

Tashgheel: RIWAQ's Job Creation through Conservation 2001-2011

Khaldun Bshara

RIWAQ 13

technical assistance: Ruba Salim

Tashgheel

**RIWAQ's Job Creation through Conservation Program
2001-2011**

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**RIWAQ's monograph series on
The Architectural History of Palestine**



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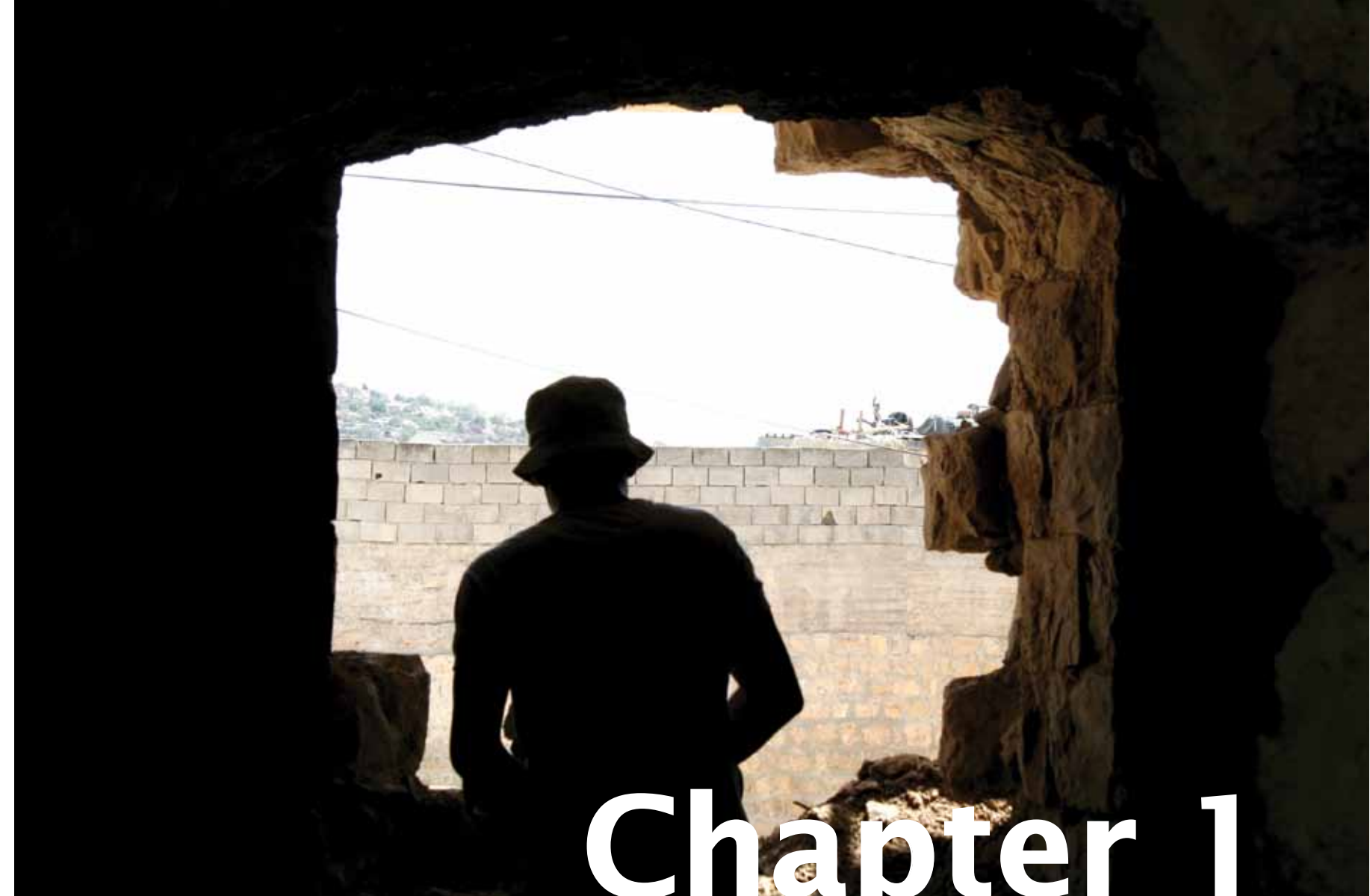
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Khaldun Bshara



Chapter 1

Introduction: A Creative Approach to Heritage

This book documents the experience of RIWAQ staff in renovating and restoring the historic buildings of Palestine as part of a program to create job opportunities between 2001 and 2011. The projects described in this book were supported by Sida - the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Anyone who is interested in documenting RIWAQ's experience in restoring and rehabilitating historic buildings and centers could make use of a variety of information sources. For example, one might access the records of various restoration activities and place them in their historical context using drawings and photos from RIWAQ's huge archive. An author might take notes and make observations on RIWAQ's restoration works all over the West Bank; another might address the topic by reviewing the donors' periodic assessments of RIWAQ's restoration work and making observations about RIWAQ's efforts in the past twenty years.

The approach to this book could have been shaped by the author's interest and background: Those who are interested in traditional architecture might focus on the legacy and heritage in Palestine and the technical aspects and architectural details of the buildings in the work of RIWAQ, whereas those with a sociological bent might focus on the relations and modes of production reflected in the architectural forms. For an economist, the creation of long-term or short-term job opportunities, improvement of investment conditions, and the cultural infrastructure that contribute to the process of development are important areas of focus.

The material in this book was compiled using all of these approaches. The focus of the text is this: How do RIWAQ and its beneficiaries describe the experience of renovating historic buildings and centers, and how do they assess the advantages that stem from that work or the problems faced as a result of the restoration?

This book draws heavily on interviews with RIWAQ's direct beneficiaries in the restoration process (organizations, municipal and village councils) and with individuals who were affected by the work of RIWAQ - through proximity to the work sites, as beneficiaries from the work, or as workers on renovations and/or in the restored buildings. Interviews were conducted with people who have no relationship with RIWAQ to explore their opinions about the role of restoration in improving their living conditions.

The program described in this book had a geographical reach that extended from Jenin in the northern West Bank to Adh Dhahiriya in the south. The author also conducted interviews with people from various sectors whose relationships with RIWAQ varied considerably. The book documents both the shortcomings and the success stories of RIWAQ in the job creation projects supported by Sida. Photographs, figures, and tables supplement the text and help to provide a concrete understanding of the project.



Chapter 2

Background

