

**THE DISTURBANCE OF THE
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ITS SETTING
A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN DEALING WITH THE
ENDANGERED CULTURAL SETTINGS
"THE COMMON CHARACTER" A CASE STUDY FROM JORDAN**

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Introduction

In all over Jordan, the advent of new transformational aspects in urban development was highly observed during the last decades of the 20th and 21st centuries due to the demographic growth and development in all of the socioeconomic aspects.

All of these aspects caused to marginalize the importance of the cultural heritage as a part of the identity of the local community, what is needed now is the adoption of new trends, not any traditional trend, but creative and modern ones in order to manage, conserve, and protect our cultural heritage, however, nowadays the role of the historical town on socioeconomic development of small and medium cities in Mediterranean regions not possible without a policy of conservation and preservation which is insufficient alone without a sustainability efforts to channel the transformation so as to adapt the towns to the needs of their new population and new ways of life for the survival of the historical centers in their artistic, historical and environmental values.

The main aspects of the historical town fabric – typology, property, and building conditions have been unchangeable, and their reintegration of the contemporary developments should be studied, guided and designed to prevent its destruction and decay as a result of its reflectance by the changes and development in modes of life for the local community.

It is worth saying that the common experiments of rehabilitation and revival of historical towns are being attempted in all countries, and in many of them the experiments have been stimulated or even rendered by the associative efforts of local communities, alone or in collaboration with governmental or non governmental partners. The process of rehabilitation and revival of historical towns should not be only for the prominent monuments but also for the modest urban fabric. The policy

of conservation involves making interventions at various scales and levels of intensity; these are determined by the physical condition, causes of deterioration and anticipated future environment of the historical building under treatment.

I will talk in particular as a case study about the experience of the city of Irbid in Jordan in conserving the historical buildings of the center, explaining the main difficulties that the government faces in managing, revival, and conserving historical centers. At present the center suffers a state of abandonment, degradation and destruction. This process of total decay puts it in risk of total losses. There are two main causes of deterioration: first are human and natural causes, and second is of legal nature regarding all the historical and architectural heritage of Jordan.

But in this paper I tried to generate new ideas in dealing with this rich cultural heritage by studying and trying to reshape the relationship between the modern and old architectural heritage into sympathetic and symbiotic relationship. I will try to discuss the dangers threatening the center of Irbid as a Jordanian city in terms of the weakness of legislation at all governmental levels for the protection and conservation of Jordanian architectural heritage without any distinction. The main goal of the study is to premise comprehensive polices and strategies of conservation that must be adopted by the concerned authorities as a part of the whole socioeconomic development plan of the city in which appropriate understanding of the values contained in the Architectural and cultural heritage is highly needed.

Finally, the total actions that could be taken regarding to the architectural and cultural heritage will be in many procedures that leads at the end to re-engage this heritage within the daily life of the local community, in which, in my study I tried to create new standards of urban development in historical towns by respecting the architectural styles, character, and external aspects to create harmony between the old and the new. The direct effect of this symbiotic relationship between the new and the old will be clearly seen

on the socioeconomic daily life of the community, municipal organizations, architects, town-planners and builders in which they will adopt such relationship with full respect and in their projects.

Historical Background

Irbid is the third city in Jordan in terms of area and number of population. Now the city has the dimension of 34km² and about 250.000 habitants. It is situated in the northern part of Jordan approximately far about one hundred km. from the capital (Amman) (1) (2). Irbid is an ancient city and was at its peak prosperity at Roman and Greek periods.

The first settlements in the area was on the high part of the city the so called the hill of Irbid. The geographical position in middle of many commercial routes from North to south, and from east to west gave the city the opportunity to play an important role on the socioeconomic growth of the region through many centuries. Unfortunately remains of these periods are completely destroyed, and what remains today can be dated not more than one hundred and fifty years ago. Until now Irbid is the commercial and administrative center of the north region of Jordan; this has encouraged many people to emigrate from rural area towards Irbid. This is evident from the increasing of urban that had been seen by last years. The first municipality of Irbid was established in 1884 with the dimension of 3km², and now has extended to 34km².

General considerations about threats on historic towns

Today, the traditional and all functional value of historical towns are often threatened, especially in developing countries where cities have been facing various social and environmental problems as an impact of urbanizations and industrializations.

We can summarize the threats on historical towns in:

Demographic growth leads people to emigrate from rural areas towards urban centers, which cause changes for the social traditions and for the historic centers, where places become commercialized and residential houses overcrowded and unhealthy by the erection of high buildings, which suffocate historic urban centers by changing their microclimate.

The growth from simple craft production into industrial production, which demands larger buildings and

consequently the accumulation of traffic that historic areas cannot accommodate, in which the increasing use of means of transportation within the historic areas, generated atmospheric pollution and destructive vibration.

The human causes of deterioration and destruction are related in many cases to the economic development of our times. One of these causes is the modification of the environment by the industrialization and the development process, also changes in the methods and scale of industrial and commercial operations, which affected the economic functions of the historic areas. These modern functions and services came to replace traditional infrastructure causing superabundance. The shortness of maintenance for the historical buildings and the disability to understand their cultural and functional values increased the threats of decay and collapse.

The development process in the developing countries has been given priority, while conservation policies have been considered an obstacle for development. Jordan, one of the developing countries, in which rapid economic development is often accompanied by a tendency to reject traditional culture and to accept and embrace new cultural values as well as modern technology, this affected the planners causing a total failure to understand the cultural value of historic centers, and the acceptance of motor traffic had led in many cases to the creation of wide, straight streets through sensitive historic centers, destroying their human scale, the refined traditional structure of their urban fabric, and their narrow winding streets, as well as the relationship between their public and private spaces. The insensitive insertion of modern buildings had lacked both cultural roots and good environmental performance which equally means damaging historic centers.

General survey and analysis to the historical center of Irbid

The starting point for the urban development combining the new and the old, and the conservation planning of the historic areas must be the identification, based on careful study, survey, and analysis, of the historic fabric of the town. From general observation of the historical town of Irbid, we aim to identify the presently existing historic structures and spaces, as well as demolished parts and modern additions. This analysis will assist in the physical definition of the significant historic areas and eventual buffer zones, and in the preparation of planning norms for their appropriate conservation. (Figure 3, 4).

From these observations I can deduce the

following

- 1- The dimension of the historical area is about 3 km² and the greater part of this area is occupied by the hill as called (the upper part) including many historical buildings. This historical area as any center of many cities hosts the principal economic activities such as markets, private offices, banks, and offices of government and administrative authority. So the center needs many services such as large streets and large urban spaces (Parking, squares, and etc...).
- 2- The second problem is due to their long history, they often have complicated patterns of divided ownerships of the same building or parcel land, this is one of the difficulties which faces the municipality in dealing with the owners to carry out an efficient urban planning and using land and buildings within the center in a general master plan for the city.
- 3- Shortness of urban standards and norms at the municipality of Irbid regarding the construction of new buildings inside the historical area to respect the architectural character and the external aspect, to create harmony between new and old buildings of the city, to conserve according to certain architectural character.(Figure 5,6,7).
- 4- There is no documentation (Illustrations or photography) made up for the buildings of the center in spite of many buildings were damaged and now there is no archive for the historical buildings at Irbid municipality. This is due to the shortness of legislation regarding the protection of the past remains, this was during the past times when there was no law for protecting the cultural heritage but now there is a preliminary law for the protection of the architectural and cultural heritage which we will discuss later in this paper.
- 5- The increase in the number of the inhabitants and the consequent accumulation of traffic that historic areas cannot accommodate changes methods and scale of industrial and commercial operations, which affect the economic functions of historic areas. Many of buildings were lost by opening a new street or the enlarge of narrow ones. Many circles, squares with symbolic fountain or statue were destroyed by municipality to widen the intersection street and were replaced by a traffic light.
- 6- Through the analyses made at the historical buildings inside the center of Irbid at present,

from the historical point of view we can note the following situation:

- a) 15% of the buildings have 50 to 150 years, many of these buildings suffer a state of abandonment, degradation and destruction, in total process of decay and risk of losses (Figure 8). Taking in consideration that many of these buildings have multi-owners according to the laws of inheritance and the power of demands of parcel land to build a new construction to satisfy the exaggeration of economic development, and this is possible in short of legislation to protect them.
 - b) 80% of the buildings have 25 to 30 years in many cases they have one or two floors; we can consider them as historical urban fabric. Many of them are free stand on old layer buildings demolished and replaced during the recent expansion of the city.
 - c) 5% are recent buildings without any facilities (urban standards) this is results of a general lack of urban standards and norms, in addition to the less respect of their surroundings.
- 7- The historical town offers daily services for more than 70% of the habitants of the city and for 80% of the habitants of the whole region of Irbid. The great number of people frequenting the center for services puts it in the danger of numerous causes of decay.

This indicates a good evidence to estimate how much important the center area in the daily socioeconomic life of the local community as a part of their life as it was for their ancestors. Citizens who know the history of the place will enjoy the rich feeling of participating in its history, and a sense of continuity and identity.

Also we can deduce the great necessity to carry out a comprehensive plan for the city, and to point out the role that this center could play on the whole master plan of the city, in spite of the losses of many historical buildings that still have a good potentiality in terms of historical, aesthetic, socio-economic and identity values. This may encourage the concerned authorities and the private sector to make up a good urban plan and a socioeconomic program while planning for the growth of the city and its environment. Therefore it is necessary to take in consideration the economic forces that permit the best use of the existing historical towns.

The survival of cultural heritage implies:

A reconciling between conservation requirements and town planning objectives by considering the values and interests of the existing historic fabric as equal in status to other factors in general planning process. The basis for any planning and intervention in an existing fabric is the knowledge and understanding of resources, in terms of both its history and its present condition. A reconcile between conservation polices and development process through maintaining and enhancing the quality of historical buildings.

On an urban scale, conservation involves not only cultural and historic values but also their inherent economic and social implications. Integrated conservation involves the conservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and areas and the provision of appropriate public services that respect the criteria according to which these areas have been built. In order to be successful in the long term, this process should generally be done out in collaboration with the inhabitants, using planning legislation and norms as a tool.

The study of the forces driving growth in the economy of all urban areas could help to ensure the self-preservation of historic areas. It is up to the planners to control development by preventing large intrusive buildings, undesirable traffic flows and out-of-scale functions from disrupting the balance of the city. High office blocks should be sited away from the historic centre; even water towers, industrial buildings, and some services can be disruptive if not carefully sited.

The integrated conservation of such centers implies joining all political and technical forces and bringing together the skills of the archaeologist, ethnographer, sociologist and historian with architects and engineers in an interdisciplinary collaboration, under the leadership of a conscious conservation, and a qualified town planner.

From the preceding consideration about the dangers threaten the center of Irbid we can summarize the main causes of decay. The main two reasons of the deterioration are: The first one is of human and natural causes and the second one is of legal nature regarding all the historical architectural heritage of Jordan. This cause consists in the absence of legislation at all governmental levels for the protection and conservation of Jordanian architectural heritage without any distinction (Figure 9, 10). In Jordan there was only one law providing the identification, protection, conservation and guarantying the life of the archaeological heritage. *(The low defines the government authority represented by Ministry of culture and cultural national resource heritage with the Department of antiquity, at the moment the ministry of tourism replaced instead of ministry of culture and cultural national resource which is*

responsible of administrative, conservation restoration and maintenance of the archaeological sites and finds. Moreover the law defines the archaeological finding which is all things movable and unmovable produced by human activity, such as Archeological sites, group of buildings, single building, inscription, manuscript, etc... Produced or erected before the year 1700 A.D. considered as Archaeological find and covered by the law, while all remains of human activity Movable and unmovable after this date considered as traditional and historical buildings). But this law was insufficient, since it excluded all buildings or monuments built after 1700 considering them historically insignificant. People can destroy and build new structures over them. Therefore, they were not included in any conservation projects or in urban and development plan at all levels, but this exclusion of the historic areas and buildings which were built after 1700 came to end after making a temporary new law for the protection of the architectural and cultural heritage for the year 2003, in the other hand in spite of the advantages of this law it was so late to pronounce it now because we have lost most of the historical areas and buildings after the urban development of Irbid.

The temporary law number 49 for the year 2003 (The Law of Preserving the Cultural and Architectural Heritage).

The low defines the government authority represented by Ministry of Tourism, in which it defines the historic sites as a building or a place that have a heritage value in its way of erection or its relation with historic persons or related to national or religious important events, and if it was built after the year of 1750 A.D. and this includes the following:

- Heritage Building: constructions and single structures which have architectural, historical, and cultural characters that tells specific events.
- Cultural Site: it is the architectural fabric, the public spaces, and the general arrangement of the site which form the common values on which the residents' culture was formed.

The main aim of this low is the preserving, protection, and maintaining the Jordanian historic sites. The authority that is responsible for this low is the higher organizing council for protection and conservation. In addition to a committee that is formed by the ministry called "the national committee for reserving the architectural and cultural heritage"

The committee has the following responsibilities:

Creating and controlling the standards for protecting the architectural and cultural heritage, counting and identifying the heritage sites, providing the needed fund for the

conservation works of the heritage sites as well as for the compensation for adding heritage sites into their property by buying them from the original local owners, determining the works and vocations that are permitted to be practiced within the heritage sites, and making serious efforts regarding to the awareness of the importance of the architectural and cultural heritage and the importance of its existence to the local community.

General Rules:

It is prohibited to damage, causing the deterioration or any negative effects on the architectural and cultural heritage, and it is not allowed to change, alter or add anything to the general characters or features of the architectural and cultural heritage without the permission of the committee, the organizing authorities should follow the standards and rules when they study the designs of the architectural heritage and its surroundings of new buildings and installations in terms of scale, shapes, heights, materials, colours, and its suitability to the general architectural surroundings.

Comments on this law:

We were so ambitious before to have such a law that is dedicated for the architectural and the cultural heritage which were for along time not considered by the law as a signed heritage, so this new trend in Jordan came out to light bringing with it the chances for protecting, conserving, and getting out with new ideas for exploiting this rich heritage.

It seems that there is no perfection in human's works, for this new law it reveals so many weak points in its body, in which, specifying a punishment for those who brake this law with money compensation is not a wise decision because the amount of money for the punishment is so little in addition to the period of imprisonment which is also not enough and therefore this could stimulate some persons to violate on the architectural and cultural heritage, so we should make the local community understand and be aware that this heritage is priceless and could not be compensated with any price if it was lost. Therefore I suggest that the local authorities should make a list of the protected buildings in which they make each person aware that he has a protected buildings even if it was his won property and he is not allowed to modify or alter anything without the permission of the responsible authority and committee, this action will make those owners know that they have a significant property.

I will mention two experiences of conservation done in the last years for two buildings which were constructed after the year 1700. The first experience was the restoration of so

called Dar al Saraya, it is an architectural complex built after the date of 1700 by the Ottomans for the governor of Irbid, and it was used as jail in the last 80 years. (Figure 11, 12)

This restoration intervention was conducted by the Department of antiquity. The project previewed the reveal the values of the building through adapting re-use and transform it in an archaeological museum of the city. In this way to ensure the continuity of their life as a part of our architectural heritage. This project was done although the conservation for it was not covered by the law.

The second experience was adapting re-use of a private house into a cultural center done by the owners themselves, then the center was donated to the ministry of cultural to mange it in order to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the project on life by the permanent maintenance and conservation activity that the ministry can do while the ownership can not support.(Figure 13, 14).

From these two conservations initiative we can deduce:

1. Some of privet conservation initiate need the support of the govern incentive to have the successful and the sustainability.
2. The necessity of collaboration between privet sector and institutional part within a whole urban and socioeconomic development plan of the city where the integrated conservation of the historical area is one of the objectives of this plan.
3. These two experiences of conservation could be a good example for the governmental and private levels in the efforts to conserve the historical center

I will try to give some suggestions which may help us in protecting our heritage:

1. The local institutions can initiate a kind of motivations or incentives for the people who participate in conservation projects aimed to protect and restore buildings in the historical area respecting the whole socioeconomic development plan of the city.
2. Such local conservation initiative associated with the interventions programs conducted by the governmental authority could be safeguard for the historical town.
3. In this case the municipality will be able to carry out a comprehensive urban plan integrated with a strategy of recovery for the historical centers with a appropriate norms for their conservations and stabilized the urban standers and architectural character for the new buildings within the historical area, which create harmony and integrations between the existing buildings and the new construction. The harmony created by traditional

building materials and methods of construction is part of this authenticity, and should be respected.

4. The good exploitation of the architectural and cultural heritage within the urban development by make a sympathy and harmony between the new and the old, in addition to investing history in the modern architecture.

The main topic that could be derived from my suggestions and my research is the best method to benefit from the architectural and cultural heritage by studying and analyzing the relationship between the historic sites and their surroundings by introducing the subject of historic sites and common character.

Historic Sites and the common Character

The cultural heritage of Jordan is not restricted to classical or early Islamic resources like Petra, Jerash, Ajloun ...etc but it extends to the recent periods of Jordan's history including the simple urban fabric, ordinary dwellings, and the small villages ...etc that all forms what is known as the architectural and cultural heritage of Jordan. The exploitation of architectural and cultural heritage should be taken seriously in order to transform the role of this physical part of our culture into a dynamic and active role to be then a source of inspiration and scope of mind for the future development.

The key point in my research in the case of Irbid is not only to protect or to conserve the architectural or the cultural heritage for the historic sites in Irbid but also to create the harmony and sympathy within those historic sites in order to produce a unified whole of the modern and the old. The general analysis of Irbid city provides us with the organization and distribution of the new and the old additions and therefore the historic sites and buildings could be counted and identified, but what is needed here is to reshape the surrounding areas within the historic sites by making new standards for the new buildings or installations in which the historical sites and buildings should be studied intensively in terms of their character, style, colour, scale, and general features.

Identifying the important aspects and the design concepts applied for the historic sites will successfully guide us into establishing a total mass of creative urban development characterized by the involvement and recruitment of history in architecture. The aim of adopting such techniques of analyzing, identifying, and involving the historical character for the inspiration of the new architecture is not only to stimulate new design, but also as a total in the evaluation and criticism of proposed schemes and completed projects.

The impacts of new building work are noticed, not only at nationally important sites, but also in small conservation areas and remote archaeological sites in the countryside.

The need of new architecture in the historic areas and beyond came out from the increasing awareness and interests of history, therefore the number of visitors to these areas increases dramatically, how could we provide new installations and services within those historic sites and we know that most of them are so fragile and some of them has a distinctive architectural character and features in which new additions may cause the destruction for them or it could make them lose their potential attractive value and its gentleness, of course we can't say that we should stop or prohibit adding new architecture within historic sites. We should first realize that the new buildings and installations will be with great diversity, and it could be cafes, hotels, shops, gardens...etc. all of these additions will make the historic areas a commercial commodity.

Because of the rapid development of the city and the new additions of buildings and facilities we should have a planning control which could be the best method for controlling the pressure of new building at historic areas. We have to reanalyze the city of Irbid and carefully identify each historic building or site after that we should look for there surroundings as a fact we know that most of them are fully surrounded by new buildings and facilities, what we need in this case is a study of the architectural character of the historic sites and buildings, after that understanding the general style and character of them consequently, we can make some alterations and changes for the new built structures, otherwise any new building or structure should be conducted with the respect of the standards and rules adopted by the municipality that will be derived from studying the historic areas characters and features.

The heritage conservation movement in Jordan is faced with several problems manifested in the absence of a defined mechanism for conservation and the lack of infrastructure and institutional capacities that can support conservation process. (e.g., heritage conservation tools, channels for financial support, respecting the regulations and standards of conservation). The current conservation projects are done as being an ordinary and regular construction work with no consideration to local people and their culture, in which, those projects that are labeling the title of "revival of historic city cores" unfortunately are not always attempted to find the relationship between the cultural heritage and its associated community.

For example a program of expropriation aimed to safeguard historical buildings with high aesthetic value or

for group of historical urban fabric with the same architectural character through a rehabilitation project: For historical buildings the rehabilitation could be for cultural purpose. While for historical urban fabric could be created a determinate handcraft activity within this homogeneous zone of architecture character.

For this zone of determinate activity the municipality or the governmental authority can give economic incentives to create a greater participation of the owners or the local people to conserve their property for new occupation. This program should be correlated by one of the economic sectors, such as tourism to find out consumers for their activities. Such initiative is sensitive to public values, interests, needs and attitudes; it gives a high level of attention to the meanings and messages of the preserved building.

The Unesco Recommendation concerning safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas. Nairobi 1976 provides the following guidelines:

Every historic area and its surroundings should be considered in their totality as a coherent whole whose balance and specific nature depend on the fusion of the parts of which it is composed and which include human activities as much as the buildings, the spatial organization and the surroundings. All valid elements, including human activities, however modest, thus have significance in relation to the whole which must not be disregarded.

This public awareness, and training in conservation techniques in parallel, is important to upgrade the knowledge of people to the advantages of conservation to survive and guarantee the permanence of this center and their historical identity.

In an historic urban area, maintenance and preservation of all buildings and their social functions are fundamental to the town's continuity as an urban entity. In order to prevent structural and economic decay, the conservation plan should include regular inspections by conservation architects. This plan should also consider that the historic towns are part of the larger setting, and the environment that surrounds them; the only way to ensure proper safeguarding is to extend policies to include larger planning context, moreover, the degrade historic areas can be changed into an attractive, livable, and a focus for all social categories by reinstating a mixture of residential, commercial, small-scale industrial and leisure activities.

After all that making any action of involving history in the new buildings is so challenging topic because it needs high imagination and sense of beauty to harmonize the new with

the old or to build the new with the sense of oldness and its gentleness, from the other hand the new architecture and the historic areas when they combined together harmoniously then a new areas within the city could be created with the sense of oldness and therefore each historic area or building will no longer be separated from the whole relation with the other as before, and the possibility of engaging and connecting them together will be increased in which the term "Eco-museum" therefore could be applied actively.

The whole idea of the involvement of history in architecture is worthless if the local people, builders, engineers and any responsible party are not aware of the importance of the historic areas and why we conduct such projects of involving them in architecture, and we should first instill in their mind the great wealth of historical knowledge and the importance of heritage for their identity as a part of this community in which it consists not only from human but also, with any part that can indicate or shows us the creativeness of humanity during the old times.

Finally, the architectural and cultural heritage of Jordan plays a significant role in the development of the tourism sector. We should rethink about the tourism projects that are always over emphasis in hotel constructions and other kinds of modern works at the same time ignoring the importance of the cultural heritage as an important attraction tool for the visitors who came to this destination not to see what is new but rather the old, so after establishing the areas previously mentioned in this research that have a common architectural and cultural character we can then exploit them in the tourism sector as being a main tourism destination for the visitors to the city of Irbid, but if we want to exploit our heritage in tourism we should not disturb the local community or destruct its authenticity.

Conclusion

The theme of new architecture within historic sites and its involvement in conservation projects needs to be seen as a part of the whole field of conservation studies. It is a wide subject. If, however, it is seen to be divided into 'technical' aspects (mortar mixes, timber treatment, structural stability, etc) and 'philosophical' aspects (selling history, archaeological excavations through layers of history, speculative reconstructions, etc), the scope of this study is to realize that history can play a significant and an active role in the generation of the new architecture needed to preserve our heritage, in other words architecture for conservation has to be both functional and historically appropriate.

In the case of Irbid city we have a big challenge because most of the historic buildings or sites are isolated from each

other as a result of the urban development and neglecting, therefore while making the study of applying the history for the new architecture we should bear in mind that we have create the harmony between the old and new additions, after that trying to generate links with all the sites as one whole in which this will later generate new areas within the city as a main historical-modern areas or squares that have a distinctive character of the gentleness of the old and the modernity of the new additions.

All proposed activities must be based on interdisciplinary collaboration using conservation theory to evaluate alternative proposal, in addition, it is necessary government should review its legislations and norms in urban development and planning. The insensitive insertion of modern buildings lacking both cultural roots and good environmental performance is equally damaging to historic centers, so urban management should aim to create harmony, avoid undesirable uses and maintain the existing scale of buildings, as well as their functional and cultural values.

Abstract

In all over Jordan, the advent of new transformational aspects in urban development was highly observed during the last decades of the 20th and 21st centuries due to the demographic growth and development in all of the socioeconomic aspects, what we have got now is a mass of chaos in which most of our cultural heritage have been left in a disturbed context and a deprived setting from its authenticity, the general cultural features remained are single standing buildings and devastated historical areas dissolved within the new cities and their proclaimed modernity like Amman (Capital), Irbid, and Aqaba.

In our case study from Jordan we will give a highlight to the city of Irbid since we have made a theoretical study for the city and we have identified the threats, weaknesses, opportunities, and the strengths within its cultural heritage, we have made a careful analysis for tracking its urban development and the impacts thrown on the cultural heritage. Therefore we are interested in this research to produce new methodologies and adequate techniques in dealing with the endangered and disturbed urban heritage especially its cultural setting by introducing the subject of "The Common Character" which is concentrated in evolving and revitalizing the dead cultural settings.

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Fig.1 The map of Jordan.



Fig.2 The principal routes of Jordan.

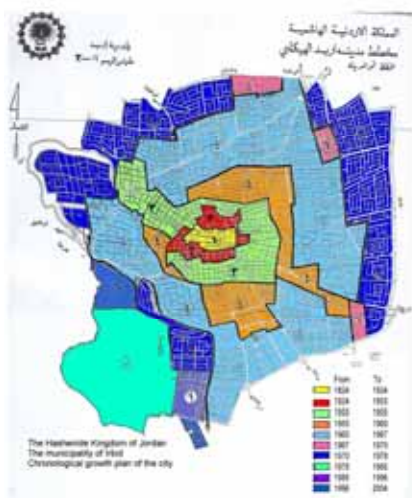


Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6



Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12



Fig.13



Fig.14