CONSERVATION OF THE TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE: SAMAD VILLAGE AS A CASE STUDY

By
Asma Mohammed Khalili

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts in Archaeology (Applied Sciences)
(2003)
Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
Yarmouk University

Committee Members

Professor Dr. Ziad Al Saad                      Chairman
Professor Dr. Zeidoun Al Muheisen              Member
Dr. Nizar Abu-Jaber                           Member
Dr. Mohammed Shunnaq                          Member
Abstract

This study was intended for the formulation of a conservation and rehabilitation plan aiming at the safeguarding of Samad, an almost abandoned traditional village in North Jordan, revitalization of the purposes it was intended for and encouragement of tourism on the site. The assessment of the diverse values of Samad buildings and their current physical condition utilized field studies, literature review, personal interviews and laboratory analyses. Location, climate, geology, demographics and archeological characteristics of Samad were noted.

The deterioration in Samad buildings was mainly caused by weathering. The earthquake of 1927, salt crystallization, rainwater and growth of micro-organisms and higher plants and birds were the most important natural factors. Human factors included abandonment of buildings, lack of adequate maintenance and haphazard interventions, such as repair, modern alteration and installation of basic infrastructure unguided by conservators.

Three types of buildings were encountered; the common type was a one or two room building with a flat roof, a less common one was a house with a row of rooms and a rare type of buildings differed in having arches as the main support of the roofs and skeletons.

The building material consisted of limestone, mortar and plaster, cane, trunks of oak trees and iron beams. The matrix of mortar was composed of calcium carbonate with inclusions of pottery fragments and straw particles. Laboratory analyses of mortar and plaster samples revealed that they were lime based mortar with calcite grains as a major component.

The conservation plan had preventive and interventive approaches; the former included monitoring of certain harmful effects, legal measures and promotion of public awareness aiming at the protection of buildings from possible damage and decay, while the interventive one detailed guidelines, techniques and material needed in the restoration of buildings. Cleaning of the stone to restore beauty and strength, grouting of walls, repair with mortar, plaster repair and/or stone consolidation might be largely applied. Characteristics of appropriate material that would be used were referred to.

The development component of the plan covered administrative measures, finance and funding resources for the implementation of the plan. Finally, rehabilitation was discussed in terms of guidelines, measures and incentives to encourage the re-inhabitation and safeguarding of Samad traditional buildings.