

German-Iraqi University Partnerships

Joint Lectures and Seminar: „Rehabilitation of urban heritage in the cities of Iraq“

Introduction

The seminar is a part of the German-Iraqi University Partnership project between the Universities of Baghdad, Sulaimani and Cottbus.

To this day, many of Iraq's historic quarters, old towns and villages are severely neglected. The examples of the citadel of Kirkuk, the old towns of Kifri and Koya or the villages of Hawraman, a mountainous region in the east of Sulaymaniyah and north of Halabja in the Iraqi region of Kurdistan, stand for this¹. Apart from the general neglect of the building fabric and settlement structures of the old towns, however, special war-like exposures have also destroyed or severely damaged many old towns and old villages. The city of Halabja should be mentioned here, where many buildings were destroyed during the war between Iraq and Iran in 1988 and which suffered sad fame due to the use of poison gas by the Saddam Hussein regime against the Kurdish population. Many villages in the Kurdish region were also destroyed during this period, partly in order to destroy the cultural roots and history of the Kurdish population in Iraq. More recently, the ISIS attacks and the subsequent fight against the "Islamic State" have severely destroyed old towns in the north-western regions of Iraq. The city of Mosul is best known for this, but this project will focus on smaller cities that have received little attention from outside, but which are of great importance for the lives of large parts of the population, their history, homeland ties and identity.

In central Iraq, the situation of the old towns does not look any better than in the Kurdish region of Iraq described above. Already at a conference with a delegation from the University of Baghdad at the BTU in Cottbus in 2010, several lectures on the disastrous situation and plans for the old cities of Karbala and Najaf as well as the historical quarters Al-Karkh, Rusafah and Kazimiyah of Baghdad were presented and discussed.

The reason and starting point of the project are the common interests of the Partner Universities in doing something sustainable for a better handling of the architectural heritage.

¹ see: University of Sulaimani, Department of Architecture, project proposal paper "Cooperation Partnership for preserving urban heritage in the Kurdish cities of Iraq", Sulaimaniyah 01.02.2019

TIMETABLE

Every week one seminar, start 22nd of October, always Thursday 09:00 – 11:30 am German time / 11:00 – 13:30 Iraq time, online link to the seminars:

<https://tu-berlin.zoom.us/j/62957013552?pwd=SzJpaTJDQ2p1V1Fjb1pOYWxuYmxRUT09>

Thursday 22.10.2020	Introduction to the Seminar and lecture Christoph Wessling: Revitalization of Historic City Districts introduction to the student task
29.10.2020	lecture: Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam: Introduction to Urban Morphology presentation: Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam and Christoph Wessling: the map of the old City of Aleppo; brief summary of State of science and practice on the issues of reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-destroyed old cities in the Middle East constitution of the student working teams
05.11.2020	Baghdad University Lecture: Prof. Dr. Saba J. Al-Khafaji, Dean of College of Engineering, “Challenges and Transformations in Old Historical Cities and Urban Districts in Iraq” Lecture: Prof. Dr. Ghada Alsilk, instructor, “Challenges facing Samara Historic Cores’ Development” consultations with the student working teams
12.11.2020	<i>lecture</i> <i>University Sulaimani, tbd: Situation of the old cities in the Kurdish Region of Iraq, problems, challenges and most important tasks</i> consultations with the student working teams
19.11.2020	Development and Research Center, Ministry of Housing and Municipalities, Baghdad lecture: Mohammed AL-Hasani, Dr. des., “Holy Shrine Cities: Urban Transformation versus Rehabilitation: The potentials for Najaf City and Adhamiya City” consultations with the student working teams
23. - 26.11.2020	workshop week

	<p>Monday 23.11.2020, 14:00 / 16:00: colloquium, presentation of the up date of the work from the student teams</p> <p>Tuesday 24.11.2020: individual consultations with the student teams</p> <p>Wednesday 25.11.2020: individual consultations with the student teams</p> <p>Thursday 26.11.2020, 09:00 / 11:00: colloquium, presentation work from the student teams</p>
03.12.2020	<p>Thursday 09:00 / 11:00: lectures</p> <p>Prof. em. Heinz Nagler: reconstruction and redevelopment of Freiburg, Germany, after the Second World War, and further examples</p>
10.12.2020	<p>Thursday 09:00 / 11:00: lecture</p> <p>Prof. em. Inken Baller: reconstruction of Warzaw, Gdansk and Szczecin, Poland, after the Second World War</p> <p>consultations with the student working teams</p>
17.12.2020	<p>Thursday 09:00 / 11:00: lecture</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Ghada Alsilk: Al-Adhamiyah and Al-Khademia – urban design competitions and development process</p> <p><i>lecture: Estabraq AL-Obaidi; MSc, Head of Development, “The Old Estrabadi Bazar in AL-Kadhmiya Old City in Baghdad”</i></p> <p>consultations with the student working teams</p>
07.01.2021	<p>four best practice input presentations</p> <p>tbd.</p> <p>(Christoph Wessling / Sepideh Zarrin Ghalam: <i>reconstruction and redevelopment of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>)</p> <p>consultations with the student working teams</p>
14.01.2021	<p>guest lecture tbd.</p> <p>consultations with the student working teams</p>
21.01.2021	<p>presentation of the student works</p> <p>debate about the cooperation programme 2021</p>

STUDENT TASK

Teams of students should work about different case studies in central Iraq or in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. Each team should work about one historic city. The small old towns are to be worked on by one working group each and the large old towns are to be divided into quarters for processing.

Proposed case studies are in central Iraq: Al Adhamiyah, Al Khadamiya, Al Karkh and Al Rusafa in Baghdad and Al Najaf and in the Kurdish Region: Halabja, Koya (Koysinjaq), Kifri , Kirkuk (Kirkuk citadel) and Kurdish Villages.

On the basis of aerial photographs and city maps the student teams will carry out morphological analyses of the selected historic city. If possible, the following urban structures will be represented:

- Building structures / building footprint
- plot structures
- building typologies and building age
- topography and natural structures
- street and mobility system
- distribution of functions and formation of centres
- historical layers and their transformation
- vacancies and buildings threatened by decay.

Building on the analysis, the students are to formulate development goals for the respective historic cities with the help of the "Toolkit For Post-Conflict Recovery Of Urban Cultural Heritage²" and design a mission statement.

Furthermore, a strategy for the redevelopment of the old city areas will be outlined, for which various individual projects and measures will also be worked out.

The urban morphological analysis is to be elaborated primarily on a scale of 1 : 1,000 to 1 : 5,000, as is the mission statement. The individual projects and measures are to be worked out in as much detail as possible.

Following the weekly lectures and debates, consultations will be offered for the student working groups. During the workshop week intensive consultations should take place.

² Bianca, Stefano et.al. (2018), Toolkit For Post-Conflict Recovery Of Urban Cultural Heritage - TASKS AND TOOLS FOR PLANNING“, unpublished working paper, Stuttgart

PARTICIPANTS

BTU / University of Baghdad / University of Sulaimani / Development and Research Center, Ministry of Housing and Municipalities, Baghdad

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