

## **Content of the Waqf and role of the extended family and community participation in Rehabilitation of Homs old city units "The experience of Mustafa Pasha al-Husseini Complex"\***

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### **Abstract**

The family and charitable waqfs had a great role in the establishment and continuity of traditional environments in old Arab cities. When family waqf was demolished in most Arab countries, ownership became small and dispersed. This meant that small urban units were owned by a small number of shares' owners which with time became more divided among inheritors. Dealing with these units became, therefore, very difficult. This meant difficulties in taking care of these units and along with possible conflicts among owners and misuse. This scenario has happened in old Homs which has lost a good deal of its planning elements and unique architectural units. The city still carries some historical and heritage-related buildings which are losing importance with time. The study presents experimentation in rehabilitation of the Old City through investments in these buildings and grouping them to become social service facilities taking into consideration social and familial concerns. The idea is based on the use of familial and social capabilities along with the benefits of what is left of family waqf.

This approach gives the research its importance since it discusses and documents a practical experimentation of a real life project: Mustafa Pasha Al Husaini Complex. This complex is the largest urban segment that is still coherent of the Old City which includes an old mosque with a number of historical palaces. The process of its revitalization and rehabilitation was done through the concept of control and reuse by the help of the owning parties and its participation. The process aimed to the reestablishment of the area's social and cultural fabric and to patch the otherwise deteriorating fabric. The work also aims to reestablish the waqf concept and to save what is left of the area to work along the lines of rebuilding that should start after the humanitarian disaster from which the city suffered.

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Keywords: family waqf – extended family – ownership – control – use – public participation – rehabilitation – Mustafa Pasha Al Husaini Complex

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\* For the paper in Arabic see pages (203-237).

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