

# Study about the Maintenance of Heritage Buildings in Iraq

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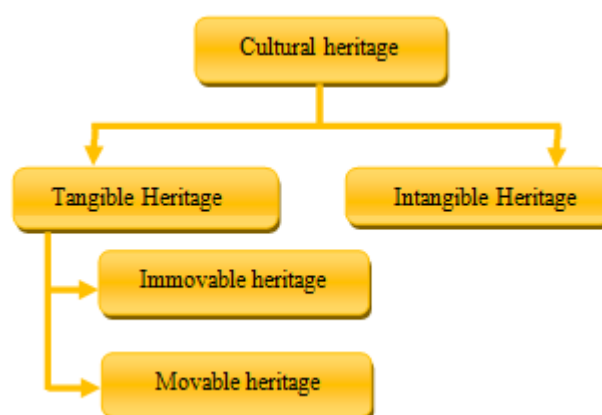
**Abstract:** *The conservation of heritage buildings is a recognized process to keep a historic construction through restoration and maintenance works. We can know maintenance as a key intervention in keeping historic structure by prolonging a building lifespan. Maintenance actions are being carried out continuously to guarantee that the building can function successfully at all time. The conservation actions objective is to keep the heritage buildings in the original condition without changing the original structure and design. Thus to accomplish this, an effective and systematic maintenance is required in addition to the high maintenance cost. This study focuses on historic buildings in Iraq.*

**Keywords:** Heritage building, Historic building, maintenance, Conservation.

## 1. Introduction

Maintenance in buildings is an often forgotten portion of the structure manufacturing but becomes more and more significant. It benefits saving the cultural heritage and it maintains or recovers the comfort of the users of the building. An effective maintenance strategy can and will decrease costs by avoiding main expensive preservations as much as possible. When speaking about a historic building, maintenance is important to keep the physical features as close as possible to the original. Worldwide organizations have been founded to help building owners with maintaining their buildings and to put maintenance more in the spotlights. The condition and the quality of a building are two main principles of having a quality life. This associated with the fact that 95% of our time is either spent inside a building or somewhere closer to a building. These two principles also portrays the image of the community, living standard and behavioral factors, be it in the past or at present, of which the possibility of integration may formed a distinguish unique character of the community.

Cultural heritage conservation remains an essential part of urban planning and development across the world. Urban conservation management is however increasingly becoming a contentious activity as contemporary global and local forces of production and consumption exert pressure on how heritage places are to be redefined. Management of maintenance that will govern, plan and carry out all maintenance work procedures that will determine the effectiveness of maintenance activities carried out in one building. In cultural heritage art, there is two types. First one is Tangible heritage, which involve Immovable heritage (buildings, monument gardens, etc...), and movable heritage (books, paintings, pottery, etc...). Second one is Intangible heritage (local traditions, music, dance, crafts, etc...). Next figure will present these types.



**Figure 1:** Types of Cultural heritage

**Table 1:** Cultural Tourism Products

Tangible	Intangible
Historical buildings and places	Oral history and traditions
Declared heritage resources	Indigenous knowledge systems
Artifacts and crafts	Performances and creative arts
Fine art	Skills and techniques
Cultural landscape	Belief system
Geological evidence	Popular money

## 2. Importance of heritage's maintenance in Iraq

The history of Iraq tells us about the emergence of the first agricultural villages (during the 8th millennium BC). It also tells us about the patron of the first temple (5th millennium BC), the first writings (4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC), the emergence of the first law (3rd millennium BC), in addition to the first epic, democracy and music. It was in this country, and throughout its consecutive civilizations, that the Mesopotamians were active and creative pioneers. Today, Iraqi people consider themselves as the descendants and inheritors of those forerunners and they cherish them. The sense that they share a common culture and a common history is considered as one of the elements that give them the feeling of being part of the society they belong to. It strengthens the sense of belonging, which is considered a central element of national identity. Within the context of

self-discovery in Iraq, cultural heritage has helped to define who Iraqis are, where they are now, and who they were in the past. Since the initial stages of formation of the country during the 1920s, this sense of belonging to the past began to take shape. It comprises the history of formation of the Iraqi identity that was born in the aftermath of cultural, political and social degradation, during a period of successive foreign occupations. The importance of preserving heritage can be summarized in the following points:

- **Retaining Our Identity:**

Many heritage precincts are focal points for community gatherings and events. The importance of their preservation stretches beyond their history, attributing more to the unique character and sense of belonging they evoke in our hearts. Furthermore, these heritage architectural elements also contribute to the aesthetics of our streetscapes.

- **Promotes Cultural Tourism:**

Heritage tourism is often deeply rooted by historic buildings. These intriguing and tangible connections to our past spurs interest for tourists to soak in its distinct ambience and this alone helps attract business. Statistics have also shown that heritage visitors have a greater per trip economic impact, as they tend to stay for a longer duration and spend more a day.

- **Increases Property Value:**

Heritage preservation often leads to greater appreciation rates for both the restored building and its surrounding properties compared to areas without historical landmarks.

- **Economic Sustainability:**

The enhancement of existing neighborhoods and infrastructure is significantly cheaper than building new ones. Aside from cutting down on hefty infrastructure costs, restoration projects also help to retain money within the community by creating more local employment and requiring fewer imported materials. Various industries such as construction firms and product manufacturers also benefit from heritage conservation.

### 3. Maintenance Management System

In this part, there are a few parameters must be considered before do anything. These parameters are:

- **Budget of Maintenance**

The cost of conservation is the most important issue in the Maintenance Running System at Management Heritage Building is resulting from the meeting with the officers Unit Maintenance of Building Department. Besides that, to be maintenance active on the administration heritage building, the responsible bodies need a higher cost to manage the overall cost of maintenance on the heritage building.

- **The raw materials**

An important aspect for the maintenance of archaeological buildings is the nature and quality of the materials used for this purpose. They must be identical to the materials from which the building was built. Certainly, original materials should be used for maintenance, and quantities must be met.

- **Labors**

The labors (workers) are the main asset to manage and carry out the conservation effort and also being a third factors need to consider. For the maintenance on the administration heritage building, skilful and unskilled workers are highly needed because of the need to maintain the heritage value on historical building. The skill workers will manage and guide the maintenance work and the unskilled worker will be a person to do the maintenance work on the site. So both of them are related to each other.

- **Process of work**

The maintenance work for the heritage building is a difference with the current building, this is because besides to maintain the building condition, the maintenance responsible also need to preserve the value of architectural and the historical for both of building. So the formal scheduled work must provide to make it clear and effective. And also to make a maintenance team know and easy for them to carry out of maintenance work. From that also indirectly make the maintenance work be effectiveness and the building permanent the quality.

- **Factor of safety**

Safety factor is an important factor whether involving employees who maintain the buildings or public buildings. Work in assessing the extent to which security features can be harmful to humans must be done carefully and efficiently. Each of the damage should be recorded to enable the correct action performed. Building near the public interest must also be considered.

- **The Comfort of Occupants**

The situation is critical to creating a comfort to the users of the building. Systematic maintenance the system is important so that all the facilities available in it can give satisfaction and comfort to the public. A historic building that has a good maintenance system is able to attract the attention of the public and this will certainly attract the tourists. Good maintenance system is very important, especially for historic buildings that have a high historical value and caught the attention of tourists.

### 4. The Important Sites of Cultural Heritage in Iraq



Figure 2: Heritage site in Iraq [5]



**Figure 3:** Nimrud site at the north of Iraq [5]

The date of the founding of Nimrod dates back to the thirteenth century BC. In 2014, the terrorist organization (ISIS) that controls large areas of the country in mid-June 2014 swept the Nimrud archaeological city with heavy machinery. Next figure will present the Al-Hadba' Minaret, which site at the north of Iraq in Mosul city. Known by locals as al-Hadba', or the hunchback, because of its precarious slant, the minaret of the Great Nur al-Din Mosque is one of the primary landmarks of the old city of Mosul. Built by the Seljuk ruler Nur al-Din al-Zangi Atabeg, it was part of a religious complex including a mosque and a madrasa named for its patron. Also ISIS destroyed it.



**Figure 4:** Al-Hadba' Minaret

There are a lot of heritage buildings in Iraq, most of these buildings are recorded in the UNESCO organization. Some of these sites need to conservation and other buildings need to rebuild.

## 5. Conclusion

Heritage conservations management is significant in the mechanism to recognize and identify of confident country or culture, that provide them to be honored off either in the

aspect differences or similarities of diversities among the nation around the world. The meaning of conservation of heritage buildings is presented in this paper. To maintain the archaeological buildings, we need periodic maintenance and this maintenance must be in accordance with international standards and under the auspices of international organizations concerned with the affairs of civilization.

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## Author Profile

**Ranya Fadhil Jwaid** was born in Iraq, Bagdad 1987. She received her Bachelors in civil engineering from Al-Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq 2010. She is an employee at the agriculture minister of Iraq. Her area of interest includes civil, environment and maintenance aspects.