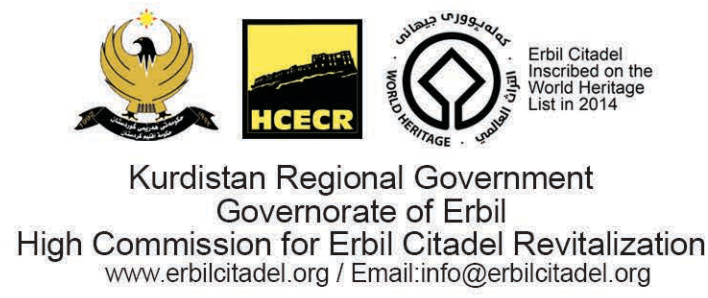


# ERBIL CITADEL

## REVITALIZATION PROJECT

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## ACHIEVEMENTS



### Erbil Citadel Revitalization Project

Erbil Citadel is a distinctive urban settlement on the top of an archaeological mound, which is the result of the accumulation of the remains of successive and diverse civilizations and cultures over at least 6,000 years. The traces of such a process in the Citadel have been handed down until our times and are still in place, as a unique testimony to a culture that had not survived elsewhere and at the same time as a demonstration of the traditional architecture in northern Iraq. This iconic landmark in the center of Erbil has been conveyed to national citizens, who look at their Citadel as the 'crown of Erbil' and the cultural core of the contemporary urban landscape of their city.



In 2007, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) through the Governorate of Erbil, established a dedicated conservation and management body, the High Commission of Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), which commenced comprehensive and strategic plans for revitalizing the Citadel for ensuring its long-term safeguarding as a masterpiece of human achievement.

Within the same context, the HCECR signed two MOUs with UNESCO, in 2007 and 2010, for ensuring best practice and sustainable development of the Citadel, by implementing conservation and management measures in accordance with international standards, while also enhancing national capacities in the field of heritage conservation and management.

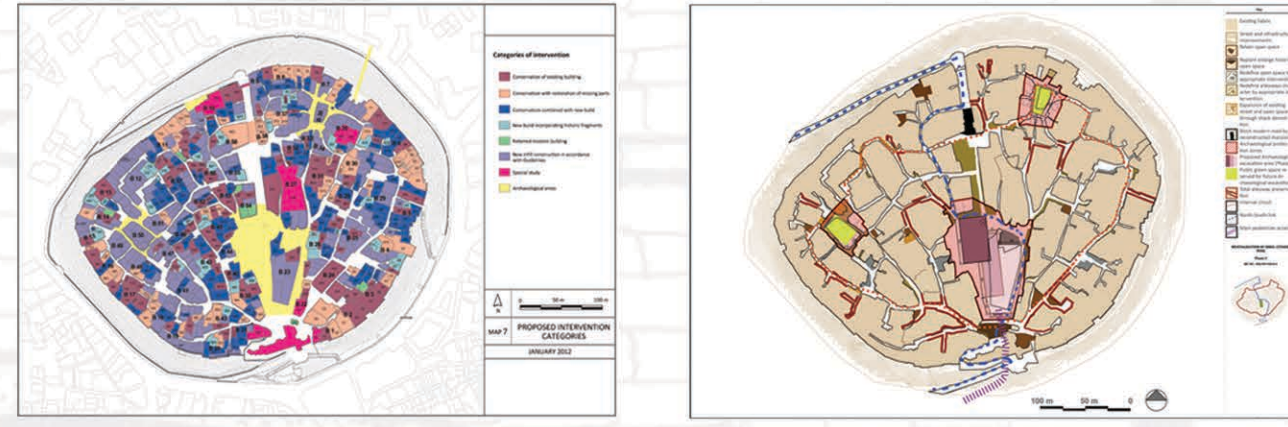
Since 2010, after the new HCECR management team started, the Citadel site has been the focus of great efforts for extensive studies and implementation works. The HCECR has applied a comprehensive, systematic and scientific approach for carrying out studies, data collection, documentation, design and implementation of conservation projects. In parallel, an intensive campaign of emergency repairs has been carried out, in order to avoid the loss of any further historic buildings through collapse.

The implementation of conservation and rehabilitation projects has been started to get the buildings back into use and to give them new functions, including museums, galleries, cultural centers, cafes, restaurants, craft shops, workshops, and other facilities so that it will become the cultural destination for Erbil citizens, tourists, and other visitors.

The Citadel now is a place where progress can be seen every day compatible with the requirements and the standards of conservation and management of world heritage sites.

### Achievements in conservation and management of the Citadel through 2010 – 2015

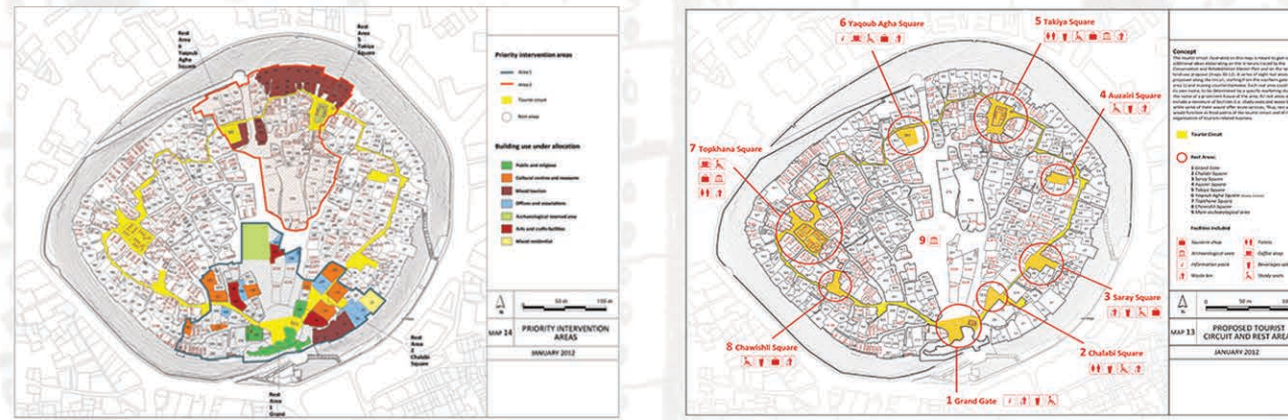
1- Establishment and enhancement of the HCECR as an effective site management organization.  
2- Preparation of the **Conservation and Rehabilitation Master Plan** (with UNESCO), which sets out the framework for conserving and bringing the Citadel back to life.



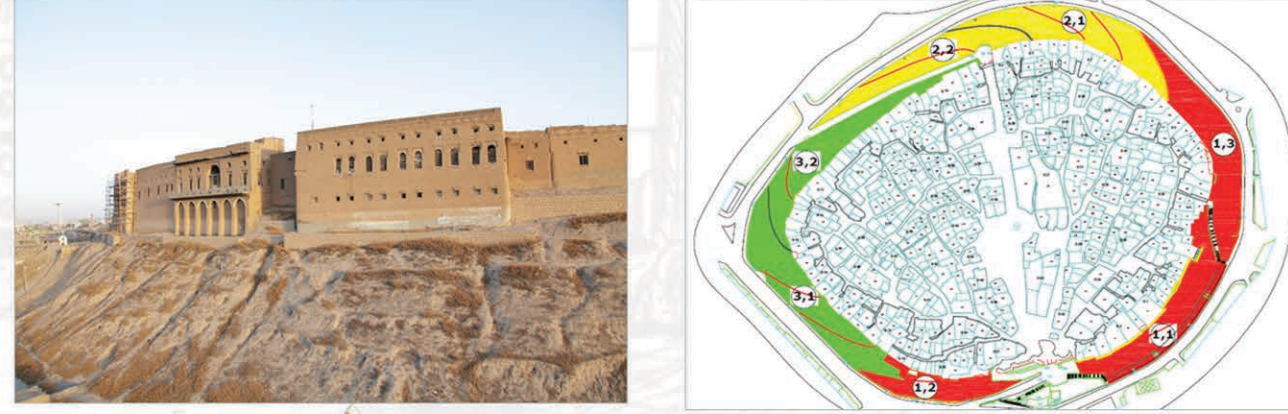
3- Preparation of the **Urban Design Guidelines for the Buffer Zone** of Erbil Citadel (with UNESCO), for protecting the integrity of the Citadel's setting at the center of the city.



4- Preparation of Erbil Citadel **Management Plan** and institutionalization of the HCECR (with UNESCO), for providing the essential tool and framework to manage the site.



5- Studies for the stabilization of the Citadel **slope and perimeter facades** (with UNESCO).



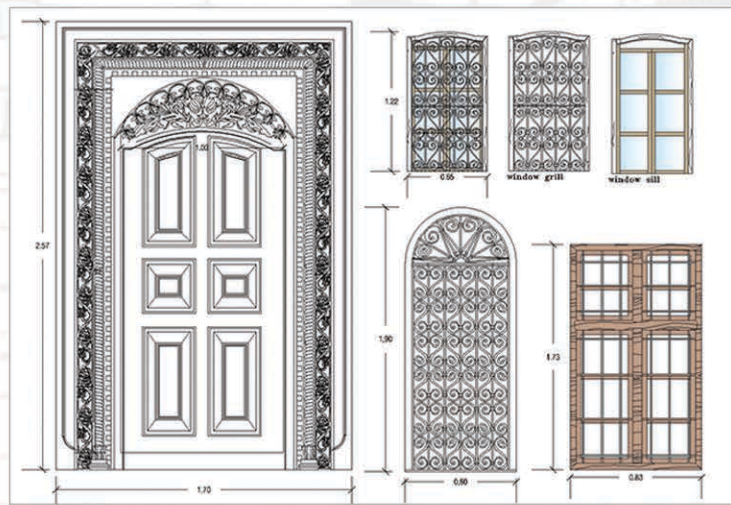
6- Studies and implementation of **Urgent Preventive Works for 10 houses**, for restoration and stabilization the structures of selected perimeter houses. (with UNESCO).



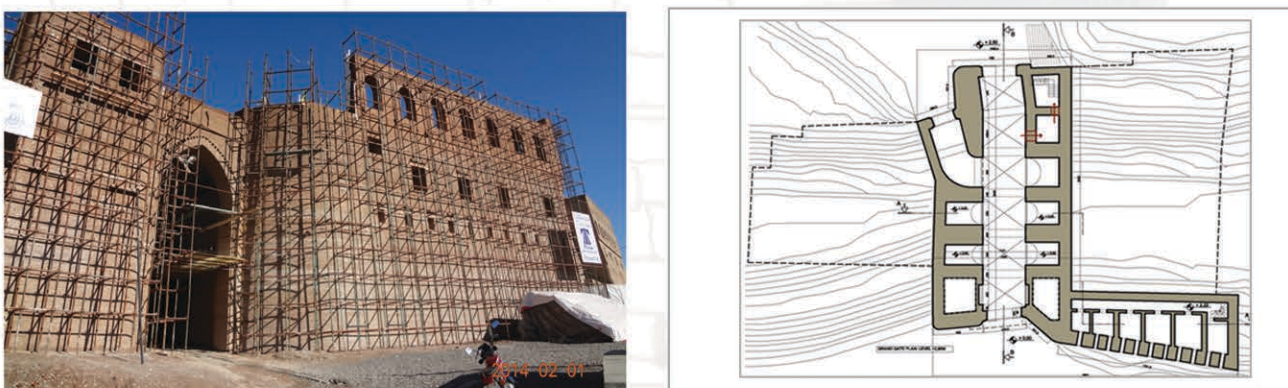
7- Studies for the **Conservation and Restoration of 8 Building Groups**, for providing the conservation design for 18 houses and their conversion to beneficial new uses. The implementation of four houses were completed (with UNESCO).

8- Preparation of the **Conservation Manual for Erbil Citadel**, for providing the guidelines for intervention, restoration and conservation techniques in compatible with international standards (with UNESCO).

9- **Architectural Documentation** for the heritage houses, so far 54 houses were documented, in addition, detailed **architectural documentation** for architectural elements and ornamental features, so far 14 houses have been documented.



10- Study and investigations for the **Reinstatement project** of the **Grand Gate** of the Citadel, including in-depth research and design for the reconstruction of the Grand Gate which was demolished in 1958. The implementation project started in 2013 and completed in 2015.



11- **Removal of debris** layers from the alleyways, around 6,750 tons were removed, in addition to paving the amended designed levels of the alleyways with gravel as a temporary walking surface.

12- Study and design of the comprehensive renewal of **Infrastructure Services Networks** (water, electricity, sewerage and communications). The implementation works started in 2014.

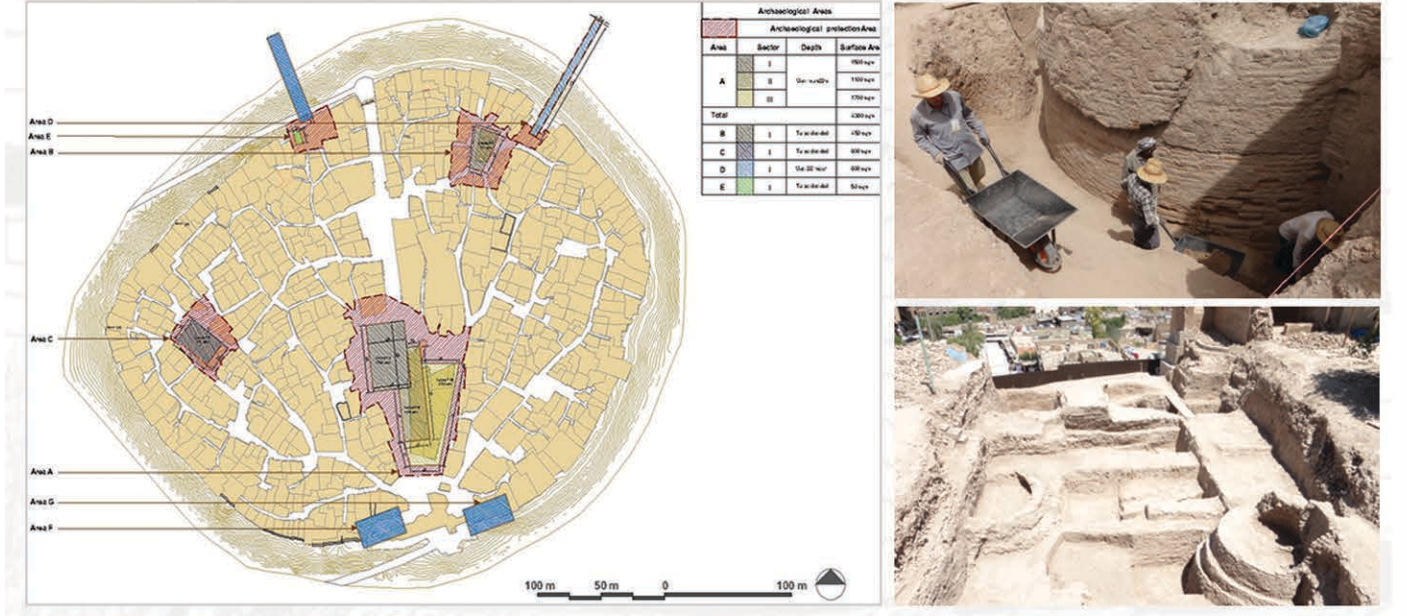
13- HCECR **Direct Implementation Works of Conservation and Restoration**; so far 14 projects have been completed, around 16 are in progress and additional projects are planned to start in the short term.



14- **Preventive Maintenance and emergency interventions** for 180 houses, in order to prevent collapse and to stabilize the buildings until full conservation works are implemented.



15- Preparation of a five year **Archaeological Plan** for investigation and excavation at the Citadel. The excavation at the perimeter of the Citadel was initially designed for exploring evidence for the historic fortification walls and it was carried out by a national team. Parts of the fortification walls that date back to at least 2000 years were uncovered.



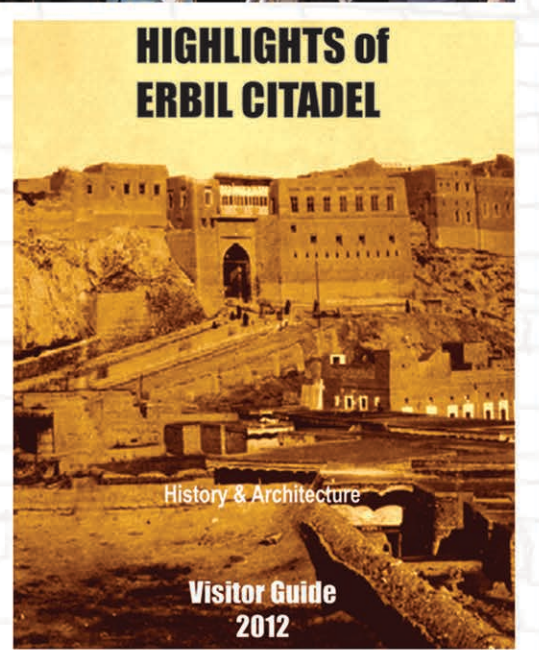
16- **Data Collection** for the Citadel and its history, including previous studies, archive sources, e.g. historic photographs, and oral history program.

17- Preparation of the **Nomination File** for the Citadel for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The file was submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Centre on January 2013. The file consists of 2 volumes of around 600 pages. **Erbil Citadel was inscribed in the World Heritage List of UNESCO** in June 2014.

18- **Capacity Building Programs**, continuous training courses and study tours have been provided for around 34 of HCECR technical and administrative staff. The programs have been organized in collaboration with UNESCO and international universities and organizations. So far, around 12 training courses had been carried out, in parallel to around 10 study tours abroad were organized, on conservation, archaeology and management of heritage sites.



19- Initiation of interpretation tools, including the establishing of the **Information and Interpretation Centre at the Citadel**, in addition to the preparation of Erbil Citadel **Visitor Guidebook** and various information leaflets.



20- The Study for Development and Urban Enhancement of **Visitor Routes** at Erbil Citadel has been completed in 2015 (with UNESCO).

21- **Citadel Visitors and Tourism**; in 2014 the Citadel received 34,850 tourist, 2,250 official delegation visitors and 4,770 students. In 2015 the Citadel received 22,550 tourist, 1,150 official delegation visitors and 3,650 students.



**High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR)**

