

“Local Community Options for Sustaining Heritage: Case Study Quseir City”¹

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Abstract

The issue of heritage conservation was one of the topics which got different opinions according to options availability. Restoration, rehabilitation adaptive reuse, reconstruction and preservation are faces to possible conservation actions. But who do what and how? This is used to be the first dialogue after identifying the heritage limits and options.

This paper highlights the local community options for sustaining heritage. Bases, principles, levels and qualifications required for sustaining heritage. Case studies of success and failure. And finally detail experiment for sustaining Quseir heritage as a case study. In Quseir, the community got the chance to be the main player in conservation actions. Mr. Kamal El Din Hussin was the community leader who mainly participated in decision stage and through his memorization and documentation efforts the authors succeeded to put the strategy for the rehabilitation, adaptive reuse and conservation project. Also, there were some other individuals of the community participated on different stages of the experiment, decisions, surveying, documentation, restoration, reconstruction, managing and administration. The final stage of the experiment was a motel 3 star, which one of the local people rented and administrated when the city is surrounded by four – five star hotels. To what extent the whole mechanism worked? and the heritage project is being sustained? Finally, why the experiment has been put to an end?

1- Introduction

Quseir is a small harbor city on the Red Sea, with a history that goes back to the ancient Egyptian and Roman times, and with a high potential for tourism development. It has flourished during the medieval Islamic rule of Egypt and after, till the French occupation of the country. It enjoys significant streetscapes and facades. The streets are not only noted for specific architectural features, but also because the individual facades have retained the best of its traditional appearance, scale and proportions, and visual quality. Architectural and urban features of the historic core of Quseir are obviously of paramount importance. Although, Quseir located on the Red Sea, but the Mediterranean Sea influences with Arab culture created its built environment. They also reflect the intelligent use of building materials and the traditional wisdom of dealing with the desert environment. The main issue is most of those traditional houses will be altered or demolished and replaced with modern ugly concrete blocks to meet the housing demands.

For the conservation plan of Quseir City the authors started with the restoration of Sheikh Tawfik house. One of the main objectives of this project is to provide a model for the locality for participating in restoring their own houses as well

¹ - Dedicated to Mr. Hamam (Kamal El Din Hussin) has passed away 1999.

as developing low cost tourism projects that can contribute to the overall city's growth.

Local community participation within participatory environment, from the very beginning, was our policy. Involvement and sharing with the people of Quseir started with putting the plan and strategy of work. Using workers and technicians from the city people was our trend. In order to expand the span of benefits of the project, graduate students from private and public universities shared the work team as residential supervisors. In this paper we will present our experience in the project.

2- Local community options between the future and the past:

Nowadays, there is a conflict between man and his environment. It is becoming more difficult to find harmony between man, nature and the built environment. This conflict can be seen in the common morphology of the urban fabric of most Egyptian cities and villages. Where there is a necessity to construct new buildings in old areas or to relocate the residents in new expansion areas, we see a conflict between the tradition essence of the urban fabric and new standards of modern forms. Quseir is an example to such conflict. It is an issue of natural and historical conservation affected by neglecting and threatening from tourism problems, a range of problems created by uncontrolled urban expansion and lack of awareness (governmental and people) as well as a need to upgrade basic social needs.

Therefore number of case studies for participation examples was selected in order to show a range of experiments between the success and failure. The case studies will vary in their inclusion of these topics, but will give useful insights into the vital role of public participation in the development process, and, in particular, the important contribution that broad-based participation can give to the decision-making and future planning of Quseir City.

One of the major objectives of participation is to effect psychological change in the Quseir residents, that will better prepare them to participate in changes and tourism developments that will affect them and their natural-historical environment. If this objective is not achieved, then at best the whole process may become one in which a few leaders emerge as representatives of the group (such as Mr. Hamam)², and the worst where ordinary governmental ways of development will continue.

Three experiences in participation within Upper Egypt to be similar to Quseir issue will be reviewed. "*Relocation of Nubians*" happened over a long period of time (1933-1964), to relocate the Nubians, when the region was flooded because of the building of Aswan Dam in 1933, and the construction of the High Dam in 1964. The second experiment, "*Hassan Fathy and Gourni*" was in 1944 to resettle the Gournis people who lived on the archaeological sites at the west bank of Luxor city. "*Nasriya Upgrading Project*" which was mainly to provide the basic needs for a community of people using participation approach.

In the first case the ancient kingdom of Nubian extended south along the banks of the Nile from Aswan in the north to Merowe in Sudan in the south. The Nubian buildings, which were an architectural miracle, passed all but unnoticed until the time had come for them to disappear. The Nubian experiment gave two clear

² - The most remarkable issue in Quseir was that people considered Mr. Hamam as the local reference for Quseir History. Mr. Kamal Hussin Abdel-Rahim (Hamam) the historian who was lived most of his life in the yellow house opposite to Quseir Fort. He was our main reference for our conservation and adaptive reuse approach.

distinguishable approaches of how to relocate a mass of people, not only by re-housing them but also by changing their socio-economic characteristics. These two different approaches resulted from differences in the political systems. The first approach was in 1933, before the revolution and the Nubians were responsible for building their own community. In another approach in 1964, after the revolution, the government and its professionals carried out all the work and the Nubians had to accept the product. It was notable to view the difference between the architecture of the areas of "New Nubian", planned by the governmental consultants without any participation of the Nubians, and that of "Old Nubian", has had a dramatic effect on the identity-conscious Nubians. The relocation of the Nubians at Abu El-Riche (one of the old areas) had some success due to its dependence on the efforts and participation of the Nubians to create their own environment. When the Nubians relocated at Kom-Ombo and Esna (the governmental projects), began to voice dissatisfaction with their treatment and began to form cooperatives to rebuild their homes on the shores of Lake Nasser.

Hassan Fathy and Gournia as a second case was a pilot project and it showed the way to rebuilding a community, with cheap but good houses, and it was a great test of do-it-yourself through a system of participation and control for a village whose inhabitants gave their work free. It gave definite and useful data to the people who administer schemes of "aided self-help" to peasant communities. The project used unique architectural techniques of vaulted-roof construction, based on orthodox materials. The design and plan of the village were based on traditional principles. But the people of Gournia, for one reason or another, rejected participation in rebuilding the new village. They never had any intention of leaving their old homes and way of life. They refused to learn the new techniques of building, and had always been suspicious of intrusions which took away their living. So they refused to change because they could not believe the promises for the future which they saw as destroying their economic life (robbing the heritage tombs). Any outsider appeared to the peasant as an invader wanting to interrupt his life and to interfere with his privacy.

The main objectives of this project were to preserve and conserve the urban heritage from the destruction, caused by the squatter villages and the pilfering of antiquities, by providing the population with their own village. These two objectives were never achieved. Only about fifty buildings and most of the public buildings were built. A few people moved from their original houses and lived in New Gournia. The rest continued to live on the archaeological heritage sites. They did not establish a new economical base. About fifty years have passed, and still the question of conservation of a tradition is unanswered. It is not enough to judge the experiment as a failure, as a great number of detractors did. It should be considered as a struggle between ideals and practice, dreams (professional) and reality (public), and to avoid as much of this conflict as possible in any future issue.

The final case was to provide the basic needs for a squatter area named Nasriya at Aswan City. In 1983, projects related to medium-size Egyptian cities were started with a co-operation between the "German-Egyptian Governments". The Nasriya area, was chosen because of the obvious need to improve its housing and living conditions, and because the inhabitants themselves had already made attempts to improve the problematic infrastructure. Nasriya was the densest urban district of Aswan. The people already had an existing framework of institutions, both formal and informal, which facilitated the organization and execution of labour.

The cooperation and participation of the inhabitants of Nasriya have contributed to substantial reductions in the project costs. Initial calculations show that at least 25% of the construction costs have been saved as a result of inhabitant participation. The main success happened with the participation of the inhabitants as equal partners and the demand for partial self-administration. The project of Nasriya has to be seen as a process which can only be successful in the long run, if the links between the various project components are continuously strengthened and secured. It is also necessary to research the situation of public participation and project programmes in changing the future social life of the area and whether these effects are acceptable by the political authorities.

To conclude, participation doesn't just happen, it is initiated. This could be through intermediate organizations, in which a professional (consultant) manages the process over time. The process would cover four phases: Initiation - Preparation - Implementation - Continuation. Time is necessary for a successful participation. Much of this time should be spent in preparation within the intermediate organization, promoting initiatives, before contact is made with the publicⁱ. One of the major reasons for the failure of Hassan Fathy's experiment was maybe the lack of preparation time.

3- Quseir heritage futuristic options:

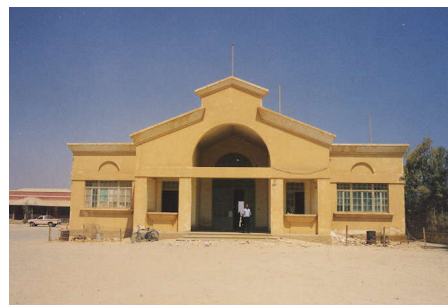
Tourism for Quseir is an action which needs to be integrated with conservation and development in the future of its environment. Sustainable development for tourism is an action which harmonizes economic benefits and the protection of the environment. If tourism is to be truly beneficial to all concerned and sustainable in the long-term, it must be ensured that resources are not over-consumed, that natural and human environments are protected, that tourism is integrated with other activities, that real benefits are active to local communities, that local people are included in tourism planning and implementation and that cultures and peoples are respectedⁱⁱ. Where tourism is not integrated with other sectors and balanced through strategic urban planning, it can result in uncontrolled and rapid expansion, which often has disastrous consequences, including environmental effects such as the visual blight of concrete jungles, pollution and social damage and this what already happened in Hurghada the nearby city to Quseir.

Therefore, conservation, development and tourism play major roles in the future of Quseir heritage environment. Conservation will integrate with development, tourism will be part of development, conservation will be an investment for tourism, and tourism will be a resource to finance conservation and development projects. The dilemma which is physically and socially complicated and difficult. These interrelations affect and are affected by the reality of the surrounding environment. This reality is perceived as a social reality and a physical reality. The social reality is inherited and is shaped by culture, tradition, religion and external forces. The results are reflected in individual and group behaviours in the community, resulting in cooperative, anomiation, alienation or conflict. Thus, to think of the physical reality without considering social reality is to be blind in one eye. Egypt has been trying in past decades to achieve development through the route of physical reality. The hope was that enhancing the physical environment would produce an improvement in social interaction. The ideas which were theoretically unique failed in practice because people are not objects to be arranged. There are lives; dreams, customs and

hopes, there are pasts, presents and futures. The understanding of this reality caused a change in governmental attitudes. Privatization, decentralization and public participation become the new strategies for future development. Quseir is an example of all these issues. The conflicts between social reality and physical realities appeared in every action. Conservation, development and tourism, conceived as physical reality need to be re-evaluated in the light of this new understanding. The urban planning of the city is in crisis and the city environment suffers. New projects should be initiated. To start, urban planning should be managed through public participation which guarantees sharing the responsibilities of living in the present environment and facing the challenge for the future. The understanding of this dialogue is the only option for sustaining futuristic.

4- Quseir and its Architecture Heritage:

Quseir is the ancient seaport of Upper Egypt with a history going back four thousand years. These periods were from Ancient Egypt, through Greco-Roman Period and to the Islamic Period (Fatimid, Mamluk and Ottoman). It is likely that the Ottoman administration recognized Quseir as the embarkation point for the Hajj from Upper Egypt, as well as being a key strategic location for the control of the Red Sea and access to the Nile Valleyⁱⁱⁱ. In the late 18th and early 19th Century the port briefly revived following the French conquest of Egypt in 1798. Then the British entered the town in late May 1801^{iv}. There were a British, French, and Persian Consulate until 1860. Quseir's port entered into disuse, in the first quarter of the Twentieth Century, after the change of trade routes to Alexandria and the Port of Sues, and by this time the port has been moved further south and transformed to be an industrial facility for phosphate shipment.



The continued existence of the city was hanging on a thread until the opening of the phosphate factory in 1912. This led to renewed-expansion of the town, with the construction of European-style buildings of the factory compound to the north east of the harbour. The historic core of Quseir contains some heritage sites that represent different building types and reflect the importance of Quseir in the Egyptian history, such as:



The Fort (Ottoman Sixteenth Century) overlooks the bay from which the pilgrim traffic embarked. **The Police Station** of Quseir is housed in a historic building with a distinguished location overlooking the harbor. It has been built during the period between 15th -17th centuries. **The Quarantine** a Grain Store built in 18th century. **Marconi Co. Houses** (19th Century) there are three buildings that represent European style^v. **Phosphate Co. Houses** built in 1906 they are six houses overlooking the Cornish. **Shrines and Mosques**: The earliest maps and views of Quseir indicate the presence of number of sizable shrines and mosques. Shrines, in Quseir, reveal the enormous geographical spread of the pilgrimages who passed through the town in recent centuries^{vi}.



5-The Architecture Character:

Although it is the overall urban fabric that gives Quseir its character, there are tens of architectural elements such as doors, balconies, rawashin, and decorative details which are distinctive features, and make a significant contribution to the city townscape. The following elements are the most distinctive:

- **Entrances:** Two types of entrances appear in the city architecture. They are considered as a distinguished feature. Either entrance through a street terrace or directly through one or two steps above the street level. Entrances through steps are a common treatment in residential buildings, where entrance level is one or two steps above the street level. Street terraces have appeared during the modern age and the influence of the western concepts. Street terraces are considered a preparatory space for entering the building.



- **Outdoor Staircases:** The staircase is one of the most important features of joinery in Quseir. Stairs consist of blocks of wood nailed or doweled on to two sloping strings. It is mostly used in residential buildings of different ownership, where two families are occupying two different floors. Such stairs are used to connect the upper floor unit directly to the street. Normally, the stair is fixed parallel to the outer walls with approximately one-meter width.
- **Doors and Windows:** In Quseir, doors were generally made of two sashes with an upper fixed fanlight. Ornament was nailed on to the doors, and metal ornaments often used as a screen for the fixed upper fanlight. The new doors lack these decorative ornaments. Windows are generally consisted of two

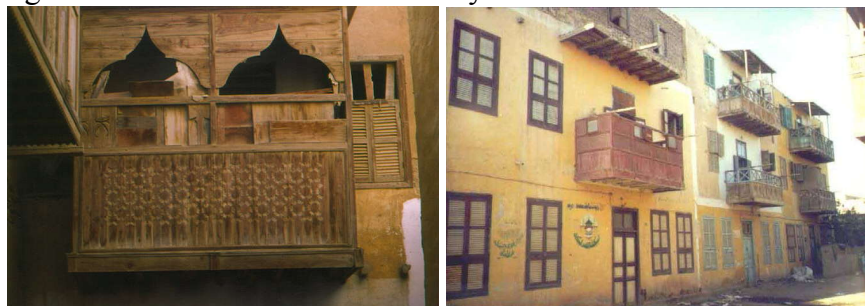
outer ordinary louvered shutters, and two inner glazed timber sashes. Shutters are consisted of lower and upper parts that are separately open.



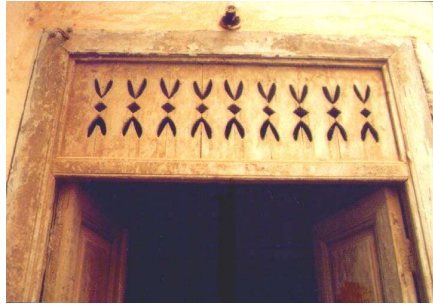
- **Balconies:** Timber balconies are common in Quseir; they project outside the outer walls such as rawashin. They might be covered with timber roofs or not. The handrail of the balcony is fixed on balusters taking different shapes. The (X) shape is a common treatment for balusters.



- **Rawashines:** Rawashines are projected wooden structures. They are one of the several architectural elements in old buildings of the city. Due to the large size of Rawashines, it could be noticed that they allow good ventilation to the internal spaces. They are also used for providing privacy as they allow residents to see the outside without being seen. Although the design of Rawashines differs for each building, they all keep the same spirit and concept giving to the urban environment its unity and identical character.



- **Colors:** The majority of the residential buildings in Quseir were painted in yellow color, which is considered as the basic color in the City and reflects the color of desert. Blue-green and blue, as a color of the sea water, has been used in the wooden works such as doors and windows. A white outer frame is also used to surround the entire building as well as the voids.



- **Ornaments:** In residential buildings, wooden rawashin were the often use of ornaments. Although the design of rawashin differs for each building, they all remain the same spirit giving the urban environment its unity and identical character. In addition there are some ornamental units and elements of important significance and meanings such as pilgrimage paintings and writings from Quraan.
- **Wind Catchers:** There are few buildings in Quseir have wind catchers. Such catchers consist of duct which lies behind the internal spaces of the building and upper wooden roof to allow air movement from outside to the inside spaces. The upper fanlight of doors and windows contribute in the air movement inside the spaces from the catchers to outside.

6- Participation and the rehabilitation of Sheikh Tawfik House:

Sheikh Tawfik House has been chosen as a pilot study as a starting point for a long term project for developing and preserving Quseir City through a participatory approach.

- **From Participation to participatory (sharing):** Public participation was our strategy to achieve sustainable environmental development for Quseir. But with the actual beginning of the project we developed our strategy from public participation to Participatory (actual sharing and full involvement) of Quseir's people in all stages of our experiment, putting in mind the balance between the "**Social Reality**" (which insure the conservation of Quseir heritage and buildings with special architecture value, this gives the people of Quseir feeling of pride and belonging through assuring respect and preservation of Quseir specific heritage and culture) and the "**Physical Reality**" and economic factors (which makes heritage and culture the core for touristic development. Giving more attention and effort will increase tourism and touristic activities which will push economic development in Quseir). That will be reflected on quality of life in Quseir and will encourage the people for sharing. This will need a lot of effort, money, and capabilities for proper management.
- **Tasks and Procedures:** Renovation, adaptive-reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and revolving the old city will depend on integrated procedures taking place at the same time. These create an atmosphere of cooperation and encourage other different parties to get involved. With the Guide of Mr. Hamam, questionnaires, open discussions, and public meetings were done to put priorities for sustainable development of housing, tourism, infrastructure, public services, and renovation and rehabilitation of architectural heritage. Governmental administration, community leaders, senior citizens, representatives of the touristic and trading companies, representatives of fishermen and Phosphate Company (activities are declining), city planning officials, and public were involved in the questionnaires. It showed that the priority was for development of the infrastructure followed by touristic

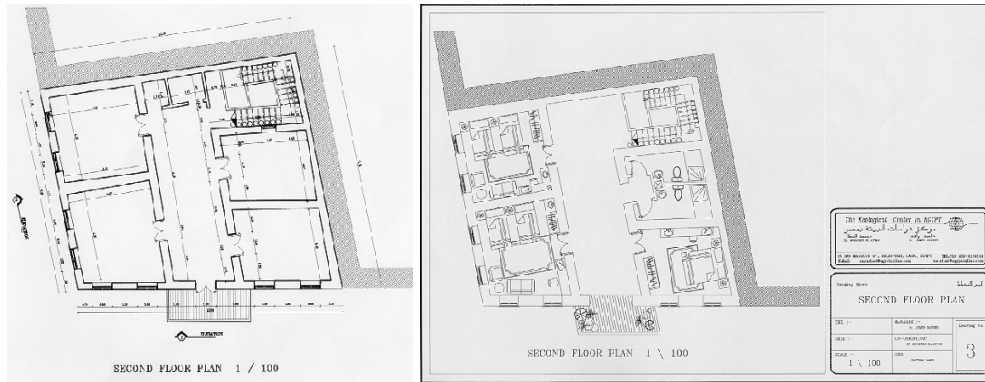
development, educational development, health services, development of fishing and fishing production. Renovation, adaptive-reuse and rehabilitation of architectural heritage was of least priority. In general, the results testify the high awareness of the local community about the needs of their city, and indicate their willingness to participate in the sustainable development of the city at different levels. Generally speaking, the respondents feel that an action plan should concentrate on Quseir as a whole rather than concentrate on a small number of buildings in the historic core. For instance, the whole community would benefit from a new decent housing development and green spaces. Although they believe that historic preservation is valuable, they believe that there is little incentive for conservation of traditional buildings because of the complexity of ownership^{vii}.

- **RECQ:** In 1997 an NGO was established under the name of Renovation and Ecological Centre of Quseir to be the centre for studies, follow-up, and management of the renovation process and activities taking place. An old house was taken as the headquarter of RECQ. Renovation of this house was done without previous planning or sufficient study. Through RECQ financial support for the development of Quseir was achieved. This NGO should play the vital role for any future activity concerning Heritage and buildings sites.



- **The House:** Through RECQ the Sheikh Tawfik House was rented and put under our control. The house has been closed for more than 20 years. It took us almost a year from the preliminary studies and renovation procedures till reusing, at the beginning of 1999. The aim of work was to put a model for renovation, adaptive-reuse and rehabilitation of one of Quseir houses. This will help in putting a future vision for integrated development of Quseir, taking into consideration different environmental and cultural factors and preserving the identity of the Quseir society. The project was financially supported from different public, governmental, international, and private organizations (mainly Mr. Wilanburg the owner of Movenpick Hotel). We were able to create our own strategy of work that suits the location, nature of the building, and other different variables involved. At the beginning, we thought to reuse the house as:
 - An oriental restaurant or coffee.
 - Touristic offices for rental.
 - Or oriental shops.

But since Quseir has a number of 4 and 5 stars hotels which suits only financially capable tourists, we agreed to adaptive-reuse the house as a 3 stars hotel to open other sectors of tourism in Quseir.



- From Theoretical Thinking to Reality:** Our attitude from the beginning was to follow the scientific approach based on the principle role of renovation which is to conserve and return all elements to its original status except in very rare cases when it is a must. Documentation of all the details before starting and during different stages of work was undertaken. Two teams were working in coordination at the same time^{viii}. The team of consultants and professionals, and the team of workers and technicians. It is important to mention that studies and researches have been done in preparation for the project. From its results and recommendations we were guided through our actual work. Mr. Hamam played a major role in guiding us in this stage. It was of mere importance to choose local experience that had real abilities and at the same time can work through our plan. As an example, it was suggested to use a contractor from outside Quseir who had good experience in architectural renovation works and who can be easily managed financially and technically. But this suggestion had been absolutely refused simply because it is against the core idea of public participation based on using workers and technicians from Quseir itself. This was to establish a team work from Quseir's people who can continue and maintain what we have started. Only consultants and professionals from outside Quseir were needed because this kind of experience was not available within the Quseir's people.
- Steps of Renovation and the adaptive-reuse of the House:** During the work we faced a real problem which is the lack of experience in the old style of building that the house was built with. the steps were:

A- Preparation Works:
 Survey for construction works, as-built drawings and decorative elements, plans for the reuse, tests for foundations and stability of the house, tests for underground water and it's effect on the soil, defining the original building materials, and documentation for the house by photography and by video were done to establish the proper plan to reuse the building.

B- Construction Works:
 Parts of foundations and walls were destroyed and others had cracks. We faced great difficulty for repairing these cracks and rebuilding the destroyed parts. Finding the special rocks which were used in the original building and cutting it suitably. Also using the special plaster and mimicking the original way of construction. After thorough search and comparing the available options, we choose an old professional worker from the people of Quseir who had experience in building original Quseir old houses dating 50 years ago. We had a deal with him to get the needed workers to help him in his work and also to supervise and train and give the younger generation his experience during the work which he did not accept easily. We persuaded him to give his

experience to the young generation of his own family. This policy aimed to form a generation of well trained and experienced workers from Quseir people who can share in any future renovation projects. We also managed to train them in some financial activities related to the work under the supervision of one of the consultants.



Sheikh Tawfik house, as other Quseir original buildings, constructed with bearing walls and the foundations are continuations for the walls with increasing width till it reach its maximum at the level of foundations. The soil under foundations is composed of sea back-fills and surface soil. Cracks were detected and areas of underground water and salt deposition on foundations and walls were located. Some of the cracks were deep enough to affect the safety of the building. Additional expected loads from the renovation and reusing were calculated in addition to the effect of wind and earthquakes. Decay in the rocks and the plaster was also detected in different parts in the house and needed to be treated specially in foundations and first floor. We removed the coats and paints in purpose specially the facades and outer walls to retain the original look of the rocks and plaster with the wooden work. For the indoors only one wall in each room was left as it is and renewing the other walls to be suitable for reuse as a hotel and to put the needed facilities. The roof was rebuilt with proper way and good isolation to avoid the effect of rain and sun.



C- The Wooden Works:

This included the renovation of all wooden works: Rawashin, stairs, roofs, windows, and doors. We aimed to reuse all the wooden remains which were in condition that allows to be reused. As we did before in previous stages, we were searching for a professional carpenter from Quseir. We settled on a carpenter who had an experience in building fishing boats (which declined) and converted his work to wooden works related to construction and buildings. We found him very interested to share in our project and to bring all needed wood suitable for the reconstruction and renovation. He also learned from his father how to retain the wooden works to its original state. As a first step he

started by removing all doors, windows, and wooden works to avoid any extra damage during the renovation process. These parts were transported to his workshop to be treated and to retain to its original form. This was the case with the interior doors and windows with preserving its original decorations. Regarding the rawashin, all work was done at its original site. We feared that moving it will destroy it completely. Missing parts were retained and renovation needed was done. It was reconstructed exactly as its original. It was painted with special painting materials against fungus and decay.



Regarding the roofs, it was found that it suffered from extreme weakness especially in the mid-span area. Also longitudinal cracks and high humidity levels from long exposure to climatic factors without proper isolation. During renovation the dead and live loads and its directions were put in mind for the new use of the building. Additional new wooden girders were added at the same direction of the original ones. The new and old woods were all treated with anti-fungus and anti-decay materials. All the wooden floors were retained as it is except bathrooms and the kitchen which were replaced with ceramics. Regarding the stairs which connected the three floors of the building was totally renewed and reconstructed. Part of it was replaced since it was in a very bad state.



D- The Additional Works Needed for the Reuse:

One of the main problems that faced us was the lack of materials needed for the renovation at Quseir. So when we needed to do new electrical works, air conditioning, fire alarm system, plumbing system, and water tanks we had to get all what we needed from Hurghada and Cairo. Also we had to get workers for these works from Hurghada to achieve these works in perfect state. This increased the expenses significantly and wasted extra time.

We added an air condition and a sink to each room. We also added a plumbing system to add a bathroom in each floor. Storage areas were made in each floor. Two water tanks were added, one for drinking and the second for other uses (washing...etc.).

The roof was rearranged as a lounge area which would be great in winter especially with the beautiful scenery of the sea. The first floor was arranged to be a reception, cafeteria, and restaurant with the option of extending it and linking it with Corniche front area after the acceptance of officials.



7- Results and Recommendations:

- It was planned after achieving the first project which was the renovation of Sheikh Tawfik House, to extend the renovation and development to include the surrounding buildings and areas. At the same time City Council was responsible to develop the streets with special care to the Cornich, this would include the formation and fixing the infrastructure network, also Painting the facades of all buildings temporary until it would be totally renovated and paving the roads. It was also intended to stress the awareness of the people for the importance of their architectural heritage in which they live. The work was achieved during which we found a lot of sharing and encouragement from the people and we also faced a lot of problems and obstacles.
- The project of renovation and development of Quseir did not go as it was planed. After finishing Sheikh Tawfik House things slowed down. This was due to many factors:
- International and world wide recession and its effect on tourism including Quseir.
- Financial problems.
- Technical problems (the priorities of works and sharing between different parties).
- To achieve integrated permanent development for Quseir a complex of policies and plans should be put making the balance between preserving the identity and on the other hand development of tourism, financing, and managing the urban growth.
- Public participation is possible putting in mind the importance of direct benefit for all sharing parties. Pressures as rapid development of tourism and its needs may prevent people from sharing if they are not sure of the direct benefits they will regain from preservation and renovation of their heritage whether financially or morally or both.
- This project as an important experiment is considered as an educational, academic, and practical reference (from 1999 till today 2004 it is still the only example for the proposed actions). It showed clearly the importance of choosing each person and each party who shared in this work and formed the team-work, the strategy and the system of work, the suitable way for renovation and rebuilding, and the technique to make the balance between preservation and rehabilitation.

- The Sheikh Tawfik House as a pilot study is only the beginning of a long way, which needs persistence, sharing, and integration of all efforts. It proved that integrated balanced development of Quseir can be true.

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