

Towards conservation and Urban Rehabilitation: A Framework for the case of Kherfan Street- Amman, Jordan

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Abstract: As a result of the earthquake that hit the area of Palestine and Jordan in 1927 and which resulted in the destruction of many residential buildings in the downtown area (the area that was populated due to the presence of the torrent (AL-Sail)). Mayor of Amman announced the allocation of a new area to live in the mountain call it the new Jabal Amman, which still holds the name in the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) until now, so the wealthy people went to live in this area who are the traders and the seniors in the country, Which resulted a mixture of nationalities and architectural style, so can we see the presence of the Circassian style, Lebanese, Palestinian, and others. So I allocated the study area to one of the streets of Jabal Amman named Kherfan street, and has been chosen for its historical, cultural, And what holds possession of valuable features and architectural importance, such as Shukair house, Kherfan house, AL-Madani and AL-Tabba'house and this street was characterized by its interests in trades, handicrafts, carpentry, and shoe industry. This study was to revive the street as it was previously, crafts, architecturally and culturally, through rehabilitate and restored it in new functions to attract local community and tourists.

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Introduction

The preservation process of historic buildings has a global significant importance, because of the retaining benefits on the community and the country in general. There is a lot of historical buildings and sites at risk and need to restore them from extinction. so Rehabilitation is one of the most important method of preservation process, and it's spread wider and wider by time internationally due to the increases of awareness about the historical value of historic builds, and how we consider it as physical record about the previous generations, and we can deduce the style of life and the man crafts proficiency. In European countries, rehabilitation activity represents almost 50% of total activity in the sector, while in the countries of the south and east of the Mediterranean basin, this activity does not amount even to 10% of activity in the sector.¹

The experience of rehabilitation in Jordan has met with success, restored areas have been revived and Flourished economically, socially, culturally, and tourism. As these places carry a lot of authenticity. It presented ways of life in the past and now, and

particularly local features that become essential elements to be preserved by time.

Through our studies of rehabilitation method and the importance of Jabal Amman, which is located in Amman city of Jordan. We highlighted our studies on Kherfan street, according to its historic value and the authenticity of it, to rehabilitate its economic, cultural situation as it was before.

Hypothetical question

Does the rehabilitation process of Kherfan street will support the economic, cultural, tourism, and social aspects?

Research Importance

Kherfan street considered as the most important street in Jabal Amman, according to the magnitude of history, culture, and the development of construction in During that era, which disappear with time as a result of negligence or lack of maintenance by the owners and because of its location as an attractive point for tourists, so we should take care of it and of its own economic prosperity, cultural and architectural.

Methodology

Analytical and descriptive approach by studying what has been noticed on the site, and studying the periods influence on the architectural styles, the economical situation, and the social life in the study area.

¹http://www.rehabimed.net/Publicacions/Metode_Rehabimed/I.Rehabilitacio_Ciutat_i_Territori/EN/1st%20Part.pdf

Making interviews with some of Kherfan street residents, especially with Kherfan grandsons. And Jara Association of local residents of Jabal Amman.

Urban heritage

Urban heritage is usually a concern in intangible "monuments", i.e. churches, temples, all sorts of Religious buildings, palaces, castles, fortresses, historic city walls and gates and other Types of institutional buildings (e.g. Of education, science, administration, or other Social purposes). Historic residential areas and historic city centers, and in Non-tangible elements, such as customs and beliefs, which play a role in the articulation of space use and the built environment.²

The Process for preserving urban heritage are on the large size an to manage it we to deal with something on a small level to give the desired result. And that can happen through the process of Rehabilitation, which is one of the Heritage Preservation methods.in this study the historic buildings is our concern, were rehabilitated them affect the context of the neighborhood (districts), which in turn reflected the city as a whole.

Rehabilitation

The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or an individual component, through repair, alterations, and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value.(In Parks Canada Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. (<http://www.icomos.org>)³

The process of the Rehabilitation is:

At the identifying stage we define the character the of the historic building by the form and detailing of exterior materials, such as masonry, wood, and metal; exterior features, such as roofs, porches, and windows; interior materials, such as plaster and paint; and interior features, such as moldings and stairways, room configuration and spatial relationships, as well as structural and mechanical systems. After we identify the character we have to protect materials and features of the building, but in limited and least degree of intervention. We should maintain on the original elements through treatments, limited paint removal, and re-application of protecting coating. And if the element were deteriorated or missing some parts we substitute the original with the same material if it was available, or use similar materials convey the visual appearance of the remaining parts of the feature and finish.if the level of deterioration or damage of

2

http://www.icomos.org/~fleblanc/documents/terminology/doc_terminology_e.html

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materials precludes repair, then the appropriate solution is the replacement of the entire feature in kind to be technically and economically feasible.the replacement of a new feature should based on an adequate historical, pictorial, and physical documentation. Some alterations o additions n the interior or exterior of the historic building is needed to assure its continued use, but that should be avoided unless these actions are referenced within specific sections of the Rehabilitation guidelines⁴.

Amman

Amman got through many morphological phases in development and history, what concern us in this study is these following periods⁵.

Phase one (1948-1921)

The prince Abdullah arrived to Amman, and Announcement of Transjordan, which led to attract qualified scientific and economic union of Jordan from various neighboring regions. In 1927, Jordan hit by the famous earthquake, which led to a noticeable effect in the development of Amman and the spread of the buildings and houses, also the spread of buildings built of stones.

Phase two (1948-1968)

Thousands of Palestinian refugees came to the city of Amman, it witnessed an economic boom as a result, and in 1950 the mayor of Amman became the Greater Municipality of Amman. In the late fifties and early sixties Amman becomes free from any social content, the beginning of the loss of its identity and began to emerge Western of Amman.

Phase three (1967-1991)

Displaced many Palestinians as a result of the 1967 war, which has increased the population density and urban sprawl and the expansion of neighborhoods and the emergence of new business circles as a Jabal Amman, Jabal AL-Hussien, AL-Shmesani, Abdon, That affecting Downtown especially after the transfer of the rich families of the revival of the new districts. Diverse building materials were used stone as a peel in the use of huge concrete walls and the used of glass.

Phase four (1991-2003)

The life in the city of Amman has affected by the forced migrations. And that took an important role in the emerge of malls, and brisk construction sector as a result of increased demand for housing, also in this stage the use of modern materials has increased such as

4

http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehab_approach.htm#top

⁵ Gharaibeh,J, 2012, *Development project and the Wadi Amman: Between the soul and restore life to the center of the country and among the urban identity of Amman*, thesis,University of Jordan.

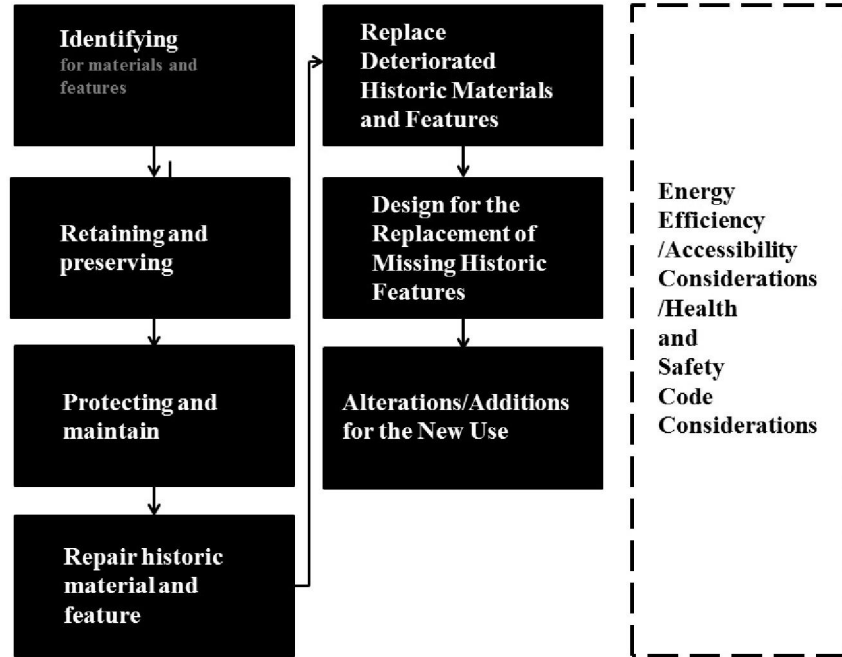


Figure 1: the process of rehabilitation. Resource: the researcher http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehab_approach.htm “edited by the researcher”⁶

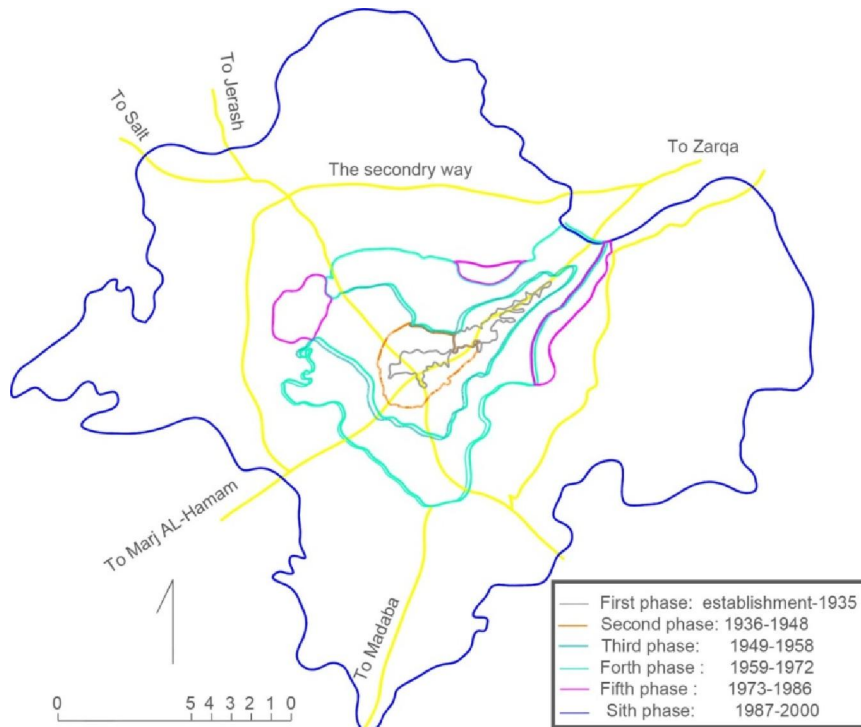


Figure 2. Historical development and urbanization of the city of Amman (Keleif.G)⁷

⁶ http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/rehab/rehab_approach.htm

⁷ Resource: Keleif.G,2011, Historical development and urbanization of the city of Amman (since origination until the beginning of the century Damascus University Journal, Volume 27 - Issue III + IV , the Twenty “edited by the researcher”

glass, alucobond. This stage witnessed an increasing trend towards Western architecture without regard to the urban heritage city of Amman.

Phase Five (2003-until now)

Amman affected by the occupation of Iraq and has received nearly a million people on its territory, which led to affect the country's economy, and by increased pressure on the infrastructure. Also, it started large urban projects such as AL-Abdali.

The emergence of private companies and the

owners of the funds from different nationalities, after allowing the Foreign Investment in Jordan, which focused heavily on the older areas such as Jabal Amman, where started expropriated houses of historical significance and restored them in a harmful way, away from the original architectural style, and converted them to restaurants, libraries, and cultural centers, which distinct in a contemporary style, that cause the lose of the identity of Amman city including the study area.

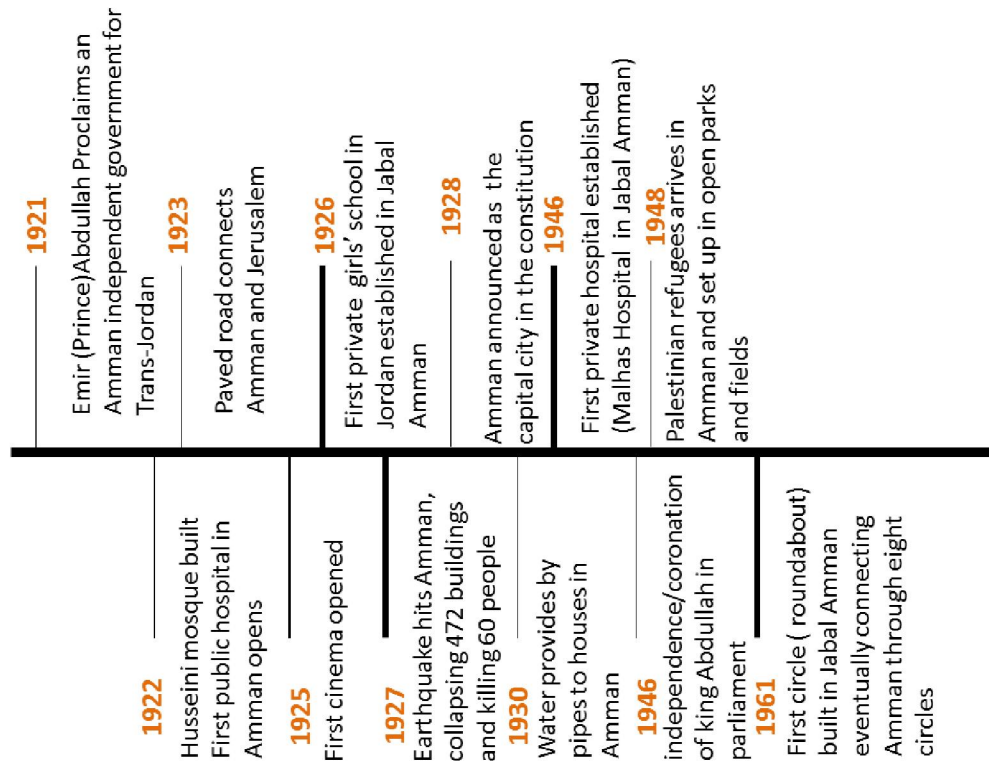


Figure 3. Time line of Amman-Jordan history

Resource: Jara association in Jabal Amman “edits by the researcher”

Table 1: Classification of some buildings in Kherfan street

Period	1953	1978	1990's
Structural and materials	Brick – Cement with stone façades (mfajjar)	Stone façades	Cement ceilings and stone façades
Dalman classification	House with Columns	House with Columns	House with Columns

Structural Classification (Dalman)⁸

1. House without Internal Supports.
2. House with Columns.
3. House with Arcade.
4. Vaulted and City House.

Classification of some Kherfan street buildings, according to Dalman

⁸ Ahmed.T, (2008), *Analysis of the architectural styles of the residential buildings in Palestine In the Ottoman period (Case Study of Nablus)*, thesis, Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine.



Figure 4: (a, b, c, d) respectively. The style of buildings in different periods

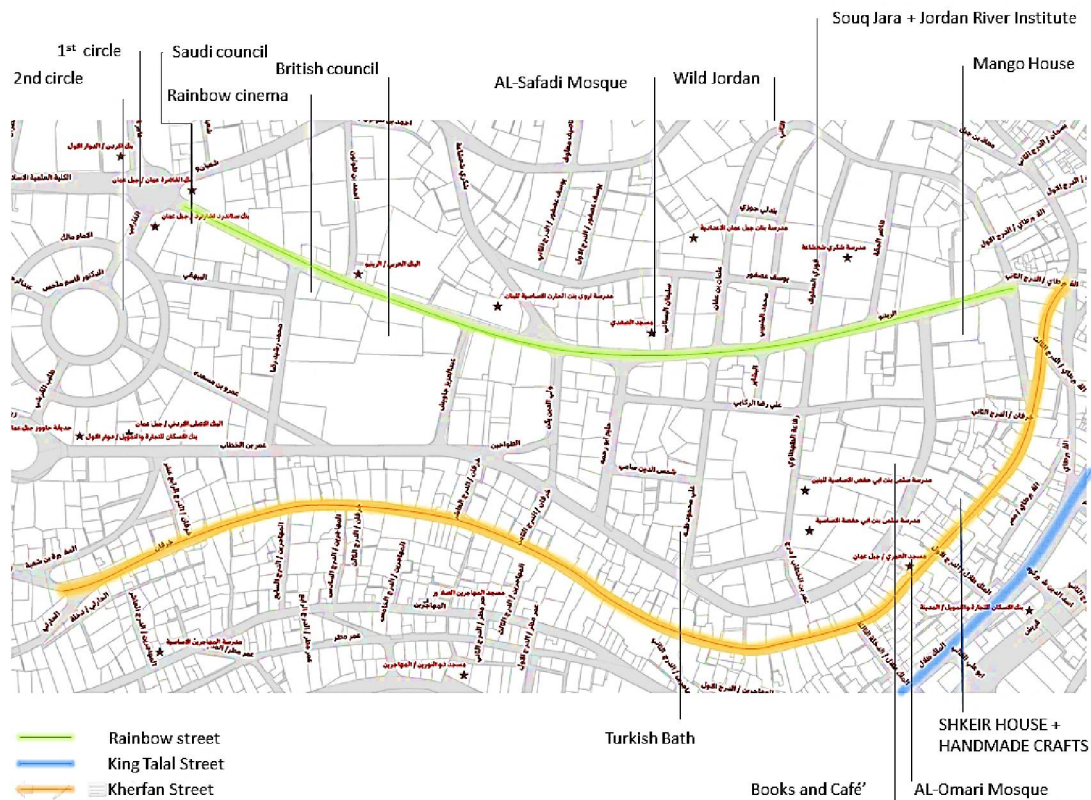


Figure 5. GAM “edited by the researcher”

The brief history of Jabal Amman

Jabal Amman is one of the seven hills that

originally made up Amman. Jabal Amman was first settled during the Neolithic period. But unlike nearby

hills, particularly Jabal al-Qal'a. It remained somewhat of a wooded outback until the 20th century. When Amman was declared the capital of Transjordan and royalty, wealthy families, businesses, army officers, and politicians began moving into Jabal Amman. Soon, the gable was informally established as an elite neighborhood of Amman. Amman had spread west, the 1st Circle was built and Jabal Amman became a primary east-west artery for the quickly expanding city. Also Jabal Amman was distinct with its significant historical buildings.

Due to the migration of the indigenous people of the area, some of the houses became abandoned and neglected, and some of the areas had turned into a place for trash and epicenter of corruption, or it turned into either galleries or cafés or embassies or centers with economic cultural.

The brief history of Khirfan Street

The reason of naming the street The Khirfan mountain was named by the owner then it extends from the Adventist School to the old station building "Al-Laslki" in Jabal Al-Hussein previously, then it is shrunk and became a street.

The significant buildings in the street

History of Kherfan compounds (7 buildings connect with each other).

The Kherfan Street was named for the mountain, which is bought by Fred Kherfan and his brothers. This Compound belongs to Kherfan Family. It was expanded by time through the past periods." Often be the owner of the house built the additions for the use of his sons (usually male), while They grow up and married as his grandson said. The building was completed in 1927 by using builders from Nablus as Salam said "one of the grandsons of Fred Kherfan "

They were moving from house to another and visit each other through bridges connect the buildings with each other and internal corridors without going out to the street as a kind of privacy. The first inhabitants of this ancient house were Fred Rasheed Kherfan who built the house, but he did not stay long in it and then had lived in this house, Prince Zeid Bin Shaker and other former senate and former of administering.

1. Kherfan house main elements

9

<http://poisonrain.wordpress.com/2009/03/29/%C2%AB%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D8%AE%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%86%C2%BB-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D8%B9%D9%85/>

The area of the antique house nearly 395 square meters. It is located directly to the street without setbacks as of the houses in the street. It consists of five rooms. The ceilings are very high about five meters as the grandson Mo'otaz said. Vast saloons still preserved its old tile that has not changed since eighty-year-old and it's still intact adorned with various ornaments bearing the colors gray and black.



Figure 6. Kherfan compounds.

Architectural description of Kherfan compounds

Like many of the old houses that were built at the beginning of the city of Amman the form of the late Fred Rasheed Kherfan who born in Nablus in 1900 is characterized by classic architectural style. It has a straight facade with narrow arched windows and a balcony in it, and another lifted balcony (AL-Mashrabeyeh) on a steel bar. It consists of 3 stories. And It Considered one of the first houses from almost eighty years ago built of stone, in the fact the houses in that era were built of mud and straw. The ceiling is the ceiling, which includes a longitudinal length of the ceiling, a technique that had been followed in the old building for fixing the house. "The faces of the walls are from woods that not fit to drive a nail in them, because they are built from clay" says the grandson of Kherfan Moataz, who currently lives in the house he and his mother. The clay has added to the House warmth in winter and coolness in summer, even they used only one fireplace in spite of the vast area of the house in winter. see figure 7.

2. History of Shukier House of culture and heritage

One of the oldest houses on Kherfan street that built in 1932. The merchant Khalil Shukair was established it after his coming from Damascus to Amman to stable in it for trading purpose. In the fifties Shukair house was Arwa Bent AL-Harith School, and a handmade ceramics shop beside it now days it is the handmade and heart made.

Architectural Description of Shukair House for culture and heritage

It is located directly to the street without setbacks as of the houses in the street. It consists of two main floors of Tobzeh stone with narrow arched windows. A new floor was added later on from glass and concrete. The facades are straight with lifted up balconies on

steel bars (AL-Mashrabeyye). The house has a court in the middle of it with a fountain which covered recently. It has two entrances from both sides that is linked to the ground floor with outdoor stone stairs. The doors of the house from wood except the outdoors had been changed for security matter.



Resource: the researcher.

Figure 7. (a, b) respectively, Architectural style of kherfan compound respectively.

3.AL - Madani and AL -Tabba'a Houses.

These two houses are located at the beginning of the street and they were built here according to the will of King Abdullah the first when he built his Raghadan Palace he ordered his escorts to build their own houses on the mountain he refers to.

4.AL - Madani House.

The ground floor of the house was built before 1947. The upper floor was built in 1947. This house is modelled for the Levant houses. The windows were oriented to the internal court of the house. The area of the house was shrunk when they took the street was opened. The windows and the doors took the style of the horse shoe. The drawer of the house was Adel AL-Saa'te who has worked in AL-Sharif Emhanna.

5. AL - Omari Mosque

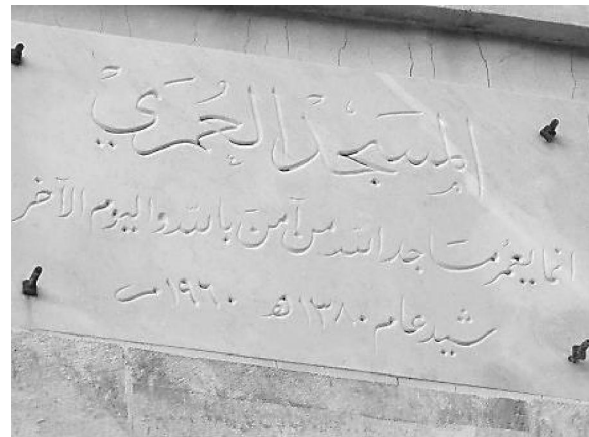
It was built since 1960. And it has newly improved.

The Problems of Kherfan Street

Kherfan street like other places has its advantages and disadvantages. Last years this street had inhabited by Asians and other nationality because of low rent conditions, and most of the original people had moved to other areas, especially the wealthy families, because of the dilapidated infrastructure, and there is no direct major transportation line unless they go to the bishop streets through the straits which they lead to Bishop street. The stairs are in bad conditions and in case they got prepared they are too long for old and handicaps people. The furniture of the street is in a bad condition

as the pavement are irregular, and have a random height and widths, also the darkness of the street at night cause a lot of problems. There is an obvious problem we noticed in this street which is the distorted facades of the buildings and some of them they are completely destroyed. The shops in the past time had been closed and turned into a renting rooms for the foreigners. The lack of parkings in the street and the un-accessibility to it in case of emergency situation.

- I noticed that the urban fabric is the planned chaos.



Resource: the researcher

Figure 8. the date of construction of the mosque carved on a stone.

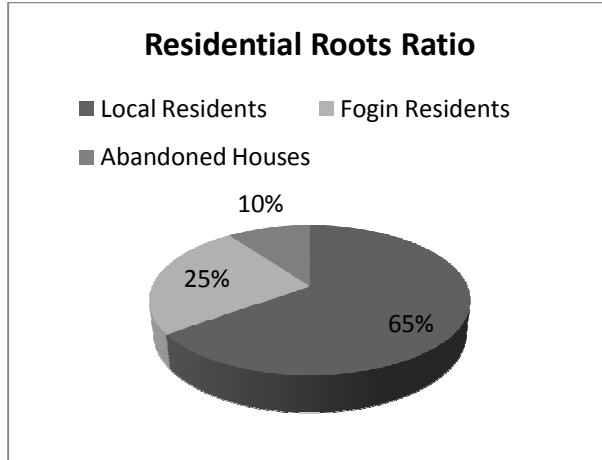


Figure 9. Resource: the researcher.

From the significant notes on the street we can consider that the form the arbitrary uniform slums.

Results

The qualities of the historical buildings and/or their history conditions as a record for the previous events and the style of life in the old days, so the rehabilitations of these historic buildings is a treasure, due to the reward benefits from them, rehabilitation process gives an opportunity for the industry growth specially from the reviving of the old traditional crafts of the street, which disappeared by time, like the ceramic handmade crafts and the shoe industry. Also, it supports the cultural, social, and tourism aspects and that support the initial refurbishment and generates sufficient income that ensure the long time maintenance of the building fabric. Also providing street with panoramic views due to the location potentials it has. Put clear traffic signs to help the pedestrian and the cars, and enhance the street furniture and pavements.

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Appendices

Rehabilitation

Is defined as the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values. (USA Secretary Of The Interior's Standards For Historic Preservation 1979).

http://www.icomos.org/~fleblanc/documents/terminology/doc_terminology_e.html#R

Rehabilitation is usually carried out in order to extend a building's life and/or its economic viability. It may involve more adaptation than conservation, but will still preserve most of the building's original features. It may involve upgrading, some modification, remodeling, rebuilding or retrofitting, and some repairs. It may be done to the exterior as well as the interior of the building. It may be referred to as major or minor. According to the usage of the word over the past few years, rehabilitation projects fall somewhat short of renovation projects in the extent and/or cost of the work. (National Research Council of Canada, 1982).

http://www.icomos.org/~fleblanc/documents/terminology/doc_terminology_e.html#R.

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