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## ADAPTING MERITED AND AWARD-WINNING BUILDINGSPERMITTED LEVELS AND NON-NEGOTIABLE VALUES: THE CASE OF THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA, ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

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## Abstract

The practice of launching international architectural design competitions to key and important buildings in Egypt is not a new trend. Once built, those award-winning buildings usually undergo a modification process either by their owners or occupants. Owners or occupants always modify these buildings so that their performance would be adapted to certain local parameters. These modifications, however, may touch upon some of the original qualities that had donated those designs merits and recognitions at the time of their selection as prize winners. Many of these significant award-winning buildings might be considered as modern heritage resources, thus developing another layer of significance that might also influence the appropriateness of any modifications undertaken to them. This paper presents an overview on how some buildings have been altered. The aim was to infer the architectural qualities which were affected by the modification processes, and attempt to define some non-negotiable parameters that should be preserved in such buildings in order to keep their architectural merits. The research tried to answer the following questions: - Is it ethical, professional or legal to modify an award winning architectural project? - Are there regulations or codes of practice that control and/or prohibit modifications of certain architectural qualities in award-winning buildings? The paper also tried to examine the various heritage values that might be satisfied by the case study, which is the Library of Alexandria, and to examine the influences of these values on the adaptability of the modern alterations to the Library. The findings of the study, in relation to the new addition to the Library of Alexandria as a modern heritage resource, indicated that the addition was found to contribute positively towards some heritage values, such as the use value, and was also found to contribute negatively towards other values, such as the townscape value. The study recommends that the regulations of the international and local architectural competitions should explicitly involve guidelines that help in guiding architects while designing modern additions to such award-winning buildings, so as to guarantee the survival of the qualities that allowed these buildings the chance to win these awards.

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Modern heritage; award-winning buildings; modifications, legislation; code of practice, Library of Alexandria

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## Abstract

The practice of launching international architectural design competitions to key and important buildings in Egypt is not a new trend. Once built, those award-winning buildings usually undergo a modification process either by their owners or occupants. Owners or occupants always modify these buildings so that their performance would be adapted to certain local parameters. These modifications, however, may touch upon some of the original qualities that had donated those designs merits and recognitions at the time of their selection as prize winners. Many of these significant award-winning buildings might be considered as modern heritage resources, thus developing another layer of significance that might also influence the appropriateness of any modifications undertaken to them. This paper presents an overview on how some buildings have been altered. The aim was to infer the architectural qualities which were affected by the modification processes, and attempt to define some non-negotiable parameters that should be preserved in such buildings in order to keep their architectural merits.

The research tried to answer the following questions:

- Is it ethical, professional or legal to modify an award winning architectural project?
- Are there regulations or codes of practice that control and/or prohibit modifications of certain architectural qualities in award-winning buildings?

The paper also tried to examine the various heritage values that might be satisfied by the case study, which is the Library of Alexandria, and to examine the influences of these values on the adaptability of the modern alterations to the Library. The findings of the study, in relation to the new addition to the Library of Alexandria as a modern heritage resource, indicated that the addition was found to contribute positively towards some heritage values, such as the use value, and was also found to contribute negatively towards other values, such as the townscape value. The study recommends that the regulations of the international and local architectural competitions should explicitly involve guidelines that help in guiding architects while designing modern additions to such award-winning buildings, so as to guarantee the survival of the qualities that allowed these buildings the chance to win these awards.

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## INTRODUCTION

There seems to be no rules set by organizers of architectural design competitions to control alterations or modifications to

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award winning projects after being constructed. Therefore, award winning buildings may be disfigured; changing the very same qualities that gave them their merit or credit. Modifications or alteration of merited buildings varies. They are either changes in the internal division of spaces, or changes of the external facades of the building. Internal changes includes adding new partitions to add more spaces, removing existing partitions to enlarge spaces or just changing the use of spaces without changing their areas. While external changes includes adding parts to the original form of the building, or changes in the immediate surroundings of the merited building. These two types of alterations take place due to the changing demands of the occupants based on the fact that the lifetime of a building always outlasts its function.

## METHODOLOGY

The study involves three major parts, namely, a theoretical background the illustrates the national and international codes, regulations and ethics of practicing architecture, the second part is a case study that exhibits the alterations and modifications made to the award winning Library of Alexandria. The last part is a thorough analysis of merited values of award winning buildings to draw final conclusions and answer initial research question.

The Library of Alexandria can be considered as a modern heritage resource, since it is listed on Egypt's Tentative List, of the properties that might be nominated for the inscription on the World Heritage List. Consequently, the library's qualities that should be considered while evaluating the appropriateness of the modern alterations made to it should also involve heritage values. Therefore, the analysis of the merited values of the library also involved the analysis of the property's heritage values. To undertake a heritage value analysis, a typology of values was first adopted. The adopted value typology was based on Feilden's typology. According to Feilden's typology, heritage value can be classified into three major groups, which are the emotional values, the cultural values and the functional values. The emotional values might involve values; such as religious values, the identity value, and the respect and veneration values. The cultural values might involve value; such as the architectural value, the historic value, the townscape value, the artistic value, and the newness value. Finally, the functional values might include values; such as the use value, the social value and the political value.<sup>i</sup> The analysis also focused on another influential factor, which are the criteria that might be used to justify the inscription of the Library of Alexandria on the World Heritage List.

## THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### *International Architectural Competitions in Egypt*

Architectural competition assures the owner of a project to have the best design solution to his/her project. Despite the fact that organizing a design competition is a long and costly task. International competitions are not a new practice in Egypt. In fact there are no records of the first architectural competition held in Egypt but it can be deducted that the tradition of organizing international for designing important buildings dates back to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The following list illustrates some of the major international architectural competitions that were held in Egypt:

- Lechictien Store by Adolph Loos, Alexandria,1912
- Qasr El Aini Hospital, Cairo,1923
- Extension of the Greco Roman Museum, Alexandria,1925
- Smouha suburb, Alexandria,1925
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria,1989
- Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo, 2003
- American University in Cairo,2006
- Exhibition Ground, Cairo ,2008
- Egypt Japan University for Science and Technology, Alexandria 2009
- Urban design of Ramsis Square, Cairo,2009

### *Local and International Codes of Practices*

In order to investigate the questions defined by this research, it is imperative to review the local and international codes and ethics of Architectural practice. The local code of architecture practice is set by the Engineering Syndicate, Architectural Engineering Section do not directly answer this type of question but it states partially some rules to handle this situation. It states that the architect has the right to remove his name as a designer of a building if the owner modified his building in a way the architect sees that it changes the building or hinder its architectural qualities without granting a permission of the architect.

Moreover, under the section concerning the copyright ownership of architecture competition, it states that the promoter of an architectural competition has no right to modify the wining project without the approval of the designer.<sup>ii</sup>

On the other hand, The American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2007 Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct does not state this issue. It only includes general obligations of registered architects to the public, to the client, to the profession, to the colleagues and finally to the environment.<sup>iii</sup> The only mention of modifying buildings is in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) contract documents (B141-1997 sub paragraph 1.3.2.3) that prohibits the owner's use of the instruments of service for future additions or alterations to the project or other projects without the written permission of the architect. As follows:

*"1.3.2.3 Except for the licenses granted in Section 1.3.2.2, no other license or right shall be deemed granted or implied under this Agreement. The Owner shall not assign, delegate, sublicense, pledge or otherwise transfer any license granted herein to another party without the prior written agreement of the architect. However, the Owner shall be permitted to authorize the Contractor, Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors and material or equipment suppliers to reproduce applicable portions of the Instruments on Services appropriate to and for use in their execution of the work by license granted in section 1.3.2.2. Submission or distribution of Instruments of Service to meet official regulatory requirements or for similar purposes in connection with the project is not to be construed as publication in derogation of the reserved rights of the Architect and the Architect's consultants. The Owner shall not use the Instruments of Service for future additions or alterations to this Project or for other projects, unless the Owner obtains the prior written agreement of the Architect and the architect's consultants. Any unauthorized use of the Instruments of Service shall be at the Owner's sole risk and without liability to the Architect and the architect's consultants."*<sup>iv</sup>

The Canadian code of practice is set by Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). Under section GC 5 Copyright and Use of Documents, the code prohibits the alteration of the architects' drawings or Architects instruments of services. The code states that *"Copyright for the Architect's Instruments of Service belongs to the Architect. The Architect's Instruments of Service shall remain the property of the Architect whether the Project for which they are made is executed or not, and whether or not the Architect has been paid for the services. Their alteration by the Client is prohibited."*<sup>v</sup>

Both the International Union of Architects (UIA) International Code of Ethics on Consulting Services and the Agha Khan Architectural Award regulations do not mention the changes, additions or alterations that might occur to an award winning building. Therefore, it can be deduced that there seems to be no imperative and clear rules set by neither organizers of architectural competitions or awards, nor the code of architectural practice and profession ethics to control alterations to award winning projects after being constructed. As a result, the award winning buildings could be changed and disfigured; making the awards they had won meaningless or worthless and may also dishonor the name, fame and reputation of the award itself and the credits of the architect.

### ***Heritage Values and their Influences on the Appropriateness of the Alterations Made to Modern Heritage***

Some award winning projects might also be considered as modern heritage resources. The consideration of these properties as modern heritage resources is expected to influence the evaluation of the adaptability of any proposed new alterations to these properties. The Library of Alexandria, which is the case study of this paper, has been considered as a modern heritage resource in Alexandria and has been provided a legislative protection. To evaluate the adaptability of new developments to modern heritage resources, the heritage values satisfied by these resources should first be identified. Values identification process usually follows one of the established typologies of heritage values. These typologies are general classifications of the various heritage values.

Heritage values can be considered to evolve as a result of the interaction of the artifact and its context and do not evolve from the absolute qualities of the artifacts.<sup>vi</sup> Values can also be defined as "those qualities regarded by a person, group or community as important and desirable".<sup>vii</sup> The Burra Charter can be considered one of the most renowned international documents that have adopted a clear typology, or classification, of heritage values. The Charter adopts a typology of values that classifies them into four groups; which are the aesthetic value,

The historic value, the scientific value and the social value. The historic value of the property is concerned with the historic associations of cultural heritage to events or people in the past, while the scientific value is involved with the educational and research values of the property.<sup>viii</sup> One of the earliest typologies of values is the typology adopted by Alois Riegl in "The modern cult of monuments: its character and its origin". Riegl classifies heritage values into two groups, which are the memorial values and the present-day values. Memorial values include the age value, the historical value and the intended memorial value. On the other hand, the present-day values include the use value, the art value, the newness value and the relative art value.<sup>ix</sup>

Feilden has also adopted another typology of heritage values. He classifies heritage values into three broad groups, which are the emotional values, the cultural values and the use values. The emotional values include values such as the wonder value, the identity value, the continuity value, the respect and veneration values, and the symbolic and spiritual values. The cultural values involve values such as the documentary value, the historic value, the archaeological and age values, the aesthetic and architectural values, the townscape value, the landscape and ecological values, and the technological and scientific values. Finally, the use values include the functional value, the economic value, the social value, the educational value, and the political value. Mason has proposed a typology

of values that involves two groups of values, which are the sociocultural values and the economic values. The sociocultural values include the historical value, the cultural / symbolic value, the social value, the spiritual / religious value and the aesthetic value. On the other hand, the economic values include the use (market) value, the none use (nonmarket) value, the existence value, the option value, and the bequest value.

The Egyptian legislations concerned with architectural and urban conservation; law No. 144 (2006) and law No. 119 (2008), have also been involved with particular values. law No. 144 is involved with values such as the architectural value, the historic value.<sup>x</sup> On the other hand, law No. 119 is involved with values; such as the architectural value, the historic value, the artistic value, the functional value, the townscape value, the aesthetic value, and the landscape and the ecological values.<sup>xi</sup>

Each heritage value of the heritage resource can be identified based on a number of indicators that might be satisfied by the heritage resource. For instance, the identity value, which is an emotional value, of the heritage resource might be indicated by its capability in stimulating the community's sentiments of its identity. The spiritual/religious value of the heritage resource might be indicated by its ability in stimulating the religious emotions associated with the beliefs of the various religions of the concerned community. The spiritual/religious value of the heritage resource might also be indicated by its retention of physical elements that embody its spiritual/religious value, such as religious buildings.

The architectural value is another significance value that can be classified under the cultural values group. Evaluating the architectural value is still based on Vitruvius' three departments of architecture; which are durability, convenience, and beauty.<sup>xii</sup> The delight or beauty aspects of the architectural value involve the relationship of building to the site, the massing, silhouette of the resource, the proportions, scale, and size of the various elements constituting the resource and their relationship to the human dimensions, and the suitability of the heritage resource's architectural materials and ornaments. The firmness or durability aspects of the architectural value might be indicated by the structure system of the built elements of the heritage resource, and its resistance to all kinds of loads. Finally, the commodity aspects of the architectural value might be indicated by the usefulness of the built elements of the heritage resource, and its ability to meet a variety of functions.

The townscape value of heritage resources is also another significant cultural value. The townscape value might be indicated by the visual association and the unity of groups of buildings, as well as the urban spaces encompassed among these buildings, which occupy the site of the historic urban area. The townscape value of the heritage resource might be indicated by the treatment of the street and pavement surfaces of the urban spaces in the historic urban area. The inward and outward views of the historic urban area, as well as its reference points and vistas might also indicate its townscape value. The landmark qualities of the historic urban area might also indicate its exceptional townscape value. The unity of the urban environment attributed to the application of local materials to the various elements constituting the urban setting of the heritage resource might indicate its urban value.

Cultural heritage values also involve the historic value. The historic value might be indicated by its retention of its original style and condition. The age of the heritage resource indicates its historic value. The historic value is expressed by its association with events or people in the past, or by its association with an outstanding designer or architect. The technological aspects of the heritage resource might also indicate its historic value.

Heritage values involve another final group that might refer to as the use values. The social value is one of the heritage values that can be classified as use values. The social value of the heritage resource is indicated by its use for social gatherings; such as celebrations, markets, picnics or ball games. The ability of the heritage resource to facilitate social connections and networks can also indicate its social value. The use values might also involve the economic value of the heritage resource. The economic value of the heritage resource is indicated by its ability in making a significant contribution towards the economic development of the surrounding community by encouraging tourism, for instance.<sup>xiii</sup> Finally, the use values include the functional value, which can be indicated by the retention of the heritage resource of its original use, and by its potentials that enable it to accommodate alternative functions.

## CASE STUDY: THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA

In this part of the research the Library of Alexandria will be studied as an example of an award winning buildings that have been changed. The library will be presented to exemplify the previous debates. The aim here is not to evaluate nor criticize these modifications and judge them on a critical basis; rather to illustrate a case study that delineates the debate of this paper and finally draw conclusions and recommendation.<sup>xiv</sup> The Library of Alexandria is chosen because it is an award winning building in an international architectural competition, a winner of the Agha Khan Architectural Award, and finally nominated to be on the tentative World heritage list as will be clarified later.

### *Background*

The building of New Library of Alexandria was realized through an international architectural competition that was announced in 1988. Among 524 applicants; the international jury members selected the project of Snøhetta A.S

of Norway as a winner of the competition. The building was completed in 2002. The Library is now a landmark of Alexandria and a major tourist destination that attracts more than one million visitors a year.<sup>xv</sup> It also moved Alexandria from being a local tourist destination to become a destination for international tourists<sup>xvi</sup>. According to some statistics, Alexandria attracted about 309000 foreign tourists, in 2002<sup>xvii</sup>. Not only the New Library is a major destination of the city, but also it was a catalyst for other development projects of the city. It also attracted future development projects as the new Alexandria Underwater Archaeological Museum and the new Alexandria Aquarium.<sup>xviii</sup>

### *The New Addition*

In 2009, the administration of the Library of Alexandria decided to add a new building on the west side of the plaza. The building was intended to provide catering facilities as restaurants, cafeterias and a bookstore. The Library administrations announced that there a lack of services and catering facilities due to the fact that there is only one food outlet in the Library that serves all the visitors and staff of the Library<sup>xix</sup>. The new addition consists of two floors with a footprint of 200 square meters and a height of 8 meters. The building was designed by the Engineering Department of The Library of Alexandria (Figures 1, 2).



**Figure 1: Close up view illustrates the architecture of the new building designed by the Engineering Department of the Library of Alexandria**

Source: The authors

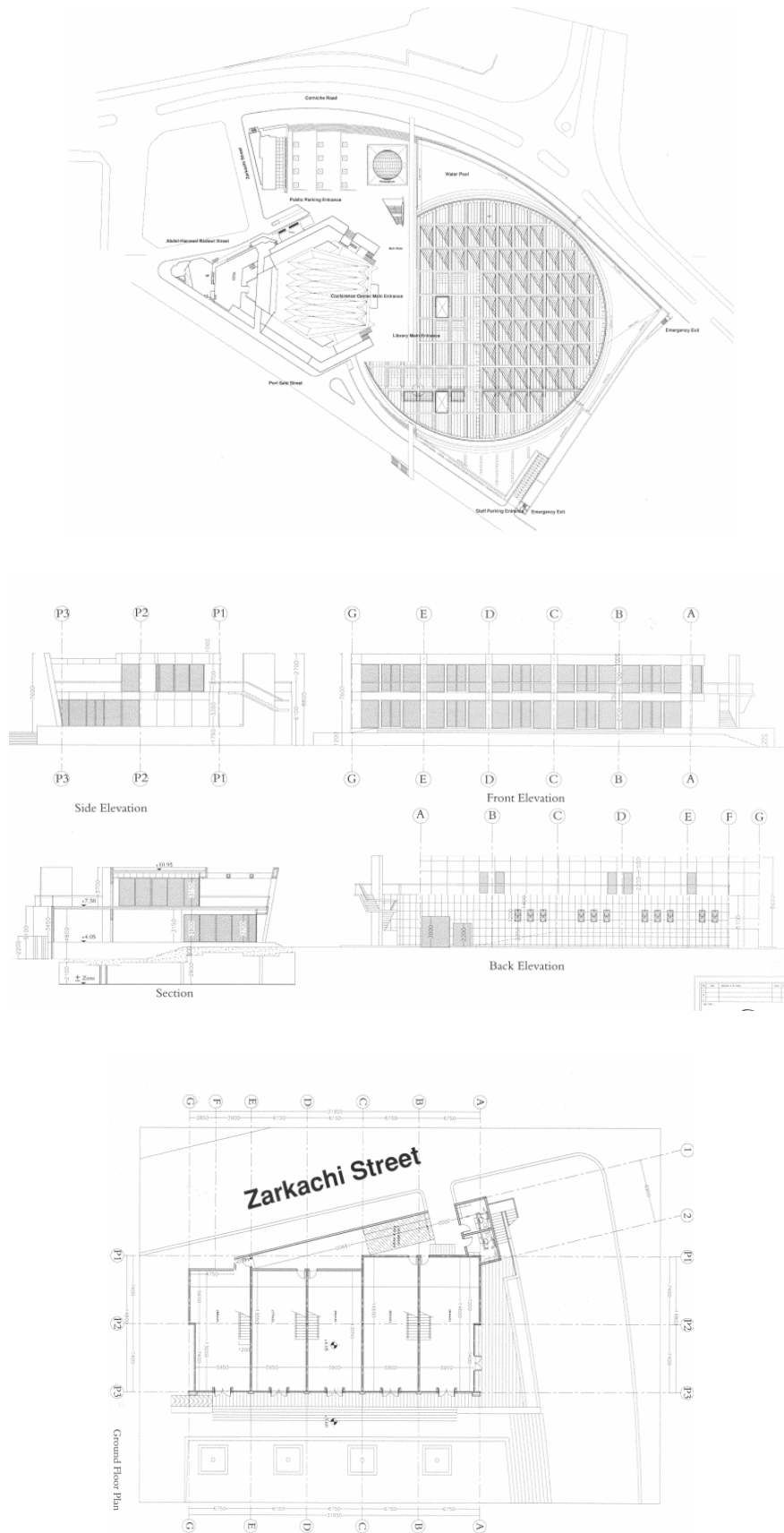


Figure 2 Architectural drawings and site plan of The new addition to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina  
Source: Alexandria, Preservation Committee, Alexandria Governorate



The new addition building is located on the plaza, which is an open space overlooking the Eastern Harbor of Alexandria right below a 7 storey apartment block. The northern side of the plaza is open directly to the Mediterranean. (Figure 3) As the construction begun, many local voices expressed their anxiety in newspapers and websites, which were centered on the following points:<sup>xx</sup>

- The Library of Alexandria is a national landmark and a cultural building that should not be commercialized.
- The plaza of the Library is one of a series of open spaces along the cornice of the Eastern Harbor that mark major nodes, such as Abul Abbas Mosque, Manshieh Square, Saad Zaghloul Square, Qaed Ibrahim Mosque.
- The spacious plaza is named, the Plaza of Civilization, it joins the Library and the Conference Center. It is a place for reflection and also used as a place for special occasions and cultural events in the summer.<sup>xxi</sup>
- The new construction will hamper he architectural quality of the Library.

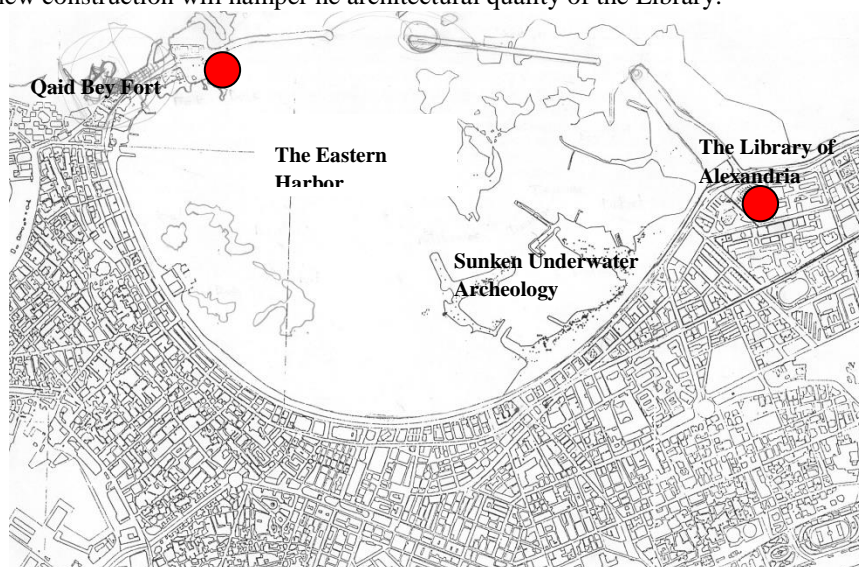


Figure 3 The location of the Library of Alexandria within the wider context of the Eastern Harbour of Alexandria.  
Source: The authors

It worth noting here that there had been many internal alterations and divisions to the interior of the Library to accommodate many new functions that were not included in the original design. These alterations were made to add more spaces for museums, art galleries, and research centers and enhance the circulation of staff and visitors.

According to the law no.144 for the year 2006 concerning the conservation of architectural heritage, the New library of Alexandria is classified as a building of a national importance and worthy of conservation, and justified as being a tourist destination. On the other hand, the Conference Center is classified as a building with a distinctive architectural style on the city level.<sup>xxii</sup> According to Article 2 of the law no. 144, it is prohibited to consent the demolition or the extension, by addition, of any of such Listed Buildings. Undertaking any alterations to such buildings will require the consent of the Alexandria Conservation Committee. The committee determines whether these alterations influence the values of the building or not. The Alexandria Conservation Committee granted the permission to construct the new building in 2009 with minor modifications to the proposed design.

### ***Architectural Merits of the Library of Alexandria***

The crucial question that arises here; do the new construction hamper the original values and qualities of the building that was merited by the jury of the architectural competition?. These qualities were the reasons that awarded the building its award. The jury of the architectural competition determined that the wining project should be a well-functioning modern library, and the wining Project should have a strong symbolic image. The symbolism was to express the roots of Egyptian civilization turned toward the Mediterranean world, and to the future. More specifically, the jury commented on the winning project with the following notes:<sup>xxiii</sup>

- The tilted circular form offers the most dramatic and legible image from all directions, particularly the seaside.
- The Project excels in its bold concept and inspiring idea. The decision of using the circle as a symbol of unity and completeness was manifested in a new, strong and inspiring manner.

- The rising cylinder with sloping, articulated roof pays respect to the immediate site, the Eastern Port and to the socio-cultural environment.
- It gives this unforgettable impression, just like the Opera House in Sydney, Australia.
- The Building faces the harbor and visually counterbalances the Qaitbey Fortress diametrically across the distant barrier of the Eastern circular Harbor.
- The design also reacts with the climatic influences in a very scientific and strategic manner.
- The bold cylindrical wall clad with stone stands as a frontier protecting the building from the south sun, and the desert beyond.
- The interior functional organization is simple and clear. The interior space under one great roof offers a sense of exhilaration. The huge public space, cascading platforms and efficient distribution system provide the perfect environment for readers.

Moreover, the building was awarded the Agha Khan Award for Architecture in 2006. The jury of the Award justified their decision with the following “*The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a revival of the legendary ancient library built in classical Greek times. The rebuilding of the library has returned Alexandria to its former status as a centre for learning and exchange and provided the city with a landmark building. The spirit of international cooperation in which the library was conceived, funded, designed and implemented has been maintained in its management to create an institution that is truly global in its outlook. At the same time, the building is technically outstanding.*”<sup>xxiv</sup>

### ***The Influences of the Protection Status and the International Designations***<sup>xxv</sup>

The international heritage status awarded to properties, such as the Library of Alexandria, should also influence any alterations undertaken to the building. Such international heritage status involves the inscription under the World Heritage Convention as a World Heritage Site. Inscribing properties on the World Heritage List means that such properties should enjoy an Outstanding Universal Value.<sup>xxvi</sup> Therefore, undertaking any alterations to such properties should not undermine the values that contribute towards its Outstanding Universal Value. Delegates of the World Heritage Committee visit properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, regularly, to make sure that these values are well preserved. Consequently, it is obvious that, in the case of the properties listed on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee should be considered as one of the key stakeholders involved with the management of such properties.

Even though, The Library of Alexandria has not been inscribed on the World Heritage List, yet it is a potential World Heritage Site<sup>xxvii</sup>. States Parties to the World Heritage Convention have to submit, to the World Heritage Committee, a list that is called the “Tentative List”. The Tentative List involves various properties that are more likely to be nominated for the inscription on the World Heritage List. For any property to qualify for the nomination for the World Heritage Site status, it should be firstly listed on the relevant State Party’s Tentative List. The Library of Alexandria is listed on the Egyptian Tentative List as a cultural property since 2003<sup>xxviii</sup>. The Egyptian Tentative List involves a property that is entitled “Alexandria, ancient remains and the new library”. Besides the Library of Alexandria, other archaeological sites such as the Serapeum and Pompey’s Pillar and Kom el-Dikka are included. (Figure 4).



**Figure 4 The New Library of Alexandria, Pompey’s Pillar and the Serapeum and Kom el-Dikka, which represent one of the key elements inside the potential World Heritage Site of “Alexandria, ancient remains and the new Library”**

The proposed criteria that justify the inscription of the previous property, “Alexandria, ancient remains and the new library”, on the World Heritage List are included in The Operational Guidelines According to the Operational Guidelines, properties nominated for a World Heritage Status are considered to enjoy an Outstanding Universal Value if they meet at least one of a set of 10 criteria. “*Alexandria, ancient remains and the new library*”. Site is included on the list because it falls under the following criteria (i), (ii) and (vi), which are among these 10 criteria.  
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Criterion (i), the nominated property is considered to enjoy an Outstanding Universal Value if it “represent[s] a masterpiece of human creative genius”.

Criterion (ii), the nominated property is considered of Outstanding Universal Value if it “exhibit[s] an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design”.

Finally, criterion (vi), the nominated property is considered to enjoy an Outstanding Universal Value if it “bear[s] a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared”.

The previous three criteria are relevant to “Alexandria, ancient remains and the new library”. Nevertheless, not all the three criteria are relevant to the Library itself. It seems that only criteria (i) and (ii) are relevant to the building of the new Library of Alexandria.

For criterion (i), the architectural qualities of the building of the Library emphasizes the human creativity and ingenuity. Criterion (ii) is also relevant to the Library’s building itself. The design of the Library reflects a clear spatial and temporal interchange of many of the values satisfied by the Library’s building, such as the architectural value. The architectural and construction qualities of the library’s building represent an international well established trend that is interchanged from one country to the other. The design of the building makes a historic reference to ancient cultures by covering the external back wall of the building by inscriptions representing ancient languages, and the circular form of the building is a metaphor for the sun disk a symbol of the ancient Egyptian civilization.

Because of the Library’s potential international status, as a World Heritage Site, the management of the property should take into account the various values, as well as the previous three criteria. Consequently, undertaking any alterations to the building should aim at either sustaining or enhancing these values. Consequently, any alterations made to the design of the library’s building should reflect the architectural ingenuity that characterizes the original design of the building which might justify its status, as a World Heritage Site. Any alterations made to the library’s building should also emphasize the concept of value interchange, either on a spatial or on a temporal scale.

### ***Analysis and Evaluation of the Non-Negotiable Heritage Values of the Library of Alexandria***

The design of the Library of Alexandria enjoys many qualities that allowed it the chance to be awarded the first prize in the international competition as well as the Aga Khan Award as previously stated. These qualities should be taken in account while evaluating any proposed alterations or additions to the original design. The Library also enjoys a wide range of heritage values that justify its potential status as a World Heritage Site (Table 1). These values can be considered as non-negotiable, or absolute, heritage values. Since the library can be considered as a modern heritage resource, undertaking any alterations or additions to its original design should consider the general objective of architectural conservation. Feilden indicates that the objective of conservation of any historic building, and any material intervention undertaken to it, should be to preserve, and if possible, to enhance its heritage values<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, the evaluation of any alterations or additions to the original design of the Library of Alexandria should consider the contribution of these alterations towards the values satisfied by the Library to determine whether these alterations celebrate, praise or disfigure these values. The following part is an analysis of the values of the Library with a brief analysis of the effect of the new additions to these values. The analysis, which is largely the authors’ analysis of the values satisfied by the property, was based on an adopted typology of values derived from Feilden’s and Mason’s typologies of values.

### ***The architectural value of the Library of Alexandria***

The architectural value is one of the key values satisfied by the Library. The architectural value of the library attributes to the delight of its design, as well as the durability and convenience of the building. The delight aspects of the design, undoubtedly, represent one of the key factors that allowed the building to win the architectural competition and the Aga Khan Award. The description of the property, which has been submitted by the Egyptian government to World Heritage Committee, has emphasized the exceptional architectural value that the Library enjoys<sup>xxx</sup>, indicating the contribution of this value towards the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Consequently, any alterations to the original design of the Library should either preserve this exceptional architectural value or even enhance it.

The new building constructed to the west of the library represents a key alteration undertaken to the Library. This addition is used a recreational building that includes a number of restaurants, cafeterias and a bookstore. The designer tried to establish a harmonious visual relationship between the new addition and the Library of Alexandria in terms of finishing materials and colours which conform to those of the original building. The architectural qualities of the new addition do not detract from the exceptional architectural value of the original building. Nevertheless, the architectural qualities of the new addition are much less than those of the Library. In fact, the new building does not emphasize the ingenuity of the design of the original building, nor does it emphasize the concept of value interchange and it also has taken into account a single consideration, which is the visual

relationship between the original Library and the new addition. Therefore, the new addition does not seem to enhance the architectural value of the Library.

### ***The artistic and archaeological values of the Library of Alexandria***

The Library of Alexandria enjoys an artistic value. The artistic value of the Library stems from the many exceptional art galleries and collections it houses. Many of these art collections possess an exceptional value on the international level. The Library of Alexandria also enjoys an archaeological value. The archaeological value of the property stems from the presence of an archaeological museum inside it which exhibits a large number of archaeological artefacts excavated either in the site of the Library itself or under water in the adjacent Eastern Harbour. All these artefacts enjoy an international level of significance, mainly because of their association with the Ptolemaic and Greco-Roman civilizations. Therefore, the archaeological value of the Library contributes towards its potential Outstanding Universal Value. Consequently, any proposed alterations to the design of the Library should not undermine the physical and visual relationship between the site of the library and the adjacent Eastern Harbour.

Many internal alterations have been made to the original building of the library to enhance the function of the archaeological museum and the art exhibitions housed inside the building. These internal alterations have enhanced the function of the building and the streamlined the circulation of its visitors by separations the routes of the visitors from the main reading area, and consequently have contributed towards its archaeological and artistic value. Nevertheless, such internal alterations do not enhance the architectural value of the Library.

### ***The townscape, urban and landscape values of the Library of Alexandria***

The Library of Alexandria also enjoys a townscape value with its exceptional landmark qualities, as well as from the exceptional outwards views from inside the Library's plaza towards the Eastern Harbour. The townscape value contributes towards its potential Outstanding Universal Value. Therefore, any proposed alterations to the original design of the Library should not undermine the visual association of the Library with the Eastern Harbour. The Library also enjoys an urban and landscape value. The urban value of the property stems from the presence of the open urban space at the heart of the property. This urban space is called the "Plaza of Civilization". The space is rich of many landscape elements that enjoy exceptional qualities. The exceptional value of these landscape elements stems from their visual and material harmony with the architectural qualities of the library's building itself. The new building added to the library does not contribute positively towards its townscape value. On the contrary, it undermines and blocks the outward views from inside the Library's main plaza towards the Eastern Harbour.

Consequently, such an alteration undermines from the townscape value of the Library. (Figures 5, 6)



**Figure 5: Panoramic view of the new building under construction.**



**Figure 6: Panoramic view illustrates how the new building obstructs the open view of the plaza towards the Eastern Harbor**

### *The newness and historic values of the Library of Alexandria*

The newness value of the Library stems from the qualities of its architectural design and its representation of a recognized modern approach to architectural design. Despite its newness value, the Library also has a historic value because of the clear reference its design makes to the ancient Egyptian and Greek civilizations and its association with the location of the ancient library of Alexandria. The historic value of the property contributes towards its potential outstanding universal value. Some of the alterations made to the library contribute positively towards its historic value, while others detract from it. The new building added to the west of the library detracts from the Library's historic value. It undermines the visual association of the library to the neighbouring Eastern Harbour.

### *The Educational value of the Library of Alexandria*

The educational value of the Library is mainly attributed to its function as a library with a collection of more than 700000 volumes and specialized libraries as well as the presence of many museums, research centres, art exhibitions conference centres. The conference centre hosts a large number of international conferences and seminars on annual basis<sup>xxx</sup>. The Library also functions as an academic publisher. The seven research centres affiliated to the Library conduct research in many diverse fields such as history, calligraphy, culture, manuscripts, etc. The previous functions of the library collectively emphasize its educational value. The internal alterations made to the Library contribute towards enhancing its educational value by facilitating the functions and the circulation of its visitors and staff members, while the new building has no influence on this value.

### *The economic, use and social values of the Library of Alexandria*

The Library of Alexandria has become a major international tourist destination. The revenues generated from visitors emphasize its economic value. The use value of the Library stems from its being in use and from the efficiency of its functions. Any alterations or additions to the library should contribute towards the enhancement of its function. Therefore, the new addition which incorporates a group of restaurants, cafeterias and a bookstore enhances the use value of the property. The social value of the Library is associated with the social and recreational and cultural events that take place inside its main plaza and the involvement of local residents to different events that take place in the library and the outdoor plaza.<sup>xxxii</sup> The library is a landmark building of the city it has become symbolic to Alexandria as Sidney Opera House to Sidney and as Bilbao Museum to Bilbao. The new building added to the property contributes towards enhancing the social value of the property. (Figure 7).



Figure 7: The plaza of the Library is a place for dialogue, gathering and cultural interchange

Source: The Alexandria and Mediterranean research Center, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

	The satisfied values	The contribution of the value towards the potential OUV*	Alterations that might enhance the value	Alterations that might undermine the value
1	The architectural value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	—	The new recreational building
2	The archaeological value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	The internal alterations made to the museums	—
3	The artistic value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	The internal alterations made to the art exhibitions	—
4	The townscape value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	—	The new recreational building
5	The urban and landscape values	—	The new recreational building	—
6	The newness value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	The new recreational building	—
7	The historic value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	The internal alterations made to the museums	The new recreational building
8	The educational value	The value contributes towards the potential OUV	The internal alterations made to the museums	—
9	The economic value	—	The new recreational building	—
10	The use value	—	The new recreational building & The internal alterations made to the museums	—
11	The social value	—	The new recreational building	—

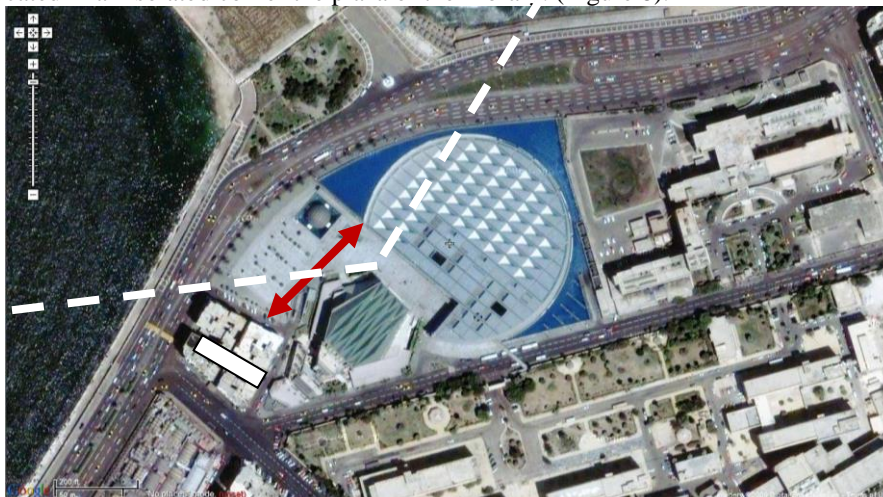
**Table 1: The values satisfied by Library of Alexandria and the various alterations that might enhance or undermine the satisfied values.**  
 \* Outstanding Universal Value.

Table 1 Summarizes the impacts of the new addition to the several values of the Library

## CONCLUSIONS

The previous discussion suggests that one of the key factors that influence the appropriateness of any proposed alterations or additions to award-winning buildings is the intentions of the designer. If the owner of an award winning building intends to change the original winning design in order to the changing needs, which is normal during the lifetime span of a building, the owner should consult the original designer or architect of the building. The original designer of a building is the only person keen to keep his design intact and will be dealing with great sensitivity and concern to every modification or change made to the design. On the other hand, if the new additions or modifications do not hamper or undermine the original qualities and values of the buildings, as in the case of the New Library of Alexandria, then it is not unprofessional to have these modifications.

From the point view of the jurors of the Aga Khan award the Library of Alexandria was awarded not because of its physical envelope or architectural design concept or symbolism, rather it was merited because of its cultural values and its urban influence and being a product of international cooperation, and finally for its technicalities. Therefore, it can be concluded that building the new addition did not hamper the qualities and values set by the Aga Khan award. Also the new addition did not undermine the qualities of the original building that were merited by the jury of the original competition because the building is about 80 meters away from the distinguished circle of the Library and is located in an isolated corner the plaza of the Library. (Figure 8).z



**Figure 8: Location of the new construction with reference to the main Library building. The red arrow indicates the distance between the original building and the new building which is about 80 meters; the dotted line indicates the vista from the plaza towards the Eastern Harbour.(Source: The authors, base image, Earth Google)**

This study suggests the provision of a statutory protection to outstanding award-winning buildings. Not only such buildings should be protected by law, but also the buildings designed by master architects. Examples of such buildings might involve the buildings designed by of Hassan Fathi in Gournah and in Sidi Krier, Villa Aghion designed by Auguste Perret in Alexandria, and Halawa House designed by Abdel Wahid el Wakil's in Agami, which has been awarded the Aga Khan award in 1980.

Some of the outstanding award-winning buildings, such as the Library of Alexandria, might also represent outstanding modern heritage resources. In this case, other factors might influence the process of evaluating the appropriateness of any proposed alterations to such buildings. The influences of the relevant heritage legislation represent one of such key factors. The Library of Alexandria is listed under the Egyptian law no. 144. Therefore, any alterations undertaken should adhere to the previous law. The Library is also a potential World Heritage Site. Therefore, undertaking any alterations should take into accounts the values that might one day allow it the chance to qualify for the World Heritage Site status. Such alterations should either preserve or enhance such values as previously mentioned.

The study also recommends that undertaking any alterations to an outstanding award-winning building should be based on a thorough understanding and analysis of the qualities and values of this building. These values might involve the values that allowed it the chance to qualify for the relevant architectural award, and might also involve other absolute non-negotiable heritage values. The analysis of the values satisfied by the Library of Alexandria for example seems to provide a basis to evaluate the appropriateness of the new alterations undertaken in the Library. One of the key alterations undertaken to the Library is the new small building located to the west of the library's plaza. The study suggests that this new addition contribute towards enhancing some of the satisfied values, such as the use value, while detracts from other values, such as the townscape and architectural values of the Library.

The study also recommends that international architectural awards such as The Agha Khan Architectural Award and even local architectural awards, as the Hassan Fathi Architectural Award should state in its regulations and terms that any major modification to the awarded buildings that change or disfigure the architectural qualities or the values of these buildings may result in the withdrawal of the award from this buildings.

The codes of practice should state clearly that any alteration done to a building without the consultation of its original architects may allow the architect a right to establish a law case against the owner of the building based on disfiguring his design and violating his copyright and the intellectual property. The aim of this recommendation is to keep the reputation of the architect and designer of the award winning building and the prestige fame of the award intact, and reputable.

Finally to sum up the study findings and respond to the research initial questions, it can be concluded that it is neither ethical, professional nor legal to modify an award winning architectural project and secondly, it seems that the terms and conditions of architectural competitions and architectural awards, as well as codes of practice, should state clearly that it is prohibited to alter or change, either internal or externally, an awards wining building otherwise the organizer or the promoter have all the legal rights to withdraw the award or recognition of this building as a building of special value.

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