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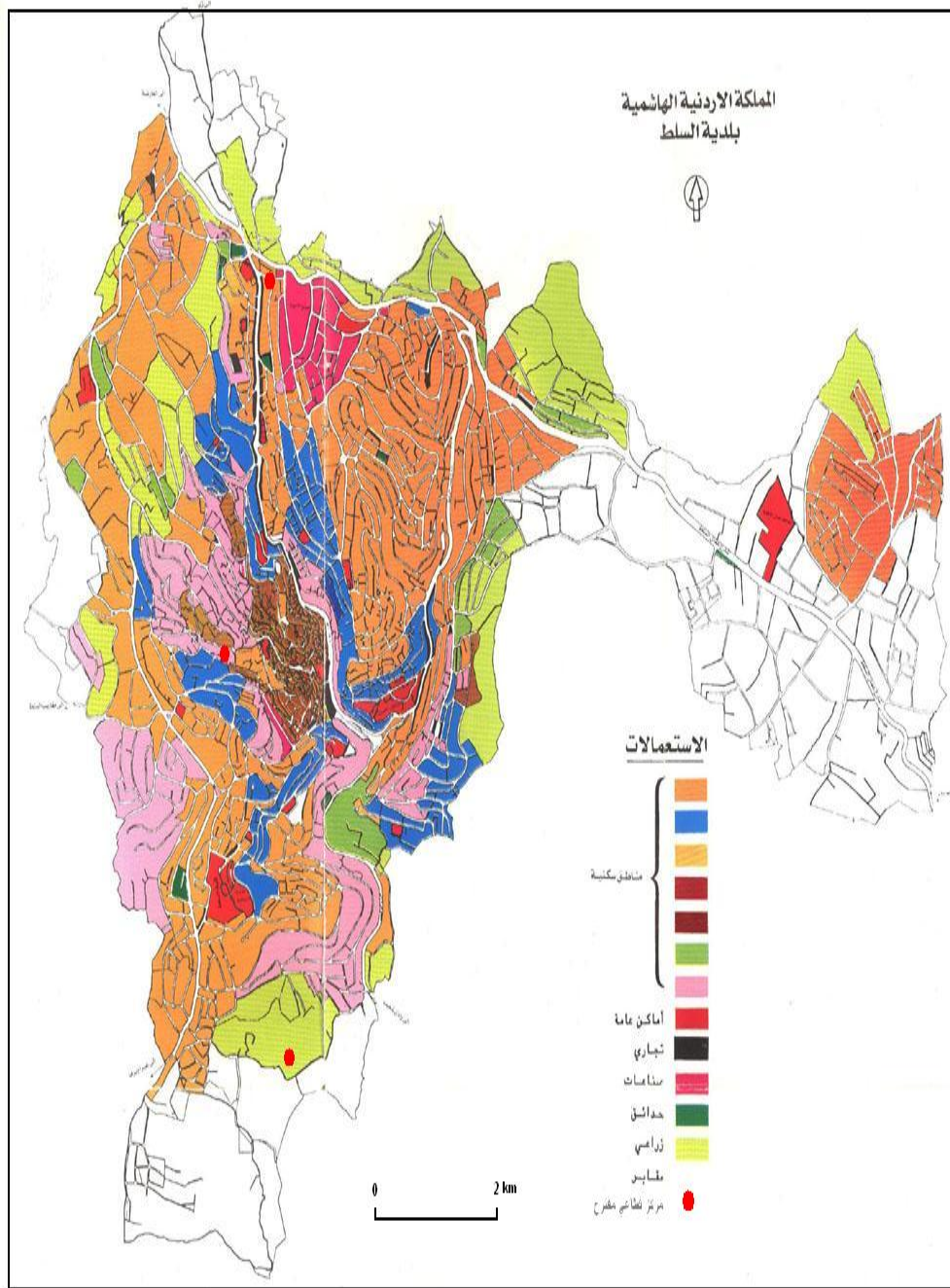
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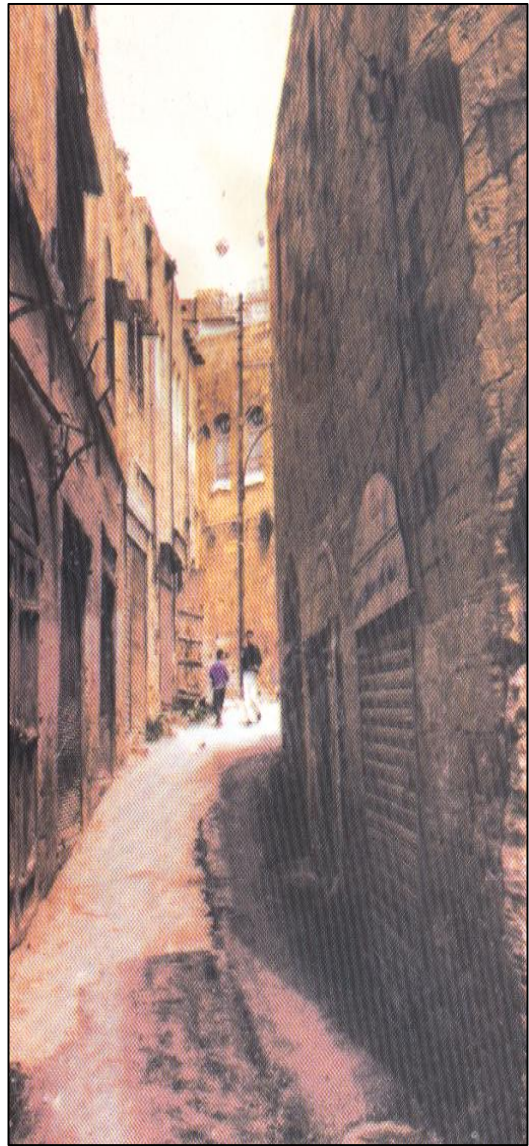
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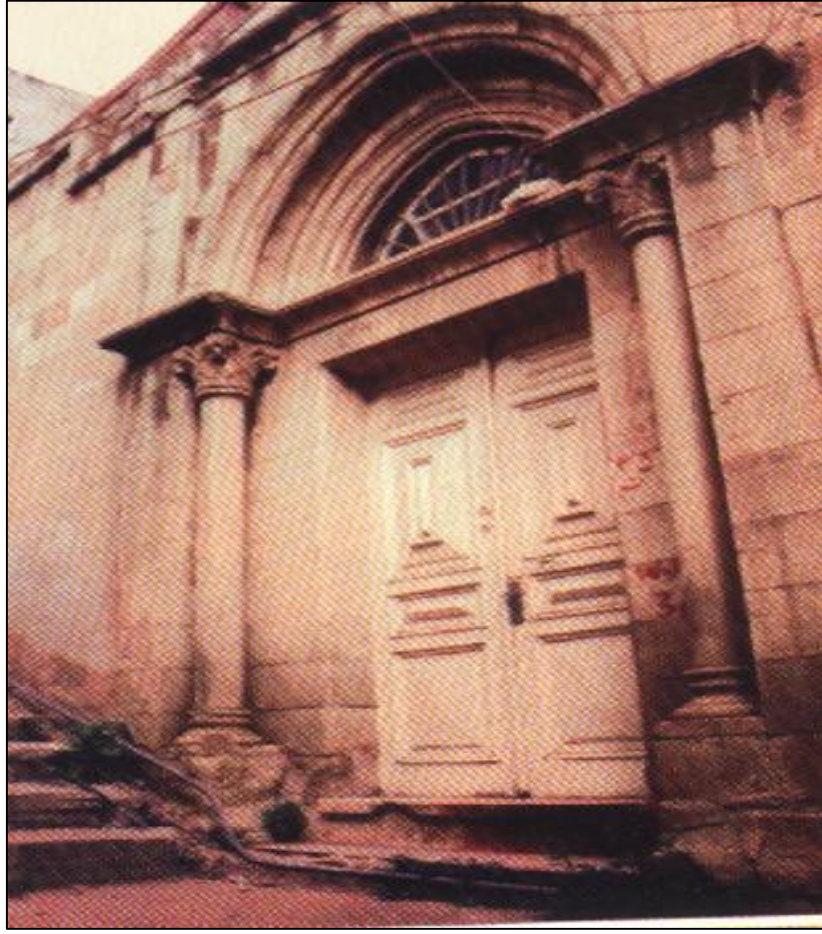
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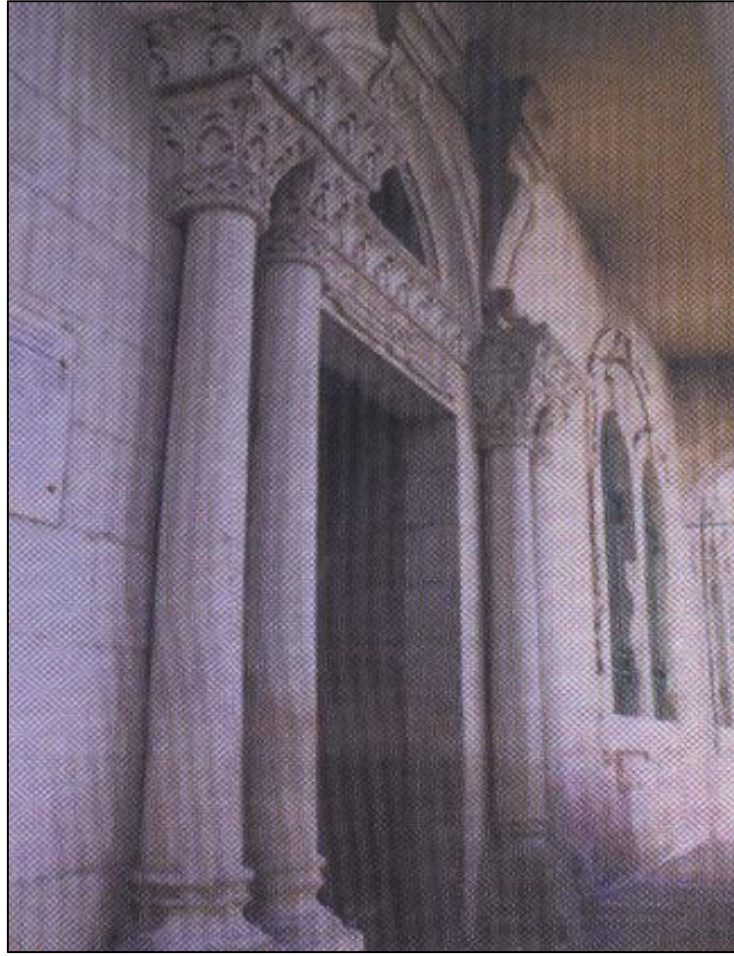


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The Heritage Buildings and Architectural Identity of the City of al-Salt, Jordan

Mahmoud A. M. Al-Habees*

ABSTRACT

The city of al-Salt has an architectural character that is unique in Jordan. The topography of the city had a major impact on its urban fabric and its commercial and residential functions. In spite of the presence of heritage buildings distinguished by their style of construction, building materials, methods of construction, and the beauty of their internal and external design, the city suffers from the pressures of expansion and functional changes.

This research stresses the need to conserve the heritage buildings and urban identity of the Old City of al-Salt as a unique cultural inheritance, and to make that heritage an integral part of the economic, social, and architectural framework for the greater Salt area. The study makes recommendations for reducing pressures on the central area of the city and to direct expansion in a way that conserves the structure of the city as an administrative and economic centre for the Al-Balqa Governorate. The study concludes with the necessity of formulating executive policies that will enable the municipality to prepare means of encouraging investments in the development of the city, while keeping its identity of preserving its architectural heritage and the special features of the city.

The study also stresses the need for a complete survey of the city and a new record of the heritage buildings and to adopt policies for urban renewal and tools that will complete the preparation of basic modifications for the city as a whole. The study also calls for the renewal of a specialized department for this purpose within the municipality or architectural planning circles.

KEYWORDS: al-Salt, heritage buildings, urban planning

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