

## The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

## 1998 ARCHITECT'S RECORD

1895.PAL

## I. IDENTIFICATION

Project Title Conservation of Nablus Old Town  
 Street Address King Faisal Street  
 City Nablus Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country Palestine

## II. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

## A. Architect/Planner

Name Nablus Municipality  
 Mailing Address P.O. Box 218  
 City Nablus Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country Palestine  
 Telephone +972-9-379313 Facsimile +972-9-374690 Telex \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Client

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Facsimile \_\_\_\_\_ Telex \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Project Affiliates

Please list those involved in the project and indicate their rôles and areas of responsibility (e.g. engineers, contractors, economists, master craftsmen, other architects, clients, etc.).

Name	Rôle
<u>Maher Hanbali</u>	<u>City Engineer</u>
<u>Mohammed Abdel-Hadi</u>	<u>Old Town Conservation Unit</u>
<u>Ayman Rabbâ</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Rania Taha</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Samir Samirat</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Joana Faidi</u>	<u>" " " "</u>
<u>Naba Al-Kukhon</u>	<u>" " " "</u>

### III. ARCHITECT'S BRIEF

Please describe the initial project programme.

The Conservation of the Old Town of Nablus Project aims at the preservation of the architectural style of the city of Nablus. It is also aimed at the organization and rehabilitation of the city, the provision of the necessary services for its citizens, creating job opportunities, and activating its tourism sector.

Currently, architectural conservation work is directed, primarily, at removing the hazards of weak structures and buildings while at the same time renovating and preserving them. It is also directed towards the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the old city of Nablus including roads, squares, water fountains, and old arches. Citizens were also helped in renovating their private homes located in the old city.

The Old Town Conservation Unit have also drawn plans to rehabilitate two palaces inside the old city and convert them into a museum and a cultural center.

### IV. EVOLUTION OF DESIGN CONCEPTS

Please describe the history of the project, from its conception to its final construction and actual use.

The Municipal Council of Nablus approved the Conservation of the Old Town of Nablus Project in February of 1995, and immediately after that the Municipality created the Old Town Conservation Unit to undertake and supervise all the necessary renovation activities. Work on rehabilitating the infrastructure of the old city commenced and the Conservation Unit started to prepare the needed designs and concepts in March of 1995. In May of 1995, the Unit began to renew the tiling of the main streets and squares, building sidewalks, renovating and preserving arches, fountains, and old alleys. Work proceeded vigorously and by December of 1995 big portion of the above mentioned endeavors was accomplished successfully. Conservation and rehabilitation work continues.

## V. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

### A. Description of Materials

(please also indicate if locally produced or imported and whether fabricated on-site or elsewhere)

#### 1. Foundations

#### 2. Principal Structural Members

#### 3. Infill

4. Rendering of Façades or Exterior Finishes *The materials used in the restoration and maintenance of facades are white cement, sand, whitewash, and old stone, all available locally.*

#### 5. Floors

*The reuse of the same old Sultani stone, sand, white cement, and asphalt, all available locally.*

#### 6. Ceilings

*White cement, sand, earth, whitewash, irregular-sized stones, and plaster, all available locally.*

#### 7. Roofing

#### 8. Other elements (please specify)

### B. Construction Technology

Indicate the basic construction technology, methods, details or systems. *The old traditional methods are used in order to preserve the architectural style and appearance of buildings and structures. Materials used include whitewash, sand, earth, plaster, white cement, etc. For example, in rendering the facades the exterior walls are cleaned from dirt, weeds, paint or graffiti, by using a metal brush in order not to ruin the old stone. Then the old plaster between the stones is removed and redone by using white cement, sand, and white wash. Similar processes are used for floors and ceilings.*

C. Type of Labour Force (please indicate percentage) 30% Skilled Workers 70% Unskilled Workers

D. Origin of Labour Force 100% Domestic — Foreign

**VI. TIMETABLE**

(please specify year and month)

- A. Commission February 1995
- B. Design: Commencement March 1995 Completion not determined
- C. Construction: Commencement May 1995 Completion continuing
- D. Date of Project Occupancy December 1995 ; continuing

**VII. AREAS AND SURFACES**

Site and Building Area (please indicate in square metres)

1. Total Site Area 20,000 m<sup>2</sup>
2. Total Ground Floor Area 13,000 m<sup>2</sup>
3. Total Combined Floor Area 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
(including basement(s), ground floor(s) and all upper floors)

**VIII. ECONOMICS**

Please specify the amounts in local currency. Provide the equivalent in US dollars. Specify the date and the rate of exchange for US dollars at that time.

	Amount in Local Currency	Amount in US dollars	Exchange Rate	Date
A. Total Initial Budget	<u>560,000 JD</u>	<u>\$ 800,000</u>	<u>≈ 0.7</u>	<u>Feb. 1995</u>
B. Cost of Land	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
C. Analysis of Actual Costs				
1. Infrastructure	<u>710,000 JD</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>≈ 0.71</u>	<u>July 1996</u>
2. Labour	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
3. Materials	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
4. Landscaping	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
5. Professional Fees	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
6. Other	<u>49,000 JD</u>	<u>\$ 70,000</u>	<u>≈ 0.7</u>	<u>July 1996</u>
D. Total Actual Costs (without land)	<u>759,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,070,000</u>	<u>≈ 0.71</u>	<u>July 1996</u>
E. Actual Cost per sq.m.	<u>≈ 40 JD</u>	<u>\$ 56</u>	<u>≈ 0.71</u>	<u>July 1996</u>
F. Cost Comparison				

Please indicate how the costs of this project relate to typical building costs in the country:

                     Average ✓ Above Average                      Below Average

**G. Sources of Funds**

1. Please indicate the percentage of funds that came from:

                     Private Sources 100 % Public Sources

2. If funding was public, what percentage was from:

33 % Local Sources                      National Sources 67 % International Sources

## IX. PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

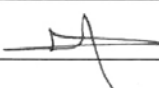
In what way is this project important ?

The Conservation of the Old Town of Nablus Project is highly important since it is aimed at the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people and their patrimony especially after years of neglect and abuse by the Israeli military occupation which lasted more than 30 years.

The activities of Nablus Municipality Old Town Conservation Unit are highly important because they are directed towards the preservation of the unique Islamic and Arabic Architectural character of the city. They are also important because they contribute to revitalizing the city's functionality and giving impetus for its tourism sector, including the handicrafts and traditional commerce.

Overall, the Conservation of the Old Town of Nablus Project carries special significance due to its multi-faceted benefits, whether cultural, social, or economic.

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Name (please print) Maher Hanbali , City Engineer  
 Signature  Date December 20, 1997