

Abstract

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TOWARDS REVITALIZING THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF AL-ADHAMYA URBAN FABRIC IN IRAQ

Historic Districts around the world are significant architectural resources of the city which emphasize the cultural identity and quality of urban life for these cities. But unfortunately, most of these districts have been deteriorated and lost either by neglect demolition. Al-Adhamya is one of these ancient districts in Baghdad-Iraq which has been suffering from neglect, decay and deterioration post war, in addition to the invasion of Iraq (2003). It was witnessed a mass destruction which has an apparent impact upon its urban fabric. The real challenge remains: how to restore and preserve this historic district after such disasters? This leads to the aim of this paper , to revitalize , conserve and rebuilt Al Adhamya. This is carried out through rehabilitating and restoring the old residential quarter to improve its physical structures and enhance its amenities and environmental qualities. Improvement of services and public open spaces and providing many tourist- attracting places and centers are some of the main objectives of this paper. In order to achieve these aims , the paper analyzes the character and the problems of historic districts , focusing on the experience of revitalizing : Mostar and Darb Al Ahmar done by AKTC, to find out guidelines and criteria for revitalizing historic districts such Al Adhamya a region post disasters. Key words: Historic districts, revitalization, Cultural identity , Urban fabric