

Rehabilitation and Reuse of the Archaeological Palaces in Minia Governorate

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Abstract

Minia Governorate (also known as El Minia or El Menya) is known as the "Bride of Upper Egypt". It has a large number of archaeological structures dating back to all historical eras that Egypt went through. Minia Governorate is considered a museum and a timeless record of all historical eras that passed through Egypt and is an adequate record of the Pharaonic, Roman, Greek, Coptic and Islamic monuments. Minia Governorate is famous for its distinct location between the Upper and Lower Egypt.

Among the most important archaeological and historical buildings in this province are those palaces dating back to the (13th -14th centuries AH / 19th -20th centuries AD). They are some of the most prominent Islamic architecture in the era of Alawiyya dynasty. Unfortunately, those palaces suffer severe neglect in terms of preservation and attention. The most important of these are: the palace of Qasim Pasha al-Sherei in Samalut, Palace of Hanna Fawzy Palace in Ashrubah in the district of Bani Mazar and the palace of Mohsen Jalal in Bani Mazar. The researcher managed in this study to find some appropriate ways and suggestions to shed light on these archaeological palaces and how-to re-use them according to their archaeological value.

Keywords: Minia, Palaces, Alawiyya Dynasty, Rehabilitation, Use, Re-Use.

The Study Problem

The problem of the study can be seen in the apparent neglect of the archaeological palaces in the province of Minia, and the lack of benefitting from them, despite their architectural, artistic and historical importance.

Objectives of the Study

- Re-use and rehabilitate these historic palaces to become fit for visits and elements of tourist attraction in the province of Minia.
- Finding modern ways and means to rehabilitate and use these archaeological palaces according to their archaeological value.

The Study Importance

The importance of this study can be attributed to several considerations as follows:

- It deals with an important topic, which is how to rehabilitate and use the archaeological palaces in one of the most neglected tourist governorates of Upper Egypt. It also shows that such places are not enlisted upon the map of cultural tourism in Egypt, despite the huge number of these diverse monuments.
- It contributes to opening new horizons for cultural tourism in one of the governorates of Egypt, which will provide new job opportunities for the people of the governorate.
- It sheds light on the importance of archaeological palaces and their artistic value in Islamic architecture.

Introduction

The preservation of archaeological buildings and monuments is an important trend followed by many countries for development as they are the main gateways leading to tourist attractions. The city and its architecture are the product of the intellectual interaction between man and society. It is the sincere expression of man's culture and history. Architecture is the reflection of civilization and represents the cultural identity and the creative and the aesthetic level of man, so it was

necessary to adhere to its authenticity. Hence, it is necessary to preserve the buildings of historical value (Said, 2012).

The preservation and interest in architectural heritage maintains the concern for unique identity and a call to return to the past to inspire the elements leading to creating a distinct contemporary architecture to be a link between the past and the future. Most of the heritage studies confirmed that the architectural heritage has played an important role in the national construction process by returning to the roots and activation of national cultural and social elements as well as establishing the significance of all aspects of life (Ibrahim 2009).

All of these are directly or indirectly related to heritage and this is true for the societies undergoing radical changes such as the developing countries in general and the Arab countries in particular. Accordingly, the main problem of this research is how to preserve the architectural heritage in Minia Governorate, which is characterized by its abundant architectural heritage, through the rehabilitation and reuse of some of the existing archaeological palaces there. These form an example of the architectural heritage found in this governorate and such aim can be achieved through the following axes:

1. The historical and archaeological significance of the archaeological palaces in Minia Governorate.
2. A plan for re-using, rehabilitating and developing the archaeological palaces in Minia Governorate.
3. Handling the obstacles to re-using, rehabilitating and developing the archaeological palaces in Minia Governorate.

The historical and archaeological significance of the archaeological palaces in Minia Governorate.

There are many archaeological palaces in the province of Minia, which date back to the era of Alawiyya dynasty, through the inventory issued by the Office of Minia Governorate, as this inventory shows all the palaces and buildings as well as the historical heritage in this province. Therefore, this study shed light on three of these historical palaces, which is difficult to visit, because they are still owned by their inheritors not the Ministry of Antiquities (Said, 2012).

1. Qasim Pasha Al-Sherei Palace in Samalut City

Location and History

This palace is located in the center of Samalut municipal division that is following the governorate of Minia. It was established in 1905 AD as mentioned on the entrance gate, which is an area of rectangular shape. This palace consists of two floors and four entrances, an entrance at each side.

This palace was constructed by the order of Qasim Al-Sherei one of the rich people in Minia and he was worked in the political and ordered to construct this palace during the 20th century, and he was the brother of Amar Al-Sherei and was participated in the constructions of building.

This palace considered one of the most important palaces during the 20th century which contains about the most important architectural elements such as the style of arches in the palaces, the decorations, the appearance of the mashrabiya which the most important element used by the women and the appearance of the element of El-Jafat Al-aab.

General Description of the Palace

External description

The palace has three exterior facades enriched in ornaments, all facades from the top crowned with a thick frieze of Gypsum topped by a group of corbels which decorated by a floral ornament in equal distance and above a raised (projecting) cornice of the façade level, and around the holes

(Fig. 1)

spread a group of floral, animals, heads and human being motifs, the doors and windows decorated by artifacts of iron.

Main Entrance

(Fig. 2)

The entrance of the main palace includes a mashrabiya (wooden mesh) representing the facade of the palace, which recedes back from the facade. It has rectangular windows with upper and lower windows of various geometric patterns. Above the mashrabiya, there is a pediment with two opposing lions separated by a helmet. They are made of wood covered with a layer of stucco. This mashrabiya is based on tri-arched façade. The first two arches are half circular while the third is similar to that of Bursa style. This facade is based on cylindrical wooden columns and form the base of the wooden column decorated with geometric patterns within a frame. There are floral designs executed on the ceiling and colored geometric shapes in the ceiling below the mashrabiya, which precedes the main entrance.

Balconies and Windows

(Figs. 3 and 4)

This palace is built of stone brought from the large quarries to the east of the Nile. It has many windows based on stone columns (fig. 4). In addition, it has an iron fence with distinct geometric shapes. There are also many windows topped with stucco floral decorations within a frame. Moreover, there are side windows based on ornate stone cantilevers adjacent to the palace wall. It appears that the lower parts of these wood windows are topped with a layer of stucco.

Palace Annexes (Servants' Building)

(Figs. 5, 6 and 7)

Next to the palace, there is another building annexed to it. It is a building for the servants and consists of one floor (fig. 5) The facade of this building has three arches carried on smooth stone columns devoid of decorations. They are cylindrical in shape. the façade takes the style of Bursa and has windows surmounted by floral decorations and adjacent hooks forms (fig. 6). Such hooks are composed of two rows separated by cantilevers and forms of stone (fig. 7).

2. Palace of Hanna Fawzy in Ashrouba at Bani Mazar City

Location and History

This palace is located in the village of Ashrouba in the provincial division of Bani Mazar of the governorate of Minia. It is a palace with a square shape of about four hundred meters and is a wonderful architectural masterpiece.

It is said that this palace was first built by Mikhail Athanasius, the first member of the Shura Council of the Directorate of Minia in 1882. He was a wealthy man as he owned nearly 4500 acres of fertile agricultural land. His properties included this beautiful palace. However, after his death, the property of this palace reverted to another owner, namely "Fawzy Bey" who married to the daughter of Mikhail. Consequently, the ownership of the palace reverted to "Hanna Bey Fawzy", a member of the House of Representatives of the Bani Mazar constituency. After his death, the agricultural reform committee confiscated the palace and annexed it to the agricultural associations.

The palace included a store for chemicals and pesticides, which led to its total destruction, but its owner - Isis Fawzy Nashed -, did not wait for the full destruction of the palace, so she retrieved it. Among the last owners of this palace was "Lady Lisha' al-Komos Morkos" and the palace is now owned to her son "Ayman Lisha' al-Komos". He played a vital role in preserving this palace as he did some modern restorations and full lighting throughout the palace.

This palace was constructed during the 19h century, the owner of the palace was lived there now and told us that the building palace was completed in 1585 AH (1869 AD), i.e. during the era of digging the Suez Canal.

General Description of the Palace

This palace is a square-shaped layout consisting of one floor that opens to lead to three sides of an area that reaches four hundred meters. One of the most important features of the planning of this palace is the presence of an area annexed to the palace from the south side (fig. 8).

Facades

It has 3 facades in western, northern and eastern sides. The western façade contains the main entrance (fig. 9) which is a door opening topped by a semicircular arch of 1.5 meters width and 4 meters height. There are windows along the façade, while there is a small window on both sides of the entrance. These windows are rectangular openings of 2.5 meters height and 1 meter width. Below the window and on top of it as well, there are some ornate muqarnas. All these windows are in one style or pattern, i.e., they take the shape of rectangular space with a door that opens on two seams surrounded by a frame of plain stucco that is devoid from decorations.

The northern facade so-called "veranda" or a portico. It is surrounded from outside by a modern iron fence, and on its sides, there are windows of the same style of the western facade.

The eastern facade contains the secondary entrance of the palace and some windows that represented with no architectural elements. The secondary entrance extends to a modern staircase that leads to the first floor. The main entrance is followed by a small six-meters long corridor that leads to the palace or the main entrance of the palace.

The Small Hall

(Fig. 10).

It is a small hall from the western side with a straight arched door that opens wide. It is topped by a muqarnas of beautiful decorations and there is a small opening on its side. On the eastern side of the hall, there is a beautiful shape of a circular-shaped window with glass surrounded by an iron fence. Around this window, there is a beautiful shape surrounded by rectangular muqarnas. As for the northern side of the hall, there is a magnificent gate in terms of its architecture. It is located in the middle and topped by a straight arch that is topped by a semicircular arch and another straight one above the previous both. The latter is divided into three ornamental units. This inner side of this entrance is decorated with a semicircular arch carrying the phrase "Masha Allah" 1885" and on both sides of the door or gate there are two windows of 3-meters-height surrounded by plain stucco blocks.

The Big Hall

The area of this hall is 5 meters. From the north side, there is an arched door with two entrances on its side (fig. 11). Both have a semicircular arch that is free of muqarnas. It leads to a "small veranda". On the eastern side, the hall has two doors. The first door leads to a bathroom and a bedroom while the second leads to the eastern room of the palace. As for the western side of the hall, there is one door leading to the western room. The ceiling of the hall is based on conches which is another architectural masterpiece with multiple and various inscriptions. In the middle, there is a prominent decorative block to which a modern masterpiece of lighting is hanging. The owner of the palace stated that these drawings, decorations and inscriptions resemble the Italian style.

The Eastern Room of the Hall

The western room of the hall is located directly in front of the eastern room. The north side has two entrances of the same height of other windows. It is noticeable that all the windows of the palace are of the same height and layout. They have recessed strip that is free of decoration. However, this room has less inscriptions and frescoes different from the eastern room. The eastern side of the room has an entrance that is three meters high and 1.5 meters wide. At the back of the eastern side, there is another entrance at the northern part of two meters height and 1.5 meters width. As for the western side of the room, there are three windows and some modern

pictures hanging to them. The southern side of the room has one door in the middle that is two meters high and a meter and a half wide. It has a straight arch that leads to a bedroom. The ceiling of this room takes the form of rings or circles with some different inscriptions (fig. 12). There is hanging chandelier and the ceiling rests on side conches (fig. 13). It is arched and made from wood. There are ten chairs and a modern table in the room. This room resembles the eastern in its architecture, but the eastern has more decorations and depictions and inscriptions.

The importance of the palace: this palace was considered one of the important palaces during the 19th century which contains about the Coptic style of elements and such as the cross and the style of decorations and the style of architectural design of the palace and this palace consists of first floor, the style of the arches which take the semicircular arches that appeared in the Islamic architecture, and the Arabic inscriptions Masha Allah that appeared in the big chambers.

3. Palace of Mohsen Galal in the Village of Sheikh Atta - Bani Mazar

Location and History

The palace located in the village of Sheikh Atta, the municipal division of Bani Mazar, on the eastern side of the agricultural road of Misr Aswan. It was constructed during the 20th century in the year of 1937A.D as it was written in the foundational text.

This palace was established by Mohamed Bey Mahmoud Galal who was the President of Egypt Air and the first parliamentary to represent Bani Mazar in the era of Khedive Ismail in 1866 AD. He was the first to contribute to the establishment of iron and steel company. In addition, he was a Muslim clergy.

this palace one of the most important palaces that were constructed during the 20th century which contains about the most important elements which called by stalactites that appeared during the Mashhad Aljuishi, this palace consists of three floors and contain about the foundational text that was written by Naskh inscribt, contains about the titles of the owner, Quranic inscriptions, quotations.

General Description of the Palace

This palace is centered by a wooden gate topped by a tri-lobed arch and centered by two rows of muqarnas (fig. 14), the first row consists of twelve muqarnas in the form of pendants. As for the second row which is placed on top of the first, it consists of seven units of muqarnas. The arch is topped by a panel of a Quranic verse reading "ادخلوها بسلام آمنين" which means "(Their greeting will be): "Enter ye here in peace and security." This holy verse is topped by the Basmala " بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم: Bismillah Al-Rahman al-Rahim". It is inscribed in Naskh script. The upper part of the façade is decorated with paper balconies below which there are muqarnas with descending ends. On top of the gate, there are tiles and cantilevers. In addition, there is windows on each side of the façade.

Facades

The palace has a facade in each side. The northern one (fig. 15) is intermediated with a huge block that the architect has been very interested in. Its importance becomes clear as a main entrance to the palace. This block is divided into three vertical areas. The entrance is accessed by a staircase that has two railings and a landing. This staircase is made of stone and has a handrail with geometric decorations (fig. 16). It is topped by a straight arch. The door is topped by a Quranic verse reading "وقل ربي أنزلي منزلا مباركا" which means " And say, 'My Lord, let me land at a blessed landing place". It is written in Naskh script in yellow-brown color. As for the decoration of walls, it consists of muqarnas of pendants. The upper part of the ceiling is decorated with an octagonal shape with an ornament representing circles, stars and others.

This fence rests on six columns of mud-bricks with octagonal body and a muqarnas crown. There is also a column integrated into the wall on the northwestern side (fig. 17).

The Western facade is divided into three vertical sections. The facade is crowned from the top by balconies decorated with floral decoration. The first section of the north-western part has three square-shaped windows divided into two parts. The first and second are rectangular shaped with a straight arch topped by joggled voussoirs. The window is crowned from the top with frets with moldings. As for the lower part, it has a square window.

The middle part consists of three vertical windows. The first and second are rectangular shaped with a straight arch topped by joggled voussoirs. The window is crowned from the top with frets with moldings (fig. 18). As for the lower part, it has a rectangular window. The lower part has another window. The third south-western part is divided into three vertical sections. The upper part is an arched window with chandeliers topped by semi-circular arches. The balcony fence is made of stone with inscriptions containing a Quranic text which reads " وما كنت بالجانب الغربي اذا : قضينا الى موسى الامر which means "And you, [O Muhammad], were not on the western side [of the mount] when we revealed to Moses the command". Here, the balcony is based on two cantilevers. The Southern Façade (fig. 19) is headed by balconies upon a row of muqarnas. The façade is divided into two vertical sections. The first consists of three vertical balconies, the same as the design of the balconies of the western façade, except the middle inscription written in Naskh script and reads " إن الله مع الذين اتقوا والذين هم محسنون" : which means "Indeed, Allah is with those who fear Him and those who are doers of good". As for the third balcony, there is a door leading to it in the middle with a window on its side. The second section consists of vertical windows and there are three vertical openings next to them.

The Eastern Façade (fig. 20) is divided into three vertical sections. The first is prominent and consists of three straight arched square windows. They are decorated with prominent frets. Next to the windows there are three vertical balconies. The upper balcony is rectangular and rests on two stone cantilevers of which a descending-end muqarnas is hanging. The balcony has a wooden door topped by joggled voussoirs and decorated with frets with moldings.

The European influences on the Islamic Architecture during the era of Muhammad Ali family in Egypt

As a result of the wide cultural gap between Egypt and Europe at the beginning of the 19th century, Egypt entered a new phase characterized by its openness to Europe, a desire to keep abreast with it, and the visit of European delegations to Egypt which had a far-reaching impact in the architectural field. Egyptian architecture has turned towards Europe, being the source of progress and urbanization, to imitate and transfer its various architectural styles, as a way of coping up with its civilization. That period is not characterized by a particular architectural character other than transferring and quoting from the European architectural styles. (Al-Raf'i.1981) as:

- The Rococo style is one of the important styles which moved to Egypt in the nineteenth century influenced by this approach the palace of Hana Fawzy.
- The Baroque style is one of the architectural and artistic styles which came to Egypt in the nineteenth century influenced by this approach the palace of Mohsen Jalal.

The Islamic Arabic style

During the nineteenth century, Minia witnessed the revival of all the technical and architectural styles that were prevalent in Europe at that time. The Islamic Arabic style was presented in a new form, as some princes and pashas of Muhammad Ali's family were keen as much as possible to keep the Islamic architecture art of their houses (Ibrahim, 2009), and this style was appeared in the palace of Qasim pasha. the shape of windows in the palaces of Minia takes the shape of the chains shape such the palaces of Muhammad Ali pasha in Cairo.

Re-Using, Rehabilitation and Development of Archaeological palaces in Minia Governorate

Through the historical and archaeological significance of these archaeological palaces, this research will shed light on how they are used in tourism and heritage to ensure their sustainability and preservation for future generations through re-use and rehabilitation in proportion to their archaeological and artistic value.

The concept of Re-use and Rehabilitation of the Building

The concept of re-using and rehabilitation of the building is one of the most important methods in the preservation of heritage as it deals with it from the economic perspective. It aims at the possibility of rehabilitation and reuse of the building to perform a new function that commensurate with the place and time. It also tries to make the building compatible with the environment and at the same time maintain the external shape and artistic and archaeological elements of the archaeological building to ensure its historical, archaeological and artistic value (Ibrahim, 2009).

In fact, the economic factor cannot be neglected as one of the most important factors affecting the development and preserving heritage buildings, especially in developing countries, whose budget is unable to provide the necessary and sufficient funding for such preservation. Therefore, this method of bringing the heritage building back to life, whether by reusing it in the same original function or by re-using it to suit its potential, is considered appropriate and necessary, especially in developing countries that suffer from lack of cultural and social services (Osman, 2008).

The British Museum is a global example of rehabilitation; it is considered one of the most important landmarks in London and a tourist attraction with a Greek character. This museum was established in 1850 AD, and with its increasing number of visitors, movement there became so difficult. Hence, it underwent a series of rehabilitation such as providing recreational spaces such as shops, restaurants. In addition, these works included redesigning the inner courtyard that contained piles of books and turning it into a courtyard around the main reading hall and covered it with a glass ceiling. Moreover, oval-shaped exhibitions were made around the Great Circular Hall as well as providing luxurious stairs to the upper floors (Osman, 2008).

The Principles of Rehabilitation and Reuse

There are several principles that must be taken into account in the process of rehabilitation and reuse of the archaeological building. These are as follows:

– Convenience of Archaeological Building to the New Use

The new use should suit the visual features, the external and internal architectural composition of the archaeological or historical building. Therefore, the original uses are the best to achieve this condition where the nature of the building and its architectural composition are linked to the time period in which it was built. In addition, its original design will fit its original use and archaeological as well as artistic value (Osman 2008). It is noticed that using the archaeological buildings in line with such values proved to be a success in the long run. As for using such buildings for purposes contrary to their historical and artistic value, it costs a lot and doomed to failure because they lead to the demolition of the artistic value of the building as well as their history (Badri 2004). For example, the Palace of Mohsen Galal at Beni Mazar was used as the City Council, which led to the corruption of its architectural elements. The Palace of Hanna Fawzy at Ashrouba was also used as a headquarter of the agricultural association, which negatively influenced some of its architectural elements.

– Suitability of the New Use to the Internal Spaces

The forms, sizes and locations of the archaeological buildings' spaces should suit those forms, sizes and spaces distributions required to achieve the program of reuse. The possibilities of the

historic building should accommodate the requirements of the functional, cultural and security elements of the new use. Hence, it should be noted that the space changes (destroy - add) may affect the nature of the building and its elements or damage its historical and artistic value as well as its original materials if they are not in accordance with international charters and recommendations. The internal spatial change can be done in two ways:

1. destroying: In case of historically unimportant buildings as their main value is the external facade.
2. Addition: Most of the added elements are easy to disassemble and install. They can be removed without affecting the old building materials (Al-Sayed, 1990).

– *The Suitability of Reuse to Structural Elements*

The structural elements – especially the carrying ones - in the archaeological building should be suitable for the expected loads after the addition of new use in order not to harm the balance of the building or its materials or increase its rates of damage. In addition, the new use should not increase over time so that the functional requirements may not exceed the structural capabilities and elements available in the archaeological building (Al-Sayed, 1990).

– *The Suitability of Reuse to Functional Elements*

The functional elements of the building should suit its new use in terms of the space distribution, the relationship between spaces, horizontal and vertical movement elements, the shape and area of openings, available ventilation and lighting whether natural or artificial (Al-Sayed, 1990).

– *Economic Efficiency of Use*

To select the appropriate use for the building, a comparative study should be conducted between the costs of use if it is located within a new building established for this purpose, and the existing use in order to measure and determine the economic efficiency of the use and comparing the maintenance costs with the return of the building or the level of its rent.

The economic efficiency of the new use of the building is achieved by achieving the goal of reuse, i.e., to reach the highest levels of available maintenance. There are many uses that achieve great returns, but they are sometimes not compatible with the archaeological buildings such as commercial uses. The optimal use of these buildings is often cultural and do not achieve a high return covering maintenance expenses for the building (Mohammed 2006).

– *Contribution to the Development of the Surrounding Environment*

This requirement focuses on the compatibility of the proposed new use with the general composition and visual and outlined planning of the city. This can be achieved through the development of the surrounding community where heritage buildings are considered easy to exploit resources. Reliance on these resources as an economic base can help the development of the surrounding communities on the commercial and touristic levels. Hence, there is a need to enlist historic buildings and those of heritage value in the service of community development programs in accordance with their value historically and artistically. This aims that the new proposal use preserves the historic building and integrates it with the surrounding community well (Mohammed 2006).

– *Appropriateness to Social Factors*

It can be achieved by maintaining harmony between the new use of the historical building and the values of society, especially the religious. This new use should also be compatible with the public desire and social relations of the surrounding community to develop and direct public sympathy towards the archaeological building to be rehabilitated and reused. (Al-Sayed, 1990).

The Objectives of Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia

There are various objectives of rehabilitating and reusing of these palaces, whether related to these same archaeological buildings by preserving their heritage and architectural value and ensure the provision of permanent maintenance; or pertaining to its surroundings and urban environment or related to providing economic return. These objectives vary according to different perspectives whether the administrative authorities, investors, society, or residents of the area where the archaeological building is located (Osman, 2008). These objectives include:

a. *Objectives for Archaeological Buildings of Historical Value*

- Preservation of heritage and architectural values: This is one of the most important objectives related to buildings of historical and archaeological value as they witness their age, its techniques and aesthetic values (Ibrahim, 2009).
- Achieving the highest levels of Preservation: One of the main objectives of reuse and rehabilitation is to reach the highest levels of preservation and maintenance, especially that the archaeological buildings preservation procedures do not end in light of their continuous interaction with the surrounding conditions (Al-Sayed, 1990).

b. *Providing Structural Safety for Archaeological Buildings*

This can be achieved by carrying out structural studies prior to re-use. In addition, the periodic preservation will be a protective indicator to avoid any cracks or direct and indirect harms to the building in terms of construction (Osman, 2008).

c. *Permanent Supervision of the Archaeological Buildings:*

This can be carried out by the users of these buildings who prevent the neglect and abandonment of these buildings or their intentional infringement and destruction (Abdul Dayem 2001).

d. *Economic Objectives for the Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia*

- Opening a new investment vista in the areas where these historic palaces exist and providing the opportunity through the quality of this activity and the proposed functions contained and performed by the building, in accordance with the needs plan in the required area (tourism, cultural, entertainment). Hence, this can achieve the social function of economy in serving community and environment (Elbaz, 2006).
- Preservation, reuse and rehabilitation operations benefit the workers in their fields and benefit in training on this type of high-level specialized work. Thus, they can achieve rewarding returns and high standard of living, in addition to the development of their technical capabilities (Ahmed 2008). Benefit from the fame of the place and its history in the promotion and marketing processes, which increases the financial returns from visitors and what they spend.

e. *Social Objectives of Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia*

- Developing the national awareness to preserve these archaeological buildings as a cultural heritage that must be preserved. This is in addition to encouraging the residents living next to them to settle through modernizing the service infrastructure and creating new customs to visit these places.
- Achieving the social national belonging by focusing on the symbolic value which reflects the civilization of an era or product of a particular event in the history of mankind including buildings and any other material elements. The value of such elements is symbolized by their reference to an important date or event (Abdel Wareth 2006).
- Upgrading the general taste of individuals in terms of nurturing a citizen, especially children, in an environment of beauty and high taste, especially if the reused building is characterized

by a special style that attracts its users, improves their taste and increases their sense of beauty (Ahmad 2008).

- Preserving the city's historical personality and fostering the sense of national pride, as the abandoned heritage buildings diminish the city's cultural value and create a sense of economic decline (Khamees, 2009).
- Creating a link between the building, its users and visitors through the function played by the building to the surrounding community. This link works to harmonize the building with the deteriorating old environment in the form of social, cultural and educational services. This will help improve and raise the standard of living and awareness among the residents of the region. (Ibrahim, 2009).
- Maintaining the expertise and skills of craftsmen who helped in the rehabilitation of archaeological buildings and those who have the ability to deal with such materials and such arts. It is well known that such buildings have many technical and architectural elements of decoration and details difficult for any craftsman to deal with, so they require skilled workers in stone sculpture, stained glass and other skills necessary to deal with those old buildings. Hence, the nation will retain its craftsman experienced of those professions that are about to disappear and maintain its national character (Osman, 2008).
- Upgrading society and contributing to comprehensive development. When discussing the economic return and advantages of reuse, it is said that it is more economical and cost-saving to reuse many of the oldest buildings. This is also reflected upon the society, as the resulting savings help in other projects which will consequently upgrade the society. Such economic savings can be used to establish service buildings such as schools, hospitals, government departments, libraries and other public buildings, or contribute to public service projects.
- Thus, the economic advantages of reuse are translated into social characteristics (Ahmad, 2008). One of the heritage buildings that have been reused in the socio-cultural sector is the house of Abdul Rahman al-Harawi, which is considered a good model for reuse. After its restoration, it has become an artistic center, "the House of Arab Oud", which is concerned with teaching young generations to play the oud as an authentic oriental instrument. It aims at preserving the heritage, which is in harmony with the nature of the place and consistent with the general framework of the region (Ibrahim, 2009).

f. *Urban and Environmental Objectives of Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia*

The development of the surrounding environment around the archaeological building. This helps to preserve the distinctive urban character of Minia Governorate and the cities where these palaces are located. It should be considered that neglecting one of the historical buildings means the loss of one of the elements of the region or the historical city. Besides, ceasing to use such historical buildings make them deserted places that do not interact with the surrounding community, as the area is sometimes known after the archaeological building. Therefore, if the building is lost, the whole region loses its distinctive features (Khamees, 2009).

g. *Providing raw materials as one of the environmental objectives of reuse*

- Reuse of an existing building can achieve this aim because the current scientific development witnessed by the world and many research on conserving energy sources and human resources, make it natural and logical to see the existing buildings as sources and precious elements that should be maintained as one of the principles of conservation and sustainability.

In addition, the reuse of buildings reduces the time period for the construction of a new building and reduce the construction costs (Henhan, 2004).

- There is no outcome of removing these historical buildings: The reuse of these neglected palaces is one of the environmental characteristics that help to avoid the demolition of these buildings and rebuild them. because the demolition output is one of the environmental pollutants if not reused scientifically. Moreover, prolonging the life of the building through its reuse helps save the building materials, energy, transportation, and reduce pollution (Yung, Esther HK, 2012).

The Objectives of Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia for Different Bodies

1. For Government Entities

- Preserving the historical palaces of Minia Governorate is considered a national architectural fortune and part of the national economy.
- Raising the level of inhabitants' awareness of the area surrounding these historic buildings and considering them a cultural heritage that must be preserved and adhered to.
- Creating commercial and tourist axes linking these palaces with the buildings of historical and archaeological significance.
- Increasing the national income, as a result of the returns from the investment of historical buildings, especially in tourism, which is an alternative for industrial and artisanal investment which may harm the environment. It does not require large capital and saves the construction costs (Abdel Wareth, 2006).

2. For the Community (the Population Living in the Vicinity of these Archaeological Palaces)

- Improvement of the region in general (infrastructure, services), which contributes to its population adherence to it.
- Providing new fields and jobs in stages before, during and after the preservation and reuse of archaeological buildings.
- Providing parallel investments for the suggested use, encouraging the continuation of traditional crafts and handicrafts and providing services to tourists and visitors.
- Bringing about positive change in the population, through contact with visitors; learning about new customs and lifestyles as well as cultural exchange. It should be considered that some tourist facilities may not be located in areas of a somewhat conservative social nature in order not to contradict the customs and traditions or cause the migration of the population from the region (Abdel Wareth, 2006).

3. Reasons for Rehabilitation and Reuse of Archaeological Palaces in Minia

There are many reasons that the researcher deems necessary for the rehabilitation and reuse of archaeological palaces in Minia. These include historical reasons, reasons related to the importance of the archaeological building or to the process of reuse itself:

- Preserving the artistic and historical value of the archaeological palaces in Minia.
- Preserving the architectural and artistic style of the archaeological palaces in Minia, which have many elements and architectural features that must be preserved, such as their beautiful architectural style and artistic elements of rare sculptures and carvings. All necessitates preserving the building and keeping it as a reference for future generations (Khamees, 2009).

- These archaeological buildings have ceased to perform their original residential function for which they were built due to changes in society over time.
- The neglect of these archaeological buildings is the loss of one of the elements of the city where these palaces are extant. The lack of their use makes them abandoned such as the Palace of Mohsen Galal at Beni Mazar. So, the rehabilitation and reuse of these archaeological buildings develop these buildings in the context of the surrounding environment and revive life within this framework. It integrates the elements of the civilized face of the city with its archaeological buildings, especially if the function is consistent with the general character of the city (Al-Banna 2001).
- The rehabilitation and reuse of archaeological palaces in Minia is the only way to ensure that these buildings remain in good condition and to stop their deterioration.

4. An Example of the Experiences of Reuse and Rehabilitation of Buildings of Archaeological Value in Egypt

Since the early sixties of the elapsed century, Egypt has witnessed the process of reusing and rehabilitating some buildings of an artistic nature and historical importance, such as some palaces of Alawiyya dynasty. They have been reused as schools and educational institutes. This poor reuse of these historic palaces led to the deterioration of their architectural and artistic conditions. During the seventies, the economic element controlled the reuse process as it had economic objectives which aimed at achieving profit regardless of preserving the heritage or archaeological value of the building (Semiramis Hotel - Villa of Umm Kulthum).

In the mid-1980s, the Ministry of Culture prepared a fairly appropriate plan for preserving the historical buildings. It restored some of them and reused them in areas commensurate with the nature of the building and its location. Most of these included public libraries or specialized museums such as the Palace of Prince Amr Ibrahim in Cairo, which dates back to 1923. It was used from (1964 - 1988) as a storehouse of various art works (Abdel Wareth 2006).

Throughout this period, the palace suffered a lot of neglect, deterioration and lack of preservation until the Ministry of Culture selected it for restoration and reuse as a museum for Islamic ceramics in 1965, because of its richness in the elements of Islamic architecture. It was also important in terms of its location next to many tourist and recreational facilities, where it is located on al-Gezira Street next to Marriott Hotel, Gezira Sporting Club and Cairo Tower (Ibrahim 2009).

A Proposed Reusing of Archaeological Palaces in Minia Governorate

The researcher believes that the responsible authorities, especially the Ministry of Antiquities, should restore, rehabilitate, and reuse archaeological palaces in Minia in order to preserve their remaining archaeological value. This can be achieved as follows:

1. Uses Commensurate with the Archaeological Palaces in Minia Governorate

The researcher believes that it is possible to use the archaeological palaces - the subject of study - in many optimal ways in accordance with the principles of reusing and rehabilitating buildings with archaeological value as explained earlier, especially as these palaces are eligible for re-use. This can be achieved through the following:

- a. Cultural Activities: It is possible to reuse the archaeological palaces in Minia as museums, public library, seminar center or exhibition, as follows:
 - Museum to display archaeological or historical artifacts of distinctive quality in Upper Egypt from different historical eras.

- Centers for holding seminars and cultural lectures by designating appropriate halls within the palaces for such lectures and seminars.
- b. Craft Activities: Palaces of Minia can be reused in many craft activities such as reusing parts of them such as the basements or halls as a school to teach traditional crafts (such as stucco, metalwork, woodwork, textiles, carpets, glass works).
- c. Commercial Activities: It is possible to reuse the gardens surrounding the archaeological palaces in Minia in many commercial activities. These include the display and sale of traditional heritage products or the sale of Khan Al Khalil products and other commercial activities (Abdel Wareth 2006).
- d. Management Activities: The palaces in Minia can be reused in some administrative activities such as:
 - Center for recording the antiquities for modern archaeological discoveries in the cities of Minia.
 - Engineering Department affiliated to the Ministry of Antiquities, especially to follow up the works of restoration and maintenance of buildings and archaeological sites in the region of Minia.

2. A Proposed Plan for Reusing the Palace of Qasim Bek Al- Sherei in Samalut

In this study, the researcher proposes the idea of establishing a new architectural project, which is to reuse and rehabilitate Qasim Al-Sherei palace as a new historical museum in Samalut city like many other examples in Egypt such as the Islamic Ceramic Museum (Prince Amr Ibrahim Palace) as previously stated. This can be achieved as follows:

Project of Establishing a Historical Museum in Samalut:

Project Name: The researcher considers the reuse and rehabilitation of Qasim Al-Sherei palace as a new historical museum in Samalut area. It is called "Al-Sherei" museum, in commemoration of an artist in the city of Minia, namely Ammar Al-Sherei as one of the most famous artists (Fakery, 1957).

Project Location: This palace is located in the city of Samalut. The palace was built in 1905, i.e., it dates back to the early 20th century.

Bodies implementing and supporting the Project

The researcher sees that the Ministry of Antiquities may announce an architectural competition for construction companies to assume this architectural project. The project will be implemented by the architectural office that wins this architectural competition.

Sources of Funding: The Ministry of Antiquities or any donor.

Project Program: The project is implemented as follows:

Elements of the Palace: The palace consists of two floors on a flat area of about 1800 m in addition to a large garden surrounding all facades of the palace. The first floor contains two reception halls, bedrooms, salons, dining hall, kitchens and bathrooms, while the second is quite similar to the first in terms of the number of rooms and reception halls.

Elements of the New Architectural Program: The architect of the project identifies the components of the museum, which include galleries, administrative rooms, seminar hall with its annexes, a cinema and its annexes, stores and security rooms.

Idea of Museum Design: The architect who will implement the idea of turning the palace into a historical museum will do the following:

- Preserve the outer appearance of the palace to preserve the architectural style.
- Modifying the formation of the interior space on the first floor by removing some of the walls, strengthening the buttressed walls and establishing some concrete columns to support

the building. Thus, the architect will provide the architectural hall for cinema, administrative rooms, security rooms and a small hall for display.

- Modifying the formation of the interior space on the second floor by removing some of the walls and strengthening the buttressed walls, thus the architect provides a large main exhibition hall in addition to a large hall for seminars and lectures services.
- The architect exploits the large garden around the palace, especially that in front of the main façade of the palace in the external display of some artifacts and large archaeological statues discovered in Minia Governorate.

Executive Works: The architect uses the latest modern technologies as mentioned earlier in the principles of reuse and rehabilitation through the following:

- Reinforcement of the palace infrastructure using steel beams, concrete columns and buttressed walls.
- Treatment of the effects of moisture, strengthening the concrete ceilings and the restoration of decoration.
- Renewal of sewage works renewal of the electricity network, the addition of backup generators and the establishment of a complete air conditioning network for the museum.
- Adding security gates, securing the antiques displayed through a network of surveillance and also securing the museum against fire.

e. Prospected Benefit of the idea of Reusing the Palace as a Historical Museum

After the success of the project and the reuse of Qasim Bek Al-Sherei in Samalut city as a historical museum that includes many archaeological artifacts in Minia and its history throughout different ages, a new effective image and influence on the society of the region and the external environment can be found. It creates a new civilized appearance of the area of Samalut in general and Minia Governorate in particular. In addition, this area will become a new tourist attraction for tourists from abroad and home, especially with the advent of many people to Minia to visit the shrines of Bahnasa at Bani Mazar.

Obstacles of Reuse and Rehabilitation of Archaeological Palaces in Minia Governorate

- The researcher believes that there are many obstacles facing the authorities in the process of rehabilitation and reuse of archaeological palaces in Minia, including:
- The difficulty of dealing with modern construction systems: The archaeological palaces - under study - were built at a time when most of these systems were not yet known. Therefore, the architect did not consider the emergence of such modern systems and requirements, as these buildings were designed to perform a specific use without considering the future needs (Elbaz, 2006).
- Increasing economic costs of maintenance, restoration and preservation, which depend primarily on the construction status of the building, rates and types of damage, as well as their impact on the efficiency of the performance of the new use.
- The length of the implementation period with the total cost of the project that exceed the expected due to (high prices of materials, lack of trained manpower, the cessation of planned financial support, or diminished financial capacity) (Fakery, 1957).
- The additional cost of reuse represented by the measures and actions required for reuse, including additions and modifications required by the new use to meet the emerging requirements of architectural treatments, technical equipment, security techniques... etc.

- Reduced economic return from the new use, which may not be commensurate with the invested capital. This happens when the services and activities that attract the public and provide the necessary return for spending decrease due to the limited possibilities imposed on the building and the lack of available space or difficulty to exploit it. In addition, it may result from the narrow site that can't assimilate the new reuse activities (Abdel Wareth, 2006).
- Poor technical surveillance while making the necessary works to reuse and rehabilitate the building, which in some cases leads to additions that may damage the building (such as decoration works, the addition of technical equipment, roofing of internal courtyards, etc.).
- Lack of clear controls and bases for choosing the appropriate use for each archaeological or historical building. The optimal use of the building depends on its historical value and does not conflict with it. In general, damage is minimized when the building is used by experienced entities that are aware of its characteristics and value. Such entities determine its suitable new function when it is difficult to maintain its original one. Therefore, these entities should not go too far in restoring the building and changing its features when carrying out maintenance and preservation works.
- The absence of an integrated plan and a comprehensive planning study for reusing the historic buildings at the level of the ancient city, such as the lack of parks, in addition to the difficulties in servicing which do not ensure an appropriate balanced distribution of various activities, especially the tourist services. This may lead to excessive reuse in an area without the other.
- Lack of deterrent laws and regulations on reuse, and licensing without taking into account the balance between the distributions of uses, especially similar ones, to cover all parts of the ancient city (Abdel Wareth, 2006).

Concluding Remarks

In the light of this descriptive and analytical study, the researcher concluded the following:-

- Lack of attention and care of the archaeological palaces in the governorate of Minia, which may lead to their sabotage and loss.
- The method of reusing buildings of archaeological value-to perform a new function commensurate with the place and age and preserve the buildings and their archaeological value - is one of the basic methods in preserving these monuments and ensuring their survival for future generations.
- The reuse of the archaeological palaces in Minia is not only a process of conservation only, but a new work to preserve their cultural and artistic importance to affirm the cultural and historical identity of the region.
- The policy of reusing and rehabilitation includes several basic considerations and principles such as the evaluation of the building, determining the new function appropriate to its nature and location. In addition, the policy should also include the objectives of reuse such as the economic and social benefits to the region after reuse and the reasons for the re-employment and rehabilitation of historical buildings.
- The method of reusing historical buildings was known in Egypt since the 1960s. It was applied to some buildings of an artistic nature and palaces of historical importance of Alawiyya dynasty by reusing them as schools and educational institutes. During the seventies, the economic element controlled the reuse process. In the mid-1980s, the state developed an ambitious plan to preserve historical buildings, restoring some of them and

reusing others in areas commensurate with the nature of these buildings. Some were reused as public libraries or specialized museums such as the Palace of Prince Amr Ibrahim (Museum of Islamic Ceramics)

- Developing a proposed plan for the project of reusing and rehabilitating Qasim Bek Al-Sherei Palace as a new historical museum in Samalut area, "Al-Sherei Museum".
- Providing the study with a number of paintings of the archaeological palaces in Minia to illustrate their decorative richness and architectural as well as artistic value.

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Figures

Fig. 1: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Main façade- Researcher



Fig. 2: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Decoration of Mashribiya- Researcher



Fig. 3: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Columns of entrance- Researcher



Fig. 4: Palace of Elsharaai-Decorations of column Researcher



Fig. 5: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Decorations of Ceiling-Researcher



Fig. 6: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Decoration of Farnton Researcher



Fig. 7: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Decorations of Ceiling-Researcher



Fig. 8: Palace of Qasim Elsharaai-Decoration of Farnton Researcher



Fig. 9: Palace of Fawzy Hana Ashrubah- main chamber-Researcher

Pl. 10: Palace of Fawzy Hana Ashrubah- main entrance –Researcher

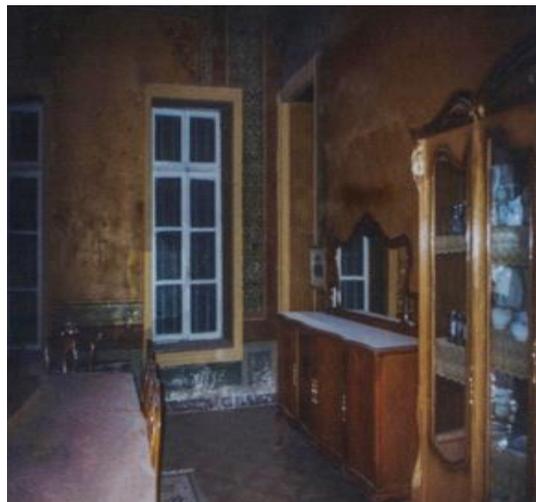


Fig. 11. Palace of Fawzy Hana Ashrubah-doors from inside –Researcher



Fig. 12: Palace of Fawzy Hana Ashrubah-decorations of ceiling -Researcher



Fig. 13: Palace of Fawzy Hana Ashrubah-decorations of ceiling–Researcher



Fig. 14: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-Main entrance – Researcher

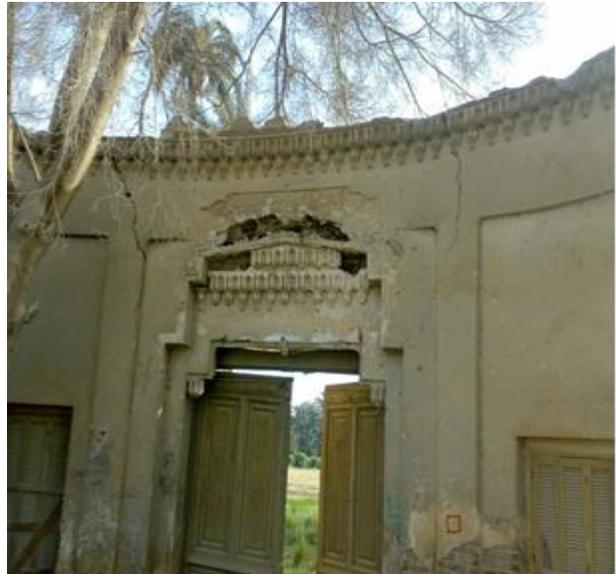


Fig. 15: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-Main Northern facade –Researcher



Fig. 16: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-Main staircases – Researcher



Fig. 17: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-Decorations of facades –Researcher



Fig. 18: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-decoration of El-Jafat Al-Laab –Researcher



Fig. 19: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-southern facade –Researcher



Fig. 20: Mohsan Jalal-Beni Mazar-Eastern facade – Researcher

