

Study on old heritage houses through the owner's living interest in Salt, Jordan

Abstract:

Salt, the first capital of Jordan, is one of the oldest historical cities in the Mid-East countries, which is mentioned in the UNESCO list for the heritage cities. Salt old heritage houses face either decaying or changing or abandoning, because of their owners' behaviors such as leaving the houses or making changes on them without giving any consideration to its cultural value. This has resulted the missing of the special Salt city's character. This study aims to research the physical changes and the conditions of the heritage old houses and to examine the reasons and the process of these changes through the owners' life interest needs and the future plans towards their heritage old houses. A field survey has been accomplished, in addition to interview survey to the old houses' owners. The samples of the houses observed in the survey have been chosen according to the age of the old heritage houses, the big families' names of the owners "Ashira name" and the locations of the houses. The main reason stands behind the phenomena of leaving these houses is that the owners' interests in such kind of old houses' design, inside plans, and the yellow color of the stones have become different and through adopting some of western style (any thing comes from the non-Arabian countries) the houses' design starts to take different shapes of the façade; including windows, doors, balconies, and color of stone. The inside plans appear with more individual rooms for each member in the family, as well as for the services' like; wash- room and maid's room. So all these could not find the way in the design and the possible facilities provided in their old houses.