



THE CONCEPT OF LIVING HERITAGE

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Background

- Started by **ICCROM** in 2003 as terminology (Living Heritage Sites program)
- Living dimension to heritage sites
- Socio-cultural aspects as important as the material aspect
- Tool: **community-based approach to heritage**
- A glocal strategy

Further elaborated by **UNESCO** in 2003 (Convention of safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage)

Heritage conservation as management of change

Continuity as key

In respond to the following problems

- X Museumification
- X Divorced monuments from society
- X Over-tourism



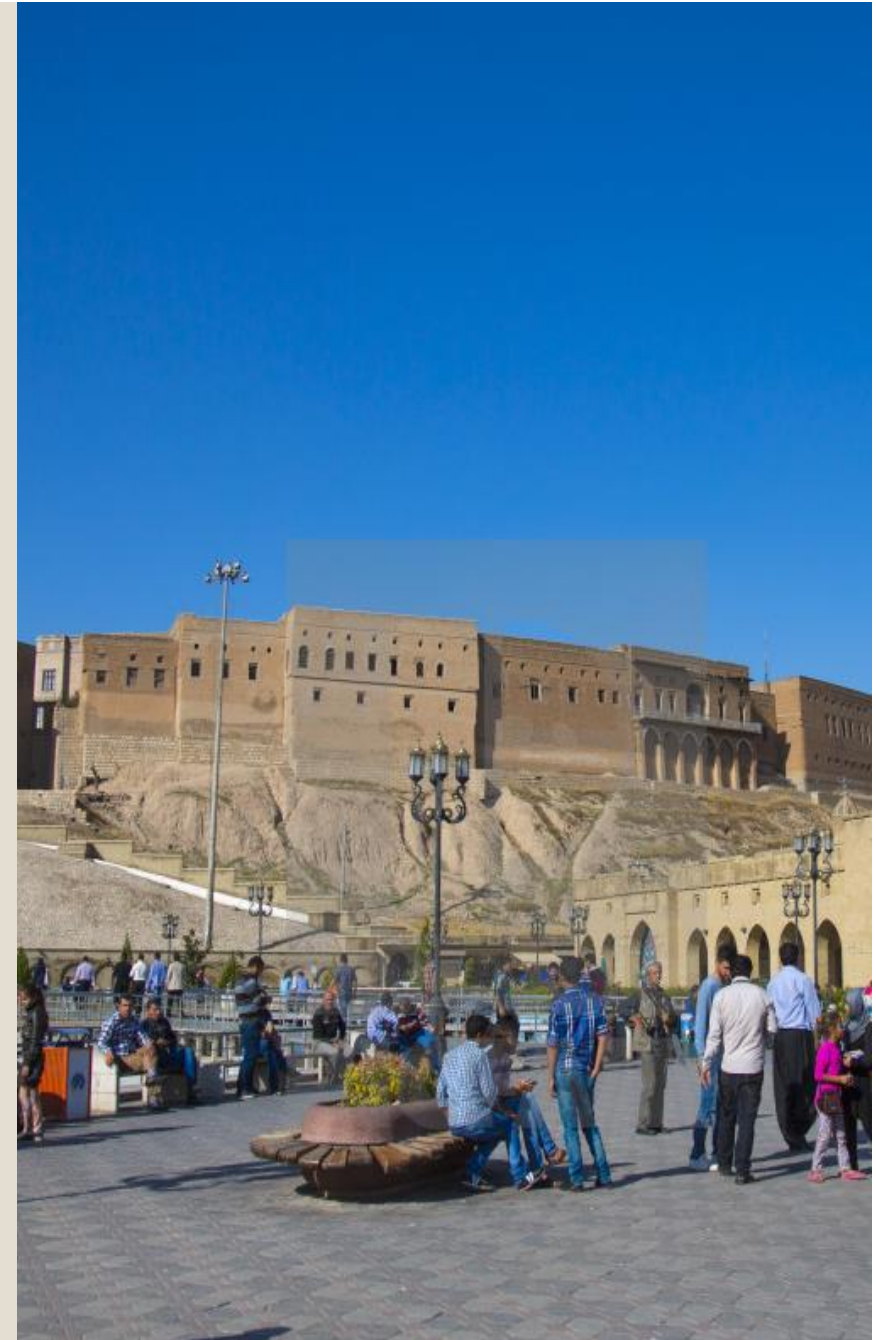
Continuity of function

- ✓ Original function = strongest continuity

“There is a great distinction between buildings which are still occupied and buildings which are in ruins. Buildings which are in use are still adding to their history; they are alive. Buildings which are in Ruin are dead; their history is ended.” (2003)
- ✓ Different function = still living heritage
 - Abandoned/ruins = dead

Continuity of community connections

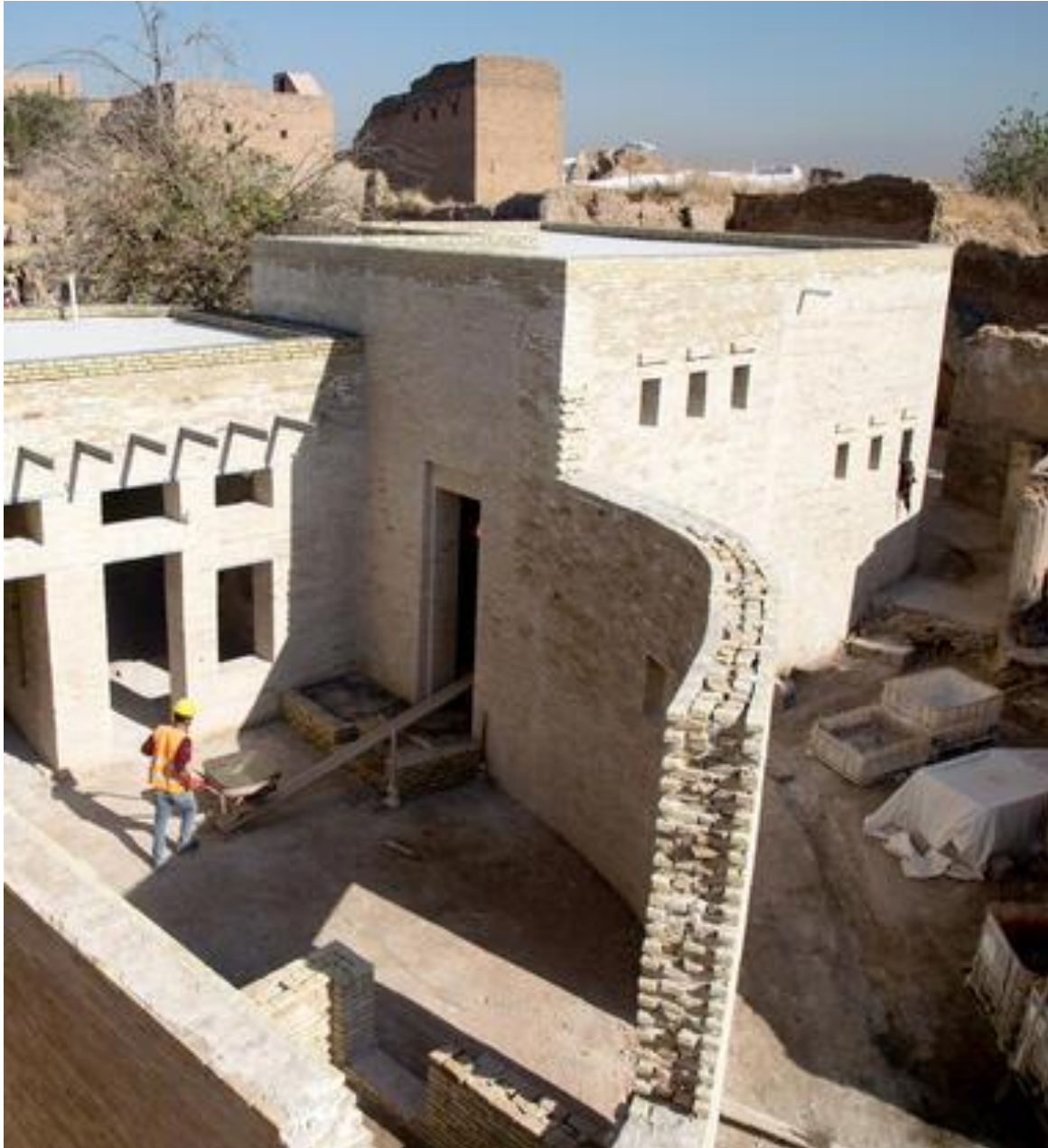
- If there is a strong community connection with the built heritage, then the community becomes the strongest stakeholder (core community).





Continuity of cultural expressions

- (original) function + community connection = Changes
- Not conservation, but facilitation.
- Additions or changes to tangible expressions can be **new construction**, **expansion** of existing structures, **renewal** of buildings, **changes to layout** in order to facilitate the proper functioning and better serve users in response to changing circumstances which includes the growth of population.



Continuity of care

- **Core communities** have been conscious of the continuity of their heritage and guaranteed the long-term care (within their own definitions) and management with traditional or established means.

To conclude

- Living heritage approach = (core) community

AND

As a philosophy: It emphasizes continuity which invariably brings change as the primary driver for the definition, conservation and management of heritage.

As a process: It facilitates a community-led (bottom-up), interactive approach to conservation and management by: emphasizing a core community and their values (recognizing the hierarchy of values and stakeholders); recognizing change as inevitable; utilising traditional or established management systems (in terms of knowledge, practices & materials) for the long term care of heritage and bring reciprocal benefits.

As a product: long term sustainability in safeguarding heritage with an empowered community engaged in decisions made for them and their heritage.