



Mosul: The Architectural Conservation in Mosul Old town-Iraq

Falah Al-Kubaisy

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Iraq is a land of great antiquity which has endowed it with a rich cultural heritage. Situated in the fertile alluvial plain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, it became the centre of several notable Mesopotamian civilizations, namely, Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Sassanian and Islamic Abbasid. The Old City of Mosul represents a unique concentration of monuments and groups of buildings of historical, architectural and archaeological interest. Among the major cities of Iraq, Mosul retains the largest traditional nucleus. While the value of certain historic buildings is slowly being recognized, the many fine traditional houses, which are well-planned to meet social and climatic needs and contain a wealth of fine decoration and craftsmanship, not only go unrecognized but are under threat of decay and demolition. This study is particularly concerned with such houses. This book is concerned with conservation in Mosul Old City, especially with the magnificent traditional houses which are under threat of demolition. The appalling and increasing destruction of Mosul's unique heritage is mainly being caused by an official action. The book concludes with general and specific recommendations on the need of greater action and a more systematic comprehensive approach to protecting, documenting and enhancing the cultural heritage of the nation, the creation of a conservation authority, the need for greater allocation of funds and the training of staff for this specific type of work. Meanwhile, this book is a useful resource book in Urban Planning and Architecture as well as for professionals in planning and engineering. The book has been reviewed by 3 high professional and scholar figures (their reviews are inside the block). The script of this book came from the background of large experience and field surveys documenting the heritage in Iraq; as well as serial lectures in teaching Conservation and Urban Design courses in many universities for many years.

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