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World Heritage Convention

اتفاقية التراث العالمي

# Safeguarding project of Hassan Fathy's New Gurna Village

A UNESCO Initiative

Preliminary Phase Document  
April 2011



in partnership with



Luxor Governorate

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Main goals of the UNESCO Project

New Gournia village is located in Luxor on the West Bank of the Nile River, within the World Heritage property of Ancient Thebes in Egypt. The village was designed and built between 1946 and 1952 by the famous Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy (1900-1989). It was created to shelter the community of Old Gournia (*Gournii*) who had lived above the tombs in the ancient cemetery of Thebes and whose relocation was considered as a solution to reduce the damages to the Tombs of the Pharaonic period. The main characteristics of New Gournia village consist of its reinterpretation of a traditional urban and architectural setting, its appropriate use of local materials and techniques, as well as its extraordinary sensitivity to climatic problems. It demonstrated, within the era of “modern movement” that sustainability and social cohesion could also be met with vernacular architectures, local materials and techniques. For this reason, it is an outstanding example of sustainable human settlement and appropriate use of technology in architecture and planning. Exposed in one of the major architecture and planning references, *Architecture for the Poor: An Experiment in Rural Egypt* by Hassan Fathy, published in 1973, these ideas inspired a new generation of architects and planners worldwide through an integration of vernacular technology with modern architectural principles.

Although New Gournia is situated inside the boundary of the World Heritage Property of *Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis* (inscribed in 1979 on the World Heritage List), its outstanding value was not recognised in the nomination dossier at the moment of its preparation.

One of the fundamental goals of the proposed UNESCO initiative is to valorise the pioneering ideas and philosophy of Hassan Fathy’s work and to reinforce its relevance to contemporary sustainability concerns. Fathy’s tenets derived from humanistic values about the connections between people and places and the use of traditional knowledge and materials especially the exceptional advantages of earth as full-fledged construction material. New Gournia was a critical experiment in the implementation of that philosophy. Thus, the safeguarding of New Gournia is about more than just preserving its original design and fabric but also about promotion, communication and education.



Another important project focus lays on restoration and management concerns. The alteration and destruction of original structures and features are ongoing. The degraded state of conservation of New Gourná becomes evident through the destruction and collapse of major buildings due to lack of maintenance. Urgent restoration measures are needed to stop irreversible changes and loss. The number of original mud brick houses in Hassan Fathy's Gourná is considerably reduced. The few public buildings such as the *Khan* and the market are in danger of collapse and the remaining open spaces are more and more encroached. The lack of infrastructure and maintenance of public facilities thus constitutes an important threat to the village as well as the ongoing very intense construction activity with reinforced concrete pillars in inconsistent out-of-scale buildings.

The expected results may be summarized as follows:

- New Gourná village's state of conservation improved with realisation of pilot projects of restoration;
- Master Plan for conservation, rehabilitation and development defined and launched;
- Regional and international promotion of Hassan Fathy's work as a symbol of sustainable architecture *per se* enhanced;
- International Centre for Sustainable Architecture, dedicated to Hassan Fathy, as a world training and research institute for sustainable architecture created;
- Regional and international awareness of earthen architectural heritage increased;
- Capacity of local actors in management and conservation of earthen architecture enhanced;
- A network of experts and institutions in the study, conservation and dissemination of sustainable architecture established.



## 1.2 Project framework and background

To support the Egyptian authorities in preserving this outstanding heritage, the World Heritage Centre developed a project in partnership with the Governorate of Luxor, Ministry of Culture, and other international organisations.

The conservation of New Gourná village falls within the objectives of the World Heritage Centre Earthen Architecture Programme (WHEAP), which was adopted in 2007. This programme is implemented in partnership with CRAterre-ENSAG, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain in Benin (EPA, School of African Heritage), the Center For Heritage Development In Africa (CHDA), Kenya and the Centre de Conservation et de Réhabilitation du Patrimoine Architectural des Zones Atlasiques et Subatlasiques (CERKAS, Centre for Conservation and

Restoration of Atlas and Subatlas Architectural Heritage), Morocco, and intends to improve the management and conservation of earthen architecture properties protected under the World Heritage Convention as an important tool for sustainable development and an opportunity to develop sustainable forms of tourist accommodation. The *Safeguarding project of Hassan Fathy's New Gournia Village* initiative will be implemented under phase 2 of the World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme, which focuses on Africa and Arab States.

In 2008, the World Heritage Committee has invited the Government of Egypt “to strengthen efforts to restore Hassan Fathy’s New Gournia village”. As a follow up, the joint UNESCO/ ICOMOS monitoring mission in May 2009 to Egypt reiterated the need for urgent measures to safeguard and sustain the outstanding architectural value of New Gournia.

In the same year, during the Mediterra 2009 conference (the 1st International Mediterranean Conference on Earthen Architecture organized by University of Cagliari in March 2009 in Cagliari, Italy), experts of earthen architecture turned to UNESCO with a petition initiated by the association “Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy” expressing their concerns and recommending measures for the safeguard of the Gournia Village. To further support the petition’s call for urgent actions, the association sent a letter addressed to the Director of the World Heritage Centre in March 2009.

The several threats facing New Gournia pointed out by the “Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy” association at Mediterra also alerted the World Monuments Fund, which inscribed the village on the 2010 World Monuments Watch List for the 100 most endangered sites in the world.

After a UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to Luxor in May 2009, a Prime Ministry’s Decree declared Hassan Fathy’s Village as a Heritage Protectorate and created a Committee with members from the Ministry of Culture, Supreme Council for Antiquities, the National Organization for Urban Harmony and Luxor Governorate to identify the perimeters of the village and the legal measures for the protection of the area.

It is in this context that UNESCO decided to call for scientific experts in the field of sustainable and earthen architecture to guarantee the satisfactory launch of activities within the framework of this initiative.



## **2 Summary of preparatory activities**

Since the launching of this initiative the following preparatory activities and missions were carried out.

### **2.1 UNESCO March 9-14, 2010 Mission**

The purpose of this mission was to discuss with the local authorities the implementation modalities for the project initiative 'Safeguarding project of Hassan Fathy's New Gournas village' under the programme "Management of World Heritage sites in Egypt". The Governorate of Luxor is identified as the institutional partner in the project implementation. Ms Franca Miglioli, UNESCO-WHC, and Mr Daniele Pini, consultant, met with the Governor of Luxor who provided first documentation on New Gournas and offered logistical support to the initiative.

### **2.2 UNESCO April 19-21, 2010 Mission**

The aim of the mission was to undertake initial observations to identify concepts and priority actions required for the preparation of a conservation, rehabilitation and development plan. The group of experts, Mr Mauro Bertagnin, Ms Pamela Jerome, Mr Ahmed Hamid, the UNESCO consultants Ms Dalia Nabil and Mr Daniele Pini and the WMF representatives, Ms Gina Haney and Ms Heba Mohamed Hosny recommended first actions in regards of the preparation of the work plan:

Research:

- An overall survey on the state of conservation and occupancy of the Hassan Fathy's village, and the land-use situation in its surroundings, a documentation survey and literature search on New Gournas and Hassan Fathy and a socio-economic study to analyze socio-economic conditions and demographics.

Actors and Significance:

- Stakeholder "mapping" to identify key players and institutions, to clarify their associated interests/stakes in the project, and to establish liaisons/representatives to the planning team;
- Significance assessment to fully elucidate the full range of values associated with New Gournas and to map the features that demonstrate those values.

Areas definitions:

- Definition of perimeters of the study areas as well as areas for development of public facilities, sustainable tourism structures, possible residential extension to the north, possible areas for agriculture, transport and parking facilities etc.

Intervention Assessments:

- Definition of the types of intervention (i.e. maintenance and/or reuse, restoration, rehabilitation/demolition and reconstruction, demolition);
- Need for infrastructure upgrade and management;
- Identification of the interventions for the revitalisation of the community core (i.e. the relocation and/or upgrading of the school, the adaptive reuse of the *Khan*, the restoration of the theatre, and others);
- Careful assessment of feasibility and areas for possible highly sensitive project outcomes and components such as the demolition of infill structures, construction/reconstruction of Fathy's original design for the whole village, the potential relocation of some residents, the designation of a tourist development area, developing a training centre for sustainable architecture, and more.

Jurisdiction

- Ownership and legal jurisdiction review to determine site boundaries, property owners, agencies with authority over the village, and building regulations;

- Study of the most appropriate forms of housing tenure (rental, property) for the concerned households, to be applied in conjunction with the different interventions of maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction or new construction;
- Proposal of a planning and building regulation to be implemented through all the different types of intervention.

#### Education

- Provision of an area for the international centre for sustainable architecture, to be tightly related to the proposals for the revitalisation of the community core. This should be considered as a main driver for both the rehabilitation and the local sustainable socio-economic development of New Gourna. To this regard a project outline of the centre is needed in order to evaluate the space requirement for the various activities that would be developed.



#### **2.3 UNESCO April 30-May 1, 2010 Mission**

The mission was planned to follow up on the first results of the UNESCO April 19-21, 2010 mission. Mr Francesco Bandarin, Director of the World Heritage Centre and Ms Franca Miglioli, UNESCO-WHC met with the Prime Minister of Egypt, the Minister of Culture and the Governor of Luxor for further discussion. It was agreed that an outlined proposal should be prepared to launch the first tangible interventions during autumn. An official agreement on a defined plan of operations will be established between UNESCO and the Governorate specifying the obligations of both parties in the implementation of the activities prior to the launch of the activities.

#### **2.4 UNESCO July 19-30, 2010 Mission**

The aim of this mission was to facilitate the physical survey of the village of New Gourna launched on July 13 by a UNESCO team and to start the preparation of the draft of the Master Plan. Ms Franca Miglioli, UNESCO-WHC and Mr Daniele Pini, consultant, discussed the survey methodology. The physical survey is aimed at identifying the survey area, creating a reliable base map, carrying out a plot-by-plot survey, producing a set of GIS maps and providing a summary report containing a preliminary analysis of the data. The Governor of Luxor offered logistical support for the survey. A local researcher was contracted for the first documentation research.

#### **2.5 Agreement between World Monuments Funds and UNESCO**

UNESCO and World Monuments Fund (WMF), initiated a dialogue in 2009 regarding the Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's New Gourna village. Therefore, New Gourna was included in the 2010 World Monuments Watch List and the WMF expressed its interest in participating in the development of the Project Initiative and made a proposal for its preservation and protection through international cooperation in the form of a matching fund project. In the first phase, the WMF supported the socio-economic survey.



## **2.6 Consultation with specialised organisations**

UNESCO has consulted various international organisations in particular the Aga Khan Trust For Culture (AKTF), CRAterre-ENSAG and the association “Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy”. On April 15, 2010, discussions were held to address possible partnership and strategies for the development of the project with Ms Leïla el-Wakil from the international organisation “Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy” and Mr Hubert Guillaud, from CRAterre-ENSAG. Mr Hubert Guillaud presented the study on the state of conservation of New Gourna undertaken in partnership with “Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy” and summarised the threats and degradation facing New Gourna. Both organisations have confirmed their interest to support the UNESCO Project initiative and stressed the importance of the physical survey. In a meeting in May 2010, Mr Luis Monreal, General Manager and Mr Cameron Rashti, Director of the Aga Khan Trust For Culture, expressed great interest in supporting the project initiative as Hassan Fathy is among the founders of the Aga Khan architectural programmes.

## **2.7 Launching of physical and social economic survey and documentation**

The physical survey was carried out from 13 July until end of September 2010. The preliminary study was concluded on 31 July 2010, the field survey on 15 August 2010 and the preparation of the GIS maps and the summary report on 30 September 2010 by the UNESCO team under the supervision of Mr Daniele Pini, UNESCO consultant.

The first objective of the physical survey was to create a reliable base map, which was digitised with the use of a CAD program and transferred into a GIS system linked to a database. All survey investigations are conducted on a plot-by-plot basis. The data extracted from the forms have been used to produce the first thematic survey maps. A number of investigations were carried out at the scale of the entire settlement for data related to complete systems, such as infrastructure networks and public open areas and green spaces. More detailed investigations were carried out on the individual plots, independently of whether they are built or undeveloped parcels of land. The socio-economic survey was carried out from 14 September to the first week of October with a team set-up by the World Monuments Fund. This survey aimed to gather social and economic data on the people living in New Gourna, including information about household sizes, employment, tenure, occupancy, in- and out-migration, schooling and access to services. The socio-economic team used, as a basis for the interviews, a survey form defined in collaboration with the physical survey team, for incorporation of data in the GIS system. The research on documentation for the project started with the preparation of a preliminary bibliography of Hassan Fathy and New Gourna and a list of existing original documents (drawings, plans etc...), The document prepared by Dalia Nabil can be consulted as a separate document on the Weblink of the World Heritage Centre’s web page.

## **2.8 Scientific and Honorary Committee**

The first Scientific Committee meeting was held in Luxor on October 2 and 3, 2010. It aimed at gathering international expertise, advice and guidance for the development of the project implementation strategy. The meeting also aimed to further define objectives and priority activities for the safeguarding of New Gourna village. The main outcome to the Scientific Committee meeting was an operational project workplan agreed to by the local authorities. Furthermore, it is deemed important to establish an Honorary Committee composed of world-known personalities who would support this initiative, thanks to their engagement for the promotion of ideas in sustainable architecture and in heritage conservation.



# Synthesis of the First Scientific Committee meeting **2**

Luxor, Egypt 2-3 October 2010

## **I. MEETING RESULTS**

- I.1. Opening Ceremony
- I.2. Preliminary Results of the UNESCO Physical Survey and Draft Master Plan
- I.3. Preliminary Results of the Socio-Economic Survey
- I.4. Observations of the Scientific Committee meeting after the site visit
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## **II. OUTCOMES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

- II.1 Project Guiding Principles
- II.2 Road Map

## **III. CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

## I. MEETING RESULTS

### I.1. Opening Ceremony

The meeting was opened on 2 October by Mr Samir Farag, Governor of Luxor. In his opening speech, Mr Samir Farag confirmed the importance attached to this initiative by the Government of Egypt. He thanked UNESCO for having decided to join hands with his government to safeguard New Gournia village, and reiterated the great expectation by President Mubarak and the Prime Minister.

Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General, Culture Sector explained the many reasons behind this UNESCO initiative:

1. The precursor ideas of Hassan Fathy, considered as one of the unique world architects of the 20th century, and whose tenets, which derived from humanistic values, are still relevant to contemporary concerns. Hassan Fathy had a true vision on sustainable architecture and merits UNESCO's attention;
2. the disappearance of New Gournia village, which is considered a critical experiment in the implementation of Hassan Fathy's philosophy, would be a great loss for humanity;
3. the fact that UNESCO has the responsibility to promote and share Hassan Fathy's ideas and vision with the world by contributing to the village rehabilitation, and improving the life of communities living in New Gournia;
4. the establishment of an International Centre for Sustainable Architecture (ICSA) in New Gournia, where training, research and experiment on subjects related to Hassan Fathy's ideas on sustainable architecture would be organized.

Lazare Eloundou-Assomo, World Heritage Centre, Chief Africa Unit, presented the UNESCO Initiative for the safeguarding of New Gournia.

New Gournia is located in the World Heritage site of Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis. It is considered an excellent example of vernacular architecture and is recognized as a perfect approach to sustainable architecture and urban planning. Today the state of the village is seriously degraded: major buildings have collapsed, there are alterations due to development pressure, a situation which calls for urgent restoration of the original design and urban fabric, as well as the valorization of ideas and the reinforcement of its relevance to contemporary sustainability concerns.

There are four basic goals to achieve :

1. to preserve New Gournia from further deterioration;
2. to promote earthen architecture;
3. to disseminate Hassan Fathy's principles and knowledge in architecture;
4. to promote exchange of experience among architects and heritage professionals.

Also, the establishment of the ICSA will be one of the major achievements of the project for continuing with education and promotion of sustainable architecture as well as raising the awareness regarding earthen architecture preservation. The conservation of the village will be launched through pilot projects, and a master plan to lead the safeguarding project will be defined. UNESCO will lead the overall coordination with the Governorate as a main partner. The important role of the scientific committee will be to give advice for the implementation of strategy and to promote the idea of sustainable architecture and heritage conservation.



## I.2. Preliminary Results of the UNESCO Physical Survey and Draft Master Plan

Daniele Pini, UNESCO consultant, presented the preliminary results of the Physical Survey and the Draft Master Plan to the Committee, which also resulted from consultations and contributions by the experts of the April 2010 mission. The group of experts was composed of Mr Mauro Bertagnin, Ms Pamela Jerome, Mr Ahmed Hamid, the UNESCO consultants Ms Dalia Nabil and Mr Daniele Pini and the WMF representatives Ms Gina Haney and Ms Heba Mohamed Hosny.

The physical survey took place between July and September 2010 (see point 3 of this document).

It aimed to:

1. create a reliable and updated base map of the village ;
2. identify the boundaries of the survey ;
3. carry out a plot-by-plot survey for all buildings within the identified boundaries ;
4. produce GIS maps summarizing the findings of the survey.

Pini refers to the location of the village site as both strategic and sensitive; its location on the main road for tourists leading to the ferry and the Valley of the Kings, and a main urban access road. The village's situation within 800m from the Colossus of Memnon and 1.5km from Madinat Habu temple adds to its significance. There is a strong pressure of urban development on one hand and tourism development on the other hand.



Studying Hassan Fathy's plan and its implementation, early sketches reveal the focus on public spaces, the mosque and a set of spines leading to the two entrances to the village and main facilities, such as the school and handicrafts centre. The market is defined as a main entrance to the village. Such aspects of the urban layout are very important and are considered milestones of the urban structure; focal points that define the structural layout of the village are still there: the mosque, the khan, the theater and the market.

It is important to see the very clear organization of the housing blocks. It is difficult to find two identical houses; it was not a typological approach, but a morphological approach. That determined the plan and shape of each single house; and that is why there is a variety of house setting that nevertheless reflects the same idea of domestic space.

The community's sentiment evolved since 60 years – today New Gurna looks like an almost ordinary urban area, but there are some elements which stand out: the mosque, the square and the khan, even though the square has become a through-fare. The square is however a well articulated space and the entrance to the village. Even with an extension, the khan still serves its capacity of leading the village and dictating space. The theatre and community hall, both heavily transformed, are places for community to organize social events.

Other elements are still extant, such as the layout of residential design. However the fabric has been heavily transformed with vertical and horizontal additions and insertion of concrete structures. Yet the street layout has not changed. The system of lanes and courtyards remains, a scheme replicated in all the housing blocks. Pini points out that this is the real legacy of Hassan Fathy that needs to be preserved and studied, the relation of public and private space. He refers to the mutations that happened to the urban fabric of the village stating that the main road has today merged with new development and the streetscape has totally changed in many places.

The series of maps presented showed various stages of transformation and mutation of New Gournia village, revealing facts such as the authenticity of Hassan Fathy's design that is still remaining, the subdivision of plots due to increase in housing demand. At some point these extensions have dramatically changed the original footprints. Some of the plots appear in initial plans but were not built by Hassan Fathy. Many modern constructions were made on the Hassan Fathy's footprint. The maps showed new constructions and structural deterioration problems resulting from an inadequate sewage system and lack of maintenance was also identified. The maps also show ownership issues and the transformation of the public spaces into sequences of fences.

Pini warns of critical issues in the core rehabilitation: no master plan and/or protection measures are taken into consideration and despite the existence of a decree from the Prime Minister, there is a lack of planning framework, building guidelines and regulations, and efficient urban management mechanisms, which led to uncontrolled vertical and horizontal growth.

In Pini's opinion, Hassan Fathy's plan had little potential for growth and little potential for adaptation, which is clearly visible in his architecture plan; his houses were designed in the 1940s, new lifestyles have come, such as TV's and other modern facilities, which put in evidence in the inability of the houses to adapt to changing lifestyles. Heavy structural damages and deterioration of living conditions are evident in many of the houses. One of the relevant aspects is the reduction of the space in the courtyard and other parts of the house.

The land use measures and the urban design guidelines of the Draft Master Plan will be based on an in-depth analysis of Hassan Fathy's original plan. This plan reveals urban layout ideas, urban focal points and morphological aspects. The relation between private and public space, still visible in the modified urban fabric, also needs to be considered. Fathy's subsequent project for tourist development (1970), as well as surveys of the existing urban fabric and socio-economic conditions will be analysed while developing the Master Plan.

The Master Plan (see point 5 of this document) intends to outline the spatial framework for the coordinated implementation of these different actions, which should be carried out through conservation and development projects. Daniele Pini presented the Draft Master Plan, which develops an approach to the safeguarding that would consider the creation of the Hassan Fathy's International Centre for Sustainable Architecture (ICSA or Hassan Fathy's Centre) as a fundamental option and include the following interrelated actions and concepts :

1. The preservation project should consider not only the outstanding architecture of the remaining buildings of Hassan Fathy, but also the village concept, urban layout and spatial texture;
2. the rehabilitation of housing blocks and improvement of housing conditions;
3. the revitalisation of the village through strengthening of the community core and upgrading of the community spaces;
4. the socio-economic and physical development of the village .

The strategic and sensitive context of the village site induces pressure of urban development on one hand and tourism development on the other hand. The rehabilitation of the village will also possibly create a need for land to accommodate new facilities, such as land for ICSA.

For the Draft Master Plan, Daniele Pini proposes to reorganize the School of Agriculture's annexes, and to set ICSA in the system of blocks consistent with Hassan Fathy's layout. Possible eco-tourism development was also mentioned.

In conclusion, priorities should be given to reviving: 1) the khan 2) Hassan Fathy's house & the theatre 3) the market, an urban review of public space 4) empty and nearly ruined houses (which could provide a field of experience, and be used to temporarily relocate families), and empty plots for experiments in intervention. First activities of ICSA could be infill and restoration of these plots

### 1.3. Preliminary Results of the Socio-Economic Survey

Erica Avrami and Gina Haney, from the World Monuments Fund presented the preliminary results of the socio-economic survey. The local community is an important factor, if not the main stakeholder of Hassan Fathy's legacy.

The tools of the survey:

1. literature review and field survey work; data form (English and Arabic, combination of qualitative and quantitative, related to quality of life – a lot based on the Millenium Development Goals);
2. interviews and focus groups, house visits, and film;
3. the use of triangulation method to incorporate information and to create a more robust profile of their economic positions. It reveals that the people are very concerned with their houses deteriorating. People are trying to maintain these houses, but are facing many challenges;
4. the production of a film that provides an alternate methodology. The data is filtered, but the aim is a method through which the community's voice could come through directly.
5. a surveysample where 1/3 of the households in the village core were surveyed. It confirms that nearly 90% of respondents live - currently or formally - in an original Hassan Fathy's dwelling.

The socio-economic survey comprises an analysis of social and economic needs and conditions, factors of change, use of space, and attachment to place. The survey scope is composed of 66 respondents; aged 21 – 86, both in commercial and residential settings. The survey tried to focus on long-term residents of Hassan Fathy's houses. Several dwellings have mixed uses, such as small-scale, home-based industries. All the businesses, except for two, comprise services for the local community. There is only 1 zīr existing in the village on the street.

Other results concerned:

- Population : 20% of the population never occupied Hassan Fathy's buildings, 32% used to but now does not, and the rest currently occupy Hassan Fathy's buildings.
- Household Size: statistics reveal 5% no response, 12% more than 9, 27% 2-5, 52% 6-9 members (sample size is 58).
- Education: Education is seen as source of pride for residents of New Gournā: the schools are being in proximity.
- Economic Profile: visual surveys of assets, liabilities, etc. very few private cars (the village is on a main micro-bus route). Agriculture and husbandry, small-scale industry. Tourism development is seen as an economic opportunity if in a community based system.
- Employment: men – 15 -25 have jobs outside of school, or several jobs, usually something related to tourism. 25-40, employed in tourism, business related to the government, or their own small-scale initiative (beekeeping, ironing, vegetable sales). The Ministry of agriculture and the national flower center maintain a presence in the core of New Gournā. 40-60, Government, 60+ - retired. Two men benefit from maintaining house museums about Hassan Fathy. Women: under 25 are in school or working in the house, 25-40 wives and mothers, some of whom maintain small scale industries (sewing scarves for tourism market through middle men), processing agricultural products (sheep's milk, etc), only a few work outside, 40 + household activities.
- Services: generally the village benefits from good services from the Governorate; two hospitals, three schools, along major transport corridor, ferry is within walking distance, running water, garbage disposal, cell phone coverage.
- Sewage. Formerly there were septic tanks that discharged into the ground: only one still functioning, other use tanks, which do not function properly.
- Health: people did not complain about health issues. The older generation seems to maintain relative good health. Generally, children tend to suffer from sewage exposure

and complain of scorpions and snakes living in the earthen architecture. Also they fear the collapse of Hassan Fathy's buildings.

- Women and Children: women having 3-7 children. They bake bread and collect flour together. Gama'yias, small loan centers are present and active. In evening, children seem to have the run of the place. The environment seems very safe. There still exists an intimacy in the urban environment – a real and visible asset.
- Environmental Conditions – rising water table. It is the primary cause of deterioration in the Hassan Fathy's buildings at the foundational level. There is urgent need for proper hydrological study of New Gourna.
- Adapting the built Environment: mud masons – 20-40 years old remembered making mud brick, but no production now. There is production of salvaging and reconstituting mud plaster. Reconstitution pits exist.
- Interior Spaces. Multiple sons want to stay in the house or adjacent to the family home, which results in partitioned walls, enclosed courtyards, concrete high rises; all accommodating growing families.
- Sense of Place. Attachment to the place is strong. The Population would like to stay in New Gourna in a comfortable environment.



#### **1.4. Observations of the Scientific Committee meeting after the site visit**

After a series of presentations made by a team of UNESCO and World Monuments Fund experts on the results of the physical and the socio-economical surveys, the Scientific Committee members visited the site in the afternoon of 2 October. The site visit was led by Dr Samir Farag, Governor of Luxor. The visit brought the following observations regarding the process of changes that occurred since the village was constructed 60 years ago:

1. Many significant buildings designed by Hassan Fathy were destroyed and sometimes replaced by modern buildings. This is the case of the two schools for boys and girls, the handicraft school and the craft exhibition hall;
2. The urban setting is disfigured, with an increasing number of inappropriate new houses, sometimes as high as four stories. Consequently, the streetscapes have been completely changed by the new urbanization;
3. Except for the Mosque, which is in a relatively good condition, the other remaining houses and public buildings are in a serious state of degradation and have mostly been abandoned. Their urgent restoration would have to be considered as a matter of priority by the project;
4. The site visit has confirmed the importance of the UNESCO initiative and the urgent need to intervene.

The discussion after the site visit was also the opportunity for the Committee to raise some important questions:

-What should be preserved, materiality or the philosophy? What typology is offered to the inhabitants? What should be conserved here: Is it Fathy's architecture? Is it earth? Is it the design?

Is it the traditional construction technologies? Is it the urban planning? Or is it the attention to the people's needs and tailoring to individual households? Or is it a mixture of all the above?

-What can be done today to preserve the village? What can be done to improve the difficult living conditions of the people? Sustainable architecture is not only technical. But to preserve the materiality, the deterioration of Hassan Fathy's buildings needs to be stopped.

-What to think of the motif "earth" or "mud"? Is it a leitmotiv that needs to be maintained? Is it even possible to use mud for this project? Or should one look for local resources, local knowledge? Is it more a question of sustainability rather than mud – everything but concrete?

-What are the guiding principles? Principles are needed to find solutions for emergency works according to earthen architecture conservation techniques, consolidation problems and applying new appropriate technology to meet future needs. The question is what would Hassan Fathy want to be done?

-Another question regards the concern about ICSA being planned to be in the village and the probability of its need for expansion in a few years and whether it would be appropriate to place it in a village, which is also vibrantly expanding as well.

### **I.5. Debates of the Scientific Committee meeting**

After the site visit and on the second day of the meeting, the Scientific Committee discussed the key orientations for the project, in particular the Guiding Principles, and the Road Map with short, medium and long-term activities.

The discussion showed the need for a diversified approach towards conservation. One approach respects the materiality of earthen architecture. Some remaining earthen houses can be saved through emergency interventions according to earthen architecture conservation techniques. This materials-based approach considers the use of earthen architecture for future projects and recognizes the need to educate users how to maintain this material. A chance to demonstrate the value of mud houses could be achieved through the rehabilitation of existing houses with adequate facilities and using them to house families while their own houses are restored.

Another approach is based on the philosophy and ideas of Hassan Fathy's vernacular architecture based on appropriate technology or sustainability. This approach is linked to the process, a way of building based on tradition and climatic aspects, the humanity aspects, rather than the drawings and plans. The philosophy of the project should continue with Hassan Fathy's legacy of addressing community issues as a top priority on socio-cultural, socio-economic levels. Hassan Fathy's interest in agricultural and local handicraft development should also be a focus of the project's approach. Workshops with representatives from the city planning and local council should be organized to find solutions for monitoring the situation in the village and for ensuring their collaboration in the village rehabilitation and management process.

The urgent need to immediately save the surviving mud structures from collapse through emergency interventions and consolidation works was immediately agreed upon as well as the need for further studies and documentation, such as geo-hydraulic studies that need to be undertaken to find solutions for the rising water table.

Other technical and administrative aspects such as the need for a legal framework perhaps with a zoning scheme for new developments, the protection of the village as a monument (both the entire site and the viewscape), and the mechanisms for housing rehabilitation and financing means were strongly emphasized. All aspects: the legal structure and ownership, the conservation law, and the impact of the different institutions involved or those who have interest in the site, should be considered to give guidance to needed actions.



Tourism development and the possibility of New Gourna becoming a core tourist area next to Luxor was also discussed as well as the need to find a form of tourism compatible with rehabilitation, enhancing the economic level of the community while respecting its lifestyle. Tourism development should be controlled, and it must not be allowed to cause pressure on the urban development of New Gourna or on the nature of the community.

The School of Agriculture was identified as a possible local partner, probably a key issue for the ICSA to be related to the place, an anchor for New Gourna and its development in the future. As an International Centre, the scope of the institution also goes beyond providing service to the local community and is meant to be one of the world's flagships for sustainable architecture study and preservation. Initiating ICSA activities should begin at the earliest stage of the project in order to manage the building consolidation and restoration/rehabilitation of pilot projects in the village.



## **II. OUTCOMES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **II.1 Project Guiding Principles**

The members of the Scientific Committee agreed that the project should mainly look at Hassan Fathy's principles of work. They also agreed on the need to have a diversified approach, which combines both the restoration of Hassan Fathy's buildings with appropriate techniques using earth materials (mud bricks), and the promotion of his ideas of sustainable architecture and the community component. There should also be activities that demonstrate the capacity of earth construction techniques in producing new architecture.

Moreover, the project will look at critical environmental factors (water table, lack of sewage, etc.) that are contributing to the deterioration of Hassan Fathy's buildings. In the project, a central role has to be given to the community development component by creating socio-economic opportunities and improving infrastructures.

Furthermore, the planned International Centre for Sustainable Architecture (ICSA) should convey Hassan Fathy's message to all regions of the world, Africa in particular, and be innovative in its modus operandi. The Centre should receive researchers and students from all over the world, as well as provide employment and training opportunities for the local community. Overall, the project should favour the conservation of the remaining Hassan Fathy buildings, the introduction of innovative sustainable architecture techniques, the improvement of the life of communities, and the establishment of the ICSA.

## II. 2 Road Map

In order to ensure a satisfactory implementation of the project, the following activities should be undertaken on short – term (1 year) and medium – term (2-3 years) plans:

### A. Short-term actions

- a. Knowledge of the current situation:
  - Completion and extension of the surveys
  - Hydro-geological assessment
  - Legal aspects (institutional level, tenure issue, legal system for effective planning measures)
  - Infrastructural assessment – sewage, roads, networks
  - Documentation of history of the village (on-going) – including chronology of deterioration
- b. Finalization of the Master Plan
  - Submission to the National Organization for Urban Harmony and the Supreme Council of Urban Planning (June 2011)
  - Start up of the management plan
  - Creation of a local Task Force
- c. Emergency stabilization
  - Empty houses
  - Khan
  - Hassan Fathy's house
  - Market
- d. Listing and documentation of all the buildings of Hassan Fathy
- e. Launching of activities for the establishment of ICSA
  - Feasibility study to define scope and purpose
  - Legal study and establishment
  - Initial staff and structure (monitoring team)
  - Temporary offices
  - Terms of reference for the invited competition for the ICSA design
  - Studying climate engineering and local resources
- f. Participation and Communication Strategy
  - Identification of community focal points
  - Identification of stake-holders
  - Continual dissemination of information and consultation with the community

### B. Mid-term actions (2-3 years):

- a. Architectural Design of ICSA (through invited competition)
- b. The rehabilitation of the residential blocks designed by Hassan Fathy through different types of intervention, ranging from restoration to demolition, and reducing the housing density to recover the original texture
- c. The construction of ICSA which would include guest houses for teachers, scholars and students alike
- d. Design of other elements
- e. Implementation of an environmental remedial action
- f. Sewage and other network and infrastructural systems



### III. CONCLUSION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

This first Scientific Committee meeting was very successful, and it confirmed the full commitment and support from the Government of Egypt. In terms of follow-up actions, the following will have to be undertaken in the coming weeks:

#### A. Project administration

- The project document will be revised to reflect the road map decided by the Scientific Committee;
- the implementation method of identified activities will be detailed, with official agreements with the present partners established;
- Additional potential partners will be solicited to join the project and support conservation activities, as well as the establishment of ICSA;
- A webpage with limited access only for Scientific Committee members will be created. All documents related to the project will be made available for consultation.

#### B. Establishment of the Honorary Committee

- The list of proposed internationally renowned personalities to become members of the Honorary Committee is being set up.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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1.2 DEFINITION OF BOUNDARY

## **2. EXISTING CONDITIONS AND BASIC SURVEY FINDINGS**

2.1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.2. SUMMARY OF THE PLOT-BY-PLOT SURVEY RESULTS

Urban Fabric and Building Heights

Land Use

Type of Construction and Physical Condition of the Buildings

State of Integrity and Architectural Significance

Land Ownership and Tenure

Status of Ownership

2.3. PRESENT STATE AND ANALYSIS OF CHANGE OF HASSAN FATHY'S HERITAGE

2.4. SECTOR-SPECIFIC FINDINGS

Housing

Services and Public Buildings

Public Open Spaces and Infrastructure

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- Urban Fabric (Solids and Voids)

- Building Heights Map

- Ground Floor Land Use Map

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- Type of Construction Map

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- Status of Ownership Map

- Households, Businesses & Others

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. BACKGROUND: PHYSICAL SURVEY OF NEW GOURNA**

The preparation of the Master Plan entails the completion of preliminary studies that include bibliographical research, cartographic update, establishment of the study area to be surveyed, building survey, identification of the remaining Hassan Fathy heritage, assessment of the socioeconomic conditions, and analysis of the land and housing tenure.

To this effect, a team of consultants carried out a Physical Survey of New Gourna between July and September 2010 with the objectives of:

- Creating a reliable and updated base map of the village;
- Identifying the boundaries of the survey area;
- Carrying out a plot-by-plot survey for all buildings within the identified boundaries;
- Producing a set of GIS maps summarizing the findings of the survey.

This document summarizes the activities, findings and recommendations of the Physical Survey of New Gourna as part of the preliminary studies carried out to support the preparation of the Master Plan. The full report prepared by Nevine Akl and Mahmoud Qutb with team members Heba Hosny and Dalia Magdy, can be consulted as a separate document on the Weblink of the World Heritage Centre's web page.

The physical survey was aimed at a systematic understanding not only of the village's existing problems, but also of its latent opportunities from different points of view, including planning, housing, services and public buildings, and finally public open spaces and infrastructure, so to pave the way for the introduction of integrated and process-based solutions to the different critical issues. It was conducted plot-plot in all the planning area and the results have been elaborated through a GIS producing a number of thematic maps and several relevant statistical data.

### **1.2 DEFINITION OF BOUNDARY**

The definition of the New Gourna boundary is required for the Master Plan process in order to:

- Identify the geographical domain of the proposed types of intervention, planning modalities and different levels of protection;
- Better understand the urban transformations that took place in the Village over the past decades through creating a distinction between the different phases of the Village's growth.

Accordingly, the Physical Survey identifies three distinctive areas:

1. The Conservation Area, which includes the maximum concentration of remaining buildings built by Hassan Fathy.
2. The Rest of the Core Settlement, which is the part of the village surrounding the Conservation Area, and is located within the original boundary of the Hassan Fathy project -officially allocated by the Government for the relocation of Gournii in the 1940s. Both the Conservation area and the Rest of the Core Settlement constitute together the Core Settlement located within the original boundary of the Hassan Fathy project.
3. The Peripheral Area, which is located outside the Core Settlement and has been developed over the recent years representing a buffer zone surrounding the Core Settlement.
4. The three areas, including the existing agricultural pockets located within these boundaries, constitute together today's New Gourna village.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS AND BASIC SURVEY FINDINGS

### 2.1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXISTING CONDITIONS

A quick comparison between earlier cartographic and photographic documentation of New Gournia village and today's conditions shows that the village has undergone major transformations within its built environment. These recent developments, that mostly took place over the last two decades, did not only impact the village's physical structures, but also extend to cause the eventual loss of most of its vegetation and landscape features.

These major transformations within the village's built environment can be attributed to two interrelated factors that have been evident through the physical survey findings:

a. The deteriorating physical conditions and continuous modifications of the existing Hassan Fathy buildings: due to selection of some poor building materials during the construction process, deterioration of the sewage system, lack of periodical maintenance or conservation efforts, and finally transformations in the village's demographic structure and the residents' spatial needs, all contributing to the gradual loss of the village's original structures;

b. The uncontrolled urban development and accelerated rate of new building activities: taking place either inside the Core Settlement - replacing existing Hassan Fathy buildings, or in the Peripheral Area surrounding the village – reshaping its skyline and permanently changing its urban context.

These developments were not only promoted by the local inhabitants, but were also spurred by some governmental agencies that have been actively surrounding the village by a considerable number of public buildings and services. This is primarily due to the lack of a contextually sensitive Master Plan on the one hand, and a clear and effective urban management process on the other. However, the physical survey also shows that some areas of the village, especially the inner parts of the Core Settlement (the Conservation Area) have not been severely influenced by these negative developments.

### 2.2. SUMMARY OF THE PLOT-BY-PLOT SURVEY RESULTS

#### **Urban Fabric and Building Heights**

The urban fabric is relatively dense especially along the main roads, due to the existing urban pressures, increasing housing demand and lack of formally recognized planning framework allowing for its natural growth within an overall Master Plan. The vacant lots merely represent 3% of the total number of structures and plots located in the entire New Gournia village. This fact partially explains the Gournii's tendency towards demolishing existing buildings (mostly two storeys high) and replacing them with concrete structures that allow for additional floors, hence stimulating vertical growth.

The densification of the urban fabric is reflected by the building heights. According to the original Hassan Fathy plan, the maximum height of different buildings was two floors. The current survey has identified 17 buildings that are 3 floors and above out of 143 structures located in the Conservation Area (a percentage of 12%). Moreover, the survey also shows a higher tendency for vertical growth in the Peripheral Area where 13 buildings are 3 floors and above out of 72 structures located in this zone (a percentage of 18%).

#### **Land Use**

The dominant ground floor use in the village is still the residential use, but public services and administration even exceeds the commercial use. This is due to the sub-regional role of the village as a service provider not only for its local inhabitants but also for the surrounding villages and urban agglomerations. This role has become more important after New Gournia

village has become a City from an administrative point of view following the new administrative arrangements that recently took place in Luxor. The majority of public service and commercial activities are concentrated along the main roads and the main village square. On the other hand the inner parts of the Conservation Area are predominantly residential, which helps to maintain the privacy of the local community. This is an important point that should be taken into account in the upgrading proposals of the Core Settlement or the design of new extensions of the village.

### **Type of Construction and Physical Condition of the Buildings**

The majority of the buildings in New Gourna village are modern structures (fired brick and concrete) that were developed over the past couple of decades. They represent 50% of the total number of structures in the Core Settlement, 68% in the Peripheral Area and an average of 54% in the entire village.

The high percentage of modern structures distorts the perception of the overall physical conditions of the buildings where almost 50% of the structures in the entire village are in good overall condition. But given the scope of the project, which primarily focus on the restoration and rehabilitation of Hassan Fathy buildings, the situation changes dramatically. The survey shows that more than 91% of the remaining Hassan Fathy buildings are either in poor overall condition or in partial ruins.

The majority of the structural problems identified in the “conservation area” are mostly attributed to issues with the foundations, such as rising dampness and ground water due to the lack of a proper sewage system in the village and due to the village’s relatively low level compared to the surrounding areas; the poor quality of the soil which mostly consist of Nile silt; the poor quality lime stone for the foundation works; the lack of water isolation measures that prevent the rising dampness from infiltrating the mud brick walls. As a result, most of the foundation works are no longer sound from a structural point of view, this severely affects the remaining structural elements of the buildings.

Given the recent developments and the continuous construction activities in the village, newly built structures represent 40% of the total number of structures in the Conservation Area, 91% in the rest of the Core Settlement, 81% in the Peripheral Area with an average of 66% in the entire village.

### **State of Integrity and Architectural Significance**

The survey has identified 59 remaining Hassan Fathy structures (of which one structure is a partial ruin), which represent 41% of the total number of structures in the Conservation Area and 19% in the entire village. The survey shows that 31% of the remaining Hassan Fathy structures are reversibly altered buildings, where significant traces of the original design can be traced and retrieved. On the other hand 61% of the remaining Hassan Fathy structures are irreversibly altered, since buildings have been severely modified to the extent that they cannot be retrieved to their original condition.

In regards to architectural significance, the survey identified 9 architecturally significant buildings (15% of the total number of remaining Hassan Fathy structures), which include most of the public buildings and a few houses that still maintain their original design and features. The survey also identifies 21 buildings that have been modified but still maintain significant architectural elements (36% of the total number of remaining Hassan Fathy structures).

### **Land Ownership and Tenure**

As for the land ownership and tenure, according to different interviews with the local officials, the Egyptian Government, and more specifically the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) since 1945 has been, and still is, the sole owner of the land. However, interviews with residents indicate that the current occupants of the houses are the owners. Yet, this is still considered as some sort

of informal ownership which does not clearly define the difference between ownership of the building and ownership of the land on which it was built. Many of the residents claim that they received letters from the Government acknowledging their ownership of the buildings in return of expropriation of their original houses on the hillside. Neither the SCA, nor the local residents were able to provide the survey team with any documents supporting these arguments, except for the land expropriation decree issued by King Farouk in 1945. Additionally, it was not possible to find any recent documents related to further real estate transactions.

In similar situations, the Egyptian law gives the occupants who occupy a property for more than a certain period of time ownership rights through the court. This is the case right now where the survey shows that more than 82% of the structures are owner occupied (based on the residents' claims). The real estate transactions take place through a court case where the buyers prove the validity of the signature of the owner/occupant of the property. This is also the case in many areas in Egypt where property registration is not really active. However, this matter needs to be further investigated not only through the ongoing socioeconomic survey, but more importantly through a legal investigation of the ownership and tenure structure in the village. This is a highly crucial matter given any proposed upgrading plans which might involve some relocation activities or expropriation of properties.

### **Status of Ownership**

At present, the number of nuclear families in New Gournia village is 253 families, of which 49 are considered as extended families living in the same house. The total number of families can be subdivided as follows: 76 families living in Hassan Fathy structures, 111 families living in modern structures within the boundary of the Core Settlement, in addition to 66 families living in modern structures in the Peripheral Area.

In regards to the total floor area occupied per family, the survey reveals that despite the fact that the original average total floor area of Hassan Fathy houses was almost 230 square meter per family, this figure has gone down to an average of 195 square meter per family (15% decrease). This figure includes the recent additions made by the residents to respond to crowding and increase in the number of families occupying the same buildings. On the other hand, there is a considerable increase of total floor area occupied by the families when comparing the modern structures in the Core Settlement with the ones in the Peripheral Area. The total floor area per family increases from 156 square meters in the Core Settlement up to 204 square meters in the Peripheral Area (31% increase).

The average footprint area of residential buildings is 145 square meters for Hassan Fathy structures, 120 square meters for modern structures in the Core Settlement and 167 square meters for modern structures in the Peripheral Area. This means that the average footprint for modern structures has also considerably increased in the later developments.

Another important fact is the current level of occupancy in the entire village which reaches to an average of 89% for residential units and 70% for business units. This means that any type of future intervention will have to address the need for new housing opportunities in the village since it almost reached its maximum capacity, and cannot cope with any future housing needs if the current situation continues.

These findings, together with the residents' preferences can give a preliminary idea about the characteristics of any proposed new housing units. It is proposed that new housing units have an average footprint of 140 square meters with the ability of vertical growth up to 2-3 floors. Such building that can initially shelter one family can grow gradually to host 2-3 families in the future, which is the current trend of the existing families in New Gournia. The number of the proposed housing units in the Master Plan will primarily depend on the different scenarios to address the existing families occupying the Hassan Fathy structures.



### 2.3. PRESENT STATE AND ANALYSIS OF CHANGE OF HASSAN FATHY'S HERITAGE

After the initial implementation of the Hassan Fathy's project in 1945-47, a deep process of change has occurred that depended not only on the "internal" situation of the village but also on the new context created by urbanisation process in the surrounding area. The village is no longer an isolated settlement in a rural area, but is now set at the edge of a growing urban area, close to some of the main attractions of the new tourism industry. Its development occurs without a clear and effective urban management process, promoted not only by the local inhabitants, but also by governmental agencies that have created a considerable number of public buildings and services.

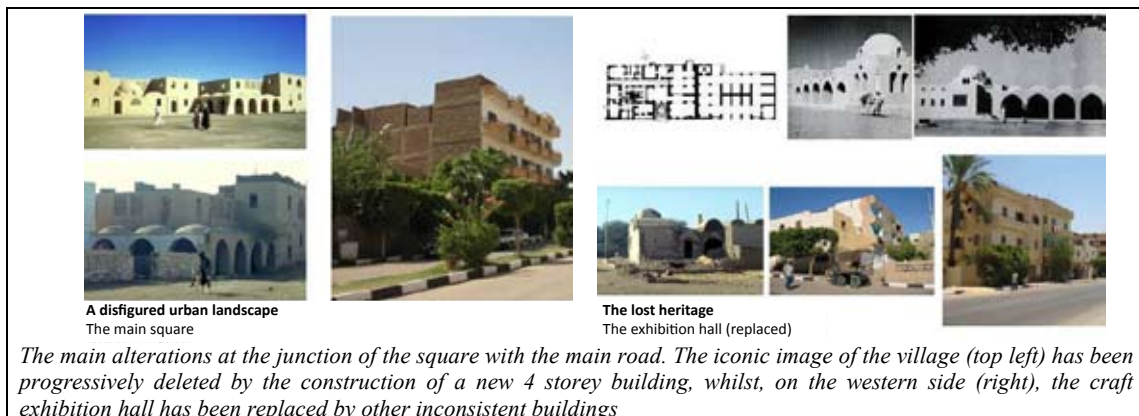
An analysis of this process of change can explain many of the functional and spatial transformations occurred, but may also help to understand the vitality and the significance of Hassan Fathy's heritage. To this purpose, the following critical elements deserve to be put in evidence:

The merging of the village with the expanding urban area has created a totally new urban landscape, particularly along the main road;



*The merging with the new urbanisation has completely disfigured the main road streetscape (right)*

The entrance to the village from the main road to the central square has been completely disfigured, and definitely transformed into a very ordinary "nowhere" place. An important heritage building has been lost.

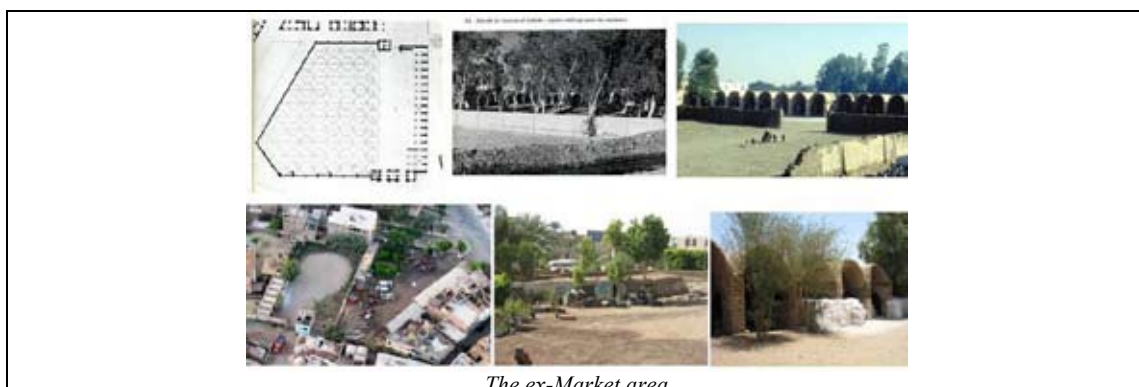


**A disfigured urban landscape**  
The main square

**The lost heritage**  
The exhibition hall (replaced)

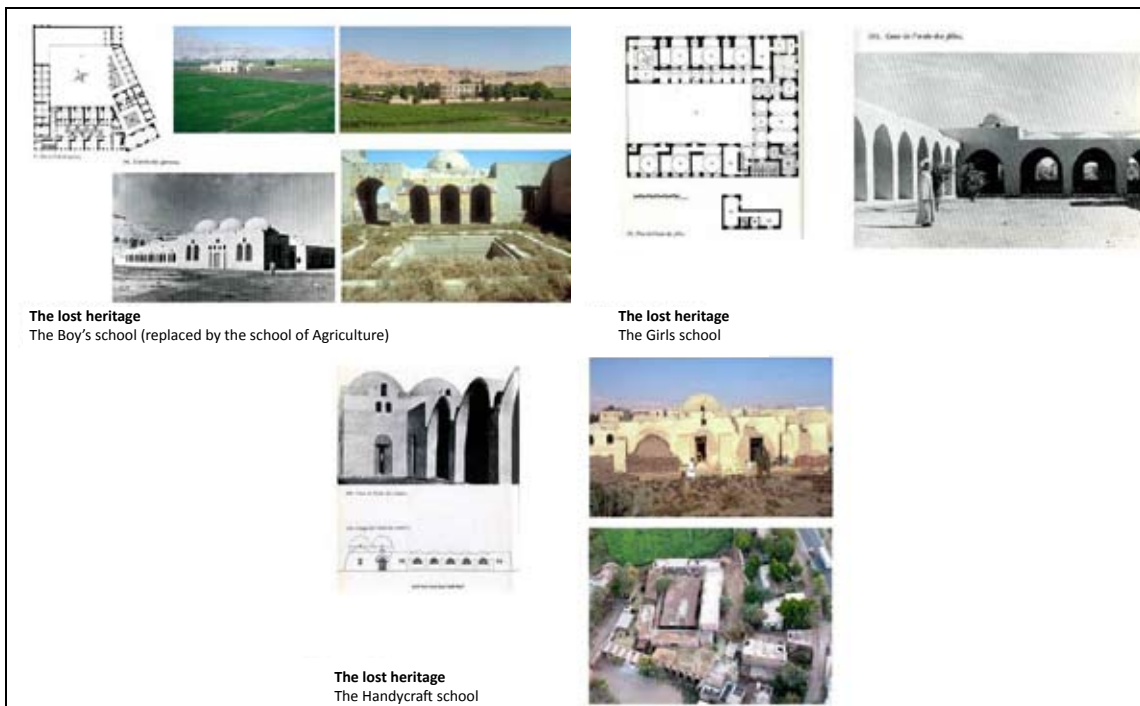
*The main alterations at the junction of the square with the main road. The iconic image of the village (top left) has been progressively deleted by the construction of a new 4 storey building, whilst, on the western side (right), the craft exhibition hall has been replaced by other inconsistent buildings*

The market area at the east corner that which was supposed to be one of the main entrances to the village, has been progressively subdivided and converted into an underutilised area of storage, parking and municipal services;

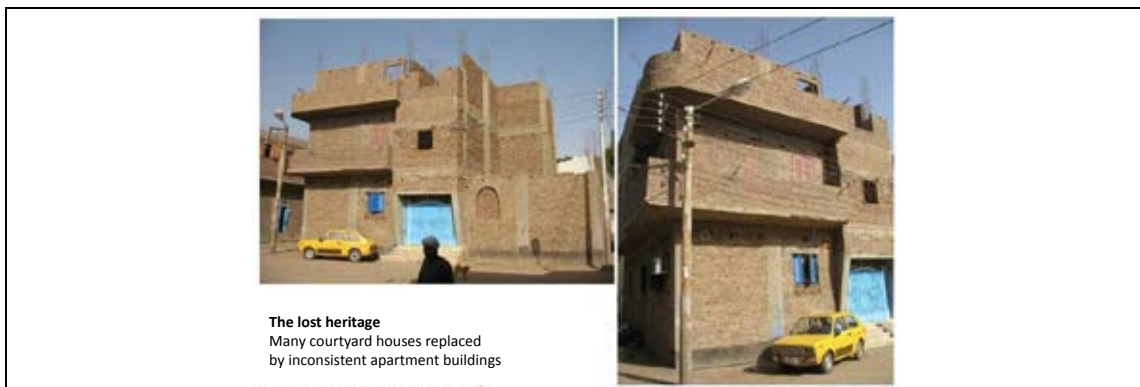


*The ex-Market area*

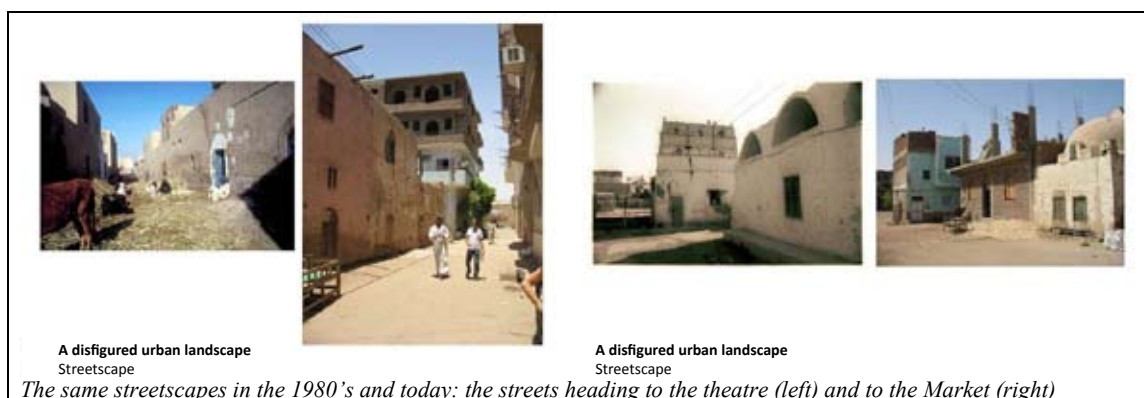
The handicraft activities planned by Hassan Fathy have been abandoned. Not only has the craft exhibition hall been replaced by a residential building along the main road, but also the handicraft school near the Market area has been replaced by a structure for cattle breeding. The development of the School of Agriculture and the building of new schools along the main road to serve the larger urban area have entailed the demolition of the Hassan Fathy's Boy school and the Girl school.



A considerable loss of heritage values has been entailed by the demolition and reconstruction of many courtyard houses, with concrete structures and inconsistent architectural and decorative elements. Most of all, the new constructions replicate the ordinary models of the new peripheral expansions, thus affecting the strong architectural identity of the village.

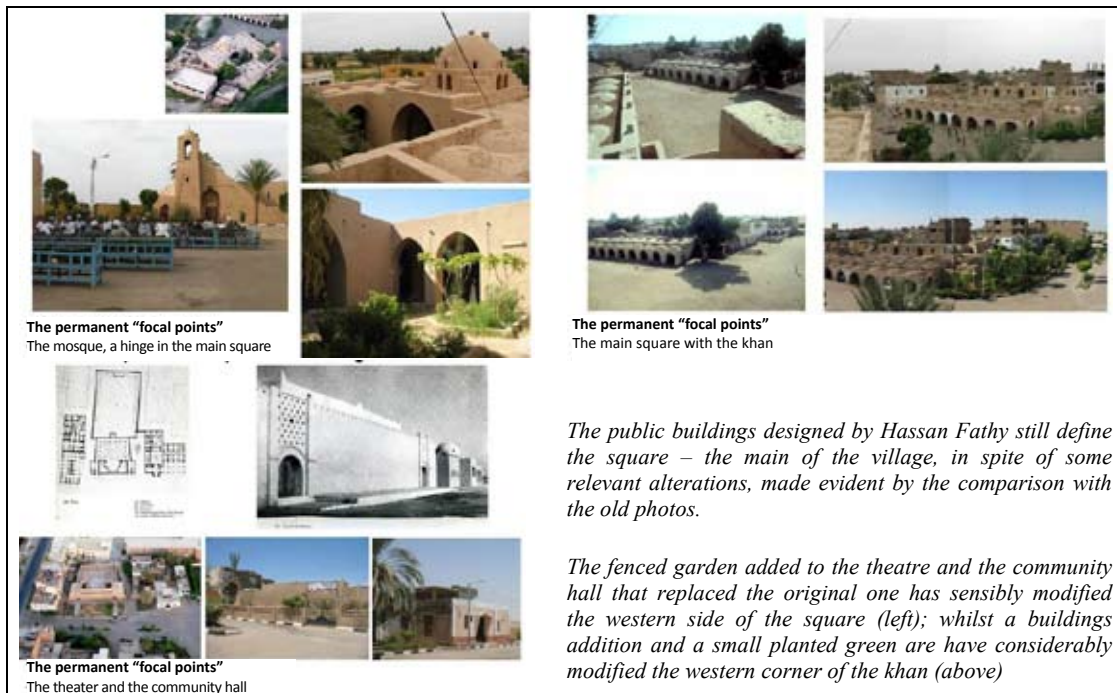


The diffused interventions of reconstruction, horizontal and vertical additions, merging and subdivision of the original houses, very often out-of-scale, have completely altered the streetscape, definitely deleting in the visual distinction of some landmark buildings.

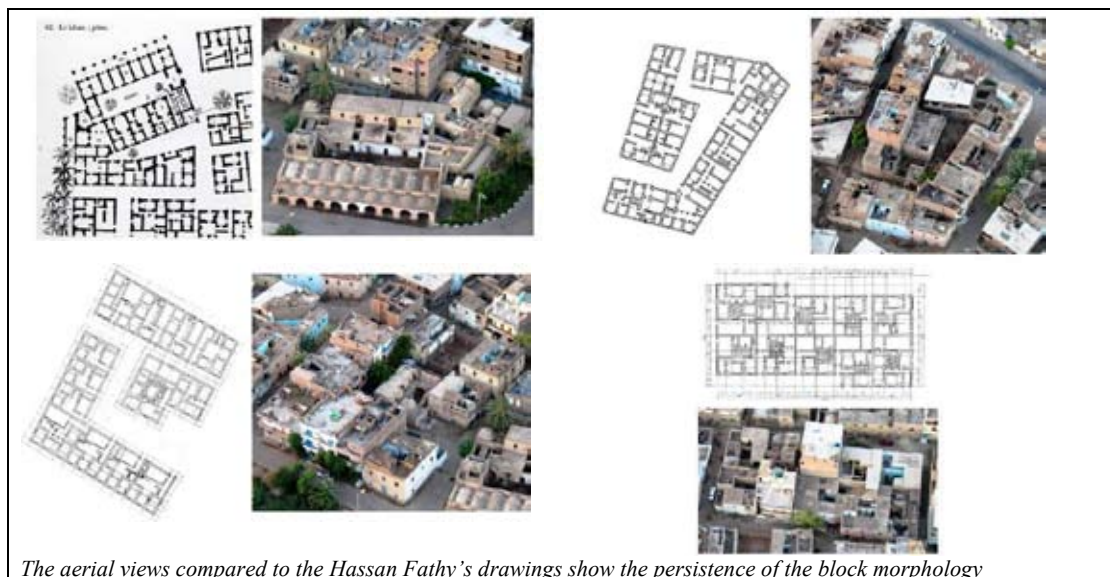


On the other hand, the following aspects deserve to be valorised:

The public buildings planned by Hassan Fathy remain as the major “focal points” of the village, even if some of them have been altered (the theatre, the khan) or even rebuilt (the community hall).



In spite of the amputations and alterations of the housing typologies, the street layout and the residential blocks morphologies have been preserved and still provide a rich articulation of the public realm, thus preserving to a certain extent one of the most valuable elements of the identity of the village.



The few preserved public buildings and houses show the outstanding value of Hassan Fathy's architecture, the richness and distinctiveness of the spaces created through traditional materials and simple but accurate details.



## 2.4. SECTOR-SPECIFIC FINDINGS

### Housing

#### Existing housing problems

Residents of the village currently suffer from some housing related problems, especially those who occupy houses that were originally designed and built by Hassan Fathy. Some of these problems are:

- Structural damage and deterioration of the living conditions;
- The increasing housing demand in the village and lack of horizontal growth options;
- Lack of potential for development or growth in the Hassan Fathy buildings that can accommodate the increasing spatial needs of the inhabitants;
- Inability of these buildings to adapt with the current residents' lifestyle requirements such as the need for air-conditioning or satellite dishes, etc.;

#### Modifications made by the residents

The modifications can be categorized into 3 main categories:

1. Minor modifications: these involve use of modern inappropriate building and finishing materials, replacement of woodwork and possibly some rearrangement of the internal house layout;
2. Splitting of existing houses between two different families or more: in this case the original structure built by Hassan Fathy is entirely maintained, while the internal spaces are split between two occupants or more through the construction of internal walls;
3. Splitting of existing houses, demolition and reconstruction: this is a more radical intervention where an original house is split between two families. In this case, one of the families demolishes its part and replaces it with a new concrete building.

#### Future housing needs

At present, the number of nuclear families in New Gournia village is 253 families, of which 49 are considered as extended families living in the same house. The total number of families can be subdivided as follows: 76 families living in Hassan Fathy structures, 111 families living in modern structures within the boundary of the Core Settlement, in addition to 66 families living in modern structures in the Peripheral Area.

### Services and Public Buildings

The survey shows that some of the public buildings (village Mosque, the Khan, the Theater, the Crafts Center, the Market Place, boys and girls schools, water distributions points - sabils) do not exist anymore or the remaining buildings have lost their original function except for the Mosque. The following is a summary of the status of the remaining services and public buildings that existed in the original plan for New Gournia:

- The village Mosque: In general, the Mosque suffers from some structural damage and the use of some inappropriate finishing materials and fittings, but it is still one of the most maintained structures in the village.
- The Khan: it lost its original function and shelters a group of administrative offices and services to store agricultural fertilizers. The building suffers from some severe structural conditions; especially its north-eastern corner, which requires an immediate action to save it from possible collapse.
- The Theater: was subject to a restoration process in the 1980s. Therefore it is in a structurally sound condition. However, it is currently unused and closed to the public. Recently, the City Council added a front yard to the building and surrounded the Theater with a low fence.
- The Crafts Center: is located to the south of the Theater and can hardly be recognized since a significant part of the building was demolished and replaced by two modern buildings.

The remaining part is used as a residential building and suffers from severe irreversible alterations that would make it difficult to retrieve its original condition.

- The Market Place: has lost its function in addition to its green cover and has entirely disappeared behind a line of high rise modern buildings. The area of the Market was subdivided between the City Council and the Flour Mill Company.
- The water distributions points (sabils): these buildings lost their role, and accordingly have been appropriated by the residents. Most of these structures are used for storage or to provide additional space to the existing houses.

In general, it is possible to identify some generic problems related to the services and public buildings in the village:

- Lack of maintenance and the need for immediate structural interventions in some cases;
- The need for clear use for most of the remaining public buildings in order for these buildings to retrieve their role in serving the community and the village visitors which would require some adaptive reuse plans for these buildings. This also goes in line with the issues raised by the residents in regards to the use of these buildings to serve the local community;
- The need for clear ownership structure and efficient management and adaptive reuse plan in order to run and maintain these facilities in the future;
- The need for clear guidelines to harness the uncontrolled development of new governmental services and public buildings around the village.

#### **Public Open Spaces and Infrastructure**

The street morphology and public open spaces in New Gournia still maintain most of their original structure. However, the overall image of the village has been severely compromised due to the recent developments and the on-going construction activities. The following is a list of the major problems that render the village's public open spaces this negative image:

- The sewage system currently relying on septic tanks is completely inadequate. As a result, high water table and rising dampness have severely affected the buildings and the streets surface, which mostly consist of compacted soil. However, any attempt to replace this system with a new sewage network should consider the structural implications of the new system on the village buildings;
- The village suffers from increased visual clutter due to the use of inappropriate streetscape elements. This is attributed to the fact that the village lacks any sort of guidelines controlling the public open space treatments;
- The visual image of the village is almost lost either on the level of streets, vistas or small public open spaces. This is due to the continuous building violations and the use of inappropriate finishes and facade treatments, either in Hassan Fathy buildings or in the new developments;
- The village lacks a sustainable approach towards vegetation and landscape, which is very much needed given the difficult environmental conditions of the site. New Gournia used to have a considerable number of trees, either in the public open space or in public services such as the Market Place. Currently this green cover has completely gone and needs to be reintroduced on sustainable terms.

## List of Maps

**1** New Gournna Village Survey Map 1

**2** New Gournna Village Survey Map 2

### Existing Conditions Maps

**3** Urban Fabric (Solids and Voids)

**4** Building Heights Map

**5** Ground Floor Land Use Map

**6** Overall Building Conditions Map

**7** State of Integrity Map

**8** Architectural Significance Map

**9** Type of Construction Map

**10** Recommended Actions Map

**11** Status of Ownership Map

**12** Households, Businesses & Others



LEGEND:

- |                          |                                   |                                 |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 The Village Mosque     | 6 Community Hall                  | 11 Agriculture Secondary School | 16 Traffic Police Station                        |
| 2 The Khan               | 7 Secondary School                | 12 Water Plant                  | 17 Cattle Breeding Station (Agricultural School) |
| 3 The Theater            | 8 Gorna City Council              | 13 Fire Station                 | 18 Agriculture Department                        |
| 4 Veterinary Clinic      | 9 Education Admin. & Prep. School | 14 Electricity Station          | 19 Upper Egypt Flour Mills Storage               |
| 5 Tourist Police Station | 10 Police Station and Camp        | 15 Ambulance Station            | 20 Nursery and Garage (Gorna City Council)       |

- Linetypes
- Light Structure
  - Subdivision of an Existing Building
  - Fence

**New Gorna Village Survey Map**

SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:  
Nevine George  
Dalla Magdy  
Mahmoud Qutb

DATE:  
10 AUGUST, 2010  
SCALE:      SIZE:  
                    A3





Services and Public Buildings

- 1 The Village Mosque
- 2 The Khan
- 3 The Theater
- 4 Veterinary Clinic
- 5 Tourist Police Station
- 6 Community Hall
- 7 Secondary School
- 8 Gouna City Council
- 9 Education Admin. & Prep. School
- 10 Police Station and Camp
- 11 Agriculture Secondary School
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- 18 Agriculture Department
- 19 Upper Egypt Flour Mills Storage
- 20 Nursery and Garage (Gouna City Council)



PROJECT:  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gouna Village**

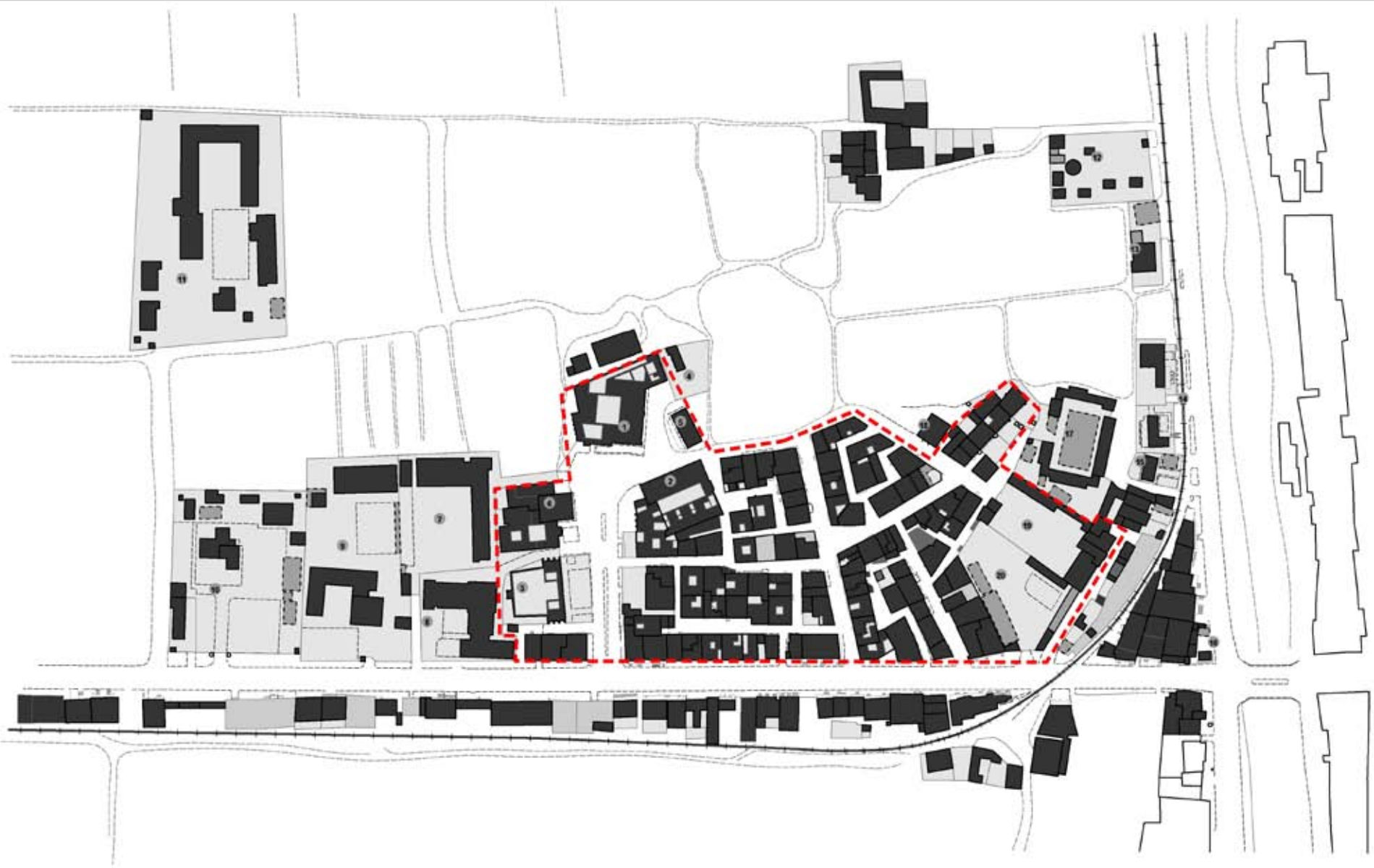
- LEGEND:
- Symbols
- Sewage - Inspection Chamber
  - Solid Waste - Collection Point
  - Landscape - Tree
  - Sewage - Manhole
  - Solid Waste - Disposal Bin
  - Landscape - Palm Tree
  - Electricity - Light Pole
  - Sign
  - Landscape - Shrubs
  - Electricity - Transformer
  - Public Water Tabs and Zeers
  - Oven

- Linetypes
- Light Structure
  - Subdivision of an Existing Building
  - Fence
  - Difference of Building Heights
  - Courtyard

**New Gouna Village Survey Map**

SURVEYED & DRAWN BY: Nevine George Dalia Magdy Mahmoud Qutb		DATE: 10 AUGUST, 2010	
SCALE:	SIZE: A3		





Services and Public Buildings

- 1 The Village Mosque
- 2 The Khan
- 3 The Theater
- 4 Veterinary Clinic
- 5 Tourist Police Station
- 6 Community Hall
- 7 Secondary School
- 8 Gouna City Council
- 9 Education Admin. & Prep. School
- 10 Police Station and Camp
- 11 Agriculture Secondary School
- 12 Water Plant
- 13 Fire Station
- 14 Electricity Station
- 15 Ambulance Station
- 16 Traffic Police Station
- 17 Cattle Breeding Station (Agricultural School)
- 18 Agriculture Department
- 19 Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- 20 Nursery and Garage (Gouna City Council)



**PROJECT**  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gouna Village**

**LEGEND**

- Vacant
- Light structure
- Ruins
- Built
- Light structure  
Plots
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Building Subdivision
- Railway

New Gouna Village Physical Survey Map:  
**Urban Fabric (solid and Void)**

**SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:**  
 Neville George    Heba Hoony  
 Mahmoud Oufi    Dala Magdy

**DATE:** 7 September, 2010  
**SCALE:** 1:5000  
**SIZE:** A3



Services and Public Buildings

- |                                 |                |                 |                        |                          |                           |  |                           |                                    |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 The Village Mosque            | 2 The Khan     | 3 The Theater   | 4 Veterinary Clinic    | 5 Tourist Police Station | 6 Community Hall          | 7 Secondary School                                   | 8 Gourna City Council     | 9 Education Admin. & Prep. School  | 10 Police Station and Camp                     |
| 11 Agriculture Secondary School | 12 Water Plant | 13 Fire Station | 14 Electricity Station | 15 Ambulance Station     | 16 Traffic Police Station | 17 Cattle Slaughter Station<br>(Agricultural School) | 18 Agriculture Department | 19 Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage | 20 Nursery and Garage<br>(Gourna City Council) |



PROJECT  
Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gourna Village

- LEGEND
- 1 Floor
  - 2 Floors
  - 3 Floors
  - 4 Floors and above
  - Upper Partial Floor
  - Added Structural Elements on the Roof
  - Upper Partial Floor + Added Structural Elements on the Roof
  - Light structure
  - Vacant
  - Plots
  - Conservation Area Boundary
  - Building Subdivision
  - Railway

New Gourna Village Physical Survey Maps:  
**Building Heights**  
SURVEYED & DRAWN BY: Ne'ima George, Hiba Hossny, Mahmoud Oub, Della Magly  
DATE: 7 September, 2010  
SCALE: 1:5000  
SIZE: A3



Services and Public Buildings

- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gournia City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fire Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (Agricultural School)
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage (Gournia City Council)



Services and Public Buildings

- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gorna City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fes Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (Nubara Street)
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage (Gorna City Council)



**PROJECT**  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gorna Village**

**LEGEND**

- Good
  - Deteriorating
  - Floor
  - Partial Run
- Total Run
  - Vacant Lot
  - Under Construction
- Light structure
  - Plot
  - Conservation Area Boundary
- Building Subdivision
  - Railway

New Gorna Village Physical Survey Maps:  
**Overall Building Conditions**

**SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:**  
 Nevine George, Heba Homy, Mahmoud Ouf, Dalia Magdy

**DATE:** 7 September, 2010  
**SCALE:** 1:1000  
**SIZE:** A3



Services and Public Buildings

- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gouna City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fire Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (Agriculture Street)
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage (Gouna City Council)



**PROJECT**  
Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gouna Village

**LEGEND**

- Reversibly Altered Building
- Irreversibly Altered Building
- New Construction
- Make-shift Structure
- Partial Ruin
- Total Ruin
- Vacant Lot
- Under Construction
- Hassan Fathy Building
- Light structure
- Plots
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Building Subdivision
- Railway

New Gouna Village Physical Survey Maps

**State of Integrity**

**SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:** Nevine George, Heba Hany, Mahmoud Ouf, Dalia Magdy

**DATE:** 7 September, 2010

**SCALE:**      **SIZE:** A3



Services and Public Buildings

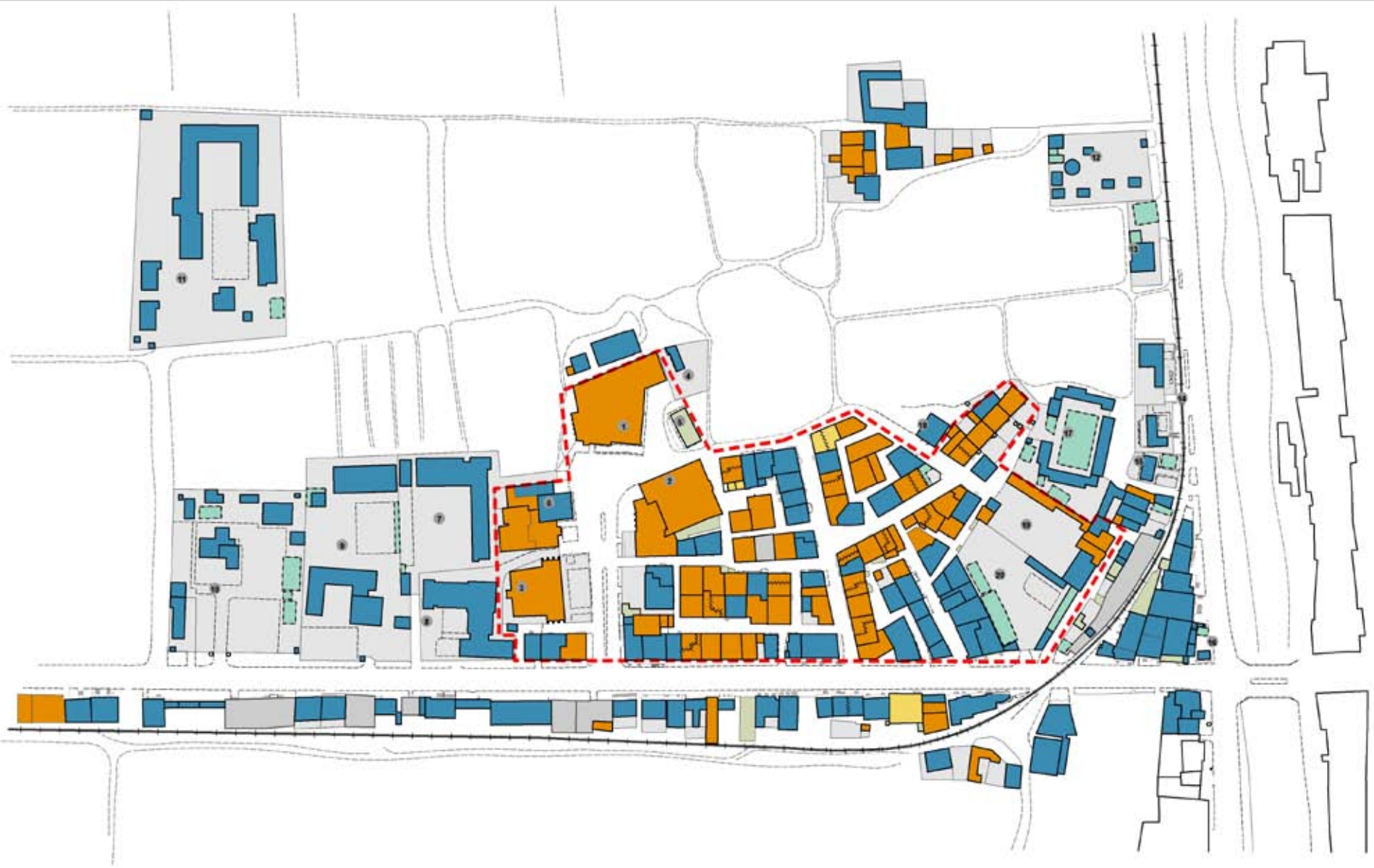
- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gourni City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fire Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (agricultural school)
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage (nearby City Council)



PROJECT  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gournia Village**

- LEGEND**
- Significant Building
  - Significant Element (s)
  - None
  - Part of a Significant Facade Continuum
  - Hassan Fathy Building
  - Light structure
  - Vicar
  - Flats
  - Conservation Area Boundary
  - Building Subdivision
  - Railway

New Gournia Village Physical Survey Map:  
**Architectural Significance**  
 SURVEYED & DRAWN BY: **DATE:** 7 September, 2010  
 New'ne George Mahmoud Qudb Heba Hossny Dalia Magry  
**SCALE:** NZE: A3



Services and Public Buildings

- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gournia City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fire Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (Agriculture Street)
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage (Gournia City Council)



**PROJECT**  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gournia Village**

**LEGEND**

- Traditional
- Mixed
- Modern
- Light structure
- Temporary
- Vacant Lot
- Light structure Pits
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Building Subdivision
- Railway

New Gournia Village Physical Survey Maps

**Type of Construction**

**SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:**  
 Nevine George, Heba Hany, Mahmoud Ouf, Dalia Magdy

**DATE:** 7 September, 2010

**SCALE:**      **SIZE:** A3



Services and Public Buildings

- 1 The Village Mosque
- 2 The Khan
- 3 The Theater
- 4 Veterinary Clinic
- 5 Tourist Police Station
- 6 Community Hall
- 7 Secondary School
- 8 Gournia City Council
- 9 Education Admin. & Prep. School
- 10 Police Station and Camp
- 11 Agriculture Secondary School
- 12 Water Plant
- 13 Fire Station
- 14 Electricity Station
- 15 Ambulance Station
- 16 Traffic Police Station
- 17 Cattle Breeding Station  
Agriculture School
- 18 Agriculture Department
- 19 Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- 20 Nursery and Garage  
(Gournia City Council)



**PROJECT**  
Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gournia Village

**LEGEND**

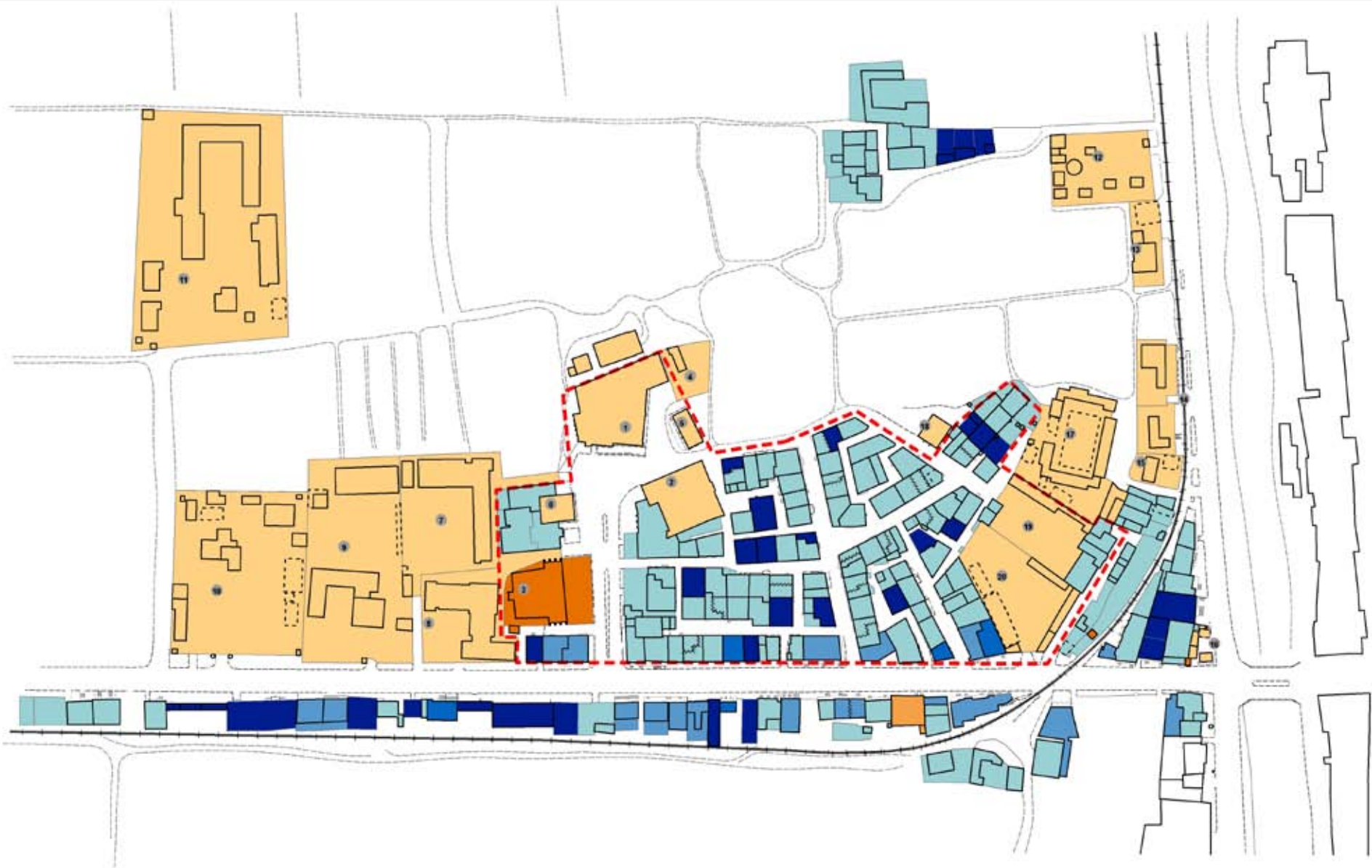
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Restoration	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Total Demolition & Reconstruction	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px dashed red;"></span> Light structure	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> Building Subdivision
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Full Rehabilitation	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Vacant Lot Development	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Pools	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Railway
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Partial Demolition (no construction)	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid orange;"></span> Renovating	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid red;"></span> Conservation Area Boundary	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Total Demolition (no construction)	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow;"></span> None		

New Gournia Village Physical Survey Maps

**Recommended Actions**

SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:		DATE:	
Nervine George	Hiba Hossny	7 September, 2020	
Mahmoud Qutb	Della Magdy	SCALE:	SIZE:
		A4	A4





Services and Public Buildings

- ① The Village Mosque
- ② The Khan
- ③ The Theater
- ④ Veterinary Clinic
- ⑤ Tourist Police Station
- ⑥ Community Hall
- ⑦ Secondary School
- ⑧ Gouma City Council
- ⑨ Education Admin & Prep. School
- ⑩ Police Station and Camp
- ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School
- ⑫ Water Plant
- ⑬ Fire Station
- ⑭ Electricity Station
- ⑮ Ambulance Station
- ⑯ Traffic Police Station
- ⑰ Cattle Dipping Station  
Agricultural School
- ⑱ Agriculture Department
- ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage
- ⑳ Nursery and Garage  
(Gouma City Council)



**PROJECT**  
Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gournia Village

**LEGEND**

- Private, Owner Occupied
- Governmental, Owner Occupied
- Light structure
- Building Subdivision
- Private, Owner Occupied with Tenants
- Governmental, Tenants only
- Pits
- Railway
- Private, Tenants only
- Governmental, Empty
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Private, Empty

New Gournia Village Physical Survey Maps

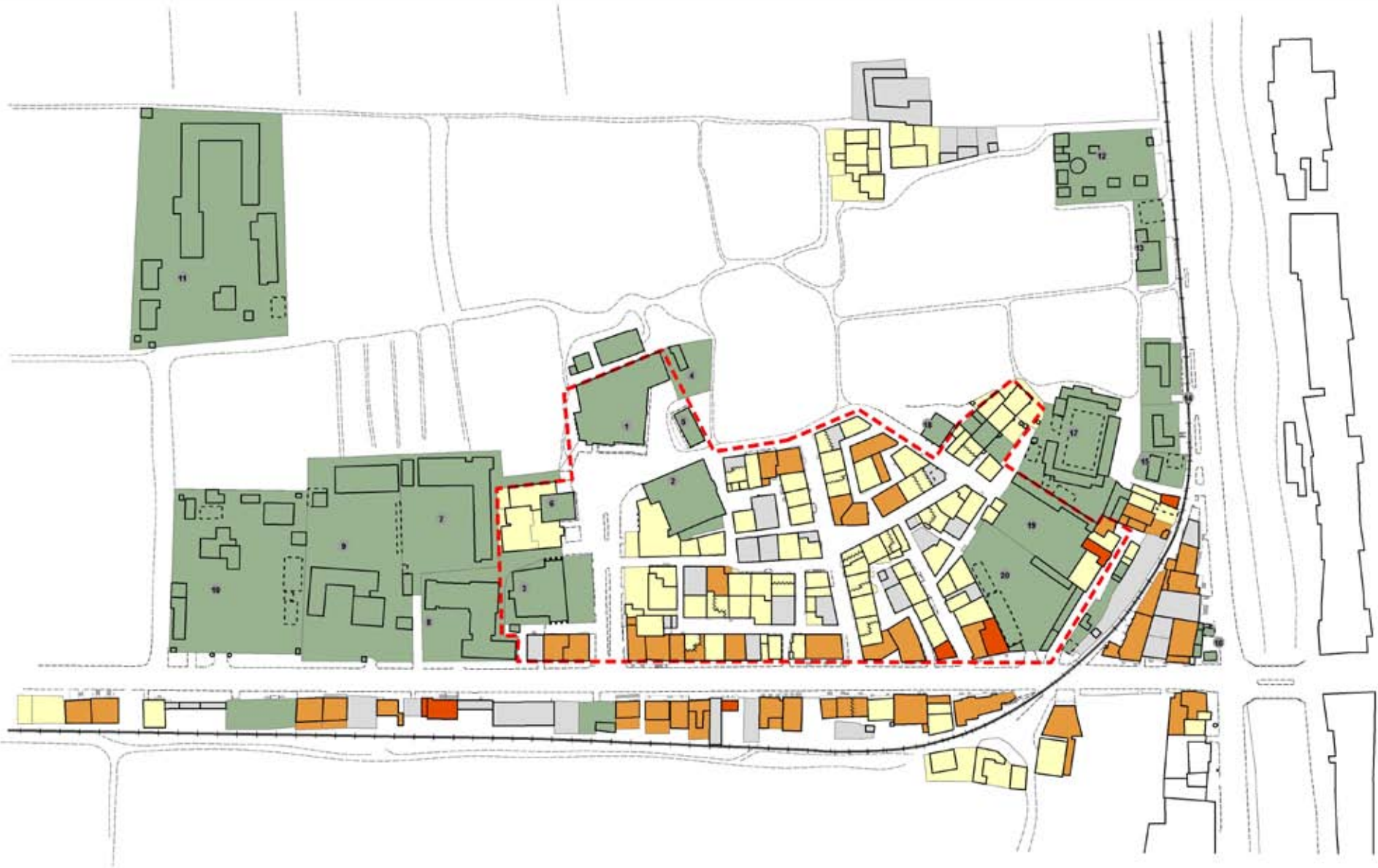
**Status of Ownership**

SURVEYED & DRAWN BY: Nefine George, Maheroud Oubb, Heba Hossny, Dalia Magdy

DATE: 7 September, 2020

SCALE: 1:5000

SIZE: A3



Services and Public Buildings

- |                                |               |                |                       |                          |                          |   |                          |                                   |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ① The Village Mosque           | ② The Khan    | ③ The Theater  | ④ Veterinary Clinic   | ⑤ Tourist Police Station | ⑥ Community Hall         | ⑦ Secondary School                              | ⑧ Gournia City Council   | ⑨ Education Admin. & Prep. School | ⑩ Police Station and Carri                 |
| ⑪ Agriculture Secondary School | ⑫ Water Plant | ⑬ Fire Station | ⑭ Electricity Station | ⑮ Ambulance Station      | ⑯ Traffic Police Station | ⑰ Cattle Breeding Station (Agricultural School) | ⑱ Agriculture Department | ⑲ Upper Egypt Flour Mills storage | ⑳ Nursery and Garage (Khania City Council) |



PROJECT  
Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gournia Village

**LEGEND**

- Households
- Businesses
- Others
- Mound
- No Households or Businesses or Others
- Light structure
- Pits
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Building Subdivision
- Railway

New Gournia Village Physical Survey Maps:  
**Households, Businesses & Others**

SURVEYED & DRAWN BY:		DATE:	
Hussein George Mahmoud Qutub		7 September, 2020	
Heba Hany Dalia Magdy		SCALE:	SIZE:
			A3

# Executive Summary of the Socio-Economic Survey **4**

by the World Monuments Fund  
not yet available

## **1 The Master Plan Proposals**

1.1.The objectives

1.2.The proposed planning strategy

1.3.Protection measures

1.4 Conservation and Land Use measures

1.5.The Conservation Area

Preservation and rehabilitation of the original village fabric and layout  
Restoration and adaptive reuse of Hassan Fathy's public buildings and houses.  
Housing rehabilitation

1.6. The "rest of the Core Area"

Spatial layout  
Reorganisation and rehabilitation of the existing services and public facilities  
The creation of the ICOSA  
New Housing development

## **2. The implementation of the Master Plan**

2.1.Emergency and priority actions

2.2. Long term conservation activities

Surveys and documentation  
Development planning and action projects  
Housing policy development  
Overall improvement of urban infrastructure and public spaces

## **1 The Master Plan Proposals**

### **1.1. The objectives**

The Master Plan considers the whole area of the original plan of Hassan Fathy along the road connecting the Luxor ferry to the King's Valley. The full report prepared by Daniele Pini can be consulted as a separate document on the Weblink of the World Heritage Centre's web page.

Following the recommendations and suggestions of several missions and petitions, the outcomes of the April 2010 mission and the Scientific Committee meeting in October 2010, as well as the concerns of the local authorities, the Master Plan considers that:

- The preservation and valorisation of Hassan Fathy's heritage, concerns not only the outstanding architecture of the public buildings and houses which remain intact, but also the village concept, the urban layout and the spatial texture of the residential blocks, which are still preserved to some extent. Most of all it implies the reviving and the strengthening of New Gournas as an integrated settlement, the place of a vital and developing community;
- The creation of the International Centre for Sustainable Architecture (ICSA) is a fundamental option, derived from Hassan Fathy's vision. The Centre will provide training and research opportunities for Egyptian and international students so that the same humanistic principles and ideas of Hassan Fathy would be continued and projected into the future. This will make the ICSA an essential driver for the rehabilitation and valorisation of the Hassan Fathy's heritage, and the village the "brand location" for the new institution;

On these bases, the master Plan develops an approach to the safeguarding of New Gournas that would include the following interrelated actions and concepts:

- The rehabilitation of the residential blocks and the improvement of the housing conditions. These are heavily affected by the densification of the original fabric caused by the subdivision of plots, the vertical and horizontal additions, the diffused alterations to the structures and the domestic spaces, and finally, particularly in recent years, the reconstruction of several houses with out-of-scale concrete buildings;
- The revitalisation of the village, with the strengthening of the community core and the upgrading of the public spaces and facilities. This includes the restoration and the adaptive reuse of the Hassan Fathy's buildings (particularly the Khan, the theatre and some houses) and the upgrading of the market area with the restoration and valorisation of the remaining original structures and spaces;
- The physical and socio-economic development of the village. On the one hand, a relevant extension of the existing residential pattern is required to resettle about half of the resident families, which would be concerned by the different types of intervention for housing rehabilitation. On the other hand, the location of the village and its urban context suggest, beyond the creation of the ICSA, the reorganisation and reinforcement of the existing agricultural and administrative facilities, the creation of new handicraft activities, and the possible creation of accommodation facilities closely linked to the presence of the ICSA (such a small hotel and guest houses) and to the possible development of ecological tourism (to be very carefully evaluated).

### **1.2. The proposed planning strategy**

The Master Plan intends to outline the spatial framework for the coordinated implementation of these different actions, which should be carried out through specific and detailed conservation and development projects, under the supervision and the technical coordination of the ICSA. The proposed land use and conservation measures are based on some preliminary considerations concerning the urban context, particularly:

- The privileged location on the main road connecting the ferry to Luxor to the East (1,7 km.) and the main attraction of the Kings valley to the West.
- The merging with the undergoing urban sprawl, which developed along the road and the canal running N-S.

These two aspects explain the strong pressure toward transformation and the risk of a definitive loss of the recognised heritage values. To this purpose, the following objectives are set:

- To enhance the identity of the village giving emphasis to the HF architectural heritage, enhancing the urban landscape and open spaces (particularly the entrances to the village), re-establishing the original skyline and the visual relationship with the mountains;
- To eliminate (when possible) and mitigate the impact of the recent development along the main road through interventions of “remodelling”, “harmonisation” and demolition;
- Benefiting from the available opportunities such as the new development plans taking place in Luxor Governorate, the increased interest of local and international institutions in safeguarding Hassan Fathy heritage, and the anticipated increase of the level of visitors’ activities;
- Ensuring the sustainability of the safeguarding approach through the development of a comprehensive institutional and planning framework.

The implementation of these strategies will require the consolidation of the existing village, harnessing uncontrolled development in the Peripheral Area, and the introduction of controlled growth and development opportunities through the continuation of the village layout to meet the increasing housing demand and provide land for new facilities and services such as the ICSA.

To this effect, the proposed Master Plan aims at providing the framework to develop the detailed action plans and intervention projects that are required to ensure the effective implementation of the safeguarding and regeneration strategy. It is important to stress that the Master Plan intends to reflect the peculiar “multipurpose” character of the Project. If the Hassan Fathy’s heritage should obviously become the “anchor” for the rehabilitation, revitalisation and development of the village, the safeguarding should be implemented through a series of combined actions that would include:

- The conservation and adaptive reuse of the Hassan Fathy’s buildings (the theatre, the khan, the “HF houses” with higher degree of authenticity);
- The rehabilitation of the major public spaces designed by Hassan Fathy at the entrance of the village, i.e. the market area and the main square, as well as the urban front along the main road;
- The preservation and continuation of the Village layout adopting the planning and urban design criteria of the original Hassan Fathy’s project not yet implemented, to meet the housing demand and ensure the new development opportunities;
- The provision of land for the proposed ICSA and other future activities (different options, see also the HF projects of the ‘70s) within the same framework outlined above.

The safeguarding strategy should be developed through the following steps and actions described in the following sections:

- The application of Protection measures based on the existing legislation, particularly the Law n.119-2008;

- The definition of Conservation and Land Use measures with related regulations and guidelines;
- The identification of urgent and long term interventions.

### **1.3. Protection measures**

Protection measures should be urgently established and enforced based on law 119-2008. According to the suggestions of the 1st Scientific Committee, these would consist in the following:

a) The definition of an “Area of peculiar value” (art.33), corresponding to the “core settlement” as defined above. This would include:

- The “conservation area”, i.e. the part of the settlement reflecting the Hassan Fathy’s plan and comprising the buildings he designed and built, set as “area of maximum protection”;
- The “rest of the settlement core”, i.e. the area covered by the original plan of Hassan Fathy, but partially developed in the following years with inconsistent and scattered interventions mainly for public purposes.

b) The definition of a “Buffer Zone”:

- This would consist in the “peripheral area”, as defined above .

c) The “registration” of the Hassan Fathy’s building, being identified by the Physical Survey, to be submitted to different degrees of protection according to their degree of integrity. This would include:

- The public buildings;
- The houses with higher degree of integrity;
- The houses showing some original element.

The definition and the approval of these measures should be considered as a priority to be undertaken immediately.

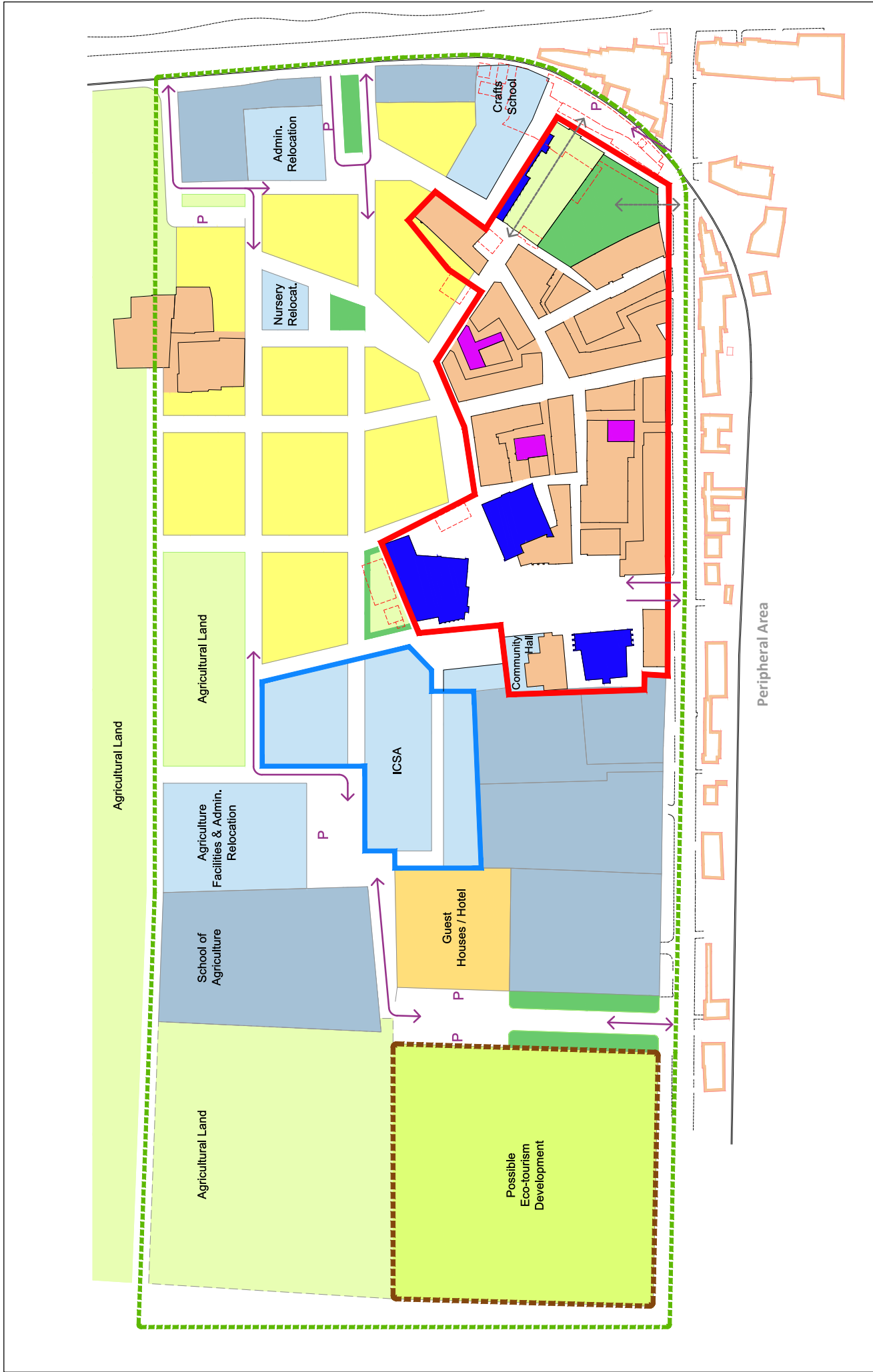
### **1.4 Conservation and Land Use measures**

A Conservation and Land Use zoning is proposed for the “core area” corresponding to the whole area covered by the original project of Hassan Fathy, with related planning and building regulations and guidelines, which identifies the areas and the buildings where the following interrelated actions will be implemented:

- The preservation and rehabilitation of the “conservation area”, corresponding to the part of the settlement that was implemented according to the Hassan Fathy’s plan, where his buildings are concentrated;
- The regeneration and development of the “Rest of the core area”, with the reorganisation of the existing public facilities and agricultural activities, the creation of the ICOSA, housing development to meet the resident’s needs, and a possible eco-tourism settlements.

In particular, in the Conservation Area, the proposed measures and interventions are aimed to the following objectives:

- The preservation and recovery of the original Hassan Fathy’s village layout;
- The restoration and adaptive reuse of Hassan Fathy’s public buildings and houses;
- The overall housing rehabilitation;
- Overall improvement of urban infrastructure and public spaces.



PROJECT: Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's New Gourna Village  
 PREPARED BY: Darwish Pina  
 DATE: 7 MARCH 2011  
 DRAWN BY: Nour El-Din / Mohamed Gabr  
 SCALE: 1:1000  
 SHEET: 01

**LEGEND:**  
 - Boundary of the Conservation Area (Red line)  
 - Boundary of the Core Settlement / Protected Area (Green dashed line)  
 - Hassan Fathy public buildings to be restored and reused (Blue)  
 - Hassan Fathy residential buildings to be restored and reused (Yellow)

- Residential blocks to be rehabilitated reducing housing density (Orange)  
 - Housing development for residents' resettlement (Light Blue)  
 - Existing public facilities and services to be upgraded (Light Green)  
 - New public facilities and services / relocation (Dark Blue)

- Guest houses, cultural and ecological tourism (Light Orange)  
 - Green areas and public gardens (Light Green)  
 - Trees / plantations (Dark Green)  
 - Structures to be removed (Red dashed outline)  
 - New pedestrian connections (Purple arrow)

PROJECT: Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's New Gourna Village  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Planning  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Construction  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Culture  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Education  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Health  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Social Work  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Transport  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Water Resources  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Electricity  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Environment  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Tourism  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Agriculture  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Industry  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Trade  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Labor  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Justice  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Defense  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Interior  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Information  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Communications  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Science  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Technology  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Energy  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Environment  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Tourism  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Agriculture  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Industry  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Trade  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Labor  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Justice  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Defense  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Interior  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Information  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Communications  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Science  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Technology  
 INSTITUTION: Ministry of Energy





3D Model of existing situation



3D Model of proposed Masterplan



3D Model of proposed Masterplan

In the Rest of the Core Area, the proposed measures and interventions aim at the following objectives:

- The maintenance and improvement of the existing public services and facilities; administrative activities and technical plants;
- The reorganisation of the agricultural facilities and activities;
- The creation of ICOSA;
- New housing development to meet the village resident's needs;
- The possible development of eco-tourism activities;

To these purposes, different types of interventions are proposed for each building, based on the physical survey:

a) Actions to preserve:

- Preventive maintenance and repair of elements (i.e. the recent public buildings along the main road: schools, town hall, etc.);
- Restoration (the mosque, the khan, the theatre, the few houses with higher degree of authenticity);
- Adaptive reuse (some of the restored public buildings can be reused based on the Master Plan's proposed functions);
- Rehabilitation (all houses with some degree of authenticity);
- Reconstruction based on the reinterpretation of the original Hassan Fathy's project.

b) Actions to transform:

- Remodelling (all rebuilt houses up to the second floor);
- Partial demolition (the vertical additions above the second floor, the horizontal additions);
- Total demolition;
- New development (the ICOSA and the new housing developments).

### **1.5. The Conservation Area**

In the Conservation Area, the maximum level of protection should be ensured, as an "area of peculiar value" to be established according to law n. 119-2008 (see section 4.3). This is meant to preserve, recover and valorise all of the conceptual and physical elements that constitute the living heritage of Hassan Fathy in New Gournia, i.e. the planning concepts, including the sense of community that shaped the urban layout, the architectural work, the public spaces and their relationship with the domestic space.

The proposed measures and interventions mainly concern the following aspects:

#### **Preservation and rehabilitation of the original village fabric and layout**

An overall rehabilitation of the village is proposed that aims at eliminating or reducing the impact of the main alterations in the spatial layout and visual relationships. This implies:

- The demolition of all the buildings and horizontal additions that seriously affect the shape and spatial significance of the street layout and the main public spaces. The proposed interventions aim at recovering the original street alignments;
- The height reduction of the recent buildings exceeding the height of Hassan Fathy's buildings. Interventions of partial demolition or total demolition and reconstruction are required to bring back the building front's height to the original one. Moreover intervention of remodelling of the facades are required in order to eliminate balconies and other protruding or cantilevered elements;



Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
New Gourna Village

04/2011

Public Buildings and Services

- The Village Mosque
- The Shop
- The Theater
- Maternity Clinic
- Tourist Police Station
- Community Hall
- Secondary School
- Gourna City Council
- Education Hub and Preparatory School
- Police Station and Carpark
- Agriculture Secondary School
- Water Plant
- Fire Station
- Electricity Station
- Ambulance Station
- Traffic Police Station
- Cable Weaving Station (Agriculture School)
- Agriculture Department
- Upper Egypt Flour Mills Storage
- Horsery and Garage (Gourna City Council)

- Restoration
- Full Preservation
- Partial Demolition and reconstruction
- Total Demolition (no construction)
- Total Demolition & Reconstruction
- Urgent Lab Development
- Precincting
- None

- ⋯ Light shadows
- Hole
- ⊞ Building Substituted
- Railway

Recommended Actions Map

CLIENT: UNESCO  
 DATE: 07/2011  
 PROJECT: Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's New Gourna Village  
 DRAWN BY: [Logo]  
 SCALE: 1:500  
 SHEET: 11



PROJECT:  
**Safeguarding of Hassan Fathy's  
 New Gourni Village**

- LEGEND:
- Restoration of Hassan Fathy well-preserved buildings  
(To be enlisted as Buildings with Architectural Value as per Law 144 / 2006)
  - Rehabilitation / remodeling
  - Building height reduction down to 2 floors
  - Public spaces regeneration
  - Total demolition (no construction)
  - New public facilities and services
  - Infill interventions (typological reconstruction)
  - New housing developments (residents' resettlement)
  - I.C.S.A.
- ④ Priority of urgent interventions (1st to 4th priority)

- Types of Intervention**
- Green areas with plantation
  - New street alignments
  - Main access

PREPARED BY: Danielle Pini	DATE: 7 MARCH 2011
DRAWN BY: Nevine George   Mahmoud Oub	SCALE: SITE

5 10 25 50

- The rehabilitation of the main square, to be implemented not only with the restoration and adaptive reuse of the existing public buildings (see below), but also with the demolition of the recent buildings surrounding the mosque, and the reshaping of the central space. All of the added fencing walls and traffic islands should be eliminated in order to recover as much as possible the integrity of the square in its extent. Appropriate landscaping and paving has to be provided in order to accommodate both pedestrian and vehicular mobility and parking, ensuring the spatial continuity of the square;
- The rehabilitation and regeneration of the market area, to recreate a pedestrian entrance to the village from its south-eastern edge. The area should be remodelled and landscaped to recover its original extent as a public space, partially planted with trees and partially paved as a square, to accommodate different uses – a public garden, a temporary market place, a space for special events, festivals and similar uses.

### **Restoration and adaptive reuse of Hassan Fathy’s public buildings and houses.**

The restoration is proposed of the public buildings and houses designed and built by Hassan Fathy and preserved at a high degree of integrity. The interventions have to be carried out according to the established international standards, based on the original drawings and project specifications, and should aim at preserving the existing uses, when compatible, and to adaptive reuse in the case of dismissed or unused buildings.

In particular, it is proposed to reuse for new functions the following buildings, to valorise or reinstate the original functions that were intended to make the village an integrated “community”:

- The Khan, to possibly recover the functions of the handicraft exhibition hall demolished in the 80’s;
- The Market vaults, to be kept as public covered open space for different uses;
- The house of Hassan Fathy, to exhibit documents and materials concerning the projects of the Master for New Gournah.

### **Housing rehabilitation**

The rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing building stock in the Conservation area, to be implemented through different types of intervention, ranging from restoration to demolition, in order to reduce the housing density and recover as much as possible the original texture. This requires:

- Emergency interventions on seriously deteriorated and abandoned buildings;
- Widespread rehabilitation interventions;
- Interventions of demolition and reconstruction or remodelling on out-of-scale and offensive buildings.

These interventions would be possibly implemented through integrated and localised projects combining rehabilitation, reuse and infill on vacant plots.

### **1.6. The “rest of the Core Area”**

The “rest of the Core Area”, is to be established as an “area of peculiar value” according to the law 119 - 2008 (see section 4.4) to be protected from uncontrolled development, in order to implement actions related to rehabilitation and revitalisation of the Conservation Area, continuing and eventually completing the village with new structures and functions, reviving the spirit of Hassan Fathy planning concept. In this framework the following measures and interventions are proposed:

## **Spatial layout**

All of the interventions proposed for the “rest of the Core Area” are set in a planning framework that aims at continuing the spatial layout of the “conservation area”, respecting the original project planning and urban design principles. The intention is not to replicate the Hassan Fathy’s plan – this would be impossible without too expensive and useless demolitions – but to explore its high potential for creating an integrated community.

To this effect the Master Plan has outlined a grid of blocks and street, which is reminiscent of the original one, but incorporates the existing settlements and is intended to integrate different non residential functions and housing development, focussing on the main square and other “focal points” to be created.

## **Reorganisation and rehabilitation of the existing services and public facilities**

The existing functions have to be maintained and reinforced in order to keep the role of New Gournia as a service provider for a larger urban area. To this effect, the following measures and intervention are proposed in the rest of the Core Area:

- To complete the main square surrounding the mosque, with a series of public buildings that would reinforce its function of “central place” for the whole village. This would namely include, on the north-western side, the reconstruction of the “community hall” reinterpreting the planning concept of the demolished building of Hassan Fathy, and the construction of a new built front to accommodate the most “public” functions (lecture hall, exhibition rooms, etc.) of the future ICSA (see below);
- To maintain the existing public services, administrative buildings and technical plants, along the main road and on the eastern side, providing in some case the possibility of an expansion on an adjacent area. These structures require overall interventions of harmonisation to the urban context, which may consist in the façade remodelling, the appropriate landscaping of the surroundings;
- The relocation of the cattle breeding station, and other administrative offices and scattered buildings belonging to the department of Agriculture next to the existing School of Agriculture on the north-western edge of the area, in close relationship with the rural land. This would create the opportunity to continue the fabric of the “Conservation Area” according to the planning concepts of the original Hassan Fathy’s project;
- The construction of a new handicraft training centre (or a similar function) at the south-eastern edge of the Core Area, in the same location of the demolished school, at the entrance of the village.

## **The creation of the ICSA**

The construction of the future premises of the ICSA is proposed in the framework of the system of blocks and streets of the future development. The Centre would be strongly integrated in the fabric of the village, set in a central position to complete the square next to the mosque, and would extend to the west next to existing schools and administrative buildings.

It would occupy different blocks reflecting the articulation of the different activities proposed by the preliminary documents (see Annex 3) – training and dissemination, research and laboratories, accommodation for national and international staff and trainees. A detailed feasibility study is needed to develop a consistent planning concept.

## **New Housing development**

The possibility of a new housing development is provided to meet the residents' needs of new houses that may result from the rehabilitation of the "conservation area". This would cover the northern and eastern parts of the village, extending the existing pattern and respecting wherever is possible the Hassan Fathy's original layout, particularly the entrances to the site and the street pattern, the "focal" role of the mosque and the community centre, the morphology of the housing blocks.

If a definite estimate of the housing needs is not possible at the moment due to the lack of comprehensive information, it is considered that the proposed interventions of demolition, partial reconstruction and rehabilitation combined to the reduction of the present housing densities, would require in the long term the resettlement of about 120 households.

New housing development should be consistent with the Conservation Area planning principles, and would consist of two storeys houses, grouped in "open" blocks with semi-public courtyards and lanes, with plots of an average size of about 100 meters and dwellings of 150 square meters with an inner courtyard. The morphology of the blocks and the building typologies should be defined by specific development plans and action projects, to be carried out on the bases of a comprehensive Housing Study (see chapter 5).

## **Eco - Tourism development**

According to the conclusions of the 1st Scientific Committee meeting, tourism would not be the main focus of the Safeguarding Project. It is considered that the possible development of tourist activities should achieve the following:

- Maximizing the community benefit of the expected visitors' activities and mitigating their negative impact such as uncontrolled gentrification;
- Emphasizing the 'Value' of Hassan Fathy heritage as well as sustainable planning and architecture in general;
- Improving the site's overall physical conditions and accessibility to cope with the expected level of tourism development;
- Improving existing services and introducing new facilities to provide an acceptable level of service in order to accommodate the visitors' needs (local coffee shops, public toilets, setting areas, etc.);
- Making information on the site, its values and its historic development available for the visitors through training of guides, brochure production and instruction of onsite interpretative signage.

In this framework, the Master Plan identifies the land for a possible eco-tourism development on the western edge, similar to Hassan Fathy's Gurna Touristic Project of 1970, but in a different location. The settlement should be next to the residential area, but not interfere too heavily with the village life and its community spaces. In this regard, the proximity to rural areas and agricultural activities could be considered as an asset to valorise.

## **2. The implementation of the Master Plan**

The Master Plan identifies the actions to be undertaken in the framework of the Safeguarding Project, i.e.:

- The emergency and priority actions that are necessary to stop the physical decay of the village, prevent any further loss of the Hassan Fathy's heritage and start the rehabilitation of the village;
- The long term conservation actions to ensure a sustainable safeguarding process combining housing rehabilitation, heritage valorisation and socio-economic development.

The implementation of the Master Plan is to be considered as a fundamental condition for the development of the Safeguarding Project. To this purpose, the following planning and management activities are required to set a consistent legal and institutional framework for the different interventions. These activities include:

1. The approval of the Master Plan including the Protection Measures, the Conservation and Land Use zoning and the related planning, urban design and building regulations and guidelines;
2. Putting in place institutional instruments and efficient urban management mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the proposed emergency, priority and long-term actions;
3. Capacity building of local municipal administration on the management and implementation of the Master Plan and its related interventions

## **2.1. Emergency and priority actions**

### **Emergency actions**

The following emergency and priority actions are proposed to stop the ongoing process of decay and prevent further losses of Hassan Fathy's heritage, undertake the process of rehabilitation and valorisation of Hassan Fathy's New Gournas:

1. Taking the legal measures to declare New Gournas as a conservation area with special architectural character (the Core Settlement), with the definition of the boundaries of the Conservation Area, the Core Settlement and its immediate buffer zone (the Peripheral Area);
2. Taking the legal measures to issue an immediate building moratorium to stop the ongoing construction, additions and building modification activities;
3. Undertaking urgent interventions for emergency shoring to structurally consolidate major buildings of the village (the Khan, the Theatre, Hassan Fathy's houses, the Suq and others indicated in the map).

### **Priority actions**

In parallel with the emergency actions the following priority studies and interventions have to be undertaken in order to start a process of rehabilitation and valorisation and create the conditions for long term conservation activities:

1. Carrying out an official survey to identify the existing occupants and conduct in-depth investigation of housing tenure and land/buildings ownership status;
2. Establishing an appropriate legal framework (including land and building tenure) for housing rehabilitation and development interventions.
3. Undertaking the rehabilitation of unoccupied HF buildings to be used for temporary resettlement of households interested by rehabilitation/remodelling or reconstruction interventions.



4. Undertaking the partial demolition and remodelling of the most offensive and intrusive buildings (4 storeys, 3-4 storeys buildings on the main square and along the main streets).

## **2.2. Long term conservation activities**

### **Surveys and documentation**

Completion of Surveys and Documentation research:

- Socio-economic survey
- Documents on HF activity and the story of New Gournia village

### **Development planning and action projects**

Development of different intervention plans, programs and activities which will cover the following aspects:

- The completion of the Master Plan, its related technical documents and proposing effective urban management mechanisms;
- The overall housing rehabilitation of the village, remodelling of modern structures and the introduction of new housing development either through 'infill' or the development of the new village residential extensions;
- The restoration and adaptive reuse of remaining Hassan Fathy public buildings; remodelling of newly developed public buildings and introduction of new services and facilities required by different stakeholders such as the ICOSA;
- The overall upgrading of public open space and infrastructure networks and proposal of streetscape, landscape and urban design guidelines;
- The development of socioeconomic initiatives and responsible tourism concepts to support local development and create new jobs in the fields of conservation and tourism services;
- Implementation of pilot projects focusing on the integration of housing, public buildings, open space, infrastructure, socioeconomic and responsible tourism interventions;
- Putting in place, based on the outcomes of the different interventions, efficient institutional instruments and management mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of these interventions.

### **Housing policy development**

Housing interventions require the development of a comprehensive process rather than short-term projects. The following is a summary of the main elements of this process and its required actions:

- 1) Development of new housing models to better understand the preferences and spatial needs of the inhabitants and to reflect on existing structural problems, techniques of rehabilitation and new construction options.

The housing study will entail the following actions:

- Document some of the remaining Hassan Fathy's and newly transformed or reconstructed houses, based on a selection criteria;

- Trace residents' modifications and spatial preferences in Hassan Fathy's buildings and the newly reconstructed houses;
- Analyze and categorize existing housing prototypes and typologies;
- Identify existing structural problems, building materials and construction methods,
- Carry out needs assessment and participatory design sessions with the residents for rehabilitation of existing houses and development of new housing models;
- Propose rehabilitation techniques for existing houses and develop sustainable building technologies for construction of new housing.

The outcome of this housing study will be two manuals (addressing rehabilitation of existing housing and the construction of new housing models) focusing on: i) housing design criteria, and ii) rehabilitation and new sustainable building materials and techniques.

2) Based on the inhabitants' preferences and the proposed Master Plan, the study should also develop scenarios to address tenure related issues in the existing Hassan Fathy housing units which might include one or a combination of the following options:

- Housing rehabilitation and maintaining of the existing inhabitants;
- Evacuation, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the existing housing units;

3) Evaluation of the housing needs resulting from the rehabilitation and upgrading actions (i.e. the elimination of the plots subdivisions, the partial demolitions and remodelling, etc.) which will involve:

- Identification of emergency and priority interventions and possible rehabilitation/reuse/infill pilot projects;
- Identification of localized infill and reuse projects;
- Preparation of detailed plans for new housing developments, continuing the original Hassan Fathy layout).

4) Implementation of different housing interventions in participation with the local inhabitants, which will involve the following activities:

- Setup institutional mechanisms for housing finance and resolving housing tenure and ownership pending issues;
- Development of affordable rehabilitation techniques and sustainable building technologies for housing models and introduction of energy saving measure;
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing building stock (different types of interventions);
- Construction of new housing models in the proposed extensions of the village.

### **Overall improvement of urban infrastructure and public spaces**

The upgrading of the public open space and infrastructure will involve the following activities:

- Assessment of the existing infrastructure conditions;
- Participatory appraisal of the residents' needs in terms of required public open space improvements;
- Production of a design and construction manual focusing on the proposed streetscape feature and elements as well as sustainable vegetation and landscape elements;
- Production of a detailed study on the proposed infrastructure interventions and their implications on the existing buildings;
- Implementation of infrastructure improvements and public open space upgrading pilot projects, with a special focus on the village main square and the Market area.



## Mr Benno Albrecht

Architect, Professor of Sustainable architecture at Venice University's Institute of Architecture

Benno Albrecht is an architect and professor of Architectural and Urban Design at Venice IUAV University, Faculty of Architecture. He devotes himself to researches on sustainable urban design and he has carried out projects in architectural and urban sustainable development. He is director of the Graduate Degree of Architecture and Sustainability, he manages many research programs and he is in the Board of the PHD in Architectural Composition at University IUAV. He has held seminars, conferences and workshops in Italy and abroad like in Europe, Vietnam, Indonesia, Mali, Argentina and Peru.

He wrote texts and publications about architecture and territory, such as: " I confini del paesaggio umano ", ed. Laterza (Bari, 1994), with L. Benevolo. Translated into German: "Grenzen, Topographie, Geschichte, Architektur", ed. Campus (Frankfurt, New York, 1995). "La città delle piazze, la sistemazione complessiva di Roma dal 1676 al 1748" in "Metamorfosi delle città", AA.VV., Scheiwiller (Milan, 1995). "Le origini dell'architettura", ed. Laterza (Bari, 2002), with L. Benevolo. Translated in Portuguese: " as origens da arquitectura ", edições 70 (Lisbon, 2004), " Il disegno urbano sostenibile " in Urbanism's Manual, ed. Mancosu, Rome, 2007.

Benno Albrecht's architectural and urban design projects are illustrated and mentioned in many reviews, international magazines and books. He has received Architecture Prizes, won international competitions and he has held exhibitions in Italy and abroad.



## Mr Gamal Amer

Architect, urban planner

An Architecture graduate of Cairo University (1984), Gamal Amer specializes in environmental architecture, construction with barring walls and local materials, and building with domes & vaults.

Gamal worked with Hassan Fathy from 1984 to 1989, before starting to build and design private houses in 1990. He also established his own office in the same year, building many private and governmental projects. Those projects include the Ceramic Centre in Fustat (nominated for Agha Khan award for Architecture), the Supreme Council of Antiquities building in Fustat and the Supreme Council of Antiquities building in Aswan.

Mr. Amer designed and constructed many touristic projects on the Red Sea, including Ras Sedr, Hurgada, Sherm El-Sheikh and Al-Quseir. He also designed and constructed a complete village in Luxor (Al-Toud) for low-income housing, using local materials, domes and vaults. He is currently continuing his work as an architect and town planner in Egypt.

Director of Research and Education for the  
World Monuments Fund

**Ms Erica Avrami**



Erica Avrami is the Director of Research and Education for the World Monuments Fund. She is also a doctoral candidate in Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, where her research focuses on the intersection of sustainability planning and heritage conservation.

Ms. Avrami formerly served as a Project Specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute, where she managed a range of education, research, and field initiatives related to conservation of the built environment. Her areas of focus included the role of values in heritage conservation, preservation planning and site management, and earthen architecture.

In collaboration with CRAterre-ENSAG and ICCROM, she co-developed and co-directed Project Terra. Ms. Avrami served as Secretary of US/ICOMOS from 2004 to 2010 and is an expert member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees on Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH) and Training (ICOMOS CIF).

She has taught in the historic preservation programs at the University of Pennsylvania, Pratt Institute, and Columbia University, and currently serves on the editorial advisory board of the new journal, Change Over Time.

**Mr Baba Alpha Ismaïl Cissé**

Architect, Urban planner



Born in Timbuktu on December 27th 1943, Baba Alpha Ismaïl Cissé acquires his education in Mali before pursuing his studies of architecture in Switzerland. He works in Paris for five years in an architectural office while studying urban planning at the University of Paris 8 (Vincennes). Before leaving France, Cissé completes his education with a management diploma at the university René Descartes.

Cissé returns to Switzerland to occupy the position of Vice- Secretary of the Association for the Natural Development of African Urban Planning and Architecture (ADAUA). His collaboration with ADAUA leads him to many countries in West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, Mali, High Volta) to promote the use of the local materials.

In 1978, Cissé moves to Mali to create the Order of the Architects with some colleagues. He presides the Order several times. In addition to his work as a architect and urban planner, he participates in several conferences, seminars, symposia and exhibitions:

- Dakar (Senegal) 1982: To read the city African (Aga Khan Trust for Culture)
- Istanbul (Turkey) 1983: Seminary for the Aga Khan Award for architecture (Aga Khan Trust for Culture)
- Dakar (Senegal) 1984: 9th Seminary on the habitat – Urbanization in Africa: role of the secondary cities in the economic and social development (USAID)
- Bamako (Mali) 1984: Safeguarding of the traditional architecture (Ministry of the Culture)
- Reims (France) 2001: International symposium: The Urban Planners and the Heritage, (University of REIMS, Ardenne)
- Bamako (Mali) 2001: Mutations of the contemporary city (Professor Jean ATTALI)
- Washington 2002: Folklive Festival: From Timbuktu to Washington

Cissé Baba is member of several orders and associations: Order of the Architects of Mali, Order of the Urban Planners of Mali, ICOMOS Mali, Association for the Safeguard of Timbuktu (ASSAUT)



### Ms Louise Cox

Architect, President of the  
International Union of Architect (IUA)

Louise Cox is President of the International Union of Architects (UIA). She was previously UIA First Vice President and UIA Vice President Region IV, Asia and Oceania and coordinator of the UIA Regional Heritage Work Programmes. Louise is Co President of the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education, a member of the UIA Education Commission, a member of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape working group.

She represents UIA on the UN-HABITAT World Urban Campaign steering committee and she chairs the Habitat Professionals Forum. She has had wide experience in heritage, conservation, institutional and health planning, and contract administration of major health and institutional projects. Louise served as President of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) from 1988 to 1990 and as President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects from 1994 to 1995 and she chaired the RAIA National Heritage Committee from 2004 to 2008. Louise is Patron of Emergency Architects Australia.



### Ms Leïla el-Wakil

Art Historian, Professor at the University of Geneva,  
Chairperson of Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy

Egyptian and Swiss, Dr Leïla el-Wakil (PhD), art historian and architect, professor at the Faculté des Lettres, Université de Genève, is particularly interested in history of architecture, applied arts and monumental heritage conservation, her main fields of researches and publications. (*Bâtir la campagne: Genève 1800-1860*, Genève, Georg, 2 vol., 1988-1989, 640 p., *Jean-Daniel Blavignac 1817-1876*, Carouge, 1990, *Léman 1900. Morceaux choisis d'architecture. Poésie monumentale*, Georg, Genève, 1994, 221 p., *Genève-Lyon-Paris, relations artistiques, réseaux, voyages, influences*, L el-Wakil, Pierre Vaisse dir., Genève, Georg, 2004, *Patrimoine genevois : Etat des lieux*, Gollion, InFolio, 2007, 128 p.)

She is involved in the Master in advanced studies « Conservation du Patrimoine et Muséologie des Beaux Arts » (Projet du Triangle azur plus) and teaches first and final years courses in the Department of Art History at the Faculté des Lettres, Université de Genève.

She has been member of the *Commission des Monuments et des Sites* attached to the DCTI and of *Patrimoine Suisse* (Société d'Art public). She participated in the editing of the *Monuments d'Art et d'Histoire du Canton de Genève* and was researcher of the FNRS (*Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique*).

Since 1998 Dr el-Wakil has set up and organized a program of continuing education, « Patrimoine et Tourisme », in partnership with Genève-Tourisme, which has recently extended to the whole region of the *Suisse romande* (French-speaking region) and beneficiates from numerous collaborations.

Dr el-Wakil has been involved long-time in the history of western architecture, particularly in Geneva and Switzerland. She is now working, since a few years, on the history of Middle Eastern architecture and is involved in the COST European project ISCH Action IS0904 *European Architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)*.

She completed an important publication on the Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy, *Hassan Fathy dans son temps*, result of many years of research at AUC Rare Books and Special Collections Library, Hassan Fathy archives) to be published in 2011 (Parenthèses, Marseille) and created in 2008 the international association Save the Heritage of Hassan Fathy.



### Mr Hubert Guillaud

Architect, Professor at the School of Architecture of Grenoble and Founder of CRATERre, ENSAG

Hubert Guillaud completed his degree in the humanities in 1970 and then joined the School of Architecture of Marseille. He received his diploma in architecture with distinction in 1981 with a presentation on History and actuality of earthen construction. In the same year, he joined CRATERre, International Centre of Earthen Construction, in the School of Architecture of Grenoble where he is the scientific director since the year 2000. Since 2009, he is the scientific director of the research unit « Architecture, environment and building culture » heading both CRATERre-ENSAG and Building cultures research laboratories of the school. He is member of the Board of Directors of ISCEAH (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage). As HDR (research director) he conducts the development of PhD theses. Titular professor in sciences and techniques for architecture, he teaches in the first year of the Licence cycle (History of architecture), in the second year of the Master cycle where he is responsible of a research seminar, and in the DSA-Terre post master course (history of earthen architecture, earthen construction techniques, conservation of earthen architectural heritage).

He is also chairman of the UNESCO Chair « Earthen architecture, sustainable development and building cultures » which has been part of the school since 1998 (international network of 27 academic entities). From the year 1986, he has been deeply involved in the developments of Projects GAIA and TERRA (CRATERre / ICCROM / Getty Conservation Institute) and has contributed to the developments of the international « PAT courses » (preservation of earthen architecture) which have been organized at Grenoble in 1989, 90, 92 and 94, and then of the two panamerican courses held at Chan Chan, Peru, in 1996 and 1997. As expert of UNESCO World Heritage Centre he has been involved in the conservation of the historical site of Bahla (Sultanate of Oman), and of the archaeological site of Chogha Zanbil (Iran) where he organized national and regional courses with ICHTO (Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization). He collaborates on other project carried out by CRATERre-ENSAG in this field (African and Asian contexts) and also worked in various projects for the development of human settlements in developing countries valorizing the use of local materials and building cultures, and the connection between heritage and sustainable local development (in Nigeria and Cuba). As researcher he is the author of numerous scientific publications, including the « Traité de construction en terre » written with Hugo Houben (1989).



### Mr Ahmad Hamid

Architect, Professor at the American University of Cairo (AUC), and the Modern Sciences & Arts Academy (MSA)

Following studies at Cairo University's Faculty of Architectural Engineering, Ahmad Hamid began his professional career with Hassan Fathy, a pioneer architect in the international community. In 1984 he founded Ahmad Hamid Architects, a Cairo-based private interdisciplinary design office providing architectural services for residential and commercial projects, and public spaces, as well as product and furniture design. Furthering his own personal research into the indigenous art and architectural traditions of the Muslim World he then went on to pursue post-graduate studies in architectural history at the American University in Cairo, graduating with a Master's Degree in Islamic Art and Architecture. Hamid worked with Skidmore Owings and Merrill on the "World Trade Center Cairo," and several international consultants designing "Sadat City," and has also consulted in Germany, England, Switzerland, Malaysia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Abu Dhabi. He has dealt with urban and rural projects alike, focusing on the development of context-appropriate, economically-sustainable solutions. He has designed several lines of contemporary furniture, objects, textiles and accessories, and uses photography to document his sources of inspiration, periodically exhibiting his photographs and architectural and design drawings, most recently, "The Architecture Shop: Character Studies; Works of Ahmad Hamid," (Cairo. 2008). He is the author of "Hassan Fathy. Continuity in Islamic art & architecture: The Birth of a New Modern" (2010).

Ahmad Hamid's 30 years of architectural practice have been driven by the inextricable relationship between art and architecture, as well as the conviction that the positive influence of art and design extends beyond function, encapsulating an entire mode de vie. He integrates the masculinity and confidence of modernity with a feminine subtle sensuality, born of Islam's Arts, continually synthesizing the analytical with the beautiful and drawing upon tradition while absorbing contemporary ideas to produce designs that are quintessentially modern. He was awarded a Fulbright Design study grant at Pratt Institute in 2005, and the Frank G Wisner award 2007. The Nadia Niazy Mostafa award in 2010, and the World Architecture award in 2010. He is an international juror for World Architecture Festival, Barcelona 2010. Hamid has maintained an active teaching career alongside his practice, and has lectured at many universities and institutes around the world on selected topics in art, industrial design, architecture, culture, sustainability, and Islam's art & architecture. He seeks to bring out the brilliance in each and every one of his students, educating them through the visual world instilling a critical appreciation of design as well as promoting intelligent, socially-responsible spaces and objects; his work has been featured in some eighty articles, television and radio programs in six languages.



## Mr John Hurd

### President of ICOMOS Scientific Commission for Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH)

Following a B.Sc. in the Geology of Clays, Bristol (1969), John studied a two-year Conservation Science diploma and a following 'objects' conservation higher National diploma at Lincoln. From 1989 -1998, John was a partner at Lincoln Conservation Studio. In 1998 John formed Hurd Conservation International, an International field consultancy with architectural and archaeological projects, planning and training across Asia for several International agencies; he was a senior conservation consultant to UNESCO, division of Cultural Heritage, on the Silk Roads cities of Central Asia.

ICOMOS ISC and Advisory Committee Chairs.

John has a particular interest in the conservation of World Heritage Sites, both Archaeological and architectural, through his work with ICOMOS U.K. and ICOMOS International. He chaired the earth structures committee of ICOMOS U.K. 1994-2001. In 2006 John was re-elected, President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Earthen Architectural Heritage [ISCEAH].

In October 2006 John was elected as President of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee and is an ex-officio member of the ICOMOS International Executive Committee.

#### Lecturing

He is a regular visiting lecturer at several Universities around the world, and was well known for his contribution to the short course in the conservation of earth at the University of York, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies.

#### Fellowships

John is an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the Department of Archaeology, University of York. (Formerly, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies) and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

#### Publications

John Hurd has produced many papers, articles and monographs, both on training, ethics and best practice in objects, earthen architectural and archaeological conservation. He is co-author and editor of *Terra Britannica: an introduction to the earthen architecture of the British Isles*, for ICOMOS U.K. in collaboration with English Heritage. James and James, London 2000. ISBN 1 902916 131 .



## Mr Joseph King

### Architect, Director of Sites Unit at ICCROM

Joseph King has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Maryland, and a Master of City Planning and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. At Penn, his specific interest was the nexus between low-income housing and historic preservation.

Since 2004 he is the Director of the Sites Unit at ICCROM. In this capacity, he oversees ICCROM's programmes and activities related to immovable cultural heritage, including the development of a new course on Built Heritage Conservation and the re-launch of the International Course on the Conservation of Stone. He is also responsible for coordinating ICCROM's work as Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee.

Prior to becoming Director of the Sites Unit, he was Senior Project Manager at ICCROM in charge of the AFRICA 2009 programme, a long-term regional programme for the conservation of immovable cultural heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, and was part of a team that developed and implemented the first Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation (ITUC) course.

From 1987 to 1990 he worked on a UNESCO/UNDP/National Museums of Kenya project in Mombasa, Kenya to develop a conservation plan for the Old Town of that city. Work included gathering and analyzing data on all aspects of the Old Town and preparing the final conservation plan including building by-laws, guidelines for the repair of structures in the conservation area, and proposals for the conservation and adaptive reuse of historical buildings and sites in Mombasa.

From 1999 – 2002 he was the Secretary-General of the ICOMOS International Training Committee (CIF), and was a member of the 2004 selection panel for the World Monuments Fund's World Monuments Watch 100 Most Endangered Sites.



### Mr Luis Monreal

Archeologist  
General Manager, Aga Khan Trust for Culture

Luis Monreal is the General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Geneva (Switzerland). He is a conservation specialist, art historian and archeologist. He has held positions in many institutions: Secretary General of the International Council of Museums ICOM (1974–1985); Director of the Getty Conservation Institute (Los Angeles, 1985–1990); Director General, 'La Caixa' Foundation (Barcelona, 1990–2001); and was a member of various archeological missions in Nubia, Sudan, Egypt and Morocco.

He is the author of several books and numerous articles on art and archeology. He is a board member of the Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation (Spain), a member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Barcelona, Spain), Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France) and Gran Cruz de Isabel la Católica (Spain).



### Ms Adelina Picone

Architect, Professor at the Faculty of  
Architecture, Federico II University of Naples

Born in Italy in 1966, Adelina Picone studied Architecture in Naples graduating in 1992. In 1994 she completed her Master's degree in "Architectural operational planning" at "Oikos University", Reggio Emilia (Italy), and in 1995 a Specialisation in Urban Design at University of Naples "Federico II". In 1995 she co-founded the Naples-based studio "Picone-DeCesaris Architetti", developing projects for companies and Municipalities. The office dedicated great attention to an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable architecture, publishing works in architectural books and winning the European Architecture Award Luigi Cosenza for: Housing in Foiano di Val Fortore, Benevento (Italy). In 2001 she completed a Ph.D in Architectural Composition - University of Palermo, Italy, which formed the basis of her interest in Mediterranean domestic architecture, in particular in Egypt. Since 2002 she has taught Architectural Composition in a "Design Studio", and as a contract Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of University "Federico II", Naples. Her architectural essays on Mediterranean Architecture, have been published in important Italian architectural books and magazines such as: Area, Costruire in Laterizio and Il Giornale dell'architettura. Her main fields of research are: traditional and modern Egyptian Architecture, Urban Design, Rehabilitation of suburban city areas, Archaeological areas valorisation. She has organised and participated in several architectural exhibitions and international workshops with Italian and Egyptian Universities. In 2009 she published "La casa Araba d'Egitto", Jaca Book, Milan, on vernacular and Architect-designed housing, from the point of view of the relationship between climatic aspects and architectural form. The book has been reviewed in architectural magazines and web reviews including Domus, Costruire, Costruire in Laterizio and Architettura di Pietra .

She is project coordinator of Archeourb - a European cooperation project in partnership with Moroccan, Egyptian and Italian Universities and Research Centres on the Valorisation of Archaeological Areas in the three countries.





## Ms Jana Revedin

Architect, Professor of Architecture

Jana Revedin was born in Constance, Germany in 1965 and studied architecture in Buenos Aires, Princeton and at Milan Polytechnic, where she gained her diploma in 1991 and wrote a thesis entitled *The Concept of Open Space in the Social Architecture of the German Avant-Garde*.

From 1991 she taught as Aldo Rossi's assistant at the IUAV Venice, where she qualified as a teacher of architecture and was awarded a PhD for her dissertation: *Monument and Modernity: Elements in the Construction of the Avant-Garde Town*.

In 1996 she founded her own architectural practice in Venice and in Villach, Austria. Her combined Italian and rationalist German background gives her a special eye for sustainable architecture and its twin concerns with people and place. She has published numerous works on the architecture and the public spaces of the Modern Movement with a focus on the Early German Moderns. In 2005 she was appointed curator of the biennial gaudi European Student Competition for Sustainable Architecture.

In 2006 she created the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture as a means of honouring architects from all corners of the globe who are working towards more sustainable social and cultural development. In 2009 she founded the LOCUS Foundation with the aim of stimulating innovation and discussion in the field of sustainability and the city.

Jana Revedin is associate professor and director of the bachelor programme at Umeå University in Sweden.



## Mr James Steele

Architect, Professor at the University of Southern California

James Mcleod Steele, Jr. was born in Philadelphia, PA, on October 6, 1943. He received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Lafayette College in Easton, PA in 1965 followed by both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, in 1969 and 1970, respectively. He attended the Louis I. Kahn Program for his Master's degree, subsequently working briefly for Kahn after graduation on the Congress Hall for the Venice Biennale. He taught at the University of Pennsylvania while also working in other offices in and around Philadelphia, including Vincent Kling, Associates and the Ballinger Company. He received his Pennsylvania Registration in 1980, opening his own office in the same year.

Soon afterward, he accepted an appointment as an Assistant Professor at King Faisal University in Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, remaining there until 1988. During this time he wrote his first book, on Hassan Fathy, published by Academy Editions, London, in 1983. He left Saudi Arabia to accept a short appointment at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, after which he re-located to London, to work as a Senior Editor of Architectural Design magazine and to teach at The Prince of Wales's School of Architecture at Magdelene College in Oxford and the University College, London. He compiled a *Catalogue Raisonné* of the Hassan Fathy Archive for the Aga Khan Award Office in Geneva. He also wrote *A Decade of Architectural Design*, and *Hellenistic Architecture in Asia Minor and Turkey: A Traveler's Historical Guide* at this time.

In 1991, he was offered and accepted a Visiting Lecturer's post at the School of Architecture at University of Southern California, where he still teaches, as a tenured Professor. Research since has included two books for the Aga Khan Award, another on Hassan Fathy, a monograph on Rasem Badran, and *A Critical History of Ecological Architecture* for Thames and Hudson, as well as many works on Los Angeles. He received a Doctor of Philosophy from the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Southern California in 2007.



## Ms Ana Tostões

Architect, Chair of DOCOMOMO

Born in Lisbon where she lives. She is an architect (ESBAL, 1982), architecture historian (UNL, 1994) and chair of DOCOMOMO International at the Mies van der Rohe Foundation in Barcelona. She is professor at IST, Lisbon Technical University, where she is in charge of the architectural history and theory disciplines.

Her research field is the heritage and history of architecture and the city of the twentieth century, in which she develops an operative view, oriented towards the heritage conservation, focusing especially on architectural culture and relations between Iberian, African and American modernity. On these topics she has published books and scientific articles and organised exhibitions: *Portugal: Architektur im 20. Jahrhundert* (Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt, 1997); *Keil do Amaral, o arquitecto e o humanista* (1999); *Arquitectura moderna portuguesa 1920-1970, um património para conhecer e salvaguardar* (Oporto, Lisbon, Évora, Coimbra, 2001-2004); *Arquitectura e cidadania. Atelier Nuno Teotónio Pereira* (2004); *Biblioteca Nacional. Exterior/Interior* (2004); *Gulbenkian Headquarters and Museum, The Architecture of the 60s* (2006); *Lisboa 1758: The Baixa Plan Today* (2008). She's leading a research project on Lusophone African Modern Architectural Heritage.

She has participated in several scientific conferences and given lectures in European, American and African universities. She has formed part of juries and scientific committees and has been invited as an expert to several awards. She is a member of ICOMOS for the modern heritage, formed part of the Advisory Council for IPPAR (Portuguese Institute for Architectural Heritage), was scientific coordinator of the "IAPXX-Survey of 20th Century Architecture in Portugal" (2004-2006), has contributed as an architecture critic to the *Jornal Público*, was vice-president of the Portuguese section of AICA (the International Association of Art Critics) and is currently vice-president of the Border of Architects. In 2006, the President of the Portuguese Republic awarded her the honorary title of Commander of the Infant D. Henrique Order in recognition of her contribution to the dissemination of knowledge about architecture and heritage.



## Ms Gihane Zaki

Director General  
Organization for the Salvage of Nubian Monuments  
Ministry of Culture

Gihane Zaki studied Egyptology in both Egypt and France, receiving her PhD from Lyon in 2000 where she focused on early nomes of Upper Egypt, concentrating her research on the Temple of Philae. She has been teaching since the mid 90's and was recently made full Professor of Egyptology at Helwan University, Cairo.

In addition to her research and professorial responsibilities, Gihane has been actively involved with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture since 2004. For several years she served as the Director General of the International and UNESCO Affairs Department at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, working to facilitate the international community's involved in Egypt's cultural heritage. In April of 2010, she was appointed to lead The Organization for the Salvage of the Monuments of Nubia as Director General, by Ministerial decree.

Gihane has authored many publications on Egyptology, ranging from strictly academic to multi-lingual booklets explaining the historical context of Egypt's built heritage for Egyptian schoolchildren. Animating all her work is her passion for preserving Egypt's heritage and a tireless drive to re-elevate it to its rightful grandeur.