restoration and Conservation of Vernacular Architecture: The Case Al Hmud Village, JordanDr. Jawdat Goussous¹, Eman Alawi²¹. Department of Architecture, University of Jordan, Jordan, jawdatgoussous@hotmail.com². Department of Architecture, University of Jordan, Jordan, Eman, Alawi27@yahoo.com

Abstract: Vernacular architecture is a significant form of sustainability from all economic, cultural and environmental aspects. It represents the essence of heritage for a city, but it suffers from careless and lack of interest from governments and local communities too. The objective of this paper is spot the light about vernacular architecture in general and its role of sustainable development. It studies international case study about vernacular architecture, it analyzed local case study Al Hmud village in Al Karak city and it suggested possible strategies that could contribute in enhancing preservation and conservation process for vernacular heritage and promoting sustainable development. The aim of keeping and conserving of vernacular built heritage deals with living environments, and it is not exactly protects built-up sites and it is ensured that heritage policies benefit the people in all respects.

[Jawdat Goussous, Eman Alawi. **Strategies of Restoration and Conservation of Vernacular Architecture: The Case Al Hmud Village, Jordan** *J Am Sci* 2018;14(11):81-86]. ISSN 1545-1003 (print); ISSN 2375-7264 (online). <http://www.jofamericanscience.org>. 11. doi:[10.7537/marsjas141118.11](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsjas141118.11).

Keywords: Vernacular architecture, sustainability, Heritage tourism, Conservation.

1. Introduction

In many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa have a wealthy heritage, vernacular is neither preserved nor considered worthy to be conserved and a negative meaning has been always assigned to “vernacular”, as “primitive” and consequently without meaning.

Vernacular architecture is term used to categorize architectural design which uses locally available resources and traditions to address local building and design needing. Vernacular architecture is inclined to promote through time to reflect the historical, environmental and cultural ambient in Where it exists. (Vernacular Architecture, <http://greenbriersportingclub.com/vernaculararchitecture/#sthash.lTrI0cpg.dpuf>)

The main aim of conserving vernacular architecture is protection a sense of our identity and our culture; so it gives a comprehensive explanation about the way of life for a man, his life style, the size of family members, how is food prepared and eaten, how people interact and how are they handling with the surrounding environment, for that reason and more the protecting is essential.

Globally international organizations have not spotted light on vernacular architecture through generation. The importance of vernacular architecture responds to a sensibility for social values matured only in the second half of the 20th century, In consistency with the gradually increasing movement towards heritage conservation. ICOMOS is the only international organization that dealt with phenomenon, ratifying the charter which is called "Built vernacular heritage" in Mexico, which

determines the priority of knowledge for conservation of the common built heritage. (F. de filippi, r. balbo, 2005)

In Jordan, AL Hmud village give a great example for vernacular architecture. Al-Hmud village located south of Amman, northeast of Al Karak. It has its name because it was built on the ruins of the historic buildings back to the person named Hmud.

The beginning of the settlement in the village of Al-Hmud in 1889 when Alhlsah family settled and their Houses have been built and several facilities was established by including the commercial market, which has been providing the Karak with fabrics and food.

Al Hmud offers one of the most impressive examples of the traditional Jordanian architecture where is whole composition of the village, its architectural features, the materials used in construction, method of construction and the interior spaces in the house all give us a pure image for traditional life in Jordan.

Al Hmud village was contained many family for a long time ago. Then families immigrated from that's village because of shortage the services and they need to be closed for educational centers, services and public transportation. As a result to this immigration, the village had lost its cultural and architectural significant. The village became empty so that a large number of buildings deteriorated and it is lost many part of architectural significant, but there were a few numbers of building had keeping its character. In this study we suggest Strategies to preserve the soul of Al-Hmud village and how could it be on the principle of sustainability.

2. Material and Methods

This research focuses on studying and preservation of rural village in an old Al Hmud village which is located in Al Karak. It is considered a typical example for vernacular rural architecture culture in Jordan. So in order to complete this study successfully these steps were practiced:

1. Descriptive study: throughout collection data about the vernacular architecture and its importance to society and the generations, heritage culture (tangible and intangible) from books, newspaper, magazine, and web sites.

2. Studying international case study about preservation rural vernacular architecture.

3. Analysis the village of Al-Hmud from many aspects, first, visiting the site, second, taking photos of the architectural and cultural features in the site, third, collecting information from several sources, then Make an assessment of the site.

4. Making Interviews with local residences to get more information about current situation for the village. The study area (Al Hmud village) located 15 kilometers northeast of Karak and 5.5 kilometers east of the "King's Highway, and away from Amman, about 127 km" Hmud, with the neighboring village of Smakiyeh, Marks the eastern edge of the fertile land of the Moab Plateau.

Al Karak governorate locates between latitudes 30° and $50' 31''$ and $30'$. According to the meridians it is located between $35^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude and 36° east longitude, 124 kilometers (87 mi) to the south of Amman on the King's Highway. It is sited on a top of hill 1000 meters above sea level and is surrounded on three sides by a valley. See fig 1:

Al Hmud village is connected to the rest of Jordan by two highways; Highway 35, also known as the Kings Highway and Highway 15, also known as the Desert Highway. (Karak investment map, www.jordaninvestment.com).

Topography of Al Hmud village follows highland natural region where it is built on a small plateau, the land east of Al Hmud is mostly arid with rough topography that contains little of the fertile soil of the plains west of Al Hmud. (City of Karak, <http://www.alkarak.net>).

The local climate of Al Hmud village is climate of the eastern region semi-desert the rainfall ranges between 100-150 mm annually. (amanfrommoab.com/2008/01/14).

Hmud belongs mainly to one Christian clan, Al Halaseh; this makes the traditional community entirely Christian. The village was first constructed at the beginning of this century, and since then land ownership has been kept in the clan. Even today, when most of the Halasehs live elsewhere, the old

Hmud, which is almost deserted, still belongs to the descendants of the original settlers.

According to the elders of the village, the Halaseh clan originally came from Egypt. Other family names that are branches of the Halaseh clan include the Dhamin, Burgan, Turman, Qussus, Amarin, Uttar, Sharaihah, Khitan, Thubaan, Koud, Shawareb, and Thawaher.



Figure 1 illustrate location of Al Hmud village, Wikimapia

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The current community is of a peculiar mixture. The majority is still made up of Halasehs and Amarin who live in modern built environment, but in the old village, outsiders have been given shelter. Some of the old houses have been occupied, some rented and some for free, since the 1950s when the original owners started to move out.

Urbanization according to the old village:

The new urban sprawl for the village moving towards to the west of an old Al Hmud village. The new development consist of:

- Health center was established in 1959.

- The Roman Catholic Church, which was built in 1950.
- Al Hmud High School and primary school built in 1922.
- Residences
- Rome Orthodox Church was built in 1985.
- Hmud Charitable Society.

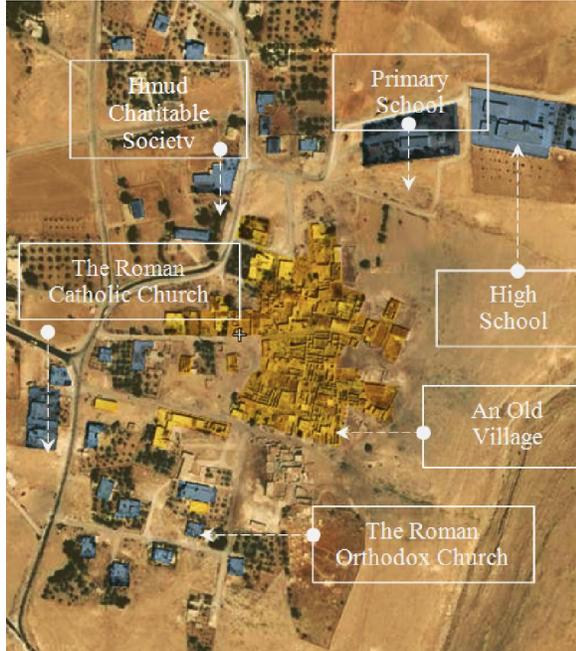


Figure 2 Illustrates Plan of old village, wikimpia Analysis of an old village:

Analyzing of an old houses

Al Hmud village offers one of the most impressive examples of the traditional "Jordanian" house. The exterior appearance of the traditional structures is characterized by the random mixture of white limestone and black basalt stone.

The size of the house is relatively small in comparison to the average size of a typical Hmud house nevertheless; it hides within its small rectangular limits collection that is rarely found under one roof.

The houses almost rectangular space with four thick arches that span the shorter distance to carry the roof. the roof is made of wooden beams spanning the arches, with cane on top of the beams and layers of claon top of the cane.

The mixer between white lime stone and black basalt not only reflects the availability of both kinds of building stones in the immediate environment, but also helps the houses to be part of the natural landscape. (Knauf)

The plan of Al Hmud House is almost rectangular. One first notices a long grain storage unit made of six bins built together. The main piece facing the door this is built of a mud and hay mixture without any wooden frame or skeleton. (Knauf)



Figure 3 Sample Traditional houses in an old Al Hmud village, the researcher, 2014



Figure 4 mixer between white lime stone and black basalt in construction, The researcher, 2014

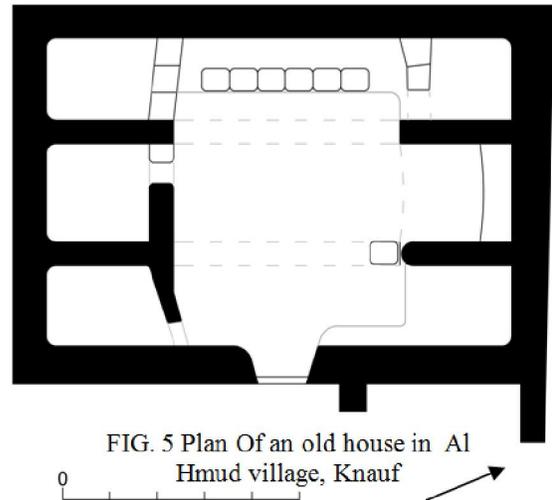


FIG. 5 Plan Of an old house in Al Hmud village, Knauf

viz., Quercus leucotrichophora (oak) and Features of old church

Al Hmud has a church (Rome Orthodox Church) that is purely is purely Jordanian. Its plan does not evidence any Western characteristics; instead, it takes on an individual style that is the result of an honest approach to a local solution. This original village type church might be the only one in Jordan created out of the same vocabulary as the village house, without imposing foreign forms, ornaments, materials or scale.

Built around 1910, it is as old as Al Hmud. The church used to sit alone on the land south of the village. It must have been standing by itself, outside the village fabric, with its door facing north to the village. See figure 6.



Figure 6 Gate of an old church, researcher, 2014.

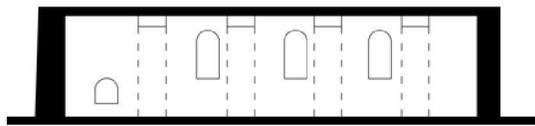


Figure 7 Section for an old church, Knauf

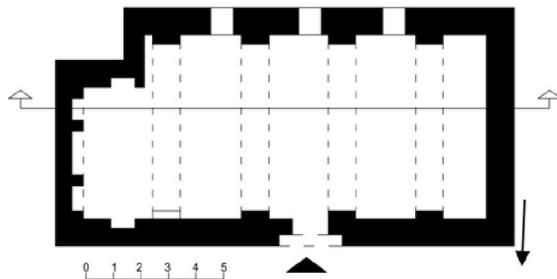


Figure 8 Plan for an old church

The construction of the church is very similar to that of the houses of Al Hmud Its outer walls, built of basalt and limestone like the rest of Al Hmud's house, an almost rectangular space with four thick arches that span the shorter distance to carry the roof.

In 1985 a new church was built for the Rome Orthodox community beside old church far few meters from north has an exterior of sawn stone veneer that came from a city. And The old church was renovated and converted into a and archaeological museum for collection of the old church in 2003. see figure 7,8.



Figure 9 old market, the researcher 2014



Figure 10 structural systems in shops, researcher, 2014

An Old Al Hmud market

Commercial market was built in the first decade of the twentieth century, which has been providing Al Karak with fabrics and food.

Still this market existed until the present time and was used to store grain and seed and fertilizer involved in the process of agricultural production field crops, which is currently abandoned (Knauf).

The construction of the Market is very similar to that of the houses of Al Hmud Its outer walls, built of basalt and limestone with four thick arches that span the shorter distance to carry the roof.

3. Results

The evaluation for the current situation of the village of al-hmud:

- A large part of the urban fabric in the village of Al Hmud destroyed, Knowing that they represent the essence of vernacular architecture in Jordan in many aspects; in term of architecture, construction methods, local materials which used in construction and architectural characteristics. See figure 11.
- Most of interior spaces in houses and shops of market damaged or lost its features, Knowing that these gave spaces give a glimpse of the style of social and economic about social and economic life that were prevalent in the region.



Figure 11 the heritage village, the researcher, 2014



Figure 12 the heritage village, the researcher, 2014



Figure 13 the heritage village, the researcher, 2014

- The ownership do not interest in renovating and reconstructing these heritage building, Due to lack of awareness for the importance of these village and its role in enriching the architectural and cultural heritage of Jordan, and most of them live outside this village.

- There is no management for this heritage site, Lack of projects and schemes by civic and governmental institutions like Al Hmud Charitable Society, Ministry of Tourism and municipality to revive and restore old Al Hmud village.

4. Discussions

Proposals for sustainability:

based on the above analysis of the village and studying the existing problems, the best solution to achieve the overall sustainability from cultural, economic and environmental aspect and preserve the value of the heritage of existing vernacular buildings by converting it to a small tourist village that reflect a picture of an old life of jordan “ living heritage”:

1. Restoration of heritage buildings such as houses and shops, and restoration of the interior spaces and understand and realize the inner spaces of the house in order to understand the social and economic life style that were prevalent in the village.

2. Adaptive use of the urban fabric by converting the houses that still maintain the interior spaces, which describes the social life that prevailed in the region to museums where display the lifestyle in that area.

3. Re-use old shops in an old market through investing small scale business, like restaurant, shops and handicraft shops.

4. Encourage local community to participate and being part of the operation the village and experience of the visitors in the village, by being themselves the owners of the shops in the village, supervisors and observers in the museum and encourage and support them to take on this responsibility.

5. Open an queries office in the region to help visitors and tourists.

6. Linking the master plan for the city of al karak village with the al hmud village, and make it part of trip stations in al karak.

Recommendations for successful implementation

The restoration and conservation of the old village have many issues:

- 1: Local community and ownership

Increase the awareness of local community and ownership and the importance of Al Hmud village and its historical, architectural, and cultural values. Make them aware for the wealth of this heritage and its Significance in the defining our cultural identity. This

stage is done in cooperation between government and private institutions:

Hold regular meetings in the civil societies which are located in Al Hmud village to inform people of the importance of this site, discuss about its problems and to propose solutions to deal with them.

Use of mass media; audio, video and social networking, which help to definite people of site to put forward new ideas about the region. Hold training courses for workers and local community and make them more aware of the issue that they must deal and contact with visitors.

2: Financial funding

Funding is necessary for the restoration and conservation stages and every steps this can be achieved.

- Government and private from charities funding.
- Periodical nominal contribution from the local community and ownership.
- Sponsor from private sector.
- Repairing Lease.

3: Management

Administrations is very important to coordinate among all agencies responsible for restoration and conservation process, through Establishing an administrative offices in the municipality and establish liaison offices (in charities or use one of the old houses) in the village coordinate between the headquarters, association and local community in village.

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