



Urban Agenda Platform

The global platform for sharing progress, action and knowledge on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve sustainable urban development.

Bayt Yakan, Historic Cairo

Region	Middle East and North Africa
Themes	Housing Local Economic Development Planning & Design Rehabilitation
Geographic scope	Local
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Goal 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
New Urban Agenda Commitments	Sustainable Urban Development for Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity and Opportunities for All Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development

Summary

Private historic houses in the Historic Cairo have been subjects of continuous assaults and demolitions. Being of courtyard type and entailing essential roles in socio-economic and environmental qualities of the city, those houses are essential tools to retrofit the quality of life in the historic city, and reconnect the local community with their heritage. They are also crucial tools to defy the antiquarian approach in conserving the local values reasserting that heritage is mainly about sustainable development.

Bayt Yakan case study addresses the challenges those houses are facing and invests on the opportunities they are entailing to confirm that SDGs can certainly be addressed and achieved through the protection, the restoration, and the rehabilitation of those houses.

Background and Objective

Private historic houses in the Historic Cairo have been subjects of continuous assaults and demolitions. Being of courtyard type and entailing essential roles in socio-economic and environmental qualities of the city, those houses are essential tools to retrofit the quality of life in the historic city, and reconnect the local community with their heritage. They are also crucial tools to defy the antiquarian approach in conserving the local values reasserting that heritage is mainly about sustainable development.

Bayt Yakan case study addresses the challenges those houses are facing and invests on the opportunities they are entailing to confirm that SDGs can certainly be addressed and achieved through the protection, the restoration, and the rehabilitation of those houses. It directly tackles SDGs 4 (targets 4.4., 4.7), 5 (targets 5.1, 5.6), 7 (target 7.b), 8 (target 8.5), 9 (target 9.3, 9.5), 10 (target 10.2), 11 (target 11.4), 17 (targets 17.9, 17.16, and 17.17), but also touches upon many other goals and targets. The case study also demonstrates throughout academic research that if models and solutions achieved within the case study are strategically adopted and upscaled throughout the historic city, substantial socio-economic and environmental impacts would be achieved.

Outline of activities over the last four years

1. Organizing and implementing a continuous program of community awareness workshops, which tackle well-being, heritage recognition and appreciation, self-development, and other specific educational aspects.
2. Implementing and activating a 16 KW solar station producing electricity that covers the consumption of the building, being the first in the historic city.



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3. Inaugurating a public library whose collection is specialized in heritage conservation, heritage management, and history of the city and its inhabitants whose aim is to emphasize on the dissemination of knowledge to the local community as well as to bringing in scholars to the historic city.
4. Implementing a garden in the courtyard to be the seed of a green corridor within the historic city, and from which herbs can be sown from it by local community. The selection of the plants and herbs were carefully made with selected members of the local community in order to help addressing local endemic diseases.
5. Setting a carpentry workshop with machines and required tools to regenerate the traditional carpentry with the local artisans, and offering workshops to develop the designs and the products to address contemporary needs.
6. Organizing a series of exhibitions of products of arts and crafts to attract communities from outside the historic city as well as tourists and visitors to the area surrounding the historic house.

Outcomes and Impacts

Through the website of the UNDP Egypt and the New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA) of Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities. In addition, throughout directing, supporting, and formulating academic research in the topic. Admittedly, such information is not systematically assessed as it is not widely disseminated to the public, and to concerned civil societies.

Achievements

1. The historic building becomes zero energy, and research on the results has been disseminated.
2. The case has been posted on the UNESCO world heritage "Canopy" webpage <https://whc.unesco.org/en/canopy/cairo/> ; a matter that would help in publicity and providing the case study legitimacy to widespread the processes.
3. Community has been formed and its members are gathering to shape a proposal for the regeneration of the neighborhood along with representatives from the concerned authorities.
4. Local government has been enhancing the open public spaces and the infrastructure around and in the vicinity of Bayt Yakan, organized visits to the case, and considering to partnering with the Bayt Yakan enterprise to upscale the achievements in collaboration with the local community.
5. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has selected Bayt Yakan to celebrate the latest women day recognizing the impact on the surrounding community.

Partners

- The Japanese Government represented by the Japanese Embassy in Egypt which granted Bayt Yakan a fund for the regeneration of the local crafts, and the Japanese Society for the Promotion of the Sciences (JSPS) which are providing technical advises throughout the process to enhance community engagement and to achieve its empowerment. - The Egyptian Ministry of Industry through its UNDP Fund that has supported Bayt Yakan technically and financially to implement the solar power station, - Local community members who believe in the role of Bayt Yakan in carrying out local sustainable development, and participate in the events and meetings organized towards achieving such objectives.