

File Name: 1042.pdf

UNESCO Region: EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICA

---

**SITE NAME:** Old City of Acre

**DATE OF INSCRIPTION:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2001

**STATE PARTY:** ISRAEL

**CRITERIA:** C (ii)(iii)(v)

**DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:**

*Excerpt from the Report of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee*

The Committee inscribed The Old City of Acre on the World Heritage List under criteria (ii), (iii), and (v):

**Criterion (ii):** Acre is an exceptional historic town in that it preserves the substantial remains of its medieval Crusader buildings beneath the existing Moslem fortified town dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

**Criterion (iii):** The remains of the Crusader town of Acre, both above and below the present-day street level, provide an exceptional picture of the layout and structures of the capital of the medieval Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem.

**Criterion (v):** Present-day Acre is an important example of an Ottoman walled town, with typical urban components such as the citadel, mosques, *khans*, and baths well preserved, partly built on top of the underlying Crusader structures.

A number of delegates commented that the texts contained in the ICOMOS evaluation report needed revision to accurately reflect the history of the site. ICOMOS agreed to discuss appropriate amendments with the delegations concerned to reflect the history of the social and economic situation of the site and the inhabitants of the Old City.

The Committee recommended that the State Party incorporate into its management plan a coherent policy for the improvement of the economic and social condition of local residents of the Old City of Acre and to ensure that it remains a living city.

The Observer of Israel stated that the inscription of the site recognizes the heritage of the people of this multicultural centre, representing the entire region.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS**

Acre is a historic walled port-city with continuous settlement from the Phoenician period. The present city is characteristic of a fortified town dating from the Ottoman 18th and 19th centuries, with typical urban components such as the citadel, mosques, khans and baths. The remains of the Crusader town, dating from 1104 to 1291, lie almost intact, both above and below today's street level, providing an exceptional picture of the layout and structures of the capital of the medieval Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem.

---

**1.b State, Province or Region:** Western Galilee

**1.d Exact location:** 30°58' N, 35°12' E

Nomination of the  
**OLD CITY**  
of Acre



for the  
**WORLD HERITAGE LIST**



## **Nomination File prepared By:**

The Conservation Department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

### **Coordinators:**

Eng' Ofer Cohen and Arch' Raanan Kislev

### **Writers:**

Arch' Yael Forman

Arch' Adi Kitov

### **Advisors and Support:**

Eng' Yaacov Schafer – I.A.A.

Mr. David Harari – Director General, O.A.D.C.

Broyde Yosi - I.A.A.

Eliezer Shteren - I.A.A.

Arch' Faina Milshtein - I.A.A.

Eng' Arkadi Zazulinski - I.A.A.

### **Acknowledgments:**

The Old Acre Development Company LTD

The National Housing company, the Acre Branch – Ms Lea Biton

The Acre Municipality, the City Engineering dep. – Eng' Mike Sacca

### **Expert advise:**

Arch' Giora Solar



## Contents:

### 1. Identification of the Property

One.	Country	1
Two.	State, Province or Region	1
Three.	Name of Property	1
Four.	Exact Location on Map	1
Five.	Maps and Plan Showing Boundary of Area	2-6
Six.	Area of Property Proposed for Inscription	1

### 2. Justification for Inscription

One.	Statement of Significance	7-12
Two.	Comparative Analysis	13-14
Three.	Authenticity and the Integrity of the City	15-16
Four.	Criteria under which Inscription is Proposed	17-20

### 3. Description

One.	Description of Property	21-35
Two.	History and Development	36-41
Three.	Form and Date of recent Records of Property	42-44
Four.	Present State of Preservation	45
Five.	Policies and Programs related to the Presentation and Promotion of the Property	45

### 4. Management

One.	Ownership	46
Two.	Legal Status	46-47
Three.	Protective Measures and means of Implementing them	47
Four.	Agency/Agencies with Management Authority	47-48
Five.	Level of Management and Contact Detail	48-49

Six.	Agreed Plans Related to Property	49
Seven.	Sources and Levels of Finance	50-51
Eight.	Sources of Expertise	51
Nine.	Visitor Facilities and Statistics	52
Ten.	Property Management Plan and Statement of Objectives	53
Eleven.	Staffing Level	53
5.	<u>Factors Affecting the Property</u>	
One.	Development Pressure	54
Two.	Environmental Pressure	54
Three.	Natural Disasters and Preparedness	54
Four.	Visitor/Tourism Pressure	54
Five.	Number of Inhabitants	54
6.	<u>Key Indicators for Measuring the State of Conservation</u>	
One.	Key Indicators for Measuring the State of Conservation	55
Two.	Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property	55
Three.	Results of previous exercises	56

## Bibliography

### ❖ Additional Documentation For the Nomination Includes:

Archival Appendix, Monument Appendix, Photographic Appendix (Slides & Photographs), Plan Appendix.

Translations: Summary of the Master Plan for Acre, Conservation Appendix for the Master Plan, Circulation and Parking Appendix for the Master Plan, Design Guidelines Appendix for the Master Plan.

Building Survey of Structure 10/50 in Old Acre.

Structural Detailing Manual-Trifor and Bifor Windows.

Collection of Literature and Video.



# 1. Identification of the Property

**a. Country** – Israel

**b. State, Province or Region** – The north district, Western Galilee area

**c. Name of Property** – The old city of Acre

**d. Exact location on map** – 32° 55' North 35° 04' East

**e. Maps and plan showing boundary of area** – see page 4,5

**Six. Area of property proposed for inscription** – 63.3 ha, buffer zone area 22.99

ha.

\* The buffer zone area presented in the following sections is on a proposal level that is currently under discussion in the different committees.





Map of the region, scale 1:400,000



Map of the region, scale 1:100,000

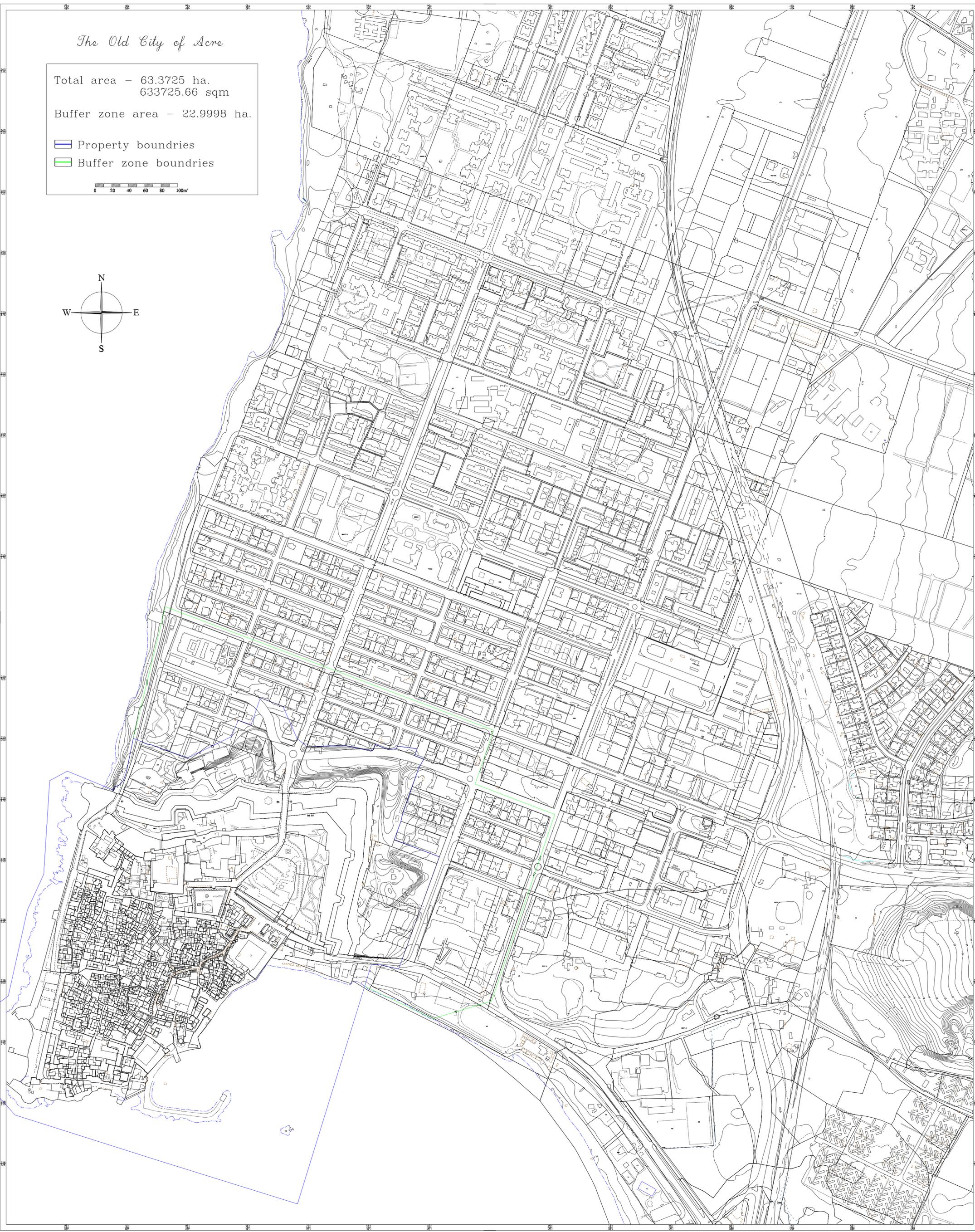
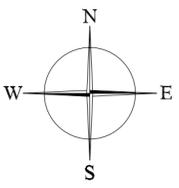
*The Old City of Acre*

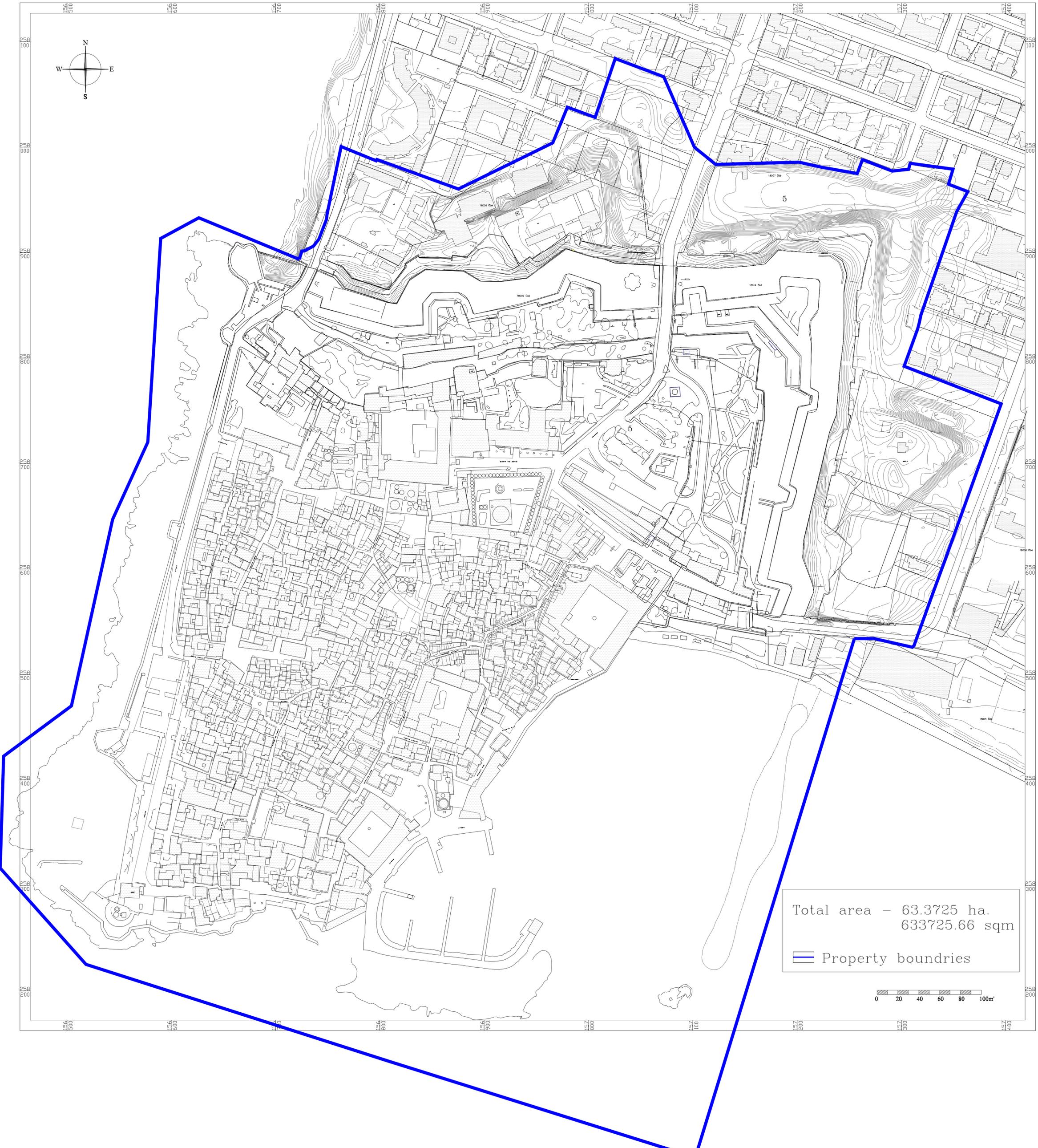
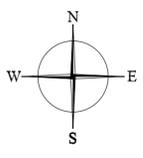
Total area - 63.3725 ha.  
633725.66 sqm

Buffer zone area - 22.9998 ha.

Property boundaries  
Buffer zone boundaries

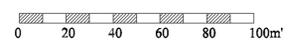
0 20 40 60 80 100m





Total area - 63.3725 ha.  
633725.66 sqm

 Property boundaries





## **2. Justification for inscription**

### **a. Statement of significance**

The old city of Acre is a fine example of a currently inhabited historic town of outstanding *universal* value.

The city embodies numerous riches that come to represent it as a whole. It is a living vibrant port city enclosed by fortified walls, which also bears witness to two different long-vanished cultures.

The underground Crusader City is a remnant of the peak of the Crusader era in the Holy Land whilst Acre was its capital. The Crusader City was highly preserved in a unique way by being buried for hundreds of years.

On both the cultural and architectural levels, the city can teach us a lot about the influence and interaction between the cultures of east and west during those times.

The Ottoman City has remained relatively unchanged for the last 150-300 years and it is an outstanding example of a typical city in the Ottoman Empire.

It is also remarkable due to its very high level of authenticity and integrity. Not having been affected by the industrial era, its spatial organization and structure has remained largely unaffected, and the function of the majority of its buildings correlates to their original use.

The old city of Acre is a medium sized city eminently suitable for pedestrian navigation. This fact has contributed in the past and continues to contribute much to its conservation, due to the influence on its thoroughfare system.

The different values of the city can be further demonstrated in the following aspects:

### **The Geographical aspect**

With a unique sheltered cove, Acre's port was once one of the most important in the region. Being so positioned on an international trade route, Acre stands at the extremity of the route between Asia in the east, via Damascus, the Golan plateau and the Galilee down to its Mediterranean Sea shores, and with a natural port, Acre developed into an important Middle East trade center. The town acted as a market and port for exporting the produce of the fertile lands that surround it.

Acre developed as a walled city on a narrow peninsula of land. A fact that strongly influenced its style, economic development and architecture. Since it was confined on the peninsula, the city evolved during the ages in layers. In addition to archaeological findings on land, archaeologists have discovered remnants from various periods under the sea, such as gravel quarry, sea wall, towers and sunken vessels together with their cargoes.



## **The Urban and Architectural Aspect**

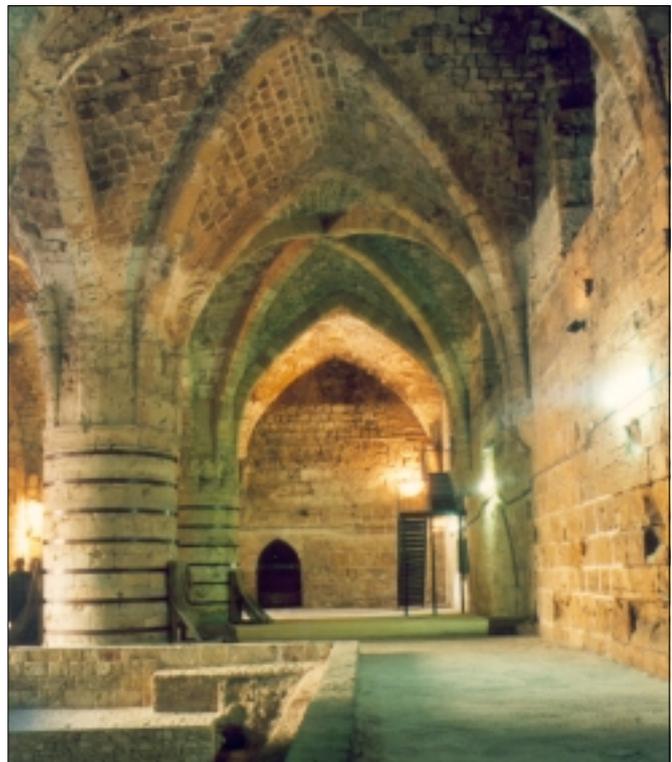
Acre's urban uniqueness stems from it being a walled city built of two levels; The Crusader level below, being mainly subterranean and above it the Ottoman level.

### **The Crusader City:**

Surrounded by a fortified wall, the city was divided into quarters according to the ecclesiastical orders and the merchant cities of Europe, whose representatives settled there at the time of the Crusades. Each quarter was a self-governed autonomous entity, closed and fortified. The Crusader City contained a network of streets running along its length and breadth. The city is abundant with monuments of the Hospitallers and Templars, there were citadels, churches, workshops, bathhouses, dwellings, covered streets, drainage tunnels, and systems of hideaway passages.

The Crusader city has only been partly excavated but due to the quantity of findings and their good state of preservation, much has already been learned about the fabric of its urban life at that time and about Crusader building technology and the materials used.

The style of Western architecture was changing from Romanesque to Gothic at the period of the crusader kingdom, and this change is reflected in the buildings of Acre. Recently excavated buildings are an example of the changing styles and the consolidation of the Gothic in the 13th century.



### The Ottoman City:

The Ottoman City of the 18th and 19th centuries buried the remnants of the 13th century Crusader City beneath it, thereby preserving it in an unusual and fascinating way. The plan of the underground Crusader City is reflected in the plan of the upper Ottoman City that used the crusader buildings as foundations for its new structures. The Ottoman City has government buildings, churches, mosques, markets, bathhouses, workshops, shops and dwellings.

The town has preserved a balance between commercial buildings and dwellings free of large-scale industry. Tourism blends in with the fabric of daily life, there is small-scale commerce and vehicular traffic is limited. It has an authentic urban character that has in some ways remained unchanged for the last 300 years.

The port preserves the characteristics of the city as an eastern seaport city. The port is used by the local population as means of livelihood, being used mainly for fishing and tourism.



### **The Historical-Archeological aspect**

Acre is one of the oldest cities in the world, continuously inhabited for almost 4000 years. The first settlement was on the mound known today as Tel Akko (or Tel El Fukhar) during the early Bronze Age. The first settlement on the peninsula took place during the Hellenistic period in the 3rd century B.C. Twice in history Acre rose from being a city of national importance to being of International importance. It was the main port for the crusaders in the Holy Land, and during the second crusade period, between 1191-1291, it became the capital of the Crusader kingdom.

The second occasion was in the eighteenth century, when under the rule of Jezar Pasha, it became a principle city of northern Israel, the de-facto capital of the Galilee and famous around the world due to the defeat of Napoleon before its walls.



## **The Multi-Cultural and Religious Aspect**

Acre has served as a meeting place between East and West. It was the main gateway for pilgrims to the Holy Land, resulting in a cultural dialogue between visitors and inhabitants.

During the Crusader period, the city attracted representatives of many cultures, military orders and European merchant cities. Each quarter represented its own particular foreign order or city whilst at the same time influencing the local culture and being influenced by it. Moslem and Jewish merchants settled there as well as the Christian merchants that came from various places.

The ongoing multi-cultural interchange lent the city a special atmosphere, taking on an eastern style during the Ottoman period. Adherents of the Bahai faith consider attribute holy status to Acre due to the fact that Baha'ullah, the founder of the faith spent the last 24 years of his life there and was interred nearby following his death. His tomb is a holy site for all Bahai's. Nowadays Acre houses members of various cultures and religions, notably Jews, Moslems and Christians of different denominations and also Bahai's.

## **b. Comparative analysis**

Three similar Mediterranean towns were chosen to be compared with Acre. The first is **Rhodes** that is already listed on the World Heritage List. The second is **Famagusta** (Magussa) and third is **Sidon**. Famagusta and Sidon do not appear on the World Heritage List. All three towns have long histories, and the relevant periods for comparison are from the Crusader period onwards.

### **Rhodes**

- In comparison to Rhodes, Acre has certain unique outstanding characteristics:
  - Rhodes was founded after the fall of the Crusaders in the Holy Land and belonged only to the order of Hospitallers. Acre was founded during one of the peaks of the Crusader period, became the capital of the kingdom and its inhabitants represented the full range of Crusader orders, reflecting the story of the Crusades in the Holy Land.
  - Unlike Acre today Rhodes bears more resemblance to a medieval European city.
  - Acre didn't undergo major restoration projects.
  - Acre preserved its characteristics as a residential city and not a commercial touristic town.

### **Famagusta**

- After the capture and partial destruction of Acre, Famagusta inherited its position as the main port for commerce in the region although it never attained either Acre's significance nor its rate of development as in the peak of the period. In fact Famagusta represents a city built during the withdrawal process of the Crusaders and furthermore was not part of the itinerary of pilgrimages to the Holy Land. King Henry the Second that ruled Cyprus from 1285-1324 was also the King of the Crusader kingdom in Acre until 1291. As such he made every effort to transfer commercial activities from Acre to Famagusta, mostly with success.

Today Famagusta seems quite similar to Acre – an example of a walled Ottoman port city that has undergone some changes. The essential difference between the two cities is that the Crusader City of Famagusta is not preserved in its entirety underneath the Ottoman City rather it has been blended with Ottoman structures and is therefore only partly apparent.

## **Sidon**

- Sidon is a port city to the shores of the Mediterranean sea, that was present from ancient times to our present day. Sidon's and Acre's similar topographical location on a peninsula on the edge of a natural bay, allowed for a similar development, and they underwent more or less the same historical processes due to their closeness. The differences between the two cities lay in the magnitude of the changes. Sidon during the crusader period was an important port, but never achieved the status of Acre that rose to be the capital of the crusader kingdom. During the Ottoman period Sidon bloomed and thrived but never reached the special status of Acre.

There is also a significant difference in the amount of findings in Sidon when compared to Acre, and it is very difficult to trace its history.

### **c. Authenticity and the Integrity of the City**

*“Depending on the nature of the cultural heritage, its cultural context, and its evolution through time, authenticity judgements may be linked to the worth of a great variety of sources of information. Aspects of the sources may include form and design, material and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, and spirit and feeling, and other internal and external factors. The use of these sources permits elaboration of the specific artistic, historic, social and scientific dimensions of the cultural heritage being examined”* (The Nara document, paragraph 13).

Two periods in history carved the face of Acre: The **Crusader period** and the **Ottoman period**. The particular conditions that guided the city’s development led to the preservation of its integrity and the principal values of each of the two periods and of the city in general.

The old city of Acre with its Crusader and Ottoman levels fulfils all the criteria regarding integrity and reliability of information sources as expressed in the Nara document.

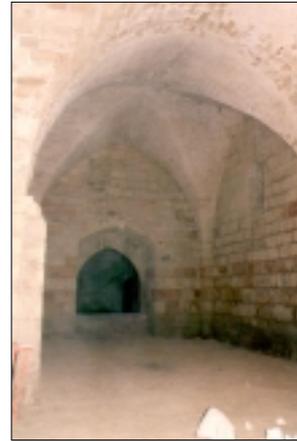
#### **The Crusader Period:**

Crusader Acre, today is mostly subterranean, and has only begun to be uncovered recently after hundreds of years. At the end of the 13th century, Acre was captured and partly destroyed by the Mamelukes, being left in ruins for many years. The city provided the foundations for Ottoman construction in the 18th century. It was only in the 1990’s that systematic excavation of the Crusader level began, thereby revealing a hitherto hidden and preserved authentic testimony about that period.

The remains have been particularly well preserved as a result of this and they include large portions of the fabric of urban life and buildings with all parts intact; walls, quarters, streets, alleys, fortresses, public buildings, religious buildings, dwellings and shops and subterranean infrastructure, architectural details, original plasterwork and masonry. Building plans are clearly identifiable and building technology and materials can be accurately determined.



The Templar tunnel



The Beautiful hall in the  
Hospitaler Citadel

### **The Ottoman Period:**

The essence and spirit of the Ottomans city are still present in the city along side the physical aspect of the city, whereas the crusader city is mainly preserved in the form of archeological remains. The Ottoman city is Built on the Crusader city below it, the Ottoman city formed an urban system of typical fortifications, alleyways, yards and squares, reflecting the values of Moslem society. The geographical conditions that determined its development together with its socioeconomic make up, kept Acre largely as it was in Ottoman times, without significant change in the 19th and 20th centuries, apart for from some minor changes and additions carried out by the local population.

Acre has kept its character as a fortified port city, surrounded by a wall, with a blend of public buildings, Khans (Caravansary) and religious buildings alongside markets, small shops and big residential quarters, together with an active port still being used as source of income and access to the city. Acre's buildings have remained largely as they were built, with few alterations over the last 150-300 years. Ottoman Acre exists in an architectural/social bubble reflecting the meeting between east and west.

The Hamam (Bathhouse)

Khan el-Omdan



#### **d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed**

The criteria chosen for the registration of the old city of Acre as a World Heritage Site are C (ii), (iii), (v), (vi).

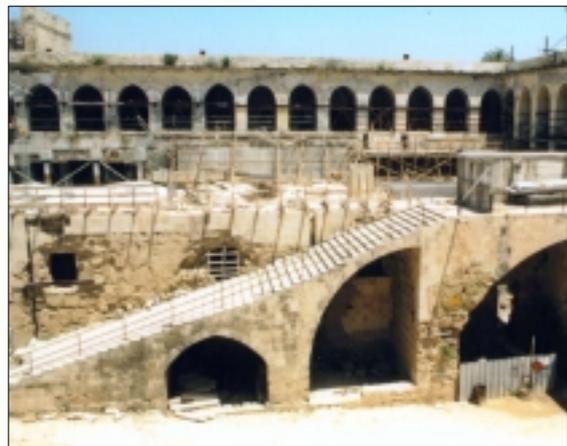
##### **C (ii)**

During its existence, Acre has been a unique example of the symbiosis between different cultures and values. Its geographical position made it a meeting point between east and west. The fact that various cultures struggled for control over the city ensured that all parties were exposed to each other's influence.

Acre's uniqueness becomes apparent when examining the Crusader city. The Crusaders brought European building technology with them to the Holy Land whilst utilizing local materials. They built in accordance with various needs that were dictated by the city's geographical position. Their relationship with the place and the local population led to the development of hybrid city of its period.

Crusader Acre evolved for 200 years reaching the peak of its importance on a world scale at the time when it was the capital city of the Crusaders, and a main entrance for many visitors to the Holy Land. Another example of the city's uniqueness may be

found in the way that Crusader Acre eventually played a role in Ottoman plans for building. After the Mamelukes captured the city they attempted to bury the original city. However, during rebuilding in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the original Crusader buildings were used as foundations for the new buildings, thus keeping the basic crusader city plan.



The Ottoman level built on top of the Crusader level

### **C (iii)**

Acre is a living witness to the existence of two now extinct cultures - That of the Crusaders in the Holy Land and the Ottoman Empire. A Crusader city for pilgrims such as Acre could only exist in the Holy Land. As things developed in the region, Acre became the second most important city in the country after Jerusalem.

Since Crusader Acre was the capital of the second kingdom it offers us today unique evidence of the highly particular lifestyle of the Crusaders that lasted for a relatively short period in history before disappearing. The crux of this evidence of culture and life style is to be found in the lower level of the city in the multitude of archaeological remains, preserved in superb condition for hundreds of years.

It is enough to walk around old Acre of today in order to get a constant sense of Ottoman culture because of the unusual degree to which its life style has been preserved within the city walls and due to its geographical location.

### **C (v)**

Acre is an outstanding example of the traditional Ottoman settlement in the Middle East. The way the Ottoman City was preserved as integral complex with all its major components present plays an important part in its authenticity.

Acre also demonstrates an outstanding example of the settlement and utilization of land typical of the crusader culture. The main characteristic of this culture was the utilization of available land by great masses of people by military means, for a specific religious purpose that was not in fact settlement for its own sake but in order to provide a stepping stone on the way to Jerusalem. Thus the city was a mix between garrison and road station. This manner of settlement as part of a historical process over a short period of time is unique.

## **C (vi)**

Acre is directly connected with a number of important historical world events and beliefs.

- The Christian crusades were meant to regain control over the sacred places of the Holy Land. Acre rose during the second crusade after 1189 when the Crusaders under King Guy de Legian laid siege to Acre in a two year operation that went unparalleled in the tales of medieval wars of both the Christian and Muslim worlds. Salah-A-Din, King Richard the Lion Heart and King Philippe the Second all participated in the war and Acre surrendered to the Crusader forces on the twelfth of July 1191. Acre experienced its golden age as the capital of the second Crusader kingdom from 1191-1291. It stood at a junction of international routes and was a trading center between Europe and Asia. In 1291 the city was finally captured by the Mameloks and systematically destroyed on the orders of Sultan El Ashraf.

- Napoleon Bonaparte sought to become the next Alexander the great, and planned to conquer Egypt, India and other middle and far east places. Napoleon's idea was also to cut off the English's route to India. Napoleon won the battle of the Pyramids in July 1789, but his fleet was destroyed after it. So Napoleon decided to invade Syria and in 1799 Acre became world famous again due to the failure of Napoleon's army to capture the city after laying siege to it for a long time. The city's defenders led by El-Jazar, with the active aid of the English, managed to repel the French forces, forcing them to withdraw.

“Tel Akko” that had previously been called “King Richard Hill” was renamed “Tel Napoleon”. The failure of the siege of Acre marked a turning point in Napoleon's career.

- In 1868 The founder of the Bahai faith the Baha'ullah arrived in Acre as a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire. He spent the remaining 24 years of his life in the city, first locked up in the city's fortress until 1870, and later kept under house arrest in a small building in the alleyways of the old city for 7 more years. During his sojourn in Acre, the Baha'ullah wrote his most important work, setting out the laws and precepts to be observed by Bahai adherents. The Baha'ullah was left the old city towards the end of 1877 and he went to live on a nearby estate outside the walls of the city. He died in 1892, his remains were buried on the estate and to this day his tomb is the Bahai's holiest shrine.

- During the British mandate the Acre prison was the main prison in Palestine, and fighters of the resistance movements the Hagana, Ezel and Ha'Lechi were imprisoned there, along side with Arab prisoners. During the British period nine freedom fighters from the resistance were executed in the Gallows Room, which was a part of the British prison occupying the citadel.



### **3. Description**

#### **a. Description of property**

Old Acre is a living historical port city, situated on a peninsula and surrounded by fortified walls. Its population comprises of Muslims, Christians, Jews and Bahais. Many historical documents exist to tell us about the city, its historical layout and appearance. Acre is of prime importance as an authentic and living testimony, it also has archaeological sites extending under the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

#### **The built city comprises of two levels:**

1 – The Crusader City, mainly subterranean remains, partly revealed and serves as an excellent testimony to its past. The remains include: The City Wall, quarters (Hospitaler, Genoese, Pisan, Venician, Burgus Novos etc.), open and covered streets, monuments, drainage tunnels, systems of hideaway passages, shops and dwellings.

2 – The Ottoman City, built over the ruins of the Crusader City, using the earlier structures as foundations and thereby helping in the preservation of the remains of the Crusader City and its outline. The Ottoman City is characterized by its narrow alleyways, monuments and inhabited dwellings with inner courtyards.

#### **Principle Monuments:**

##### ***Fortifications***

The city's system of fortifications comprises of the city walls, gates, towers and moat. The walls were built in stages between 1750-1840 by Daher el-Omar and later by el-Jazar. The entrance today to the city is through two breaches in the wall, opened in 1910.

The crusader fortification array is almost completely gone today, and its outline was different.

1. Land Gate – to the east of the city.
2. Land Wall.
3. Moat.
4. Sea Wall.
5. Sea Gate – to the west of the city



The Sea Wall



The Land Wall

### ***Governmental Buildings***

6. Acre Prison – Built by Daher el-Omar on top of the Hospitallers citadel, the building was first used as the Ottoman governors' palace, and later as a prison. The building was used as a prison until the end of the British mandate to Palestine.



Acre Prison

7. The Seraya – Used as a governmental building in the Ottoman period.

### ***Ottoman Monuments***

8. Hamam el-Basha – The big bathhouse built by el-Jazar in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, apparently on top of an ancient bathhouse, and was in use until 1950's.
9. The small Hamam – Built by Daher el-Omar in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and was in until 1940's.
10. Khan el-Umdan – Built in 1784 by el-Jazar.
11. Khan el-Faranj – Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by French merchants on top of the central courtyard of the Crusader Venician quarter.
12. Khan e-Shuarda – Built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Daher el-Omar.
13. Khan e-Shune – Built in the period of Daher el-Omar, on top of the Pisan quarter remnants.

14. The Turkish Bazaar – The el-Jazar market.
15. Shuck el-Abyad, the white market – Built by Daher el-Omar and reconstructed after a fire in 1817 by Suliman Pecha.
16. The water system – Remnants of the water aqueduct constructed by Daher el-Omar and el-Jazar, that led water from the Kabri spring to the city. An Ottoman water reservoir covered by five-barrel vaults.



### ***Crusader Monuments***

17. The citadel – Functioned originally as the center of the crusader’s Hospitaler quarter. The citadel is the biggest and most important excavation in Acre, including the Knight Halls, the Grand Munier, the Kript, the Beautiful Hall and the courtyard.
18. The Templar Tunnel – The tunnel run from the Templar fort in the west to the city port in the east.



### ***Sacred Monuments***

19. El-Jazar Mosque – built in 1781 by El-Jazar, apparently on top of the remnants of ‘Saint Krucha’ Holy Cross Cathedral. This is one of the most important mosques in the country, which included religious institutions and a famous library. In the mosque courtyard El-Jazar, Suliman Pecha and their family are buried.
20. El-Magdale Mosque – built in 1710 by Ali Bek on top of crusader tower remnants.
21. El-Mualec Mosque – building which apparently was originally a synagogue of the Jewish community in Acre. The building turned to be a mosque by Dahar El-Amar in 1746.
22. El-Ramel Mosque – built in 1704 on top of a crusader church.

The white market

23. El-Zaituna Mosque – built in 1745 by Husain Abed Elhadi. An ancient buildings' remnant are combined inside the construction, apparently belonging to the Hospitaler's Quarter Church.
24. The Shazalia Mosque – built in 1862 by the Sheikh Ali Nur A-Dean El-Yasruti the founder of the Shazalia sect. (The founder and his family are buried nearby).
25. Sinan-Basha Mosque – built in 1806-1807 by Suliman Pecha, on top of mosque remnants that was built by Snan-Basha in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



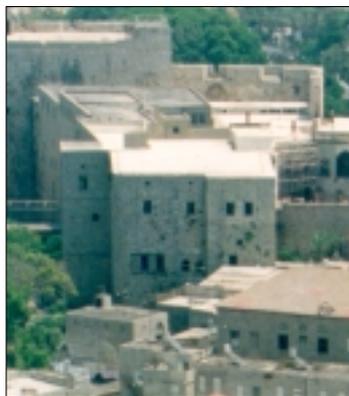
The Shazliya Mosque

26. The Baptist Church
27. The Franciscan Church
28. The Maronite Church
29. St. Andrew's Greek Catholic Church
30. St. Gorge's Greek Orthodox Church – The most ancient church in Acre, dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was the biggest church in Acre during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
31. St. John's Catholic Church – Built in 1737 by the Franciscans.

32. Ha'Ramahal Synagogue – Served the Jewish population of Acre until after the end of the British mandate period.

33. Abud House – One of the Bahai sacred places in Acre, where the Baha'ulla lived for 7 years.

34. Jabotinsky Tower – Built by el-Jazar in 1790, it is the western tower of the prison complex. The Baha'ulla was imprisoned in the tower during the Ottoman period. The Tower is named after one of the Israeli underground leaders, Ze'ev Jabotinsky that was imprisoned there during the British Mandate period.



Jabotinsky Tower

### ***Tombs of Sheiks and Cemeteries***

- Nebi Tzalah Tomb – located in the cemetery near the eastern wall.
  - Sheikh Yanis Tomb – located inside a room in a southern wall of the 'Jabhane' opposite to the Jazar mosque.
  - Sheikh Ana'am Tomb – built in 1807-1808 by Suliman Pecha.
  - Sheikh Az A-dean Tomb – located northern to the wall by the sea. According to one of the traditions this is the tomb of Dahar El-Amar.
  - Different cemeteries: Mausoleum, a cemetery behind Hann-Shuni, the cemetery of Saint-Gorge's Church.
- 
- For further information on the city monuments refer to the monument appendix.



## Urban Structure

Old Acre is built of a number of fundamental components that form the basis for understanding the construction of the city as we know it today. These include an important and active port, squares and thoroughfares and blocks – some of which follow the early Crusader layout and some the Ottoman concept.

- 1 – The city's geographical location on a natural bay had a significant influence on its development throughout the ages, as a port city exposed to the changes brought about by substantial movement of people and goods.
- 2 – The City developed within the area delineated by its fortified walls. Its location on a peninsula, cut off by the sea and the walls, required that the area within be exploited to the maximum, resulting in it being densely built up.
- 3 – The Crusader City is characterized by the quarters that comprise it. (*See historical maps appendix – the Kesten map*).
- 4 – The Ottoman City is blended with the Crusader remains that it uses for its foundations. In practice this led to it following the layout of the ruined Crusader city thereby preserving the main Crusader layout.

The Ottoman City is characterized by blocks and complexes that are built around inner courtyards. (*See survey – The Built-around open spaces plan*).

**The built up mass and open thoroughfares** (see appendix of plans – The built mass and open spaces)

The appearance of Acre's winding streets and alleyways and its blocks of buildings that seem to sprout like clumps of weeds make it difficult to perceive an ordered principle behind the way the city is built.

Indeed the layout is not of the kind that was planned with paper and ruler. It is based on the hierarchy of two things that serve to compliment one another – the hierarchy of open thoroughfares and the hierarchy of built up areas.

### **The built up mass:**

The built up mass of the old city is comprised of (in hierarchical order) quarters, blocks of buildings, complexes, buildings and apartments. Except for a few choice examples, there are no free standing buildings in the old city. Apartments are built onto buildings that develop into complexes (built around inner courtyards) which make up the blocks and the quarters.

Each level of this hierarchy is delineated and enclosed by some manner of wall:

**A** – The defensive walls that encircle the entire city, insulating and protecting it from without.

**B** – The kind of walls that are formed around blocks at ground level by the uninterrupted facades of rows of adjacent buildings.

**C** – Monumental structures that are built to form a fortified wall such as the khans (caravansaries).

**D** – Complexes that are built around inner courtyards. Sometimes apartments are built around an inner courtyard (see the survey for the complexes plan).

The guiding principle here is withdrawal from the broader realm – from the city to household courtyard. This reflects the introversion and seclusion that are characteristic of the household in traditional Muslim culture. Here the building's facades act to separate home from street, thereby defending the inhabitants.

The influence of more open Western influences and externalization are evident from the large Trifor windows and balconies of the upper stories. (The upper stories appear to have been added on at a later stage.)



Open space and built area

**Open thoroughfares:** (*see appendix of plans – Open spaces, and the survey for the traffic system plan.*)

Open thoroughfares are also hierarchical:

- A main axis around the city parallel to the inner side of the city walls, connected to the entrances to the city, both from land and sea. Leading off from this axis are the paths to public and religious buildings and to the circular alleyways.
- Circular alleyways that encircle blocks, leading into the mass of the residential areas.
- Secondary dead-end alleyways that lead into blocks, usually ending at the inner courtyard or linking with another pathway that links the street with the inner courtyard.
- Inner courtyards.

The same principle exists for the built up parts as it does for the open thoroughfares – allowing separation and gradual passage between private and public domains.

The inner courtyard is the very heart of the household. “Wrapped” in layers of “walls” and “gates”. The gate separates the encircling alleyway from the alley leading into the block from which a narrow covered virtually private path leads into the courtyard.

- To this day, many parts of the city are inaccessible to motor vehicles.
- Within the old city, distances are minor and suited to pedestrian traffic.



**Types of complexes and inner courtyards:** (See the survey made for the planning of complexes.)

Complexes are usually built around an inner courtyard. From the outside they appear to be densely packed and confined, however the inner courtyards provide an intimate open space within, allowing access to light and air.

There are different types of courtyard:

- Courtyards at ground level open to the sky.
- Courtyards at ground level that are covered by a roof with another, open yard on the roof.

Courtyards help make up the typological and morphological character of structures, fulfilling various functions:

- As the courtyard of a particular apartment or other housing unit that is built around it.
- As a nucleus of the complex built around it.
- As courtyards between complexes

- ❖ Note: The following plans come to illustrate and analyze the parameters discussed in the last section. The plans come from the sample survey conducted in order to learn about the urban structure of the city and to help prepare the conservation appendix for the master plan. (*summary of the sample survey is in the appendix*)



**Subject:**

Conservation level

Legend:

- Monuments (sacred buildings)
- Monuments (Archaeological)

- Level A
- Level B
- Level C

- Structure with no conservation value
- Estimated assessment (not surveyed)



**Subject:**

Typology

Legend:

- Complex around internal courtyard
- Central space house
- Variations of central space house

- Bridging house
- Cross ground plan of a church
- Captain house







**Monumental structures:** *(See the monument layout plan.)*

The position of monumental structures clearly reflects the structure and character of the old city. The fortified city walls divide the city from sea and the mainland. There is a belt of khans (caravansaries) on the east side of the city that connect the sea and the port with the city. From the north of the city, government buildings spread out and sacred monuments are spread all over it.

**Khans (caravansaries):**

The presence of a large number of khans in a relatively small city reflects its status and importance.

The khans of Acre are a series of monuments that have an impressive presence in the urban fabric. They reflect the city's special character and its development in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, four out of Acre's five khans are still standing.

The khans of Acre are defined as Monuments. They form a belt in the east and south-east of the city, standing fairly close to each other, away from the dense residential neighborhoods. They are also easily accessible due to their proximity to the port area, this proximity was convenient for import and export trading.

The khans served to link between land and sea and a vital element in Acre's role as a bridge between East and West. Their location on the map of urban thoroughfares also reflects their central role in the life of the city.

- The Land Gate Road, by the El Jazar Mosque (the city's most important religious building) and the fortress.
- The Sea Road, from the Land Gate to the Port via the Souk (market).
- The El Jazar Mosque Road and Fortress Road, via the Souk and the Port.

The Khans of Acre: Khan El Umdan, Khan El Faranj, Khan El Shuarda, Khan E-Shuna.

The decreasing importance of Acre's port was a result of the development of steamships and nearby Haifa port. With the decline of the port, the khans ended their original role and became dwellings and workshops.

## **b. History and Development**

Acre's history is dotted with peaks and troughs, conquests and capture, with each period leaving its mark:

- Ancient Acre was situated on Tel Akko (or Tel El Fukhar, not included in the nomination zone), about 2.5 km to the east of the location of the old city. Settlement at the Tel appears to have begun during the early bronze age at 3,000 B.C. By around 19 B.C. the town was fortified by a high earth rampart with a mud brick gateway facing the direction of the sea.

- Old Acre was founded on the peninsula during the Hellenistic period around 2-3 B.C. The city was then called Ptolemais after the name of its founder, King Ptolemy the Second of Egypt. There are still traces of fortifications, a wall and tower. Evidence that Acre was a fortified city from the very outset. Acre was a center for international trade due to its strategic position and its natural port.

Acre fell to the Roman conquest of the land of Israel and in the first century A.D. was granted the status "Colonia" – an independent regional city. Acre fulfilled the role of sea bridge between east and west and the first Christian pilgrims passed through the city on their way to Jerusalem. The port's main breakwater was built during this period upon which the modern breakwater was built in 1971.

- In 330 A.D. during the Byzantine period, the land of Israel passed into the control of the Eastern Orthodox Christian empire of Constantinople. This was a time of economic and demographic expansion as hundreds of churches and monasteries were established all over the "Holy Land". The larger cities expanded and were encircled by new fortification systems and Acre retained its status as the principle port of the land.

- During the early Arab period, between 638-1099 and the Arab conquest of the land of Israel, many of the country's cities were abandoned and destroyed. Acre decreased in importance as an international port, the city limits were reduced to include odd neighborhoods around the port and a Moslem naval fleet was quartered there. Acre began its economic recovery during the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries and the port and city walls were rebuilt.

- The Crusader period began for Acre in 1104, about 5 years after the conquest of Jerusalem. Baldwin the 1st, King of Jerusalem and the Genoese commercial fleet, cooperated in laying siege to Acre from the land and the sea until the city fell to the Crusaders. Upon being captured, a new and special model of settlement formed, characterized by defined and autonomous quarters. At first the King settled in the northern part of the city, building himself a fortified palace.

Genoese, Venetian and Pisan merchants built themselves autonomous quarters nearby the port. Nearby them military orders built their quarters, Hospitallers in the north of the city to the west of the palace and Templars in the south west of the city and the Tebtones close to the eastern wall of the wall. Other important quarters were that of the Patriarch in which the Church of the Holy Cross was built (Acre's main cathedral), the French merchant's quarter (Provençal quarter), a quarter for English merchants etc. Alongside them, Moslem and Jewish merchants settled in the city as well.

Many public buildings were erected, fortified buildings, churches, bathhouses, bakeries, courts and hostels for pilgrims and merchants, covered markets and also dwellings. During 200 years of Crusader rule, Acre developed into a wealthy and thriving trading city. It symbolized the interchange between the eastern and western cultures more than any other city. Governmental procedures developed there, architectural styles and urban planning, all of great significance to the researcher of the Crusader period.



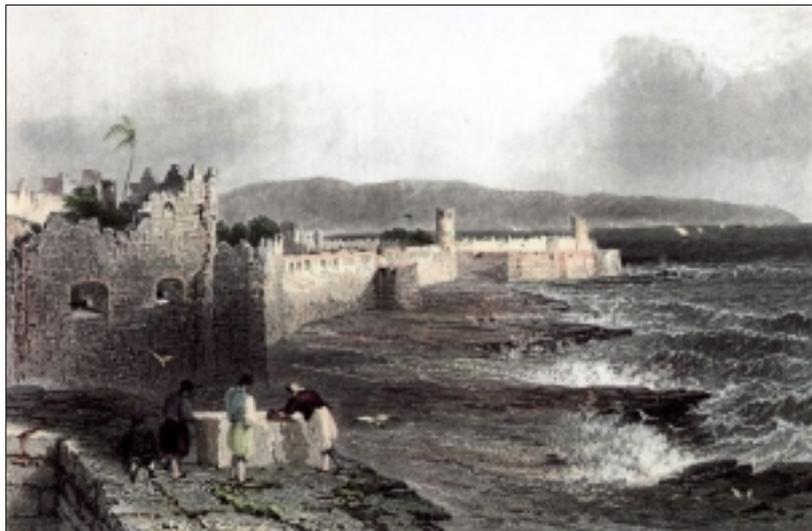
- Ending 200 years of Crusader rule, the Mameluke period began in 1291 with the conquest of Acre and continued until 1517. The Mamelukes were the Moslem rulers of Egypt. Acre was destroyed and totally abandoned with only a few buildings remaining around the port.



- The Ottoman period 1517-1917: Pilgrims and merchants that visited Acre during the 16th and 17th centuries described it as a deserted ghost town with some structures from the Crusader period still standing, some jutting out of the earth and others buried. The rebuilding of Acre only began to take place in the middle of the 18th century under Daher El Omar. He renewed the port, manned it with officials and merchants, built a palace for himself and had it fortified.

Ottoman Acre of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries buried the remains of 13<sup>th</sup> century Crusader Acre beneath it in a unique process that had the effect of preserving the Crusader remains. In 1775 El-Jazar was appointed as the ruler of Damascus and its surroundings, he managed his affairs from Acre and turned it into a political center until the end of his regime in 1804. During the rule of El-Jazar Acre thrived and prospered and he made extensive building projects throughout the city, that brought him fame and prosperity for the population. In 1799 Acre attained world fame after Napoleon failed to capture the city led by its Turkish ruler Ahmed El Jazar, after a long siege.

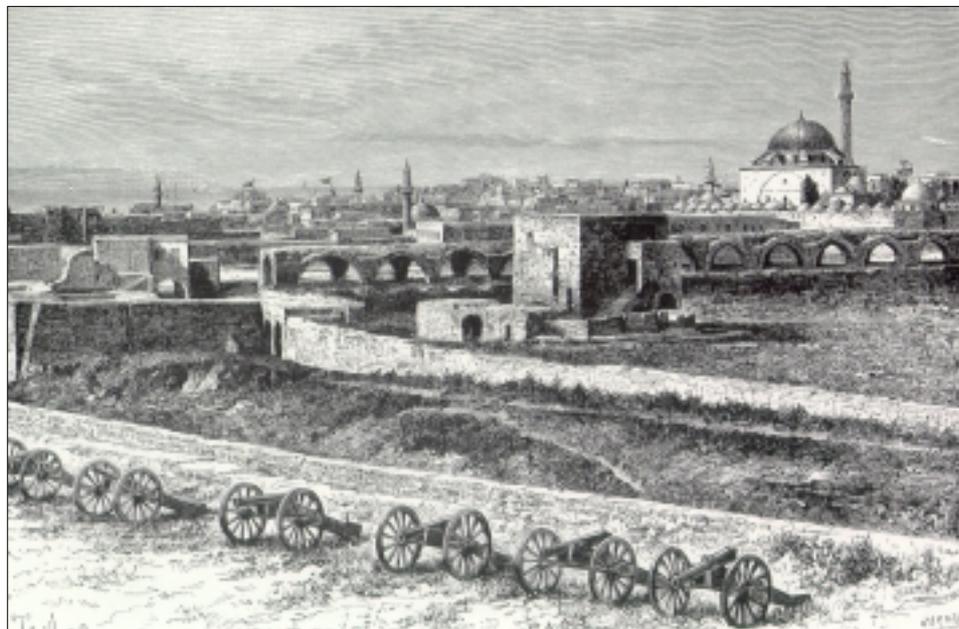
The city enjoyed renewed economic expansion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mosques, bathhouses and caravanserai were built and wealthy merchants settled there, building neighborhoods and grand mansions in the eastern neo classical style of the end of the 19th century.



In 1868 Baha'ullah, founder of the Bahai faith arrived in Acre as a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire. He spent the remaining 24 years of his life in the city, first locked up in the city's fortress and later kept under house arrest in a small building in the alleyways of the old city. During his sojourn in Acre, the Baha'ullah wrote his most important work, setting out the laws and precepts to be observed by Bahai adherents. The Baha'ullah was freed towards the end of 1870 and he went to live on a nearby estate outside the walls of the city. He died in 1892, his remains were buried on the estate and to this day his tomb is the Bahai's holiest shrine.

- The British Mandate 1918-1948: After capturing Acre in 1918, the British used the fortress as a prison. Several leaders of the Jewish settlement of the country at the time were imprisoned there and hangings also took place. The British developed the city outside the boundaries of the walls, constructing dwellings and administrative buildings. However they did nothing to alter the fabric of life within the walls of the old city. The port fell into disuse as the nearby modern port of Haifa superceded it. The British were the first to conduct conservation works in the old city of Acre, and to protect it under the law of antiquities.

- The State of Israel: During Israel's war of independence after the presence of Iraqi forces in the city had been identified, the Jews captured Acre on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1948. After it fell only a few Moslem residents remained in the old city. Shortly after the war a lot of Jews inhabited the old city, but after a few years the Jewish population moved to the new city, and many Arab refugees from other places began to arrive and settle in the old city.



### **c. Form and date of most recent records of property**

There are three main records of the old city in general.

The first record is in the municipality of Acre, where they keep record of the tax payers and have a list of families according to the water gauges, this record is not extensive.

The second record is to be found in the National Housing Company, where they have a file for each building in their responsibility. The data on the file contains the information since the first contract to lease the house was done until this day, and it contains any records of any changes done in the building itself. Each year the company sends out surveyors to visit all the houses and updates the tenant list and report back on the state of the buildings.

The third record is in the Conservation Department of the Antiquities Authority. This record was created in the framework of the project of preserving the old city. It was done by surveying and documenting the old city monuments and many buildings. This work formed the basis for the program of preservation for each monument and building. Some of the tasks related to the city in general and some described various specific experiments.

The following is a list of surveys and documentation, listed by category and year in descending order:

#### **Surveys and general works:**

1. 2000 - Technical manuals: multi-leafed walls, ruins, cantilever stairs, Trifor and Bifor windows, slender single-leafed walls. An inventory survey on an urban level was carried out for the manuals.
  - Remark- The manuals come to give a solution on the field level, for architects, engineers, institutions, and for the local population. The accompanying inventory surveys enhance the level of knowledge on the state of conservation in the city.
2. 1995 – The Templar Order neighborhood, an exterior survey.
3. 1995 – buildings documentation, buildings and conservation manual survey.
4. 1994 – technical manuals: manual sources, building maintenance manual, temporary supports manual, wood conservation manual, framing manual, doors manual, structures stability, windows manual (round windows, guillotine

windows), plaster manual. An inventory survey on an urban level was carried out for the manuals.

5. 1994 – buildings documentation, buildings survey, structural survey.

### **Monuments surveys**

1. 1999 – the aqueduct from Kabri to Acre, testing of plaster's and bonding material's mechanical composition.
2. 1999 – the citadel, the northwestern tower.
3. 1999 - the citadel, strengthening the southern pilaster in the Prisoners Hall.
4. 1999 – Saint-George's church, structural and physical survey.
5. 1999 – survey and documentation of the aqueduct from Kabri to Acre.
6. 1999 – the Baptist church documentation, block 18010, plot 44.
7. 1998 – the citadel, architectural documentation, the Prisoners Hall.
8. 1998 – the citadel, preliminary survey and documentation, Halls 10 and 11.
9. 1997 – the citadel, survey and documentation of the Grand Muneir.
10. 1997 – the citadel, working plan for the Grand Muneir's western wall conservation, inside and outside, phase a, treatment of pilasters 5, 6 and 15 and their filling.
11. 1997 – the Bustan survey.
12. 1997 - the Khan A-Shwarde survey.
13. 1997 – citadel conservation project.
14. 1996 – the old courthouse, survey and documentation.
15. 1996 – the Templar Tunnel, survey and conservation plan, phase a.
16. 1996 – the citadel, Grand Muneir, materials test.
17. 1996 – the citadel, the Crypt, structural survey and documentation.
18. 1996 – the citadel, prison, and Treasure Tower, structural survey.
19. 1996 – the citadel, architectural survey of the Grand Muneir.
20. 1996 – Khan El-Umdan, survey and documentation, phase a, architecture.
21. 1995 – Farhi House, survey and documentation.
22. 1995 – Shukry House, roof and ceilings construction.
23. 1995 – Shukry House, research and reconstruction proposition.
24. 1995 – the Templar Tunnel, the underground tunnel in the crusader city of Acre.
25. 1995 – public fountains in Acre.

26. 1995 – the gate of Khan el-Frangi.
27. Jabotinsky Tower, structural and physical conservation survey.
28. 1993 – Khan El-Umdan, chapter 4, structural plan.
29. The citadel, grouting in the pilasters of E Hall.
30. The citadel, ceiling construction of the southeastern street.
31. The citadel, ceiling construction above G Hall.

### **Buildings surveys**

1. 2000 – facades reconstruction proposition, 18013\281.
2. 2000 – building survey and a roof railing proposition, 18013\279.
3. 1999 – building survey, 18013,282,283,285.
4. 1999 – 12\140 building, wooden Mashrabia reconstruction.
5. 1999 – hazardous building documentation, 18013\267.
6. 1999 - hazardous building documentation, 18010\141.
7. 1999 - hazardous building documentation, 18010\80-83.
8. 1998-1999 – structural survey, 18012\153-155.
9. 1998 – building documentation, 18010\2.
10. 1998 - hazardous building documentation, 18010\123-4-5.
11. Decorative ceiling, 18011\254.
12. 1998 – hazardous building documentation: 18011\102, 18011\12, 18010\70, 18010\49.
13. 1998 – structural survey, 18010\29-30.
14. 1997 - hazardous building documentation: 18010\140, 18010\136, 18012\20, 18013\68, 18011\260, 148, 143, 101, 57, 25, 22, 18010\80, 18010\42, 18010\39.
15. 1997 - hazardous building documentation, 18010\70.
16. 1994 – building documentation 18010\104, special element.
17. 1994 - building documentation 18010\104.
18. Building's remnant in block 2, plots 123.

#### **d. Present state of conservation**

Generally the majority of buildings in the old city of Acre are not hazardous.

Approximately 20% of the buildings in the old city do require a certain amount of intervention, which can vary from medium to extensive. Out of the 20% of damaged buildings, almost 2/3 are repaired on an annual basis, but also the same amount of buildings is reconsidered as damaged. The outcome of this is that the level of conservation has not changed considerably over the past 5-10 years, and that the general present state of conservation is reasonable but requires improvement in the future.

#### **e. Policies and programs related to the presentation and promotion of the property**

The policy today regarding Acre is to present the different monuments and sites to the wide public, while keeping its special character, and balancing between the local population, tourism and commerce.

On the topic of promoting the old city and its existing sites, two touristic “anchors” are being formed. The northern “anchor” that includes the entrance to the old city, shops, new visitors center, the citadel, the prison, the Hamam and el-Jazar mosque. The southern “anchor” to be formed in the future is planned to include the city wall routes on western and southern part of the city, the Templar Tunnel, and touristic services. Between the two “anchors” several touristic routes are planned, some of them already exist and they are clearly marked with accompanying signposts, and some will be added in the future. A circular route around the entire city already exists, and it is clearly marked and with accompanying signposts.

## **4. Management**

### **One. Ownership**

The ownership of the property is divided between three main owners:

- 85% The Israeli Land Administration
- 10% The Muslim “Wakf” and the Church
- 5% Private ownership

### **Two. Legal status**

The legal status of Acre is determined like anywhere else in Israel by the law of Building and Urban Planing. This law decrees who is responsible for approving the different plans, and the supervising authorities.

Acting by the force of the law of Building and Urban Planing, a steering committee for urban planing formed a new master plan for the old city of Acre during the years 1993-2000. The new plan takes into account the cultural heritage of Acre, and gives a variety of solutions for the city, including infrastructure, conservation, development, traffic circulation, parking, and the turning of the city into a tourist attraction.

The old city of Acre as a unique historical property with outstanding values is declared as an antiquity site according to the 1978 antiquities law.

#### ***Prohibition of operations on antiquity site.***

29. (a) *A person shall not carry out, or allow to be carried out, any of the following on an antiquity site, save with the written approval of the Director and in accordance with the conditions thereof:*
- (1) *building, paving, the erection of installations, quarrying, mining, drilling, flooding, the clearing away of stones, ploughing, planting, or interment;*
  - (2) *the dumping of earth, manure, waste or refuse, including the dumping thereof on adjoining property;*
  - (3) *any alteration, repair or addition to an antiquity located on the site;*
  - (4) *the dismantling of an antiquity, the removal of part thereof or the shifting thereof;*

- (5) *writing, carving or painting;*
- (6) *the erection of buildings or walls on adjoining property;*
- (7) *any other operation designated by the Director in respect of a particular site.*

### **Three. Protective measures and means of implementing them**

- Law of Building and Urban Planning.
- Antiquities Law (see previous paragraph).
- Municipal inspection for enforcing the law of Building and Urban Planning.
- Archaeological inspection under the Antiquities law section 29.a.
- Conservation inspection (see conservation annex).
- Conservation steering committee with representatives of the following bodies: Conservation dept. of the Israeli antiquities authority, the district engineer, the Old Acre Development Company LTD, the national housing authority, master plan architect, the district architect of the Israeli land administration, and a representative of the local population (see conservation annex).
- A municipal tourist police.
- Local urban planning regulations: limiting the height of buildings in the vicinity of the old city. Setting limitations on the alteration of facades and sunshades.

### **Four. Agency/agencies with management authority**

Acre Municipality – The municipal authority entrusted with the every day maintenance of the city (taxes, sanitation, health, water, waste disposal and electricity). The municipality is also entrusted with approving all plans regarding the city. In effect beginning of September 25, part of the every day maintenance will be transferred to the Old Acre Development company LTD.

Old Acre Development company LTD – Entrusted with a mandate from the ministry of tourism to develop and advance the city as a tourist attraction. Inside the old city the company can build hotels, museums, shops and restaurants, with authorized plans, and rent out any property it so wishes. The company also enhances the infrastructure of the city, and develops new touristic routes in the city. Beginning of September 25, the company will be responsible for most of the every day maintenance in the old city, after a successful two-year trial period.

Israeli Land Administration – The major owner in the old city of Acre (85% of the houses in the city), it is also responsible for a part of the budget for the city mainly for the removal danger.

National Housing Company (Amidar) – The company is the representative of the owner (the land administration) in some of houses in the old city of Acre. The major part of Amidar is to collect the rent fees from the tenants and pass it on to the land administration, and to deal with the renting contracts. Amidar is also responsible for the structural maintenance of the houses, which is carried out by surveying and treatment according to the Antiquities Authority Specification Demands.

Israeli Antiquities Authority – The Antiquities Authority is responsible for enforcing the Antiquities law with regards to archeological excavations and conservation.

#### **Five. Level of management and contact details**

Acre Municipality – Management throughout all levels is exercised on the property.

35 Weizmann street, Acre 24504

Tel. 972 4 9956000

Old Acre Development Company LTD - Management throughout all levels is exercised on the property.

1 Weizmann street, Acre 24504

Tel. 972 4 9912171

Fax 972 4 9919418

Israeli Land Administration – Regional direct management only, the direct contact is through the National Housing Company.

15 Pal-Yam street, Haifa 33095

Tel. 972 4 8630855

Fax. 972 4 8630872



National Housing Company – Local office on the property.

17 Trumpeldor street, Acre 24504

Tel. 972 4 9819588

Israel Antiquities Authority – A local and regional office on the property, with a constant presence of the city's archeologist Eliezer Shteren.

Khan A-Shuarda, P.O.B 1094, Acre 24110

Tel 972 4 9911682

927 4 9918074

Israel Antiquities Authority, Conservation dept – A local office on the property with a constant presence of a conservation inspector, Yosi Broyde.

Local office:

Khan A-Shuarda, P.O.B 1094, Acre 24110

Tel 972 4 9912660

Fax 927 4 9554210

Main office:

Rockefeller Museum bldg.

P.O.B 586, Jerusalem 91004

Tel. 972 2 6204700

Fax 972 2 6260105

#### **f. Agreed plans related to property**

The master plan for the old city of Acre. For more information see the annexed summary of the master plan and the annexed plans folder.



### **g. Sources and levels of finance**

Most of the funding for the old city of Acre comes from the governmental budget, and is intended for improvement of quality of life, development of infrastructure, conservation projects and touristic development. The majority of the funds are directed through the Old Acre Development Company LTD, that invests them in the different projects in the city.

Additional funding comes from the Land Administration through Amidar, for maintaining of the housing units in their care. The funding goes to defining the problems, surveying the damaged property, treating it, and for constant maintenance and management.

The following table shows the distribution of funding for different projects over the last 6 years.

The figures are in thousands of U.S. dollars.

	<b>Project</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>1. Infrastructure and development of the harbor</b>							
	Environmental development and gardening	34.25	21.5	2.25	-	-	-
	Lighting of the fortifications and sites	8.25	126.5	257.2	2.5	192.5	-
	Underground infrastructure	102.5	1454	1675	1935	1032	107.5
	Breakwater	-	82.5	100	12.5	-	-
	Pier	-	210	536	87.5	82.5	105
<b>2. Population and housing</b>							
	Kindergartens	44.5	368	300	-	-	-
	Vizo	147.5	262.5	87.5	37.5	-	-
	El Jazar mosque	24	25	37.5	-	-	-
	Okshi museum	367.5	-	-	-	-	-
	H'Ramahal synagogue	-	-	-	25	-	-
	The art house	-	-	20	-	-	-
<b>3. General enterprises and hotels</b>							
	Municipal market and the Turkish bazaar	152	253	392.7	187.5	32.5	8.75
	Marketing files	216.7	320	127.7	206	175	27.75
	The knights hotel planing and design	-	-	-	7.5	66.25	18.75
	The Acre days (primary design)	-	-	142.5	12.5	25.25	6.75
	Entrance complex	-	-	-	105	418.5	598.7
	Youth day center and the Saraya	3.75	61.5	17.5	-	-	-
<b>4. Conservation and restoration of historic monuments</b>							
	Citadel	788.2	991.7	1232	1366	2236	1596
	Excavations	-	463.5	25	2.5	-	-
	Conservation of the fortifications	125.7	80.5	150	30	-	126
	Surveying and conservation	50	131.5	62.5	37.5	-	-
	St Anna	174.5	138.5	77.5	60	98.5	128.5
	Conservation works in the prison	-	59.25	256.7	648	447.7	37.5

5. Routs and tourist services							
	Signposts and recording	8	19	15	25	25	58
	Public toilets	139.2	278	40.25	-	-	-
	<b>Project</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
6. Maintenance of the old city							
	Erecting a garbage disposal array	76	148.7	132	-	-	-
	Cleaning of the city	-	152.5	364.7	21.75	-	-
7. Publicity, image enhancing and marketing							
	Marketing and advertising	184.7	412.2	360.5	166.2	62.75	30
	Conventions and conferences	57.5	110.2	82.5	131.2	109.7	50
8. Planing, management, controlling and general maintenance							
	General planing and control	98	163.5	153.2	37.5	17.75	25.75
	Maintenance of property	308	45.5	509	305	265	324.7
	Evictions	413	204.5	154.2	15.75	9.25	88.25
	overhead expenses	1091					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5538</b>	<b>6994</b>	<b>7311</b>	<b>5662</b>	<b>5297</b>	<b>3338</b>

For the next five years the estimated budget for development is around 50 million U.S. dollars.

#### **h. Sources of expertise**

The management of the site is entrusted in the hands of the Old Acre Development Company LTD, which is a professional body with experts on management economics and marketing.

The conservation is done by the conservation department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority. The conservation department includes conservation Architects and Engineers and specialized conservators.



### **a. Visitor facilities and statistics**

- Visitor center
- Okshi museum and Gallery
- Seven lavatories in the city, including handicap access
- The Hospitaler Citadel
- The Templar Tunnel
- The underground prisoners museum
- The Turkish Hamam
- Internet site under construction
- Instruction by local guides in a variety of languages
- Mobile Easy-guide devices
- Signposts throughout the city
- Youth hostels with 140 beds
- Rooms for rent
- Restaurants throughout the city offering a variety of local dishes and sea food
- Souvenir shops
- Number of authentic open markets
- Limited parking areas for private cars inside the old city and complementary parking area outside the walls
- Boat trips originating from the city harbor
- The old city of Acre street theater festival

Estimated tourist statistics:

Year	total	internal tourism	foreign tourism
1997	198,340		
1998	157,850	30,400	69,600
1999	185,930	31,000	69,000
2000	112,420	35,000	65,000

#### **Ten. Property management plan and statement of objectives**

The purposes of the master plan for the old city of Acre are:

1. Preservation of the special character of the old city of Acre – cultural, architectural and aesthetic values.
2. Preservation of the physical fabric whilst adapting to modern quality of life.
3. Provision of a solution to the inhabitants in the fields of residential accommodation, environment, community services, infrastructure, employment and involvement of the public in the planning process.
4. The development of tourism as a principle economic activity in Acre, Western Galilee and throughout the State of Israel.
5. Determining the permissible type of usage for each plot of land and building.
6. Determining priorities and the distribution of resources.
7. Provision of general planning whilst providing solutions to suitable specific programs at the planning and execution stage.
8. Provision of a solution for the planning framework – urban systems i.e. transportation, infrastructures, sign posting, maintenance, management and preservation of the environment.

#### **Eleven. Staffing levels**

Acre Municipality – Has two municipal inspectors on site, as well as the city engineer and architect.

Old Acre Development Company LTD – Has the following staff: company architect, company engineer, infrastructure engineer, accountants, project managers, safety inspectors, conservation team, excavation team, maintenance personal, and tour guides. Apart from all of the above personal the company also hires an independent consultants: economist, tourism specialists, town planners, architects, engineers and so on.

National housing Company – Has inspectors working for it in the city, and hires two external engineers.

Israeli Antiquities Authority – Has on site a large staff consisting of archeologists, conservation architects and engineers, conservators, and a conservation inspector.

## **5. Factors affecting the property**

### **One. Development pressure**

Due to its unique geographical location the contact between the old city of Acre and the new city is limited, and the factor of development pressure does not constitute a problem.

### **Two. Environmental Pressure**

The development of heavy industry in the Haifa bay causes a lot of pollution in the vicinity, and there are occurrences of acid rain. The fact that the city is so close to the sea causes heavy damages due to the salty spray of sea water, and the high level of underground water causes problems of capillary rise and salt attack.

### **Three. Natural disasters and preparedness**

Today Acre is considered to be in the “safe” zone in the Israeli Building code for earthquake design.

### **Four. Visitor/tourism pressure**

The master plan for the old city of Acre comes to give the solutions for developing the tourism in the city while emphasizing the development of tours in the city, sleeping accommodations, relevant commerce, traffic circulation, and parking both inside and outside the old city. All the development will be made while balancing the needs of the tourists with the needs of the local population.

At the moment there is no negative tourism pressure.

### **Five. Number of inhabitants**

The estimated number of inhabitants in the old city of Acre (within the boundary of the property to be nominated) is 6,000-8,000. There is no exact number of inhabitants due to the fact that they are constantly on the move.

The number of inhabitants in the buffer zone is estimated at 500-600 people.

Some of the housing units in the old city are very crowded, a fact that creates a demand for housing solutions that is often the reason for the unauthorized additions.

On the other hand some housing units are empty, due to bad condition.

## **6. Monitoring**

### **One. Key indicators for measuring the state of conservation**

The principal indicator for the state of conservation in the city is the number of buildings requiring medium to extensive intervention.

Other key indicators are:

- The annual budget for conservation
- Number of personal working on conservation related projects
- Marketing of the big projects
- Number of surveys and recordings carried out on monuments and common houses

### **Two. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property**

Three bodies are entrusted with the every day monitoring of the property, and they cooperate according to predefined working procedures:

1. The municipality, has inspectors on site, responsible for reporting any such building that requires intervention due to the fact that it constitute a certain degree of danger. It is also the responsibility of the municipality to issue a warrant for the removal of danger to the building. The inspectors also report any unauthorized additions or other problems related to the municipality activities.
2. The National Housing Authority has representatives on site to report any building requiring intervention, and concentrate the complaints on such buildings from the inhabitants. The representatives of the housing company also make an annual survey and report of all the property that is in their responsibility.
3. The conservation department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority is represented by an inspector on site. It is the responsibility of the inspector to report any building requiring intervention and report it to the municipality. The inspector is also responsible for coordinating between the different bodies and keeping tabs on the number of buildings requiring interventions.

### **Three. Results of previous reporting exercises**

For the last 10 years there is a follow up on the number of buildings requiring medium to extensive interventions. The result of this follow up shows that in the past 10 years around 20% of the buildings in the old city of Acre needed medium to extensive intervention. Out of the 20% of buildings, on average 2/3 are being repaired and the danger is removed, and approximately the same amount of building is put on the list annually.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *Acre and its Sites*, Kardom 24-25, Ariel publishing house. Jerusalem, 1983.
- Alderson C.R.: *Notes on Acre – Papers on Subjects Connected with the Duties of the Corps of Royal Engineers VI*. London 1844
- Alderson, Lieut. Col. R.C.: *Notes on Acre and some of the Coastal Defences of Syria, Paper of the R.E. CP, VI, 1843*
- Bagatti, B: *Arci Christina, La Terrasanta XLII*, 1967
- Barag, Dan: *A new source concerning the ultimate borders of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, IEJ 29*, Jerusalem 1979
- Ben-Arieh, Sarah and Edelstein, Gershon: *Akko Tombs near the Persian Garden, ATIQOT XII*, Jerusalem 1977
- Bourienne, de: *Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte*, London 1836, 4 vols
- Clermont-Ganneau C.: *La Legende de Ain el-Baqar et d'Adam le Laboureur, Recueil d'archeologie orientale I*, Paris 1888, pp 316-319
- Cohen Erik: *The Baha Community of Acre, Folklore Research studies* 1972
- Cohen, Amnon: *Palestine in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, Jerusalem 1973
- Delaville Le Roulx: *Les Hospitaliers en Terre Sainte et a Chypre*, Paris 1904
- Delaville, Le Roulx J.: *Cartulaire general de l'Ordre des Hospitaller de Saint-Jean de Jerusalem*, Paris 1894, 1100-1310 I
- Dichter, B.: *The Maps of Acre. An Historical Cartography*, Acre 1973
- Dichter, B: *Akko, a bibliography*, Acre 1979
- Dichter, B: *Maps of Acre*, Acre 1973
- Dichter, B: *The Orders and Churches of Crusader Acre*, Acre 1978
- Dothan, Moshe and A. Raban: *The Sea Gate of Ancient Akko, Biblical Archeologist, 43/I*, Cambridge Mass. 1980
- Druks, A.: *Akko – Fortifications*, ESI 3:2-4
- Folda, Jaroslav: *Crusader Manuscript Illumination at Saint Jean d'Acre 1275-1291*, Princeton 1976
- Frankel, R., Getzov, N. and Friedman, D.: *The aqueducts of Acre and Western Galilee*, 1989
- Frankel, R.: *The North-Western Corner of Crusader Acre*, IEJ 37:256-261
- Guerin, M.V.: *Description de la Palestine. Galilee*, Paris 1880

- Hebrew University, Geography Department Archive. Jerusalem
- Hirschfeld, D. Y. and Patrich J.: *The Aqueducts of Ancient Palestine*. Jerusalem, pp 81-96
- Ibn Jubayr,: *The Travels*, Leiden 1907
- Israel Antiquities Authority Archive, Acre Folders, Rockefeller Museum building, Jerusalem
- Jacoby, David: Crusader Acre in the Thirteenth Century, *Studia Medievali*, 3a serie XIX 1978; XX 1979
- Jacoby, David: L'expansion occidentale dans le Levant, les Venetiens a Acre dans la second moitie du treisieme siecle, *Journal of Medival History*, 3, Amsterdam 1977, pp 225-264
- Jacoby, David: Montmusard, Suburb of Crusader Acre; the first Stage of its Development, *Outremer* (Kedar, Mayer, Smail, editors), Jerusalem 1982, pp 205-216
- Kesten, A: *Acre, the Old City Surveys and Planing*, Jerusalem 1962
- Kesten, A: *The Old City of Acre, Re-Examination Report 1993*, Acre 1993
- Makhoul, N. and Jones C.N.: *Guide to Acre*, Jerusalem 1946
- Master Plan for the Old City of Acre. Old Acre development company Ltd, 2000
- Meyer, H.E.: Zwei Kommunen in Akko?, *Deutscher Archiv zur Erforschung des Mittelalters*, XXV
- Nassir-I-Khussrau: *A Journey to Palestine*, (Guy Le Strange, edit.), London 1892
- Praver, J: A Crusader Tomb of 1290 from Acre, *IEJ*, 24, 1974, pp 241-251
- Richard, J: La Confrerie de Mosserius d'Acre et les marchands de Mossul au XIII Siecle, *l'Orient Syrien XI*, 1966
- Riely-Smith, Jonathan: The Assises sur la Ligece and the Commune of Acre, *Tradition 27*, 1971
- Roberts, David: *The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea...*, London 1855/6, 3 vols
- Rustum, Asad J.: *Notes on Akko and its Defences under Ibrahim Pasha*, Beirut 1926
- Schur, N. *A history of Acre*, Dvir publishing house. Tel Aviv, 1990
- Usama ibn Munqidh: *Memoire of a Syrian Gentleman*, (K. Hitti, edit.), Beirut 1964



*The Old City of Acre*

URBAN PLANS

Nomination Plan

Legend

- ▬ Property boundaries
- ▬ Buffer zone boundaries

Total area – 63.3725 ha.  
633725.66 sqm

Buffer zone area – 22.9998 ha.

Notes



Israel National Commission  
for UNESCO



State of ISRAEL



הרשות הלאומית לשימור מורשת  
המדינה - PATRIARCH





The Old City of Acre

URBAN PLANS

General plan

Legend

-  Master plan boundry
-  Block line
-  Plot line

Notes



Israel National Commission  
for UNESCO

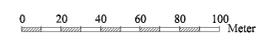


State of ISRAEL



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE - PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL

Prepared by: Israel Antiquities Authority - Conservation department. August 2000







Nomination of the  
**OLD CITY**  
of Acre



for the  
**WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**MONUMENT APPENDIX**

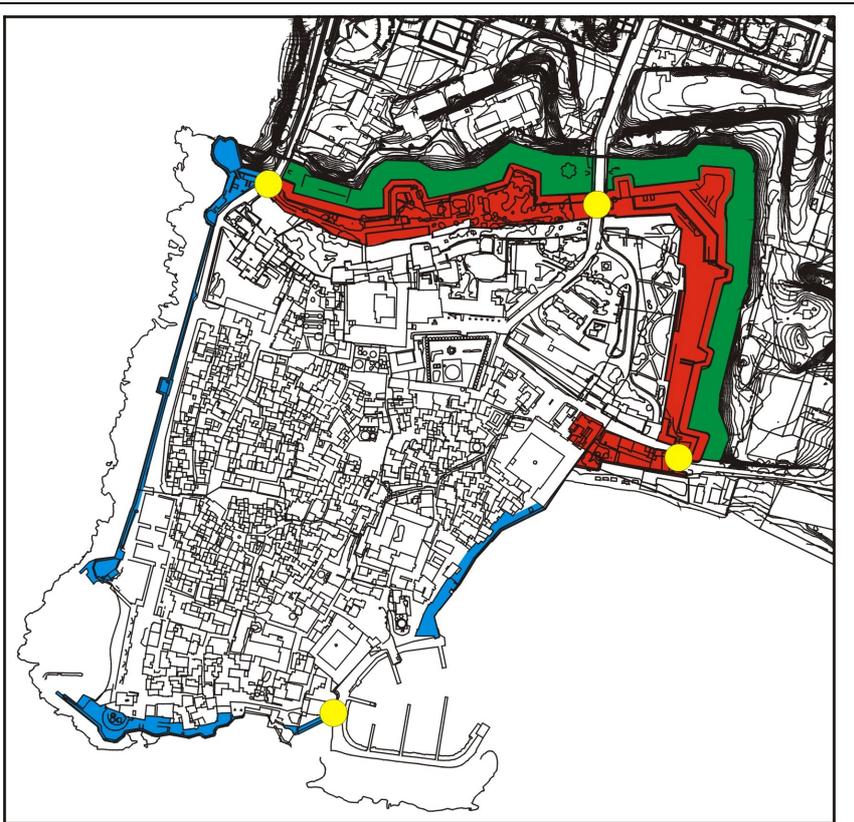


## **Monument Appendix**

- Monument appendix for the Nomination file of the Old City of Acre, for the World Heritage List.
- Prepared by the Conservation Department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

This appendix includes most of the monuments found in the Old City of Acre. For each monument in the appendix, a Monument Card describing the basic data and a number of photographs has been prepared.

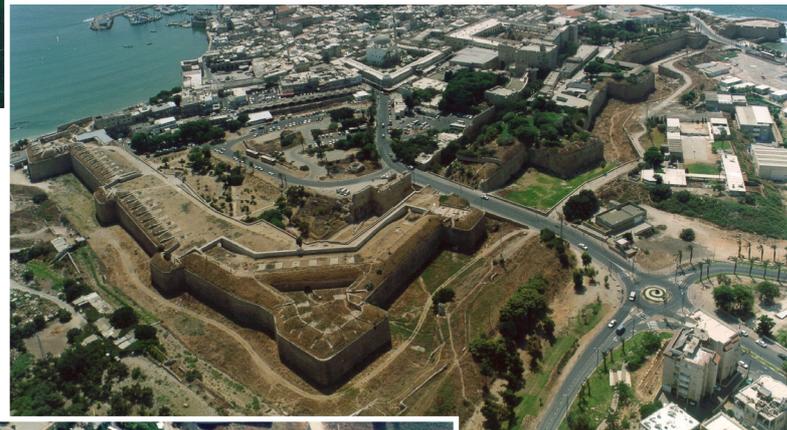
The monument cards are arranged according to the Monument number appearing in the Monument Plan (Shown in the next page). The monument number appears on the upper left side of the Monument Card.

1-5	Name	The city fortification
Location		The city perimeter: Along the sea on the southern and western sides. Land wall on the northern and eastern part.
<p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: blue; margin-right: 5px;"></span> - The sea wall</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: green; margin-right: 5px;"></span> - The moat</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> - The land wall</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; margin-right: 5px;"></span> - Gates and Entrances</li> </ul>		
Description		<p>Walls along the sea and on land surround the old city of Acre. On land there are three major wall lines and additional fortifications (moats, counter wall, out-posts etc'). One of the walls has survived nearly intact, whereas the other walls were almost completely destroyed. The current fortification system was constructed between the years 1750-1840.</p> <p>The first city wall was constructed by Daher el-Omar. El-Jazar rebuilds the city walls at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, using the Daher el-Omar wall as a secondary array on land, and as foundations along the waterfront. The city wall underwent further improvement over the years, but no significant change occurred.</p> <p>The city had two original entrances – the land gate on the east and the sea gate on the south. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century two additional openings were added to the northern wall in order to enable better access to the city. The first opening in the center of the wall (Wizeman st') is the main entrance to the city, and the second opening along the sea (Ha'Hagana st') the secondary entrance to the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little remains today from the crusader fortification array. The outline of the city wall was different from the current wall, the sea wall did not exist and the land array was considerably larger that today.</li> </ul>
Remarks		The city walls were surveyed in 1995, and an additional survey was carried out in 1998. Different projects were carried out over the years on the fortification array, some projects intended on conservation and some on development.

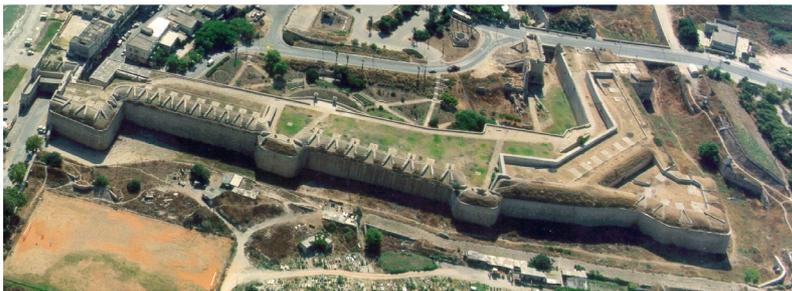
## Pictures



The western sea wall



The land wall



The eastern land wall, moat and wall promenade



The southern sea wall



The southeastern sea wall



The sea wall



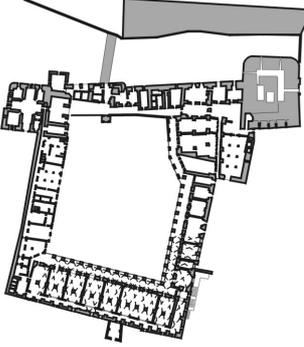
The sea gate

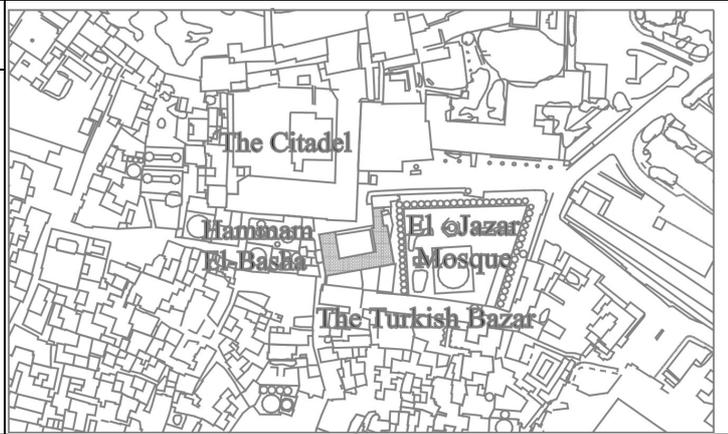
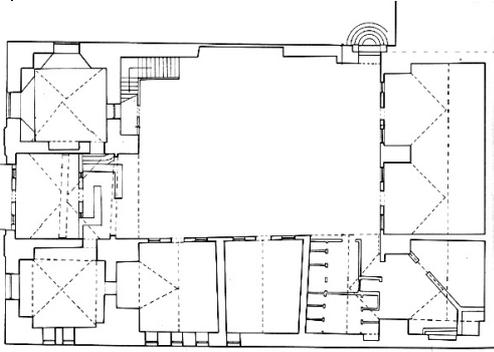


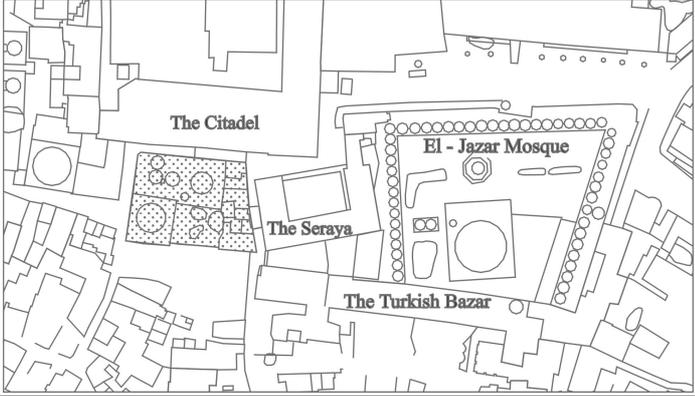
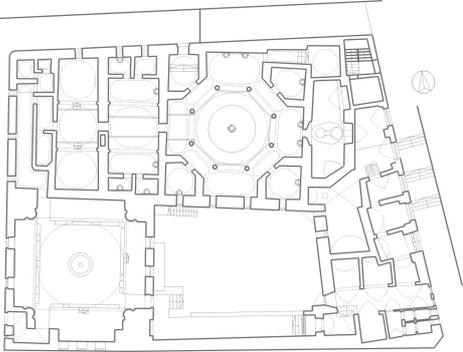
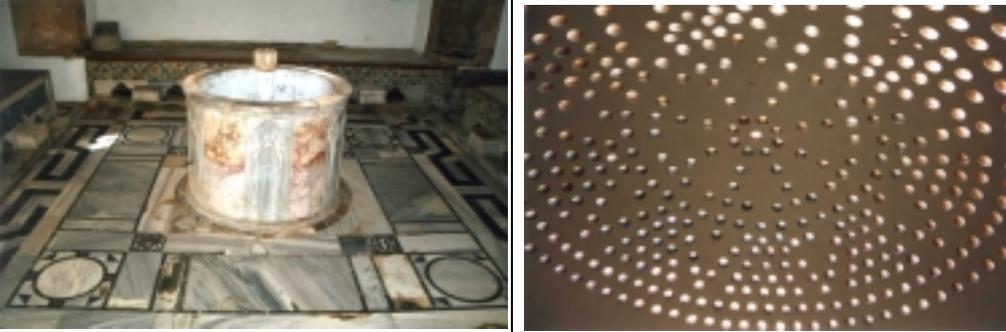
The land gate

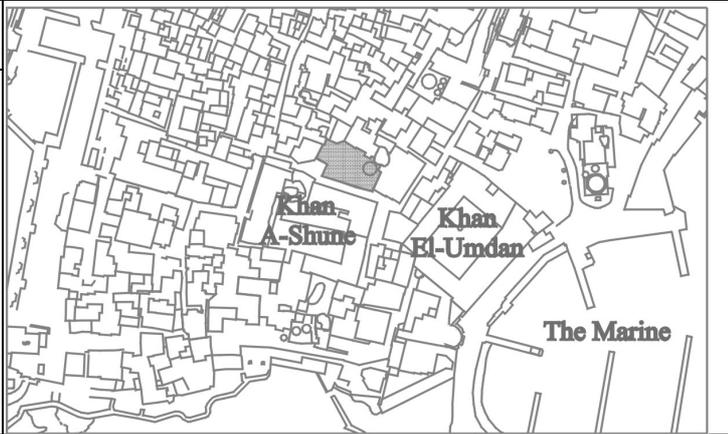
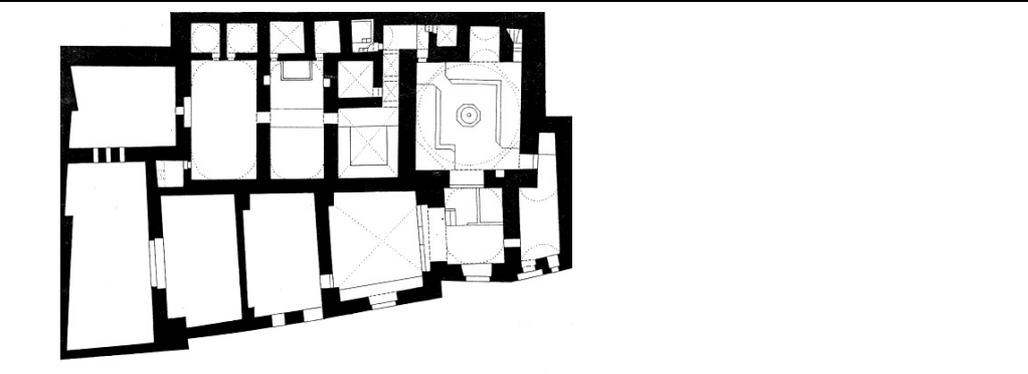
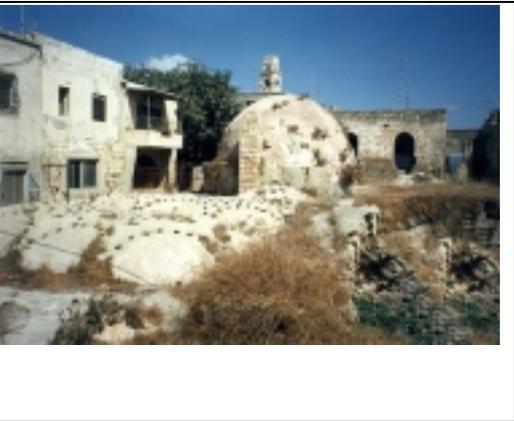
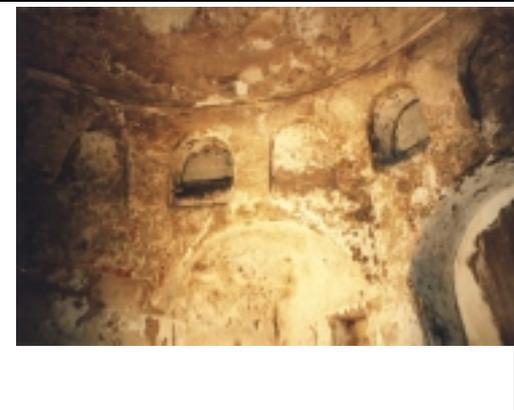


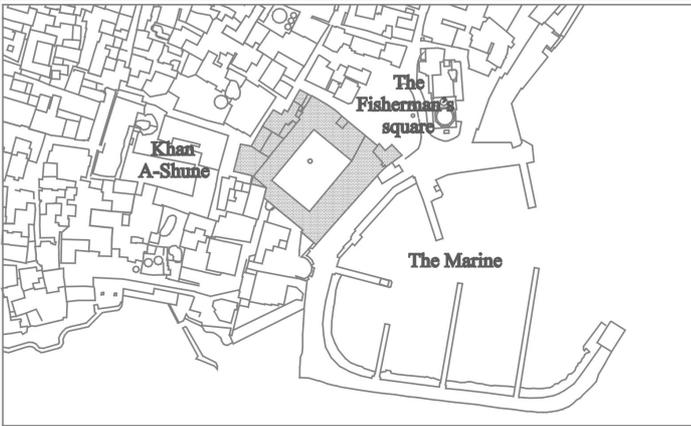
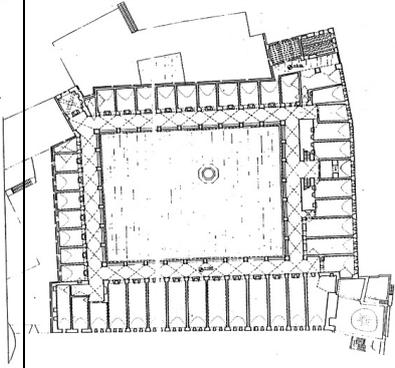
The Daher el-Omar wall

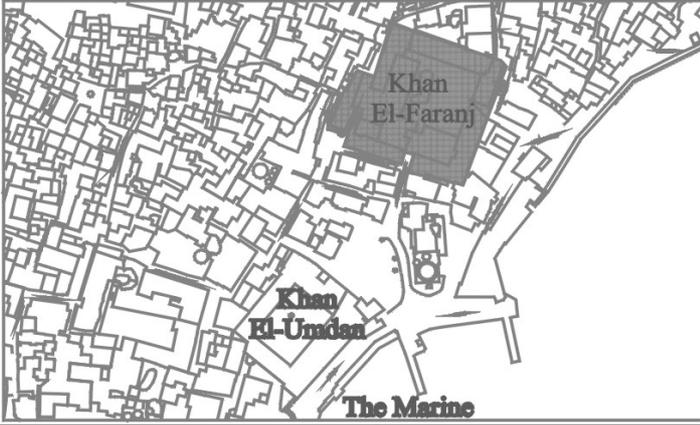
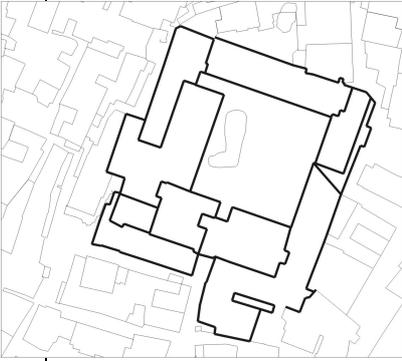
6	Name	Acre Prison	
Location		The prison is located on the upper floor of the citadel, on the northern part of Acre.	
Description		<p>Acre Prison – Underground Prisoners Museum. The structure was built by Daher el-Omar in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and was based on the Hospitaller citadel. The structure was later extended by el-Jazar. The prison was apparently first used as an Ottoman governmental building in various forms, when parts of it were used as a prison until the British period. The British made various structural alterations to the building and transformed the entire structure into a prison, and it became the central prison of Palestine. After the founding of the state of Israel the prison became a mental hospital, and later it became a museum of the underground prisoners.</p>	
Remarks		The prison is currently under development and conservation projects, and it is being surveyed and documented. The prison is open the public.	
Plan			 <p data-bbox="1091 1249 1458 1279">Aerial view of the prison complex</p>
Pictures			
			
The Prison courtyard, during the British mandate		The Gallows	

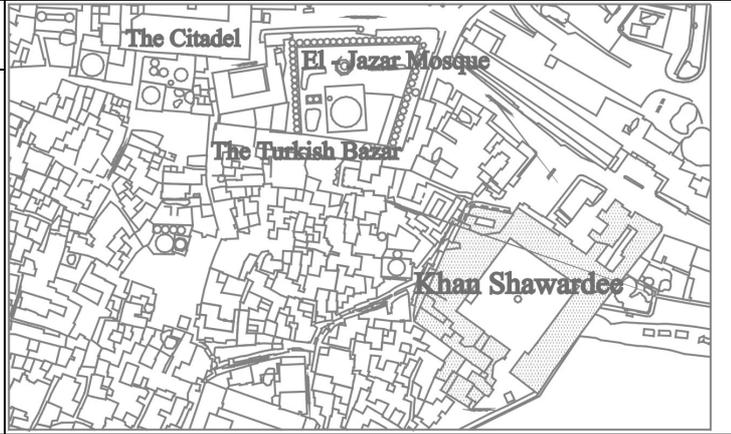
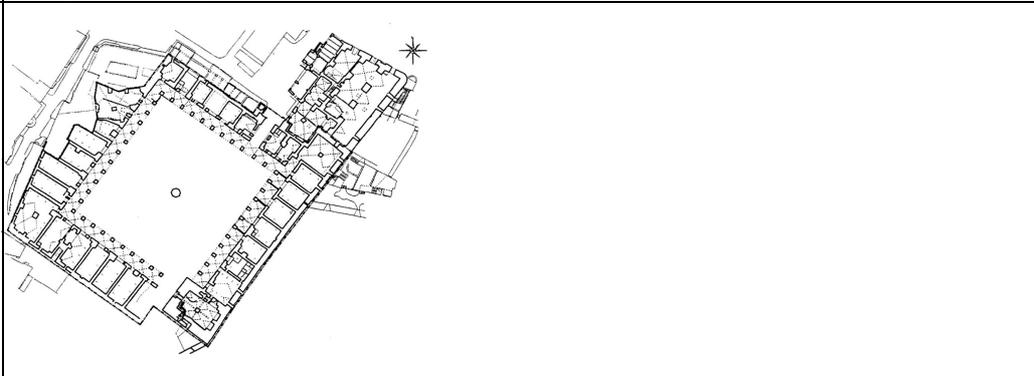
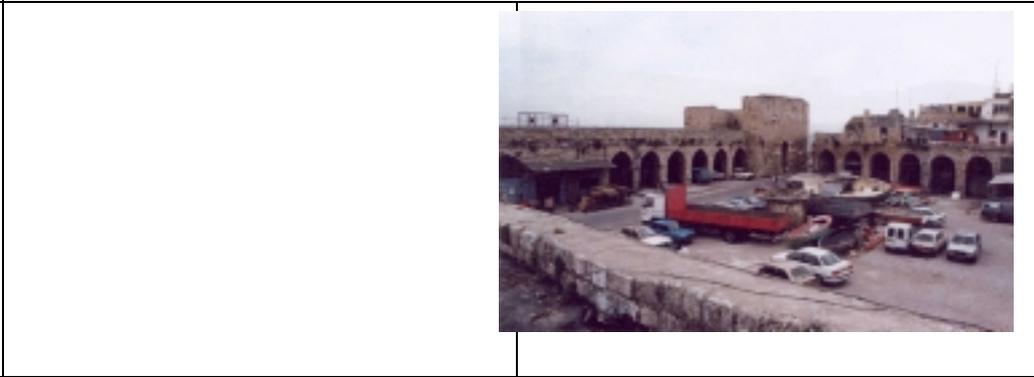
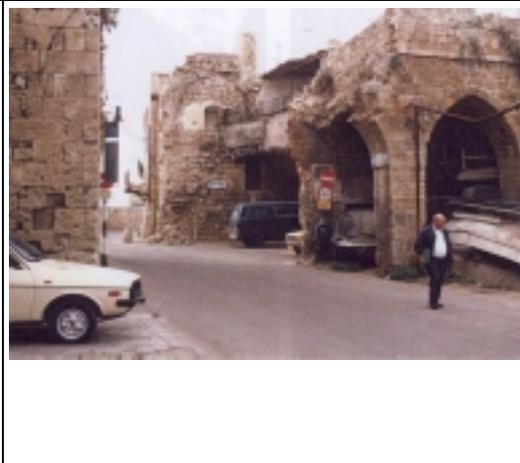
7	<b>Name</b>	The Seraya	
<b>Location</b>		The Seraya is located in the north part of the old city. It is part of a large complex of public buildings along with El-Jazar mosque, The Citadel and Hammam El-Basha.	
<b>Description</b>		The Seraya is built in several stages: the underground level – The Posta – was built in the early Arabic period with crusader interference, the floor ground was built in the crusader period with Ottoman interference, and the upper level was built in the Ottoman period with British interference. The Ottoman used it as a government building.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Architectural and physical survey done. No conservation done. The building functions as a local club and is closed for visitors.	
<b>Plan</b> 			
<b>Pictures</b> 			
<b>Special Elements</b> 			

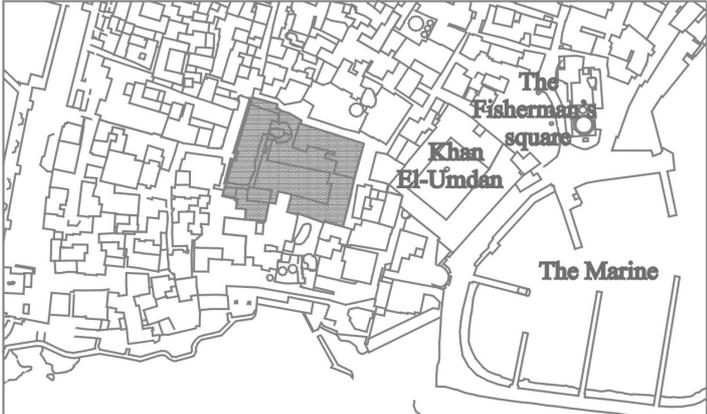
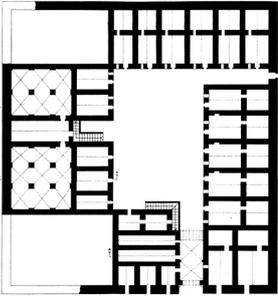
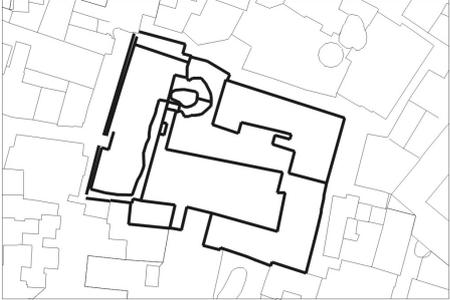
8	Name	Hamмам El-Basha	
Location		<p>Hamмам El-Basha is located on the north-east of the old city, near the Citadel and the Seraya.</p> 	
Description		<p>Hamмам El-Basha is the largest bathhouse and the most magnificent one in Israel. It was built by El-Jazar in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, apparently on top of an ancient bathhouse. The hammam kept functioning until 1950.</p>	
Remarks		<p>Architectural and physical survey done. Conservation done in 1999. The building is open to the public.</p>	
Plan			
Pictures			
Special Elements			

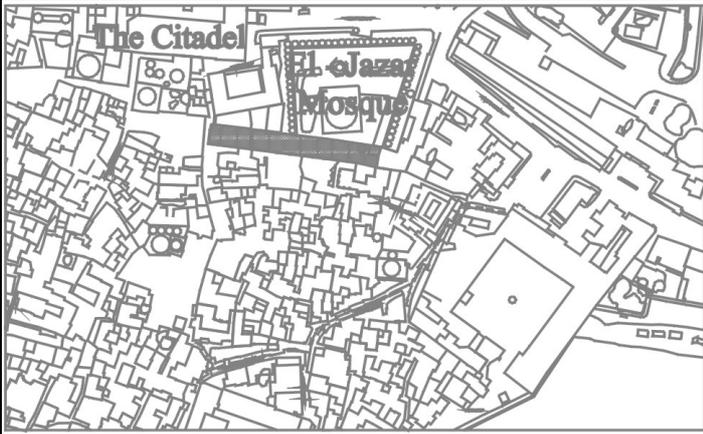
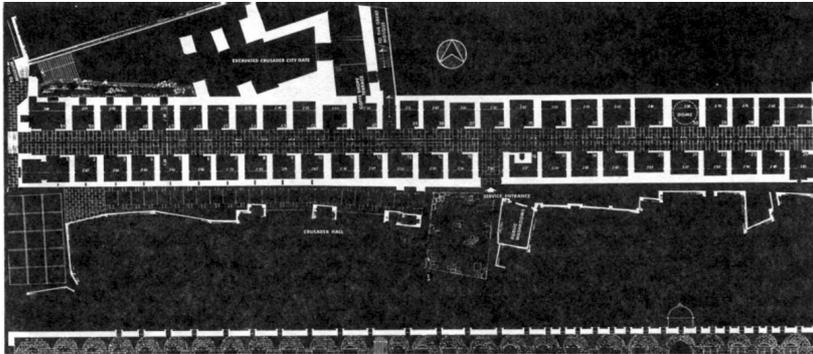
9	Name	The small Hammam	
Location		<p>The small Hammam is located in the south part of the old city, not far from Khan El-Umdan and Khan A-Shune.</p>	
Description		<p>The small Hammam was built by Dahar El-Omar in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is much smaller than Hammam El-Basha and less impressive. The hammam is part of a bigger complex of buildings, and it is hardly noticed from outside. The hammam was in use until the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its physical condition is rather bad nowadays.</p>	
Remarks		<p>Architectural survey done. No conservation done. The Hammam is closed to the public.</p>	
Plan			
Pictures			
Special Elements			

<b>10</b>	<b>Name</b>	Khan El-Umdan	
<b>Location</b>		Khan El-Umdan is located in the southeast part of the old city, near the Fisherman-Square and the port.	 <p>A map showing the location of Khan El-Umdan in the old city of Alexandria, Egypt. The map highlights the Khan's location near Fisherman's Square and The Marine. Other landmarks like Khan A-Shune are also marked.</p>
<b>Description</b>		Khan El-Umdan was built in 1784 by El-Jazar. The building is an integral part of the sea fortifications. The Khan is built on top of crusader remnants of a khan or some kind of a fortified building. In 1906 a clock tower was built above the main entrance as an honor for the Sultan Abdul Hamid the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	
<b>Remarks</b>		Architectural and physical survey done. No conservation done. Part of the Khan is open to the public.	
<b>Plan</b>		 <p>An architectural floor plan of the Khan El-Umdan, showing a large central courtyard surrounded by a colonnade of arches. The plan includes various rooms and structural details.</p>	
<b>Pictures</b>		 <p>A photograph showing the exterior of the Khan El-Umdan, featuring a large courtyard with a central clock tower and a series of arches along the perimeter.</p>	
<b>Special Elements</b>		 <p>A photograph of a stone plaque with an inscription in Arabic script, likely a commemorative inscription related to the building's history.</p>	 <p>A close-up photograph of the stone masonry of the Khan El-Umdan, showing the texture and structure of the walls.</p>

<b>11</b>	<b>Name</b>	Khan El-Faranj	
<b>Location</b>		Khan El-Faranj is located in the west part of the old city, close to the port. In this place was the main courtyard of the Venician quarter in the crusader period.	
<b>Description</b>		Khan El-Faranj was built in the second half of the 16 <sup>th</sup> century by French merchants. This is the most ancient khan that remains till these days. In the British Mandate period there was a factory for boats production. A Franciscan church is located nowadays in the northeast part of the khan.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Documentation done only to the main wooden gate. Survey or conservation was never done. The courtyard is open to the public.	
<b>Plan</b>			
<b>Pictures</b>			
			

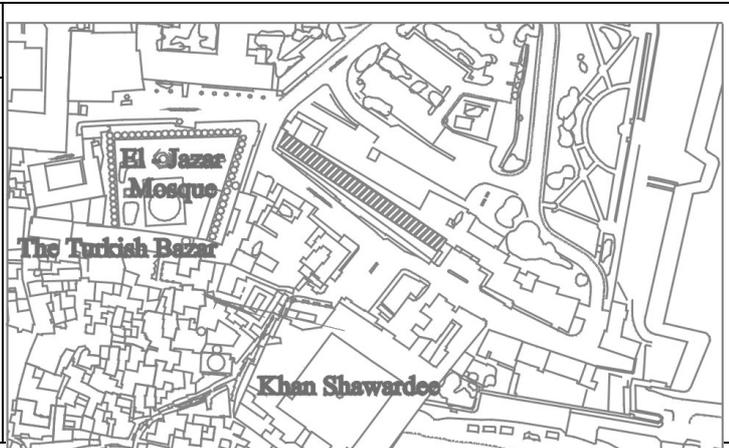
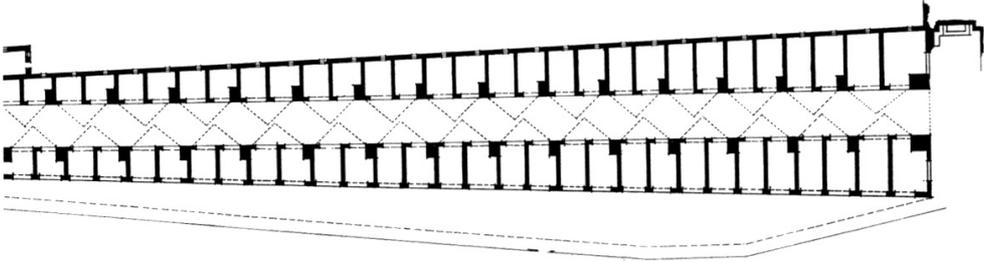
12	<b>Name</b>	Khan Shawardee	
<b>Location</b>		Khan Shawardee is located in the north east part of the old city, not far from Shuk El-Abyad and the Turkish Bazaar.	
<b>Description</b>		Khan Shawardee is built on top of crusader building, which supposedly was a crusader's hostel. Dahar El-Omar built the Khan in 1749. This is one of the greatest buildings in Acre, and its courtyard is the largest open space in the old city. The Khan is used nowadays for merchants and most of it abandoned.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Architectural and physical survey done. No conservation done. The courtyard is open to the public.	
<b>Plan</b>			
<b>Pictures</b>			
<b>Special Elements</b>			

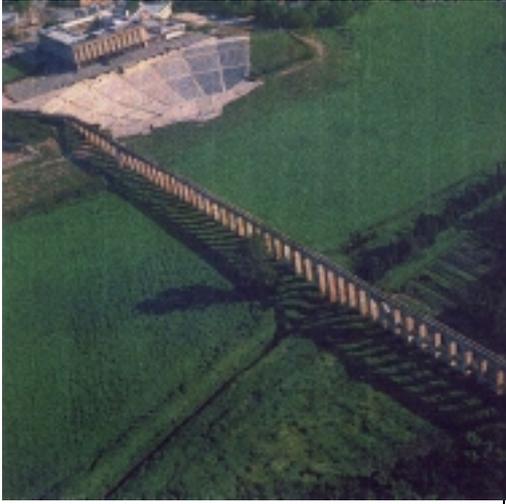
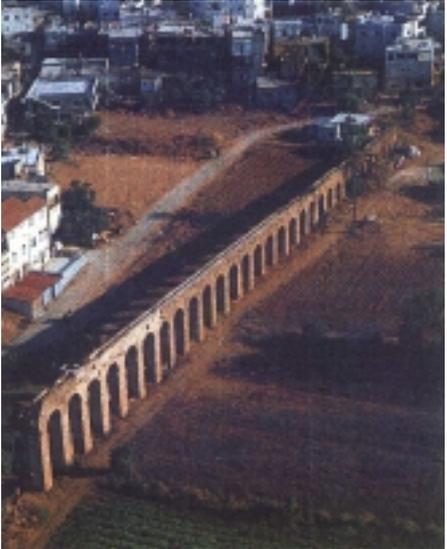
13	Name	Khan A-Shune	
<b>Location</b>		<p>Khan A-Shune is located in the south part of the old city, near Khan El-Umdan and the small Hammam.</p> 	
<b>Description</b>		<p>Khan A-Shune is the oldest Khan in Acre, and major parts of its ground floor are from the crusader period. The Khan went through massive changes during the Ottoman period by Daher El-Omar and El-Jazar. In the past few years the western part of the Khan was destroyed and today it is abandoned.</p>	
<b>Remarks</b>		<p>Architectural and physical survey done. No conservation done. The courtyard is open to the public.</p>	
<b>Plan</b>		 <p data-bbox="395 1066 746 1099">The Khan in the crusader period</p>	 <p data-bbox="1002 1066 1177 1099">The Khan today</p>
<b>Pictures</b>			
			
			

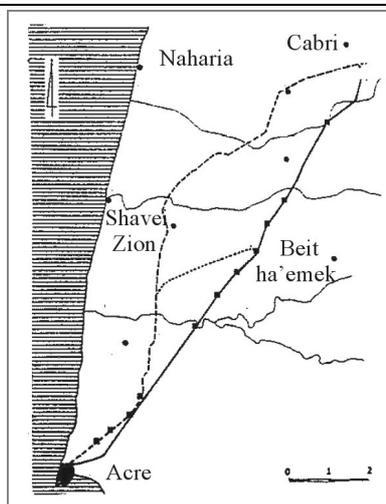
14	Name	The Turkish Bazaar	
Location		The Turkish Bazaar is located in the north part of the old city, south to the Seraya and to El-Jazar Mosque.	
Description		The Turkish Bazaar is a long straight street covered with cross vaults. The bazaar existence was not known throughout the years in spite of its impressive scale. The western part of the bazaar was only found in 1960-61, during a survey by A. Kesten.	
Remarks		Architectural and physical survey never done. Rehabilitation done. The bazaar is open to the public, although most of the shops are closed.	
Plan			

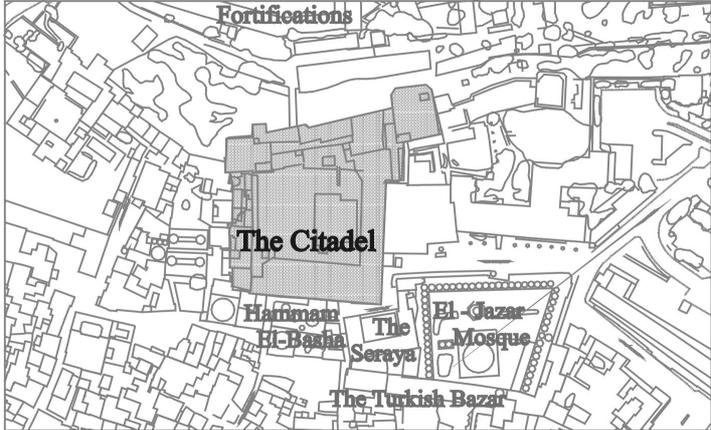
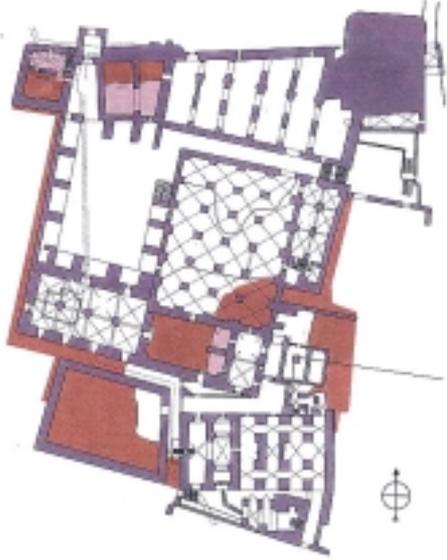
**Pictures**



15	<b>Name</b>	Shuk El-Abyad (the white market)	
<b>Location</b>		Shuk El-Abyad is located in the north part of the old city, near Khan Shawardee and El-Jazar Mosque.	
<b>Description</b>		Shuk El-Abyad was built by Daher El-Omar. It was destroyed in a fire and restored in 1817 by Suliman Pecha. This market was one of the most important monuments in Acre during the Ottoman period, because of its proximity to the Land Gate, which was the main entrance to the old city.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Survey and conservation done in specific places. The market is open to the public, although most of the shops are closed.	
<b>Plan</b>			
<b>Pictures</b>			
			

16	<b>Name</b>	The Acre-Cabri Aqueduct	
<b>Location</b>		The Aqueduct is located in the west part of the Upper Galilee, from north to south along 14 km.	
<b>Description</b>		The Acre-Cabri Aqueduct was built by Suliman-Pecha in 1815 and functioned until 1950. This is the only aqueduct in Israel that remained almost complete. It is built as one architectural and physical unit. The aqueduct reflects the high living-quality that was in Acre in the Ottoman period.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Architectural and physical survey and documentation done. Localized conservation carried out.	
<b>Pictures</b>			
			



17	Name	The Citadel	
Location		The citadel is located on the northwest side of the old city. It is part of a large complex of public buildings along with El-Jazar mosque, The Seraya and Hammam El-Basha.	
Description		The Citadel is the largest and the most important excavation in Acre. It functioned as the center of the crusader's Hospitaller quarter. The citadel was built in stages and reached its peak towards the end of the crusader period in Acre. On top of the crusader level El-Jazar built his palace. The crusader level was not exposed until 1990.	
Remarks		Architectural and physical survey done. Conservation and reconstruction are still taking place. Part of the Citadel is open to the public.	
Plan			 <p data-bbox="932 1122 1326 1151">Panoramic view from north to south</p> 
Pictures			

18	Name	The Templar Tunnel	
Location		The Templar Tunnel is located in the southern part of the old city.	
Description		The lower part of the tunnel is carved through the bedrock and the upper part is built of hewn stones, above which is a half-barrel vault. The runs from the Templar fort in the west to the city port in the east, a distance of 350 m'; on the way it crosses the Pisan quarter. The tunnel was discovered in 1994.	
Remarks		Survey and documentation carried out. The tunnel was prepared for public access, which included removal of debris, the installation of a pumping system to maintain a fixed groundwater level, a wooden walkway, and lighting.	

**Pictures**

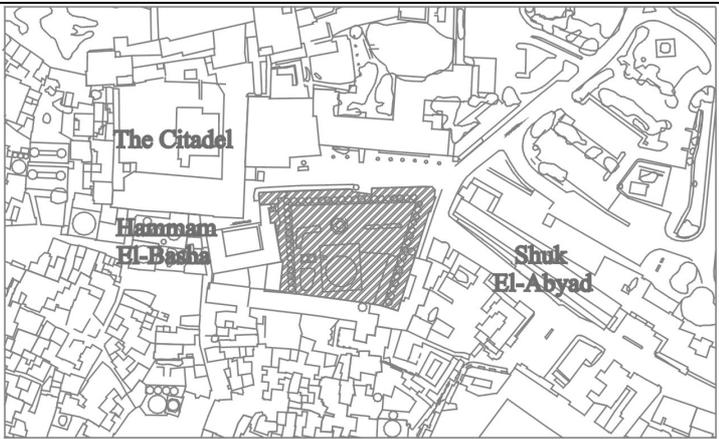
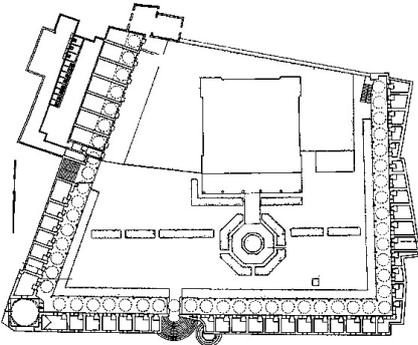


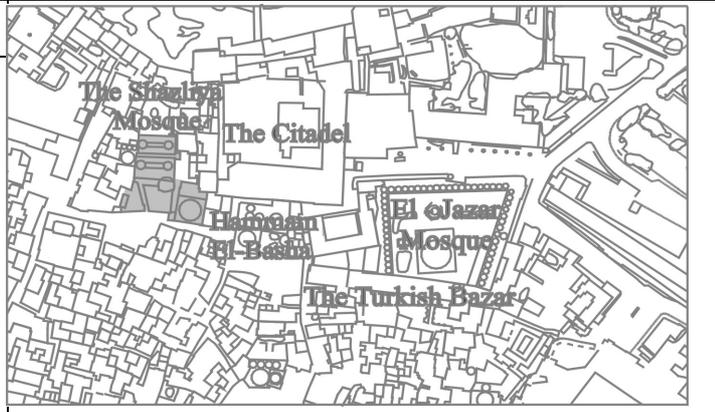
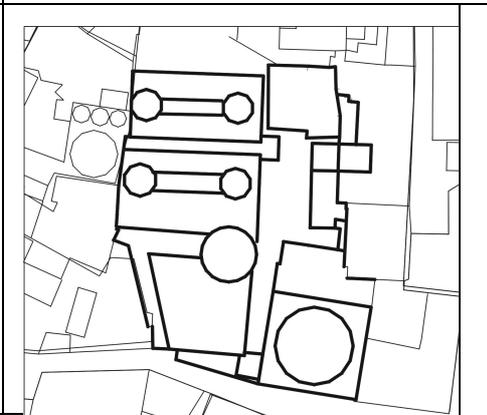
Structure of the new eastern entrance

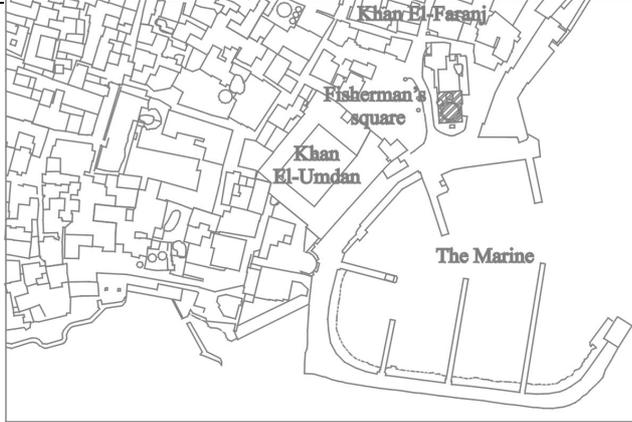
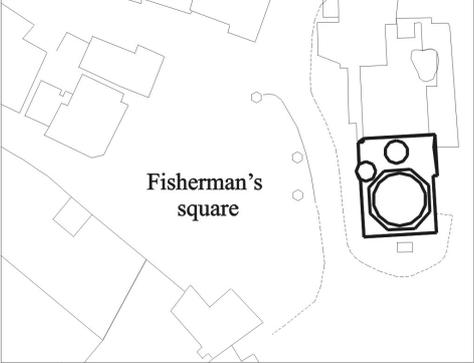
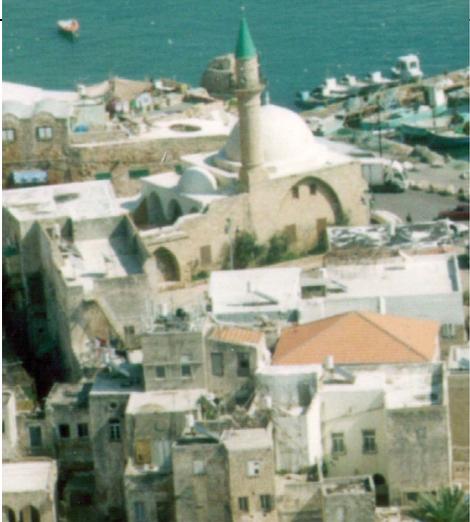


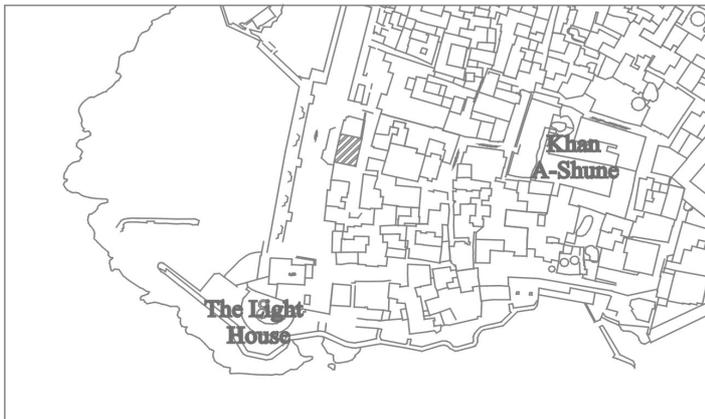
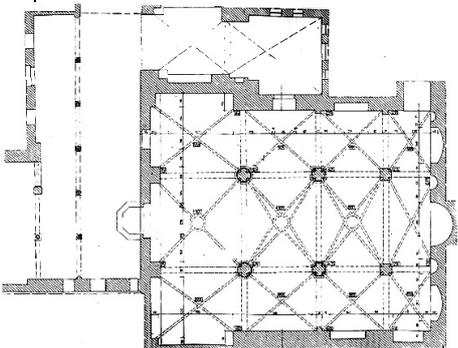
The fork in the tunnel

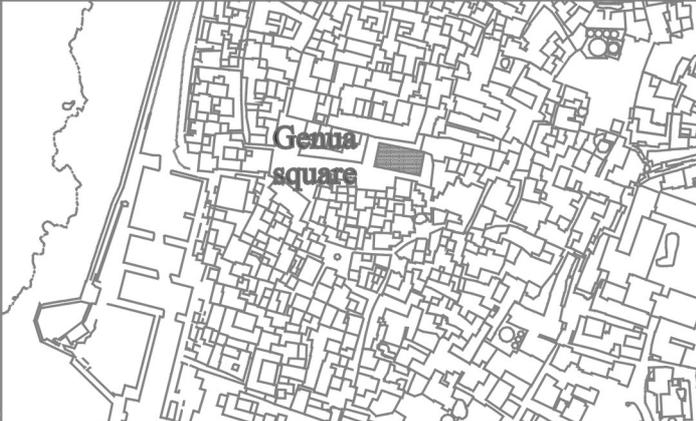
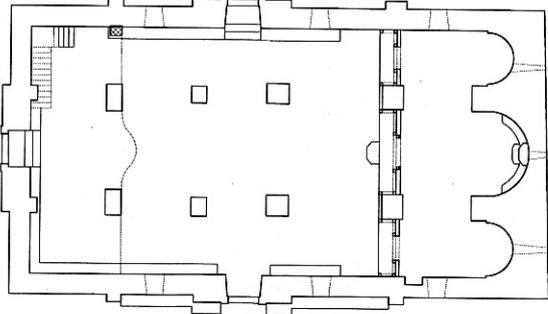
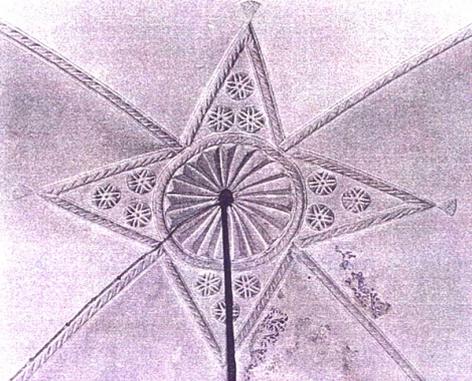


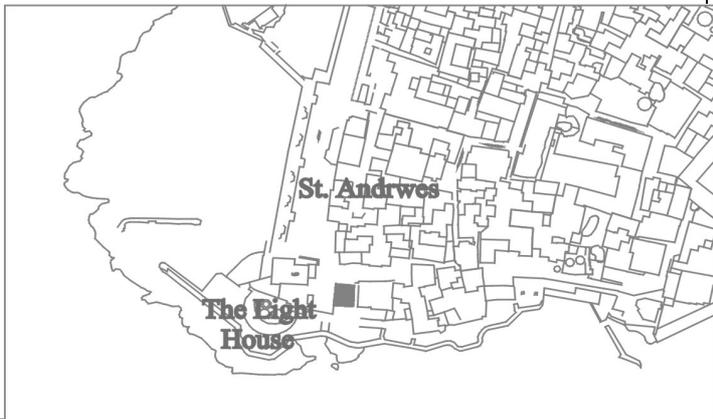
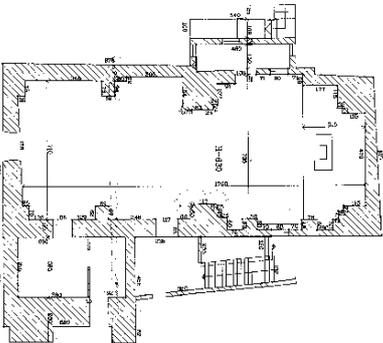
19	Name	El-Jazar Mosque	
Location		El-Jazar Mosque is located in the northeast part of the old city. It is part of a large complex of public buildings along with the Citadel, The Seraya and Hammam El-Basha.	
Description		El-Jazar Mosque was built by El-Jazar in 1871, apparently on top of the remnants of 'Saint Krucha' Holy Cross Cathedral. This is one of the greatest and the most magnificent mosques in Israel. The open courtyard is surrounded by 45 small rooms that were used as living quarters for students. In 1804 El-Jazar was buried in the courtyard of the mosque.	
Remarks		Few maintenance conservation done. The mosque is open to the public.	
<b>Plan</b> 			
<b>Pictures</b>			
<b>Special Elements</b>			

24	Name	Shazliya Mosque	
<b>Location</b>		On the northern part of the city, adjoining the citadel from the west.	
<b>Description</b>		The Shazliya Mosque belongs to the Darwish stream of the Shazliya sect, named after the founder Yashroty, which has its world center in Acre. Ali nor A-Din el-Yashroty himself is buried in Acre next to the mosque, along with other members of his family. The mosque is a site for pilgrimage for the sect members in Israel Lebanon and Jordan.	
<b>Remarks</b>			
<b>Plan</b>			
<b>Pictures</b>			

25	Name	Snan-Basha Mosque	
Location		<p>Snan-Basha Mosque is located in the south east part of the old city, near Khan El-Umdan and Khan El-Faraj. Those three building define the Fisherman's Square.</p>	
Description		<p>Snan-Basha Mosque was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, named after one of Tzfat governors. This is the first mosque to be built in Acre. It was frequently call 'The Sea Mosque', because it is close to the port. The mosque was reconstructed during Suliman Pecha's period.</p>	
Remarks			
Plan			
Pictures			
			

29	<b>Name</b>	Saint Andrews Church	
<b>Location</b>		Saint Andrews Church is located in the southwest part of the old city, not far from Khan A-Shune and the Maronite Church.	
<b>Description</b>		Saint Andrews Church is a Greek Catholic church that was probably built during Daher El-Omar period.	
<b>Remarks</b>		Survey and maintenance conservation done. The church is open to the public.	
<b>Plan</b>			
<b>Pictures</b>			
<b>Special Elements</b>			

30	Name	St. George's Church	
Location		<p>St. George's Church is located in the middle of the old city, in Genua square.</p> 	
Description		<p>St. George's church is a Greek-Orthodox church. This is the most ancient church in Acre, assumed to be built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is built on top of remnants of the crusader St. Leurentius church of the Genoese quarter. It was the greatest church in Acre during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.</p>	
Remarks		<p>Architectural and physical documentation and survey done. Conservation done. The building is closed to public and is used by the Greek-Orthodox.</p>	
<p>Plan</p> 			
<p>Pictures</p>  			
<p>Special Elements</p>  			

31	Name	Saint John's Church	
Location		<p>Saint John's Church is located in the south part of the old city, near the lighthouse and Burj Es-Sanjak.</p>	
Description		<p>Saint John's Church is a Catholic church which was built by the Fransiscanes in 1737. The church is based on vaults that protruded from the inner part of the sea wall.</p>	
Remarks		<p>Survey and maintenance basic conservation done. The church is open to the public.</p>	
Plan			
Pictures			
			

32	Name	Ha'Ramahal Synagogue	
Location		At the end of the Jews street, near the market place.	
Description		The synagogue is located in a small structure at the end of the Jews street. The synagogue is named after Rabbi Moshe Hayim Lozatu, one of the most important cabalists of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century that lived in Acre. The synagogue served the Jewish population of the city until after the British mandate period.	
Remarks		The synaogue underwent a restoration project in 1997. The synagogue may only be visited on application.	
Plan		Not available	

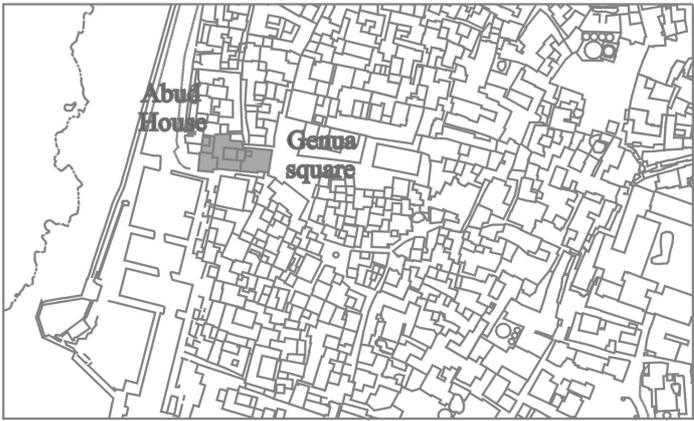
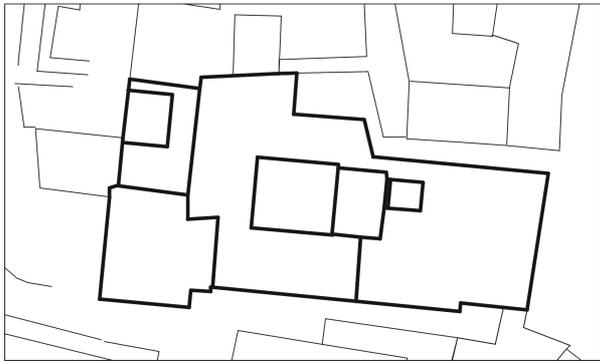
**Pictures**



The entrance to the Synagogue



The entrance to the Synagogue

33	Name	Abud House	
Location		On the Ha' Hagana St. on the western part of the city.	
Description		The Baha'ullah stayed in Abud House after being released from prison on 1870. He lived there for 7 years, during which he wrote his most important work, setting out the laws and precepts to be observed by Bahai adherents. From Abud House the Baha'ullah moved to el-Ba'Haga estate where he died and was buried in 1892.	
Remarks		Abud house underwent a conservation project, and is being maintained by the Bahai. Abud house is closed to the public.	
Plan			

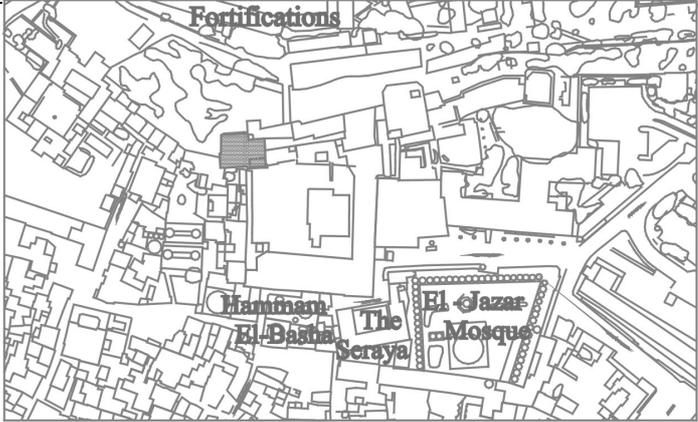
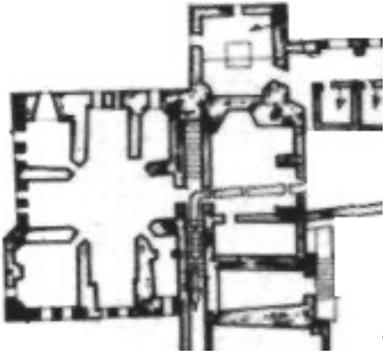
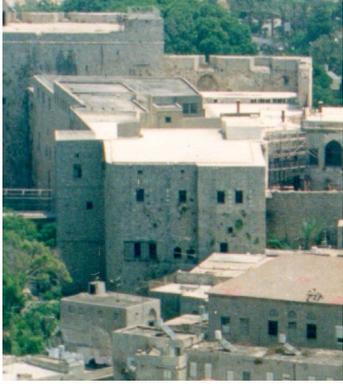
**Pictures**



Aerial view



Abud house from the west (Ha'Hagana St.)

34	Name	Jabotinsky Tower	
Location		Jabotinsky Tower is the northwest tower of the prison complex.	
Description		Jabotinsky Tower was built (along with the rest of the Ottoman level of the prison) in ~1790 by El-Jazar. During the Ottoman period the Baha'ulla was kept as a prisoner in that tower. During the British Mandate the prison was the main prison in Palestine and Jabotinsky (one of the Israeli underground leaders) was kept as a prisoner in the tower.	
Remarks		Architectural and physical documentation and survey done. The building is under conservation, and closed to public in this stage. The second floor of the Tower is intended for presenting the Baha'ullah's prison cell.	
Plan			
Pictures		 	
			

## Fountains in Acre

There are about 43 fountains in the old city of Acre. Some of them are old and some of them are modern. Few of the fountains shown in this map no longer exist. This map shows the location of all the fountains in Acre, after an extensive inventory survey was carried out. Only few of the fountains in Acre underwent conservation treatment.

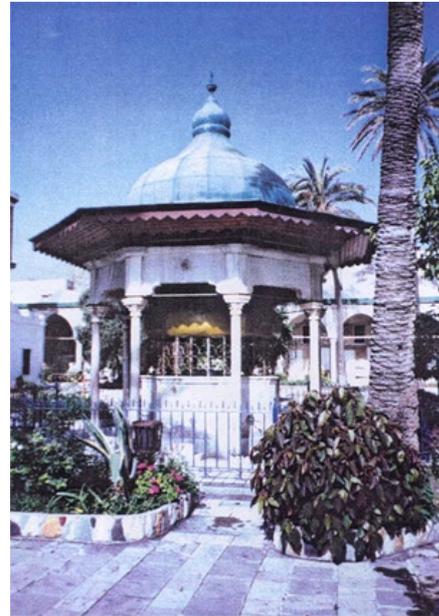
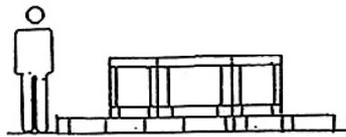


## Fountains location

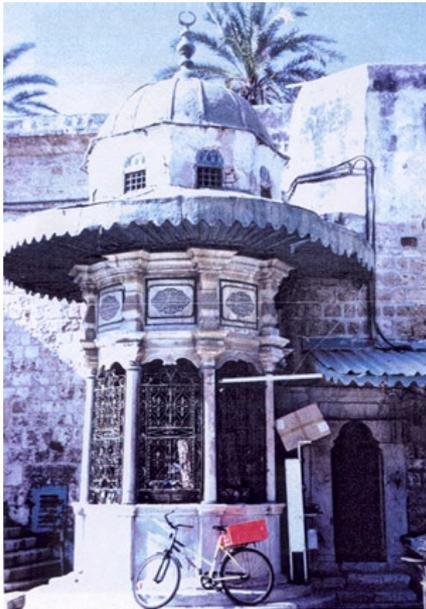
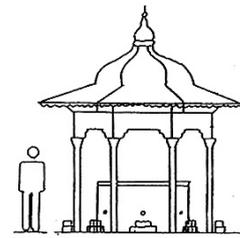
- 1 Khan Shawardee courtyard. The fountain went through conservation.
- 2 The magical gardens near the citadel. The fountain went through conservation.
- 3 Near the Shazaliee Mosque.
- 4 Beit-Abud Bahai house courtyard.
- 5 Sinan-Basha Mosque courtyard.
- 6 Abdalla square. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 7 Genua square. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 8 Khan El-Umdan courtyard.
- 9 El-Zaituna Mosque.
- 10 El-Jazzar Mosque fenced courtyard.
- 11 El-Jazzar Mosque.
- 12 El-Jazar Mosque main entrance.
- 13 El-Jazzar Mosque.
- 14 Fahar A-Din.
- 15 El-Ramal Mosque courtyard wall.
- 16 Near Shazaliee Mosque.
- 17 El-Magadleh Mosque.
- 18 Sinan Basha Mosque.
- 19 Prison tower.
- 20 Abu-Christo Gallery.
- 21 By steps at narrow street junction.
- 22 North Moat.
- 23 Youth Hostel.
- 24 Large domestic.
- 25 St. Andrew's Church courtyard.
- 26 Square, road junction.
- 27 Beit-Abud Bahai house courtyard.
- 28 Venice square, along Mosque Sinan Basha.
- 29 Small square.
- 30 The quarter junction.
- 31 Junction of alleys.
- 32 At street junction, near Hammam El-Basha.
- 33 Genua square. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 34 El-Ramal Mosque, entrance passage.
- 35 Abu-Christo restaurant, near the Sea Gate. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 36 Khan El-Faranj. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 37 Khan A-Shune. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 38 Prison courtyard. The fountain is no longer existing.
- 39 Prison.
- 40 The magical gardens near the citadel.
- 41 The magical gardens near the citadel.
- 42 Near the east fortifications.
- 43 Near the Shuk El-Abyad (The White Market).



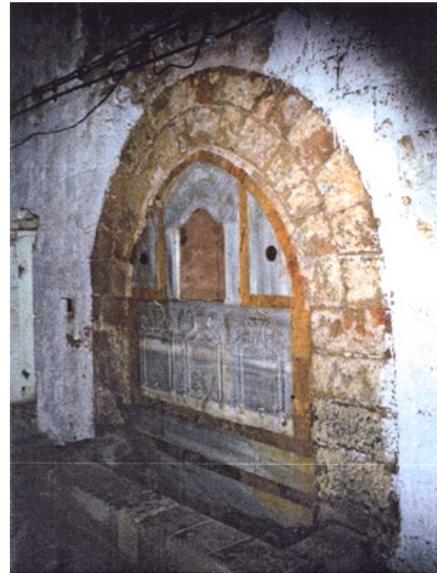
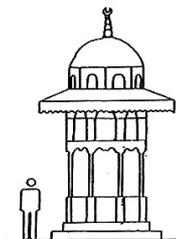
8 Khan El-Umdan courtyard



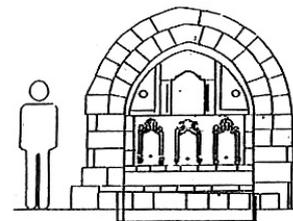
11 El-Jazzar Mosque



12 El-Jazzar Mosque main entrance

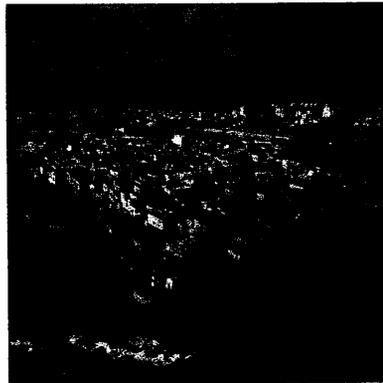


19 Prison tower



2<sup>nd</sup> copy

# Nomination of the OLD CITY of Acre



for the  
WORLD HERITAGE LIST

## SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX

1. Buffer zone definition and regulatory protection.
2. Rehabilitation pilot project of a residential quarter.
3. Educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation.



State of Israel

**SEPTEMBER 2000**



Israel National Commission  
for UNESCO

## **Contents:**

Preface	1-2
<u>1. Buffer zone definition and regulatory protection</u>	
a. Buffer zone definition statement	3-4
b. Protocol 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2001	5
c. Buffer zone maps and photographic material	6-14
<u>2. Rehabilitation pilot project of a residential quarter</u>	
a. Protocol 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2000	15
b. Protocol 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2000	16
<u>3. Educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation</u>	
a. Community and housing activities in the old city of Acre	17-19
b. Conservation Department of the I.A.A.	20-21
c. Municipality of Acre, Municipal branch in old Acre	22-23
d. New community center in the old city	24-35
e. The Jewish-Arab community association, Wolfson neighborhood, Acre.	36-38
f. Information and advice centers for youth	39-40
g. Acre regional pedagogic center	41-42
h. Acre field study center	43-45
i. Tourism oriented youth	46-48
j. Municipality of Acre, Education Department	49-50
k. Association for community development, Acre	51-59



## **Preface:**

Following the review of the nomination file of the Old City of Acre for the World Heritage list by W.H.C., we are furnishing the necessary information regarding

- a. The buffer zone and its regulatory protection.
- b. The rehabilitation pilot project of a residential quarter.
- c. Educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation.

### **A. Buffer zone definition and regulatory protection.**

The representative of the local planning authorities in Acre have met and discussed the buffer zone definition.

They have come to realize the importance of the buffer zone as protective means for the old city, and with its many public buildings to form a bridge between the old and new city.

It was decided to put restrictions on new buildings, and new extensions to existing buildings.

As a conclusion to this meeting a document of the Acre Municipality defining the borders of the buffer zone, and the applicable restrictions was formed, and it will be integrated into the town-planning scheme.

The mentioned document is enclosed in the following appendix.

\* This is an important document that sets down the foundations for the buffer zone.

In addition updated maps and photographs of the buffer zone are included.

The photographic material includes slides and photographs of the buffer zone as seen from the old city, and a set of aerial photographs defining the boundaries of the buffer zone.

B. Rehabilitation pilot project of a residential quarter.

The project is under way, it was started on July 15th, by the Conservation Department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

20% of the housing units in the old city of Acre will be treated within the scope of this pilot project.

The outline of the pilot project was submitted to ICOMOS and the W.H.C.

The rehabilitation of a residential quarter in the old city of Acre is very important as a leverage to the development of the entire city, and to the improvement of the standard of living of its inhabitants. The involvement of the local population has an important role in increasing the awareness and advancing the cooperation between the inhabitants and the authorities.

The first phase of the project is general planing according to the outline that was submitted, followed by detailed and final planing.

In addition the approval of the completion of the pilot project by the different governmental bodies involved is also attached.

C. Educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation.

The World Heritage Bureau has identified the educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation as an important issue.

The Acre municipality, the Old Acre Development Company, the Israeli Antiquities Authority and a number of non-governmental organizations present the different existing programs in Acre that deal with that issue.

- Acre municipality presents an upgrading for the educational programs in the old city, by forming special learning centers, and preventing students from drooping out of the education system.
- The Old Acre Development Company offers programs for guiding youths in areas relating to tourism, in addition to its programs aimed at schools intended to increase the awareness for the conservation of the old city.
- The community center in Acre numerous projects relating to heritage conservation and it also operates empowerment programs for women and children.
- The social right center accompanies students from different backgrounds from kindergarten to high school.

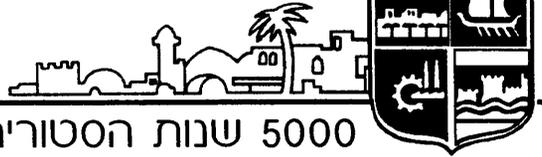
Buffer Zone Definition  
and  
Regulatory protection

לשכת ראש העיר

ديوان رئيس البلدية

Office of the Mayor, Acre

5000 שנות היסטוריה יש מה לדלות



עכו

Acre

August 22, 2001

### Acre Old City – Buffer Zone

Pursuant to the World Heritage Bureau meeting in June 2001, discussions of the highest professional level were held at Acre Municipality, with the participation of the Acre Development Company and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The following are the guidelines for the Buffer Zone that will be integrated into Acre Town Planning Scheme (T.P.S).

#### *I. The Buffer Zone will be defined as follows:*

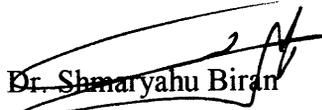
- A. Sub-section A is situated between the northern fortification line (blue line) and the “Scenic Road” from Pincus St. to Shlomo Ben Yosef St., and on the east, between the fortification line (blue line) and Yehoshafat St. (attached map).
1. In this area, construction of new building will be limited to a height of four stories. Additions to existing buildings will not be permitted to exceed four stories total height.
  2. The following public buildings situated in this section are: Arab Children's Welfare Institute (with its contiguous open public areas) Orchestra Hall; Center for Marine Training; Moslem Cemetery; Civil Court; Medical Clinic; Open Sports Field. (attached map).
  3. All open areas will remain open public areas and they are defined as such in the Acre T.P.S.

רח' ויצמן 35 עכו ת.ד. 2007 מיקוד 24100, טל. 04-9956063/4 פקס. 04-9956066  
מוקד עירוני לקריאות דחופות בשעות בהן סגורים משרדי העירייה טל. 106  
شارع قايتسمن 35 عكا، ص.ب. 2007، ميكود 24100، هاتف رقم 04-9956063/4، فاكس رقم 04-9956066.

في حالات الطوارئ وفي غير ساعات الدوام الاتصال بهاتف رقم 106

- B. Sub-section B is situated between Ben-Ami St. (blue line) on the north and Derech HaArba'ah St. (blue line) on the east. (map attached).
1. In this area, planning of construction will be limited to a height of seven stories, and will be integrated with the Acre urban texture.
  2. All open public areas will remain and will be defined as such in Acre T.P.S.
  3. The following public buildings are situated in this section: Kindergartens, Library, Teachers House, Veteran Memorial House. (attached map).
  4. The residential buildings are in accordance with the approved town plan.

- II.* No construction or operation of factory or installation that pollutes will be permitted in the Buffer Zone.
- III.* The Buffer Zone plan will become integral part of the Acre T.P.S. including Plan for the Old City which is in advanced stage of deposition.
- IV.* The City of Acre will abide by these conditions. This statement will come to affect immediately.
- V.* This document for the proposed Buffer Zone of the Old City is agreed upon and recognized by all parties involved.
- VI.* The conditions, as defined here, will appear in every Town Planning Scheme that will be presented in the future, concerning the development of areas surrounding the Old City of Acre.
- VII.* This document recognizes the importance of protecting the Buffer Zone and the commitment of the authorities to the World Heritage Convention.

  
Dr. Shmaryahu Biran  
Mayor of Acre

  
Nati Rotem, Architect  
City Engineer of Acre

**Subject: The property boundaries and buffer zone boundaries for the nomination of the old city of Acre for the World Heritage List.**

The following parties were present in a meeting that was held in the Ministry of Interior, in Nazareth on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2001:

The district planner – Alex Shpul

Mayor of Acre – Shmaryaho Biran

The city engineer of Acre – Nati Rotem

Director general, old Acre development company – David Harari

Representative of the Israeli Antiquities Authority – Raanan Kislev

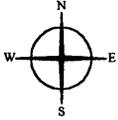
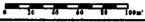
In the meeting it was decided that the blue line as indicated in the master plan for the old city of Acre and as indicated in the nomination folder for the old city of Acre for the World Heritage List, would be the actual Boundary for the declaration.

It was accepted by all the parties attending to respect the boundary line of the buffer zone as it appears in the nomination folder. This is in spite of the fact that the area does not have a defined formal status, and it is not included in the master plan for the old city of Acre.

*The Old City of Acre*

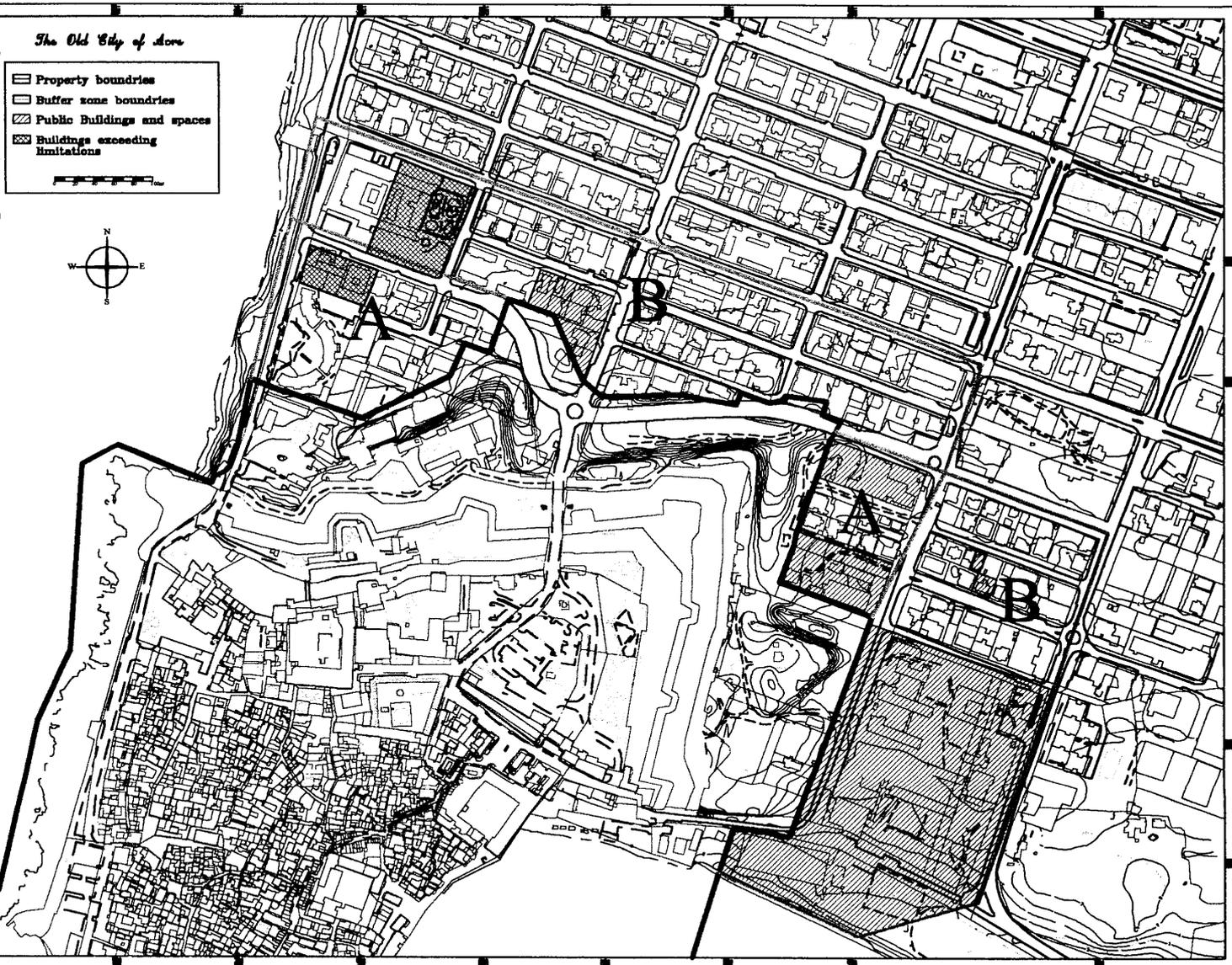
Total area - 63.3725 ha.  
633725.66 sqm  
Buffer zone area - 22.9998 ha.

- ▨ Property boundaries
- ▭ Buffer zone boundaries



*The Old City of Acre*

-  Property boundaries
-  Buffer zone boundaries
-  Public Buildings and spaces
-  Buildings exceeding limitations





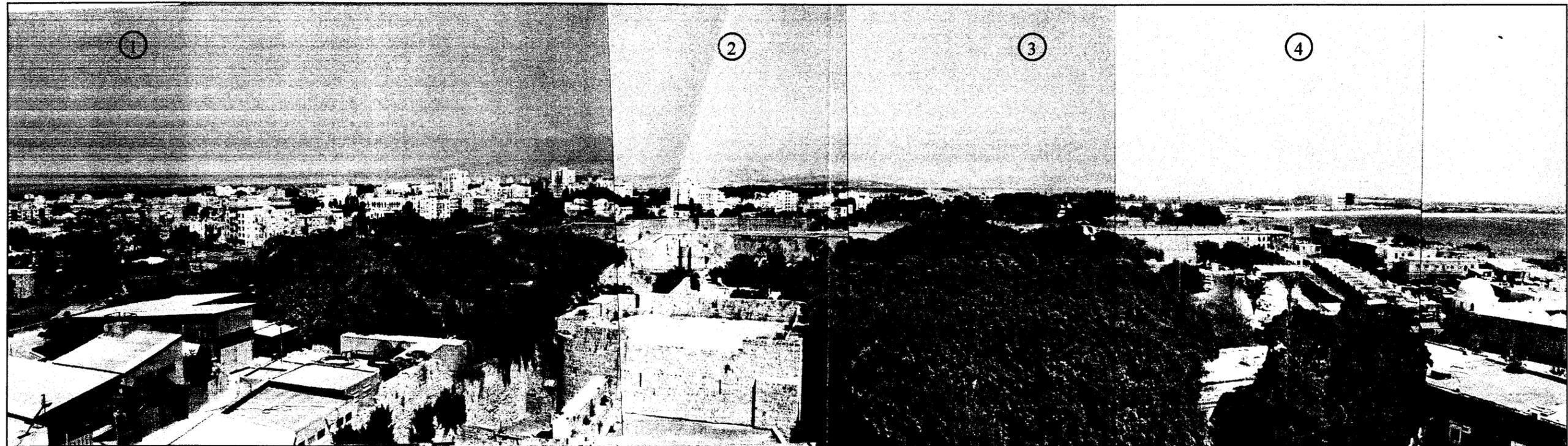
Aerial photograph of the old city of Acre, indicating the property and buffer zone boundaries.



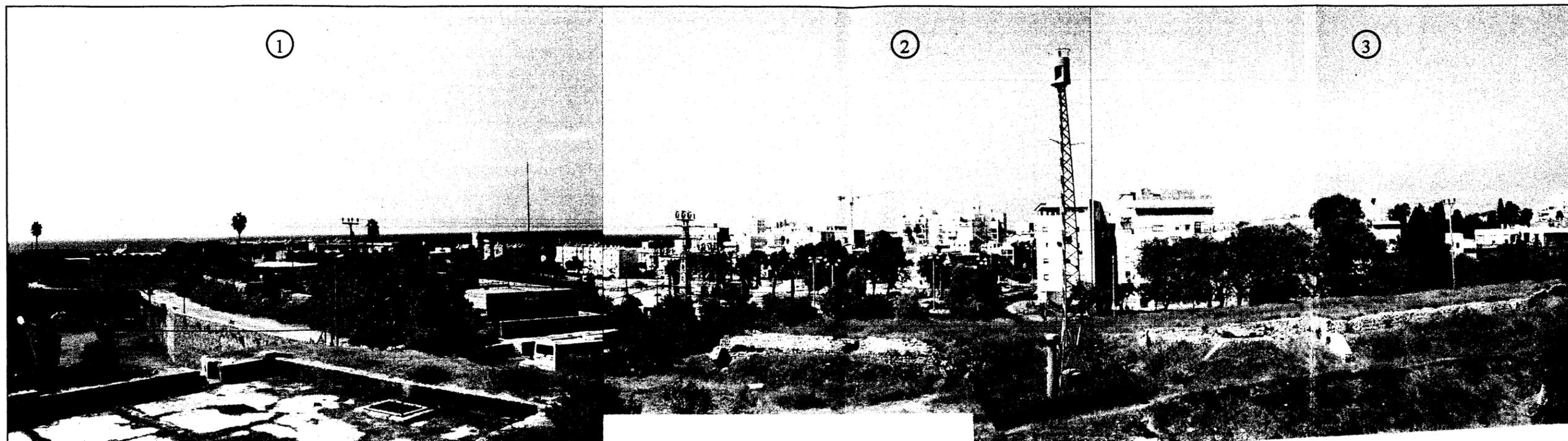
Aerial photograph of the old city of Acre, indicating the property and buffer zone boundaries.



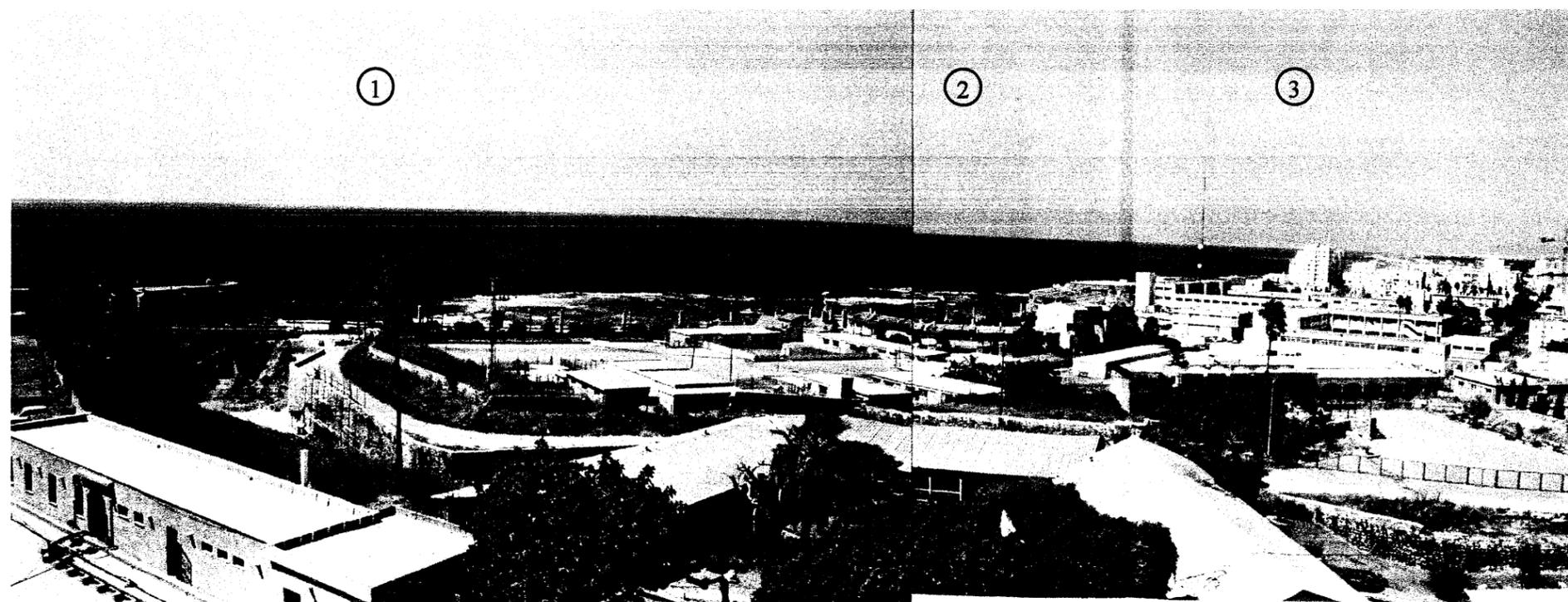
P.1- Panoramic view of the Eastern part of the buffer zone. (Taken from the fortifications)



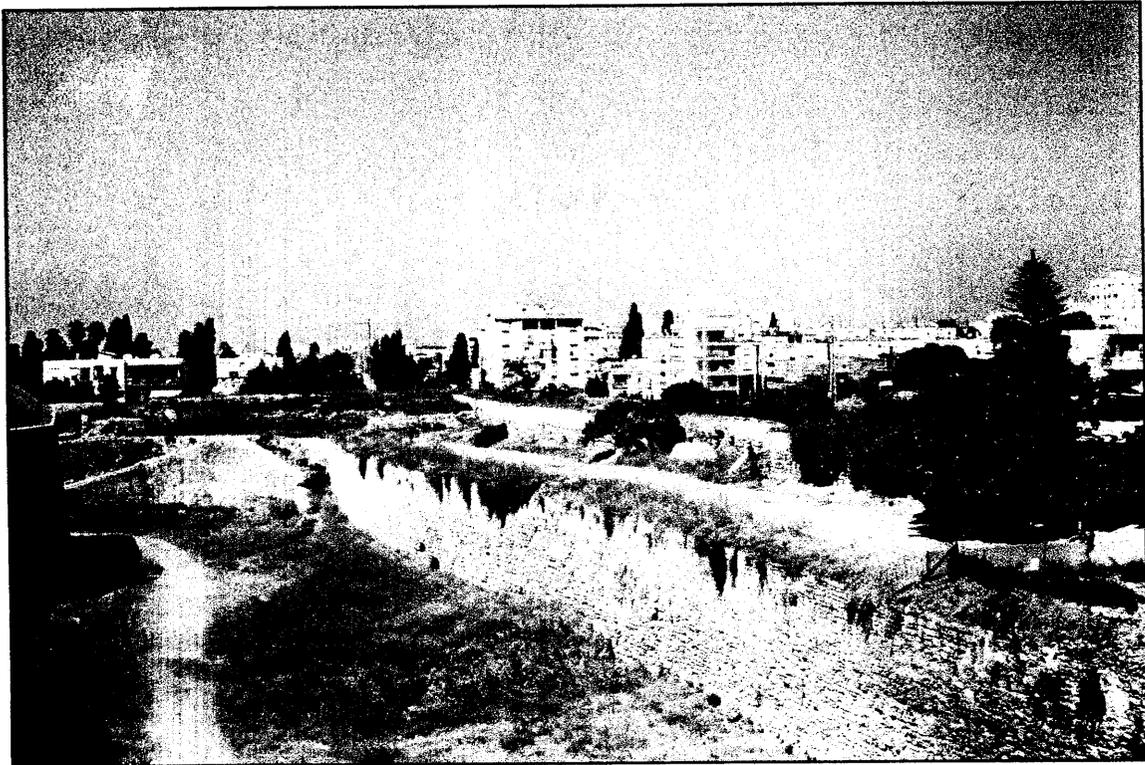
P.2- Panoramic view of the NorthEastern part of the buffer zone. (Taken from the citadel)



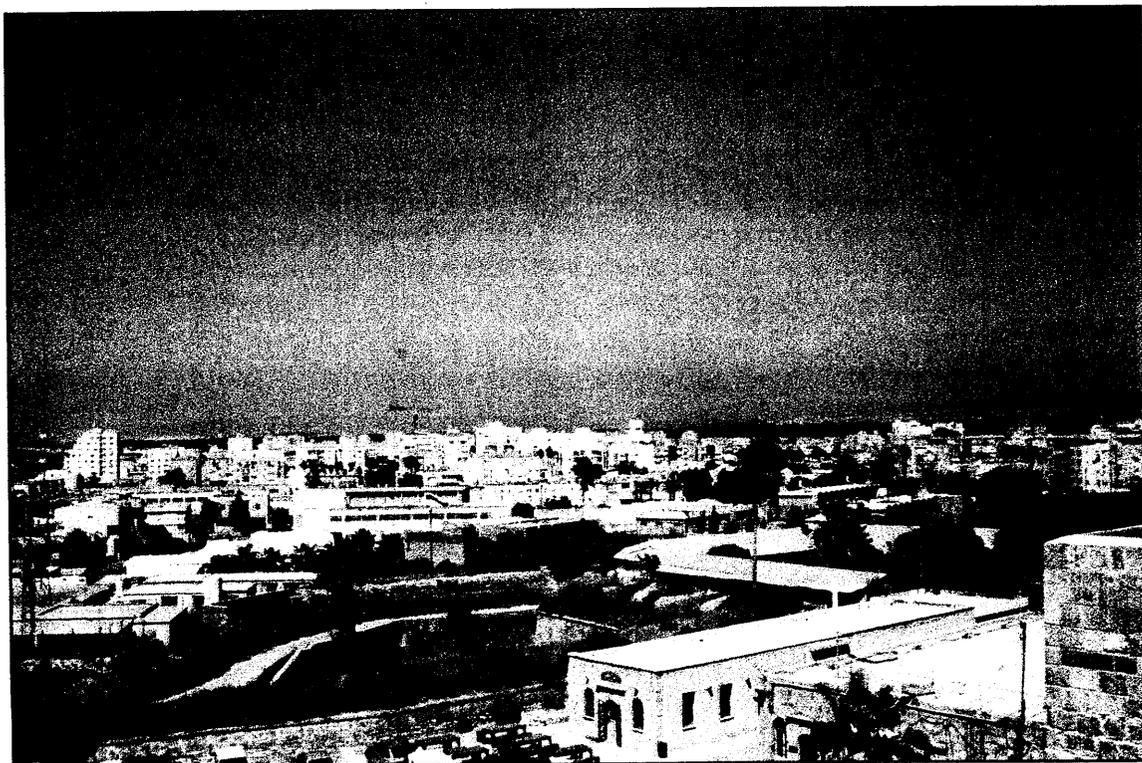
P.3- Panoramic view of the Northern part of the buffer zone. (Taken from the fortifications)



P.4- Panoramic view of the Western part of the buffer zone. (Taken from the citadel)



P.5-View to the north from the eastern battlements



P.6-View to the north from the northern battlements



P.7-View to the east from the northern battlements

- A set of slides is enclosed at the end of the appendix.  
The slides were taken from the same locations and same angles as the photographs.  
The slides are numbered in accordance with the photographs.



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_00...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



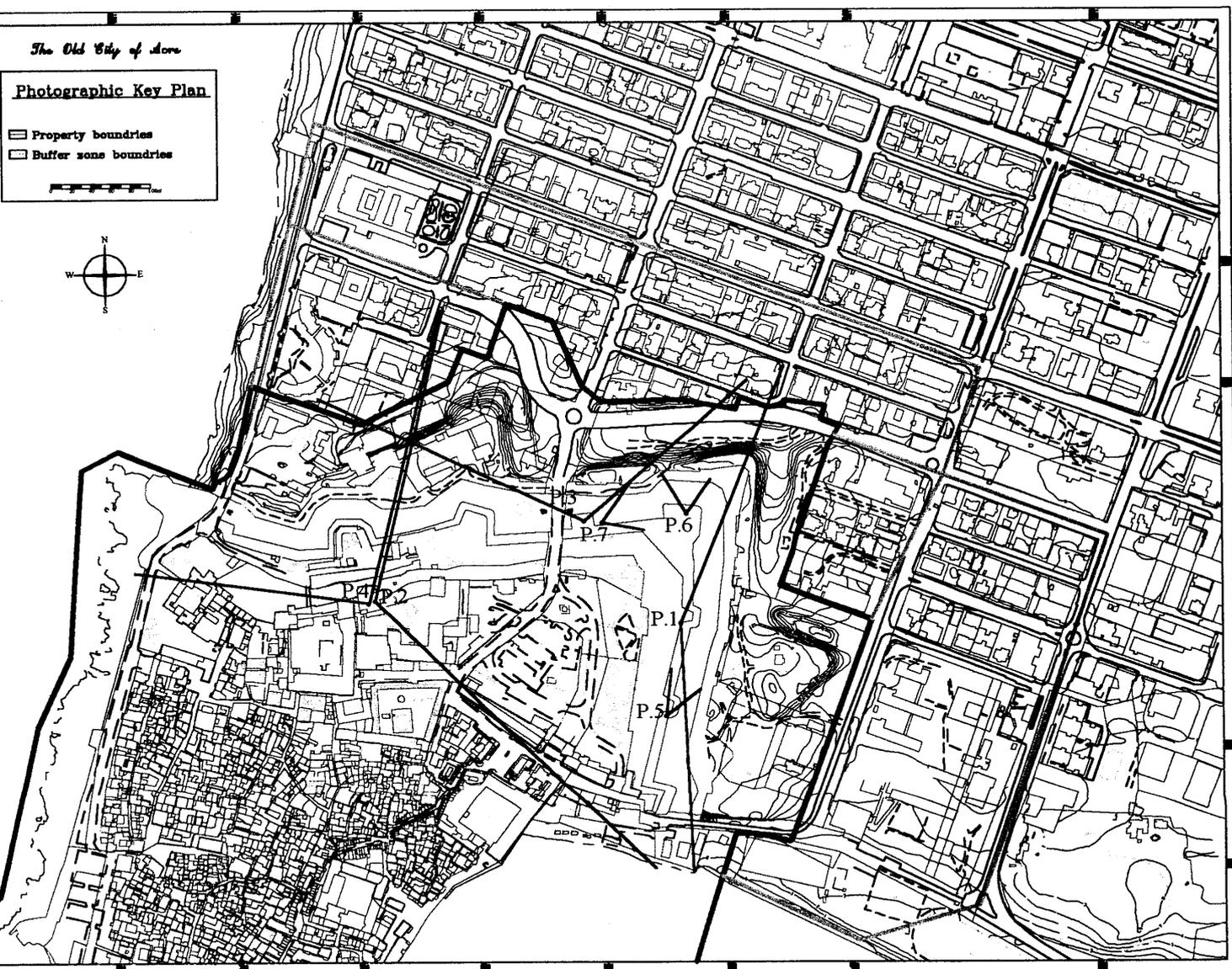
1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



1042sup\_01...



- The photographic angles refer to both photographs and slides.

Rehabilitation Pilot Project  
of a  
Residential Quarter

- The following texts are translations of the relevant paragraphs from meeting protocols, concerning the rehabilitation pilot project.

**Protocol of a meeting held on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2000**

Attending:

Mr. Moshe Edri –

Mr. David Harari – General manager of the old city of Acre development company

Ms. Lea Shteinmitz – Head of the Haifa county, Ministry on interior

Mr. Yaacov Schaffer – General manager, conservation department

Ms. Lea Biton – National housing company

2. Asset marketing – compound on block no' 18010

Mr. Schaffer introduced the suggested compound.

Altogether 200 housing units, out of which 50 vacant units will be traced that are suitable for interior and exterior reconstruction and marketing. The cost of reconstructing the facades along the main axes of the compound is about 7,000,000 NIS.

Summary:

- \* The site for the project was agreed upon.
- \* Reconstruction of facades along the main axes, including the treatment of buildings declared to be dangerous.
- \* The Israeli Land Administration will finance the planing for the facade reconstruction and treatment of dangerous buildings. The contractor will be determined at a later stage.
- \* Mr Edri will approach the treasury in order to conclude the funding.
- \* It is emphasized that part of the funding will come from selling the 50 housing units, as well as additional 10 units to be added as building privileges.
- \* The marketing of the assets is not concluded yet, selling, renting or any.
- \* Mr. David Harari will pass on to Ms. Lea Shteinmitz the estimated cost of the project.

**Conclusions of the inter-offices committee for the development of old Acre**

Sunday, 13.05.01, The Israeli Land Administration, Jerusalem

Translation of the relevant Paragraph.

4. Planing of facades reconstruction – National pilot project – 250 housing units.  
The Israeli Land administration approves the preliminary planing and feasibility assessment of the project, in the amount of 75,000 NIS.  
1/3 of the budget will originate from the National Tourism Company, the rest will be approved pending the balancing of the accounts by the Israeli Land Administration.

**Educational and Social Projects**  
relating to  
**Heritage protection and Conservation**



## Community and Housing Activities in the Old City of Acre

As part of its community activities, the Old Acre Development Company maintains close and ongoing contacts with the residents of the Old City with regard to the following subjects:

1. **Development of infrastructures** - every activity in the area of infrastructure work is brought to the attention of the residents by the company's community worker, Mr. Taher Ibrahim, who is himself a resident of the Old City. For this purpose, all those involved are contacted by means of leaflets or receive verbal explanations in Arabic.
2. **Community Committee** - since 1994, a Community Committee has operated within the company, providing feedback on the development of all new projects in the Old City, including comments on the new masterplan, which has been presented twice to the residents (many of the residents' comments were reflected in the masterplan submitted).
3. **Tourism-Oriented Youth Training** - in this project, the Development Company ran training workshops for tourism-oriented youth, including the Jewish Students Council and Arab residents of the new and old cities of Acre. The graduates of the training program now serve as backup for the tour guide force. The company draws on their services when necessary to guide visitors; the tour guide or community center receive NIS 400 for each session.
4. **Partnership 2000** - planned activities implemented in cooperation with the Western Galilee College, training activities to encourage small business initiatives in the field of tourism.
5. **Activities to increase awareness of quality of life in the Old City of Acre** - these activities take place in the junior high schools and the Arab comprehensive school in Acre. In 2001 the program is being implemented as part of the



## החברה לפיתוח עכו העתיקה בע"מ

curriculum. The aim of the program is to increase awareness among the residents regarding issues related to sanitation, cleanliness and the environment. This will be done through the students.

- A. Resources for implementing the program are sought out by professionals who volunteer their time – physicians, a lecturer in ecology, home room teachers, and community representatives; and use is made of social studies hours from the pool of hours available to schools. Neighborhood incentives are provided by the Old Acre Development Company.
  - B. Partners in implementing and supervising the program include: physicians who work at clinics in the city; a community representative – the community worker in the Old Acre Development Company; school principals, coordinators and the student council; the Old City community center.
  - C. Implementation – the Company's community worker, in cooperation with the scouts groups, organize campaigns in the Old City, particularly during the summer and the summer vacation, to increase environmental awareness,
6. **Housing issues in the Old City of Acre** - in cooperation with the Israel Lands Administration, and in accordance with the decision of the sub-committee of director-generals headed by Mr. Rafi Lev-Ari, it was agreed to launch a national pilot project in the Old City of Acre for the restoration and conservation of building facades of an entire block of buildings.

The work includes removing hazards, restoring and conserving openings (such as balconies and windows), attention to drainpipes and yards. The Development Company will shortly be commencing preliminary planning.



OLD ACRE DEVELOPMENT  
COMPANY LTD.



شركة تطوير عكا  
القديمة م.ض



החברה לפיתוח עכו העתיקה בע"מ

### Letter for the residents

Dear neighborhood residents,

As part of the ongoing work to develop infrastructures in the Old City of Acre, the Old Acre Development Company has begun to implement infrastructure and road development works in the plaza outside the "Rimawi" grocery store, Tafash, including the alley adjacent to the WIZO building. The works include implementation of new infrastructure for the water, sewage, electricity, telephone, lighting and paving systems.

Work will begin in June this year, and will continue for 5 months. Work will take place Sunday - Thursday, from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm.

The Old Acre Development Company urges residents to cooperate in order to ensure the success of this project. When completed, the project will benefit the residents and help create a well-kept and clean neighborhood.

During the work period, traffic will be prohibited, with the exception of vehicles delivering supplies to the shops. Delivery of merchandise to shops will take place in the morning, until 8:00 am. Special cases must be coordinated in advance with the Old Acre Development Company.

We ask residents to park their cars outside the work area.

Your cooperation will help us to complete the work in a shorter period, and avoid unnecessary disruption.

With best wishes,

David Harari

Director, Old Acre Development Company

July 10, 2000



Nomination of the old city of Acre for the World Heritage List



State of Israel



Since 1990 in Acre, the Department of Antiquities has been diligently engaged in Acre in both fields of its activity – Archaeological excavations and conservation.

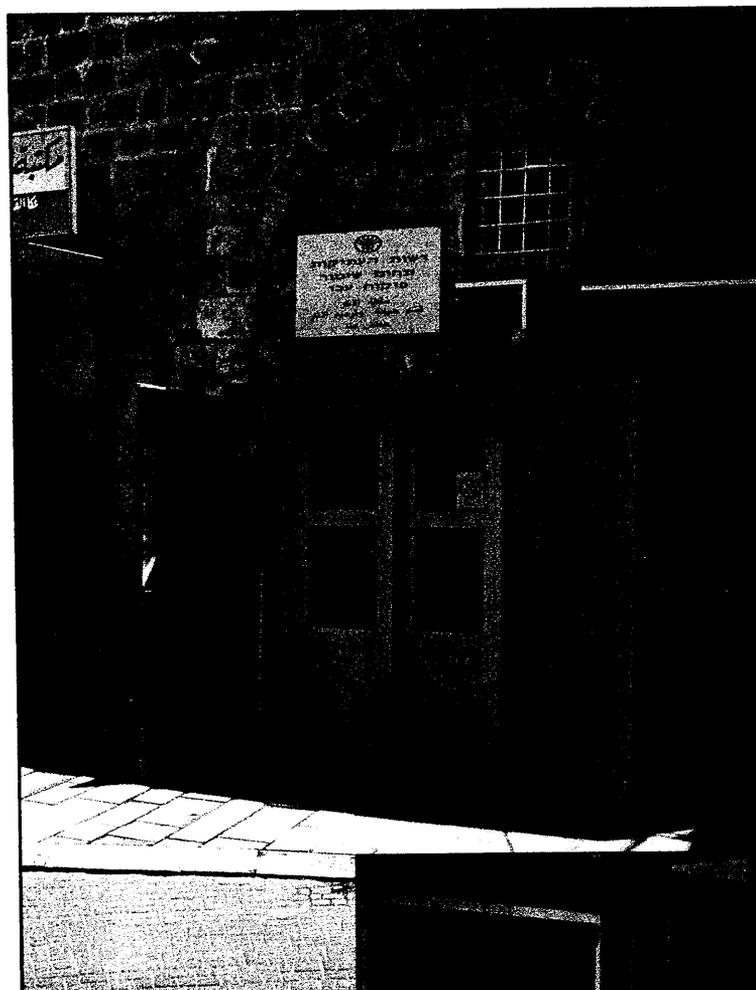
The department of Antiquities requirements oblige the presence in the city of an inspector of conservation activities.

Functions of the inspector:

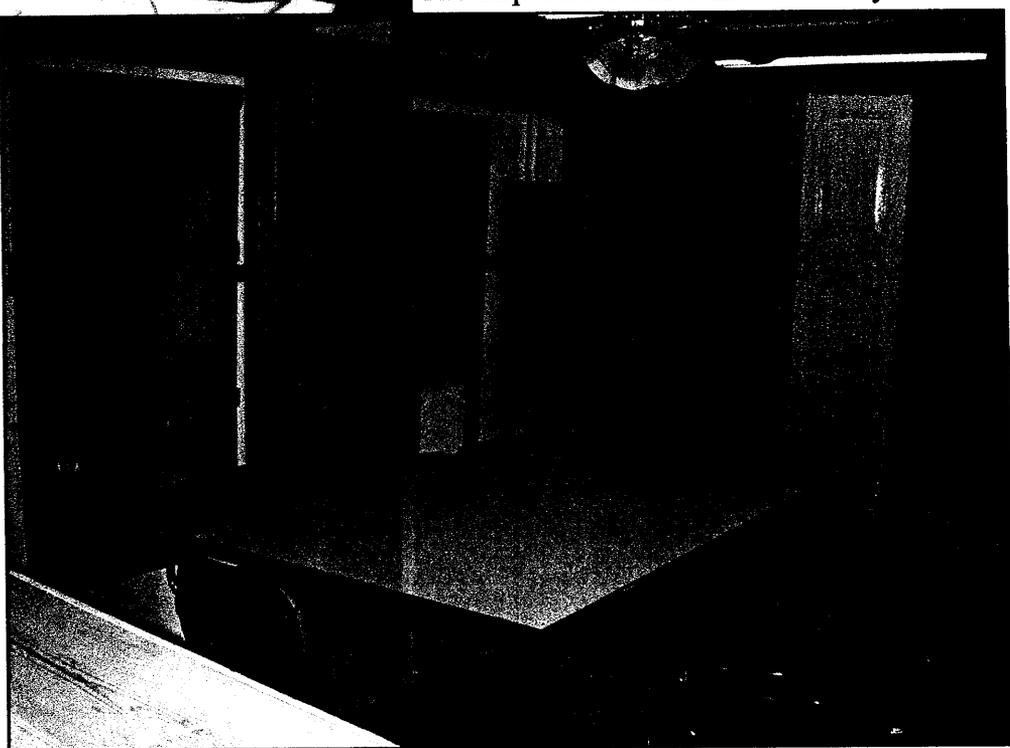
1. Supervision of the conservation of buildings in the old city of Acre.
2. Enforcement of the section on conservation of the law of Antiquities.
3. Assisting the public regarding permit application procedures through counseling and guidance in admitting plans for the local authorities.
4. Approving plans and selecting suitable plans submitted to the committee.
5. Following up the implementation of approved plans.
6. Guiding in proper building techniques from the experience gathered throughout the years, and using conservation manuals.
7. Professional assistance in structural and architectural conservation.
8. Ongoing monitoring to locate illegal construction in the city.
9. Liaison with the bodies involved in conservation in the city including participation in city council meetings connected with planning in the old city.

The inspector will be trained in conservation and preferably with a background in architecture/engineering.

Supervision and monitoring of projects will be according to the procedures for supervision of the Dept. of Antiquities.



The inspector's office in the old city



Original elements in the office, used for guidance.

**Municipality of Acre**  
**Municipal Branch in Old Acre**  
**13/274 St., Old Acre**  
**Telephone/fax: 9914110**



**A. Personnel at the branch:**

Chairperson: Attorney Adham Jamal, member of the city council

Acting director: Mr. Rifat Sha'aban

Deputy director and supervisor of field workers: Ali Jamal

Field workers: Mahmud Abadi - electrician

Adnan Khatib - maintenance

Yussef Aziri - maintenance

The branch also includes the fishermen's representative in Acre on behalf of the municipality, Mr. Rashid Hithi, who deals with the various problems faced by the fishermen and serves as the liaison between the mayor and the fishermen.

**B. The goal of operating the branch:**

Most of the representatives of the Arab community in the Old City have demanded for many years that an administrative body be opened in order to meet the needs and provide services for the population in the Old City. During the tenure of the present mayor, Dr. Shmariyahu Biran, the municipal branch was founded and established in the Old City in order to facilitate the provision of rapid and efficient services to meet everyday needs.

**C. Operation of the branch:**

The branch is open every day from 7:15 am to 3:30 pm. In urgent cases and emergencies, the branch remains in contact with the municipal center until late in the evening.

The population in the Old City, and particularly the older residents, are pleased with the provision of services in the area. It is important to emphasize that the



fact that the branch is situated within the Old City secures important advantages.

At one of the desks at the branch offices, it is possible to pay water bills and municipal taxes, which makes life easier for all the residents.

The branch also maintains the kindergartens in the Old City area, which receive rapid and efficient service.

The municipal branch and the Old City Development Company cooperate closely on maintenance issues in the Old City, such as cleaning, landscaping and all aspects that improve the appearance and esthetics of the Old City.

An representative of Project Renewal works in the branch offices, providing assistance for residents who are looking for employment. Project Renewal also runs cultural activities at the branch on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Over the past month, a representative of the Acre Foundation, which aims to raise donations for the city of Acre, began to work in the branch offices.



New Community Center in the Old City

POB 1045

Telefax: 04-9551880, Tel: 04-9551879

Name of Project: *Young Entrepreneurs*

Target Population: Young men and women aged 14-19.

**Rationale:** To train and educate young people for the world of business by establishing a limited company; officials in the company – executive director, financial director, marketing director, etc. – are drawn from among the young people. The company develops and markets a product under intensive professional guidance and participates in competitions and fairs in Israel and abroad.

It should be noted that Smartech, a company of young entrepreneurs operating at the community center, won first place in Israel in a competition for young entrepreneurs held at the Congress Center on January 29, 2001. Representatives of the company traveled to a competition held in Stavanger, Norway on March 24, 2001, and the youth from the community center won third place out of 108 stalls from 21 countries.

Number of members of the company: 25.

Partners in the project: Israel Young Entrepreneurs  
MATI - Western Galilee

Name of Project: *"Nachat" - Tourism-Oriented Youth*

Target Population: High school students aged 15-18.

**Rationale:** To train young people to work as local tour guides in the city of Acre, with emphasis on diverse aspects related to Acre such as history, archeology, heritage and art. They will host and guide tourists from Israel and abroad, particularly young



people, and will be paid for their work.

The project combines the experience of touring Acre and its treasures, with a cruise on a ship, and study of the history of the various peoples who have lived in Acre.

**Partners in the project:** Ministry of Tourism  
Israel Association of Community Centers  
Network of community centers in Acre

**Note:** In 1999, the project operated as a Jewish-Arab youth project and groups were hosted by mixed teams of guides. In 2000 and 2001 the project worked to host youth from Arab schools and from abroad, particularly Germany, in cooperation with a dialogue organization that runs exchanges between Israeli and German youths.

**Name of Project:** *Young Leadership*

**Target Population:** Youths aged 15-19.

**Rationale:** To locate and train young leaders. Through training, guidance and professional supervision, the youths run community projects relating to youth and the community in general. The project encourages and nurtures initiative and volunteering.

**Projects run by the group:**

*Ramadan and Christian Holidays Quiz.* Multiple-choice questions relating to Muslim and Christian religion and heritage. The quiz is distributed in 2000 copies in the community, and those who answer the questions can win cash prizes.



*Cleaning the Muslim and Christian cemeteries in the Old City.*

*Mass cultural events:* Production of two cultural evenings for the community in August – “Summer Night in Acre.” Thousands of people came to watch a performance of music and art for young children, with outstanding performers from the Arab community in Israel. The other event was a musical evening for the entire community, held in Fakhawra Square, the main plaza in the Old City.

*Regional culture and heritage festival:* Six Arab communities will cooperate in running a week of Arab culture and heritage from September 15-22, 2001. The central event will be held in Acre: thousands of young people from Shfar'am, Abu Senein, Tamra, Julis, Majd Al-Krum and Acre will attend the event.

The young leadership group are responsible for planning and running the event.

*Initiative to hold a festival on Id Al-Adha* in the streets of the Old City, including a colorful procession to mark the event, in cooperation with other bodies in the city.

*Carnival of Ancient Peoples:* The Antiquities Authority will provide training for youths on aspects relating to the culture, history and heritage of the different peoples that have lived in the area – Crusaders, Ottomans, Mamalukes, British, Greeks, Romans, Pharaohs, Israelites and others. The youth will work in the elementary school in the city, which has 1400 students. Each age group will concentrate on a different people, preparing typical clothes. Students and teachers will then participate in the colorful procession.

*Production of various cultural events* such as Land Day, International Women's Day, a meeting with poets and writers, and cooperation with women leaders at the community center.



*Publishing a young leadership newspaper providing information on youth activities, the activities of the community center and special events in the city. The newspaper is called Al-Safir and it prints 2000 copies.*

**Name of Project:** *Women's Empowerment*

**Target Population:** Single women aged 25-40.

**Rationale:** 20 housewives participated in a professionally run empowerment course for one year, meeting once a week to discuss issues relating to themselves, self-esteem, assertiveness, interpersonal communication and other aspects, as well as community issues, with the goal of identifying and addressing social problems in the community.

**Results of the groups' activities:**

- Arabic literacy group for illiterate housewives
- Beginners' Hebrew class for women
- Advanced Hebrew class for women
- Organizing cultural evenings for women
- Helping found a women's club
- Volunteering in various community projects

**Name of Project:** *Women's Club*

**Target Population:** Working women and housewives.

**Rationale:** A social club was established for women, including lectures, tours, meetings with women's clubs from other communities and use of leisure time. 100 women meet every Sunday at 7 pm at the Family Enrichment Center.



**Results of the club's activities:** Lectures on diverse subjects - religion, reflexology, cosmetics  
Meetings with women's groups from Mazra'a, Shfar'am and Meghar  
Tours and outings around Israel  
Marking special events, such as International Women's Day

**Name of Project:** *Family Enrichment Center*

**Target Population:** Early childhood – children and parents.

**Rationale:** The center serves various integrated functions: an early childhood movement center, music, arts, story-telling, drama, puppet theater, meeting room and toy library.

The center serves all children from Arab kindergartens in Acre during the morning hours, with activities for parents and children in the afternoon. The professional and paraprofessional staff underwent special training for these functions.

**Name of Project:** *School of Parenting*

**Target Population:** Parents

**Rationale:** A group of parents meets once a week with the professional staff of the Family Enrichment Center, which includes educational, clinical and social psychologists, to discuss issues relating to parenthood and marital relations, and ways to cope with problems in educating and raising children.



**Name of Project:** *Families*

**Target Population:** Families at risk

**Rationale:** 25 families meet twice a week at the Family Enrichment Center. Each meeting lasts 3 hours and is run by a professional team including a psychologist, group facilitator and kindergarten teachers. The staff work jointly with parents on issues relating to parenthood, marital relations and cooperation in raising and educating the children, through experiential activities at the Enrichment Center. Three types of activities are held. The first hour includes joint activities for parents and children at the Enrichment Center, together with the team of counselors. In the second hour, the counselors take the children to different rooms according to age, while the psychologist and group facilitator meet with parents for workshops on issues of parenthood, marital relations, educating and raising children, interpersonal communication and other issues raised by the families.

The project runs for three years.

**Name of Project:** *Center for the Study and Documentation of the Heritage of Acre*

**Target Population:** The entire Arab community in Acre

Researchers, writers, students and students from around Israel.

**Rationale:** The Center for the Study and Documentation of the Heritage of Acre was established in the community center in recognition of the fact that this is a historical city with a long and rich tradition extending back thousands of years.

The community steering committee, including researchers, activists, students, youths and senior citizens, has undertaken – with the assistance of the community center – the goal of studying the heritage of Acre. In time, the intention is to establish an information center and archives, including a library, photographs, documents and recordings, providing a focal point for those interested in the history, research and heritage of the city.





**Target Population:** The entire community.

**Rationale:** To establish a group of activists, drawn from the residents of the Old City, who are committed to environmental issues. The group will comprise both young and old people, men and women, and they will receive training from lecturers at the Western Galilee College on the subject of conservation and the environment in the Old City. The group accepted responsibility for running selected community projects on the subject of the environment, cleanliness and hygiene in the neighborhoods, and for bridging work in the community on such subjects as preventing noise and hazards, education to good neighborly relations, as well as teaching the neighborhood children to protect the Old City's historic sites and to welcome tourists.

**Name of Project:** *Adult Studies*

**Target Population:** Unemployed people.

**Rationale:** Acre is one of Israel's unemployment sore spots with an unemployment rate in excess of 10%. The Ministry of Education's Adult Education Department, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (through the local employment bureau), and the IACC, through the local community center, have come together with the goal of improving the level of formal education among unemployed people who have not completed 10 or 12 years of schooling.

The employment bureau refers registered unemployed people to the community center. After selection examinations, the participants begin studies according to the program of the Ministry of Education and under its supervision. Studies take place at the community center five days a week, from 8 am to 1 pm, for a period of six months. The teachers are qualified professionals employed by the community center. In addition to the graduation certificate, participants receive their usual monthly salary from the employment bureau.

**Name of Project:** *Matriculation Marathon*



**Rationale:** The community center has taken on the function of preparing 12th grade students from the comprehensive school who are taking their matriculation examinations and who have poor to average grades. During a three-month period, intensive marathon studies take place every day. The students were prepared for the matriculation examinations by qualified teachers employed by the community center. Of the 34 participating students, 32 received a full matriculation certificate.

**Name of Project:** *"Pele" - Different Study Activities*

**Target Population:** Students at Amal elementary school.

**Rationale:** Learning centers were established at the community center in coordination and cooperation with the parents and the principal. The centers relate to literacy studies and the inculcation of learning skills for students who have difficulties in their studies. 134 students attended the learning center during the first year, in small groups led by teachers from the community center, who followed a special curriculum developed by the IACC and called **Jisr Al-Manal**. The curriculum includes 10 booklets, adapted to the level of each student. Using a system based on pictures, letters, words, sentences and texts, children gradually progress at their own speed and from their own strengths. The assumption is that "every child can do it." The center includes corners for play and for encouraging hobbies. The studies included enjoyment and personal learning.

**Name of Project:** *English Club*



**Rationale:** Two volunteers from Germany who underwent special training and volunteered to work in the community used an experience-based study method for English-language learning and improving English, with emphasis on the spoken language. At the end of the school year, the students attended an experience-based English summer camp run by volunteers from England, through the British Council. The volunteers came specially in the summer months to the city and stayed in the students' homes.

**Note:** The community center runs summer camps, activities and groups in the areas of sport, culture and art, including: aerobics classes, mini-soccer, karate, basketball, physical exercises, table tennis, boxing and training camps including overnight stays for children from the mini-soccer group who participate in the league.

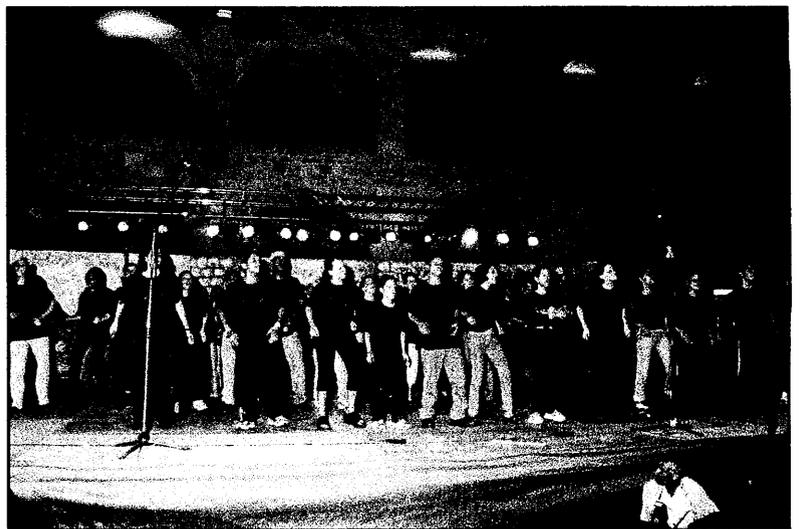
The center also offers plays, performances, exhibitions and lectures for the general population.



Women's Empowerment dinner party



Women's club gathering



City at peace project



Art and music night for children



Ancient times festival



## The Jewish-Arab Community Association, Wolfson Neighborhood, Acre

The Jewish-Arab Community Association, Wolfson Neighborhood was established in 1990 on the initiative of a group of Jewish and Arab activists who live in the Wolfson neighborhood of Acre.

### The association has set itself the following goals:

- To promote coexistence through mutual respect, understanding and tolerance between Arabs and Jews in Acre.
- To promote equality between the different groups in Acre.
- To improve the economic, physical, social, educational, and cultural situation in the Wolfson neighborhood by empowering the residents.
- To develop new leadership in Acre, particularly in the Jewish and Arab sector.
- To advance the education system in Acre.
- To promote Acre as a Jewish-Arab city offering extensive opportunities for all.

### Areas of activity of the Jewish-Arab community center:

- Jewish-Arab informal education system

#### Early childhood

- Toddler day care for 2-3 year olds (Arab)
- Toddler day care for 2-3 year olds (Jewish-Arab)
- Enrichment and preparation for kindergarten, grades 1 and 2
- Developing a Jewish-Arab kindergarten in Acre.



## Groups

Network of activity groups for children and youths aged 5-15 is operated by a professional Jewish-Arab staff. The groups enable learning and mutual ties between the participants. The goal is to develop high-class enrichment groups and to offer all children in Acre a chance to participate in these programs, regardless of race, gender, religion and socioeconomic status.

Activity groups are held twice a week for 1½ academic hours, and are run by excellent and outstanding teachers.

The following groups operate at the center:

**Computers, karate, ballet, folk dance, dance, music, crafts, etc.**

Courses for adults (Jews and Arabs):

**Computers, crafts, Hebrew, Arabic, English, music, theater, aerobics, yoga, etc.**

- **Developing Jewish and Arab youth leadership**

The goal of the project is to develop leadership skills and community commitment among youth (Jews and Arabs) in Acre.

**The youth program includes:**

- ❖ **Youth For Acre** – a group bringing together young people from the Arab youth council and young Jewish activists in the city, with the goal of working together for the benefit of all young people in the city.
- ❖ **Jewish-Arab Youth Parliament** – a new project that aims to teach the principles of democracy.
- ❖ **Jewish-Arab youth theater** – developing joint theater groups for Jewish and Arab youths.



- ❖ **Arab youth theater** – the theater group included Jewish youths from Tel Aviv; this year, the group traveled to Germany and staged a play in three languages.
- ❖ **Training young Jewish and Arab counselors** – training youths to run a Jewish-Arab summer camp and other joint programs.
- ❖ **Arab Youth Council** – the youth council plans and organizes programs and special activities for Arab youths in Acre, and functions as the sole representative of Arab youth, meeting all their needs.
- ❖ **Young counselors** – a group of young Arabs aged 13-15 who participate in leadership training and community involvement activities.

- **Acre Jewish-Arab Women's Center**

**This center develops diverse community programs intended to promote the status of women in Acre. The center has also become a focus for Jewish-Arab encounters and cooperation between Jewish and Arab women.**

- **Jewish-Arab Summer Camp**

**A special program including activities for 200 Jewish and Arab children aged 5-15 for 18 days. Each group is run by a joint Jewish-Arab pair of counselors who have undergone special training prior to the camp.**

*Hafuch Al Hafuch*

**Information and Advice Centers for Youth – Acre**

*Hafuch Al Hafuch* is a national project providing for the establishment of information and advice centers for youth around Israel. The centers aim to serve all youth, regardless of their socioeconomic status or level of functioning, with information, a sympathetic ear and advice on issues of concern to modern-day adolescents, including: work, the army, sexuality and love, Aids, drugs, leisure culture, etc. The rationale is to create a center with a normative and non-stigmatic character enabling preliminary prevention activities for youth at risk, facing difficulties or crises, in order to help prevent a decline to social marginalization, violence, delinquency and drugs.

The centers operate according to the following guiding principles:

Universalism – the centers are open to all youth, without distinction.

Culturalism – sensitivity to the unique cultural needs of different groups of youths.

Communality – the centers will integrate in the fabric of existing services for youth in the community.

Partnership and involvement – young volunteers will work in programs at the centers.

Partnerships – pooling resources, organizational and professional programs.

Availability and accessibility – the centers will be situated in central, available and accessible locations for young people; their physical design will promote their perception as a non-stigmatic service open to all.

Comprehensiveness – a range of services and intervention approaches will be housed at the center under a single roof.

Outreach – the centers will locate youths through marketing activities and through informing the community of their activities and services.

Continuum of intervention – areas of intervention will be delineated according to the existing services in each community.

The *Hafuch Al Hafuch* Center in Acre opened on October 29, 2000.

Young people come to the center from all parts of the city, and from both the Jewish and Arab sectors.

For youths from the Arab sector, the center serves as a meeting place, offering discussion groups on subjects raised by the youths. The young people share the difficulties and doubts they are facing in adolescence with the staff, and receive information and/or advice.

The youths also volunteer to help run the center.

The young volunteers work as “peer counselors” for other youths who come to the center, helping young people to hear a second opinion from their own reference group – people of their own age who share their own outlook on life. The young volunteers at the center are also the center’s target population, so that their involvement empowers the youths, develops sensitivity toward others, social commitment, and effective interpersonal communication skills. Volunteering also offers an entry to leadership, and involvement in setting policy through their participation in the local community boards. The involvement of young volunteers brings their perspectives and needs into the center on an ongoing and authentic basis, through their involvement in providing the service.

**Acre Regional Pedagogic Center**

**Special Initiatives and Projects**

***Municipal Learning Center on the Subject "My City"***

Each year, the Acre Pedagogic Center plans and organizes a municipal learning center to study the history of the city.

All activities at the center are intended for 4<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the city, including secular, religious and Arab schools.

The students visit the Pedagogic Center and enjoy a wide range of investigative and academic activities. They watch a film about the history of Acre, listen to fascinating stories from senior residents about the history of the city, prepare original Acre-style hummus, and learn to identify the main sites in the Old City through a virtual computer tour – a computer game developed by the Acre Pedagogic Center.

The center serves all school students in the city, and aims to promote a sense of pride in the city in every boy and girl.

A section of a wall at the Pedagogic Center relating to the social theme "Respect for People with Different Beliefs and Ways of Life." The display also includes additional aspects for use by educators.

### Initiatives and Projects

Acre Pedagogic Center has produced a teachers' guide for the 2001/2 school year on the subject of Our City Acre, for 4th graders. The guide includes a range of ideas for classroom activities. The material is based on the new approach in the curriculum for Heritage, Society and Civics emphasizing the word "citizenship" – in response to the recommendations of the Kremnitzer Committee.

Together with the instructor, we intend to produce a CD in cooperation with Heritage Studies teachers from schools throughout the city, as part of an in-service training program to take place at the center.

The CD will include study topics relating to Our City, through research, offering students diverse enrichment activities on the subject of Our City Acre.



## **Acre Field Study Center**

### **Work Plan for 2001**

#### **Objectives of the Field Study Center for the 2000/1 School Year**

1. Increasing and augmenting the scale of educational activities in schools and kindergartens in Acre.
2. Establishing a Field Studies Center in Acre to coordinate field study activities and provide a meeting place for nature and environment lovers in the city.
3. Establishing a local steering committee for the Field Studies Center, to include school principals, the director of the Educational Welfare Department, a representative of the municipal Education Department, a representative of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, and the director of the Field Studies Center. This team will determine the activities to be undertaken by the Field Studies Center in the city and help implement activities.
4. To expand activities in the Arab sector in the 2000/1 school year.
5. To develop young social and environmental leadership in the community, particularly among youths, through the Youth Council that operates in Acre.
6. To raise awareness of the problem of the sea and the beaches, and to place this on the city's environmental and social agenda.
7. To run a program of tours, emphasizing the people, historical periods and everyday life of Acre (along the lines of the program operated this year at Hatomer School).
8. To intensify cooperation with additional bodies in the city, such as the Acre Development Company, the Underground Museum and the Antiquities Authority.
9. To expand the scope of activities in local schools.



### Activities in the Field of Formal Education

- Educational tours for elementary schools.
- Activities in kindergartens in the city.
- Developing a new tour program in Acre –“Acre from 1 to 6” – a special tour in Acre for each grade.
- Activities in the schools during nature protection week.
- Running a program in the elementary schools to promote tourism in Acre.
- Activities for immigrant ulpanim on the subject of the community and familiarization with the Old City.
- Running a tour program at the Navy Officers School in Acre.

### Annual Activities and Tours for Schools

This year the Field Studies Center worked somewhat differently with the schools.

This year, the center is offering schools a “**nature basket**” developed with the educational staff in each school.

The nature basket includes a wide range of activities: guided tours, guided activities promoting an awareness of the environment in and around the class, nature activities for parents and children, and “highlight days” in schools.

The program as a whole is built in spiral form. The study tracks begin in the immediate environment and extend to the Galilee and the North of Israel. The activities also develop from study of ants or snails to an examination of the development of ancient Hebrew script or the topographic map. The end result is a diverse picture of the flora, fauna and human landscape of the region, in the past and in the present.



### Activities in the Field of Informal Education

- Running nature groups in cooperation with the network of community centers in Acre.
  - Two groups at Shazar School.
  - Two groups at Beit Ha'am.
- Running a weekly nature group at Atidit Hostel in Acre.
- Running afternoon activities at family mini-clubs in the city.
  - 2 groups at family mini-clubs.
  - Ben Gurion mini-club.
  - Gibborei Sinai mini-club.
- Regular weekly activities at the Enosh club in Acre – a weekly lecture on diverse topics relating to nature, as well as tours around the Galilee.
- Summer camp for children from Acre.
- Nature preservation week – afternoon activities.
- Professional involvement in the Tourism-Oriented Youth project, in cooperation with the community center – help in running the program and developing the methodology for the tour of the Old City.
- Involvement in story-time activities for children in the municipal library (after Passover).
- Acre Walk – the Field Studies Center intends to take part in preparations for the Walk and to lead it within the municipal system.

Israel Association of Community Centers – Acre

## Tourism-Oriented Youth

### Subject of Program: A Magical Trip through a Magical Town

#### Background

As part of the Tourism-Oriented Youth project, a business enterprise program is run under the title "A Magical Trip Through a Magical Town." Over the past two years, approximately 10,000 participants in summer camps from all over Israel have taken part in this program, particularly during the summer vacation. Other participants include tourists, hotel guests, adult citizens, etc.

This program has certainly enabled young people from Acre to present the jewels of the city, and its past history, contributing to a positive image of the city and helping to recruit residents in general, and youth in particular, to help develop tourism in the city.

#### Target population

Students in the junior-high and senior-high schools.

Ages: 13-17.

Number of youths: 30.

The groups should preferably be mixed groups of Jews and Arabs, given the recent events in the city.

## Goals of the program

1. To operate the Magical Trip Through a Magical Town project throughout the year.
2. To create a profitable business framework to benefit the community center.
3. To provide appropriate marketing for the various target populations.
4. To expand the content and means of the program.
5. To expose the Magical Trip Through a Magical Town project to domestic and foreign tourists.
6. To recruit new youths and establish new groups to help develop tourism in their city.
7. To provide a framework for cooperation between all the dominant bodies in the city involved in the field of tourism.

## Objectives of the program

1. To expand the content of the program according to the needs of the different target populations, through November 2001.
2. To bring in new young participants to run the program through November 2001.
3. To operate a marketing program in schools, kindergartens and hotels, in cooperation with the marketing coordinator, through November 2001.
4. To finalize arrangements with all the relevant bodies – the Acre Development Company, the Municipality of Acre – regarding the operation of the program throughout the year.
5. To operate an information station on the subject of a Magical Trip for one week beginning May 23, 2001.
6. To reinforce cooperation with the Municipality of Acre and the Old Acre Development Company in order to promote tourism in the city as a common interest.

## Methods

Partner organizations in planning the program: the network of community centers in Acre, the Ministry of Tourism, the Old Acre Development Company, Youth-Oriented Tourism - Acre, Eretz Morshet - Acre, Municipality of Acre.

## Criteria for success

1. Welcoming 10,000 visitors in the program by the end of the 2000 activity year.
2. Creating a thematic and logistical system for operating the program throughout the year.
3. Increasing the community center's income from the program.
4. At least 1,000 people involved in the information station.
5. Positive cooperation among all the relevant bodies.
6. Introducing the program to new target populations.

## STRUCTURE OF THE TOURISM-ORIENTED YOUTH PROJECT

Land of Heritage

Municipal Youth Council

Tourism-Oriented Youth Representatives

Group of Tourism-Oriented Youth Activists in Acre

Works in 3 stages in each of the 3 population sectors

Information	Training Counselors	Locating Tourism Sites
Involving the public in the project and making it a municipal enterprise	Setting up youth groups to teach about the city's past and to guide tourists	Create routes around the city to be guided by youths

**Municipality of Acre**  
**Education Department**



“Ematz” – a unique project for secondary schools.

Ematz is a Hebrew acronym for:

**Believe** in myself

**Ready** to make an effort

**Expect** achievements

Through the project, the children experience academic success on a daily basis, leading to an improvement in self-esteem and increased academic motivation.

The teaching methods differ from those used in schools. Each group has just 8 students, with 2 assistants and a teacher.

The curriculum aims to challenge the students. Teaching is intense, developing a very high level of motivation, achievement-based thought, personal monitoring, and changes in the study environment.

**Arab Comprehensive School, Acre**

The target population is a group of 18-20 students with overt or covert drop-out status, with 7 fail grades and with poor school attendance, who were placed in low streams.

The goal is to increase their level and streaming and enable them to receive a matriculation certificate.



## **Welfare and Rehabilitation Program in Education – The Arab Sector**

Preparing for 1st Grade: “Let’s Go Up to 1” – the program operates at Al-Amal elementary school in the afternoons during the second half of the school year.

Children from compulsory kindergartens participate in the program on the recommendation of their teachers. The students receive academic and emotive reinforcement in preparation for 1st grade.

Preparing for 1st Grade – therapy center. Children recommended by their kindergarten teachers come to the center. After evaluation, a personal therapy program is prepared for each child. Fields of therapy include occupational therapy, a speech clinician, physical therapy, and art therapy. The activities take place in the afternoons.

Learning Center – operates in the afternoons at Al-Amal school. Children requiring academic reinforcement in the key subjects come to the center.

Learning Center – Transitions. Operates in the afternoon at the comprehensive Arab junior-high school. 6th grade students from Al-Amal School who need reinforcement in the principal subjects come to the center. The teachers are members of the junior-high staff.

Preventing Drop-out – at the Arab comprehensive school. The program aims to prevent drop-out, and is attended by 45 students at risk of dropping out of school. The students study in small groups, with personal supervision from the program coordinator.

Learning Center – Arab comprehensive school (senior-high section). Reinforcement of studies ahead of the matriculation examinations. Studies take place in small groups in the afternoons.

جمعية التطوير الجماهيري، عكا

مركز الحقوق الاجتماعية



עמותה לפיתוח קהילתי, עכו (ע"ד)

המרכז לזכויות חברתיות

**ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ACRE  
THE SOCIAL RIGHTS CENTER**

Contact Information: Oren Rechman

Postal Address in Israel: P.O. Box 304 Acre, Xsrael 24103

Street Address in Israel: The Municipal Market Acre, Israel

Telephone: 972-4-9914640 Fax: 972-4-981-9258

E-mail: [acdacre@zahav.net.il](mailto:acdacre@zahav.net.il)

Organization number: 58-010-716-7 (Amutha)

The Association for Community Development, Acre is an independent grassroots N.G.O., formed in 1988 by a group of Jewish and Arab citizens with concern for the most disadvantaged sectors of the population, a commitment to change and a vision of active coexistence for the City of Acre. We are committed to improve the status of all citizens, to work towards equality of opportunity, citizens involvement, and people centered development in the fields of community and education.

Our main areas of Action:

Community Organizing

Grassroots Capabilities Building

Alternative Community-Centered Services Incubator

Skxial Rights Advocacy and Community-based Mediation

Community Initiatives Research



### The Association Board

Mr. Hussein Farris	Arab Co-chairman
Mr. Jaacov Shpitz	Jewish Co-chairman
Mr. Abed Sarwan	Treasurer
Mr. Isham Shami	Member
Ms. Flori Lugasi	Member
Mr. Tagrid Shalhat	Member
Ms. Amal Darwish	Member
Ms. Violet Zuckerman	Member
Ms. Hedva Hatzmon	Member
Mr. Avi Mizan	Member
Ms. Minah Shapira	Member
Ms. Zidan Nackriz	Member

### Staff

Ms. Nohad Shachbarat	Co-Director for Programs
Mr Oren Rechman	Co-Director for Resources Development
Mr Harry Frey	Social Rights Project Coordinator
Ms. Ayelet Malka	Secretary and Social Rights Receptionist
Mr. Rafi Meir	Social Rights Field-Worker (Russian speaker)
Ms. Abeer Baker	Social Rights Field-Worker (Arabic speaker)
Ms. Hadassa Bishavi	Social Rights Field-Worker (Amharic speaker)
Ms. Roni Drori	Early Childhood Projects Coordinator



## Project # 1

Name of Project: **Economic Empowerment for Women in Acre**

### **Rational:**

In the past five years, international development agencies have increased their emphasis on assisting low- income women to achieve self-sufficiency through income generating activities. Women have been targeted by micro-finance institutions in the world not only because of - their exclusion from formal finance, but because women spend greater percentage of their share of household income on food, children's clothes, education, and health than men do.

Former first Lady and current Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, chair of the Micro-finance Summit, at the Special Session of the UN Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Peace and Development for the 21st Century Conference (Beijing+5)" on June 5, 2000, remarked that although it is called micro-credit this is a macro idea with vast potential.

Whether we are talking about a rural area in South Asia or an inner city in the United States, micro-credit is an invaluable tool in alleviating poverty, promoting self-sufficiency and stimulating economic activity in disadvantaged communities"

### **Program Uniqueness and Population served:**

Though a number of Israeli institutions (e.g. MATI) offer loans in an effort to generate small enterprise, their projects have not addressed low income women, nor do they attempt to meet their specific needs. The smallest possible loan these institutions grant is \$10,000, an amount impossible for low-income women who will not afford taking such a risky loan. In addition, most institutions provide costly training non-sensitive to women particular needs.

ACD and its partners in the Third Sector (mainly Women's and Jewish-Arab NGOs with national coverage) are the only organizations in Israel that are solely dedicated to supplying credit and business training to low income women.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

- Supply low-income Jewish and Arab women in Acre with the knowledge and tools to become financially self-sufficient through supportive training and accessible credit which will allow them to create their own small businesses and gradually come out poverty.



## Project # 2

Name of the Project: **The Center for Social Rights, Acre**

### Goals

The specific goals of the Center are summarized as:

To identify issues affecting disadvantaged groups in the community and empower people to organize and act on individual problems and policy issues.

- To link people with needed services and help access social entitlements.
- To promote solutions to divisive problems among the diverse communities of Acre through community-based mediation.

### Strategies:

Volunteers work individually with applicants to Center explaining and encouraging them to advocate on their own behalf. Capabilities Building Program to habilitate community members to advocate on behalf of community. Information campaigns to sensitize the community and to bring public attention to social rights relevant issues.

### The Center Links and Partners:

ACD is the unique NGO in the field of Social Rights Advocacy working in Acre or the Western Galilee Region at present.

The Center Program is linked with the School of Law and the School of Social Work at the University of Haifa, and the Department of Law at the Western Galilee College.

Students of both academic institutions are involved in volunteer work in the Center.

The Center expanded in year 2000 networking with academic, professional and other community non-profit agencies engaged in People Rights Advocacy.

### Outreaching Points and The Storefront:

The Center staff and volunteers engage in outreach activities and operate one storefront and two outreaching points accessible to the different target populations: in the Acre Municipal Market, in Hatzarot Yasaf and in the Old City.

### Population Coverage:

Approximately 1000 people are serviced by the Center annually.

جمعية التطوير الجماهيري، عكا

مركز الحقوق الاجتماعية



עמותה לפיתוח קהילתי, עכו (ע"ד)

המרכז לזכויות חברתיות

**ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ACRE  
THE SOCIAL RIGHTS CENTER**

---

### Project #3

Title of Project: **Visitors Center to Grassroots Jewish-Arab Coexistence Initiatives in Acre.**

#### Goal:

The Visitors Center will allow us to share our experience, knowledge and dreams with visitors from Israel and abroad. Our particular reality as a Jewish-Arab mixed community and unique way to deal with peace building and people active coexistence at grassroots levels would be of interest to many people and organizations engaged in conflict resolution; social change; community empowerment; and so on, as previous visitors from Europe; South America and the U.S. testified.



**Project # 4**

Name of the Project: **Multicultural Active Library**

The Library will be unique in Acre by its Arab and Jewish staffing, its multilingual and multicultural educational resources and accessible low-cost services. It will provide Early-childhood Stimulation activities for the youngest visitors and educational activities. Creative and experiential activities will be run with various materials, games, story-telling, computer, art, drawing, music, etc. Activities will provide opportunity to learn through different settings, individual and group. Parental involvement and commitment will be encouraged.

**Goals and Objectives:**

The Program will enable children to develop their emotional cognitive, verbal potential and learning skills in preparation for kindergarten.

Objectives will be:

1. On the emotional level these children will be more independent and socially proficient.
2. Cognitively these children will be able to concentrate, listen and understand more effectively.
3. Verbally, children will have better understanding and ability to express themselves in Hebrew or Arabic and their own mother-languages.
4. Learning skills will be improved as children will be able to undertake a series of activities in set times.

**Number of Beneficiaries:**

About 200 children and their families.



**Project #5**

**Title of Program: Ha-Etgar - Preventing Educational Failure**

The **Ha-Etgar** Program of the Hebrew University's Institute for Research in Educational Enrichment is highly renowned and known internationally by the name 'Hippy'. Some 500 infants and mother were serviced by the Association till now.

**Goals:**

- a. To reduce the gap in school preparedness (language, social, and cognitive skills) between disadvantaged immigrant/Arab children and those from less disadvantaged homes.
- b. To increase the involvement of parents in their children's education for example through increased interaction, homework assistance, and contact with teachers.
- c. To improve the ability of local citizens to make use of available family and social services such as preventative healthcare, counseling, and other enrichment programs.
- d. To prevent developmental problems in children of Etgar families through early identification and support by paraprofessional home-visitors.
- e. To make parents familiar with methods of education, support networks, and their responsibilities to their children through the intervention of paraprofessional home visitors.
- f. To bring Jews and Arabs, immigrants and veterans together through the mutual focus of children each year: first year on special occasions, the second year in structured parent-child activities, and the third year in activities initiated by the parents themselves



**Project # 6**

**Title of Project: "Early Childhood Development Center: Enrichment Programs for Developmentally at Risk Children from birth to age 3."**

The Association established a neighborhood community based facility to provide preventive monitoring of infant development problems and enrichment activities for socially disadvantaged children. Till year 2000 the program was limited to operate from Kupat Holim Health Fund Clinics. In 2001 year a new facility is being located in an unused Public Bomb-Shelter assigned by the Municipality in central area populated mainly by Kafkazi immigrants, Arabs and impoverished veteran Jews families in Acre.

The new facility will allow any needy family to engage the program regardless their Kupat Holim affiliation.

The Association Occupational Therapist and Para-professionals undertake individual assessment and counseling regarding infant developmental issues. If necessary, mother and infant are being referred to professionals within several Health Fund Clinics and the Child Development Center in Naharya Government Hospital to receive services there.

Home Visiting, Mother Support Groups and PlayGroups provide opportunities for monitoring infants development, emphasize further knowledge and experiment the benefit of enrichment and stimulation.

The Program contributes significantly to high-risk families where infant development problems should not be identified and treated till school- age. Furthermore, the Association team support parents to undertake therapy tasks, which must be filled at home.



### Project # 7

Title of Project: "pre-school Educators Multicultural Capacity Building Program".

#### Goals:

To influence pre-school educational practices and policies in order to turn them more responsive to the mixed Jewish and Arab context in Acre; to overcome mistrust and alienation; and enhance the spirit of tolerance and coexistence among educators; children and families.

#### Objectives

Kindergarten Educators in Acre will:

- Become attentive to the needs of both Jewish and Arab children in their care; and to the challenges that the Jewish-Arab contact impose on kindergartens in Acre.
- Know workable multicultural educational practices.
- Initiate creative and context relevant multicultural practices.

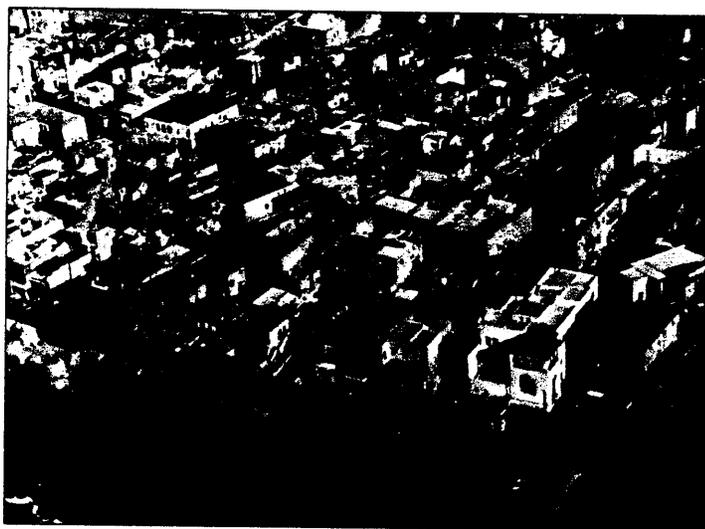
### Project # 8

Title of Project: **Citizens Participation in Urban Planning and Conflict Resolution**

#### Projects.

Acre's citizens, Jews and Arabs, will participate as a CITIZENS JURY deliberating on contentious planning issues dealing with the development of the old city and future of the City as a mixed Jewish-Arab city. This Project will bring proven innovative new techniques in participatory democracy, conflict resolutions and consensus building from the European experience of PLANNING CELLS. Citizens selected in a random but representative method will work together with planners and present a publicized CITIZEN REPORT. This report will present studied opinions on such critical planning problems as the type and location of tourist accommodation in the Old City, the educational needs of the population and future of location of educational institutions. Planning problems will be defined by agreement with the relevant authorities. The Project will be conducted in conjunction with local and international expert from the Academy and the field.

# Rehabilitation Pilot Project for a Residential Quarter in The Old City of Acre



January 2001



חברה לפיתוח עכו העתיקה בע"מ  
The old city of Acre development  
company

רשות העתיקות  
תחום שימור



The Israeli Antiquities Authority  
The Conservation Department

## **Pilot folder prepared by:**

Raanan Kislev – writer and editor

Yaacov Schaffer – assistance and material preparation

Yosi Broyde – assistance and material preparation

Ofer Cohen – Translation and editing

## **Preface:**

The conservation of the values of an historic city while maintaining the existing modern life within it, presents a challenging task.

Conservation strengthens the heritage values of a city whereas the rehabilitation and adjustment of its buildings to the ever-changing needs of the inhabitants strengthens the values of the living city.

The rehabilitation of a residential quarter in the old city of Acre is very important as a leverage to the development of the entire city, and to improvement of the standard of living of its inhabitants. The involvement of the local population has an important role in increasing the awareness and advancing the cooperation between the inhabitants and the authorities. (see – icomos Historic Towns Charter, Wadington 1987)

The success of the project will also contribute to the tourism in the city, and will enable access to the less traveled and familiar streets and alleys.

After deliberation it was decided to carry out the rehabilitation and conservation project on block no' 18010 in the northwestern part of the old city.

The block consists of approximately 100 buildings (some 250 housing units) out of 450 for the entire city.

The block boundaries are: the sea to the west, the Genova Sq. to the south, Vizo St. to the east, and the majdalleh neighborhood entrance street to the north.

### **The rehabilitation will be carried out in two ways simultaneously:**

- A. Rehabilitation of facades, internal courtyards, public spaces, and treatment of dangerous buildings.
- B. Locating vacant apartments and enabling additions to existing buildings – in the form of a room or an additional floor, as well as new buildings to replace buildings destined to be demolished or on vacant plots.

## Outline Plan

The outline plan will form the base for further detailed planing, and will set the priorities for the project as well as the methods to be used.

### **The facades rehabilitation planing will include:**

The definition of all the actions to be carried out on the different facades according to the different types of buildings, their importance and level of conservation.

Assessment of each facades' condition and frequent issues.

For every facade the alterations to be made will be detailed both in a general way and on the architectural and structural details level as well as the use of the different materials. The changes will be planed together with the inhabitants, trying to combine their needs and the original form of the building. One building will have a complete set of plans in order to set an example for a comprehensive planed rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation detailing. The project will be carried out in accordance with the Israeli Antiquities Authority Structural and Technical Detailing for the Old City of Acre, and according to detailed planing for each facade that will meet the international standards.

The details that will be covered in the frame-work of the pilot project are:

- Stabilization, re-pointing and plastering of walls.
- Colors and color schemes.
- Sealing and drainage systems for the roofs.
- Openings, windows, doors and gates.
- Balconies, external staircases, and railings.
- Courtyards – paving, cleaning and regularization.
- Plants.
- Street furniture.
- Street lighting.
- Connecting and regularization of the infrastructure (water supply, electricity and sewage)
- Regularization of the public spaces – alleys, streets, squares and elements (water fountains, support arches, lighting etc.)

**It is vital to have an overview of the entire block and facade continuum so that the typical texture of the old city of Acre will be restored**

**Planing additions and new buildings:**

The first stage will be to locate all the places where additions or new buildings were or can be built. An addition to an existing building is possible in a number of ways – adding a single room or more to complete an existing floor or building. Building a single floor or more on an existing building as an addition or as a new independent housing unit.

A new building can only be built on a vacant plot or instead of a building that destroyed or one that is beyond repair and has to be demolished. It is important that the new building should complete the urban texture and must not disrupt its surroundings. The planing additions/new construction will refer to: exact position, integration, access, size, volume, form, architectural details, structural problems and material to be used.

Within the pilot project one addition will have a complete set of plans in order to set an example for the method of work and form of applying for permit. The project will be carried out in accordance with the Israeli Antiquities Authority Structural and Technical Detailing for the Old City of Acre, and according to detailed planing for each addition/new structure.

**It is vital that the additions will form a natural course in the evolvement of the old city while preserving its values**

## **The following subjects are presented in this folder:**

### **General background**

Location of the pilot project area, definition of the facades for treatment and associating the different buildings in the block to the different bodies.

### **Addition to building no' 104**

An example of locating a place for an addition for building no' 104, based on building no' 60 and outline planing.

### **Rehabilitation process for a typical facade in old Acre**

An example for the rehabilitation of a facade based on a conservation plan and the removal of illegal additions.

### **Rehabilitation plan for the "Farchi" house**

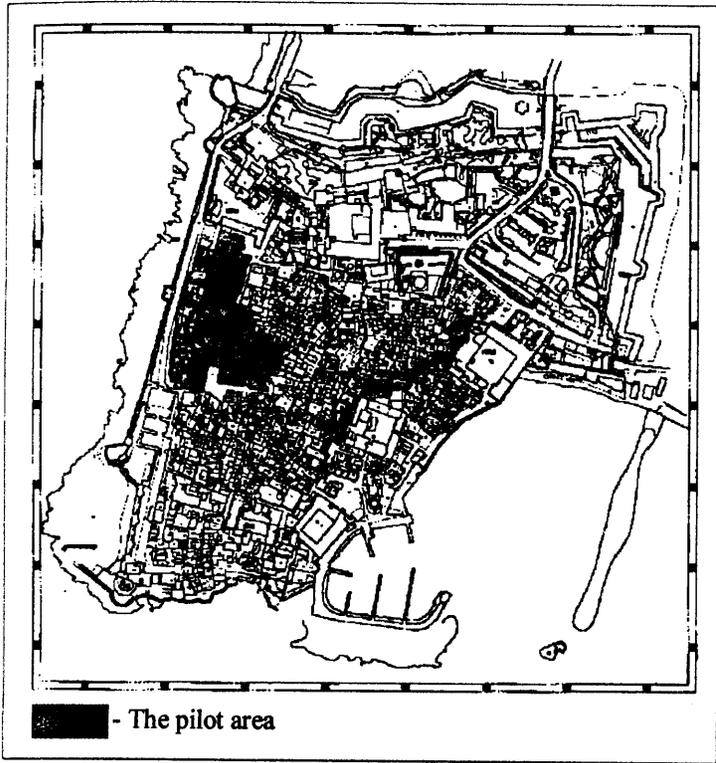
An example of the presentation of the rehabilitation of a typical facade, as part of the outline plan.

### **Rehabilitation of building no' 109**

A building that underwent a comprehensive facade rehabilitation and conservation project. The condition of the facade before and after the project can be seen.

### **Technical detailing**

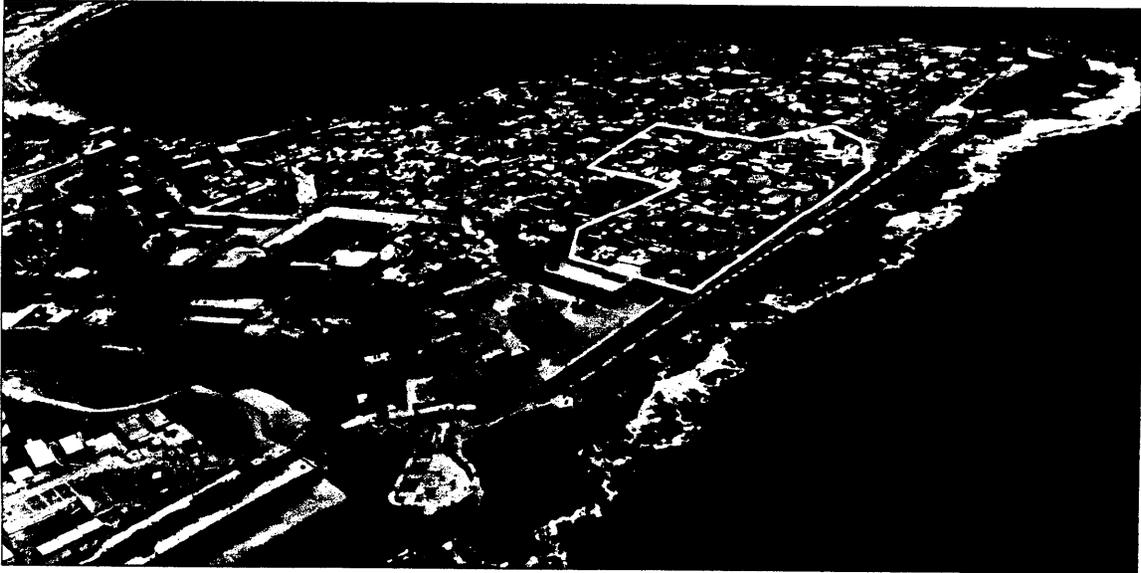
An example for the structural and technical detailing carried out for the old city of Acre. The detailing are intended to give a solution for the majority of the problems and needs encountered in the city when dealing in the architectural and technical aspects. A correct use of the detailing will enable an efficient and faster planing and will preserve the uniformity in form and level.



The old city of Acre – The pilot project area

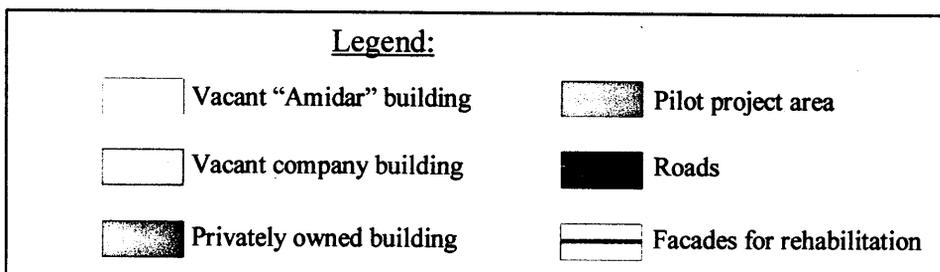


The old city of Acre – The pilot project location



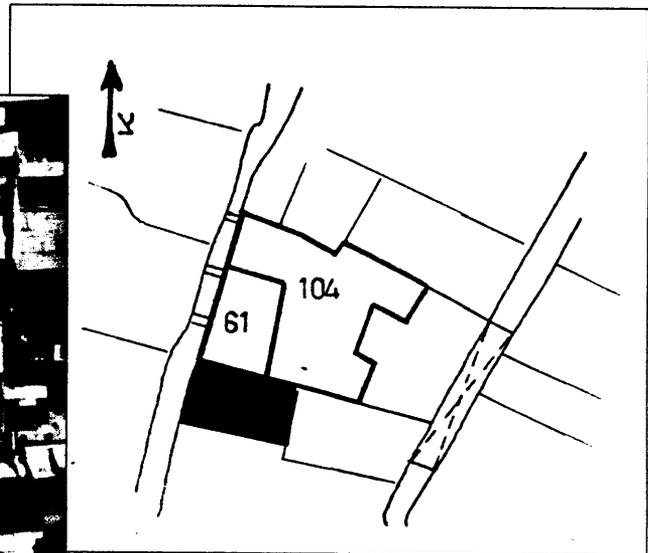
The pilot location – a view to the south-east

Plan of the pilot project area

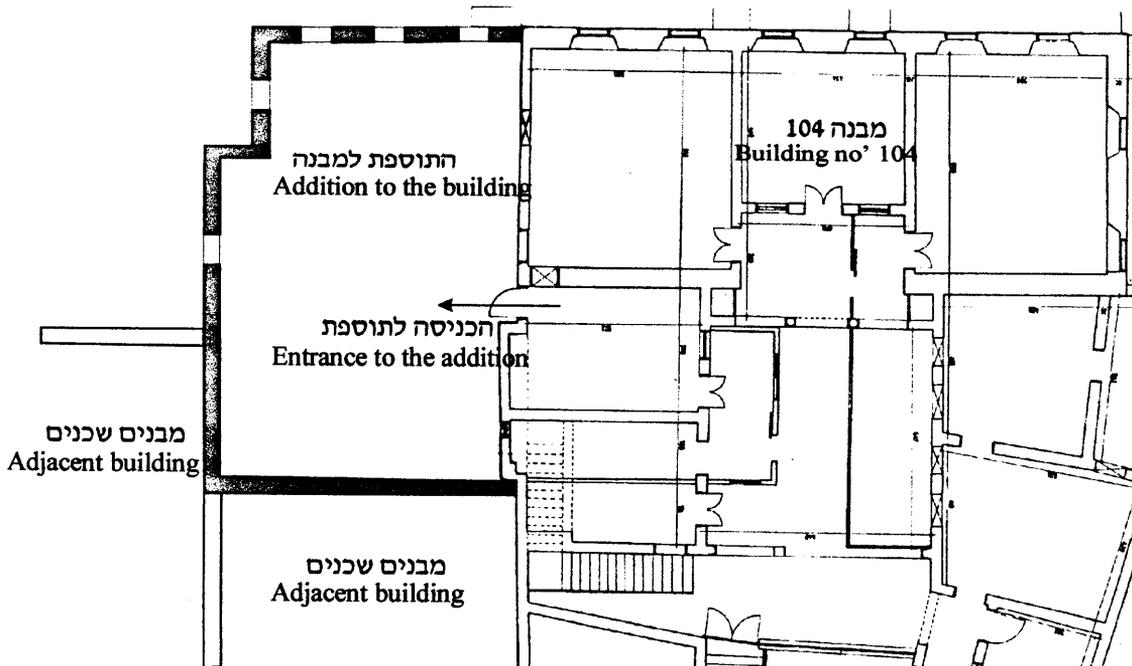


### Additions and new buildings:

The guiding principal in planing additions is to follow the morphology typical of the city, and building the additions so that they will form a natural step in the development of the city. One of the characteristics of Acre is the construction in stages, layer upon layer, addition upon addition. There is no prevention from further building additions according to the needs of the inhabitants. Additions form no threat or damage to the character of the old city as long as the traditional roles of construction are applied. The old city and its historic buildings must be respected by preserving the typical scale for the city, the use matching building materials (color and texture), and adjusting the size and rhythm of the openings.

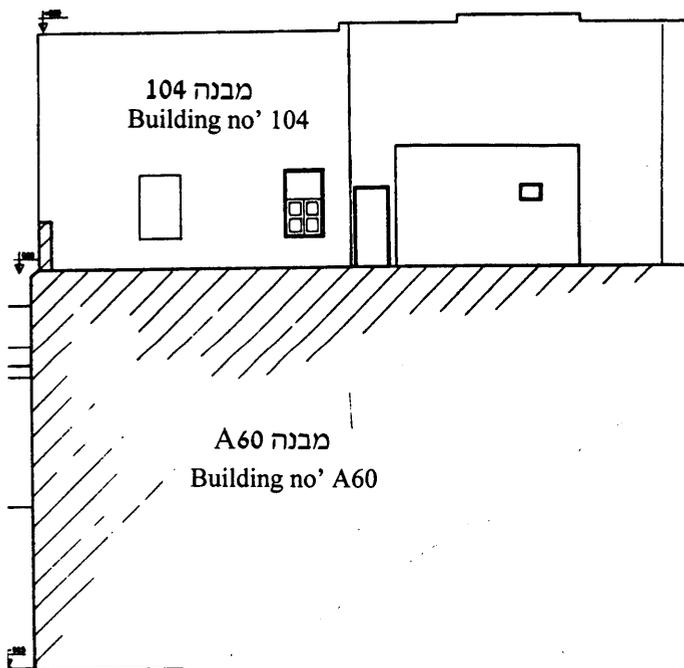
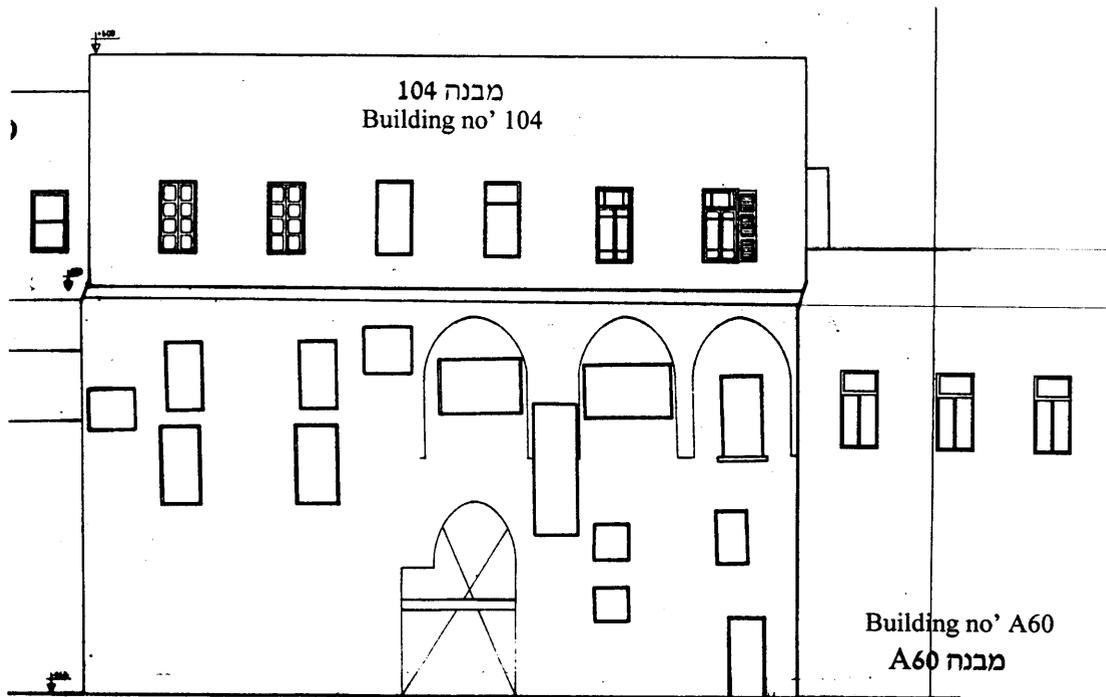


Addition location

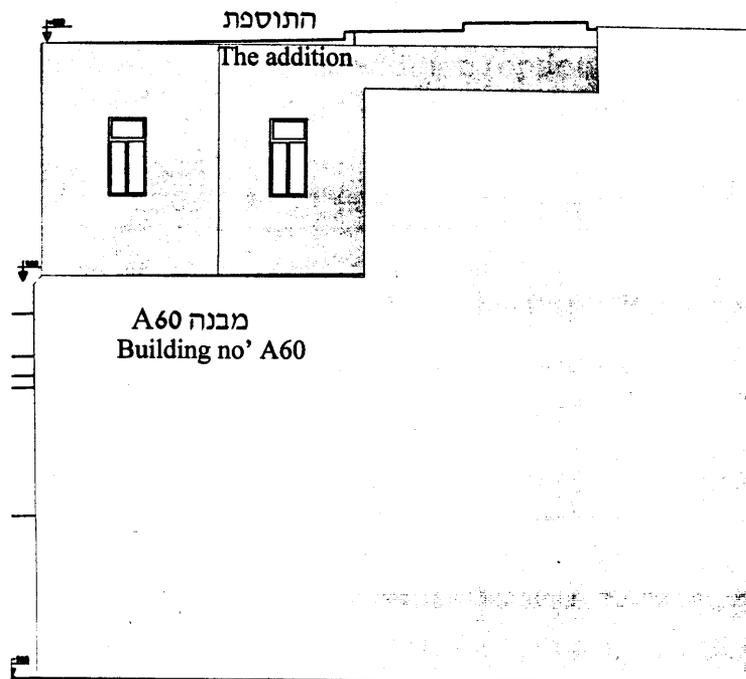
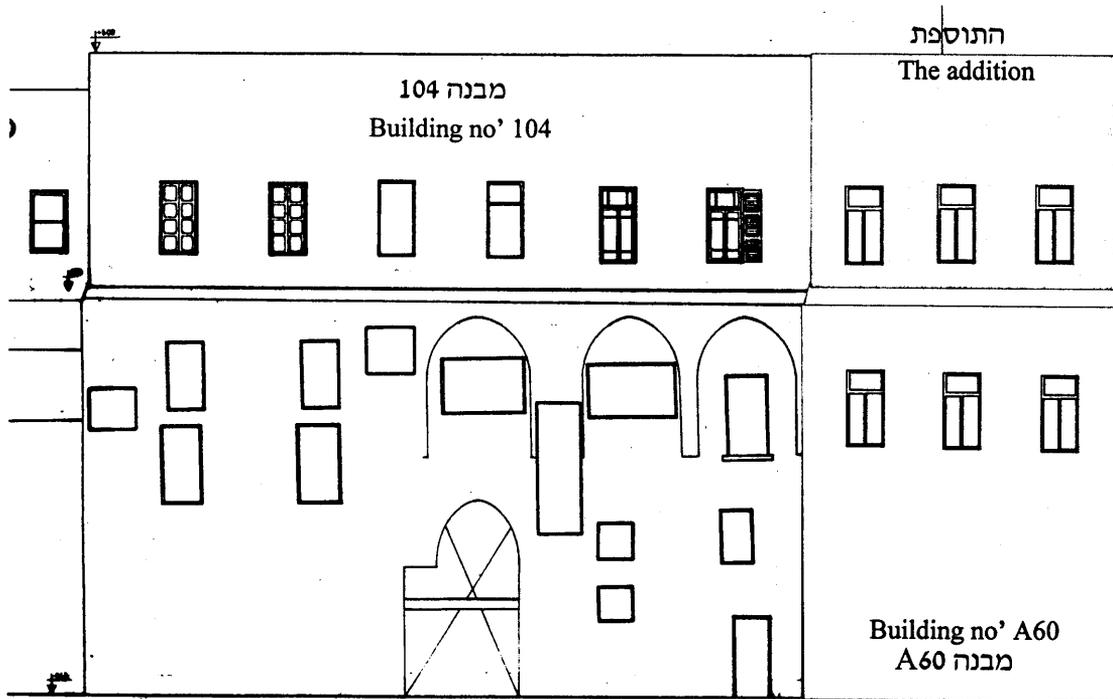


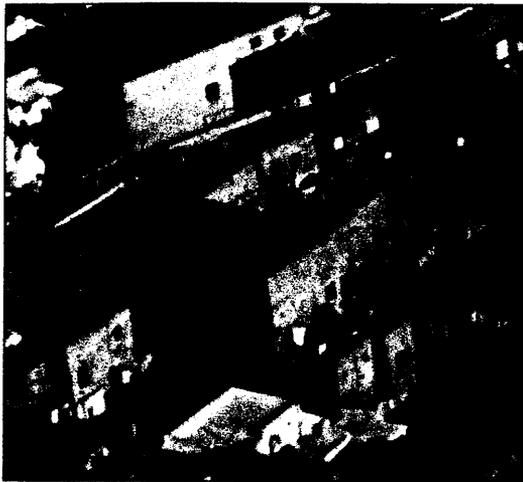
The addition plan regarding adjacent buildings

# The facades prior to the addition

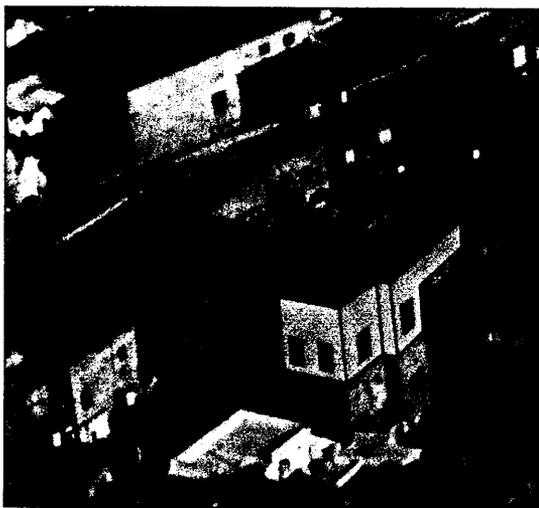


# The facades after the additions





The building prior to the addition

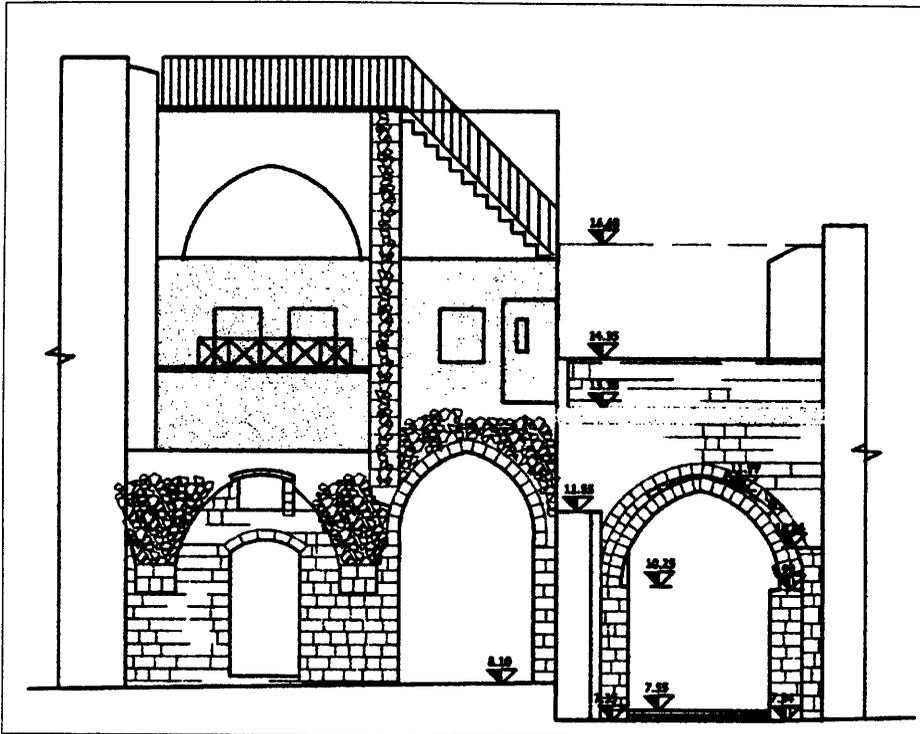


The building after the addition (option a)

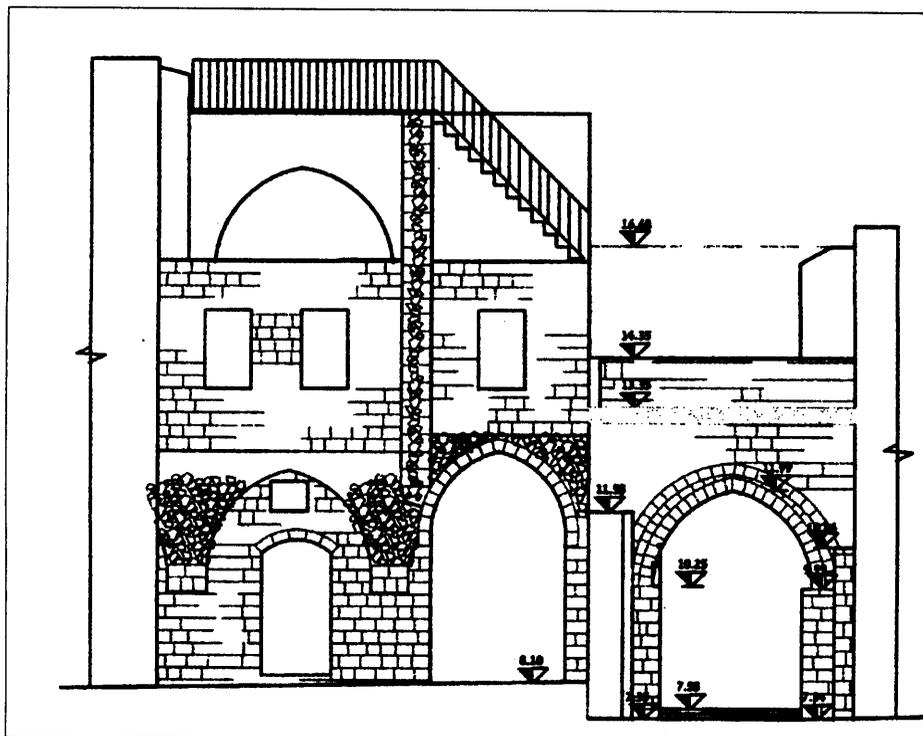


The building after the addition (option b)

# Facades Rehabilitation



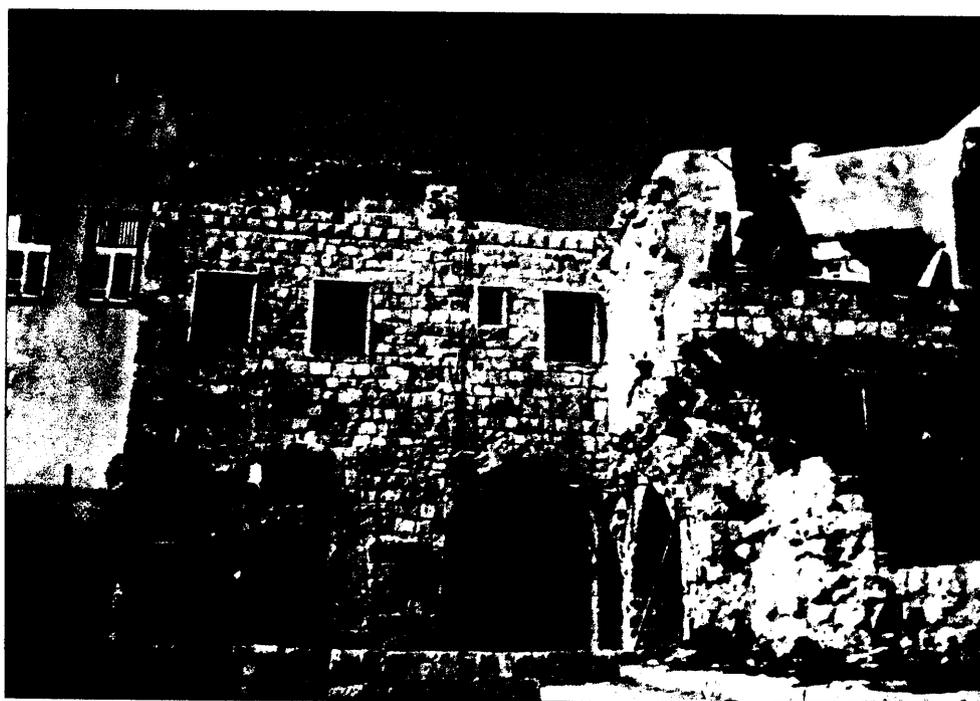
The facade prior to project



Plan for the rehabilitation of the facade



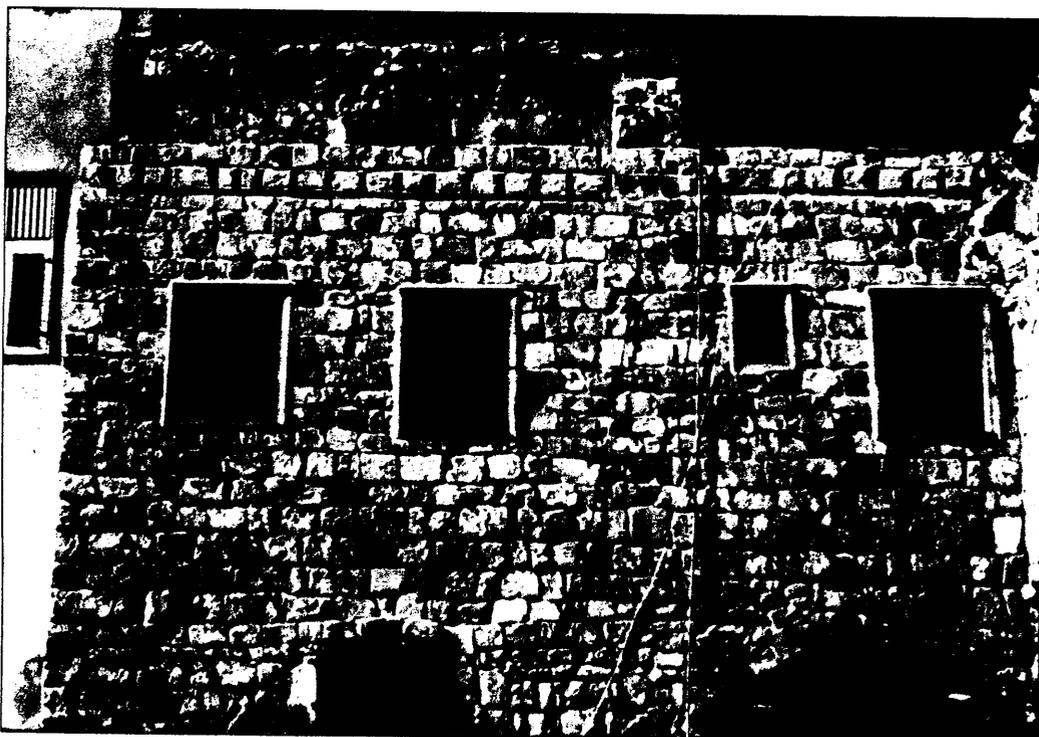
The facade prior to project



The facade after the project



The facade prior to project - details

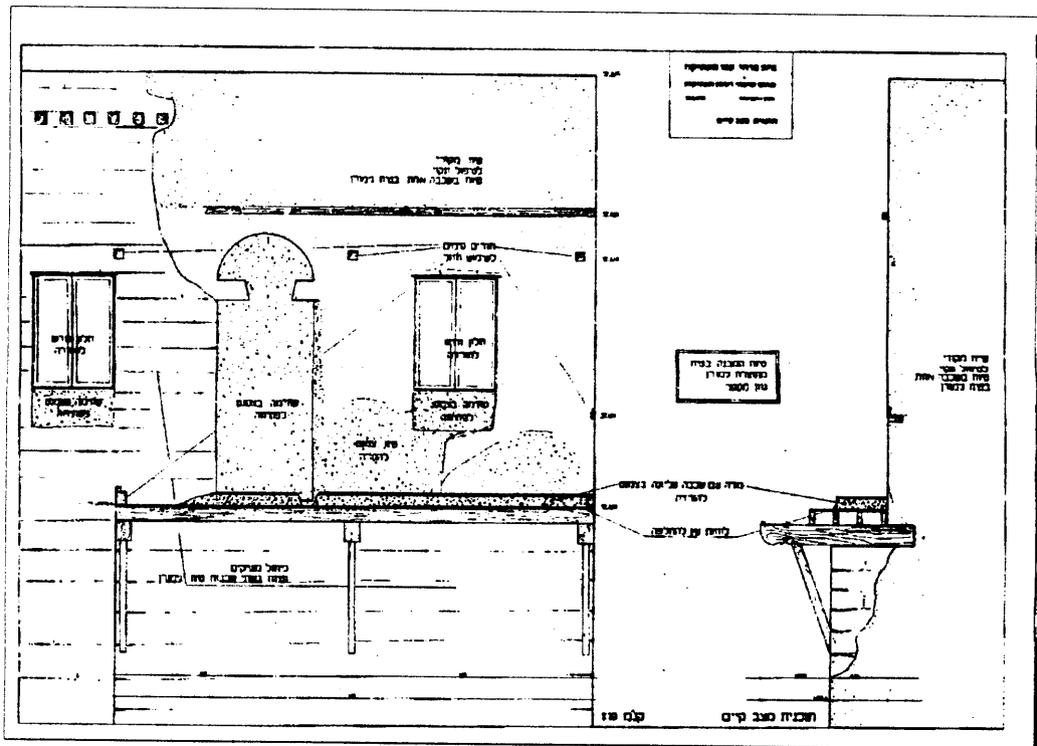


The facade after the project - details

# The "Farchi" house rehabilitation plan

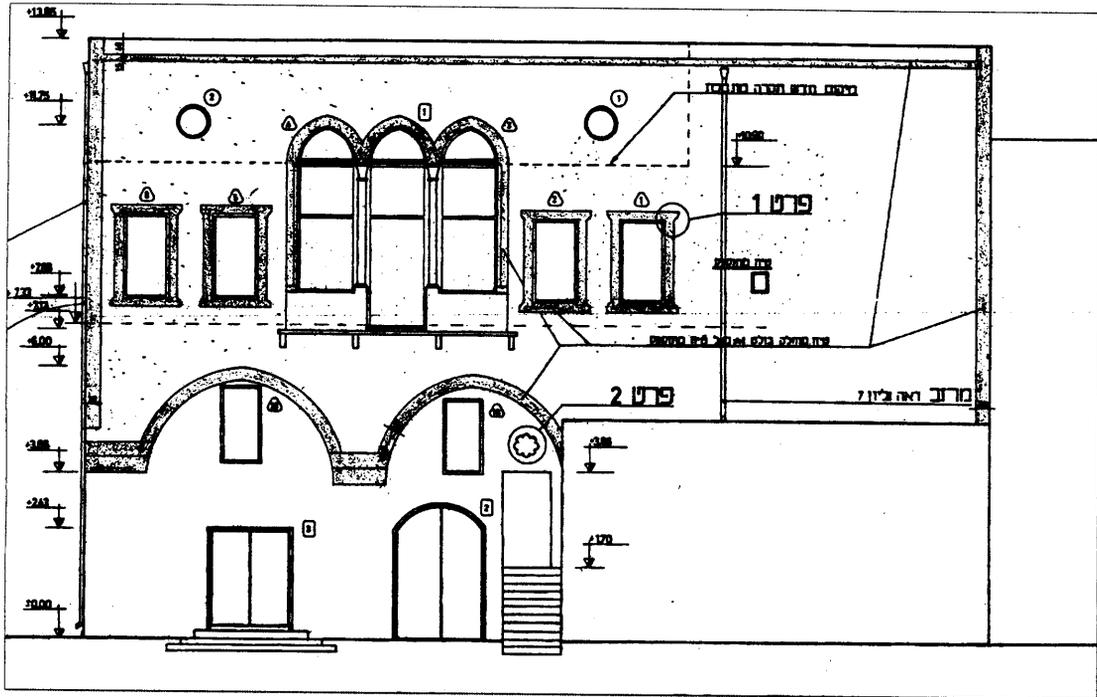


The "Farchi" house

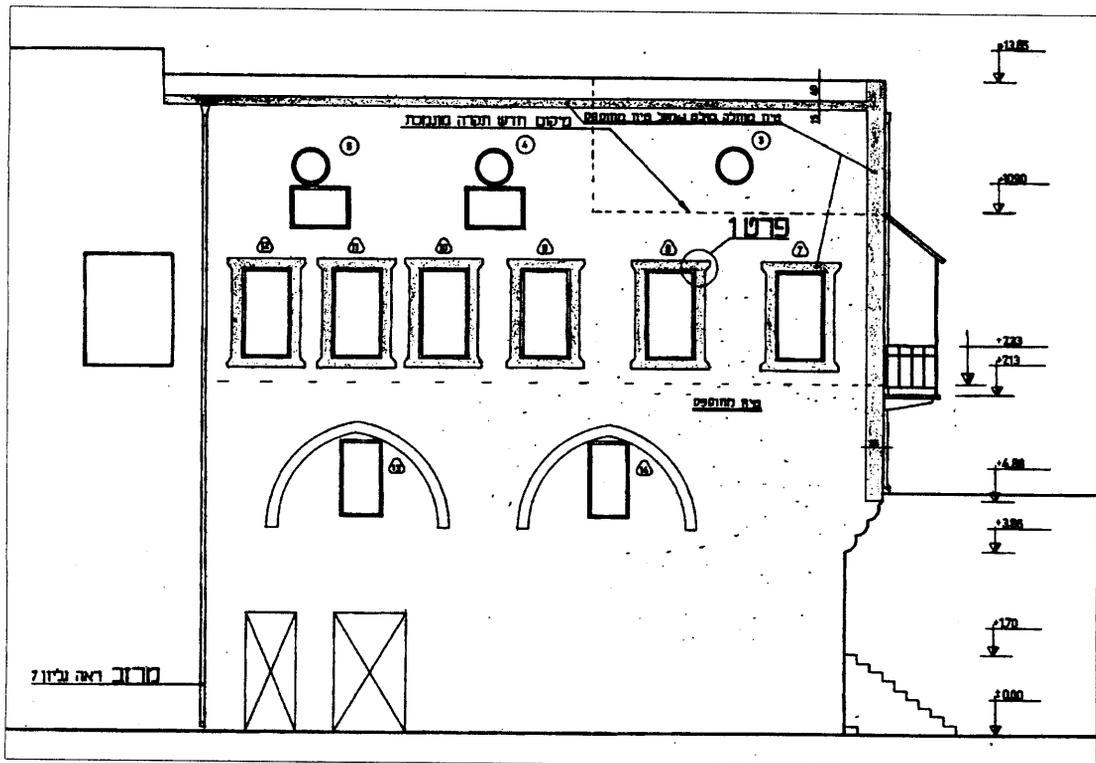


The "Farchi" house rehabilitation plan for the western facade

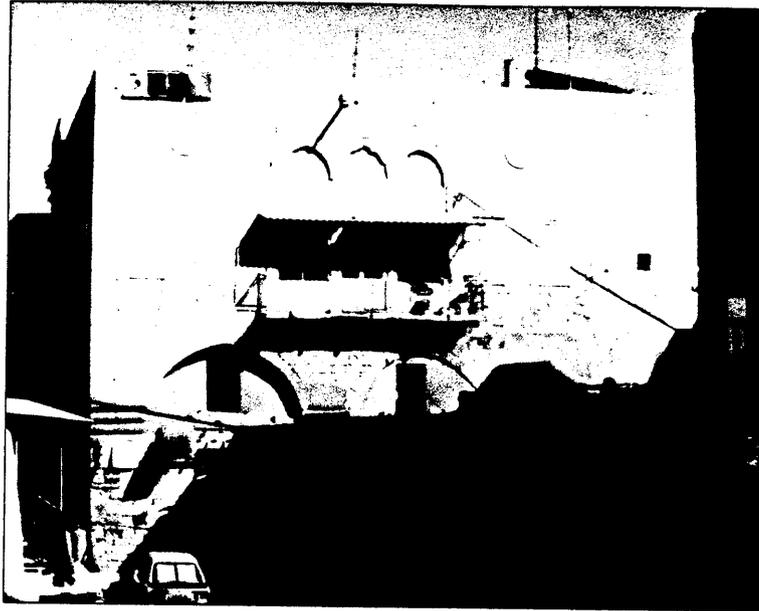
# Facade rehabilitation of building no' 109



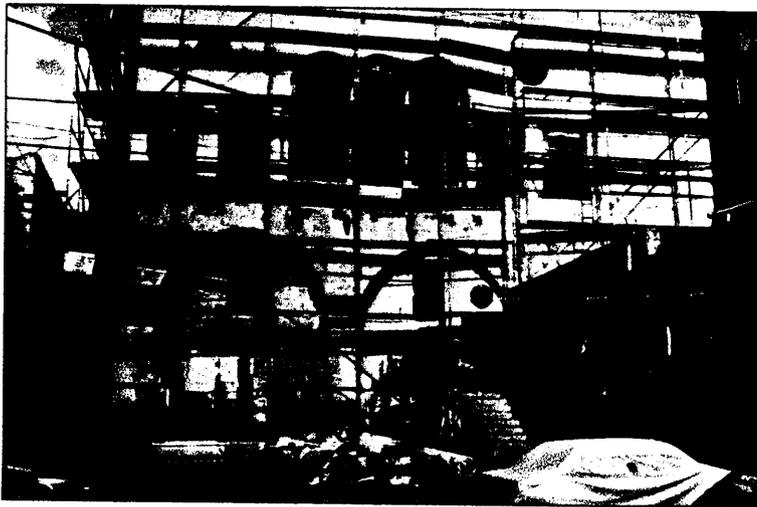
Southern facade – rehabilitation plan



Western facade – rehabilitation plan



Building no' 109 prior to the project



Building no' 109 during the project



Building no' 109 near the conclusion of the project



Building no' 109 prior to the project



Building no' 109 after the project

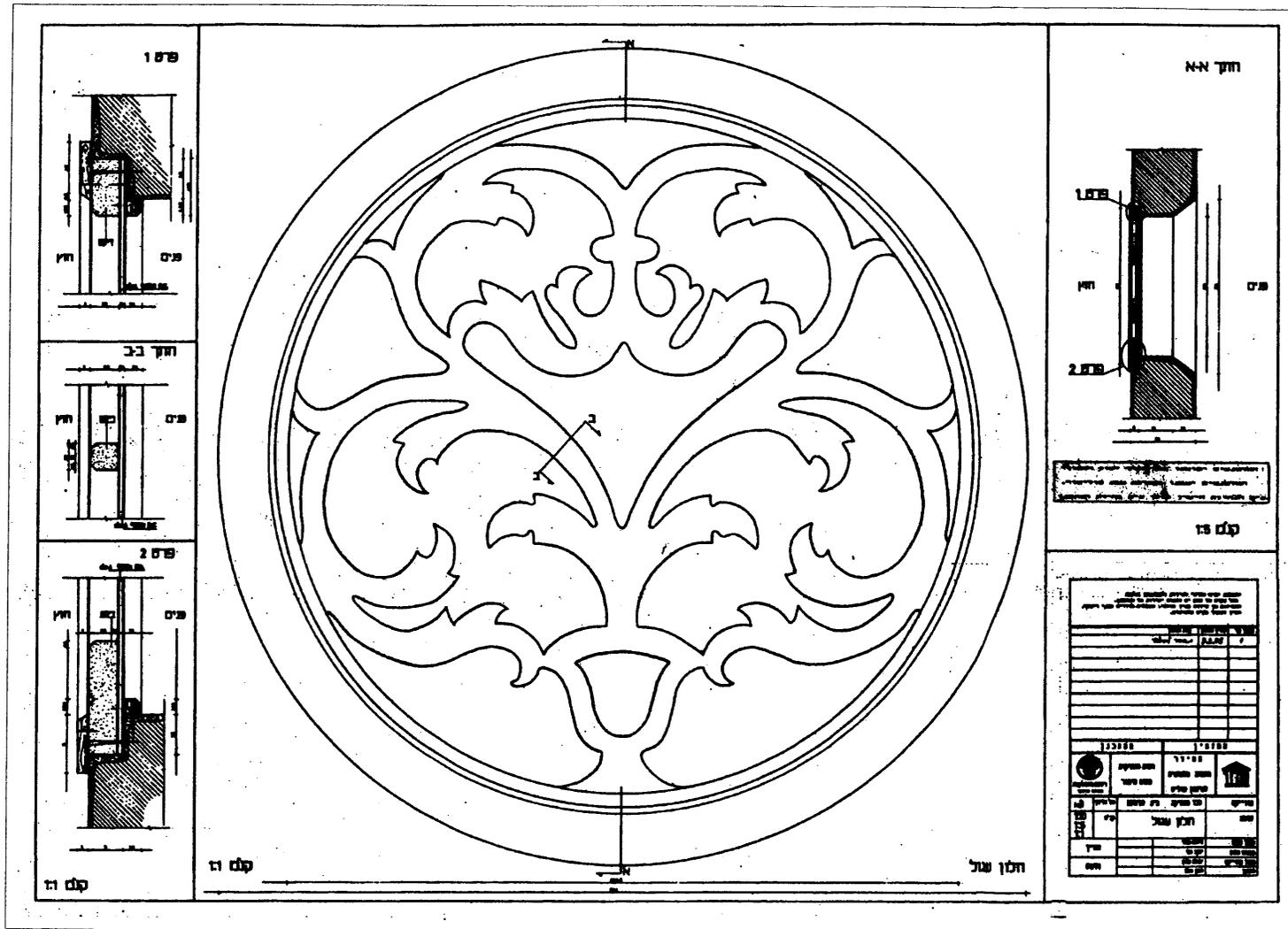


Building no' 109 prior to the project

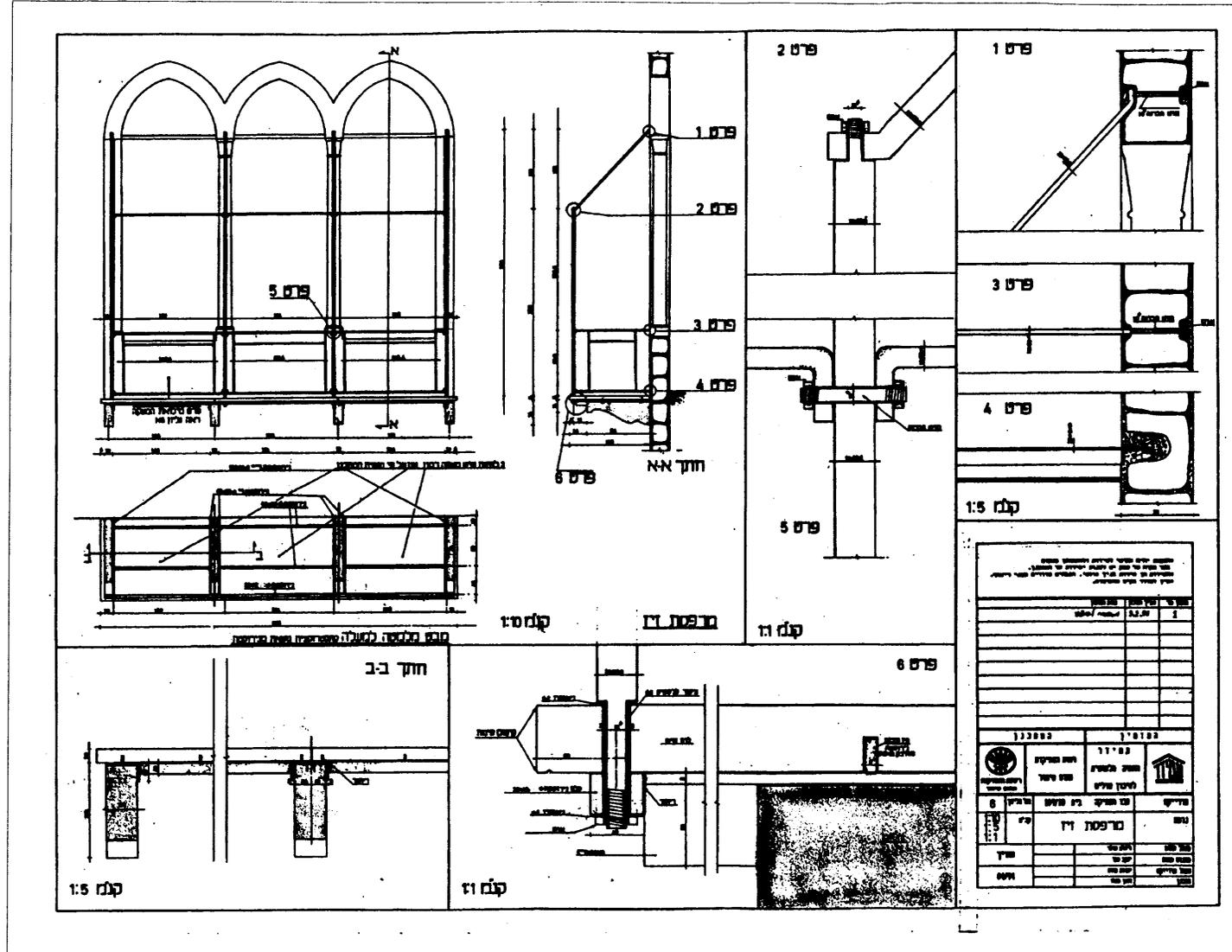


Building no' 109 after the project





Round window plan



Cantilever balcony plan



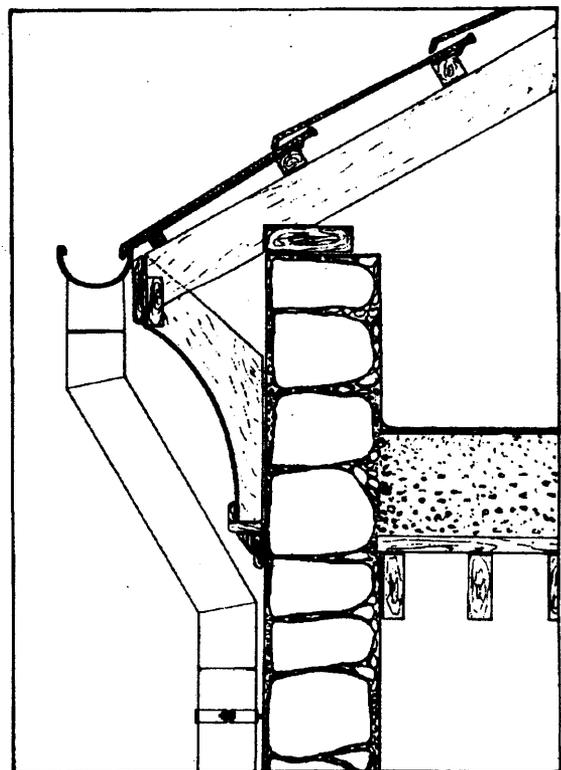
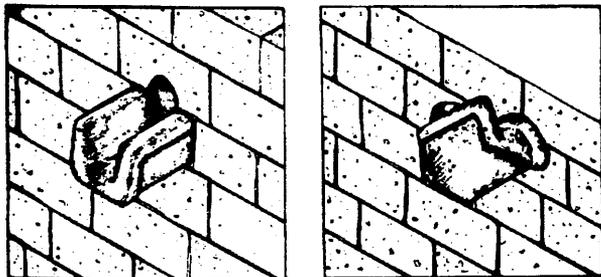
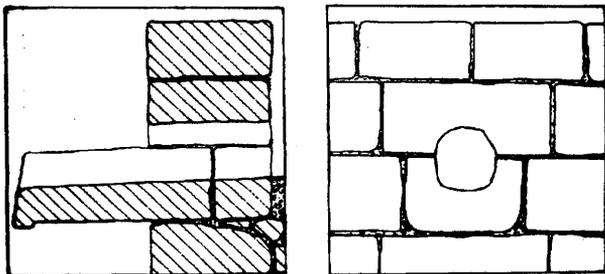
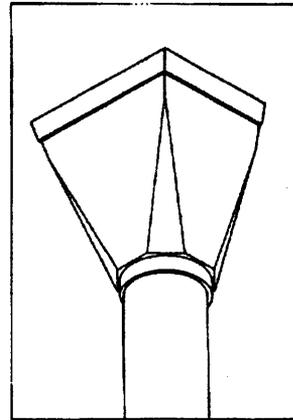
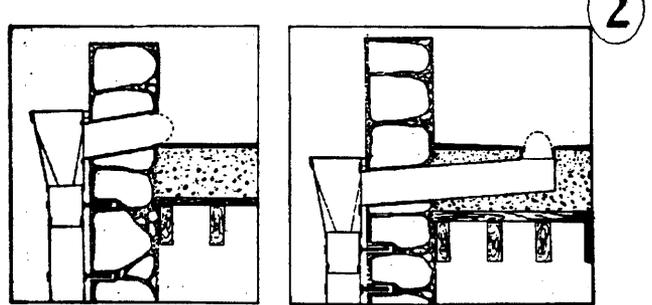
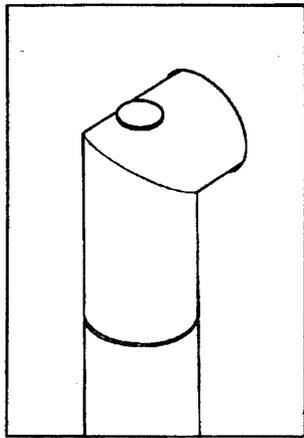
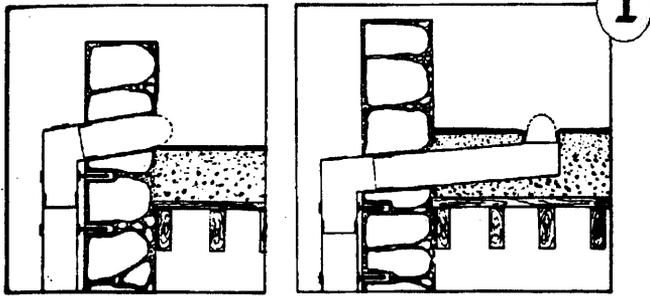


# Drainage system - typology

Number of pages from the drainage detailing

An example for roof drainage survey, studying the different systems, their shape and function in the building.

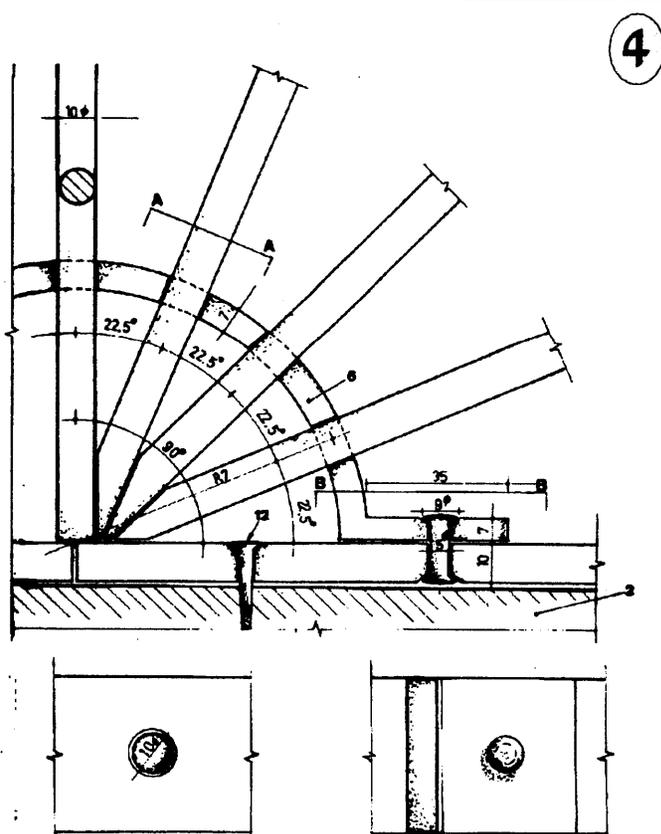
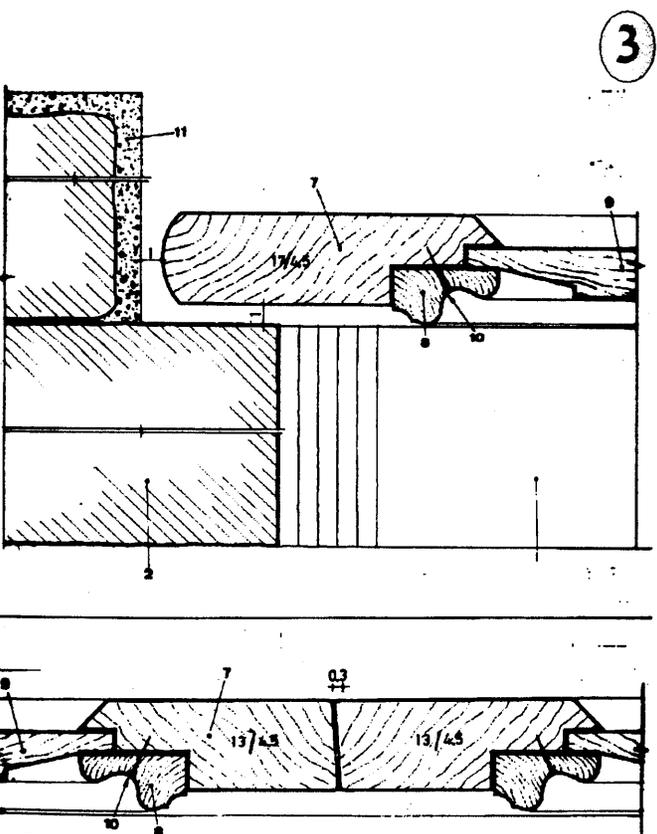
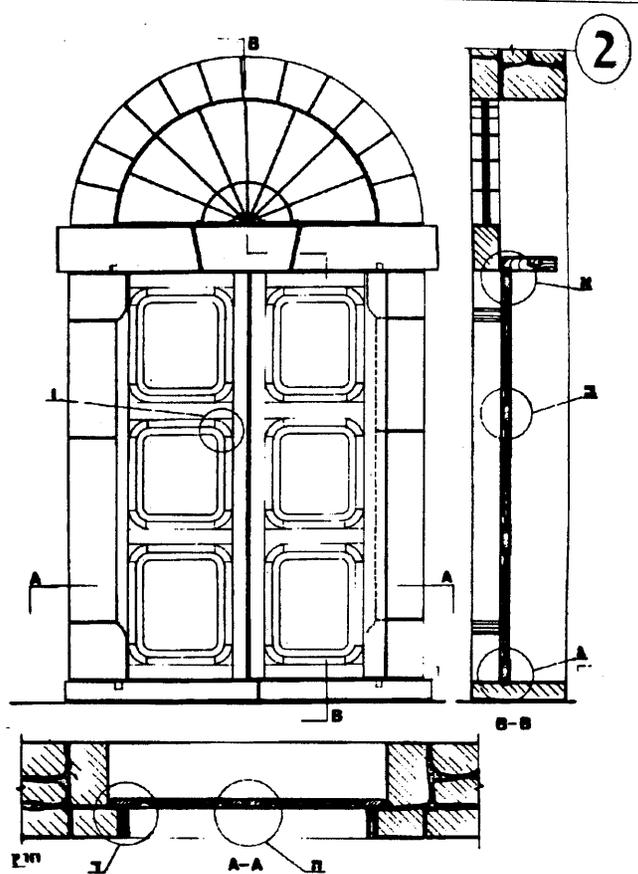
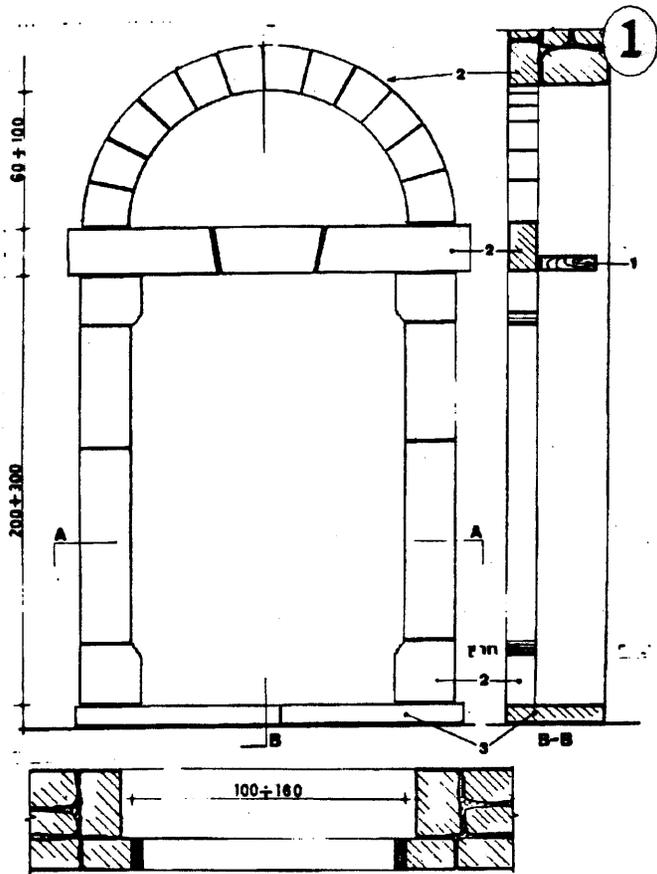
1. Drainage system for a flat roof without a basin 2. Drainage system for a flat roof with a basin and a round gutter. 3. Stone water spout 4. Drainage system for a tiled roof.



# Courtyard entrance gate

Number of pages from the doors and gates detailing

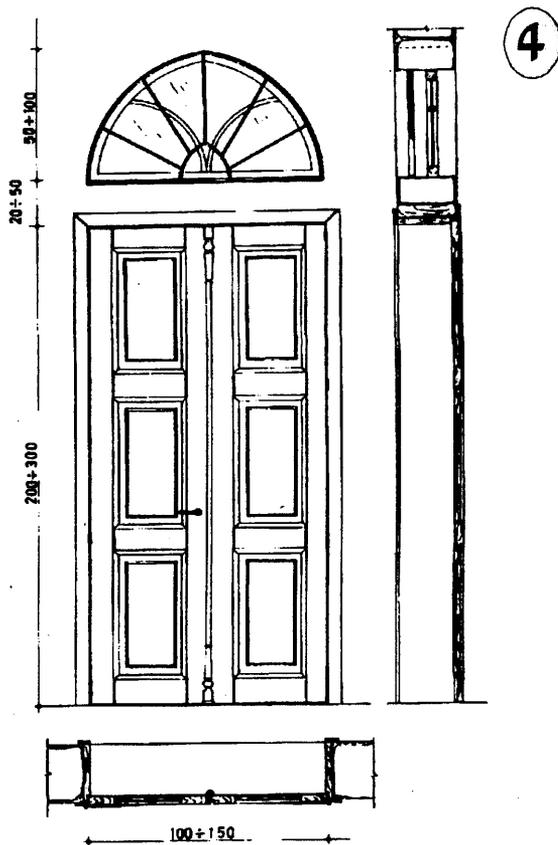
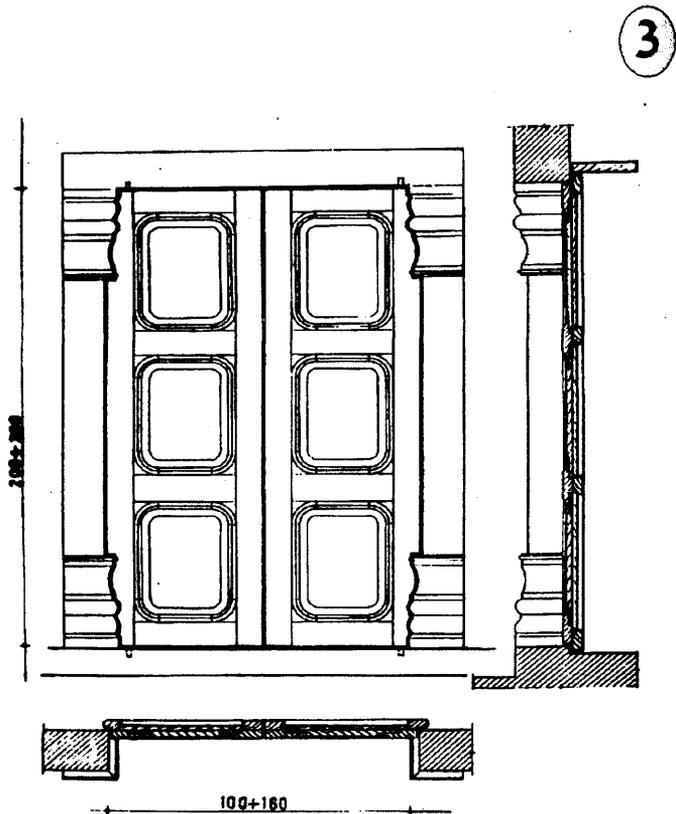
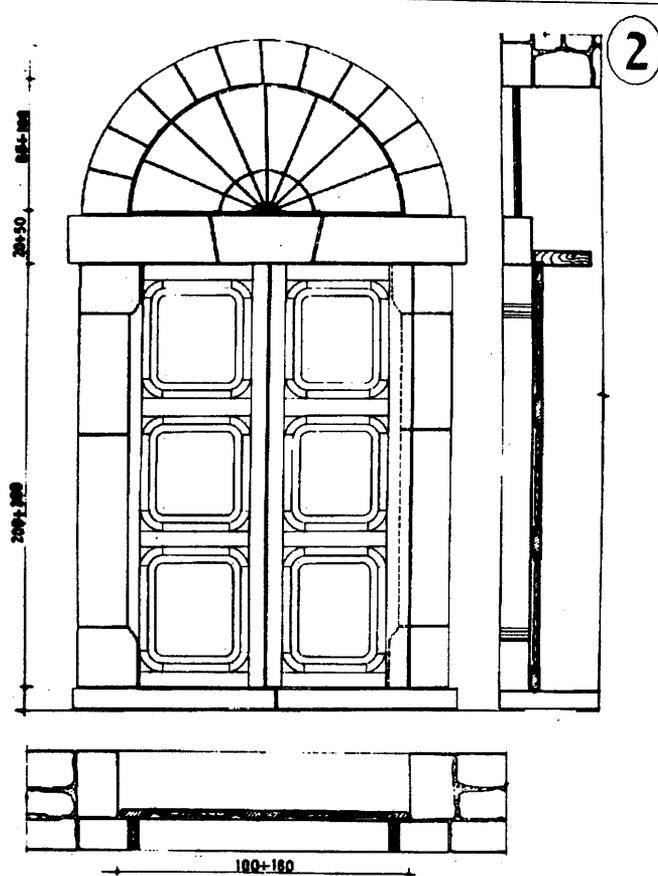
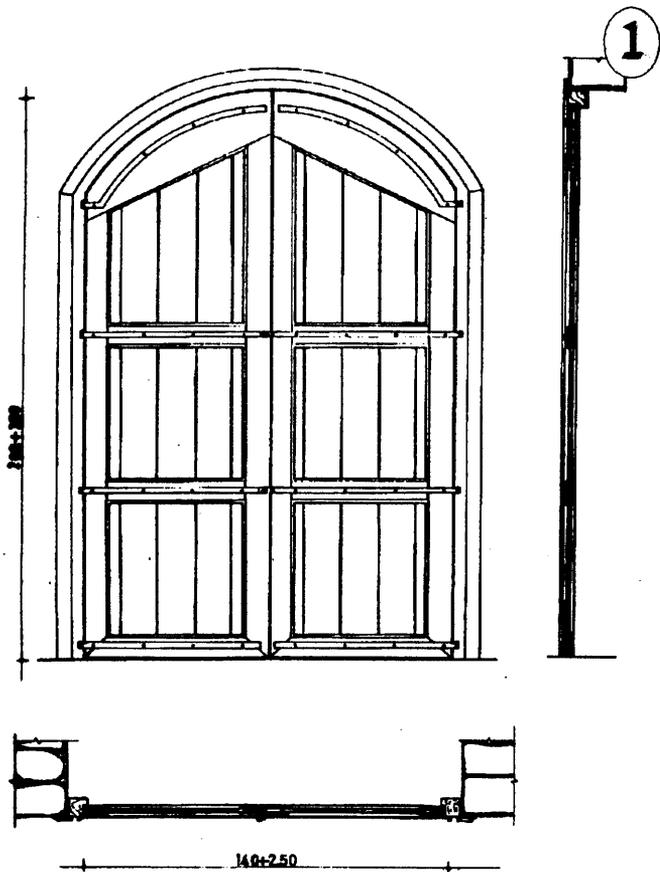
1. The opening a beam and stone frame
2. View from the outside
3. Details - form of connections
4. Details - metal work



# Doors - typology

Number of pages from the doors and gates detailing. An example for doors survey, studying the different doors, their shape and function in the building.

1. Entrance gate to a warehouse or shop
2. Courtyard entrance gate + an arched upper opening
3. Courtyard entrance gate with a stone frame
4. Building entrance door



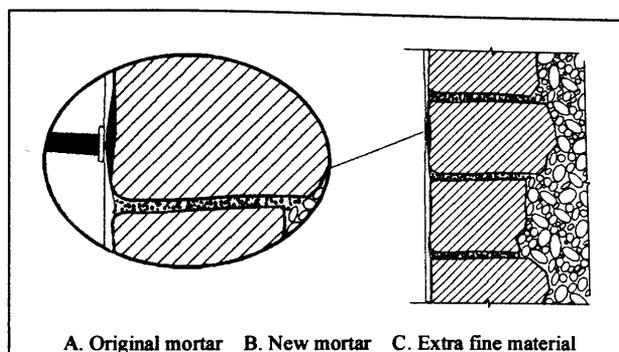
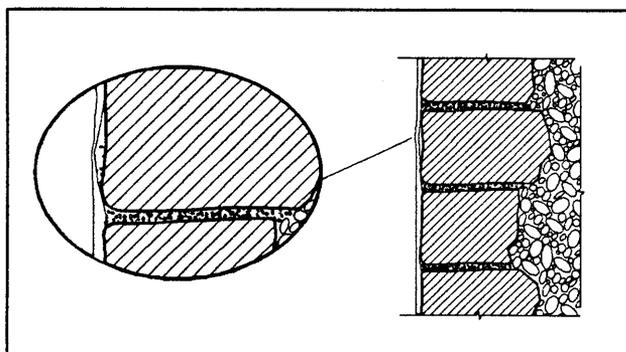
# Stone wall conservation and treatment - Technical detailing

1. Filling spaces between the plaster and the wall. 2. Re-pointing
3. Completion of missing stones 4. Stabilizing and sealing cracks and voids in stones.

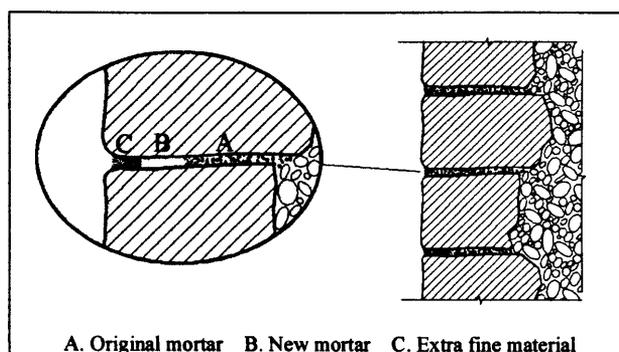
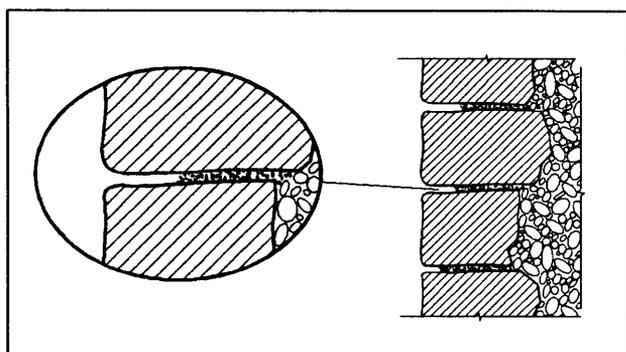
## The problem

## The solution / treatment

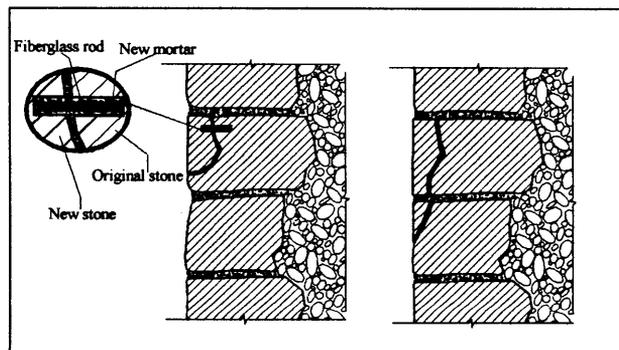
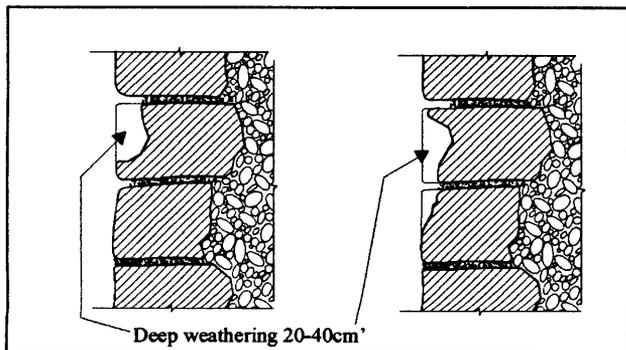
1



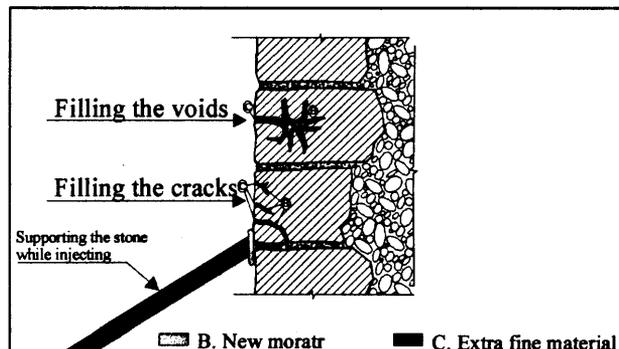
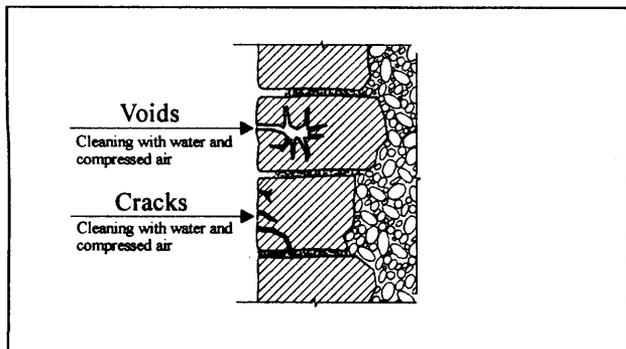
2



3



4



## Acre (Israel)

No 1042

### Identification

*Nomination* The Old City of Acre

*Location* Western Galilee

*State Party* Israel

*Date* 30 June 2000

### Justification by State Party

During its existence, Acre has been a unique example of the symbiosis between different cultures and values. Its geographical position made it a meeting point between east and west. The fact that various cultures struggled for control over the city ensured that all parties were exposed to each other's influence.

Acre's uniqueness becomes apparent when examining the Crusader city. The Crusaders brought European building technology with them to the Holy Land whilst utilizing local materials. They built in accordance with various needs that were dictated by the city's geographical position. Their relationship with the place and the local population led to the development of the hybrid city of its period, of which no comparable example exists in Europe

Crusader Acre evolved for 200 years, reaching the peak of its importance on a world scale at the time when it was the capital city of the Crusaders, and a main entrance for many visitors to the Holy Land. Another example of the city's uniqueness may be found in the way that Crusader Acre eventually played a role in Ottoman plans for building. After the Mamelukes captured the city they attempted to bury the original city. However, during rebuilding in the 18th century, the original Crusader buildings were used as foundations for the new buildings, thus keeping the basic Crusader city plan. **Criterion ii**

Acre is a living witness to the existence of two now extinct cultures – those of the Crusaders in the Holy Land and of the Ottomans. A Crusader city for pilgrims such as Acre could only exist in the Holy Land. As things developed in the region, Acre became the second most important city in the country after Jerusalem.

Since Acre was the capital of the second Crusader kingdom it offers today unique evidence of the highly particular lifestyle of the Crusaders, which lasted for a relatively short period in history before disappearing. The crux of this evidence of culture and life style is to be found in the lower level of the city in the multitude of

archaeological remains, preserved in superb condition for hundreds of years.

It is enough to walk around old Acre of today in order to get a constant sense of Ottoman culture because of the unusual degree to which its lifestyle has been preserved within the city walls and due to its geographical location. This happened despite the fact that changes in the socio-economic conditions led the wealthy classes to leave the city. **Criterion iii**

Acre demonstrated settlement and utilization of available land by great masses of people by military means, for a specific religious purpose. This was not in fact settlement for its own sake but in order to provide a stepping stone on the way to Jerusalem. Thus the city was a mixture of garrison and way station. This manner of settlement as part of a historical process over a short period of time is unique.

The Crusaders created a new culture in the land which did not seek either to perpetuate its influence on local culture or to absorb the influence of local culture. Thus in a moment Crusader Acre ceased to exist as soon as it was captured by the Mamelukes and the Crusades were over. There was no continuity of the special life style that had existed until that point. **Criterion v**

Acre is directly connected with a number of important historical world events, and also to the Baha'i faith.

In 1189 the Crusaders under King Guy de Lusignan laid siege to Acre in a two-year operation that went unparalleled in the tales of medieval wars of both the Christian and Muslim worlds. Salah-A-Din, Richard the Lion Heart, and Philippe II all participated in the war and Acre surrendered to the Crusader forces on 12 July 1191. Acre experienced its golden age as the capital of the Second Crusader kingdom from 1191 to 1291. It stood at a junction of international routes and was a trading centre between Europe and Asia. In 1291 the city was finally captured by the Moslems and systematically destroyed on the orders of Sultan El Ashraf.

In 1799 Acre became world-famous owing to the failure of Napoleon's army to capture the city after laying siege to it for a long time. The city's defenders, with the active aid of the English, managed to repel the French forces, forcing them to withdraw. "Tel Akko," previously called "King Richard Hill," was renamed "Tel Napoleon." The failure of the siege of Acre marked a turning point in Napoleon's career.

In 1868 the Baha'ullah arrived in Acre as a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire. He spent the remaining 24 years of his life in the city, first imprisoned in the city's fortress and later kept under house arrest in a small building in the alleyways of the old city. During his sojourn in Acre, the Baha'ullah wrote his most important work, setting out the laws and precepts to be observed by Baha'i adherents. He was freed towards the end of 1870 and went to live on a nearby estate outside the walls of the city. He died in 1892, his remains were buried on the estate, and to this day his tomb is the holiest shrine of the Baha'i.

During the British mandate in Palestine nine freedom fighters from the resistance were executed in the Gallows Room, part of the British prison occupying the citadel. **Criterion vi**

## Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

## History and Description

### History

Ancient Acre was situated on Tel Akko (or Tel El Fukhar), about 2.5km to the east of the location of the old city. Settlement at the tell appears to have begun during the Early Bronze Age (c 3000 BCE). Around 1900 BCE the town was fortified by a high earthen rampart with a brick gateway facing the direction of the sea. When the Israelites entered the land of Canaan Akko was one of the cities allotted to the tribe of Asher. In the centuries that followed it was under Assyrian rule in the 9th century BCE and between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE it was a Phoenician town under Persian rule. Following the conquest of the entire region by Alexander the Great and his early death, the area around Acre was first ruled by the Hellenistic Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt and then the Seleucids of Syria.

The present city was founded on the peninsula in the earlier period (3rd–2nd centuries BCE) and named Antiochia Ptolemais after its founder, Ptolemy II of Egypt. There are still traces of fortifications, a wall, and tower from this period. Acre was a centre for international trade because of its strategic position and its natural port.

After a short period as part of the Jewish Hasmonaean kingdom in the 1st century BCE the city fell to the Romans in 63 BCE and became part of the province of Syria; it was granted the status of *colonia*. The first Christian pilgrims passed through Acre on their way to Jerusalem. In 330, during the Byzantine period, this region passed into the control of the Roman Empire. This was a time of economic and demographic expansion, when hundreds of churches and monasteries were established all over the Holy Land. The larger cities expanded and were encircled by new fortification systems; Acre retained its status as the principal port of the region.

During the early Arab period (638–1099), when the city, which reverted to its original name, Akko, formed part of the Caliphate of Cairo, many of the country's cities were abandoned and destroyed. Acre decreased in importance as an international port and the city limits were reduced to include several quarters around the port, where a Moslem naval fleet was stationed. Acre began its economic recovery during the 10th and 11th centuries and the port and city walls were rebuilt.

The Crusader period began for Acre in 1104, some five years after the fall of Jerusalem. Baldwin I, King of Jerusalem, and the Genoese commercial fleet cooperated in laying siege to Acre from land and sea until the city fell to the Crusaders. A new and special model of settlement evolved, characterized by defined and autonomous quarters. The king settled in the northern part of the city, where he built a fortified palace.

Genoese, Venetian, and Pisan merchants built autonomous quarters nearby the port. The military orders installed themselves nearby – the Hospitallers in the north

of the city to the west of the palace, the Templars in the south-west of the city, and the German Knights close to the eastern wall of the wall. Other important quarters included those of the Patriarch (in which the Church of the Holy Cross, Acre's main cathedral, was built), the French merchants (the Provençal quarter), and the English merchants. Moslem and Jewish merchants also settled in the city.

Many public buildings were erected – fortified buildings, churches, bathhouses, bakeries, courts and hostels for pilgrims and merchants, covered markets – and also private dwellings. During the two centuries of Crusader rule Acre developed into a wealthy and thriving trading city. It symbolized the interchange between the eastern and western cultures better than any other city.

In 1187, after the debacle at Hattin and the destruction of the Crusader army, the Moslems captured the whole of the Crusader lands and Acre was held for four years. It was not until 1191 that the Third Crusade led by Richard the Lion Heart led to the recapture of Acre and the adjoining coastal regions. A second Crusader kingdom was established with Acre as its capital, since the Crusaders were not able to retake Jerusalem.

From 1191 to 1291 the second Crusader Kingdom expanded its borders. New neighbourhoods such as Monmizar to the north were built and Acre was given a new double city wall. More palaces, churches, and public buildings were erected, at a time when styles in the west were changing from Romanesque to Gothic. This change in style was put into practice in Acre and recent excavations have revealed buildings that reflect the transition between styles and the initial establishment of the Gothic style in the 13th century.

The Mameluke period (named after the Moslem rulers of Egypt) began in 1291 with the conquest of Acre and continued until 1517. Acre came within the *mamluka* of Gaza. The city was destroyed and totally abandoned, with only a few buildings remaining around the port.

During the Ottoman period (1517–1917) Acre was described by pilgrims and merchants who visited it in the 16th and 17th centuries as a deserted ghost town, with some structures from the Crusader period still standing, some jutting out of the earth, and others buried. Reconstruction did not begin until the middle of the 18th century, under Daher El Amar, who renewed the port, manned it with officials and merchants, built a palace for himself, and rebuilt the fortifications.

The building of Ottoman Acre in the 18th and 19th centuries buried the remains of the Crusader city, thereby preserving the Crusader remains. In 1799 Acre attained world fame after Napoleon failed to capture the city, under the command of its Turkish ruler Ahmed El-Jazar, after a long siege.

Acre enjoyed renewed economic expansion in the 19th century. Mosques, bathhouses, and caravanserais were built. Wealthy merchants settled there, building grand mansions in the eastern Neo-Classical style of the end of the 19th century.

In 1868 Baha'ullah, founder of the Baha'i faith, arrived in Acre as a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire. He spent the remaining 24 years of his life in the city, first imprisoned in the city's fortress and later under house arrest in a small building in the alleyways of the old city. During his

sojourn in Acre, the Baha'ullah wrote his most important work, setting out the laws and precepts to be observed by Baha'i adherents. The Baha'ullah was freed towards the end of 1870 and went to live on a nearby estate outside the walls of the city. He died in 1892, his remains were buried on the estate, and to this day his tomb is the holiest shrine of the Baha'i.

After capturing Acre in 1918 and being given control of Palestine by mandate of the League of Nations, the British used the fortress as a prison. Several leading Jewish settlers were imprisoned there, and hangings also took place. The British developed the city outside the boundaries of the walls, constructing dwellings and administrative buildings. However, they did nothing to alter the fabric of life within the walls of the old city. The port fell into disuse as the nearby modern port of Haifa superseded it.

After Israel's independence in May 1948 only a few Moslem residents remained in the old city, but after the fighting had died down many Palestinian Arab refugees from other places began to arrive and settle in the old city, whilst many Jews settled in the new sections. At the present time the five thousand inhabitants of the walled city are exclusively Arab and some 80% are migrants from other parts of Israel.

#### *Description*

The built city comprises two levels:

*The Crusader city*, mainly subterranean remains, partly revealed and in a very good state of preservation – wall, quarters (Hospitaller, Genoese, Pisan, Venetian, *Burgus Novos*, etc), open and covered streets, monuments, drainage tunnels, systems of hideaway passages, shops, and dwellings.

*The Ottoman city*, built over the ruins of the Crusader city, using the earlier structures as foundations and thereby helping in the preservation of the remains of the Crusader city and its outline. The Ottoman city is characterized by its narrow alleyways, monuments, and inhabited dwellings with inner courtyards.

The *system of fortifications* comprises the city walls, gates, towers, and moat. The walls were built in stages between 1750 and 1840. They include the ruins of the Daher-El-Umar's wall (built 1750–51) and its Lion Gate, the El-Jazar wall, and the city gates (the Landward Gate, built by El Jazar, the Seaward Gate, and two entrances in the northern walls opened in 1910).

Two elements of the *water-supply system* survive: the remains of the water aqueduct, built by either Dahar El Umar or El Jazar, which brought water from the Kabri fountain to the city and supplied it to the bathhouses and the public fountain, and a reservoir constructed of five Ottoman barrel vaults.

There are several noteworthy *tombs of sheikhs and cemeteries*, including the Nebi Tzalah Tomb in the cemetery near the eastern wall, the Sheikh Yanis Tomb inside a room in a southern wall of the Jabhane opposite to the Jazar mosque, the Sheikh Ana'am Tomb built in 1807–08 by Suliman Pecha, the Sheikh Az A-Dean Tomb north of the wall by the sea (traditionally considered to be the tomb of Dahar El-Amar), and three cemeteries – the Muzoleom, a cemetery behind Hann-Shuni, and the cemetery of St George's Church.

Acre has four historic *churches*: St John's Church, built in 1737 by the Franciscans, probably on top of the Crusader St Andrew's Church and now used by the Roman Catholic community; the Maronite Church; St Andrew's Church, apparently built on top of the Crusader St Anne's Church and now used by the Greek Catholic Church; and St George's Church, one of the most ancient in Acre and referred to in 17th century pilgrims' description as St Nicholas's Church (it is constructed on Crusader cross-vaults, which matches the description of St Lawrence's Church).

There are eight *mosques* within the nominated old city of Acre. The El-Jazar mosque, built in 1781 by El-Jazar, on the remains of the Holy Cross Cathedral, is one of the most important mosques in the country. It comprises religious institutions and a famous library. El-Jazar, Suliman Pecha, and their families are buried in the courtyard. The El-Zaituna mosque was built in 1745 by Husain Abed Elhadi. What are believed to be remains of the Hospitallers' Church are incorporated in its structure. The Snan-Basha mosque was built in 1806–7 by Suliman Pecha above the remains of the mosque built by Snan-Basha in the 16th century. The Elmualic mosque was originally a synagogue of the Jewish community in Acre and was converted into a mosque by Dahar El-Amar in 1746. Like most of the mosques in Acre it overlies Crusader remnants: this is also the case of the A-Ramal (1704) and A-Magdala (1710) mosques. The Shazalia mosque was built in 1862 by the Sheikh Ali Nur A-Dean El-Yasruti, founder of the Shazalia cult, whose body and those of his family are buried nearby. Also of importance is the El Burg' mosque, located near the wall at the Lion Gate.

Other fine examples of Moslem architecture in Acre are two *bathhouses*: the large Hammam El-Basha built by El-Jazar in the 18th century, apparently on top of an ancient bathhouse, and the small Hammam built by Dahar El-Amar in the 18th century and in continuous use until the 1940s.

Among the historic *khans* (caravanserais) are Khan El Umdan, built in 1784 by El-Jazar; Khan El-Farang', built in the 16th century by French merchants in the central courtyard of the Crusader-period Venetian quarter; Khan A-Shauardee, built in the 18th century by Dahar El-Amar; Burg' El-Sultan, a Crusader tower, reconstructed for use by the Mamelukes and later incorporated into the khan; the Donkeys Khan, built in 1810 and ruined by an explosion at an ammunition depot; and Khan A-Shune, built in the period of Dahar El-Amar over the remains of the Pisan quarter.

Two *Baha'i holy sites* are also in the area of the old city nominated for inscription: the Jabotinsky Tower and the Abud House.

There are two *markets*: the Turkish Bazaar (El-Jazar Market) and Shuk El-Abyad (the White Market), built by Dahar El-Amar and reconstructed in 1817 by Suliman Pecha after a fire.

The main *Government Building* is the Citadel, which was the Ottoman governors' palace and a prison during the British Mandate. It was built over the citadel of the Hospitallers, which includes the Knights' Halls, the Grand Munier, the Crypt, the "Beautiful Hall," and the courtyard. The Seraya is thought to have functioned as a courthouse during the Ottoman period

The urban structure of contemporary Acre is based on the following fundamental factors:

- Acre's geographical position on a natural bay was a significant reason for its development as a port. Being located on a peninsula with its limits defined by its walls and by the sea that defined its boundaries dictated the need for dense building, a characteristic feature of medieval cities.
- The Crusader city was built in clearly defined quarters.
- The Ottoman city blended with the Crusader remains, using them as foundations. It is characterized by its layout of blocks and buildings set around inner yards.

At first glance, Acre's winding streets and blocks of buildings appear to have grown in an unplanned way: it is difficult to perceive any particular order according to which the city might have been arranged. It was, however, carefully laid out: it is arranged around two complementary hierarchies, the hierarchy of areas of transit and the hierarchy of built areas and blocks of buildings.

The built areas consist of quarters, blocks of buildings, individual buildings, and apartments. Apartment dwellings form blocks set around inner courtyards, the blocks forming larger blocks and quarters.

The boundary of every built component of the city is defined by some kind of wall.

- At city level by fortified walls that surround the old city in its entirety, detaching it and cutting it off from anything outside.
- At block level by uninterrupted stone fascias at ground level which constitute a "wall."
- At larger block level by the formation of inner courtyards.

The urban characteristic of Acre is one of looking inwards and containment, reflecting the role of the home in traditional Moslem society. The facades of buildings serve to separate the home from the street, thereby protecting the inhabitants. Upper floors were built on at a later stage and clearly reflect western influence, with less closure and containment, reflected in large picture windows and balconies.

The areas of transit are also arranged according to hierarchy, following the same hierarchic principle as in built areas – division and gradual passage:

- Main thoroughfares running between the city churches and public centres and the perimeter route running parallel to the city walls.
- Alleyways leading from the main thoroughfares into the built-up masses of dwellings and circular alleyways that encompass the blocks.
- Secondary cul-de-sac alleyways that run into the blocks, usually as far as the inner courtyards and sometimes connecting with another thoroughfare.

The large blocks are set around inner courtyards, giving the impression from outside that they are built very densely and closed. Within, the courtyards form intimate empty spaces that allow access to fresh air and sunlight.

Inner courtyards are found in a number of styles: at ground level, open to the sky; at ground level, but covered; set on roofs. They fulfil a number of roles: they may serve a single apartment or dwelling, they may serve as nuclei for a number of buildings grouped together into a block, or they may be located between blocks. The courtyards are part of the typological and morphological characteristics of the city's construction.

## **Management and Protection**

### *Legal status*

The old city of Acre is designated an antiquity site under the provisions of the 1978 Antiquities Law. Article 29.a prohibits any of the following activities without the written approval of the Director of the Israel Antiquities Authority:

- building, paving, the erection of installations, quarrying, mining, drilling, flooding, the clearing away of stones, ploughing, planting, or interment;
- the dumping of earth, manure, waste, or refuse, including the dumping thereof on adjoining property;
- any alteration, repair or addition to an antiquity located on the site;
- the dismantling of an antiquity, the removal of part thereof or the shifting thereof;
- writing, carving, or painting;
- the erection of buildings or walls on adjoining property;
- any other operation designated by the Director in respect of a particular site.

### *Management*

Ownership of the property is divided between three main owners: the Israeli Land Administration (80%), the Muslim *Wakf* and the Christian Churches (15%), and private ownership (5%).

Following the establishment of the Old Acre Development Co Ltd (OADC) in 1983, a steering committee for urban planning drew up a new Master Plan for the old city of Acre for the years 1993–2000. The plan takes into account the international heritage of Acre, and takes account of the requirements of the Building and Urban Planning Law while considering the possibility of turning the city into a tourist attraction.

The main provisions are:

- Preservation of the special character of the old city of Acre – cultural, architectural, and aesthetic values.
- Preservation of the physical fabric whilst adapting to the modern quality of life.
- Provision of a solution to the inhabitants in the fields of residential accommodation, environment, community services, infrastructure, employment, and involvement in the process of developing whilst involving the public in the planning process.
- The development of tourism as a principal economic activity in Acre, Western Galilee, and throughout the State of Israel.

- Determining the permissible type of usage for each plot of land and building.
- Determining priorities and the distribution of resources.
- Provision of general planning whilst providing solutions to suitable specific programmes at the planning and execution stage.
- Provision of a solution for the planning framework of urban systems: ie transportation, infrastructures, sign posting, maintenance, management and preservation of the environment.

Preparation of the Plan involved a number of studies and surveys. These included a condition survey of the buildings, the development of a traffic plan, a study of the morphology of residential houses, a survey of potential tourist needs, and a survey of infrastructure of services (water, electricity, etc). As a result, areas in need of urgent intervention and priorities were identified.

The agencies with management authority under the terms of the Master Plan are the Acre Municipality, the OADC, the Israel Antiquities Authority (and its Conservation Department), and the Israel Land Administration (National Housing Authority). Site management is the responsibility of the OADC, a wholly state-owned professional body with expertise in management economics and marketing, and it is the OADC which coordinates the activities of the other partners. The Conservation Department of the Israel Antiquities Authority, which has a staff of conservation architects, engineers, archaeologists, and specialized conservators, is responsible for all conservation work.

Monitoring and control activities carried out under the plan are:

- Municipal inspection for enforcing the Building and Urban Planning Law;
- Archaeological inspection under the Antiquities Law (article 29.a);
- Conservation inspection;
- A Conservation Steering Committee composed of representatives of the following bodies: Conservation Department of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, the District Engineer, the Old Acre Development Company Ltd, the National Housing Authority, the Master Plan architect, the District Architect of the Israeli Land Administration, and a representative of the local community.
- A municipal tourist police.

Regular monitoring of the buildings in the old city is shared between the Municipality, the National Housing Authority, and the Conservation Department of the Israel Antiquities Authority, all of which are represented by inspectors on site.

ICOMOS considers that this plan and its implementation fulfil the requirements regarding management planning laid down in paragraph 24.b.ii of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

## Conservation and Authenticity

### *Conservation history*

A programmed approach to the conservation of the old city of Acre began in the 1990s. The first buildings survey had been carried out during the British Mandate. An extensive survey was made in 1962, and this served as the basis for the first master plan. From 1993 onwards there was a series of surveys of individual buildings, monuments, and blocks, and these have resulted in a number of technical manuals designed to provide architects, engineers, institutions, and private individuals with field solutions relating to specific aspects of the conservation and restoration of buildings. Restoration and conservation work on many of the major buildings are accompanied by scientific excavations, which are revealing many facets of the Crusader city.

At the present time the residential areas of the old city show little outward sign of the conservation effort over the past eight years. The facades of many of the buildings are in poor condition and there is substantial evidence of the use of inappropriate materials. The surfaces of many of the smaller streets and open spaces are poorly maintained. There is a profusion of cables and other infrastructural elements on the facades and pavements everywhere.

This appearance is, however, slightly misleading. The initial surveys showed that a large proportion of the housing stock was seriously decayed, to an extent that buildings were at risk and consolidation was urgently needed. This interior structural work has now been completed, as has the provision of underground conduits for electricity, telephone, and other services.

For the next stage of conservation and rehabilitation, a pilot project in a largely traditional residential area was selected. Work is in progress on this neighbourhood, adopting an overall approach rather than a piecemeal one directed to individual structures.

Excavation of the Crusader city beneath the Ottoman city is proceeding steadily. A number of innovative civil engineering solutions have been developed to stabilize cleared areas and permit exploration to continue.

### *Authenticity and integrity*

Two periods in history have contributed to the appearance of contemporary Acre: the Crusader period and the Ottoman period. The special nature of the city's evolution has led to the preservation of its authenticity and the principal values of each of the two periods and of the city in general.

Crusader Acre is today mostly subterranean and has only begun to be uncovered recently. The well preserved remains include large portions of the fabric of urban life and buildings with all parts intact – walls, quarters, streets, alleys, fortresses, public buildings, religious buildings, dwellings, and shops, together with the subterranean infrastructure, architectural details, original plasterwork, and masonry. Building plans are clearly identifiable and building technology and materials can be accurately determined.

The Ottoman city was built on the Crusader city and took the form of an urban system of alleyways, courtyards, and squares, reflecting the values of Moslem society. The geographical conditions that determined its development, together with its socio-economic structure, maintained

the integrity of Acre as essentially an Ottoman city, without significant changes in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Acre has retained its character as a port city, with a blend of public buildings, caravanserais (*khans*), and religious buildings alongside markets, small shops, and large residential quarters, together with an active port which is still a source of income and access to the city. The major proportion of Acre's individual buildings have remained largely in the same form as when they were built, with few alterations over the last 150–300 years. Ottoman Acre exists in an architectural/social bubble reflecting the meeting between east and west.

It may therefore be concluded that Acre fulfils all the criteria regarding integrity and reliability of information sources as expressed in the Nara Document and as required by paragraph 24.b.i of the *Operational Guidelines*.

## Evaluation

### *Action by ICOMOS*

A ICOMOS expert mission visited Acre in February 2001. A evaluation of the "outstanding universal value" of the nominated property was provided by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH).

### *Qualities*

Acre is a well preserved example of a walled city of special historical interest. It was of major significance during the Crusader period in the Holy Land, first as its principal port and later as the capital of the second Kingdom of Jerusalem for a century. Following a long period of decline, during which it was still the main entry port for Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem, it flourished again in the 18th century as the capital of this part of the Ottoman Empire. Its historical trajectory gives it a unique character, in that the substantial remains of the Crusader city are preserved virtually intact beneath the typical Moslem city of the present day, and have in recent years been revealed by scientific excavation.

### *Comparative analysis*

There are three similar Mediterranean towns with which Acre may justifiably be compared: Rhodes in Greece (already on the World Heritage List), Famagusta (Magussa) in Cyprus, and Sidon in Lebanon. All three towns have long histories, and the relevant periods for comparison are from the Crusader period onwards.

Rhodes was founded after the expulsion of the Crusaders from the Holy Land and was exclusively a city of the Order of St John (Hospitallers). By contrast, Acre was founded during one of the peaks of the Crusader period, it became the capital of the kingdom, and its inhabitants represented the full range of Crusader orders, reflecting the history of the Crusades in the Holy Land.

Contemporary Rhodes is more like a medieval European city than Acre, which is in its present form an Ottoman city. It has also not undergone major restoration projects in the 20th century.

After the capture and partial destruction of Acre, Famagusta inherited its position as the main trading port in the region, although it never attained either Acre's

significance or the rate of development that it underwent at its peak. Famagusta essentially represents a city built during the process of withdrawal of the Crusaders. Furthermore, it did not form part of the itinerary of pilgrimages to the Holy Land. At first glance Famagusta seems similar to Acre: it is an example of a walled Ottoman port city that has undergone some changes. The essential difference between the two is that the Crusader city of Famagusta is not preserved in its entirety beneath the Ottoman city: it has instead been blended with Ottoman structures.

Sidon was also an important port city during the Crusader era, but it was one of many port cities whereas Acre was the capital. There is also far less evidence of the Crusader City in Sidon than in Acre.

### *ICOMOS recommendations for future action*

There is no buffer zone to provide protection of the setting of the old city of Acre defined in the plans provided with the nomination dossier, as required by the World Heritage Committee. This must be defined and appropriate regulations enacted before the property can be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The most serious problem confronting those responsible for the conservation and maintenance of the old city is a social one. There is an almost total absence of pride of place. Few of the present-day inhabitants have any family ties with the city and so there is a lack of identification with it. Furthermore, many of the inhabitants are unemployed or poorly remunerated and so cannot afford to live elsewhere. If and when their personal fortunes change, they will immediately seek housing outside the walled city. As a result, they do not feel themselves under obligation to respect the appearance of what is to them no more than a transitory place of residence.

The task that confronts the managers of Old Acre is therefore fundamentally one of education, so as to demonstrate to the inhabitants that they live in a city with a long history and a rich heritage. The efforts already made over the past two to three years, since it became known that Acre appeared on the tentative list of Israel, need to be maintained and intensified. The educational programme should be accompanied by an intensified social programme aimed at improving the quality of life of the inhabitants of Acre.

The ICOMOS recommendation, that this nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting the definition and regulatory protection of an appropriate buffer zone, and also information regarding existing and proposed educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation, was endorsed by the Bureau at its meeting in June 2001.

This material was supplied by the State Party on 28 September and conforms fully with the requirements of the Bureau and ICOMOS.

### **Brief description**

The townscape of the walled port city of Acre is characteristic of Moslem perceptions of urban design, with narrow winding streets and fine public buildings and houses. Beneath it lies almost intact the remains of its predecessor, the Crusader city, which is being revealed by archaeological excavation.

### **Statement of Significance**

Acre is exceptional in that beneath its present-day appearance as a typical Moslem fortified city lie the remains of an almost intact medieval city on the European model. It bears exceptional material testimony to the Crusader kingdom established in the Holy Land in the 12th–14th centuries, and also to the Ottoman Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries.

### **ICOMOS Recommendation**

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iii, and v*:

*Criterion ii* Acre is an exceptional historic town in that it preserves the substantial remains of the its medieval Crusader buildings beneath the existing Moslem fortified town dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

*Criterion iii* The remains of the Crusader town of Acre, both above and below the present-day street level, provide an exceptional picture of the layout and structures of the capital of the medieval Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem.

*Criterion v* Present-day Acre is an important example of an Ottoman walled town, with typical urban components such as the citadel, mosques, *khans*, and baths well preserved, partly built on top of the underlying Crusader structures.

### **Bureau Recommendation**

That this nomination be *referred back* to the State Party, requesting the definition and regulatory protection of an appropriate buffer zone, and also information regarding existing and proposed educational and social projects relating to heritage protection and conservation.

ICOMOS, November 2001

Revised February 2002

## Acre (Israël)

No 1042

### Identification

*Bien proposé* La vieille ville d'Acre

*Lieu* Galilée occidentale

*État partie* Israël

*Date* 30 juin 2000

### Justification émanant de l'État partie

Tout au long de son existence, Acre a été un exemple exceptionnel de symbiose entre différentes cultures et valeurs. Sa situation géographique en fait un point de rencontre entre l'est et l'ouest. De par les luttes auxquelles se sont livrées les diverses cultures pour le contrôle de la cité, toutes les parties ont été exposées aux influences des autres.

Le caractère unique d'Acre se fait sentir lorsque l'on examine la ville des Croisés, qui ont amené avec eux en Terre Sainte la technologie de construction européenne, tout en se servant des matériaux du cru et en construisant selon les divers impératifs dictés par la situation géographique de la ville. Leur relation avec le lieu et la population locale a abouti au développement de la cité hybride de cette époque, à laquelle nulle autre ville européenne ne peut être comparée.

Acre évolua pendant 200 ans, atteignant son apogée mondiale à l'époque où elle était la capitale des Croisés, et la principale porte d'entrée, pour beaucoup de visiteurs, en Terre Sainte. L'autre exemple du caractère exceptionnel de la ville est le rôle que joua Acre dans les plans ottomans de construction. Lorsque les Mamelouks prirent la ville, ils tentèrent d'enterrer la cité d'origine. Cependant, pendant la reconstruction du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, les édifices originaux des Croisés servirent de fondations aux nouveaux bâtiments, ce qui conserva ainsi le tracé urbain fondamental de l'époque des Croisades.

### Critère ii

Acre est le vivant témoin de l'existence de deux cultures aujourd'hui éteintes : celle des Croisés en Terre Sainte et celle des Ottomans. Seule la Terre Sainte pouvait voir naître une ville de pèlerins et de Croisés comme Acre. Au fur et à mesure de l'évolution de la région, Acre devint la seconde ville majeure du pays, derrière Jérusalem.

De par son ancien statut de capitale du royaume franc en Terre Sainte, Acre offre aujourd'hui des témoignages uniques du mode de vie particulier des Croisés, qui ne dura

qu'un bref laps de temps, au regard de l'Histoire, avant de disparaître. C'est dans la ville basse que l'on trouve le plus de témoignages de cette culture et de ce mode de vie : là subsistent une multitude de vestiges archéologiques, magnifiquement préservés depuis des centaines d'années. Il suffit de flâner aujourd'hui dans la vieille ville d'Acre pour s'imprégner de la culture ottomane, grâce au degré inhabituel de préservation de ce style de vie dans l'enceinte de la ville et à sa situation géographique, et cela en dépit du fait que l'évolution des conditions socio-économiques ait provoqué un exode massif des classes les plus aisées.

### Critère iii

Acre est un exemple de peuplement et d'utilisation des sols par un grand nombre de gens par des moyens militaires, dans un objectif religieux précis. En fait, ce peuplement n'avait pas pour cible la ville elle-même, qui n'était qu'un marche-pied vers Jérusalem. C'est pourquoi Acre présentait à la fois les aspects d'une ville de garnison et ceux d'une ville étape. Cette forme de peuplement, s'inscrivant dans un processus historique sur un bref laps de temps, est unique.

Les Croisés créèrent sur cette terre une nouvelle culture, qui ne cherchait ni à perpétuer son influence sur la culture locale, ni à absorber l'influence de cette dernière. Ainsi, l'Acre des Croisés cessa d'exister dès sa prise par les Mamelouks et la fin des Croisades. Le mode de vie particulier en vigueur jusqu'à cette date cessa brusquement d'exister.

### Critère v

Acre est directement liée à plusieurs événements mondiaux historiques, ainsi qu'au bahaïsme.

En 1189, les Croisés, menés par le roi Guy de Lusignan, assiégèrent Acre : une opération qui dura deux ans et resta sans rivale dans les contes des guerres médiévales, dans le monde chrétien comme dans le monde musulman. Saladin, Richard Cœur de Lion et Philippe II prirent tous part à la guerre, et Acre se rendit aux forces croisées le 12 juillet 1191. Elle connut alors son âge d'or, en qualité de capitale du second royaume franc, de 1191 à 1291. Elle se dressait à la jonction de routes internationales, et était un important centre commercial entre l'Europe et l'Asie. En 1291, la ville fut finalement conquise par les musulmans, et systématiquement détruite sur les ordres du sultan al-Ashraf.

En 1799, Acre se tailla une renommée mondiale, car l'armée de Napoléon, après un long siège, ne parvint pas à la prendre. Les défenseurs de la cité, avec l'aide active des Anglais, parvinrent à repousser les forces françaises et à les forcer à se retirer. Le « Tell d'Akko », jadis nommé « colline du roi Richard », est rebaptisé « Tell de Napoléon ». L'échec du siège d'Acre marque un tournant décisif dans le règne de Napoléon.

En 1868, Bahá'ulláh arriva à Acre, prisonnier de l'empire ottoman. Il y passa les 24 dernières années de sa vie, d'abord emprisonné dans la forteresse de la ville, puis assigné à résidence dans un petit bâtiment de la vieille ville. C'est durant son séjour à Acre que Bahá'ulláh écrit son œuvre majeure, celle qui énonce les lois et préceptes suivis par les adeptes du bahaïsme. Il fut libéré vers la fin

de l'année 1870 et s'en fut vivre sur une propriété proche, en dehors de l'enceinte de la ville. Il y mourut en 1892. Sa dépouille y est enterrée, et sa tombe demeure aujourd'hui encore un lieu saint de pèlerinage pour le bahaïsme.

Pendant le mandat britannique en Palestine, neuf résistants combattant pour la liberté furent exécutés dans la salle des potences, une partie de la prison britannique occupant la citadelle.

#### Critère vi

#### Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *ensemble*.

#### Histoire et description

##### Histoire

Dans l'Antiquité, Acre se dressait sur le Tell d'Akko (ou Tell El Fukhar), à 2,5 km environ à l'est de la vieille ville. Le peuplement de la colline semble avoir commencé au début de l'âge du bronze (vers 3000 avant notre ère). Aux alentours de 1900 avant notre ère, la ville est fortifiée au moyen d'un haut rempart de terre, doté d'une porte de briques orientée vers la mer. Lorsque les Israélites conquièrent la terre de Canaan, Acre est une des villes attribuée à la tribu d'Asher. Dans les siècles qui suivent, elle passe sous le contrôle des Assyriens au IXe siècle avant notre ère, puis devient une ville phénicienne entre le VIe et le IVe siècle avant notre ère sous la domination perse. Suite à la conquête de la région dans son ensemble par Alexandre le Grand et à sa mort prématurée, la région autour d'Acre est d'abord dirigée par la dynastie hellénistique des Ptolémée d'Égypte puis par les Séleucides de Syrie.

La ville actuelle est fondée sur la péninsule au début de la période (IIIe-IIe siècles avant notre ère) et baptisée Ptolémaïs Antioche, du nom de son fondateur, Ptolémée II, roi d'Égypte. Il subsiste de cette période des traces de fortifications, un mur et une tour. Acre, de par sa position stratégique et son port naturel, devient un centre international de commerce.

Ayant fait partie pendant une courte période du royaume des Asmonéens au Ier siècle avant notre ère, la ville tombe aux mains des Romains en 63 avant notre ère et est intégrée à la province de Syrie ; elle se voit accordée le statut de *colonia*. Les premiers pèlerins chrétiens traversent Acre pour se rendre à Jérusalem. En 330, à la période byzantine, cette région passe sous le contrôle de l'empire romain. C'est une ère d'expansion économique et démographique, qui voit s'ériger des centaines d'églises et de monastères partout en Terre Sainte. Les grandes villes s'agrandissent encore et sont encerclées de nouveaux systèmes de fortifications ; quant à Acre, elle conserve son statut de principal port de la région.

Au début de la période arabe (638–1099), alors que la ville, qui a retrouvé son nom originel d'Akko, est intégrée au Califat du Caire, nombre des cités du pays sont abandonnées et détruites. L'importance d'Acre en tant que port international décroît, et les limites de la ville sont révisées afin d'inclure plusieurs quartiers autour du port, où stationne une flotte musulmane. La reprise économique d'Acre prend son essor aux Xe et XIe siècles ; le port et les remparts de la ville sont reconstruits.

La période croisée d'Acre commence en 1104, cinq ans après la chute de Jérusalem. Baudouin Ier, roi de Jérusalem, et la flotte commerciale génoise s'associent pour assiéger Acre depuis la terre et la mer, jusqu'à ce que la ville tombe aux mains des Croisés. Un nouveau modèle particulier de peuplement évolue alors, caractérisé par des quartiers bien définis et autonomes. Le roi s'installe dans le quartier nord de la ville, où il construit un palais fortifié.

Les marchands génois, vénitiens et pisans bâtissent des quartiers autonomes à proximité du port. Par ailleurs, les ordres militaires s'installent non loin – les Hospitaliers au nord de la ville et à l'ouest du palais, les Templiers au sud-ouest de la ville, et les chevaliers teutoniques près de la muraille orientale. Les autres quartiers importants sont ceux du Patriarcat (où fut construite l'église de la Sainte-Croix, principale cathédrale d'Acre), des marchands français (le quartier provençal) et des marchands anglais. Des marchands musulmans et juifs s'installent également dans la ville.

Beaucoup d'édifices publics sont érigés – bâtiments fortifiés, églises, bains publics, boulangeries, cours et hôtels pour les pèlerins et les marchands, halles de marché – mais aussi des résidences privées. Pendant les deux siècles qu'elle passe sous la houlette des Croisés, Acre se transforme en une ville commerciale riche et prospère. Mieux que toute autre, elle symbolise les échanges entre les cultures orientale et occidentale.

En 1187, après la débâcle de Hattin et la destruction de l'armée des Croisés, les Musulmans conquièrent l'ensemble des terres des Croisés, et Acre leur appartient pendant quatre ans. Ce n'est qu'en 1191 que la Troisième Croisade, menée par Richard Cœur de Lion, aboutit à la reconquête d'Acre et des régions côtières attenantes. Un second royaume franc est instauré : Acre en est la capitale, car les Croisés n'ont pu reprendre Jérusalem.

De 1191 à 1291, le deuxième royaume des Croisés étend ses frontières. De nouveaux quartiers sont construits, tels Monmizar, au nord, et Acre est dotée d'un nouveau double rempart. D'autres palais, églises et bâtiments publics sont érigés, à une époque où, en Occident, on passe du style roman au gothique : une évolution du style reflétée à Acre, où de récentes fouilles ont révélé des bâtiments illustrant la transition entre les deux styles et l'établissement du style gothique au XIIIe siècle.

La période mamelouke (du nom des souverains musulmans d'Égypte) commence en 1291 avec la conquête d'Acre et se poursuit jusqu'en 1517. Acre fait partie du territoire mamelouk de Gaza. La ville est détruite et totalement désertée ; seuls subsistent quelques bâtiments autour du port.

À la période ottomane (1517–1917), les pèlerins et les marchands qui visitent Acre aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles la décrivent comme une ville fantôme, où se dressent encore quelques rares structures de l'époque des Croisés, certaines émergeant de la terre, d'autres enfouies. La reconstruction ne commence qu'au milieu du XVIIIe siècle, sous Daher El Amar, qui rénove le port, y installe officiels et marchands, se fait bâtir un palais et reconstruit les fortifications.

L'érection de l'Acre ottomane aux XVIIIe et XIXe siècles enterre les vestiges de la cité des Croisés et, ainsi, les préserve. En 1799, le nom d'Acre accède à la célébrité mondiale, lorsque Napoléon ne parvient à prendre la ville, alors sous l'égide du souverain turc Ahmed El Jazar, après un long siège.

Au XIXe siècle, Acre jouit d'un renouveau de croissance économique. Des mosquées, des bains publics et des caravansérails sont construits. De riches marchands s'y installent, et construisent de grandes demeures dans le style néo-classique oriental de la fin du XIXe siècle.

En 1868, Bahá'u'lláh, fondateur du bahaïsme, arrive à Acre, prisonnier de l'empire ottoman. Il y passera les 24 dernières années de sa vie, d'abord emprisonné dans la forteresse de la ville, puis assigné à résidence dans un petit bâtiment de la vieille ville. C'est durant son séjour à Acre que Bahá'u'lláh écrit son œuvre majeure, celle qui énonce les lois et préceptes suivis par les adeptes du bahaïsme. Il est libéré vers la fin de l'année 1870 et s'en va vivre sur une propriété proche, en dehors de l'enceinte de la ville. Il y meurt en 1892. Sa dépouille y est enterrée, et sa tombe demeure aujourd'hui encore un lieu saint de pèlerinage pour les adeptes du bahaïsme.

Après la prise d'Acre en 1918 et le mandat de la Ligue des Nations qui leur donne le contrôle de la Palestine, les Britanniques transforment la forteresse en prison. Plusieurs éminents colons juifs y sont emprisonnés, et des pendaisons y ont lieu. Les Britanniques étendent la ville au-delà des murailles, construisant des habitations et des bâtiments administratifs. Toutefois, ils ne font rien pour altérer le tissu de vie dans l'enceinte de la vieille ville. Le port tombe en désaffection lorsque le port de Haïfa, plus moderne, le supplante.

Après l'indépendance d'Israël en mai 1948, seuls quelques résidents musulmans demeurent dans la vieille ville, mais après la fin de la lutte, beaucoup d'Arabes palestiniens venus d'autres villes arrivent pour s'installer dans les vieux quartiers, tandis que les Juifs s'installent en grand nombre dans les nouveaux. Actuellement, les cinq mille habitants de la cité fortifiée sont exclusivement arabes, avec quelques 80 % venus d'autres régions d'Israël.

#### Description

La ville bâtie se compose de deux niveaux :

*La ville des Croisés*, dont il ne reste principalement que des vestiges souterrains partiellement mis à jour et dans un très bon état de conservation – remparts, quartiers (Hospitalier, génois, pisan, vénitien, *Burgus Novos*, etc.), des voies à ciel ouvert et couvertes, des

monuments, des tunnels de drainage, des systèmes de passages secrets, des échoppes et des habitations.

*La ville ottomane*, érigée sur les ruines de la ville croisée, utilisant les structures antérieures comme fondations et aidant ainsi à préserver les vestiges et le tracé de la ville. La ville ottomane se caractérise par ses allées étroites, ses monuments et ses logements innocents dotés d'une cour intérieure.

*Le système de fortifications*, qui comprend les remparts, les portes, les tours et les douves. Les murailles sont construites en plusieurs étapes entre 1750 et 1840. Elles incluent les vestiges de la muraille Daher-El-Umar (construite en 1750–1751) et sa porte du Lion, la muraille El-Jazar, et les portes de la ville (la porte de la Terre, construite par El Jazar, la porte de la Mer, et deux entrées dans les murs du nord ouvertes en 1910).

Deux éléments du *système d'approvisionnement* en eau subsistent : les vestiges de l'aqueduc, construit par Daher el Umar ou par El Jazar, qui apportait de l'eau depuis la fontaine Kabri jusqu'à la ville et alimentait les bains et la fontaine publics, et un réservoir à cinq voûtes en berceau ottomanes.

On compte plusieurs *tombeaux de cheikhs et cimetières* dignes d'intérêt, notamment le tombeau de Nebi Tzalah dans le cimetière proche de la muraille orientale, celui du cheikh Yanis dans une salle du mur méridional du Jabhane, face la mosquée Jazar, le tombeau du cheikh Ana'am, construit en 1807–1808 par Suliman Pesha, le tombeau du cheikh Az A-dean au nord de la muraille donnant sur la mer (traditionnellement considéré comme le tombeau de Daher El-Amar), et trois cimetières - le Muzoleom, un cimetière derrière Hann-Shuni et le cimetière de l'église Saint-Georges.

Acre compte quatre *églises* historiques : l'église Saint-Jean, bâtie en 1737 par les franciscains, probablement sur l'ancienne église croisée Saint-André, et aujourd'hui utilisée par la communauté catholique romaine, l'église maronite, l'église Saint-André, apparemment érigée sur l'ancienne église croisée Sainte-Anne et aujourd'hui utilisée par l'église grecque-melkite catholique, et l'église Saint-Georges, l'une des plus anciennes d'Acre, et mentionnée dans une description rédigée par des pèlerins au XVIIe siècle comme l'église Saint-Nicolas (elle est construite sur des voûtes d'arêtes de l'époque des croisades, ce qui correspond à la description de l'église Sainte-Laurence).

On dénombre huit *mosquées* dans la vieille ville d'Acre proposée pour inscription. La mosquée El-Jazar, bâtie en 1781 par El-Jazar sur les vestiges de la cathédrale de la Sainte-Croix, est l'une des plus importantes mosquées du pays. Elle abrite des institutions religieuses et une bibliothèque célèbre ; El-Jazar, Suliman Pesha et leurs familles sont enterrés dans la cour. La mosquée El-Zaituna fut construite en 1745 par Husain Abed Elhadi. Des vestiges sont incorporés à cette structure ; l'on croit qu'il s'agit de ceux de l'église des Hospitaliers. Quant à la mosquée Snan-Basha, elle fut bâtie en 1806–1807 par Suliman Pesha au-dessus des ruines de la mosquée édifée par Snan-Basha au XVIe siècle. La mosquée Elmualic était à l'origine une synagogue de la communauté juive d'Acre,

et fut transformée en mosquée par Dahar El-Amar en 1746. A l'instar de la plupart des mosquées d'Acre, elle se dresse sur les vestiges d'édifices des croisés : c'est aussi le cas des mosquées A-Ramal (1704) et A-Magdala (1710). La mosquée Shazalia fut construite en 1862 par le cheikh Ali Nur A-Dean El-Yasruti, fondateur du culte Shazalia, dont le corps et ceux de sa famille sont enterrés à proximité. La mosquée El Burg, située près du rempart, au niveau de la porte du Lion, est également importante.

Les deux *bains publics* sont d'autres exemples superbes de l'architecture islamique à Acre : le grand hammam El-Basha, construit par El-Jazar au XVIIIe siècle, apparemment sur d'anciens bains publics, et le petit hammam construit par Dahar El-Amar au XVIIIe siècle, et utilisé sans interruption jusque dans les années 1940.

Parmi les *khans* historiques (caravansérails) figurent Khan El Umdan, bâti en 1784 par El-Jazar, Khan El-Farang', construit au XVIe siècle par des marchands français dans la cour centrale du quartier vénitien de la période des croisades, Khan A-Shauardee, érigé au XVIIIe siècle par Dahar El-Amar, Burg' El-Sultan, une tour de croisés, reconstruite par les Mamelouks et plus tard incorporée au khan, le Khan des Ânes, construit en 1810 et détruit par une explosion dans un dépôt de munitions, et le Khan A-Shune, érigé sous Dahar El-Amar sur les vestiges du quartier pisan.

*Deux lieux saints du bahá'isme* se trouvent également dans la vieille ville proposée pour inscription : la tour Jabotinsky et la maison Abud.

On y trouve aussi deux *marchés* : le bazar turc (marché El-Jazar) et le souk El-Abyad (le marché blanc) construit par Dahar El-Amar et reconstruit par Suliman Pasha en 1817, à la suite d'un incendie.

Le principal *bâtiment d'État* est la citadelle, palais des gouverneurs ottomans et prison pendant le mandat britannique. Elle fut construite sur la citadelle des Hospitaliers, qui comprend les salles des chevaliers, le Grand Munier, la crypte, la « Grand-Salle » et la cour. On pense que le séraï aurait fait office de palais de justice à l'époque ottomane.

Le tissu urbain de l'Acre contemporaine repose sur les facteurs essentiels suivants :

- La situation géographique d'Acre, dans une baie naturelle, a joué un grand rôle dans son développement en tant que ville portuaire. Son emplacement, sur une péninsule, et son inscription dans des limites définies par ses murailles et par la mer ont imposé un tissu urbain dense, trait caractéristique des villes médiévales.
- La ville des croisés était construite en quartiers bien définis.
- La ville ottomane, pour sa part, se mélangea aux vestiges des croisés, s'en servant comme de fondations. Elle se caractérise par ses blocs et bâtiments élevés autour de cours intérieures.

À première vue, les rues sinueuses et les pâtés de maisons d'Acre semblent n'avoir suivi aucun plan : il est difficile de percevoir un agencement particulier dans la disposition de la ville. Elle a pourtant été soigneusement pensée : elle s'organise autour de deux hiérarchies complémentaires, celle des zones de transit et celles des zones construites et pâtés de maisons.

Les zones construites se composent de quartiers, de pâtés de maisons, de bâtiments individuels et d'appartements. Les complexes d'appartements forment des blocs organisés autour de cours intérieures, se regroupant ensuite en blocs plus importants puis en quartiers.

La limite de chaque composant construit de la ville est définie par des murs.

- Au niveau de la ville, par les remparts fortifiés qui entourent la vieille ville entière, la séparant et la coupant de l'extérieur.
- Au niveau des pâtés de maisons, par des bandeaux de pierre ininterrompus au niveau du sol, qui constituent un « mur ».
- Au niveau des blocs supérieurs, par la formation des cours intérieures.

Acre a pour caractéristique urbaine d'être tournée vers l'intérieur, reflétant le rôle du foyer dans la société musulmane traditionnelle. Les façades des édifices servent à séparer le foyer de la rue, et ainsi à protéger ses habitants. Les étages supérieurs sont plus récents et reflètent clairement l'influence occidentale : moins fermés et confinés, ils sont dotés de grandes fenêtres panoramiques et de balcons.

Les zones de transit sont elles aussi organisées selon un certain principe hiérarchique, identique à celui que l'on trouve dans les zones construites – division et passage graduel :

- Artères principales entre les églises et les places publiques de la ville, et voie périphérique parallèle aux remparts.
- Allées menant des artères principales aux zones construites d'habitations et allées circulaires encerclant les blocs.
- Allées secondaires en cul-de-sac qui s'achèvent dans les blocs, allant habituellement jusqu'aux cours intérieures et assurant parfois la liaison avec une autre artère.

Les grands blocs s'organisent autour de cours intérieures, donnant ainsi l'impression, vus de l'extérieur, de former un tissu très dense et très fermé. À l'intérieur, les cours forment un espace intime qui donnent accès à l'air frais et à la lumière du soleil. Elles peuvent être de styles divers : en rez-de-chaussée, à ciel ouvert ou couvertes, en terrasse sur les toits. Leurs rôles sont multiples : appartement ou habitation, noyau de plusieurs bâtiments regroupés en blocs, ou séparation entre blocs. Elles font partie des caractéristiques typologiques et morphologiques du tissu bâti de la ville.

## Gestion et protection

### Statut juridique

La vieille ville d'Acre est classée site antique aux termes des dispositions de la loi de 1978 sur les antiquités. L'article 29.a interdit les activités suivantes sans l'agrément préalable du directeur de l'autorité des Antiquités Israéliennes :

- construire, paver, ériger des installations, exploiter une carrière, une mine, forer, inonder, dégager des pierres, labourer, planter ou enterrer ;
- Jeter de la terre, du fumier, des déchets ou des ordures, y compris sur une propriété adjacente ;
- Altérer ou réparer une antiquité située sur le site, ou y ajouter quoi que ce soit ;
- Démanteler une antiquité, l'enlever en partie ou la déplacer ;
- Écrire, sculpter ou peindre ;
- Ériger des bâtiments ou des murs sur une propriété adjacente ;
- Réaliser une autre opération désignée par le directeur eu égard à un site donné.

### Gestion

La propriété du bien se divise entre trois grands propriétaires : l'administration du territoire israélien (80 %), le *Wakf* musulman et les églises chrétiennes (15 %) et des propriétaires privés (5 %).

Suite à la fondation de *Old Acre Development Co. Ltd* (OADC) en 1983, un comité de direction de l'urbanisme a rédigé un nouveau plan directeur pour la vieille ville d'Acre entre 1993 et 2000. Celui-ci tient compte du patrimoine international d'Acre et des prescriptions de la loi de construction et d'urbanisme, tout en envisageant la possibilité de faire de la ville une attraction touristique.

Voici ses principales dispositions :

- Préservation du caractère particulier de la vieille ville d'Acre – valeurs culturelles, architecturales et esthétiques.
- Préservation du tissu physique, avec cependant adaptation au mode de vie moderne.
- Apport d'une solution aux habitants en matière de logement résidentiel, d'environnement, de services publics, d'infrastructure, d'emploi et d'implication dans le développement et l'urbanisme.
- Développement du tourisme en tant qu'activité économique principale d'Acre, de la Galilée occidentale, et de tout l'État d'Israël.
- Définition de l'usage autorisé pour chaque lot de terrain et bâtiment.

- Définition des priorités et de la distribution des ressources.

- Planification globale, tout en apportant des solutions à des programmes adéquats spécifiques au stade de la planification et de l'exécution.

- Apport d'une solution pour le cadre de planification – systèmes urbains tels que transport, infrastructures, signalisation, maintenance, gestion et préservation de l'environnement.

L'élaboration du plan a impliqué plusieurs études et enquêtes : étude de l'état des bâtiments, élaboration d'un plan de circulation, étude de la morphologie des maisons résidentielles, enquêtes sur les besoins potentiels des touristes et sur l'infrastructure de services (eau, électricité, etc.). Ce travail a abouti à l'identification d'un besoin urgent d'intervention et de certaines priorités.

Les instances dotées de pouvoirs de gestion aux termes du plan directeur sont les suivantes : la municipalité d'Acre, *Old Acre Development Company Ltd*, l'autorité des Antiquités Israéliennes (et son département de Conservation), et l'administration du Territoire Israélien (Autorité Nationale du Logement). La gestion du site est sous la responsabilité de l'OADC, organisme professionnel public spécialisé dans la gestion, l'économie et le marketing ; c'est aussi lui qui coordonne les activités des autres partenaires. Le département de Conservation de l'autorité des Antiquités Israéliennes, dont le personnel se compose d'architectes de conservation, d'ingénieurs, d'archéologues et de conservateurs spécialisés, est responsable de tous les travaux de conservation.

Les activités de suivi et de contrôle conduites en vertu du plan sont les suivantes :

- Inspection municipale aux fins de l'application de la loi sur la construction et l'urbanisme ;
- Inspection archéologique en vertu de la loi sur les antiquités (article 29.a) ;
- Inspection de la conservation ;
- Comité de direction de la conservation, composé de représentants des instances suivantes : département de la conservation de l'autorité des Antiquités Israéliennes, ingénieur de district, *Old Acre Development Company Ltd*, Autorité Nationale du Logement, architecte du plan directeur, architecte de district de l'administration du Territoire Israélien, plus un représentant de la communauté locale.
- Police touristique municipale.

La municipalité, l'autorité Nationale du Logement et le département de Conservation de l'autorité des Antiquités Israéliennes, tous représentés par des inspecteurs sur le terrain, se partagent le suivi quotidien des édifices de la vieille ville.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce plan et sa mise en œuvre remplissent les conditions concernant la planification de la gestion établies au paragraphe 24.b.ii des *Orientations devant guider la mise en œuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial*.

## Conservation et authenticité

### *Historique de la conservation*

Une approche programmée de la conservation de la vieille ville d'Acre a vu le jour dans les années 1990. La première étude des bâtiments a été réalisée sous le mandat britannique. Une étude approfondie, réalisée en 1962, a servi de base au premier plan directeur. À partir de 1993, une nouvelle série d'études des bâtiments individuels, monuments et blocs ont abouti à la rédaction de plusieurs manuels techniques conçus pour donner aux architectes, aux ingénieurs, aux institutions et aux particuliers des solutions pratiques portant sur des aspects spécifiques de la conservation et de la restauration des édifices. Sur beaucoup des principaux bâtiments, les travaux de restauration et de conservation s'accompagnent de fouilles scientifiques, qui révèlent les nombreuses facettes de la cité des croisés.

Actuellement, les quartiers résidentiels de la vieille ville présentent peu de signes extérieurs de l'effort de conservation mis en œuvre sur les huit dernières années. En effet, les façades de nombre des bâtiments sont en piètre état, et l'on peut observer des preuves accablantes de l'utilisation de matériaux inadéquats. La surface de beaucoup des petites rues et des espaces ouverts est mal entretenue. Partout sur les façades et les trottoirs court une profusion de câbles et autres éléments infrastructurels.

Les apparences sont cependant quelque peu trompeuses. Les études initiales montrent en effet qu'une grande partie des bâtiments étaient dans un état de délabrement avancé, à tel point qu'ils étaient en danger et que des travaux de consolidation s'imposaient d'urgence. Les travaux structurels intérieurs ont été menés à bien, tout comme la pose de conduites souterraines pour l'électricité, le téléphone et autres services.

Pour la prochaine phase de conservation et de réhabilitation, un projet pilote dans une zone résidentielle traditionnelle a été sélectionné. Les travaux dans le quartier sont en cours ; une approche globale plutôt que fragmentaire, ciblant les structures individuelles, a été adoptée.

Les fouilles de la ville des croisés sous la ville ottomane se poursuivent. Plusieurs solutions novatrices en matière d'ingénierie civile ont été mises au point pour stabiliser les zones mises à jour et permettre la poursuite de l'exploration.

### *Authenticité et intégrité*

Deux périodes historiques ont façonné le visage d'Acre tel qu'on le connaît aujourd'hui : la période des croisades et la période ottomane. La nature particulière de l'évolution de la ville a permis de préserver son authenticité, ainsi que les valeurs fondamentales de chacune des deux périodes et de la ville en général.

L'Acre des croisés est aujourd'hui presque entièrement souterraine, et n'a commencé que récemment à être mise au jour. Les vestiges bien préservés incluent de larges portions du tissu urbain et des bâtiments parfaitement intacts – murs, quartiers, rues, allées, forteresses, édifices publics ou religieux, habitations et échoppes, ainsi que l'infrastructure souterraine, les détails architecturaux, les plâtres d'origine et la maçonnerie. Les plans de construction sont clairement identifiables ; les techniques et matériaux de construction peuvent être déterminés avec précision.

La ville ottomane a été construite sur la ville des croisés et a pris la forme d'un système urbain d'allées, de cours et de places, reflet des valeurs de la société musulmane. Les conditions géographiques qui ont déterminé son développement, de même que sa structure socio-économique, ont conservé l'intégrité d'Acre en tant que ville essentiellement ottomane, sans changements notables aux XIXe et XXe siècles.

Acre a conservé son caractère de ville portuaire, mélangeant édifices publics, caravansérails (*khans*) et bâtiments religieux aux côtés de marchés, de petites échoppes et de grands quartiers résidentiels, avec un port actif qui demeure une source de revenus et une porte d'entrée dans la ville. La plus grande partie des bâtiments d'Acre ont conservé la forme qui était la leur à l'époque de leur construction, avec peu d'altérations sur les 150-300 dernières années. L'Acre ottomane existe au sein d'une bulle architecturale/sociale où se rencontrent l'Orient et l'Occident.

On peut donc en conclure qu'Acre satisfait tous les critères concernant l'intégrité et la fiabilité des sources d'information exprimés dans le document de Nara et requis par le paragraphe 24.b.i des *Orientations*.

## Évaluation

### *Action de l'ICOMOS*

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS a visité Acre en février 2001. Le Comité scientifique international pour les villes et villages historiques de l'ICOMOS (CIVVIH) a également fourni une évaluation de la « valeur universelle exceptionnelle » du bien proposé pour inscription.

### *Caractéristiques*

Acre est un exemple magnifiquement préservé de ville fortifiée à l'intérêt historique tout particulier. Elle joua un rôle prépondérant à l'époque des Croisades en Terre Sainte, tout d'abord comme port principal puis comme capitale du second royaume de Jérusalem, pendant un siècle. Après une longue période de déclin, durant laquelle elle n'en demeura pas moins le principal port d'arrivée pour les pèlerins chrétiens se rendant à Jérusalem, elle s'épanouit à nouveau au XVIIIe siècle, en qualité de capitale de l'Empire ottoman dans la région. Son parcours historique lui confère un caractère unique, en ce que d'importants vestiges de la ville des croisés sont préservés, virtuellement intacts, sous la ville musulmane typique d'aujourd'hui, et ont récemment été mis au jour par des fouilles scientifiques.

### *Analyse comparative*

Il existe trois villes méditerranéennes susceptibles d'être, avec raison, comparées à Acre : en Grèce, Rhodes (déjà inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial), à Chypre, Famagouste (Magussa), et au Liban, Sidon. L'histoire de ces trois villes est longue, et les périodes pertinentes, pour la comparaison, commencent à l'époque des croisades.

Rhodes fut fondée après l'expulsion des croisés de Terre Sainte, et appartenait exclusivement à l'ordre de Saint-Jean (Hospitaliers). À l'inverse, Acre fut fondée à l'apogée des Croisades ; elle devint la capitale du royaume des croisés, ses habitants représentant tous les ordres des croisés, reflet de l'histoire des croisades en Terre Sainte.

La Rhodes contemporaine est plus une ville européenne médiévale qu'Acre, laquelle, sous, sa forme actuelle, est ottomane. Elle n'a également subi aucun projet de restauration majeur au XXe siècle.

Après la prise et la destruction partielle d'Acre, Famagouste hérita de sa place de principal port commercial de la région, quoiqu'elle n'ait jamais réussi à rivaliser avec Acre : jamais elle ne connut la même importance, ni n'atteignit le degré de développement qui était celui d'Acre à son apogée. Famagouste représente essentiellement une ville construite pendant le retrait des croisés. De plus, elle ne faisait pas partie de l'itinéraire des pèlerinages en Terre Sainte. À première vue toutefois, Famagouste ressemble à Acre : c'est elle aussi un exemple de cité portuaire ottomane ayant subi quelques changements. Mais il existe une différence fondamentale entre elles : la ville croisée de Famagouste n'est pas entièrement préservée sous la ville ottomane, mais mélangée à cette dernière.

Sidon était elle aussi une importante ville portuaire à l'époque des croisades, mais elle n'était qu'une parmi d'autres, là où Acre était la capitale. Il reste aussi beaucoup moins de témoignages de la ville croisée à Sidon qu'à Acre.

### *Recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour des actions futures*

Les plans fournis avec le dossier de proposition d'inscription ne font apparaître aucune zone tampon pour protéger la vieille ville d'Acre, comme l'exige le Comité du patrimoine mondial. Il convient d'en définir une et de promulguer des réglementations appropriées avant que le bien puisse être inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial.

Le problème le plus sérieux auquel sont confrontés les responsables de la conservation et de la maintenance de la vieille ville est de nature sociale. En effet, l'on constate une absence quasi totale de fierté du patrimoine. Aujourd'hui, rares sont les habitants qui ont des liens familiaux avec la ville, et ils ne s'identifient pas à celle-ci. De surcroît, beaucoup des habitants sont au chômage ou mal payés, et n'ont donc pas les moyens de vivre ailleurs. Dès que leur sort s'améliore, ils cherchent immédiatement un logement en dehors de la cité fortifiée, et ne se sentent donc tenus par aucune obligation de respect envers ce qui n'est pour eux qu'un lieu de résidence provisoire.

Les responsables de la vieille ville d'Acre ont donc fort à faire en matière d'éducation, afin d'enseigner aux habitants qu'ils vivent dans une ville dotée d'un riche passé et patrimoine. Les efforts déjà faits sur les deux ou trois dernières années, depuis que l'on sait qu'Acre figure sur la liste indicative d'Israël, doivent être maintenus et intensifiés. Le programme éducatif devrait être accompagné d'un programme social intensif dont l'objectif serait d'améliorer la qualité de vie des habitants d'Acre.

La recommandation de l'ICOMOS, que cette proposition d'inscription soit renvoyée à l'État partie, en demandant la définition et la mise en place de la protection réglementaire d'une zone tampon adéquate ainsi que l'apport d'informations concernant des projets pédagogiques et sociaux, existants et envisagés, relatifs à la protection et à la conservation du patrimoine, a été soutenue par le Bureau à sa réunion de juin 2001.

L'État partie a fourni ces informations le 28 septembre et elles répondent tout à fait aux exigences du Bureau et de l'ICOMOS.

### **Brève description**

Le paysage urbain de la ville portuaire fortifiée d'Acre est typique de la perception islamique de la conception urbaine, avec des rues étroites et sinueuses, de magnifiques bâtiments publics et de belles demeures. En dessous, presque intacts, se trouvent les vestiges de son ancêtre, la ville croisée, révélée par des fouilles archéologiques.

### **Déclaration de valeur**

Acre est exceptionnelle en ce que, sous son visage actuel de ville fortifiée à l'architecture islamique typique reposent les vestiges d'une ville médiévale quasi intacte, bâtie sur le modèle européen. Elle représente un témoignage matériel exceptionnel du royaume que les croisés établirent en Terre Sainte aux XIIIe-XIVe siècles, ainsi que de l'Empire ottoman des XVIIIe et XIXe siècles.

### **Recommandation de l'ICOMOS**

Que ce bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères ii, iii et v* :

**Critère ii** Acre est une ville historique exceptionnelle, en ce qu'elle préserve d'importants vestiges de ses édifices croisés médiévaux sous la ville fortifiée musulmane actuelle, qui date des XVIIIe et XIXe siècles.

**Critère iii** Les vestiges de l'Acre des Croisés, à la fois au-dessus et en deçà du niveau actuel des rues, offrent un aperçu unique du tracé et des structures de la capitale du royaume croisé médiéval de Jérusalem.

**Critère v** L'Acre actuelle est un important exemple de ville ottomane fortifiée, avec des composantes urbaines typiques, telles la citadelle, des mosquées, des *khans* et des bains publics bien préservés, partiellement construits sur les structures sous-jacentes des Croisés.

### **Recommandation du Bureau**

Que cette proposition d'inscription soit *renvoyée* à l'État partie, en demandant la définition et la mise en place de la protection réglementaire d'une zone tampon adéquate. L'État partie devrait aussi fournir des informations au sujet des projets d'éducation et sociaux, existants et envisagés, relatifs à la protection et à la conservation du patrimoine.

ICOMOS, november 2001  
révisée février 2002