



New Dialogue between Old Crafts and Historical City

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Abstract. Traditional crafts are playing an important part of local identity in old cities. Nowadays more efforts are being made to preserve them and establish a base and distinguished character for these cities and making them the anchor points of economic development and revitalization. The research presents one of the oldest factories in one of the historical Egyptian cities called "Fowah" which has a great role in contribution and developing many traditional crafts in the other Egyptian cities as the "Tarboush" industry. The factory suffered from many forms of abuses and neglect so the main parts of the factory were demolished and crumbled to dust except the royal historical gates and some parts of the main façade are still standing.

The research attempts to put a strategy for conserving the remains of the factory and historical gates through recording the current situation and submitting an intervention standard to revive the site and reuse it by referring to complete the missing parts from the similar factory in Turkey which was established in the Ottoman era for the same purpose also as "military uniform" and promote the industrial and handicrafts value and establishing linkages with other development programs in the city by linking the sites with the surrounding urban and street network by touristic and historical characteristic paths to refresh the crafts and attract tourists that maximize the added value and social–economical return which will lead to a higher contribution in the national economy.

- **Keywords:** Dialogue- old -Crafts-Historical- City.

1- Introduction

Many factories were established in the Ottoman era, such as the factory of insulation and weaving and the factory of Tarabesh, in many Egyptian cities as Fowah as a first imitation to establish and develop trades and industries in the city and it was considered the start and nucleus of established many handicrafts which still continue and thrive. Most crafts are faced with many challenges so in spite of modern challenges in the historical city. The handicrafts still occupied a distinguished importance... Tarboush making first came to Egypt in 1805, during the Ottoman era "Mohammed Ali Pasha". He established two factories for military uniform and tarboush in Fowah beside the bank of the Nile. Tarboush craft was the start of beginning and developing many other crafts in Egypt. Different versions of the headgear have been popularized by a succession of Egyptian rulers, where it was worn in the Egyptian monarchist era the red Tarboush was part of the uniform of the Egyptian civil service and military starting with Mohammed Ali Pasha and ending with King Farouk until 1952.

It was larger and flatter than more modern forms, sporting either a black or white tassel. It was a traditional felt headgear that became a staple of Egyptian society and the fez "Tarboush" craft are considered an old and ancient handicraft in the historical city "Fowah". Many of them are almost disappeared and numbers of craftsmen were leaving their works seeking better income. So The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 for

traditional craftsmanship¹ where is mainly concerned with the skills and knowledge involved in craftsmanship rather than the craft products themselves. Rather than focusing on preserving craft objects, safeguarding attempts should instead concentrate on encouraging artisans to continue to produce craft and to pass their skills and knowledge onto others, particularly within their own communities. The traditional crafts considered a part of the city's intangible heritage and representations it's distinct and local identity so the preservation of old crafts and revitalized it considered a part of important plans to revive the memory of the city and develop its economy.

2-Material and methods:

The city of Fawah is an Egyptian city. It has had a glorious past. It was called the City of Mosques where contains about 365 mosques, dome and Mzaar. It is considered an open walking museum. It is the third city in terms of containing the Islamic monuments after both Cairo and Rashid, and it is classified as the fourth city in the world in terms of containing Islamic monuments. It is managed by Kafr El-Sheikh governorate. It overlooks the Rashid branch of the River Nile. It is about 181 km away from Cairo and about 98 km from Alexandria. The population of Fowah city estimated that 62.290 people.

The city is famous for its many activities. The most important of these are the traditional crops which are concentrated in cotton, rice and wheat. It's famous also for crafts and craft ships as carpets, Kleem, Jublane and topes. The reason for this is due to the location of the city and its history emphasize the importance of commercial trade at the local and global levels, evidence by the minerals of the mosques Which were mainly used as beacons of ships loaded with goods from the Mediterranean countries.

3- Historical background of fez" Tarbush" factory.

The famous fez "Tarbush" factory was one of two military factories were established in Ottoman era on the bank of river Nile. It was located in southwest of Fawah city and considered one of the most important monuments as fig.(1). It was established in 1824 by an order from Muhammed Ali Pasha. It was considered the oldest and the largest factory for the manufacture of army uniform in Middle East; It was built and supervised by Moroccan specialist. The all parts of the factory were demolished expect the main historical gates of Gough" Tarbush" factory which facing the Nile. It was linked by the transportation to manufacture products and the people of Fawah.

¹ The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage on 17 October 2003.



Fig. 1. Recent Google map 2019 for the site "Fez factory" on the bank of Nile

4- Architectural Characteristics of Royal Gates :

All the architecture features in the Factories and military buildings reflect the Ottoman architectural influences of the “Westernization” period from the point of view of their architectural forms, construction techniques and style characteristics.

The old factories were contained from two parts for spinning cotton and linen. They had machines for spinning fine and thick threads. Unfortunately, it was demolished and only two gates remained on the Nile for fez factory.

The two remains gates were built with limestone and the first main gates were constructed on the bank of river Nile for famous visitors, managers and important persons. It's wide about 14m. The exterior of the main gate is divided into 3 vertical sections. The middle part was an opening arch about five-meter-wide and beside it two solidity arches gathering with central arch by continuous cornice. The people of Fawah called this portal "Malta gate" because it was a main gate for exporting Part of which products to Europe. It was followed by second gate the total distance between each other about 30 meters. It's wide about 6 meters contained from two arched one up one and surrounded by a decorative cornice as fig(2).

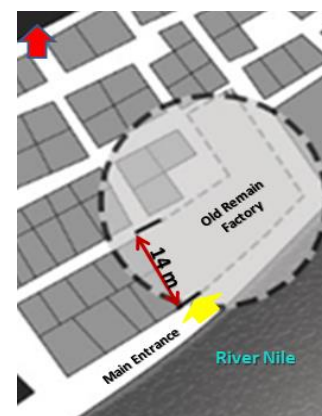


Fig.2. historical main gate of the fez factory in Fwoha on the bank of River Nile

5- Main Guideline of Old Crafts Technique:

The meaning of craft lies in the nature of the connections a building or space creates—both internally, between its constituent parts, and externally, through its relationship to its place. These connections can be physical, temporal, or even spiritual. Ideally, all three are integrated into one effort.²

Fez "Tarbush" industry considered a start point of many traditional handicrafts in the historical city as carpets, klem, Jublane and Tobes. It was made by special technique and special raw material of wool called "khough" was imported from Spain. The fabrication was based on both manual and automatically ways according to the type of the work. every fez " Tarboush" was made in highly proficiency technique from used only one string to facility the fabrication. They had put a compact layer of straw in it for insulation the moisture and it gains more durability. The processing of straw molds was the first practical step in the industry. Then it had been compressed in a special compressor and left in compressor for three days with pouring the hot water continuously, and pouring the soap mixture and fresh water to clean it. The last stage was colored with special colored materials as "Cormorant, tannins and tartar" as fig(4).



Fig.4.
Special colored materials in the Chouwara tannery in the medina of Fez

The fez "Tarboush" is placed around a copper standard mold ranging from 25 cm to 75 cm according to each head as fig.(5) and then placed on top of the gouache. It is separated by the size of the mold and is installed under a special piston and its heating. The whole process of manufacturing takes about half an hour. The factory was produced in 1837 about 120 Tarboush per day and was competing with Arabs and internationally marketing. where The Tunisian factories were eventually closed and reduced the exports because the high quality of the Egyptian Tarboush, and its price was less than others because the lower of its price and reduced of non-payment of customs duties and transport expenses. The total produces were particular for army is sold to the merchants of Egypt and bought some to local marketing. The price was reduced due to non-payment of customs duties and transport expenses. The products were produced for army and some of it was sold to the merchants in local market.

²Forker, Thomas J., "The Dialogue of crafts and Architecture", University of Massachusetts, Architecture department, Master Theses, 2015, Valid on website: http://scholarworks.umass.edu/master_theses_2\197



Fig.5. Special copper compressor for taking The shape of Tarboush

6- Historical Gates and Surrounded Urban :

The old Documented of the site presents a brief description about the master plan of the site and what the factory was in the past, the fabrication process of fez. unfortunate, no original scheme are found of the site that they were established as a two factories for military uniform one of them for cotton and limen and it was used 16 ox for turned out its machines and the second for Gough "Tarboush" all parts of both were demolished completely` expect the two royal gates of Gough factory on the bank of Nile and some architecture remains for old façade of factory.

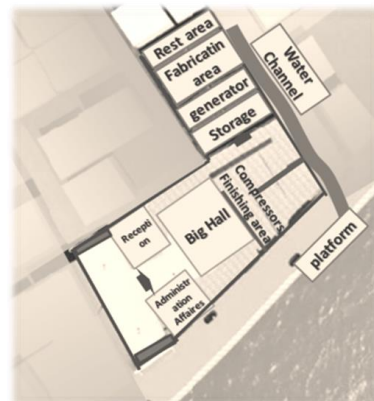
The main royal gate on the bank of Nile was designed for entries the directors and visitors so on the right of the main gate we find the approach of fez factory and it surrounded by two rooms one of them for administration affairs and other one is a big space for reception then enters to huge hall to storage the row materials for fez fabrication and cabins for compressor process. The architecture form of fez factory was so simple it was an rectangle building roofing with wooden Gamalon as fig.(6). It was a fez factory the main façade had two rows of rectangle and arched windows.



Fig.6. Remnants of the Fez Factory in Fuwah

The factory was divided for four zoning; there are special power generators' chambers for the industrial machines, including the diesel machine weighing about eight tons and all parts of iron and steel. This machine was installed on a concrete base with large nails. In the front of previous part of factory there was a room for preserving the oil machine then the industrial areas were rooms with basin foundations that are used as dyeing tubers. The last area is the workers' areas and services as fig(7).

Fig.7. An imagine scheme of master plan and zoning of fabrication process for old factory



And there was also a channel between the reservoir Nile and factory and cut forward the public road on the Nile and in front of them and immediately after the Corniche of the Nile there are red brick graves refer to the same history of the factory, which returns with him. The ships were been entered in the near from factory to download the row materials and uploads it the products.

7- The Analysis of Urban Morphology:

The urban fabric is determined by the interaction between the components (streets, Squares, green spaces and public spaces). The morphological basis can be described by socio-technical schemas and typified forms: analysis of maps was chosen to Achieve a method for the analysis of urban spaces by looking at characters/identity to Describe the historical process of development of the city form and its spatial consequences. The morphology of urban expansion of the city consist from four ages begin from pharaonic era. It was the old city and it was occupied 27.36 acres. Then the urban in Mamluk and Ottoman era was reached to 87.57 acers and the third expansion was in 1958 and occupied 150.87 acres. The last modern urban expansion till 2004 the total area reached to 500 acres as fig.(8) .

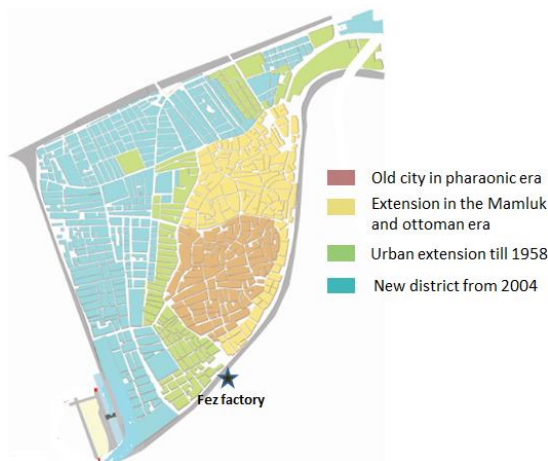


Fig.8. Urban development across the different ages in old city

The streets and the mass surrounded the site are irregular geometric shape.... Visual and morphological characteristics are significant where the royal historical gate consider a characteristic point in skyline views in the historical city. The surrounded urban was planned and mass expansion in the recent age followed by construction the gates which due to irregular outlines of street system, irregular geometric plot pattern and building arrangement as fig.(9).

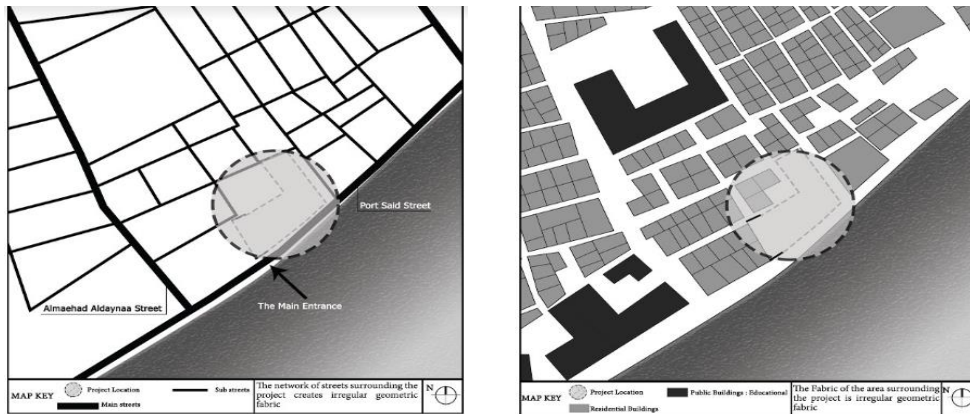


Fig.9. The network of streets and mass surrounding the gates is irregular geometric fabric

In the absence of a meaningful urban context in the surrounded urban fabric, the gates and old remains factory are suffered from many urban infringements and disabuse which represented in:

- Sprawl of residential blocks and the urban mass over the site which due to losses the pattern of old and historical gates as fig.(10).
- The place became a dangerous area in the district for homeless and crimes.



Fig.10. Sprawl of residential blocks over the site

- Appearing many forms of infringements on the monuments as hand writing on the bricks and colored it.
- Absence the maintenance process which due to decay some types of decorative details and distinguished style as fig.(11).
- Most surrounding buildings and main entrance of them are opened on corridor between historical gates as fig.(12).



Fig.11. Infringements as decay some types of details and hand writing on the bricks



Fig.12. Young youth plays a football match between two historical gats

8- The Zeytinburnu Military Factory:

The Zeytinburnu Military Factory was one of military factories which was built in Istanbul in the era of Mohamed II - the Ottoman military organization in 1826 after two years from established fez factory in Egypt. It was located in the west of the Istanbul city. The factory was established on a wide area between the Sea of Marmara and the railroad. It was occupied a large area about 128.121m². It was built with the purpose of modernizing the army as a result of the reform movements of 1826. The necessary materials and machines for the factory, whose construction is known to have continued between 1845–1846, were brought from London by Barutçubaşı Hoca Öhannes Dadyan Efendi. British engineer William Frin was responsible of the construction and assembly of the factory.

All these military buildings reflect the Ottoman architectural influences of the “Westernization” period from the point of view of their architectural forms, construction techniques and style characteristics³ as fig.(13). The factory’s boat landing on the Marmara Sea shore and the railroad as fig.(14). That was built by the northwest of the factory in the end of the 19th century were used to transport the raw goods and products. The factory buildings that have survived to the present are still used as the maintenance workshops for military equipment

The Zeytinburnu Factory stands out as an exclusive example with the variety and originality of its construction techniques.⁴ and reflect the Ottoman architectural influences of the “Westernization” period from the point of view of their architectural forms, construction techniques and style characteristics as fig.(15).

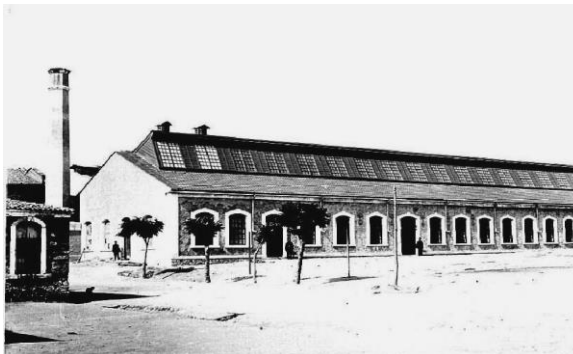


Fig.13. Wooden truss roof structure in the building group



Fig.14. The sea side buildings of the factory (IRCICA Archive)

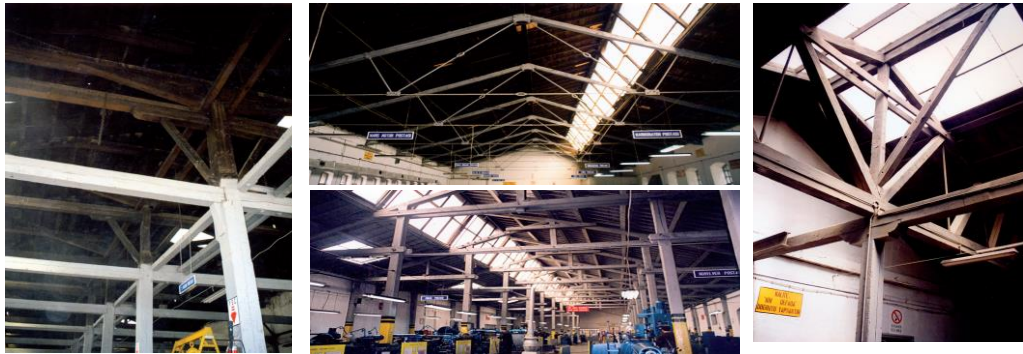


Fig. 15. Wooden truss roof structure and wooden posts in the building

9- Economic impact of old crafts:

The factory was established a strong platform for many crafts in Fowah since the factory was built and was competing with Arabs and international marketing. Many other factories in north Africa as Tunis were eventually semi closed and reduced the exports because the high quality of the Egyptian Fez, The reason for this is due to the location and the history of the city emphasizes the importance of commercial trade at the local and global levels, evidenced by the minarets of mosques, which were mainly used as beacons of ships loaded with goods from the Mediterranean countries, Yen that were used to establish traders coming, keeping various goods; such as: a quarter of rhetoric, as well as containing many of the agencies that were used primarily to display the goods.

Fowah city is famous for handmade crafts and craftsmanship as carpets, Kilim, Jublan and Tobes as fig.(16). The old factory had the great credit for the development and manufacture of the gouache and the kilim in the factories and the private looms. The crafts in the city developed over the centuries and it had given a good experience in the textile industries for Fuwah inhabitants and the sons of Fuwah were trained in these industries which they still inherit till now.... Tradional crafts as Kilim, Joplan and Carpets industries where about 70 percent of Egypt's total production was made of these handicrafts... Fuwah produces about 11 types of luxury kilim for export and Joplan tourist, which is attached to the walls, a decree inspired by nature and the environment, along with thousands of pieces of natural silk carpets and the average sales in this industry is currently about 800 million Egyptian pounds annually.

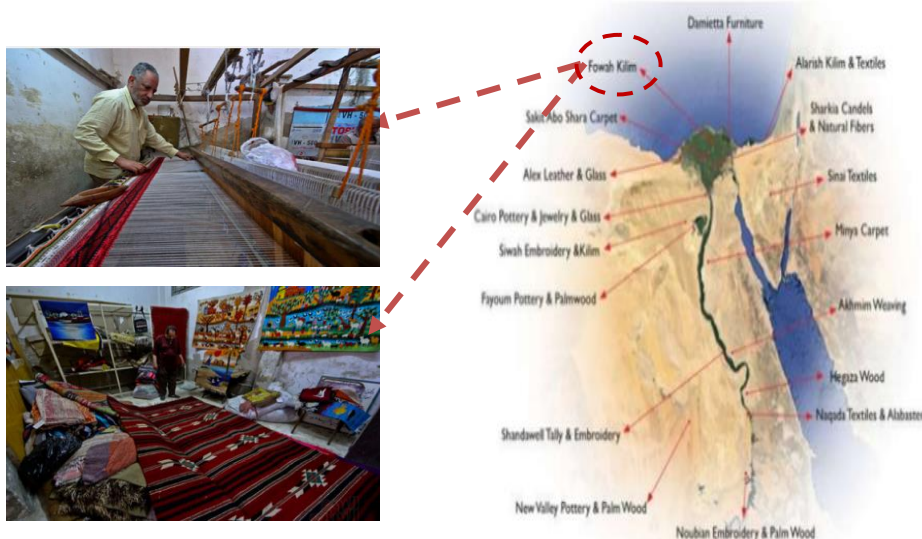


Fig.16. Hand crafts map distribution in the main cities of Egypt

10- Strategy for revive the Old Crafts and Historical Gates:

The selected site and surrounded urban plays a pivotal role in upgrading the district and the sustainable development of the city. So the strategy include two phases ... first phase depends on revive the old and historical site and reuse the architecture remains to complete the historical visual of the place and rehabilitation it and the second phase of strategy is represented in crafts Revitalization and Re-integration it in contemporary life. The total area of site about 3000m² the suggested future plan submit the proposal for standard of intervention that Future proposal for Initial demolition plan "Illustrates buildings that will remain and buildings that will be added" as fig.(17).



Fig.17. Analysis of intervention levels in the project site

10-1- Action plan " Goals & Solution":

The plan of integration contains a different standard of treatment "3R" principle Methodology that "Retention, Restoration and Rehabilitation ". The standard of intervention plan are based on modeling of the Zeytinburnu military factory in Istanbul and using the main architecture vocabularies as a reference to complete some missing parts and methods of construction technique. The new proposed design aim to achieve many objects through intervention standard as:

- Promote the Integration between historical site and surrounded urban through revive the historical site and reactive the role of fez factory on crafts in the city.
- Conservation the valuable items in the site that "historical gates and the main façade.
- Complete the missing parts and reconstruction the walls and roofing of fez factory and put the insulation layers for truss and Jamalon roof of the fez factory as The Zeytinburnu Military Factory in Istanbul.
- Studying the entrance and exit gates and respect the paths and street network surrounding the site and Taking into consideration the levels of the site to facility the mobility and circulation as fig.(18).
- Restore the cracks and complete the missing parts of main façade and other side elevation of fez factory where it is achieved through material and constructional choices: limestone cladding to match the existing Art Institute buildings and a glass and steel curtain

path help the city to reviving the tourist activity and encourage the handcrafts manufactures, and helps to identify the identity of the place and to realize its historical dimensions and revive the traditional handicrafts, which contributes to the promotion of tourism and raising national income.



Fig.19. Suggestion a walkable touristic and historical path in old city " Fowah"

The walkable path encourages safe, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes by promoting the principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design).

- The historical and walkable path will start from the selective site " Tarbush factory" including some historical streets in the city which have contained with many traditional and old crafts and historical buildings as " Al-Guish street- Abd Elmejed Al-aban- Alfatah street" as fig.(20).

- Make the Fez factory as a characteristic node in the urban and main hub for connecting the regions to the core network corridors. It has played a great potential as a centers for new inter- and multimodal logistics concepts and understanding the historical structures.

- distribute many nodes along the historical path in the old city and make a direct link between them and the start point "Fez factory".



Fig. 20. a walkable historical path surrounded the historical sites and handcrafts workshops in the city " Fowah"

11- Recommendations:

The recommendation focusing on preserve the historical site that fez "Tarboush" factory and traditional crafts where it was an old and ancient handicrafts and almost disappeared, but it was considered the start point of established many other modern handicrafts which still continue and thrive inspit of modern challenges in the historical city.

- Understand the global market:

- keep the traditional craft alive, it is important for crhaftships how trade fairs work and Participate in the same with an all-round understanding of the profit and loss and pros and cons involved in the global market.

- Promote the industrial and handicrafts value and establishing linkages with other development programs in the city which maximize the added value and social –economical return which will lead to a higher contribution in the national economy.

- Increase interaction with Nile and site:

- Promote the interact with the Nile and surrounded urban through mixture design of old and new to strike a balance between the nature, open spaces and existing buildings. -Understand the meaning and the aim of revitalization the site and spreading the historical inspiration through intervention processes.

-Preserve the historical site of fez factory and hold maintenance continuously for old gate and other architecture elements.

- Increase a public awareness and hold a specialist workshop:

Initiates traditional crafts awareness at both urban and culture level, workshops should be organized that enhance the skills and also the knowledge of the people. Skill showcase, design education, creative and product development workshops can be followed up with pricing, marketing, branding, micro-finance etc. These workshops can help craftsman eradicate the communication gap between the two representations of society and bring in a better understanding of demand and supply.

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