



R|WAQ رواق

Annual Report 2010

OUTLINE

- Riwaq: 20 years on, at a crossroads
- Single Building Restoration
- Urban Regeneration Program
- Mutual Heritage: Investing Together
- Beyond Stone: Cultural, Community & International Cooperation Programs
- Annexes:
 - Project Details
 - Funders & Staff Members 2010



Riwaq: 20 years on, at a crossroads

2010 was a year of challenges, a year of change, and a year of new beginnings. As we approach the summer of 2011, and celebrate our 20th anniversary, we reflect on our work as an organization that has carved its niche in the Palestinian community and has fulfilled many of its commitments to this community. Through this reflection, we find ourselves facing new demands and challenges.

2010 marked the retirement of Dr. Nazmi Al Jubeh, our co-director since 1994, who decided to dedicate himself full time to Birzeit University, thus retiring from Riwaq. Dr. Suad Amiry, our founder and co-director since 1991, also decided to become a part-time staff member at Riwaq so she could commit her time to her writing and to fundraising for Riwaq. The contributions of both to Riwaq and cultural heritage in Palestine are immeasurable, and we are sure that their decisions only mean creating more time for them to reflect and be part of broader initiatives and activities. Both Suad and Nazmi invested years at Riwaq, transforming it from a 4-person office with debts to a 20 person fully functioning and well established organization that has become a national reference for the protection and development of cultural heritage in Palestine.

Now it is our turn to take Riwaq to the next level, to look beyond the restoration of stone and invest in a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation. It is our task to make Riwaq into a regional reference, not just a national one, and build stronger and more lasting relationships and networks with local and international institutions; it is our task to deliver on our promises of social, economic, and cultural development & change in Palestine. We are confident we can achieve these goals because we have inherited a solid base and because of Riwaq's dedicated, enthusiastic, and creative team that has always been the main asset and the main engine for change.

Our board of trustees has been supportive throughout the changes that have taken place and has played a key role in making the transformations in the executive management at the office smooth. New board elections took place in October 2010, and by the end of the year Riwaq's administrative and financial bylaws had been reviewed, updated and ratified. Moreover, our board has introduced and ratified an investment policy that will allow Riwaq to invest part of its endowment to generate revenue that hopefully will support our running costs and hence our sustainability.

2011 starts with hope for a fruitful future and many good years to come. We, as a new management team, have started our strategic planning process for the coming 3 years and we hope that by mid 2011 our new plan will be in place. We shall do our best to contribute to Riwaq in a manner that builds on what Riwaq's founders contributed and does honor to their legacies.

Fida Touma & Khalud Bshara



Single Building Restoration Program

The restoration of single buildings in 2010 was supported by a grant from Sida called "Job Creation through Conservation" (5 buildings) as well as private contributions of building owners (2 buildings). This year marked the completion of cycle IV of the Job Creation Project, which reached 12 communities in total throughout the West Bank and is estimated to have resulted in around 24,000 direct working days and 12,000 indirect ones.

Of the 7 restored buildings in 2010, 2 were fully subsidized by their owners to be reused as family houses; the other 5 were restored for public uses, contributing 5 more spaces that serve their communities and are open for cultural and social activities.

In Jaba (near Ramallah) an immense abandoned family mansion was converted into a Media Training Center for PYALARA. Al Hajal House in Al Taybeh was restored into a space for the Women's Association and will house a locally-run restaurant. In Deir Abu Misha' an ancient building constructed on part of the archeological site of Khirbet Irtaba (findings date to the Persian period around the 6th century B.C.) was restored to host the youth activities of the village; while in Nuba (near Hebron), another family mansion was turned into a sports and activity center for youth; finally in Ramallah with a large contribution from the Municipality, Hosh Kandah in the historic center was turned into a women's activity center and an abandoned one-room building across the street from the Municipality was turned into the first tourist information center in the city.



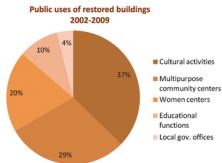
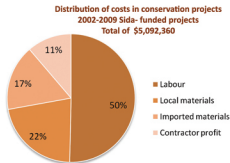
PalFest & Sounding Jerusalem shine in historic buildings

In 2010 the Palestine Festival of Literature (PalFest) used Al Qasem Palace (restored by Riwaq in 2003) as a venue for its poetry performance event (see <http://palfest.org>). The Sounding Jerusalem Music Festival, in its 5th year, organized classical music concerts and children's workshops in 2010 in the same Al Qasem Palace in addition to the Ibn Samhan Castle in Ras Karkar (renovated by Riwaq 2007-2009), Ad Dhahiriyyeh Historic Center (renovated by Riwaq 2005-2009), and Al Khalil Building in Jamma'een (renovated by Riwaq in 2009). <http://www.soundingjerusalem.com>

Single Building Restoration Program

These 5 newly restored centers increase the number of restored buildings for public use since 2002 to 65 and provide new spaces for community interaction, cultural activities, and networking in the West Bank.

Furthermore, Mr. Nassar Odeh from Al Taybeh and the Thaher family in Beitin contracted Riwaq to renovate their houses for their own private use, demonstrating an increasing interest among individuals to reuse these buildings for housing purposes.



Direct working Days

days are defined as those days registered on site on a daily basis by the site supervisor and signed by the worker himself; a working day is around 8 working hours. The average direct working day in Riwaq's projects cost around \$1.5 USD, meaning that every 103 USD spent in a restoration project will result, on average, in 2 direct working days and 1 indirect one.

Indirect working days are an estimate of working days needed off site to complete site related work such as wooden and iron works, transportation, tile making, etc.

Urban Regeneration Program

Pilot: Birzeit

This year marked the fourth year of direct interaction and work with the community of Birzeit on the regeneration of the historic center. Regeneration is a multifaceted, multidisciplinary process that directly contributes to the social, economic and cultural development of the local community.

In addition to our projects and the interventions we have made in the historic center, this year was amazing in that the impact of our work became visible and tangible: people report higher satisfaction with their living environments, children have safer areas to play, new cultural activities are taking place and we have more friends and partners in the community.

Physical interventions

In 2010 we were able to spend about 160,000 USD from a generous grant given by Sida in addition to more than 30,000 USD given by the local community (the Municipality and Birzeit Pharmaceutical Company (BPC)) on physical interventions.

We continued with our preventive conservation and public space upgrading scheme, through which we have rebuilt fallen walls, upgraded facades and insulated buildings, installed new doors and windows, fixed building entrances, etc.

In cooperation with the Municipality we developed, designed and installed a signage system for streets and building numbers in the historic center. This was coupled with a number of activities for a greener Birzeit: the Islamic cemetery was cleaned and re-planted with the help of BPC, the historic center was planted entirely through community donations and voluntary work, and we designed and implemented a public garden right next to Al Rozana Building.



Before



After

5 new businesses open in the historic center

As a direct result of Riwaq's regeneration projects in the historic center of Birzeit, 5 new businesses have opened in newly renovated buildings. These businesses attract both local and non-local customers to the town and offer a new experience that is unique of Birzeit. These are:

1. Hosh El Eliyyeh Restaurant & Gallery
2. The House of Mosaics
3. The Internet Café
4. The Pizza and Pub- Domino
5. The Guest House – Nasser House



Hosh El Eliyyeh Restaurant

Urban Regeneration Program

Pilot: Birzeit

Educational Activities

Riwaq worked with local schools, both public and private, in Birzeit on a variety of different activities through year round engagement. We organized presentations, trips, and art lessons—culminating in a local drawing competition that focused on historic buildings.

For the public garden Riwaq worked with second grade students from the Birzeit Basic Boys' School through a series of environmental and tree drawing workshops. The pictures were then translated into a set of ceramic tiles fully done by the children and transformed into a mural at the garden.

Also in 2010 Riwaq worked with two universities on developing new projects and strategies in Birzeit: the first was collaboration with Central St. Martin's School of Design in London (CSM) & UNESCO, for the design of entrances and the main alley in the historic center. Students from CSM, Birzeit University, An Najah University & the Polytechnic University were invited to participate in this competition. The jury reviewed designs in June and the results were announced in August, following which the design ideas were incorporated in the preventive conservation bid published in October.

The second collaboration was a direct cooperation with the University of Arizona (UA); 9 students came for the month of June with Prof. Mark Frederickson and worked with Riwaq on landscaping solutions to the town or Birzeit. The first connection with UA transpired during the 2009 Biennale during which Prof. Frederickson was part of the Think Net team; this partnership continued, culminating in 2010 with his and his students' visit (the Tejido Group); for more information see <http://tejidogroup.org/BIRZEIT/BIRZEIT.htm>.



Urban Regeneration Program

Pilot Birzeit Capacity Building

Direct cooperation and work has continued with the Municipality; in 2010 the Municipal Council ratified the Strategic Document prepared for the historic center of Birzeit; in addition the Municipality has now hired a full time, permanent architect to work on the rehabilitation of the historic center. Also, the ToR for the Guesthouse (renovated by CHF via technical support from Riwaq) has been prepared, published and tendered, and the Municipality has contracted a private business to run the Guesthouse and pay a specified amount; this amount, in addition to the fees the Municipality collects from leasing Hosh El Eliyyeh building, will directly cover future projects in the historic center.



Our New Pilot: Hajjah

Riwaq has started a new regeneration project in the town of Hajjah near Qalqilya. We had a soft start as the town was promised funds from the PNA that never arrived, so Riwaq began work using its own resources to survey the historic center, update the national register information, interview local residents and businesses, and survey all stakeholders in the historic center. This project is expected to gain momentum in 2011 as Riwaq has been able to secure funding for the urban rehabilitation in Hajjah for 2011 from Sida and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).



Mutual Heritage: Investing Together

Mutual Heritage is a EuroMed Heritage 4 Project instituted in cooperation with Morocco, Tunisia, France and Italy. Entering its final year (of a 3 year cycle), the project's end product will be a heritage map and a heritage guide for 19th& 20th century architecture in the central highlands of Palestine.

2010 marked the second year in which Riwaq organized an exhibition, training module and heritage trips as well as participated in workshops.

- **EXHIBITION: Interior Makeovers: Upgrading the Living Environment for Residents of Historic Buildings** is an exhibition consisting of film and photos that documents the rehabilitation of living spaces for 3 families residing along the heritage trail. The process included conceptual analysis, survey and design, and implementation (March-Sep. 2010). The exhibition promoted historic houses as suitable living spaces and raised public awareness about the importance of protecting them.

(Showing in Rabat/ Morocco during ENA's Mutual Heritage Exhibition (23 Nov. 2010))

- **TRAINING: Rehabilitation Policies, Strategies and Techniques: the Case of Birzeit** is a Mutual Heritage Training Module V (11-15 October 2010) that focused on heritage protection policies and assessment, rehabilitation strategies and technical applications. The training was conducted through lectures, site visits, and group research and included 4 local and 5 international trainers with 34 trainees.

- **HERITAGE TRIPS:** The first trip in August 2010 was in coordination with the Palestine Writing Workshop. 14 people walked part of the heritage trail, allowing Riwaq to test parts of the heritage trail and to incorporate recent heritage into daily life experiences. The second trip, in September 2010, was for Members of British Charitable Organizations Trip. 12 people visited sites along the heritage trail, introducing Palestinian cultural landscape and recent architectural heritage into the tourist packages of international tourists and thereby encouraging cultural tourism.

- **WORKSHOPS:** Riwaq staff participated in two EuroMed Heritage 4 Workshops.

1. Farhat Muhawi and Sahar Qawasmi participated in the workshop Management of Heritage Places and Artifacts (Petra, Jordan; 14-19 May 2010) that introduced the fundamentals of an integrated Heritage Management Plan and tourism to enable preservation of cultural heritage.

2. Shatha Safi participated in the workshop Cultural Mapping (Nicosia, Cyprus; 17-19 June 2010) that focused on the meaning of cultural mapping, and its different practices within various projects.



Beyond Stones: Cultural, Community & International Cooperation Programs

Whether organizing, coordinating or participating, Riwaq is committed to activities that promote and boost cultural heritage protection and development.

1. Site Trips:

Riwaq organized more than 15 trips for locals & international visitors around projects it has implemented. Rihlat Riwaqiyyah (Riwaqi Trips) took more than 600 people to villages and towns that are by no means major touristic attraction points in Palestine. We took school children, families, decision makers, intellectuals, local village councils, university students, foreign officials, and foreign interested individuals, artists, and cultural organizations to towns like Jamma'in, Hajjah, Nuba, Kufr Ra'il, where they met with our partners there and saw firsthand the impact of rehabilitation. These trips also promoted a new form of tourism in Palestine, cultural tourism, a market that directly benefits the local communities and offers a feel of the real Palestine. Rihlat Riwaqiyyah is a program that is expected to continue in the future and to feed into and benefit from the experience and knowledge we accumulated through the Mutual Heritage project.



2. Presentations at Riwaq:

In 2010 Riwaq hosted a series of talks and presentations on a wide variety of topics:

- a. Composting & organic farming with Saed Dagher which also resulted in the first organic vegetable garden at Riwaq (April).
- b. The redesign of Nablusi historic houses into modern family homes by May Serafi (August).
- c. Hiking trails in Palestine by George Rashmawi (August).
- d. Alternative learning methods by Dr. Munir Fashe (November).
- e. What is public art and what can it do? By Susanne Bosch, which was followed by assisting and taking part in a public art project of Flying Lanterns by Susanne Bosh in Jericho. (November)

Beyond Stones: Cultural, Community & International Cooperation Programs

3. Conference Participation:

Riwaq's team continuously participates in international & local events and conferences:

- Fida Touma & Iyad Issa were part of the group from the 4CHO that organized a networking event in Rio de Janeiro as part of the World Urban Forum in March, where Issa presented Riwaq's experience in Birzeit.
- Fida Touma presented a paper at a seminar on "Cultural Heritage in Conflict" organized by Sida in Stockholm, Sweden, in June.
- Farhat Muhawi was part of a seminar on "Urban Strategies" organized by the School of Architecture and the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm in May.
- Farhat Muhawi presented a paper at "Sustainable Rural Tourism in Palestine" that was organized by Al-Rozana Association and took place in November at Birzeit University.
- Michel Salameh was part of the team that worked with renowned architect Peter Zumthor on the preliminary design for the Hisham Palace Park in Jericho (organized by MOTa & contracted by Habash Engineering & Consultants).

Riwaq wins The Palestine International Award for Excellence and Creativity (2009):

On December 9, 2010 Riwaq was awarded second place in the category of enterprise excellence. This award marks the culmination of hard work and perseverance in maintaining Palestinian cultural heritage and recognizes the creative methods that have contributed to making change for the better. See <http://www.pal-awards.ps>



What is the 4CHO Cooperation?

Riwaq has partnered with three other cultural heritage organizations in Palestine to form 4CHO: The Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation-Bethlehem (CCHP) and the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Programme - the Welfare Association (OCJRP).

This cooperation has been triggered through a joint grant from Sida. Through that grant a film was produced and screened in Rio de Janeiro; additionally, an archiving system was collaboratively designed, along with a series of evaluation and training workshops. This cooperation is expected to continue throughout 2011 and hopefully in the future to form a stronger lobby for the cultural heritage sector in Palestine.

Annex information

Annex 1: Single Building Details

Rural Women Development Society Al Taybeh- Ramallah

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 150,000

Direct workman days achieved: 4212

In-direct workman days achieved: 2106

Funder: Sida

Before



After



Before



After



Nuba Youth Center Nuba- Hebron

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 82,743

Direct workman days achieved: 768

In-direct workman days achieved: 384

Funder: Sida

Annex information

Annex 1: Single Building Details

PYALARA Media Interactive Center Jaba- Ramallah

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 190,000

Direct workman days achieved: 3,170

In-direct workman days achieved: 1,585

Funder: Sida

Before



After



Before



After



Deir Abu Mish'al Youth Union Deir Abu Mish'al- Ramallah

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 81,472

Direct workman days achieved: 1358

In-direct workman days achieved: 679

Funder: Sida

Annex information

Annex 1: Single Building Details

Women's Activity Center Ramallah

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 148,000 USD
Of which are partner contribution: 25,000 USD
Direct workman days achieved: 1,929
In-direct workman days achieved: 965
Funder: Sida

Before



After



Before



After



Tourist Information Center Ramallah

Total cost of the contract (US\$): 50,000 USD
Of which are partner contribution: 20,000 USD
Direct workman days achieved: 302
In-direct workman days achieved: 150
Funder: Sida

Annex information

Annex 2: 2010 Facts about Riwaq

Funders:

- Sida- the Swedish International Development Agency
- The Ford Foundation
- Arab Fund For Economic And Social Development (AFESD)
- Arab Fund For Arts and Culture (AFAC)
- The European Union



Riwaq Team 2010

Baha Jubeh	Head of the archive
Farhat Muhawi	Head of planning & development
Fida Touma	Executive director
Ghada Mubarak	Architect-planning
Iyad Issa	Architect-planning
Khaldun Bshara	Head of conservation
Khalil Rabah	Artistic Consultant
Lana Judeh	Architect-planning
Michael Far	Financial manager
Michel Salameh	Architect- conservation
Muhammad Sobhi	Office support
Najla Barakat	Head of community projects
Nazmi Jubeh	Co-director
Renad Shqeirat	Architect- conservation
Ruba Saleem	Architect- conservation
Sahar Qawasmi	Coordinator of MH project
Samah Daraghme	Administrative assistant
Shatha Safi	Architect-planning
Shuruq Jaber	Architect-planning
Suad Al-Amiry	Co-director

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