Towards sustainable urban waterfronts in the Middle East:
Assessing the role of cultural heritage in the redevelopment of Port Sultan Qaboos in Oman

P5 Presentation
Iram Khalil Al-Hamdani

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Content

- Introduction
- Methods & Approaches
- Findings & Results
- Recommendations
- Conclusion
- Discussion
Problem Filed

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

History and tradition – role in culture and local identity

1
1970²

Introduction

Methods & Approach

Findings & Results

Recommendations

Conclusions

Discussion
“Muscat has adopted a mode of development that differs from other GCC countries. It conserves its traditional and local identity within its urban design, with a concern for stable and sustainable growth (Elsheshtawy, 2008)”.
Problem Statement
As Muscat continues to grow, the government’s current plan is to:

- Future Vision
- Policies & Regulation
Port Sultan Qaboos
Muttrah
uses Mutrah 2011
- residential
- mixed uses
- retail
- wholesale
- storage
- public service
- hotel
- cultural
- restaurant / coffee shop

facilities cultural
- mosque
- matam
- museum
- fort / tower

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Introduction

Methods & Approach

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Discussion
• “Port Sultan Qaboos will be converted from a commercial port to a fully integrated tourist port. All commercial import, export, general cargo and container activities will be shifted to Sohar Industrial Port” Royal Directive from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said (July 2011) 

5.
Joint Venture
Mina As’ Sultan Qaboos Waterfront Development

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Discussion
Pressure to compete with surrounding neighbors – Doha, Kuwait, Dubai... etc.$^2$
Local Identity & Culture  <->  Decision making processes  <->  Tourism Development

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Research Question

• How can cultural heritage be integrated in the decision-making process around the sustainable development of Port Sultan Qaboos in Oman?
Research Goals

• To identify methods of improvement in the decision making process in urban development in Oman, while taking into consideration; when necessary, the existing cultural heritage values and attributes of the development area, integrating them into future regenerations and development projects.
Methods & Approach
Theory

Concepts:
• Cultural Heritage in Sustainable Developments
• Values and Contribution
• Integrative Management Approaches

Objectives:
1) Identify the contributions and opportunities that Cultural Heritage can create for (Society, Economy, Tourism Development)
2) Address the value of Cultural Heritage for stakeholders
Cultural Heritage
Sustainable Waterfront Development
Historic centres
Tangible Intangible Cultural significance
Attributes
Values
Historic Urban Landscape
Decision making process
6 steps

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Empirical Research

Scales:
• Planning processes – (Public Sector)
• Port City (Muttrah) – (Local Community)
• Port Area (Port Sultan Qaboos) – (Private Sector)

Objective:

1) Understanding current planning and decision making processes in urban regeneration project in Oman.

2) Identify potential improvements in the planning process in urban regeneration projects in Oman; taking into consideration the integration of cultural heritage, that could be incorporated in future policies.
Planning processes

Port City (Muttrah)

Port Area (PSQ)

How

Why

Where

Public Sector

Community

Private Sector

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Findings
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Results of lack of a regulatory system

Omran

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Results of lack of a regulatory system
Results of lack of a regulatory system

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Supreme Council of Planning

Oman National Spatial Strategy (ONSS)

Support of the decision making process

Strategies and implementation tools

Guiding future development in accordance to the government and residents

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**Governance approach towards integration of Culture**

**Figure 1-3 Alignment of the ONSS with Vision 2040**

Alignment of the ONSS with Vision 2040 in regards to Cultural Heritage

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Vision 2040 Directions</th>
<th>ONSS Strategic Goals</th>
<th>ONSS Strategy Components</th>
<th>ONSS Core Themes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Economic Diversification &amp; Financial sustainability</td>
<td>- Protection &amp; enhancement of the environment</td>
<td>- Cultural heritage</td>
<td>- Delivering strategic spatial development</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Livable cities &amp; vital countrysides</td>
<td>- Livable, resilient cities &amp; communities, managing Omani identity</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Delivering growth &amp; prosperity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Citizenship, identity, national heritage &amp; culture</td>
<td>- Welfare and social protection</td>
<td>- Managing the environment &amp; resources to climate change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Welfare and social protection</td>
<td></td>
<td>- An efficient transport system</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Introduction**

**Methods & Approach**

**Findings & Results**

**Recommendations**

**Conclusions**

**Discussion**
Results
• Position of the public sector is weakened by the lack of regulation

• Horizontal coordination between sectors, results in poor communication

• Current system does not include any form of participatory planning, and community involvement.
Recommendations
Recommendations

- Recommendations for the Public Sector

1) Criteria

2) Possibilities of litigation

3) Investigating ways to contextualize local culture and heritage
• **Recommendations for the Private Sector**

1) A different approach should be considered for the development of the remaining phases
2) Look into projects closer to the features and context of the case
• Recommendations for both public and private

1) Transparent decision making process, involving all stakeholders (Private, Public, Civic)
2) Share a common goal
3) Define roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders
4) Create a collaborative team culture
Conclusions
• How can cultural heritage be integrated in the decision-making process around the sustainable development of Port Sultan Qaboos in Oman?
The End ...
Discussion

• Limitation of Research
• Future research recommendation