

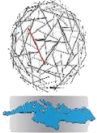
Engineering Association of  
Mediterranean Countries

## **Heritage built in the Mediterranean**

**Work Paper prepared by : Prof. Adil Alhadithi  
President of The Engineering Association of Mediterranean  
Countries (EAMC)**



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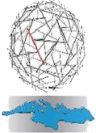
## Heritage built in the Mediterranean

### 1- Preface

The region of the Mediterranean has a unique and a special urban and architectural heritage that has been formed over time. Such heritage represents a local and international special legacy that depicts the features of the Mediterranean civilization in its prosperous era. Therefore, we confirm the importance of studying the urban and architectural heritage of the Mediterranean through its archeological, architectural, technical and scientific characteristics taking into consideration the social and cultural effect of urbanism and architecture. It is also necessary to adopt practical and scientific methods to maintain such features with the intent of rehabilitation and inclusion in our material reality to meet the inhabitants' needs to keep up with the requirements of the modern era without causing any harm to the region's legacy and its original nature.

Specialists and individuals concerned with the urban and architectural legacy of The Mediterranean States are required to maintain and sustain such legacy and all its aspects raising the inhabitants' awareness of the significance of such legacy and encouraging them to return to the heritage areas to make use, preserve them and keep their heritage environment. They should also prolong the life of sites and landmarks and keep its original architectural touch.

The significance of the urban and architectural heritage of the Mediterranean states lies in the fact that such heritage is one of the essential attributes of the national identity of this region. In this paper, we will endeavor to review the history of the Mediterranean region, the fundamental urban heritage that characterizes a number of the Mediterranean countries, the risks affecting that heritage, we will also endeavor to protect, keep and sustain it.



## **2- The History of the Mediterranean Region**

This basin is considered to be the home to the ancient world as the Pharaonic, Greek, Byzantine, Carthaginian civilization , Roman, Arab and Islamic civilizations have all thrived there.

The Mediterranean countries include various countries: **European** countries such as Spain, France, Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Gibraltar, Italy, Malta, Albania, Greece and Turkey.

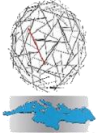
They also include **African** countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Egypt , Besides some **Asian** countries can be included such as Syria, Lebanon and Palestine and may be Portugal and Jordan due to some political, economic or historic factors that established a connection between them and the Mediterranean Countries.

### ➤ **Ancient Eras**

Roman and Phoenician civilizations were among the most prominent Mediterranean civilizations. A huge number of the Mediterranean peoples were under the Achaemenid Persian rule since 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C until the end of the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The Persian domination has come to an end in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C and lost its authority in the Mediterranean in the 4<sup>th</sup> century that was followed by The Hellenistic period, the Carthaginian Civilization and the Roman Empire.

### ➤ **Middle Ages**

This period is characterized by the Islamic conquests resulting from the Islamic states expansion at the time of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, at the time of the rightly guided caliphs), and at the time of the Umayyad caliphs when a number of Mediterranean states were conquered. However, the European countries began to open up to the world in the late Middle Ages after the Renaissance in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and continued to develop in the time of the Ottoman Empire until they eliminated The Byzantine Empire.



### ➤ **Modern Age**

**The Portuguese Empire, the Spanish Empire and the Italian Empire were the prevailing empires in that age.**

No sooner had the 19<sup>th</sup> century come, the European countries became Super powers which started to expand in the Mediterranean and the north of Africa especially Egypt until the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when The Mediterranean Sea have become the center for the European countries' expansion towards the east and the north. Nowadays, The Mediterranean Sea is the south borders of the European Union states and is considered one of the largest regions for trade in the world.

### **3- Architecture and Urbanism in the Mediterranean States**

In the Mediterranean region, the encounter of people and civilizations has always been particularly rich, both along the coasts and in hinterlands.

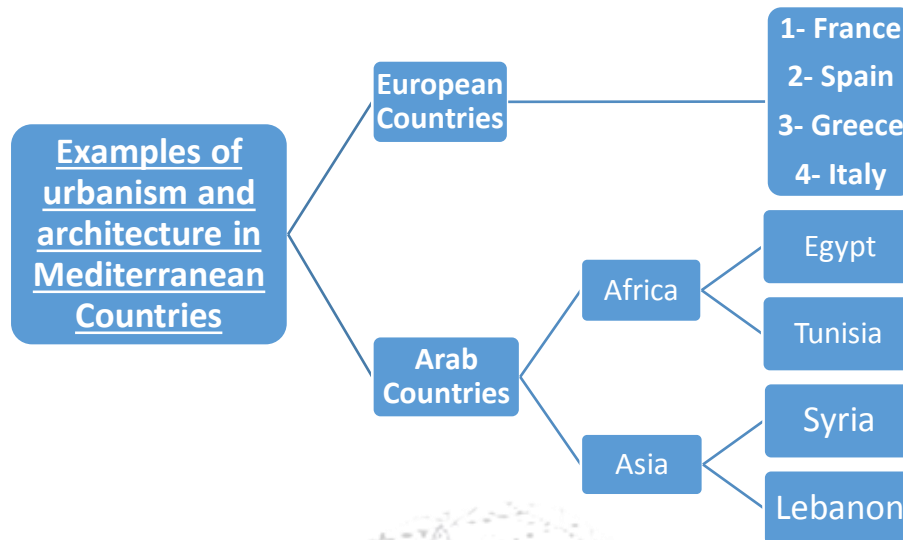
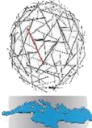
Urban developments, settlement patterns and historic urban fabric bear witness to the interaction between several civilizations and cultures.

The historic buildings are abundant in the Mediterranean states. Some of these buildings are still present, some need restoration and rehabilitation and the other were fallen into oblivion.

We reiterate that this is a human civilizational heritage that should be preserved and protected against demolishing and against its use in purposes other than those for which it has been built for. Governments and people should share the responsibility of preserving, keeping and maintaining such heritage.

In this paper, We will briefly provide a Very short and quick overview of some of the historic cities in the Mediterranean since its inception, as well as some examples of historical landmarks, Since we cannot mention all of them so, we will exemplify by considering 4 European countries and 4 Arab countries (2 African and 2 Asian).

Even these countries, which we will talk about some of its models, will not have the space to cover all its historical monuments and cities, and now we are going to review the models :



## First: European Countries

### 1- France

Will take Avignon as model for the Historical Cities :

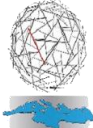
#### - City of Avignon:

Is a commune in south-eastern France in the department of Vaucluse on the left bank of the Rhône River. Of the 90,194 inhabitants of the city (as of 2011), about 12,000 live in the ancient town Centre enclosed by its medieval ramparts.

Between 1309 and 1377, during the Avignon Papacy, seven successive popes resided in Avignon and in 1348 Pope Clement VI bought the town from Joanna I of Naples. Papal control persisted until 1791 when, during the French Revolution, it became part of France. The town is now the capital of the Vaucluse department and one of the few French cities to have preserved its ramparts.

The historic centre, which includes the Palais des Papes, the cathedral, and the Pont d'Avignon, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. The medieval monuments and the annual Festival d'Avignon have helped to make the town a major Centre for tourism.





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**And for the landmarks we would like to refer to:**

• **Eiffel tower**

that was finished in 1889 at 324 meters height. It is one of the most renowned buildings in the world that symbolizes Paris.



- **Palace of Versailles** to which King Louis XIV moved from Paris from 1682 until 1789. This palace, that consists of different buildings and has a 800-meter frontage, is considered to be the most famous building in the classical French art that epitomizes the magnificence of the French architecture with its furniture, decoration and landscaping.



- **Toulon Park**, this Park is located in the old city center near to the naval front. It includes the Roman, Gothic and classical styles.
- **The Catholic Church (Notre Dame de La garde in Marseille)**  
This church was built in 1852 on a hill that overlooks Marseille.

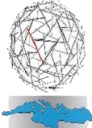


- **Abbey of St Victor in Marseille** and Palais des Papes in Avignon that is built on 15000 meters and was the papal seat from 1309 until 1367 where the papal authority was moved from Rome.



- **Le Pont d'Avignon**, this bridge enjoys a worldwide fame due to its relation to the widespread classic song "Sur Le Pont d'Avignon". This bridge took from 1175 to 1185 to be built as a wooden bridge demolished after the city had collapsed in 1216. Then in 1235 it has been rebuilt as a stone bridge. Today, out of 22 arches, only 4 arches remain.





## 2- Spain

Will take **Toledo** as model for the Historical Cities :

### - City of Toledo:

Toledo is known as the "Imperial City" for having been the main venue of the court of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, and as the "City of the Three Cultures" for the cultural influences of Christians, Muslims and Jews reflected in its history. It was also the capital from 542 to 725 AD of the ancient Visigothic kingdom, which followed the fall of the Roman Empire, and the location of historic events such as the Visigothic Councils of Toledo. Toledo has a long history in the production of bladed weapons, which are now common souvenirs from the city.

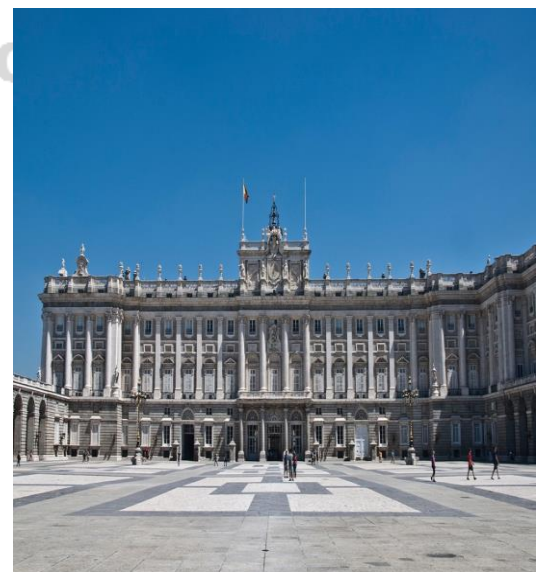
People who were born or have lived in Toledo include Brunhilda of Austrasia, Al-Zarqali, Garcilaso de la Vega, Eleanor of Toledo, Alfonso X, Israeli ben Joseph, Halevi, and El Greco. As of 2015, the city had a population of 83,226[5] and an area of 232.1 km<sup>2</sup> (89.6 sq mi).

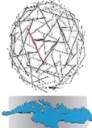


We will now refer to some of the historic architectural Spanish landmarks as Madrid contains a historic treasure formed throughout the ages and civilizations.

### • The Royal Palace (Royal Treasure):

it was built in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century and has been continuously expanded throughout the years . specially in the wake of 1560. It is well-known for its artistic and architectural treasures. This palace was the residence of the Spanish royal family and the seat of the national court that was established in 1712 under the name of the Palace Court. In 1855 it was turned to be the ministry of interior and remain so until now. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century it witnessed numerous modifications until 1986 when the National Library was built to serve as a record of the Spanish culture.





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- **Church of the Holy Family** in Barcelona, this church was built in 1881 and was expanded in 1874.



- **Catholic Park Güel**, it took from 1900 to 1914 to be built and is considered one of the most magnificent architectural works in southern Europe.



- **The - Mosque / Cathedral**: it is named so as the cathedral was built on the same site of the mosque after being demolished in the aftermath of the fall of Cordoba in 572 AD.



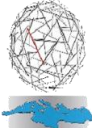
- **The Alhambra Palace**, this Palace is located in a strategic site that overlooks Granada. The name is actually derived from the red walls surrounding the structure. Despite the fact that the Fortress exists prior the Islamic conquest of Granada, it is called In Arabic Alhamra Fortress.



- **The - Holy Grail Cathedral or (St. Mary's Cathedral)**, this Cathedral was built in the Gothic style on the site of a Roman temple.







### 3- Greece

Will take **Athens** as model for the **Historical Cities** :

#### - City of Athens

Athens is one of the oldest named cities in the world, having been continuously inhabited for at least 5000 years. Situated in southern Europe, Athens became the leading city of Ancient Greece in the first millennium BC, and its cultural achievements during the 5th century BC laid the foundations of western civilization.

During the early Middle Ages, the city experienced a decline, then recovered under the later Byzantine Empire and was relatively prosperous during the period of the Crusades (12th and 13th centuries), benefiting from Italian trade. Following a period of sharp decline under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, Athens re-emerged in the 19th century as the capital of the independent and self-governing Greek state.

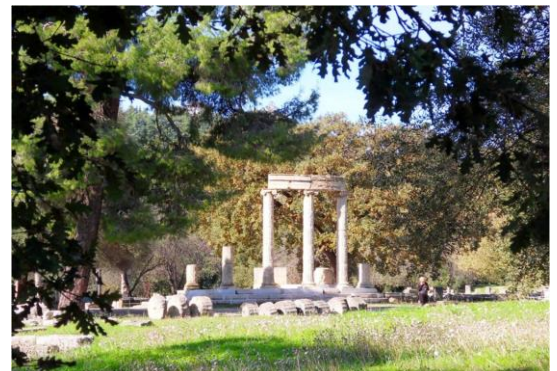


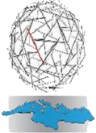
The Greek civilization exceeds 7000 years over which the architectural and urban heritage extends. Although that heritage needs a number of lectures to talk about, we will study some examples only.

- **Acropolis of Athens**, it consists of numerous temples built in the span from 447 to 438 BC on a fortress that overlooks Athens, the embellishment works were finished in 432 BC.



- **Olympia**, although we know that it is the birthplace of the Olympic games since it witnessed the first Olympic games tournament in 774 BC, it is also considered as one of the Roman holy sites.





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- **The Ancient Corinth**, it was one of the large Greek cities in the ancient times until the 8<sup>th</sup> century when it became a significant administrative and commercial center. It was the capital of the Greek municipality and was occupied by foreign forces in 1558 and destroyed prior to an earthquake that struck the city turning it into ruins.

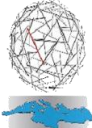


- **The Archeological Museum**, in the past it was The hospital of the Knights OF ST JOHN. The Museum took from 1440 until 1489 to be built. It contains some antiquities that date back to 9<sup>th</sup> century BC and the ensuing periods.



- **Knossos Palace**, this palace was the center of the Minoan civilization and the legendary home of King Minos. It developed during the modern Stone Age roughly from 700 to 300 BC. It was the commercial center during the period that lasted from 3000 till 1900 BC when the first palace was established.





## 4-Italy

Will take **Florence** as model for the **Historical Cities** :

- **City of Florence** : which named a ( World Heritage Site ) by UNESCO in 1982.

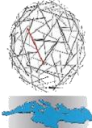
Florence Built on the site of an Etruscan settlement, the symbol of the Renaissance, rose to economic and cultural pre-eminence under the Medici in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its 600 years of extraordinary artistic activity can be seen above all in the 13th-century cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), the Church of Santa Croce, the Uffizi and the Pitti Palace, the work of great masters such as Giotto, Filippo Brunelleschi, Sandro Botticelli and Michelangelo.



Most of the Italian cities are regarded as museums of architectural and urban heritage formed over the centuries. We will attempt to consider a part of that heritage within this paper.

- **Pisa tower**, it lies in the heart of the city of Pisa which contains a number of towers such as The Bill Tower (Pisa Leaning tower), the Cathedral, the Baptist and the cemetery of Rome. It lies to the right of the Cathedral in Florence and is considered as one of the features of the renaissance in Italy from 1400 to 1600.





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- **The Cathedral** was firstly built on the Gothic style paving the way for the architecture of the Renaissance in 1490 at a time when Florence was the center of renaissance.



- **Doge's Palace**: after the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476, Venice massively developed due to the flow of refugees after The Lombards conquest of northern Italy in 508.

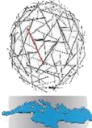


- **Saint Catherine Church**: it is located in the center of Livorno. The process of building this church started in 1720 but it slowly progressed and then interrupted. Then it was reformed by the Italian architect Giovanni del Fantasia 1670-1743 in a Baroque style.



- **Napoli Castle (Castel Nuovo)**: it is located in Napoli and took from 1279 to 1282 to be built. It was essentially constructed to be the queen's palace instead of Castel dell'Ovo that was the queen's palace at that time.





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- **The Church of the Virgin**: this church dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is regarded as one of the most impressive architectural Roman pieces. It developed over the years and its interior wall were garnished with wall paintings dating back to 14<sup>th</sup> century.



- **Cagliari (the Ancient Nora)**, it is located in the peninsula near Cagliari the capital of the island of Sardinia. It is believed to be the first city to be established in Sardinia in 3000 BC and was chosen to be the capital of the Roman areas in Sardinia.

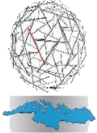


- **The Colosseum in Roma**, it is established in 69 in the same site of the Golden Palace. In the aftermath of Nero's great fire, the Colosseum was destroyed and then it was rebuilt and remained for decades.



- **St. Peter's Church**: it is located in the Vatican City and known as St. Peter's Church. it is one of the most important Christian churches and includes the Roman ecclesiastical government. It is also a sovereign and independent Church.





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## **Second: Arab Countries**

We will consider 2 African countries and another 2 Asian countries from the countries located along the Mediterranean Sea

### **1- Egypt**

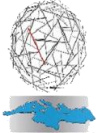
Will take **Cairo** as model for the **Historical Cities**

#### **City of Cairo**

In Egypt there is a group of architectural heritage such as temples, cemeteries and palaces that date back to thousands of years.

The foundations of Cairo were laid in AD 969 by the Fatimid dynasty, but the city's history goes further back than that. There was an important ancient religious center at On (modern-day Heliopolis). The Romans built a fortress at the port of On, which they called Babylon, while Amr Ibn Al As, the general who conquered Egypt for Islam in AD 642, established the city of Fustat to the south. Fustat's huge wealth was drawn from Egypt's rich soil and the taxes imposed on Nile traffic. Tenth-century travellers wrote of public gardens, street lighting and buildings up to 14 storeys high. Yet when the Fatimids marched from modern-day Tunisia near the end of the 900s, they spurned Fustat and instead set about building a new city. Construction began on the new capital when the planet Mars (Al Qahir, 'the Victorious') was in the ascendant; thus arose Al Madina Al Qahira, 'the City Victorious', the pronunciation of which Europeans corrupted to Cairo.





We will now refer to some of the historic architectural Egyptian landmarks as it contains a historic treasure formed throughout the ages and civilizations.

**Giza Pyramids in Cairo:** they are one of the architectural masterpiece of all time and the only wonder remaining from the ancient times. They are located on the western bank of the Nile River. They are believed to have been built in 2650 years BC.



- **The Temple of Karnak in Luxor:** it consists of a number of temples that were constructed in 1500 BC. It is one of the largest religious complexes in the world consisting of gates, columns, halls, Obelisks, statues and the Sacred Lake.



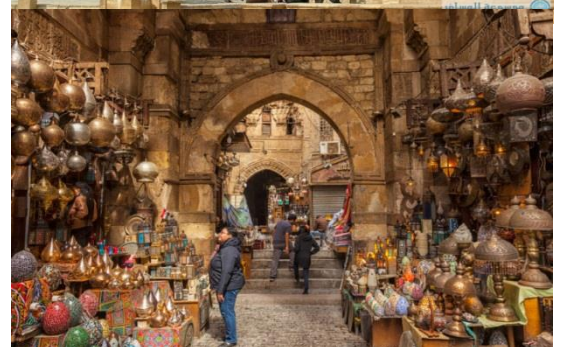
- **Abu Simbel Temples in Aswan:** they consist of 2 materials that were originally carved from a mountain foot in 1279-1213 BC. These temples were formed and transported to a new place in 1960 to save them from being flooded by the water of Nasser Lake after building the High Dam.

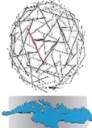


**Citadel of Salah Al Din, Cairo:** it is one of the most majestic castles built in Medieval Times. This castle has continuously witnessed various historic events until Muhammad Ali came to power in Egypt as he is the one who restored it and held it in a high esteem. It is also worth mentioning that the minister Karakoush had demolished cemeteries and mosques to build the castle instead.



- **Khan Al-Khaleeli,** it is one of the ancient Cairo districts and is one of the oldest eastern markets as it exists for more than 600 years ago. In spite of that long time, the original architecture remains the same since the Mamluk era. This market includes





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## 2- Tunisia

Will take **Kairouan** as model for the **Historical Cities**

**City of Kairouan** : is the capital of the Kairouan Governorate in Tunisia, It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The foundation of Kairouan dates to about the year 670 when the Arab general Uqba ibn Nafi of Caliph Mu'awiya selected a site in the middle of a dense forest. The holy Mosque of Uqba is situated in the city in northern Tunisia's inland desert. It became a powerful trading hub and center of Islamic scholarship in the 9th century, when Aghlabid emirs ruled Kairouan and built many of its monuments. The Great Mosque, on the edge of the medina, with its antique columns and imposing minaret.



**Tunisia** has a huge ancient architectural heritage but most of its famous heritage belongs to the Islamic period.

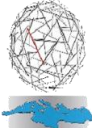
- **The University of Al-Zaytoonah** or (the Great Mosque), it is located in the long-standing city of Tunis. It is the oldest and largest university of the city as it was established in 698 AD. Since the date of establishment, it has been regarded as an Islamic university.



- **The ancient Tunisian palaces and markets:** there exists a number of ancient palace such as The Palace of Ibn Abi Diaf, Dar El Bey, Dar El Haddad, Dar Al Asram Dar Bin Abbad, Dar Al Jallouli and Dar Al Jaziri. These palaces were built over different periods. Tunisia also has around 40 markets including 28 indoor markets such as El Attarine Market that was built in the 17th century, Al Baraka Market and Al Qarana Market Etc... each market of these is allocated for a certain type of goods.







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### 3-Syria

Will take **Damascus** as model for the Historical Cities

#### - City of Damascus :

The Syrian capital Damascus is the oldest Capital remaining nowadays besides Aleppo which is also an ancient Syrian city. Syria witnessed consecutive civilizations each one of them have left a sign that marks its period.

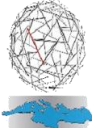
Damascus is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, contains numerous archaeological sites, including some historical churches and mosques. Many cultures have left their mark, especially Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic. In 1979, the historical center of the city, surrounded by walls of Roman era, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. In June 2013, UNESCO included all .

**We will now refer to some of the historic architectural Syrian landmarks and monuments**

**The Citadel of Aleppo:** it is a fortified palace that was built in the Middle Ages and is considered as one of the oldest and largest citadels in the world. It dates back to the third millennium BC. This citadel was occupied by numerous civilizations including the Byzantine, the Greeks, the Mamluks and the Ayyubids. Most of the building remains date back to the Ayyubid period.

• **Citadel of Homs:** it is one of the most significant architectural pieces being the largest citadel established by The Crusaders in Syria. It is located on the Mountains of the Syrian coast and is considered to be one of the most magnificent archeological citadels in the world. This citadel was built on the ruins of a previous citadel Established by the Pharaohs in the fifteenth century BC called "Shabton". The foundation of that citadel was laid in 1301.





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• **The Castle of Salah Ed-Din and also known as Sahyun Castle:** it is one of the Syrian mountains castle in Latakia' that is located on a high summit surrounded by forests. It was constructed in the Middle Ages around the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.



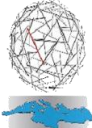
• **The ancient - Damascus:** it is the first inhabited city in the world and the oldest capital in history. Damascus is distinguished with its historic buildings that date back to various ages including holy sites such as churches and mosques besides historic schools, cemeteries and pebbled streets, Ancient Damascus is also recognized for its Damascus ancient architectural style.



• **Rusafa Castle in Raqqa:** it is located in al-Sham Desert in Raqqa countryside. In the Roman and byzantine periods, Raqqa was known as the City of Saint Sarkis. The city first existed on that archeological site in the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was flourished in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD thanks to its location on the road that links Aleppo to Palmyra and Salhi.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD , the Umayyad Caliph made Rusafa his city of residence and built many palaces there, but it was destroyed by the Tartars when they overran Syria. Thereafter, some German archeologists visited Rusafa and found out many antiquities including 2 palaces that have carvings belonging to the Umayyad era.





## **4 - Lebanon**

Will take **Byblos** as model for the **Historical Cities**

### **- City of Byblos:**

Lebanon contains a brilliant architectural heritage including Byblos City which is one of the oldest cities, if not the oldest city present until now. Byblos includes Mario Hanna Church which was built during the 12th and 13th centuries. It also includes Sultan Abdul Hamid Mosque which was established in 1698 and was restored in 1783. Additionally, it has the Crusader castle which was built in the 12th century by the sea.

• **We will now refer to some of the historic architectural Lebanese landmarks and monuments**

• **In Baalbeck there exists the Temple of Bacchus:**

which is one of the most superb Roman temples as its stone ceiling relies on 8 huge stone columns in addition to other 15 columns distributed on both sides , During the 6th and 4th centuries BC, Tripoli held a high esteem among the other cities as it became the capital of The Phoenician Federation. This city includes a large number of the historic and archeological buildings within its markets and winding alleys. It also has more than 140 landmarks including castles, mosques, shops, markets, writings and carvings Etc.

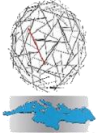


• **Tripoli Castle:** it is the largest and oldest castle in Lebanon. It was established in 686 AD on a stony hill and consists of four storeys. It also includes an ancient bathroom, 3 mosques, a prison, a stable, halls for the leaders and the high-profile officials, a hall for soldiers and more than 100 rocks and approximately 100 gates some of them lead to the Nile and others lead to the markets.



• **The Chamaa Citadel:** it is a crusader castle located in Chamaa province and was built in 1116 by the crusaders. This citadel was destroyed and turned into rubble in the war of 2006 against Israel.





## **4- The Dangers affecting The Mediterranean Sea heritage**

Such heritage is jeopardized by different natural FACTORS and manmade factors in addition to The dangers are resulted from the deliberate and accidental negligence.

**4-1-Natural factors** : The natural factors includes

▪ The climate changes :

climate changes occurred over different eras such as the rise of sea-level because of the milting of ice and consequently the rise of water levels, global warming, land subsidence, coastal erosion or earthquakes and volcanoes.

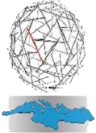
▪ the rise of water level :

Around 90% of the world heritage sites along the Mediterranean Sea are at risk because of the rise of water level. A study published in Nature Communications notes that 49 sites are located in the subsided beaches of the Mediterranean. It also added that 37% are threatened by floods and 42% are threatened by coastal erosion. In some sites, the risks of erosion may be increased by 50% and the risks of floods by 13% along the Mediterranean Sea with the possibility to be higher in some sites. The minor tide movements and the steep slopes in the coastal regions present so far have allowed the ancient and modern civilizations to thrive in the Mediterranean region.

Paying attention to climate change is an international and trans regional phenomenon as it has various impacts on the use of technology, agriculture, rainfall, the rise of sea levels and flooding island states and deltas in different locations.

Currently in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the international community have begun to pay attention to climate changes, To reduce the dangers that face the heritage owing to climate changes, we should do the following:

- Periodically maintain beaches, embankments, windbreaks and the areas near to the costs, which have been previously flooded in particular, in addition to studying their basic needs.
- Observe the steep slopes that can be water catchment areas.
- Pay attention to building Grayness, and wave breakers.



#### **4-2-Manmade factors**

Manmade factors are represented in the gross negligence of the various sites that reflect a historic architecture and ignoring to maintain them periodically leaving them vulnerable to erosion and collapse. Such negligence may deliberately and systematically lead to destruction of such sites and obliteration of their value.

Additionally, many areas have been unfortunately changed either as a response to the pressure of some tycoons or by their own owners who do not appreciate the value of heritage favoring earning money over history and civilization.

There are numerous tragic examples for historic buildings that have been demolished under the pretext of being ramshackle or even transformed to commercial and residential buildings and markets paying no attention to their particularity and heritage value. Such instances include, without limitation, what happened in downtown Beirut, Lebanon and in Alexandria, Egypt.

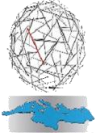
Another kind of destruction cause by the mass tourism that effects the identity and the character of historic cities as What happened in Venice.

There is destruction caused by violence, war and terrorism like what happen in Syria, put it on the list of World Heritage in Danger to warn of the risks to which they are exposed because of the Syrian Civil War, as well as Libya, which affect dramatically our heritage and cultural identity.

such destruction is not exclusive to the Mediterranean region but it is present in different countries like Iraq whose architectural heritage has been destroyed by the occupying troops in 2003 followed by bombarding and devastating Nineveh Governorate and other areas in 2014 after being overrun by terrorists.

This destruction is a new war crime and an immense loss for the people and for humanity, and we hope that the perpetrators must be accountable for their actions.





## **5- Protecting and maintaining the architectural heritage**

Many international charters on the maintenance of architectural heritage have been issued over different spans such as The Venice Pact of 1864, the World Heritage Convention of 1972, The Washington Charter of 1987, the CHARTER ON THE BUILT VERNACULAR HERITAGE of Mexico 1999.

Protecting and maintaining something is considered a token of the importance that such thing carries. The same goes to the architectural heritage, thus the intervention to protect and preserve historic buildings is divided into different levels starting from protection until the process of rebuilding. The level of the required intervention is determined by the state of the building, the reason for the damage or even its future use. However, it is not necessary to use all levels of intervention in each building.

### **1- Protection**

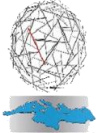
It means the indirect intervention process of heritage maintenance by controlling temperature, humidity and illumination within the buildings. It also includes the continuous cleaning and taking the procedures required for fire protection, preventing the acts of ruining and stealing and monitoring and controlling the underground water. Consequently, the ruining factors are denied by virtue of the control and the constant periodical maintenance.

### **2- Preservation**

It includes keeping the current building condition with performing some necessary repairs that prevent any deterioration. Hence, such preservation is based on the constant maintenance accompanied with some repairs.

### **3- Reinforcement**

Reinforcement means injecting the building with reinforcing materials. It is carried out when the monument or the historic building cannot withstand the risks and the ruining factors. Basically, it is necessary that such reinforcement is performed using traditional materials and methods. However, if such materials and methods are not suitable to the old materials of building, the modern methods and materials can be used.



#### **4- Restoration**

Restoration, namely the process of restoring or reestablishing, is one of the methods used to repair the ancient buildings with the aim to show and restore the building's general shape or any part or feature to the familiar condition they used to have.

Specifying the parts or the materials that need to be preserved, protected and maintained is the first step towards restoration. The materials used in restoration should be consistent with the buildings' materials. Preferably, the materials should be traditional, however, modern materials can be used.

#### **5- Rehabilitation**

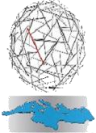
Rehabilitation is the process of using the building appropriately by carrying out some alterations and additions keeping the parts and features that represent the historic and architectural value. Since the purpose of rehabilitation is to make the building available to be used again, the core step of the rehabilitation process is to make some alterations to the building to make it available for the future use provided that such alterations do not lead to changing, obliterating or destroying significant parts or features of the building.

#### **6- Reconstitution**

Reconstitution is the process of reproducing a work of art by supplementing the missing parts to keep its artistic symmetry and beauty. Such process can be carried out in some endangered historic buildings by moving them to a more secure place for safety.

#### **7- Rebuilding**

It is the process of performing new works either fully or partially as a replacement of the missing parts on site or in building that has been destroyed due to certain circumstances. A feasibility study should be conducted prior to rebuilding or performing any supplementing works. Based on that feasibility study, rebuilding the internal and external features and components with the potential to use new components should be performed provided that such components give the same previous shape. The process of relocating historic buildings to new places is considered to be a kind of rebuilding. Such relocation is usually driven by a national sense and it requires keeping the thickness and the historic features of the buildings.



## **6- Conclusion**

We have attempted to give a glimpse at the architectural heritage of the Mediterranean region hoping that specialist one day will prepare full studies showing that heritage in detail. We also look forward to holding conferences and seminars to be attended by specialists from all over the world to submit different studies and researches that tackle all the aspects of this issue.

The architectural Mediterranean heritage has been exposed to both natural and manmade factors that lead either to effacing or at least affecting a great part of it. Therefore, it is necessary that each country passes legislations to prevent altering or demolishing such heritage for whatsoever reason because this heritage is not only a national legacy, but it is also a humane legacy.

To maintain such great historic value legislations shall be passed preventing the plans that target ruining antiquities and using them differently. There also should be special conditions for heritage areas, squares and streets taking into consideration the preservation of the broad nature of such locations such as the density, height and usage of buildings besides keeping their specific architectural nature.

UNESCO, being the international organization concerned with that issue, should assume its responsibility to maintain the architectural heritage and to prevent any abuse or misuse. The architectural heritage should be documented either on the national level by each country or by UNESCO. Finally, the state of such heritage should be constantly followed.