

## ARCHITECTURE STUDY OF THENOLD CITY PART OF HOMS

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The article is devoted to the study of the current situation in Syria in the city of Homs. The subject of analysis is urban, architectural and social status of Homs neighborhood. The authors aims to give a detailed study of a typical old-Homs neighborhood. An in-depth examination to modify part of the old city of Homs to rearrange and organize the spaces and the formation of fasades in an effort to preserve the architectural heritage scheme.

The basis of the research is the comparative methods and collecting of current information and leading to the results.

The results of the study are that the authors professional opinion that leads to a better status of the architecture and urban situation in the old city of Homs.

The authors supposes that with minimal but well studied interventions to the urban and architecture structure of the old city of Homs we can keep its traditional face for closer link between the new generations and their ancestors.

The results of the study can be applied in the sphere of urban planning and architectural design.

**Key words:** urban planning, architectural design, society, Syria, Homs, preservation, new approach, traditional architecture

The preservation of the architectural heritage and its employment with present and future requirements is one of the most vital topics that need to be accurately treated, as part of the urban and architectural planning where the revival of historic city process is a very complex process. You need a thorough understanding of what exist, and a detailed study of the architectural vocabulary and the evidence of multiple archaeological sites [1; 4; 7; 8; 10].

Preservation and protection of ancient cities is a topic of great interest to many specialists in the field of planning and construction, in all parts of the world where this subject is the focus of their attention and interest.

As the ancient city contains, the architectural and urban legacy that is owned by the our past, the old city is a mirror that reflects the past and tells the current generations of the lives of parents and grandparents so the quest to preserve this heritage contributes to show the historical significance of pushing for closer link between the new generations and their ancestors And attract tourism to the region is worth mentioning that the old cities are not free of population or life, they are overflowing with them, but it needs to comply with the new requirements of our time that is experienced by this population and to put up any deals with the ancient city must take into account two significant considerations:

— the first consideration: each of us drives to maintain and renew the architectural heritage in a manner line with residents themselves and attract tourism to the highest possible proportion;

— the second consideration: is the renewal and modernization required by old inhabitants of the city so the process looks complicated, it requires examination and deep understanding of the current situation, and although there had been numerous studies to protect the ancient cities around the world as well as local studies to protect the old cities of Damascus and Aleppo, but the old city of Homs within its walls and its contents have not received the necessary attention, and the idea of the project appeared to go to the reconstruction part of the old district of Homs “al warship” (the workshop).

And one of the most important objectives of the project are:

— an in-depth examination to modify part of the old city of Homs to rearrange and organize the spaces and the formation of fa ades in an effort to preserve the architectural heritage scheme;

— maintaining part of the residential spaces that remained well placed and away from destruction and introducing them into a study new plan. Documenting and saving what is archaeological or registered as archaeological proposal from demolition or distortion;

— the organization of excursions movement of pedestrians to this part of the old city, through the linkage between archaeological vocabularies across the major axis as part of the public network for pedestrians.

Providing the old city for the needs of tourists and residents at the same time and thus save the ancient city from a deadlock and mummification.

### **To start this study must know the importance of structure and how to deal with this issue**

#### ***The structure of the ancient Arab city:***

— the ancient Arab city with all its vocabulary was surrounded by walls breached by many doors connecting the City with the neighborhoods and achieve the start of the main streets, which starts towards the city center , these streets where called (bronchitis) which are divided by many alleys called (lanes) that branch off in turn to other types of streets, a lane which often patchwork open from one side only finishing into a Square used by a relatively small population living in that lane only;

— the width of these streets is variable and not fixed but follows the function assigned to them by its different kinds. The city growth starts from the center outward, but not fully, however in proportion to the geographical character of the city;

— the transport network in the ancient Arab city does not seem obvious, They differ in terms of principle and shape from regular Chess cities that were prevalent in the Roman era and the Byzantine. But most of the streets in general is moving towards the center and all of which converge in the center where the market exists and the Great Mosque and a lot of archaeological elements such as baths and schools, as well as cafes that often exist on the roads corners. exactly In the center the market is positioned, considering that the mosque is the main point in the dominant terms of height and volume.

***The structure of the old city of Homs.*** The city’s streets and buildings encircled by the wall which is the main architectural elements in the Composition, that we can find out what it is through a detailed description of each element separately.

### ***Wall of the city***

The old city of the rectangle-shaped Homs was surrounded in terms of foundations with a black stone wall, height of 10 m, width of 4 meters and the wall was surrounded by trenches that were filled with water in the days of war in order to protect the city from enemies.

Located in the southwest corner of the wall, Homs Castle, which is up to 32 meters of height. The wall several towers and gates of the city to make contact with possible nearby, it was demolished more than once as a result of the numerous wars and successive attacks on the city. This wall is no longer having any important function, after the population started to build their homes outside the old city wall since 1900.

### ***The streets***

Like all ancient Arab cities, the streets and alleys of the old city of Homs are zigzag shaped and irregular, they don't have a specific width or direction they don't follow a uniform system and so often are built for defensive purposes, this zigzag in the streets structure stands as a difficulty especially strangers and tourists.

### ***Buildings***

The old city houses are built on both sides of the streets on its viability, they are of a similar shape and system, and somewhat similar materials, despite differences in size and location the buildings had been created in the old city of basalt stone and clay which is traditional materials in the city of Homs to take the character of horizontal spread, one floor or two floors at most and rarely exceed it.

### ***The historical development of the city of Homs***

Homs, the third most important city in Syria, located in the center of Syria on the banks of Assi River, an ancient city dating back to 2300 BC and was called during the reign of the Roman the name of AMISSA and its people built the temple to the gods of the sun, where is still a column of granite located on the castle this column is the only remaining found.

And the name of the city, as they say was taken from the chief of the tribe, which inhabited the city at that time by the name (Hmt) son of Canaan, the grandson of Noah

Located above the plateau that rises about 400 m from the Mediterranean sea in front of "Akkar" city bay window which apply through a breeze loaded the smell of the sea air adding to the magnificence of Homs, a sweet kindness unlike any other. The distance between the capital Damascus and Homs, 162 km and the distance between Homs and Aleppo, 193 km away from the sea about 70 km like this it occupies a prime location with the main streets intersection point.

Area of 4.1 million hectares

Population: reached by public expectations of 2011 1.267 million.

Density:

Latitude 44'34 ° N

Longitude 43'36 ° E

Climate: Homs climate characterized as varied and graded from very cold winter to a very hot summer and is particularly affected by the climate of the Mediterranean basin because of the presence of Homs Gap (between West Lebanon mountain range and mountain range Alawites), thus exposing the region to severe winds.

Rain: 412.9 mm per year.

### ***Old Homs***

Is the most densely populated in the city, the region, is made up of these neighborhoods, “bab Palmyra”, “bab Dreib” an “bab Hood” and the area around the castle, and covers an area of 1.2 square kilometers (0.46 square miles).

The demolition of the wall and historic gates happened during the Ottoman era, but a section of the fence with a circular Tower remains. only Few parts of the ancient archaeological city can be found.

During the Roman era city had four doors, the door of Rastan, the door of al-Sham, the door of the mountain, and the small door.

the Abbasids rebuilding and restored the doors and added a three new doors reaching the number to seven gates, it has been of interest to states and successive dynasties of Homs, until the Ottomans demolished them during the nineteenth century, in line with the expansion of the city and its inhabitants increasing numbers, and all that remains existing after the Ottoman decisions to this day today are, the Turkmen door and the blocked the door. Behind the doors of homs, lies the old city, which contains the historic mosques and churches as well as landmarks that live up to the Mamluk era.

### ***Neighborhoods***

Neighborhoods, the word is derived from the life and life development, integration, testing and innovation. And study the revival of ancient cities comes through an attempt to bring back the old atmosphere of the city to suit the requirements of the modern era by creating architectural Harmony between the past and the present and try to sow some new blocks in line with the physical character of the city.

### ***Neighborhood workshop (Fig. 1)***

The reason for the label: This label is called on the area located in the north-east of Homs, close to the door of the bab tadmur.

The cause of the label goes back to the gathering of workers there.

Anyone who wanted workers for any purpose had to go there in the morning and agree with who he wants.

And there was a complete workshops waiting for work, coating, building, fixing workshop, and thus the label.

### ***Archaeological sites included in the neighborhood are:***

— Al-Zahrawi Palace: built back in the Mamluk era and is considered one of the most important houses of Homs’s ancient palaces and is called after the family that built and settled in it , it has been used as a house rule in Homs after Osama Castle and is now used as a museum of folk traditions and composed;



- Palace of the Secretary Amin: an ancient house dating back to the Mamluk era, 13 century AD, where it was a Saray for the family Alkkah, consists of a large expanse halls and rooms and a lot of decoration;
- Mosque Al sarraj;
- Bathroom Al sarraj: Is a Bath and a mosque. They are opposite. A school was held within the corridors of it for the Muslim students, and the label relative to the Al sarraj Omar ibn Musa al-Qurashi al-Homsi, Appointed as a judge in several cities and died in 861 AH 1457 AD. later the Abbasid Caliph al-Mutawakkil Cairene married his the daughter if Al sarraj, Eve. The Al sarraj is an abbreviation of the word was common at the time for the Sirajuddin.

### *The study of the current situation*

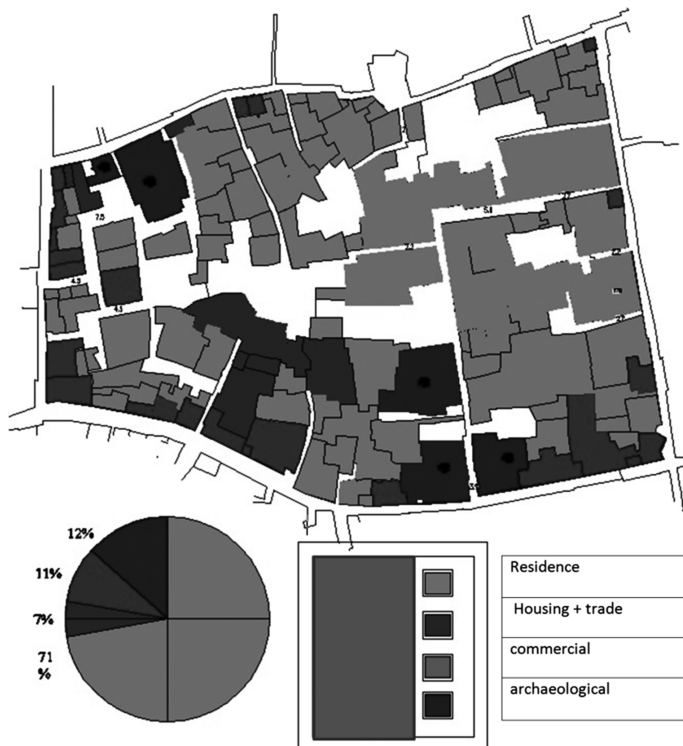
Study the current situation aimed at securing a range of information and numbers that can be translated into charts and tables that contribute to the alleviation of the difficulties and speed up the planning process. This stage is necessary in order to determine the target schematic and discuss the various possibilities for this purpose [2; 3; 5].

Social Survey:

The region live about 220 families, or about 1100 people.

Urban study:

Streets: the neighborhood is dominated by the ancient Arab city system in terms of the large number of alleys and lanes open and closed tract or a zigzag shape and irregulars (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** The uses of buildings scheme

**The study of the road network.** The region is generally considered to be having a quiet streets except for the streets surrounding the area and are divided into several sections (Fig. 1):

- streets surround the region width ranges from 8.6 to 5 m.
- Service streets branching off the cumulative streets, width not exceeding 5.5 m.
- residential streets and pedestrian axes width ranges from 7.4 to 3.3 m.

### *Architectural study*

In examining the current situation shows the existence of the following:

Old buildings — modern buildings — ruined [6; 9].

1. Ancient buildings: are divided into three types (Fig. 1):

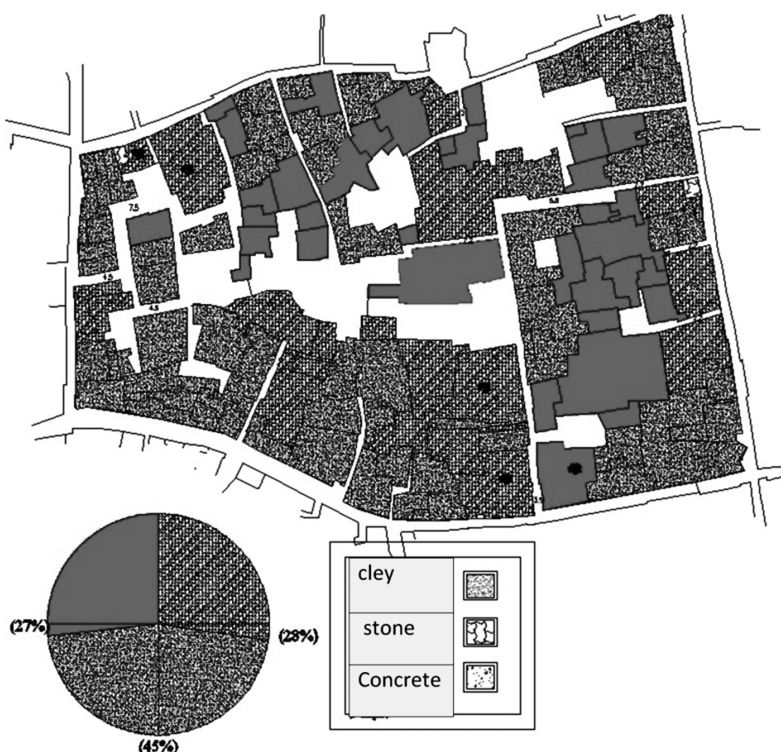
— ancient buildings registered in the archaeological record (Collector OS — OS bath — Palace useful Secretary — Qasr Al-Zahrawi)

— old buildings that can be considered good by virtue of which is rich in archaeological elements of the old Arab house and is built mainly in stone.

— old buildings of a bad physiologist Status, made of clay which is often deserted (Fig. 2) (Fig. 4).

2. Modern buildings: is made of the concrete, the blocks is a deformation to the architectural character of the city due to poor design and study of their façade in addition to a 6-storey high block deforming the public facade of St. Ephrem Barsoum (Fig. 3)

3. Desolate: a Real Estate destroyed entirely and can be well exploited (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 2.** Scheme of building materials

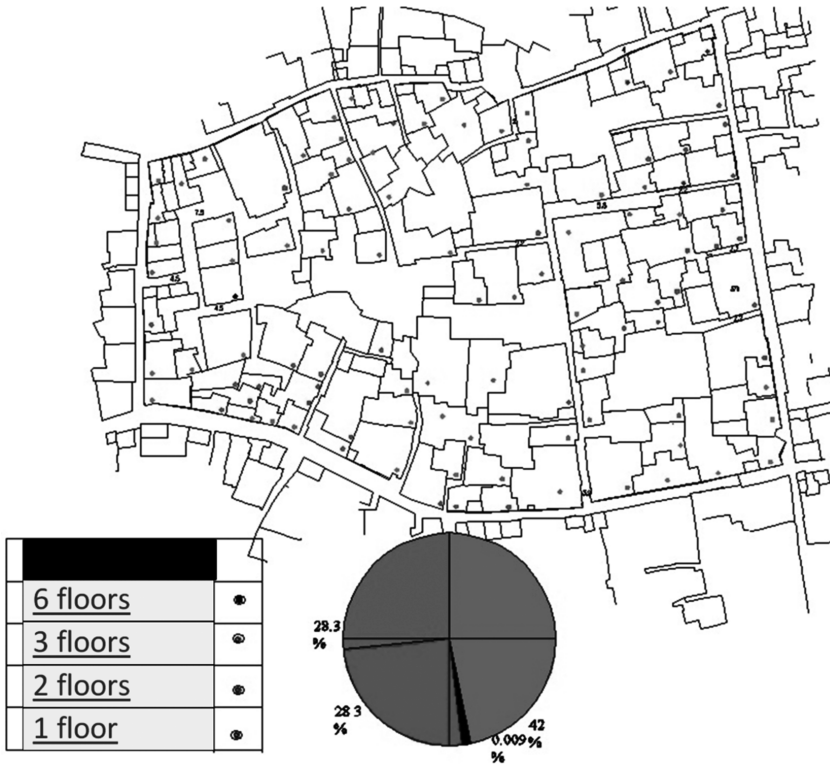


Fig. 3. Elevations scheme



Fig. 4. The current status of the building scheme

### ***The results of the study of the current situation***

The disadvantages of the current Master plan.

1. The loss of the old city and the absence of knit fabric.
2. The Absence of spatial connectivity between different blocs within the traditional slide.
3. Small car can enter within this tissue of the block, rather than keeping it outside.
4. Overlapping the vehicular traffic with pedestrian traffic and the absence of clear axes for pedestrians.
5. The lack of some activity services, commercial and private.
6. The absence of a of parking lots study, which led to the use of street as temporary parking lots.

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## **ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ АРХИТЕКТУРЫ СТАРОЙ ЧАСТИ ГОРОДА ХОМС**

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Статья посвящена исследованию текущей ситуации в сирийском городе Хомсе. Предмет анализа — городское, архитектурное и социальное положение района Хомса. Авторы стремятся представить детальное изучение типичного района старого Хомса. Всесторонняя экспертиза необходима, чтобы при изменении части старого города Хомса, перестройке и организации мест, формировании фасадов сохранить архитектурную схему наследия.

Авторы предполагают, что при хорошо изученном вмешательстве в городскую структуру и структуру архитектуры старого города Хомса можно сохранить его традиционный облик, обеспечив более близкую связь между поколениями.

Результаты исследования могут быть применены в сфере городского планирования и архитектурного дизайна.

**Ключевые слова:** городское планирование, архитектурный дизайн, общество, Сирия, Хомс, сохранение, новый подход, традиционная архитектура

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