



Urban Cultural Heritage Quarters in Kosovo and Their Sustainable Urban Transformation

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Abstract: The cultural heritage sites, urban quarters in Kosovo were faced with a lot of social and physical challenges and transformation during last century. Kosovo's rich cultural heritage in 1999 endured a terrible war that resulted with partial destruction of built heritage and its urban settlements. The main aim of this paper is to introduce and underline the concepts of heritage value of the urban quarter, distinguished trade street 'Qarshia e Madhe' of old Gjakova, a municipality in western Kosovo, towards establishing an economic prosperity of the municipality. Also, the research will discuss complex and demanding issues which diminished the community interest to invest in further distinguishing a value of cultural heritage by appliances of sustainable conservation principles and in accordance with international Charters. The interdisciplinary research of case study is based in sustainable development concepts, applied as a tool to select synthesized researched data found at relevant heritage institutions, nongovernmental organizations and in selected historical institutions. Gathered information and viewed indicators carried out finding and opportunities to plane practices and strategies and to increase awareness of the contribution of heritage conservation to sustainability through: developing an understating of the attributes of heritage buildings-quarters, considering the material options available for the improvement of environmental performance (in particular reducing energy and water consumption) and evaluating whether these measures are appropriate to heritage buildings and sites; identifying the main issues which need to be addressed in optimizing the performance of heritage buildings/sites. By dissemination of main concerns and undertaken improvements of urban-architectural issues and/or accessories up to date, such as: increase of public space, materials used for street's over layers and reinforcement of them, refurbishment of shops' wooden envelope, water supply, sewage, IT cabling and other environmental issues. the paper will contribute towards finding well-conserved heritage with international practices to strength national strategies, methods and tools. In particular findings will increase a community role in the process, as well will provide arguments and suggestions for the integration of heritage concerns of Gjakova sustainable development model to real-life heritage as the dynamic basis of community well-being demands.

Keywords: *Urban transformation, sustainable development, community memory*

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